

19 SEP 1988

International Literacy Day

Dear Editor,

The International Literacy Day was observed on September 8 last. Removing illiteracy was the main slogan of the Day.

In our country the World Literacy Day is being observed for last many years, but efforts to remove illiteracy are not producing good results.

In our primary schools 95 per cent of boys and girls drop out before completing the course. This may be blamed on the illiteracy of the guardians and their poverty. Besides, due to the negligence of teachers, boys and girls cannot learn how to read and write even after they spend time in schools. All the primary schools have five classes. But 85 per cent of the schools have 2 to 3 teachers. The primary schools in rural areas cannot help remove illiteracy in such a situation.

In 1980, a countrywide scheme was adopted for removing

illiteracy. For this purpose funds and books were planned. The work started in right earnest. But that plan did not make any good progress.

We suggest the following with a view of removing illiteracy: (1) Open an adult centre in each 'Maktab' by appointing the moulavis to teach the uneducated persons at night before Esha prayer. In our country, each village has one maktab and one mosque; (2) In each primary school, an adult centre may be started and teachers of the schools should be asked to teach the uneducated men and women for two hours at night compulsorily; (3) In the village, where there is no primary school, the adult centre may be opened in the premises of mosques and the imams of the mosques may be

appointed to teach the musallis who are illiterate; (4) For supervision of the schools, a committee must be formed by the educated persons of the village; (5) For extra work, the imams and moulavis may be remunerated; (6) For the purpose a fund must be created with donations of well-to-do people of respective areas.

It must be said that one of the causes of illiteracy in our country is rapid growth of population. With a view to removing illiteracy, rapid growth of population must be checked; otherwise all plans and programmes of development are bound to be frustrated.

Yours sincerely

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