

# School Based Education and increased enrolment

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Primary Education has a significant role to play in the supply of skilled manpower and an intelligent citizenry needed for ensuring a democratic social pattern.

It is at this level that the children's attitudes have to be formed, interests and aptitudes developed and a sound foundation laid for secondary and higher education.

Universal primary education, therefore, has been considered a well accepted principle for national development in all advanced countries of the world.

In Bangladesh also primary education has become the main concern of the Government in the present national development programme.

The universalization of primary education and the eradication of illiteracy are two of the basic goals of the perspective development plan of the government for the period of 1980-2000.

But despite all the efforts, success achieved in the field is very meagre. Still more that 40% of the school aged children are remaining outside the orbit of the primary schools.

In consideration of this dismal picture in the field of primary education some young and energetic social workers with patriotic zeal united under the banner of the "Association for School Based Education" programme in 1978 to take practical measures for freeing the country from the curse of illiteracy through increasing enrolments and decreasing dropouts in the primary schools.

A comparison of enrolment figures in the programme of the ASBE and non-programme area is presented below.

The innovative method evolved by the Association is known as School Based Education in which teachers impart daily lessons in such a way that students complete their lessons in the classroom.

After successive experiments in different schools, the method was extensively applied to all primary schools of Mirzapur Upazila in the year 1982 and 1984 and since then this upazila is treated as a pilot area.

After completion of one year, the programme at Mirzapur was evaluated under the Sponsorship of UNESCO, Paris.

The findings were so much encouraging in respect of enrolment increase and reduction of drop-out rates that UNESCO hailed the evaluation report as excellent. Encouraged by the positive findings the SBE system has been introduced to 1180 primary schools in 15 upazilas of 8 districts.

So far 3891 Government primary school teachers have been trained and about 2,44,885 students are getting benefit of this system.

Besides, this a 'Kishalaya Project' has been started for

introduction of first learners class (pre-class I) in primary schools in the project areas with a view to imparting basic lessons so that students are better equipped to enroll themselves in class I. A book named Kishalaya sat was published by the Association & has been freely distributed among the first learners.

The phenomenal success of School-Based Education system in increasing enrolment will be evident from the following tables & analysis.

This shows that the success of the programme undertaken by the "Association for School-Based Education" has been increasing the rate of enrolment in the primary schools.

By comparing the data as noted above it may be stated that the rate of increase of enrolment in ASBE project area is significantly higher than that of the non-project area.

This achievement of the Association becomes further clear when the enrolment percentages of the project area of ASBE is compared with the total enrolments in the primary Schools of the country.



Will these children ever take education seriously?

## PROGRAMME AREA

TABLE-1

Enrolment of primary schools in Mirzapur Upazila.

Year	Kishalaya	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V	Total	Rate of change in%
1982	4363	9752	5062	3770	3062	2312	28322	—
1983	4507	1025	5762	4398	3093	2384	21168	33.80
1984	4799	10471	6465	4466	3245	2438	31884	33.61
1985	4860	11200	6475	5200	3625	2800	34160	7.13
1986	6600	12500	6628	5722	3768	3102	38320	12.17

ASBE has started to work in the area in 1983.  
 (38320-21168) 17152  
 Over all increase 44.76

Source: Upazila Education Office.

TABLE-2

Enrolment of Primary School Children in Barura Upazila.

Year	Kishalaya	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V	Total	Rate of Change in%
1984	—	13054	6111	4858	3277	2428	29728	—
1985	—	12640	6408	5535	4222	2952	31757	6.39
1986	9700	11223	7495	5377	4646	3371	41812	24.04

ASBE has started to work in the area in 1985.

Source: Upazila Education Office.

## NON-PROGRAMME AREA

TABLE-3

Enrolment of Primary School Children in Kaliakoir Upazila.

Year	Class-I	Class-II	Class-III	Class-IV	Class-V	Total	Rate of Change in%
1982	11360	3257	2461	1857	1483	20418	—
1983	11599	3778	2724	1960	1533	21494	5.01
1984	11792	4041	2995	2134	1721	22683	5.24
1985	11647	4122	3153	2131	1739	22795	0.49
1986	10395	3599	2853	2435	1769	20971	8.70

(20971-21494) 523  
 Overall decrease 8.70

Source: Upazila Education Office.

TABLE-4

ENROLMENT IN THE PRIMARY SCHOOLS OF BANGLADESH

Year	Enrolment	Rate of Change in %
1982	8400000	—
1983	8450000	0.59
1984	8500000	0.59
1985	8920000	4.71

Source: BANBEIS

From Table-1 it is seen that the ASBE started work at Mirzapur Upazila in 1983. The enrolment in this Upazila between the year 1982 and 1983 has decreased by 33.80%. After introduction of the system of school-based education enrolment has increased by 33.61% in 1984, 7.13% in 1985 and 12.17% in 1986.

The overall increase in enrolment between 1983 and 1986 has been 44.76% against the national rate of 5.57%. In Barura Upazila the Association has started work in the year 1985 and between the year 1985-86 the enrolment has increased by 24.05%.

The Table-3 shows the information regarding enrolment at Kaliakoir Upazila non-programme area). The enrolment in this Upazila has increased by 5.01% in 1983, 5.24% in 1984, 5.53% in 1985 and as decreased by 8.17% in 1986. The national figure given in Table-4 shows that the enrolment has increased by 0.59 in 1984 and 4.71% in 1985.

In 1984 an evaluation study was conducted by a group of experts through the sponsorship of UNESCO on the achievement of ASBE. On receiving the evaluation report UNESCO Paris deeply appreciated the achievement made by ASBE by commenting on the performance as excellent.

In the year 1985 the Association completed training of 1965 Head teachers of primary schools at 9 Upazilas through financial support given by UNESCO, Bangkok.

An evaluation was done on completion of the training. During evaluation of the training programme 90.50% of the trainees remarked about the system of school based education as excellent and 9.50% as satisfactory.

The Teachers Guardians and Education Officers connected with primary education have already recognised the contribution of the ASBE in the field of primary education and accepted the method of teaching introduced by it as superior to the traditional interest system.