

Food for Education Programme yields good results

They give up door-to-door begging, lead honourable life

From Our Correspondent

PANCHAGARH, Feb. 27:—The Food for Education Programme initiated by the government has yielded positive results in five thanas of Panchagarh district. A large number of children belonging to the families of the poor landless, day labourers and even beggars of Debiganj, Boda, Atowari, Tetulia and Sadar thanas of Panchagarh district have enrolled themselves in primary schools where Food for Education Programme has been introduced. They are studying in these school from infant class to class five.

The Food for Education Programme has changed their standard of living. The child labour has diminished to great extent. A total of 15 kilogram of wheat has been allotted to child.

The programme has created acute shortage of maid-servants for the rich families as most of the girls aged between 6 to 12 years are now going to primary schools and lifting 15 kilograms of wheat every month.

It may be mentioned here that the government initiated the Food for Education Programme in the country about three years ago with a view to encouraging the poor landless and labour class of people of the rural and urban areas to send their wards to primary schools.

Within the short span of only three years, the programme has gained popularity and created great enthusiasm among the poor and distressed people both in rural and urban areas. They now consider the Food for Education Programme as a boon and their children as earning members of their families. Before the initiation of the programme education was only a

dream to their children. Now education is within their reach. The guardians willing to engage their children in child labour. They are aware of the bad effects of child labour. They do not like to allow their minor girls to be employed as maid servants in the households of the rich people in villages and towns. Minor boys are seldom seen at work as labourers.

The situation has so much that minor maid servants are not easily available in villages and mohallas where the Food for Education Programme has been introduced.

In addition in some cases the illiterate being educated by their children who are receiving education in the primary schools under the Food for Education Programme.

The great achievement of the programme is that it has solved beggar problem to a great extent. Before the introduction of the programme both the elderly and the minor members of a beggar family used to beg from door to door for earning their livelihood. But now the elderly beggars who have minor children have sent their wards to primary schools to receive education. They are now leading honourable life.

Our Satkhira Correspondent reports: A scheme under the name of Alokito Satkhira, has been taken up from the beginning of the year to root out the cause of illiteracy from the society of the district.

Under the scheme, 1719 educa-

tional centres at the primary level have been opened in 31 unions of seven thanas of the district.

As a part of limited efforts from all walks of life the buildings of educational institutions, clubs, family planning offices and drawing rooms of well-to-do people are being used as educational centres.

A total of 51570 students both males and females between the age groups of 11 and 45 are being imparted primary education.

In cash education centre, 30 students are being accommodated and "Chetona I" and "Chetona II" and "Chetona III" books have been given to the students.

Books and other appliances contributed by the rich people are being distributed free of cost among the students.

The duration of teaching in each centre is two hours in a day.

In addition, students are being taught in nutrition, sanitation, family planning, preservation of environment, tree plantation and discipline life.

The employees of different government and semi-government organisations are working in the education centre as teachers without salary.

It may be mentioned here that the scheme has been taken up at the local initiative in collaboration with the district administration.