

Five lakh adults, children imparted education under UEP since '85

Nearly five lakh adults and children were imparted education by Proshika Manabik Unnayan Kendro in three categories under its Universal Education Programme (UEP) since the beginning of the scheme in 1985, reports BSS.

The organisation, during the 1995-96 period provided education to 1,02,130 people under three different categories namely adult literacy, children's enrolment in government primary schools and non-formal primary education (NEPE), a press release of organisation said.

Besides, Proshika has undertaken massive programmes to further expand and expedite the UEP activities to supplement the governments efforts to eradicate illiteracy from the country in the next 10 years.

Under its adult literacy programme, aimed at helping adult poors to gain basic literacy skills, increasing their general knowledge in day to day life and making them self-reliant in development, the Proshika imparted education to 2,84,492 people, for this purpose it set up a total number of 14,630 adult literacy centres across the country. Under this programme a record number of 29,585 including 12,413 males and 17,172 females were given education in 2,381 centres during the 1995-96 session. Of the centres 994 were for males while 1,387 were for female learners.

The organisation, to provide necessary follow-up support to the adult persons, who underwent only a six-month course, formed "pathchakra" (village study circles) in order to help

the learners continue their learning habit and put it into practice. The organisation has 1536 such study circles including 306, set up during the 95-96 session.

Proshika provides adult learners with papers, periodicals and books, specifically written for them on subjects like health and nutrition, homestead gardening, various income generation activities environment and ecology. It also published simplified and retold version of a significant number of Bengali literacy classics for these neo-literates.

Under the programme for children's enrolment in government primary schools, Proshika has so far sent 1,43,000 children to different government schools. Besides providing education materials to the learners, the poor parents were motivated to send their wards to school. The organisation, succeeded to enroll 34,312 children including 16,774 boys and 17,538 girls during the 95-96 session.

Under non-formal

education programme (NEPE) 2,075 centres were opened, where 61,925 children between 8-10 years old were imparted education. The three-year nepe is equivalent to five-year primary education in the country and children after completion of this course will qualify for admission into secondary schools. Proshika has established a Material Development Cell (MDC) comprising eminent educationists of the country to develop curriculum and materials for NEPE.