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কলাম

Poverty, poor accommodation, communication, facilities

# Lakhs of children deprived of primary education

From Our Correspondent

TANGAIL, Oct. 19:—About one lakh eligible children are being deprived of primary education in Tangail district due to lack of proper monitoring, financial support and official initiative.

There are 1355 primary schools in the district of which 959 are govt and 396 are non-government. Besides these, 100 private schools have already been set up at local initiative.

The total strength of school going children aged between 6 to 10 years is 4,49,196 of whom one lakh do not go to schools, according to official estimates. The non-official estimate of the drop-out children is 375,000. But there is no initiative to motivate them and their guardians to bring these children to schools.

A total number of 479 primary schools of the district were brought under Food for Education Programme. Out of 1,65,961 students of these schools, only 55,460 are getting the Food for Education Scheme facility which provides 12 kg of rice per child in a month. But irregularity is the distribution of the food and enlistment of false names of students in the distribution register, it is alleged.

This correspondent visited a good number of schools in villages and

found the same picture every where. In the district, there are 2601 villages but more than 1000 villages do not have any primary schools.

Most of the primary schools are situated in far-flung areas having bad communication system. It is alleged that the thana level education officers seldom pay visit those schools for supervising the teaching methods and attendance of the teachers.

On the other hand, the difference in financial emoluments including salaries etc., between the teachers of govt and non-govt primary school teachers is gradually decreasing the interest of teachers to work sincerely and with devotion.

## Satkhira

Our Satkhira Correspondent reports: Over one lakh children of Satkhira district were denied primary education for want of facilities in the schools.

The students are not enrolled in the primary schools as their guardians are poor and are unable to buy books, pencils, papers and other necessary appliances for their ward.

Some students leave their schools one or two years after their enrolment.

As many as 146 primary schools in the district damaged in the cyclone over years have yet been repaired. Many of these schools sit in abandoned houses.

The Facilities Department undertook a scheme in the year 1995-96 to construct some primary school building but the scheme has not yet been implemented.

Besides 145 posts of teachers have been lying vacant in the district hampering education of children.

## Gopalganj

Our Gopalganj Correspondent states: Over 50,000 children in the age group of 10 years are deprived of

primary education in five thanas of Gopalganj district for want of adequate government primary schools, bad condition of schools and shortage of furniture in non-government primary schools.

There are 593 government primary schools in the district but the number of village is 18,46. There are no government primary schools in 1233 villages under Gopalganj district.

There are 1,12,115 children in the district of whom 1,11,045 are studying in different primary schools while rest are deprived of education.

According to a official source there are 167 government primary schools in Gopalganj sadar thana against 465 villages, 163 schools in Kasiahi thana against 428 villages, 108 schools in Muksudpur thana against 313 villages, 102 schools in Kotalipara thana against 265 villages, 20 schools in Tungipara thana against 60 villages.

The non-government primary schools should be nationalised providing sufficient number of furniture and adequate accommodation supply of teaching materials and appointment of new teachers to fill up the vacant posts.

The Education For All by the year 2000 may not be achieved if the authorities concerned failed to take necessary steps at the initial stage to make it success.

The rickshawpullers and factory workers send their boys to hotels, automobiles and welding workshops to earn their bread in the district. The school going children are working in paddy husking mills during the crushing period.

The landless and marginal farmers who comprise a large number of farmers cannot afford to send their children to schools due poverty. They have to maintain a big family consisting of six to ten members with their little income.