

Students who don't w

The oldest education college in Lahore is not attracting half as many students as

By Syed Ali Abedi

The Government Boys Education College, Lower Mall, Lahore, has been facing the problem of shortage of students in the Bachelor of Education classes since 1995 owing to the ill-planned education policies of the government, as voiced by many present and past college students.

The old name of the college was Central Training College, which was changed in 1976. In 1880, it was the only training college from Peshawar to Calcutta. The college was established with the aim of providing trained teachers at the educational institutions of the subcontinent and it succeeded in its aim. But at present, the government decision to withdraw the incentives and lack of grants provision to the college are taking it away from its aim.

The BEd is a teaching professional degree. Earlier, the college was offering the degree of Senior Anglo Vernacular (SAV) which was equivalent to the BEd degree. The college started the classes of Bachelor of Teaching (BT) when it was affiliated with the Punjab University in 1903. As the SAV and the BT were almost the same degrees, the then college administration discontinued the classes of the SAV in 1944. In 1960, the BT was renamed as the BEd.

The college is facing the problem of the shortage of students for the second time since its establishment in



There will be less trained teachers in future.

1880. Earlier, the college had faced this problem for about eight years from 1977 to 1985. At that time, the students avoided taking admission in the BEd because they knew that after completing the studies they would only get jobs in grade-14 as school teachers. Seeing the college situation, the then government revised the scales and decided to give grade-15 to the teach-

ers having BEd degree. Two years later, the government approved grade-16 for such teachers without creating jobs for the fresh BEd degree holders.

After the approval of the grade-16, the college started receiving about 2,000 applications for the admission each year in BEd while the college had only 412 seats. The situation remained the same

between 1985 and 1995 and during that period thousands of students got BEd degrees but did not get appointments in schools as the government had not created jobs for them.

As the fresh degree holders remained jobless, the students have been avoiding to take admission in BEd classes since 1995 and out of 412 seats, one-third remain unfilled. This lessened burden