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## Programme for adult literacy launched

The Department of Non-formal Education of Primary and Mass Education Division Tuesday launched an adult literacy programme in forty-one thanas of thirty districts, reports BSS.

About three lakh 60 thousand people aged between 11 and 45 will be educated under the programme to be implemented by 99 non-government organisations.

Deputy Minister for Primary and Mass Education Prof Zinatun Nesa Talukder inaugurated a day-long orientation course of NGO representatives and concerned officials on the implementation of the programme, at the auditorium of Planning and Development Academy here.

Speaking on the occasion, the deputy minister said the government has undertaken programme to raise the adult literacy rate to 70 per cent by the year 2000. She said, although about 95 per cent children of the country have been enrolled in primary schools, the adult literacy rate is only 44.30 per cent.

Mrs Talukder said, the NGOs could play a pivotal role in raising the adult literacy rate. She said, success in all the fields will be achieved gradually if we could free the nation from the curse of illiteracy.

Secretary, Primary and Mass Education Division Dr Sadat Husain, Director General, Department of Non-formal Education Khandaker Shahidul Islam, Chairman, Swanirbhar Bangladesh SM Al-Hossaini and Adviser, Forum for Non-formal Education Programme Kazi Azahar spoke on the occasion.