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Non-formal education plan gaining momentum

From Our Correspondent

PANCHAGARH, May 27:— The non-formal education plan sponsored by Dristidan a NGO is being implemented in Boda and Atawari thanas of Panchagarh district.

According to Dristidan sources, they are imparting lessons in 10 pre-primary centres where 300 leaders have been benefitted with basic education under Non-Formal Education (NFE) programme. The programme is a part of Mass Education Programme. In addition 300 more adult females are taking lessons in more 20 adult female schools in Boda and Atwari thana.

Talking to Mr. M. Sarkar Programme Officer, Dristidan, it was learnt that they have been conducting activities in 20 villages in Boda and Atwari thanas. The programme was started in December 1994 under Mass Education Programme of the government.

During my visit to the Primary school at village Satkhamer I found 28 learners out of total 30 present. Bilkis Banu, (14) a student of the NFE school informed me that she

lost her father a few years back. Since then her mother has been working as a day labourer who inspired her to go to school.

Rahima Begum, a teacher of Satkhamer NFE School informed me that most of the students in her class can recite poems, sing and dances.

Another school run by Drishtidan, at Lakshmidar has also 30 students. Merina Akhtar, the teacher of Lakshmidar NFE School informed me that out of 30 pupils, five are maintaining their families working as day labourers and doing other jobs.

While visiting the basic education centres of Dristidan I found most of the learners polite and cheerful. All of them seemed to be conscious about education.

Dristidan, a non-government organisation, encourages the rural poor to attain self-reliance in their life. The NGO initiated by a small group of social workers, teachers and journalists in 1994 started journey at a small village in Boda of Panchagarh district.