

Shortage of teachers, poor condition of parents

67.75 lakh deprived of primary education in Khulna

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, May 5:—A total of 32 lakh children of ten districts in Khulna Division do not go to primary schools.

According to a survey of the Education Department, children in the age group of 5 to 10 in Chuadanga, Meherpur, Kushtia, Jhenidah, Magura, Jessore, Narail, Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat districts of Khulna Division do not attend to the primary schools. The number of children of this age group is 85,26,173 of whom 46,20,132 are boys and the rest 38,06,041 are girls.

A total of 30 per cent enrolled students do not attend to the schools.

According to an official source about 67,75,000 children are deprived of primary education in the Division. The large number of children belong to poverty stricken families. The poor parents send their children to fields and factories to earn livelihood with a view to supplementing the income of their families.

An officer of the Education Department told me that the poor parents cannot manage dress, paper and pen for their wards.

The primary education of the country has been limping despite introduction of Food for Education Programme. The programme may yield a casual result in this regard.

Kishoreganj

Our Kishoreganj correspondent reports: A total 162 of posts of primary school teachers have been lying vacant for a long time hampering education in 13 thanas of Kishoreganj district.

According to District Primary Education office sources, 16 posts have been lying vacant in Kishoreganj Sadar, 26 in Fakundia,

12 in Karimganj, 7 in Hossainpur, 19 in Kathiadi, 9 in Kuliarchar, 21 in Bazitpur, 8 in Bhairab, 8 in Austagram, 6 in Nikli, 8 in Mitamoin, 10 in Tarail and 12 in Itna.

Besides, posts of four thana education officers, one primary education officer, one Assistant District Primary Education Officer, one clerk-cum-typist and one MLSS have been lying vacant.

Madaripur

Our Madaripur correspondent writes: The number of primary school going children is decreasing in the remote areas of the district.

According to a survey a large number of children between the age of 10 and 12 years are engaged in the different small jobs instead of going to schools to earn their livelihood.

The children are compelled to take up odd jobs like cattle grazing, rickshaw pulling and hotel boys at a poor wage.

Most of the marginal or landless farmers in the district have four or more children and are facing financial crisis. As a result, they cannot afford to educational expenses of their children. Finding no other alternative, they encourage their children to take up any job.

During the harvesting season a large number of labourers along with their kids go to distant places in search of work. As a result, the primary schools in remote areas of the district have been facing acute shortage of students.

Bandarban

Our Bandarban correspondent adds: Shortage of primary schools in seven thanas of Bandarban district is hampering the education.

Over 31,315 children in the age

group of 5 to 10 of the district are deprived of primary education. The existing primary schools which are facing manifold problems, such as shortage of teachers and lack of other infrastructural facilities, can not cater to the need of growing population.

According to the District Education Department source about 13,000 children were enrolled in different primary schools in seven thanas of Bandarban district. The number of primary schools is 235 of which, 188 are government primary schools, 43 are non-government primary school.

The number of school going children is increasing and the need for 100 more primary schools in the district is stressed.

The only government college in Bandarban district has been smarting under multifarious problems.

The students have been suffering due to shortage of teachers and lack of facilities in hostel and apparatus in the science laboratory of the college. Science students can not conduct experiments due to lack of apparatus in the laboratory. There is no science demonstrator in the college.

There are 15 teachers in the college as against 44 sanctioned posts. No step has been taken to fill up the vacancies.

There is no residential quarters for the teachers. Teachers are to attend classes from Chittagong town. The post of Head Assistant, Accountant and Librarian are also lying vacant causing hindrance to the normal activities of the college.