

## FOCUS

## IMPACT OF EDUCATION ON MODERNISATION

## The Japanese Instance

As the second economic power in the world Japan will have to be involved in all major world events. As such it has become necessary for her to set up a system under which Japanese students study together with foreign students and also develop international outlook.

by A B M S Zahur

compulsory education was extended upto the sixth grade in 1908. Over these years the attendance rate in compulsory education rose steadily to over 90 per cent in 1902.

The keynote of Japanese education before the war was laid down in imperial prescript on education of 1890, which stressed moral values based on Confucian philosophy such as filial duty and loyalty to the country.

The Japanese society went through a drastic change after World War II and a sweeping educational reform was carried out to "democratic" education. The new constitution of Japan sets forth the basic national educational policy as follows:

"All people shall have the right to receive an equal education corresponding to their ability, as provided by law. The people shall be obliged to have all boys and girls under their protection receive ordinary education as provided for by law. Such compulsory education shall be free."

The fundamental law of education of 1947 defines the aim of education as follows:

"Education shall aim at the full development of personality striving for the rearing of the peoples, sound in mind and body, who shall love truth and justice, esteem individual value, respect of labour, and have a deep sense of responsibility and be imbued with the independent spirit, as builders

of the peaceful state and society."

The new school system had the following distinguishing characteristics:

\* Single track system (from kindergarten to elementary to lower secondary to upper secondary school) replacing multitrack system (from kindergarten to national schools to middle schools to higher schools to either universities with graduate course or to higher normal schools or colleges);

\* Lower secondary education made compulsory;

\* Co-education adopted;

\* New subjects introduced. In elementary schools moral education replaced 'shushin' (ethics) and geography and history were integrated into social studies;

\* Teacher training system reformed. 'Open' teacher training system was introduced, making it possible for any college or university graduate to become a teacher provided he or she has acquired a prescribed number of credits in each subject group; general education subjects, teaching subjects and professional subjects.

The reasons behind the success of rapid expansion of education in Japan may be identified as follows:

\* Expenditure on education: Japanese government traditionally attaches special importance on the role of education in national development

and allocates a substantial portion of budget for education.

\* Efficient educational administration and finance: Ministry of education is responsible for educational administration at the national level and prefectoral and municipal bodies are responsible at local levels. The ministry of education supervises and allocates financial aid to local boards of education. The ministry also determines the national guidelines for social curriculum and national standards of school equipment and facilities. Prefectural and municipal boards of education administer schools established by prefectures and municipalities.

\* Lower secondary education made compulsory;

\* Open opportunities in education.

\* Democratic social structure and high social mobility: As Japanese society is very democratic there is no social class barriers and anybody can climb the ladder to success according to his/her ability and effort.

Like any other countries Japanese education system is also not free from problems. The problems are—

(a) Entrance examination system: Competition in entrance examination begins sometimes at the kindergarten level and gets more and more intensified as one advances to the higher level of education. Many of the upper secondary graduates fail in entrance examination for one or two years or longer. A considerable num-

ber of lower and upper secondary students find curricular contents (especially mathematics and English) too difficult.

(b) Expansion of useful vocational and technical education: Some of the technical upper secondary school students are not highly motivated. More and more of the university graduates with degrees in liberal arts have difficulty in finding suitable and worthy jobs. Therefore, the vocational and technical education at secondary level should be further improved and expanded to all interested students.

\* Promotion of moral education: As the average Japanese families are 'nuclear' they cannot enjoy the benefits of traditional families. The strong competition for success in life made people more concerned with material welfare than spiritual or moral aspect of life. The moral education should be made more effective.

\* Reorganisation of whole school system: As more time is available for leisure it is necessary to consider education in the light of the changing outlook of the society.

\* Need for changing outlook of Japanese students: Geographically Japan is an isolated country. Even though the economic and other relations between Japan and foreign countries have increased tremendously over the years after the Second World War the average Japanese still does not have a strong awareness of being a member of international community and takes a rather conservative attitude.

As the second economic power in the world Japan will have to be involved in all major world events. As such it has become necessary for her to set up a system under which Japanese students study together with foreign students and also develop international outlook.

The writer is a retired Joint Secretary.

## Universalisation of Cricket

## Dhaka Shows the Way

Building up a nation is not confined to ODIs (one-day internationals); it is a series of five-day Tests of goal-oriented patience and endurance. The International Cricket Week has been introduced at the right time, and at the right location. Let the game of life be exhibited

by Alif Zabr

ply supported by West Bengal's Saurav Ganguly, the Prince, who had become the King of Calcutta. It was the millennium's first offering of the world's top cricketers playing together and now the appetite has increased, hence more such encounters in sporting spirit are eagerly awaited.

