

Adult education centres in Chandpur face extinction

Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR The existence of adult education centres throughout Chandpur district is threatened due to the financial stringency.

The rate of illiteracy is increasing day by day among the people. More than 70 per cent of the population is completely deprived of the light of education and even they do not know how to sign names. Due to the lack of education people of rural areas are quite ignorant of government policies plans and programmes. Thus economic and social development is hampered say experts.

According to reliable sources about 126 adult education centres having one attached cottage industry and 8 female

training centres in Chandpur Upazila have been functioning for the last few years under the initiative of "Gramin Krishak Samabaya Samity". But due to the financial handicap the performance of these centres is deteriorating.

Literacy campaign was first introduced in our country several decades ago. This movement was introduced in Chandpur district once in 1960 under the dynamic zeal of then subdivisional officer Salahuddin Ahmed. To implement the project 450 adult education centres were set up in 90 unions and about 32,200 people were given primary education at a cost of Taka 97 thousand.

A series of interviews with

people in the rural areas shows that inspite of their eagerness people are not getting adequate adult education facilities. At present the number of adult education centres stands at 126 against the earlier figure of 450.

According to statistics collected by some research organization about 2,20,000 people are illiterate in 170 villages of Chandpur Upazila. This high illiteracy figure can be lowered within four years with the establishment of more adult education centres.

Experts have suggested the following measures for strengthening literacy movement.

(a) Local service clubs should be mobilised for this purpose with special training, (b) primary schools and community

centres in the rural areas should be made the training centres for adult educators and primary teachers be engaged with special remuneration, (c) local unemployed educated people may be engaged with lumpsum money.

Sports and debate competition among the centres may encourage this movement, (e) distribution of different types of gifts like biscuits milk pen and books etc. may increase roll strength, (f) local educated and philanthropists should be included in the management committees and (g) Upazila-level social welfare officer should visit the centres each month for smooth and regular functioning of the centres.

Local people have appealed to the authorities concerned for necessary fund for maintenance of the adult education centres in the area.