

# The World Bank

## Information Note



### **Poor students, both girls and boys, now to get stipend for secondary education**

Thanks to a new initiative of the Government, poorer boys will also receive stipends from now on under *Secondary Education Access and Quality Enhancement Project (SEAQEP)* in addition to the girls who have receiving stipends since 1993 based on certain criteria. The Government has recently formed a high level Task Force and a Project Preparation Team to work on this proposed project, to be supported by the World Bank.

The proposed SEAQEP, to be implemented in 119 upazilas, aims to improve academic performance through incentive awards to students, schools and teachers; provide water and sanitation facilities to retain girls in school and develop an effective monitoring and evaluation system.

SEAQEP will be a follow-up to the second Female Secondary School Assistance Project (FSSAP) of the Government, which ends on 30 June 2008. The total project cost of FSSAP II is US\$144.6 million and the World Bank is contributing a US\$ 120.6 million interest-free credit.

FSSAP II has already helped more than eight hundred thousand girls with stipends that improved SSC pass rates for stipend girls from 39% in 2001 to 60% in 2007. A training program has reached 19000 stakeholders, largely from the communities, while some 6000 institutions were brought under school management and accountability training program. The Mobile Training Resource Teams (MTRTs) pilot has shown positive results. A Family Attractiveness Program to identify out-of-secondary-school girls from very poor families living in remote and economically disadvantaged areas has been introduced under this program.

It may be mentioned here that Bangladesh is now a global leader in girl's education, thanks to a Government stipend program since 1993 that supported female secondary education. The World Bank has been a keen supporter of the initiative from the start through interest-free credit.

**November 2007**

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