

Juvenile Literacy Programme

There is much in launching a project — particularly one aimed at achieving genuine welfare goals. We make this comment hailing the Juvenile Literacy Programme (JLP) launched by the Bangladesh Association for Juveniles. The programme is reportedly financed by the Canadian University Overseas (CUSO) of which such a humanitarian gesture we gratefully acknowledge. It is very encouraging indeed that the action under the programme has already begun in right earnest with as many as two hundred students at the three centres set up in the Dacca University area. The beneficiaries of the programme are the domestic servants and children of the low-income group of employees.

The four centres mentioned above constitute obviously the nucleus, and the goal set before the BAJ is to cover the entire city with similar centres established at suitable places in different parts of the city.

Considering the potential and projected range of function under the programme it is bound to

prove an effective supplement to mass literacy to promote which the government also has plans. Though financed by a friendly foreign country, the programme is also a literacy milestone of private initiative in a very constructive national direction. In fact, while our need in this regard, i.e. literacy in the non-formal sense, is large and pressing, limitation of resources alone has so far been the main spoke in the wheel.

This being so the BAJ enterprise would, we hope, be an incentive to other friendly countries doing their bit to advance the welfare of the masses in literacy and other sectors. This should also be a goad to local national initiative in the private sector to bestir itself and do its best to vie with such overseas humanitarian efforts. As for the BAJ literacy programme itself, its success and efficacy would very much depend on the extent to which those for whom it is meant will take advantage of it through wide-ranging cooperation in Dacca city.