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80 lakh joining illiterate group every year

By A Staff Reporter

More than 80 per cent people of Bangladesh are illiterate and 70 to 80 lakh people are joining the illiterate group every year, Prof Osman Ghani, Secretary General of Bangladesh Literacy Society, told a press conference on Sunday.

Bangladesh Literacy Society is a non-government social welfare organisation.

Prof Ghani said that 50 per cent of the children cannot attend schools despite their eligibility owing to poverty. Moreover, 60 to 80 per cent of the school-going children have to leave the schools before completion of primary education. He said that 90 per cent people live below poverty line adding that poverty and illiteracy were responsible for different social and economic problems of the country.

Prof Ghani said that the

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Illiterate group

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Bangladesh Literacy Society had taken up an extensive non-formal distance education and mass education programme to reach literacy to the illiterate masses of the country. Under the non-formal literacy programme the society will impart literacy and technical education to more than 10 thousand people annually at the expense of Tk 15 lakh, per capita expenditure being only 150 Taka.

He said that the first session had already begun on November 1 and in the first year it was divided into two academic sessions (November to April, May to October). A total of 5,300 people would be imparted education spending seven lakh and 95 thousand taka.

Prof Ghani termed the present mass education policy of the Government as realistic adding that according to this policy the non-government organisations should be involved and helped to work for mass literacy more actively.

He said that since the concerned authority could not invest the allocated amount of Taka 25 crore for mass literacy and education even after 15 months of the Third Five-Year Plan, the Government might consider the programme of the society as an example to prepare a nation-wide programme and extend necessary assistance for its successful implementation.

Prof Ghani said that the programme had already gone into operation in 23 unions under seven upazilas. But 5,300 people would become literate in these unions.

Prof Syed Ali Ahsan, Chief Adviser and Dr Fazle Rabbi, President of Bangladesh Literacy Society, were present at the press conference.