One mystique remained unsolved: why cricket, an Empire game of the Commonwealth nations, was being promoted for global awareness; when the players in the super-power country preferred the rounded bat, and the ball had to be hit before touching the ground (baseball)? Although there is no politics in cricket (it is a gentleman's game, with apology to the politicians), it might reduce the communication gap between the First and the Third Worlds.

The Dhaka galleries are now fit for Test status, only the players have to be tested in Test matches. The infrastructure or the stage is ready, before the actors or players are. Such is the lop-sided development pattern in some developing countries. When the resources cannot match the development such incongruities occur. On the other hand it is good news. The awareness factor is now in place, remembering that the *danda-gulli* is the native form of initiation during childhood. There are a few gaps, such as the discovery of Bangladesh Tendulkar, Shoaib or Shane Warne. When Brojen Das can conquer the English Channel, why we cannot overcome the cricket barrier?

The playing field must be level, and the pitches prepared with in-depth expertise, to build up massive scores of national data. When opinion displaces fact, the gestation time lengthens (what we have achieved in three decades?).

It is good that the game of cricket has come down to the *amateur* level; hence the other namesakes have to tighten up on the performance. Building up a nation is not confined to ODIs (one-day internationals); it is a series of five-day Tests of goal-oriented patience and endurance. The International Cricket Week has been introduced at the right time, and at the right location. Let the game of life be exhibited at the Dhaka stadium.

## Empty Promise Lands Politician in the Drink

Politicians are renowned for promising the Earth and the Moon in their quest for votes. Campaigners at a recent Zambian by-election went one better and promised free water as well. Gemini News Service reports on a voter backlash.

FAMILIES in two Zambian townships are boycotting their water charges "to teach politicians a lesson" after a false election pledge to give them free supplies.

Hundreds of households in the Ndeke and Kabobola townships of Mazabuka, 150 kilometres south-west of Lusaka, are refusing to pay up. Only about 25 per cent of bills have been settled since a by-election in December.

Locals say the opposition United Party for National Development (UPND) promised to end the levies if its candidate won — which he did.

"We've had enough of cheating politicians who promise the Moon when they are campaigning and then promptly disappear once elected," said Lwendo Michel, who lives in Kabobola. She said people realised that the water had to be paid for, but their action was aimed at teaching politicians a lesson.

A neighbour, Moffat Sianyinda, pointed out: "All we are doing is following up on what we were promised."

Vincent Zulu writes from Lusaka

adamant that UPND campaign teams on the ground did make the promise.

Nangomba, 44, a soft-spoken trader and former irrigation specialist, captured the Mazabuka Central seat from the MMD by a narrow margin.

The by-election was called after the death of the sitting MP, Bennie Mwanga. The UPND, formed just over a year ago, now has two MPs, but its December poll victory hardly dented the MMD's massive parliamentary majority.

The local water system at the centre of the dispute consists of a network of pipes linked to bore holes which were sunk a few years ago under a donor-funded programme. The communities are supposed to manage and maintain them through

payment of monthly consumption levels.

The 2,500 kwacha charge represents a sizeable chunk of income among the township dwellers, many are labourers, street vendors and domestic workers, earning less than 100,000 kwacha per month.

Julius S. Sinachibombwa, chairman of the Ndeke township residents' development committee, says the boycott of bills is hitting their funding and jeopardising other important community projects.

Water may soon stop flowing, he says, because they are having difficulty in finding the money to pay the Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation (ZESCO), which keeps the pump engines running.

We are now in a fix as

ZESCO might disconnect our power for non-payment of bills," he said. "If that happens, everyone will be affected, irrespective of whether or not they pay their water charges."

To try to avert this, the development committee has prepared a hard-hitting awareness programme to stress the importance of paying for the water!

The Mazabuka District Administrator, Emerson Machila, warned non-payers: "If the bore holes break down due to lack of maintenance because of lack of funds, the residents will be the ones to suffer."

Nangomba, the embattled new MP, is trying to help solve the problem. He said: "We're encouraging people, regardless of their political affiliation, to

support these donor-funded projects as they are intended to benefit the residents themselves."

But Jane Shimbamba, a local MMD councillor, said Nangomba owed the people an apology. "Let him tell them that this is what politics is all about," she said.

The author is a journalist with the Times of Zambia.

## Recession's 'Hangover' Tarnishes Food Records

by Juan L. Mercado

"HANGOVER" from the now-receding Asian economic crisis tarnishes the sheen of this region's remarkable achievement: pruning back the number of ill-fed, from 771 million in 1970 to 525 million at this century's start.

Asia had larger concentrations of chronically hungry people than sub-Saharan Africa in 1970, the Food and Agriculture Organization recalls. No more. It has moved out of "basket case" status.

Both East and South East Asia could reach the World Food Summit target: halving its malnourished by 2015, says the 1999 State of Food and Agriculture report. With its massive population, South Asia will lag somewhat but still advance...

