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THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER

2 lakh deprived of pry education

Shortage of teachers hampers learning of English Language

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Feb. 6.—Over 80 per cent of private schools, colleges and senior madrashas of the district do not have requisite number of teachers in English. As a result, students of these educational institutions are being deprived of proper learning of English language.

According to Government rules, each senior madrasha should have at least one, an intermediate college should have two and degree college should have three or more lecturers in English. But these institutions, can rarely fulfil the requirements mainly because of non-availability of qualified English teachers and due to financial constraints to recruit adequate number of teachers.

In some cases, the senior madrashas cannot even appoint part time teachers due to their financial crisis. The senior madrashas and non-government colleges, schools of Pabna, Ishurdi, Sujanagar are the worst sufferers.

There are many colleges and madrashas which did not get a single application for the post of English teachers even after advertisement in national dailies. On the other hand, the applicants did not turn up before the interview board after receiving interview cards duly.

In some places, private coaching centres are earning a huge amount of money by teaching English in the absence of English teachers in the educational institutions. But most of the guardians can not afford to keep private tutors for the students or to

send them to the coaching centres due to financial hardship.

Local elite have urged the concerned authorities to look into the matter and take immediate arrangements so that these institutions can appoint the English teachers for the benefit of the students.

About two lakh children in nine thanas of Pabna district are deprived of primary education due to poverty and adequate number of schools. The District Primary Education office sources said that there were about 1,20,000 male students and 94,000 female students in Government and non-government schools. About 15,000 children in Pourashava area are deprived of education.

Besides about 2000 children are receiving education from 16 kindergarten schools at Pabna proper. On the other hand, about 19,463 are receiving education from 24 primary schools, of Pabna thana.

It is learnt from a survey that 18,000 children are deprived of primary education at Himaitpur and Maligasa out of 72 Union Parishads of the district. About 90 per cent guardians cannot afford educational expenses rather children are engaged in various kinds of odd jobs to earn livelihood.

Besides there are shortage of benches, black boards and other educational appliances in the schools. Roofs of many schools damaged by the storm and flood are yet to be

repaired. Scarcity of drinking water in these educational institutions has been prevailing as most of the tubewells in the schools are either out of order or their heads have been stolen away.

Absence of proper sanitation in these primary schools is another impediment. The pupils and teachers are to go to the nearby houses or by the side of the canals in response to the call of nature.

Almost all the primary schools have no playground and proper sports facilities. The students are deprived of sports facilities. There is no practice on extra-curricular activities in many schools. As a result, the talents of the students cannot be developed in different competitions they are found below standard.