

Mass Literacy Campaign

Development of a country depends on how well its people are advanced in education. In view of this fact our development strategy aims at eradicating the curse of illiteracy from the land. And it is heartening that the anti-illiteracy campaign is gaining momentum. For example, 830 villages in 45 unions of the Goalando subdivision of Faridpur district alone have been brought under the mass literacy scheme. And for pursuing the programme, 1,682 literacy squads consisting of 6,590 members, including college and university students, have been formed. In addition, 190 voluntary organisations have also been involved in performing the task. Meanwhile, 52,651 persons, both male and female, have been given the light of education. Similar results produced by the efforts in this direction are also being reported from other places of the country.

Removal of illiteracy will indeed instil self-respect in the people—the self-respect that will hold beacon to them in their march ahead. But people's learning of three R's alone would not do. All-round progress and prosperity of the nation depends chiefly on the conversion of human resources into productive

force in the true sense. Education must therefore be made practical, so that youths can gain such knowledge and skill in their respective fields as would enable them to start career without wasting time and energy. It is a bitter experience for us that our youths, after completion of their studies, have to struggle hard to find a career befitting their qualification. Cases of the children belonging to poor and low-income groups are still worse. Most of them have to give up schooling at an early age to take a vocation to supplement their family income.

In the backdrop of such hard reality—and in the perspective of our national development strategy aiming at the well being of the people—it is imperative that vocational education and training be introduced at the academic institutions of the country. Even those who are learning three R's should also be given such education and training as would help them find a vocation soon after their elementary education. Vocational education and training, as observed, will help solve the problems relating to conversion of human resources into a productive force.