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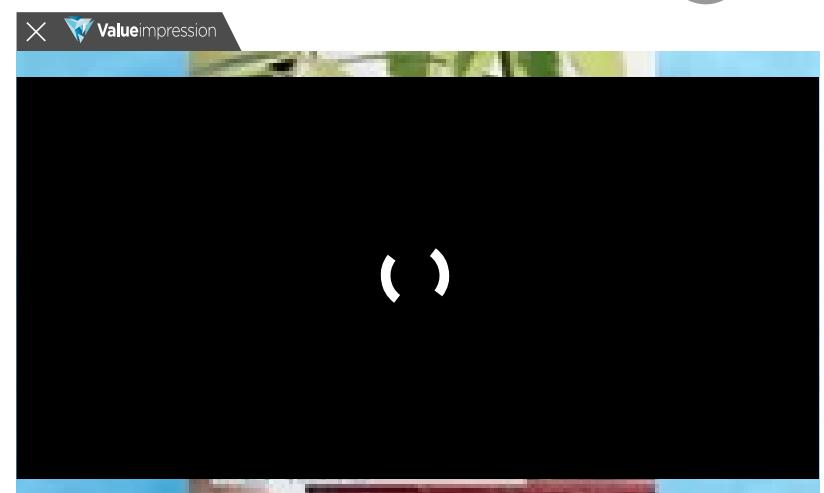
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Mothers attend school with their children

Students perform better after the initiative

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Mothers of third graders attend a class with their children at Shankarbati Polladanga Government Primary School in Chapainawabganj. The school has made this arrangement to help the mothers support their children in improving performance. The photo: Rabiul Hasan

Rabiul Hasan

Aiming to improve children's performance, a school in Chapainawabganj has arranged for mothers to attend school with their children.

Teachers of Shankarbati Polladanga Government Primary School said that the method is working.

The mothers sit with their children in the classrooms once a week for about an hour to help kids with difficult tasks.

There are eight teachers in the school against 333 students.

After several third graders performed poorly in the quarterly exams last year, the teachers held a meeting to find ways to improve the children's grades.

They came up with the idea of having mothers in the classroom as an experiment, said Head Teacher Monowara Khatun.

They also hold class tests on Thursdays, and give the results to the mothers on Saturdays. With the help of a teacher, the mothers then help the children solve the tasks that appeared on Thursday's exam.

Those students performed better in the final exams last year, added the head teacher.

The focus is mainly on maths, Bangla and English, Monowara said.

There are 74 students in grade III. Of them, 26 are weak in different subjects. Thanks to the mother-teacher coordination, they will eventually do better in the final exams, the teachers believe.

Rahid Ali's mother, Rima Begum who has been attending classes with her son, said the boy has better concentration now.

Rini Begum, another mother from Poladanga area, said her son's absenteeism has reduced.

Head Teacher Monowara said most of the students are from poor families.

"But their presence and engagement help a lot."

Tasemuddin, assistant upazila education officer, said, "We are proud of the teachers for this initiative because of the inventiveness of teachers."

