



শেখ হাসিনা



State Minister
Ministry of Education
Government of the People's Republic
of Bangladesh

Message

Priority for women education are the prerogative to meet the demand of the day which has been rightly committed by the present democratic govt.

Nearly half of the population of our country are woman. Real education is a must for involving this huge number of females in the main-stream of development activities.

With a sequel of the above following the commitment of Her Excellency Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, the government has decided to increase and expand the "Higher Secondary Female Stipend Programme" for eleventh and twelfth classes. I strongly believe that this programme will ensure the expected goal of the increased participation of the women-folk transforming them in to well-equipped manpower.

At the beginning of this millennium the pragmatic steps taken by the government will go a long way in the speedy implementation of our efforts.

Abdur Rashid
(A.N.M Ehsanul Hoque Milon, M.P)
State Minister

Higher Secondary Female Stipend Project : Aims and Objectives

Abdur Rashid

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Dhaka, Bangladesh.

1.0 Education is the basic need for socio-economic transformation and advancement of a country. It is the prime ingredient of human resource development. So for the advancement of a country, there is a need to educate each and every people irrespective of race, creed or color and sex. Bangladesh is a densely populated country, having more than 130 million population and almost half of the population are female. The literacy rate of the country is 62 percent (15 years and above) and the rate of female literacy is much lower than that of male. So it is the prime need of the hour to educate the women member of the society and make them empowered as because the overall socio-economic development of the country is quite impossible in keeping this huge population illiterate. As women have to face much more challenges than men to make themselves educated whereas poverty, child-marriage, socio-economic condition, parent's apathy, religious and social dogma etc. work as the barrier in their way to education and to up-root those issues there is a need of coordinated and concerted efforts. We may be the head of a family, or society or an institution or may be engaged in any other responsibility, but it is our prime duty to come forward and sincerely work for the cause of education of women folk.

2.0 The present Government has taken various effective measures to uphold the cause of women right, their economic emancipation and empowerment. For moving towards fulfilling the obligation of universalization of primary education according to the Constitutional Mandate, the government has already declared Primary Education compulsory and free. For the enhancement of educational quality with special emphasis on the linkage of education to the need of the modern world, various effective measures have been undertaken by the Government. Moreover to promote female education specially to increase girls secondary school enrollment and thereby increase the number of educated women, capable of participating in economic and social development of the country, the Nation-wide Female Stipend and Free Tuition Program for Secondary Level Girls, was undertaken by the Government in 1994. This has made Bangladesh a South-Asian pioneer in supporting female secondary education. In fact this stipend program have become a model for other developing countries where female literacy is very low.

3.0 In fact, the program titled Higher Secondary Female Stipend Project is a sequel of the program titled Nation-wide Female Stipend and Free Tuition Program for the Secondary Level Girls introduced by the Government under the leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in 1994. The Stipend Program for the Secondary level girls, was first introduced on experimental basis in one Upazila (Shaharasi in Chandpur) with the support of USAID in 1982. Later on, NORAD expanded this program to seven Upazilas. Inspired by the success of these two programs, the Government decided to undertake the program nationwide with a view to reducing the challenges of disparity in access to secondary education between boys and girls. At present the program is being implemented under four development projects with the assistance of IDA (in 119 Upazila), ADB (in 53 Upazila) and NORAD (in 19 Upazila). Besides, the Government of Bangladesh with its own resources has been implementing the program in 270 Upazilas.

4.0 After introduction of the Nation-wide Female Stipend and Free Tuition Program for the Secondary Level Girls, the enrollment of girls at

secondary level increased tremendously. Moreover, a supportive community environment and enthusiasm has been made to promote girls education which is in fact a great achievement. It has been found that before launching of the program in 1994, the total enrollment of boys and girls at secondary level was 29,93,730 and among them 10,15,745 (33.9%) were girls. But the data reveal that after introducing the stipend program, the percentage of girls enrollment at secondary level has increased tremendously and at present it stands at 52.8%. It is also needed to be mentioned that under 4 projects, the stipend program for the secondary level girls has been going on in 461 Upazilas and in 200 a total of 41,91,058 girl students of 21,027 educational institutions have been benefited under the program and to implement the program Taka. 303.45 crore has been spent.

