

# Mass education programme in rural areas launched

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Jan 14:—Gono Sahajyo Sangstha (GSS), a non-government organisation of the country is making headway in spreading education in Mymensingh region.

The education programme of GSS has been launched under the Primary Education Programme (PEP) for the children aged between 6 and 10 and Adult Literacy Programme (ALP) for the boys and girls aged between 11 and 15.

The Education Programme of GSS had been launched on experimental basis at village Senerbar under Paikgacha thana on Khulna district in 1987 and at present the programme is being extended to all over the country.

The programme has been launched in greater Mymensingh district in 1991. Under the programme GSS established 224 primary schools under the name of Ananda Niketan Primary School, 415 adult education centres under the name of Kishore Kishori Shishu Kendra and five primary training schools (TPS) at a cost of Tk 9.20 crore in the Mymensingh region upto December 1996. Out of the total educational institutions 149 primary schools, 246 adult education centres and five primary training schools (TPS) were established in Mymensingh region upto December 1996. Out of the total educational institutions 149 primary schools, 246 adult education centres and five primary training schools (TPS) were established in Mymensingh district, 63 primary schools and 129 adult education centres in Netrakona district and 12 primary schools and 40 adult education centres in Jamalpur district. These educational institutions have been established to enroll 66,720 students and 1112 females here been employed as teachers.

The Regional Coordinator of GSS, SB Zaman told this correspondent that this organisation planned to establish a large number of educational institutions in this area as a

part of the education for all within 2000. To implement the plan they started survey in the rural areas for selecting suitable places to establish educational institutions.

Every primary school of GSS enrolls 180 learners, and every Adult Education Centre enrolls 60 learners and every primary training school enrolls 300 persons.

The organisation will provide books, exercise books, papers, pencils, chalks and other educational facilities like game cards, picture cards, letters, word game cards, arithmetical cards and geometrical cards and medical facilities at free of cost. Poor parents are motivated to send their offspring to GSS schools as they can not bear expenses for their children.

The learners of GSS schools are taught all subjects according to national curriculum. With general education, the students acquired basic knowledge in hygiene, environment and primary health care needed in their day-to-day life.

The GSS applies various innovating systems designed to attract the students to primary education, to check drop out and to make primary education more sustainable. The organisation will introduce play, dance, art, music and so on to make primary education attractive.

The percentage of drop-out in GSS schools is less than one per cent which is one by 20 in government primary schools. This percentage of dropout in GSS schools is due to early marriage or death or migration.

A group of newsmen from different national and regional dailies recently visited some educational centres of GSS in the rural areas of Goffargaon. During the visit it is found that the rural boys and girls have accepted the education system of GSS with enthusiams. The team also visited some primary schools of GSS in Trishal thana.

The children aged below 7 years

coming from poor families and reading in Chikna Monohor Ananda Niketan Primary School, can write the names of some countries of the world and learn formula of a oral saline. They learn songs and dances in addition to the education at the primary level.

Nasima Begum, a teacher of the school said that she found the learners are cooperative with the teachers during the training.