

Driving Out Illiteracy: Swanirvar Model-II

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Of the teachers there were 1960 members of village development committees, 125 school students, 786 educated unemployed youths, 603 house wives, 363 school teachers, 258 other persons were really motivated to give their services in teaching on voluntary basis without any monetary benefit. A total number of 4098 male and female teachers conducted 3980 mass literacy centres.

The selected teachers were imparted training for a day under the supervision of trained Swanirvar Workers. The female teachers discharged their responsibilities in female centres and male teachers were engaged in male centres. According to routine, two hours were allotted to each centre for teaching purposes. Classes were taken 6 days a week. One day was allotted for leave. The day of holiday was fixed according to the convenience of the learners. The learners fixed up the time of class routine. Teaching was done in the morning and the evening for females and for males the classes of the respective centres were taken at night. The educated people of the neighbourhood visited each and every house to supervise the programme and followed the procedures of techniques in detail and guided the teaching staff

if necessary.

Secondly, the teaching materials such as books, notebooks, pencils, slates, blackboards, dusters, chalk, hurricane etc were supplied by the local Resources Mobilization Committee headed by local UP Chairman. Local charitable persons, enthusiastic people, social workers and local education officer were pleased to supply the other teaching requirements. Many of the learners took the help of the books of their wards. Some body purchased books and notebooks and pen to continue their study.

Thirdly, the teaching was conducted for 8 months according to a prescribed syllabus. Apart from the syllabus many other topics like social, economic, family planning, health and hygiene, nutrition, sanitation, income generating projects etc were taught. A locally formed education committee was responsible to supervise the centres on weekly basis to make the programme more effective. All out cooperation was received from thana administration and district administration. It was possible to strengthen the education programme for monitoring, supervising and financial assistance given by

the officers of all levels.

Fourthly, the Swanirvar workers from central to village level regularly studied the progress, identified problems and solved them for the success of the programme. Local 'proshikhak' workers filled up the proforma of the progress of learners and sent them to the central office. 20 top level officers of central office monitored the activities of the centres regularly. As a result the teaching programme at field levels received further impetus.

Thana Proshikhak and Asst. Thana Proshikhak passed 15 days in the concerned village to raise the standard of teaching by their class supervision. The Anchal Sampadak stayed in 6 villages of 3 thanas to supervise the programme activities effectively. Officers and workers of various levels passed the nights in the villages, scrutinized the standard of learning, identified problems and solved them adequately. As a result the implementation of the programme became fruitful.

An evaluation committee was formed with eleven members drawn from thana administration. TNO and thana education officer being the advisor and chairman respectively.

The Headmasters of the high schools and the primary schools and Swanirvar thana workers were included in the evaluation committee as members. Before final evaluation the evaluation committee met and reviewed recent progress of education and fixed up the date for evaluation. The committee accomplished the evaluation job by examining the written papers of the learners. After the evaluation the committee recommended that the village be declared free from illiteracy.

All out efforts were made to free the 581 villages from the curse of illiteracy. A colourful rally paraded the village all day long with the active cooperation of local administration. As a result a great impetus was created in neighbouring villages to get rid of illiteracy. After the rally the chief guest examined the standard of learning and declared the village free from illiteracy. Swanirvar Bangladesh awarded a radio as a prize to the village development committee for their success in this venture. Certificates were awarded to these teachers who gave voluntary service in teaching. A number of ministers, MPs and high officials of thana and district administration declared the villages free from illiteracy formally.