5.0 Although the number of girl students at secondary level has increased but at higher secondary level the enrollment of girls has not increased to the expected level. It is found that only 58.5% of the S.S.C graduates level girls are enrolled at higher secondary level and 41.5% do not continue their study at higher secondary level basically due to poverty though they have the interest to continue their study. As a result, those girls could not be able to enter into job-market, as because at present situation, one should have minimum H.S.C or equivalent degree to get an employment of minimum standard. So it has been felt by the present Government to introduce the Stipend and Free Tuition Program for the Higher Secondary level girls so that with financial support of the Government after passing the SSC or Dhakhl they could continue their study and thereby be capable to participate in the economic and social development of the country. With this end in view, the present Government under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister has announced the Higher Secondary Female Stipend Project for promoting girls education at higher secondary level. The introduction of the Nation-wide Female Stipend Program at the Higher Secondary Level Girls along with primary and secondary levels bears testimony to the present Government's firm commitment for the expansion of female education in the country.

6.0 The main objectives of the project are:

- (1) To increase the number of girls enrollment at higher secondary education level and assist them to pass HSC/Alim, reduce the drop out rate and thereby help them to continue their education;
- (2) To encourage more girl students to study science at the HSC level;
- (3) To assist in controlling the growth of population by ensuring compliance criteria to remain unmarried until the H.S.C examination for the girls stipend recipients;
- (4) To provide assistance for poverty alleviation program by enabling the stipend recipient girls to do better in self-employment with the skills they acquire at higher secondary level;
- (5) To ensure gender equity, women empowerment and the social status of girls in the Community and the country.

7.0 Under the project the eligible students will get TK.65.00 as stipend in every month and at eleven class they will get TK.350.00 for purchasing books. Besides, at the end of 12th class, an amount of TK.600.00 will be given to the girls belonging to Science group and TK. 400.00 to the girls of Business and Humanities group as a subsidy for Board Examination Fees. A subsidy of TK. 20.00 per girl per month will be given to the Government College/ Madrasah and TK. 40.00 per girl per month for the Non-Government college/ Madrasah.

8.0 In order to qualify for the stipend a girl student will have to satisfy the following conditions:

- (i) to be a regular girl- student of HSC or Alim level;
- (ii) have the continuation of study after passing SSC or Dhakhl examination;
- (iii) passed the SSC or Dhakhl examination as a regular student;
- (iv) promoted as a regular student in the internal examinations;
- (v) passed the SSC or Dhakhl examination in at least 2nd division or obtain GPA 2.5 ;
- (vi) being a regular student attends the class at least 75% of the total academic days in a year ;
- (vii) remain unmarried till the end of the HSC or Alim examination;
- (viii) must obtain at least 45% marks on an average in the promotion test from 11th to the 12th class ;
- (ix) must secure at least 45% marks in internal or college final examination and fill in the HSC or Alim Examination form to appear before the examination.

9.0 Eligibility Criteria for the Institutions are:

- (i) Updated certificate of affiliation provided by the Education Board
 - (ii) Acknowledgement of the Institution not to receive tuition fees from the girls.
- 10.0** The project has been prepared on a pilot basis on six months (January June 2002) basis with an estimated cost of TK. 2079.00 Lakh (Twenty crore and seventy nine lakh) and after its piloting, the second phase has been undertaken. In ADP 2002-2003, an estimated amount of Tk. 40.00 crore has been allocated for the project titled as Higher Secondary Female Stipend Project-Phase 2. It is expected that after the tremendous success of the Nation-wide Stipend Program for the Secondary level Girls, our development partners will be eager to come forward and provide cooperation and financial assistance in implementing the project.

