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## Food for Education notches up remarkable success

By A Staff Reporter

The 'Food for Education Programme' initiated by the present government in August in the year 1993 has achieved a remarkable success in Gazipur sadar thana as elsewhere in the country.

About 98 per cent children of age group ranging from 6 years to 10 years have been enrolled in schools since the inception of this programme in this sadar thana of Gazipur district and has created a positive response from all walks of life in the district.

The 'Food for Education'

Programme has also tremendously contributed to reduce the number of primary school dropouts in this sadar thana of the district.

In 1991, the rate of dropouts in primary schools in this police station recorded as 60 per cent which has been reduced to 45 per cent this year after the successful implementation of the programme.

The number of school-going children increased rapidly after this education incentive programme and a large number of eligible students are awaiting to have the facility, this was

disclosed by the school authorities of Salna government primary school to a group of Dhaka-based and foreign journalists who visited the school on Thursday to have a on the spot evaluation.

Education Directorate arranged the tour of newsmen to have an idea of the progress of the programme, on the occasion of the first anniversary of the programme's introduction today (Friday).

The journalists visited two government primary schools under this union of Gazipur sadar thana. The schools are:

Salna Primary School and Porabari Government Primary School.

According to the programme, wheat are being distributed among the children of the distressed, day labourers, landless and non-affluent persons who are engaged in small trading and various professions like blacksmiths and pottery etc.

In these two schools, about 250 families are getting the facilities for sending their children to schools regularly.

A family having one student

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in the school gets 15 kg of wheat per month while a family with more than one children gets 30 kg per month.

Salna Government Primary School has 891 students, including 190 availing the facility of food for education while in Porabari government primary school, there are 525 students of whom 174 of 152 families have been enlisted under the food for education programme.

Mr Murlaza Ahmed, Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) of Gazipur sadar thana informed the newsmen that in Salna union, there are 18 registered primary schools-14 government, four non-government and an educational madrasa (elementary) and all covered by this programme.