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New approach to adult literacy

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A new approach to adult literacy drive has proved to have a reasonable degree of success in making illiterates not only capable of reading and writing, but also aware of their social rights and obligations.

Association for Social Advancement (ASA), a non-governmental organisation (NGO) is rendering the service to the landless people of Manikganj, Dhaka, Sirajganj, Habiganj, Gazipur, Noakhali, Tangail, Mymensingh and Comilla districts.

For the last few years according to a spokesman of the organisation over two lakh people of those districts have been involved in their programmes.

The ASA spokesman said that the education method and contents of the course itself make the students educated and aware of their rights.

Narrating the education system, contents in the books and process of organising people and teaching techniques the source said that a representative of ASA organise 30 landless peasants of an area to form a group after motivating them to be united. They are then supplied with ASA's books and writing materials. The ASA then engage a teacher and the course starts. The spokesman said that while teaching the first letter of the Bengali alphabet 'আ' the teacher also make the students aware of 'avab' meaning poverty, 'abichar' meaning injustice, 'attachar' meaning torture, 'abahela' meaning negligence, 'ashukh' meaning sickness etc. In the similar ways the students also taught other letters along with the words with which they are familiar in their daily life. The source claimed that the vast landless population of the area during

last few years achieved a miracle result after getting the education. They are becoming self-sufficient and are very aware of their rights.

While visiting some of the adult education centres in the area this Times staffer met one Bishu Charan Mandal of Baniachury landless peasants group, who said that he and other members of his group are now free from social injustice after three years of resistance against powerful men of the locality.

Samela Begum, a member of Tepra women landless group told Times that they are quite capable to protest every social injustice even from their husbands after they achieved awareness from the adult education centres. This correspondent also interviewed several male and female member and received similar answers.

Criticising the existing primary education system they urged upon the Government to introduce the new technique in primary education which will help their children to get education and make them socially aware from the beginning of their lives.