11.0 At the piloting phase, the project is being implemented in 460 Upazilas covering about four thousand institutions (college and Madrasah) and about 2.05 lakh girl students will enjoy free tuition and approximately 1.90 lakh girl students will be awarded stipend. At the direction of the Ministry of Education, the Project is being implemented by the Directorate of Secondary & Higher Education. At central level, the Planning & Development Wing of DSHE and at field level the zonal Deputy Directors, District Education Officers and Upazila Secondary Education Project Officers are directly related to the implementation of the project. It may be mentioned that the Upazila Secondary Education Project Officers and the three banks namely Agrani Bank, Janata Bank and Rupali Bank are playing vital roles in implementing the project. With the representation of different ministries, a high powered Steering Committee has been formed to monitor and evaluate the progress of the project. The project has been effective since January 1, 2002.

12.0 It is hoped that after the successful implementation of the project

- (1) 58.5 % SSC female graduates who enrolled at the HSC level will continue their study upto Higher Secondary level;
- (2) the 41.5% of higher secondary level girls will be encouraged to continue their study;
- (3) the girl students will be encouraged to study science at the HSC level;
- (4) the vision and commitment of the government related to empowerment of women, gender equity, active participation in every sector, controlling the growth of population, poverty alleviation, scope of self employment and enhancement of the social status of girls in the community/country will be achieved.



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Deputy Minister
Ministry of Education
Government of the People's Republic
of Bangladesh

Message

Nationwide Female-Students Stipend Programme is undoubtedly an epoch-making step initiated by the benign government of Her Excellency Prime Minister Khaleda Zia for the expansion of female education in Bangladesh.

This innovative programme has highly been appreciated at home and abroad. In continuity, stipend project for higher secondary female students is a new addition by the present government marking a courageous step.

Financed from own resources of the Government this project will certainly enhance the rate of female education at higher secondary level and higher education as well. Eventually these girl students will play a vital role in poverty alleviation and empowerment of women in the near future through self employment.

For successful implementation of this project I like to call upon all concerned for their cooperation.

Md. Abdus Salam Pinto
(Md. Abdus Salam Pinto, M.P)
Deputy Minister



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Secretary
Ministry of Education
Government of the People's Republic
of Bangladesh

Message

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, after being inspired by the success of Nationwide Female Stipend & Free Tuition program for the secondary level girls has undertaken the Stipend and Free Tuition program for girls of Higher Secondary level. This program will help implement the Government's commitment to national development through human resources development. In fact, achievement of the desired national development is not possible without enabling half of the population to take part in development activities. Therefore, the Government has started taking gradual steps for expanding female education with a view to transforming them as development-agents. Stipend and Free Tuition program for Higher Secondary girls will be considered as an epoch-making step undertaken by the present Government towards increasing educational opportunities for girls.

Women-folk can join the mainstream of the country's development activities, if they are provided with the opportunity for education with necessary assistance. Through this program special initiative has been taken to encourage more girls to study science. I hope, our girls will be able to contribute significantly to the development of science and technology in the days to come. I wish successful implementation of the Project and would also like to thank all those who are working for this Project.

