

Guardians perplexed, note-books on sale of high price

Pry education on verge of collapse, text-books yet to reach students

From Our Correspondent

LAKSHMIPUR, Feb 24:—The primary education in the district is on the verge of collapse due to acute shortage of text-books. Only 15 per cent books were distributed among the students by the school authorities up to February 12 and the rest 85 per cent books are not available hampering the education of primary students.

The school authorities informed this correspondent that only 89 books out of 1305 books for 271 students were received by the school authority of the Panpara Government Primary School. The same condition is also lying with the Kapilatali Government Primary School under Sadar upazila where only 265 books were received out of the demand of 2075 books.

According to official source there are 762 primary schools in the district including government and non-government registered ones. More than 2.5 lakh students are enrolled in those schools and at least 12.5 lakh text-books are required.

The District Primary Education Officer informed me that only 1.54 lakh text-books out of a demand of 10 lakh were received and sent to the schools proportionately and the rest students could not be provided with required number of books.

Chapai-Nawabganj

Our Chapai-Nawabganj Correspondent reports: Even after an elapse of more than one and a half months of the current academic year all the text books of different classes of secondary schools have not reached the markets here.

It is learnt from the guardians and the books sellers that all books of different classes of secondary schools are not available at local markets hampering the education of the students. The guardians are anxious about their kids' education. They alleged that the book sellers, taking the advantage are taking Tk 8 to Taka 10 above the fixed prices for each book.

Madaripur

Our Madaripur Correspondent states: The non-availability of text books from Class VI to Class X is hampering the education of the students.

The students of secondary and the primary schools of the district have not been supplied with the text books although the new academic session has started.

The authority supplied books of only Bengali, English and Ma-

thematics for Class VI to Class X.

Gopalganj

Our Gopalganj Correspondent writes: The crisis of text books is hampering the education of primary and secondary students who did not get books although one and a half months of the academic year have elapsed.

The limited quantity of the text-books of 14 subjects is available in markets. Only 20 per cent of the total requirement of books is available. No body knows when the remaining books will be available.

According to the books sellers, only 5 per cent of the books is available through the dealers of Pustaka and the remaining 15 per cent were collected by them from Dhaka at high price.

The students were compelled to purchase the note books with text books at exorbitant prices.

When contacted a book seller told The Bangladesh Observer that as no commission on text-books was provided to them they are procuring books from Dhaka markets at high prices.

The District Education Officer

when contacted told this correspondent that availability of text-books in full quantity and actual requirements may not be ensured before March next and the students will suffer.

It is alleged that the books supplied by Pustaka are printed in sub-standard papers. The guardians have expressed grave concern over the situation.

The students who failed to collect the books staged demonstration in the town, and demanded immediate supply of books. They also brought out a procession and submitted a memorandum to offices of Deputy Commissioner and District Education Officer demanding immediate supply of text-books to them.

Chudanga

Our Chudanga Correspondent adds: The education of 1.78 lakh students of both primary and secondary schools of the district is at stake for want of books.

There are 257 government primary schools, 140 registered primary schools, 13 non-registered primary schools, and 339 primary schools established by the NGOs

in the district.

Although more than 50 days of the new year have elapsed the students of both primary and secondary school did not get full-sets of books to prosecute their study. The supply of books to secondary school students is awfully bad. The guardians have expressed their concern over non-availability of the books.

There are 1,38,241 children in the age group of 6 to 10 of whom 1,27,481 attend schools and the percentage of enrolment is 99.21.

Poverty in rural areas.

In rural areas about 30 per cent children do not attend schools owing to poverty and lack of parental care. The children are forced to crowd schools when they get supply of food and new books.

The District Primary Education Office, received 2,95,309 sets of books up to February 6. The of had also carried over last year's stock of 1,20,709 books, of which 17,391 copies for of Class III, 44,181 copies of Class IV and 59,137 copies of books for Class V.

The approved printers and publishers supplied 34,592 copies of Bangla for Class one, 13,475 copies and 21,117 copies of English subject books for Class one, 29,561 and 560 copies of Bangla for Class two, 29,851 copies of Mathematics for Class two, 27,966 and 1,885 copies of English for Class two, 10,778 and 4,815 copies of Paribesh Parichity for Class IV.

The DPEO Office has so far distributed 2,95,309 books as against its total demand of 3,53,898 books. The percentage of distribution is 77.60. The supply and distribution of books are continuing.

The students are supplied with 50 per cent old books of the last year collected by the teachers during examination. And official of the DPEO said that the distribution is satisfactory. The DPEO has no godown to store both new and old books.

There are 255 and 892 sanctioned posts of Head Teachers and Asstt. Teachers at 257 Govt. Primary Schools, but 244 Head Teachers and 870 Asstt. Teachers have been working in leave va-

cancy of 11 Head Teachers and 22 Assistant Teachers. The appointment of teachers remain under process, source said.

Note-books being sold

Although the government has imposed a ban on the sale of note-books yet the local book sellers are selling note-books violating the government ban. The note-books are sold on 10 per cent commission. The students, teachers and guardians prefer note books for ready made questions and answers. No official either from district administration or from Education Department inspected the local libraries to detect unauthorised sale of note-books.

Secondary school books not available.

The bad condition has been prevailing in the supply of books of Classes VI to IX of secondary schools. The National Curriculum and Text-book Board (NCTB) failed to supply books through its supplying agent Pustaka.

When contacted local book sellers told The Bangladesh Observer that they did not received books of Social Science (Shamajik Bigyan), General Science, Islamic Studies, Agriculture and Home Economics for Classes VI, VII and Science of Class IX such as Social Science, General Science, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Advanced Mathematics, Agriculture and Humanities, History, Geography, Economics and Civics and Commerce on Babshay Parichity (Introduction to Commerce) Hishab Bigyan (Accounting) and Babshay Udyog (Commercial Entrepreneurship) for Class IX.

The note-books of secondary education have flooded the local book markets and these are being sold at higher prices.

The teachers of secondary schools are taking classes of Bangla and English Grammar, Translation, Mathematics and Bangla Prose and Poetry.

Pustaka, a sister concern of Beximco Group was allowed to publish text-books by the NCTB. Although one and half months of the new academic year have elapsed, the Pustaka could not supply books to the book sellers for sale.

The guardians, students and teachers have expressed their concern over non-availability of 46 text-books out of 60 books and education of 70,000 students of the district have become uncertain.