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No primary schools in 884 Barisal villages

Teacher shortage, poor salary in Comilla community schools

From our Correspondent

COMILLA, Feb 6.—Education of the students in community primary schools across Comilla is being hampered mainly due to shortage of teachers and their negligence in duty. The teachers of these schools are not attentive towards the education of students because of poor salaries and irregular payment.

There are 153 community primary schools in the district with four posts of teacher in each institution but one or two teachers are running many of these schools.

A good number of teachers have left the schools after getting better job with better salaries in other organizations. The monthly salary of a teacher of community primary school is only Tk. 50. Moreover, payment of salary is irregular and salary is paid after a gap of three to nine months.

The poor salary and irregular payment have made the teachers extremely unhappy. Some of them have left the job in disgust only a few months after joining the schools.

The guardians of the students said that the teachers of these

schools have not been attending classes regularly as they remain busy with the endeavor to get better job elsewhere.

A total of 3,778 community primary schools were established in the country in 1996 under a joint project of the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

The teachers of these schools used to receive their salary from the WB and the ADB till 2001. After the completion of the five-year project, the responsibility of running the schools was shifted to the government.

No primary schools in 884 villages in Barisal

Our Barisal Correspondent reports: More than four lakhs children of Barisal Division are deprived of primary education as 884 villages have no free primary schools even after 14 years of compulsory Primary Education Bill passed in 1992.

The Divisional primary education office sources said 3,309 out of 4,193 villages have government free primary schools, while rest 884 villages have no schools.

Sources said 954 out of 1177 villages of Barisal district, 582 out

of 882 villages in Patuakhali district, 424 out of 474 villages of Bhola district, 364 out of 451 villages of Jhalakati district, 563 out of 606 villages Pirojpur district and 379 out of 563 villages in Barguna district have government free primary schools.

The children of 223 villages in Barisal, 300 villages in Patuakhali, 50 villages in Bhola, 87 villages in Jhalakati, 43 villages in Pirojpur, 184 villages in Barguna districts are deprived as free primary education.

SM Faruk, Deputy Director of Primary Education Directorate incharge of Barisal Division, said government made primary education compulsory for all children of the country and had planned to establish a government free primary school at a distance of every 2.5 kilometers areas in the villages.

Due to fund and infrastructural crisis, a huge number of drop-outs, financial disability of the guardians and other socio-economic problems, this project failed to achieve the goal of 100 per cent literacy in the last 14 years, he lamented.