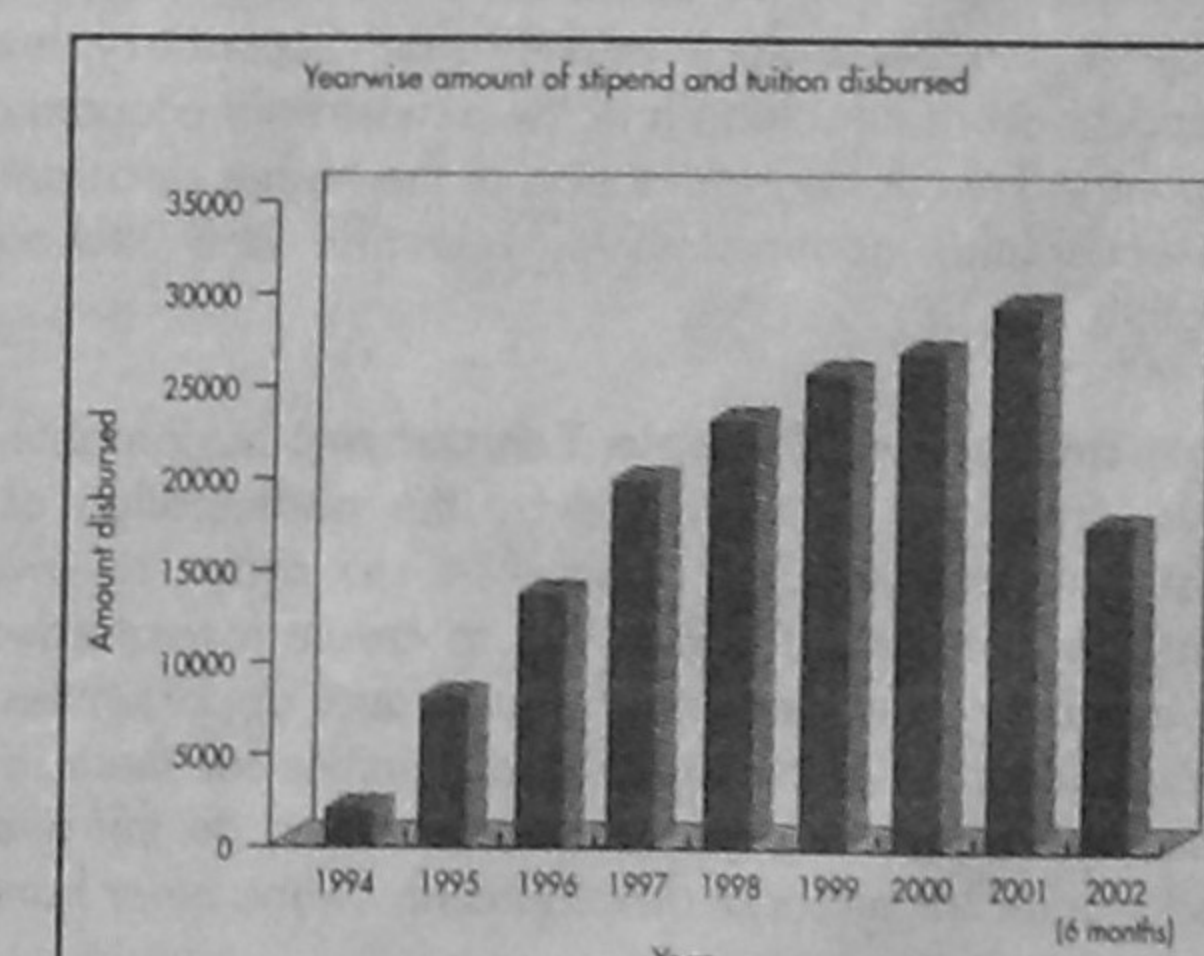
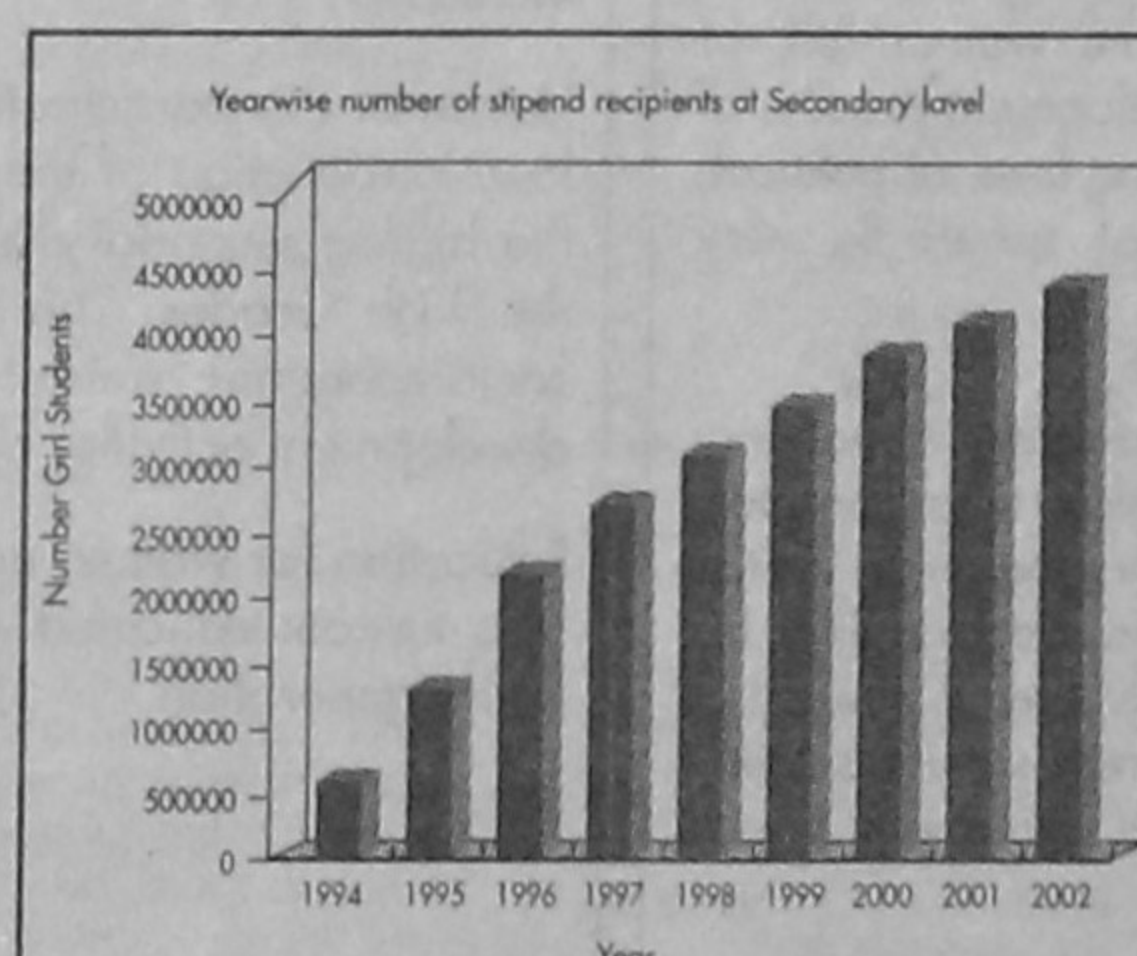