However, "the social impacts continue to unfold," affecting the poorest and the malnourished, the Asian Development

people, who went to bed hungry in the early 1990s.

Since then, about eight million were lifted out of hunger zones annually, the Food and Agriculture Organization reports. This decline is less than half of what the chastened Summit set out to do.

The Asian crisis hurt virtually everyone in society," Racelis, Pernia and Knowles point out. "Some particularly vulnerable groups suffered substantially greater adverse effects," among others: the poor, children, the elderly.

Women in the Philippines, Korea, Malaysia and Thailand "have been generally harder hit by the employment and income impact of the crisis."

There's no hard data on yanking children out of school in large number and put to work. But in the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand, there has been an upswing in street children, begging, child abuse

and prostitution.

Policy responses will have to address the recession's "social consequences", while simultaneously boosting food production.

Policy-makers are confronted by a savaged natural resource base and unprecedented ecological changes. El Nino, La Niña, red tide and acid rain are some of the newer threats.

Yet, the toll from hunger can be reduced even more. Curbing the 10 to 40 percent losses in post-harvest operations is an option.

But financial support for agricultural research is niggardly. Institutions like IRRI see "donor fatigue" cut budgets, even as it works on "super rice." Science-based agriculture, with user-friendly approaches is the name of the game ahead.

Easing the food problem is linked to tapping teeming mass of impoverished small farmers and herdsmen. Modern science must match policies that provide "unequal opportunity for the weak," the Swedish thinker Gunnar Myrdal states.

Special programs need to serve, further and deeper, the "unreachable" whose organizations are often squashed as "subversive." Benefits of agriculture are creased off by powerful elites. Resources are skewed to articulate urban elites.

As agricultural policies shift to ensuring ecological access to resources and restarting stalled agrarian reforms, governments develop more efficient, equitable and adequately funded social safety nets.

"Greater emphasis needs to be placed on poverty eradication," due to their limited capacity to cope, ADB says.

The Philippines and other Asian countries should shift away from reliance on direct provision of social services and supply-side subsidies, Racelis, Pernia and Knowles write.

Reforms in the banking and corporate sectors need to be pursued, while the competitiveness of markets and the government's regulatory role must be strengthened.

Corruption needs to be combated vigorously and convincingly." ADB states, "Strengthening democratic institutions can limit the adverse social impact of future crises."

— DEPTHnews

TOM & JERRY



## Road Division, Gaibandha

## Notice Inviting Tender of RHD

1. Tender Notice No.	14-11-1999-2000				
2. Name of work	Repairing with Bituminous seal coat work, and Earth work in road embankment at diff locations on diff roads under Gaibandha Road Division during the year 1999-2000 in 5(five) groups.				
3. Estimated cost	As per group list.				
4. Earnest money	= do =				
5. Time allowed for completion of work	= do =				
6. Eligibility of contractor	= do =				
7. Name of office where tender documents will be available for sale	a) Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Rangpur/Bogra/Kurigram/Joyphur/Lalmonirhat/Gaibandha. b) Sub-Divisional Engineer (RHD), Road Sub-Division, Gaibandha/Palashbari.				
8. Name of office where tender will be received	a) Superintending Engineer (RHD), Rangpur Road Circle, Rangpur. b) Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Rangpur/Bogra/Kurigram/Joyphur/Lalmonirhat/Gaibandha.				
9. Last date of selling of tender (for all groups)	Up to 3-5-2000 during office hours.				
10. Last date & time for receiving tender (for all groups)	On 4-5-2000 at 12:30 PM.				
11. Date & time for opening of tender box (for all groups)	On 4-5-2000 at 12:45 PM.				
12. Date & time of opening of all tender by this office	On 8-5-2000 at 12:45 PM.				
13. Date & time for lottery (If required)	On 8-5-2000 at 11:30 AM.				
14. Head of A/C	For Group No I,II,III,IV,-266 Dev for Group No V-168, RBF.				
Grp No	Name of work with locations	Estimated cost in Tk	Earnest money in Tk	Time allowed for completion of work	Eligibility of contractor
I(one)	Seal coat work with repair at 6th & 7th (P) KM on Bonerpara-Jumerbari Road under Road Division, Gaibandha during the year 1999-2000	4,23,327/-	8,467/-	15 (fifteen) days	A to E class contractor under RHD, general category
II(two)	Seal coat work with repair at 25th & 26th (P) KM on Gaibandha/Fulchhari/Bharatkali/Saghata Road under Gaibandha Road Division during the year 1999-2000	4,06,794/-	8,136/-	15 (fifteen) days	A to E class contractor under RHD, general category
III(three)	Seal coat work with repair at 4th (P) KM and 5th KM on Bonerpara/ Jumerbari Road under Gaibandha Road Division during the year 1999-2000	4,02,679/-</			