

## Thinking Allowed...

## ANOTHER TALENT POOL!

By Hasina Sajun

A few years back, there was a blind haste, a compulsion to get academically educated, to get a job, to better one's life ...but one sees the beginning of that end!

As the graduates find that year after year not enough jobs are available to them on the strength of their qualifications, they might as well have learnt Short-hand, typing, and been absorbed faster, and earned better.

The graduate from the University or College finds that the subject he has qualified in, has little to do with earning his living....If earning his living or her living is the most pressing necessity, he or she accepts the first job which brings in financial aid.

Persons for whom it is not the income that is of immediate importance will not take on any job..they would like to be associated with the subject they have qualified in.

They wait, they try, they are disheartened.....They are bored, they are disillusioned and finally they stagnate!

Everyone is aware now that our educational system must be scrapped, and a new revolutionary system suited to our requirements must be initiated. But please, see that the right people are involved in the making of the educational policy... not friend of a friend—relative of a relative..boxers? wrestlers?

we want none of them!

One idea that comes to mind when one thinks of a massive community works programme concerning the personal required to implement the projects.

How about tapping the latent talent? that big chunk of graduates..majority being women..let us ask all the unemployed graduates to come and sign up for giving a minimum number of hours per week to the Government as compulsory social service. I bet all your hours will be signed for from now to 1975.

In Egypt, I have been told that as soon as a boy or a girl graduates the state gives him/her, if I remember correctly, the equivalent of sixty dollars a month..if our Government can do such a thing then it will have a mass of educated personnel to be mobilised according to its necessity.

I decided to voice this as it seemed brilliant idea to a friend who is a specialist in the field of social welfare and community projects.

While discussing social work in general, I learnt that our approach to social work was all wrong. It was still one of giving instead of helping to develop the resources. To help by doing out bountifully must end.

Another important fact to be remembered is that the people whom you mean to help. Their aspiration are different from ours. For instance if one goes

into a certain area armed only with the sentiments of wanting to do social work, one is liable to notice..may be... only the dirt, the flies or the poor lighting and decide that these must be rectified immediately. Sure, these must be eradicated but remember, that these may not be even noticed by them, and their most pressing requirements are completely different.

So ascertain their problems and aspirations which are different from ours.

The third and most important thing seemed to be something to heed the Golden Rules in social work. Don't think along the lines of doing something for them, do something WITH them and through them.

Many of the Begums who join voluntary social work groups or form their own groups certainly have the best intentions, but they do not have the requisite qualifications. This was perfectly alright a quarter century back.. such people did a marvellous job them. But today..surely today we should have been able to have trained, qualified people to take over this most important job...But do you ever see an advertisement for a single job of this kind?. Then who and how are these positions filled?

For the undertaking of any community project..first of all one must have the resources. Next come the organisation,

reinforcement and mobilisation of personnel and the most important Training.

There must be a regular training programme, an orientation programme, otherwise all the signed up hours will not yield the best results.

Well, we must do something on these lines right away; we must do what we can for the poor illiterate and needy. The masses are aware of better conditions of living which are denied to them. How can our national conditions improve if we do not start at the bottom. Is it not of utmost importance today to launch a massive public works projects? I asked a friend.

"You may think so....I don't", she answered. "What we need in Pakistan today is moral courage...Where is the standard of our morals?"

"Launch a campaign for regaining our morals..Find them first and then talk of everything else."

With so many things to revolutionise and revitalise put this as TOP PRIORITY..If each of us will find our moral courage and practise absolute honesty in our dealings why in no time at all it will be a collective effort!

This collective effort at finding and then holding on to our moral courage will save the nation yet.