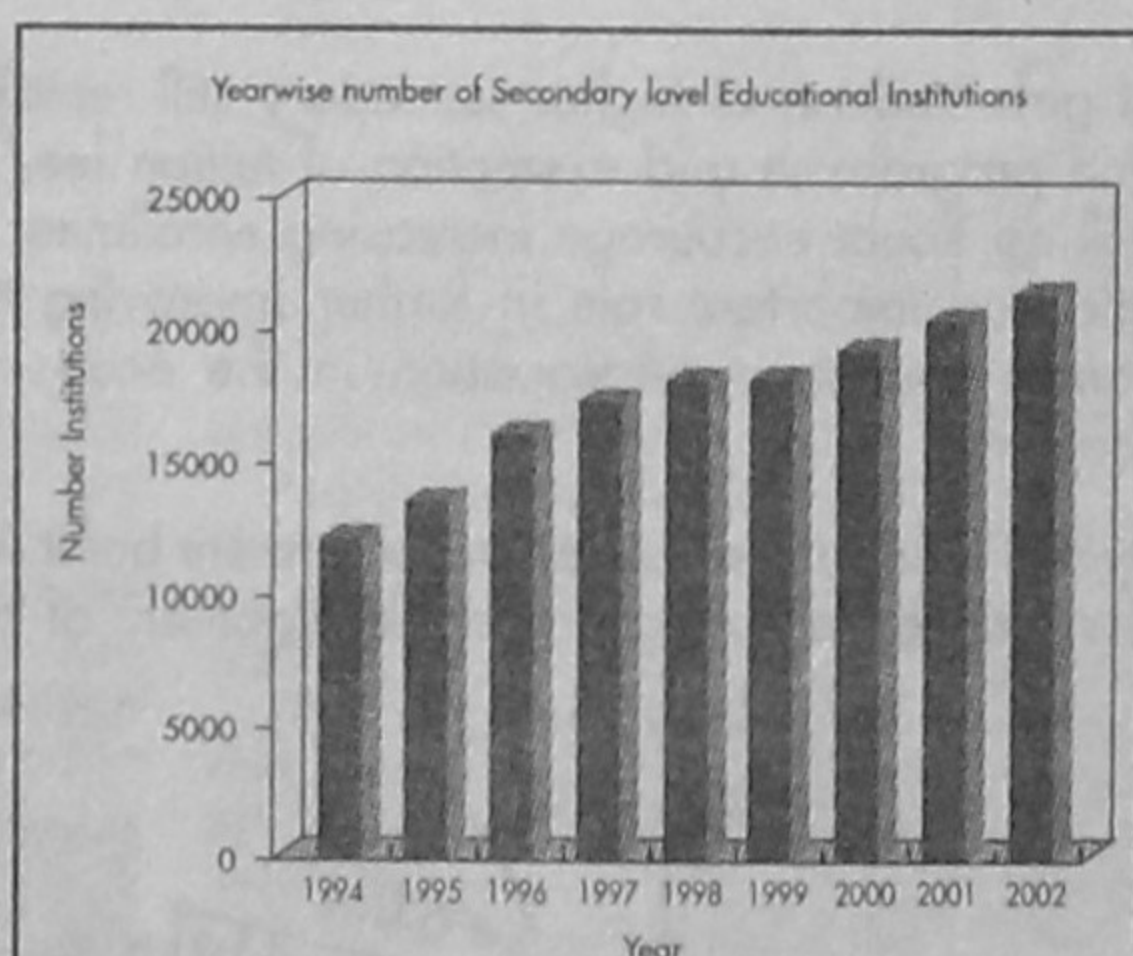
Mohammad Shahidul Alam
Mohammad Shahidul Alam

