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# Mass literacy programme gains momentum in Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Feb 2:— Chuadanga, a under developed district of the south-west region, has been marked with low rate of literacy.

'Alokita Chuadanga' a mass literacy programme has gained momentum in the district. This programme has been launched with a view of giving light of education to the illiterate people including adult boys and girls, housewives, youths, old men and women. The rural areas are beaming with the light of education under the project, Total Literacy Movement (TLM) which yielded a good response and result. People of age group 11 to 45 have been brought under the literacy programme.

A survey conducted by the govt prime school teachers reveals that 2,20,000 people of the district have been deprived of education due to their poverty. The programme runs with voluntary participation of govt officials, political leaders and socio-cultural activists and newsmen of the district which aims at overall human development including life and livelihood, healthcare, family planning, sanitation, food and nutrition, environment and income generating activities like agriculture, pisciculture and small traders.

A total of 1,719 mass literacy centres have been opened in the rural and urban areas of the district to give education to 2,21,000 people. The mass literacy centres will be expanded to 7,354. A total of 20,100 learners have completed first phase of their education.

According to the District Administration, the Ministry of Education has sanctioned Taka 3,48,35,384 for the successful implementation of the Total Literacy Management (TLM) project in the district.

A separate office has been established in the collectorate under the charge of a Magistrate as monitoring cell to carry out day to day business of the TLM programme.

The office distributed books, slates, chalks, pencils, black-boards, duster, hurricane lanterns and allotted fund for buying kerosine.

## First phase completed

The first phase of the programme has already been completed. The learners are taking three RS with prescribed book—"Chetona-2". The examination of the second phase will be held shortly.

The "Alokita Chuadanga" has inspired the illiterate masses to have their basic education. The local elites

have joined the literacy programme and the learners have begun their education with prescribed books: 'Chetona-1, 2 and 3 with elementary knowledge of simple calculation.

The prescribed books have been supplied from the Directorate of Non-Formal Education. The District Administration has collected 48,000 'Chetona-1' books from the Directorate of Education and the books were distributed among the learners. A total of 1,700 teachers are giving their voluntary service to educate the people. The teachers will be rewarded with a cash of Taka 1,500, Tk 1,300 and Tk 1,200 on 100 per cent, 90 per cent and 80 per cent success rates of the learners after the examinations.

When contacted Mr. Md. Rafiqul Islam, Deputy Commissioner told The Bangladesh Observer that he was looking after the working of the Total Literacy Movement Programme while the ADC (Gen) and TNOs of four thanas of the district, educated persons and socio-cultural activists have been engaged for the successful implementation of the noble task.

In the meantime, the first phase of education has been completed. The

district monitoring and evaluation committee sent 38 teams to the examination centres to observe participation of the learners. The team members visited the examination centres and submitted their reports stating their suggestions on the mass literacy programme. The learners participation was encouraging the inspecting team observed.

The second phase of the schooling was started from July 23 last. A total of 1,71,000 learners are being taught in this phase and the test of learners will be held in a convenient time after Eid-ul-Fitr.

The mass literacy programme has gained popularity in the district. The intelligentsia believe that the illiterate masses of the district will be freed from the curse of illiteracy in times to come.

To create mass awareness and to attract more illiterate adults under the Total Literacy Movement (TLM) wide publicity is being made through BTV newspapers bulleting with updated informations about the progress of the programme. The socio-cultural organisations are engaged to publicized the programme by means of jarigan and one act drama.