Female Stipend Programme : At a Glance

Name of the Projects	No. of Upazilas	Source of Financing	No. of Institutions	No. of Stipend Recipients (upto June 2002)	Amount disbursed for Stipend & Tuition Upto June 2002 (in lakh taka)
Female Secondary School Assistance Project (FSSAP)	119	Govt. of Bangladesh & IDA	5838	1015000	45211.96
Female Secondary Stipend Project (FSSP)	270	Govt. of Bangladesh	13826	2763319	104475.78
Secondary Education Development Project (SEDP) (Now Secondary Education Sector Improvement Project (SESIP))	53	ADB	2370	467818	17963.16
Female Secondary Education Stipend Project (FESP)	19	NORAD	829	203835	6823.30
Higher Secondary Female Stipend Project (HSFSP)	All Upazillas	Govt. of Bangladesh	4100	205000	2023.00

Yearwise number of Students, Institutions & Amount of stipend tuition disbursed at Secondary level

Year	No. of Institutions (school & Madrasah)	No. of stipend Recipients	Amount disbursed (in lakh taka)
1994	12,713	7,08,886	2970.66
1995	14,119	14,09,382	8944.26
1996	16,722	23,00,062	14591.89
1997	17,847	28,25,350	20650.78
1998	18,721	31,98,559	24099.23
1999	18,788	35,64,404	26685.57
2000	19,919	39,61,194	27707.88
2001	21,027	41,91,058	30345.00
2002 (6 Month)	22,034	44,82,154	18479.93



🏠 EDUCATION IS FOR LIFE 🏠 EDUCATION IS FOR SOCIETY 🏠 EDUCATION IS FOR THE NATION

🏠 EDUCATION IS LIGHT 🏠 EDUCATION MEANS DEVELOPMENT 🏠 AN EDUCATED WOMAN IS AN ASSET FOR THE NATION