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Dropouts on rise in Chuadanga primary schools

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Nov. 3.—The number of children eligible to attend primary schools, decreased both rural and urban areas of the district.

The children of poverty stricken families got themselves admitted into the Govt. Primary Schools to get new books supplied by the Bangladesh School Text Book Board free of cost, and for wheat under Food for Education Programme. After continuing their studies for few months they went back to fields and factories.

According to a survey conducted by NGO, a good number of children of six to ten year age group of different govt and registered primary schools of four thanas of the district have left the schools.

The day-labourers, share-croppers, rickshawpullers, masons and factory workers have sent their boys to hotels and restaurants, automobile workshops to earn their own bread. The landless and marginal farmers have to maintain a big family consisting of six to ten members with their little income. It is a day-dream for them to send their children to schools who live below poverty line.

The girls are most neglected. They are forced to marriage below 14.

The hungry people who require two square meals a day could not yet realise the necessity of primary education for their children. During

harvesting season they march to neighbouring districts and different parts of the country with their boys in search of work.

The farm labourers of border areas migrate to West Bengal, India during harvesting season who get taka 60 per day as labour cost.

Poverty is one of the most pressing issue that hinders primary education in many areas in the country.

Bookshops flooded with notebooks

From the beginning of the new year, the bookshops of the district became flooded with notebooks. Ignoring govt ban the book sellers have stocked notebooks.

The students from Primary Schools at High Schools, have tended to read note books instead of text-books for ready made answers. Their private tutors also encourage them to buy and read notebooks.

The govt. has imposed ban on publication and sale of note upto Class VIII. But the unscrupulous books-sellers are selling note books secretly to students.

The educated guardians and teachers said that notebooks bore printer's devil and improper answers to mislead students.

The prices of books went up with the plea of price hike of paper, newsprint and printing cost. A student of Class VII requires Taka 2000 for purchasing Text books, note

books and dictionaries; it is learnt.

Alamdanga, Damurhuda, Jibannagar—three thana head quarters, Darsana industrial town, Karpashdanga and Asmankhali important business centres of the district lack fire station.

Every year property worth crores of Taka including thatched houses, food grains, betel-leaf yards, dry fodders and straws burnt to ashes in the rural areas particularly in summer and winter seasons.

The lone fire station situated at Chuadanga can not afford service to the far-flung rural areas in case of emergency. This fire station was established here before liberation. The Fire Brigade only can run where pucca roads and telecommunication facilities are available.

The business of the rural people are confined in the surroundings of the village markets where hats and bazars, educational institutions, health and family planning sub-centres, post offices and banks are situated.

The govt. took a plan to establish Fire Stations at least at thana head-quarters. But important thana head-quarters of greater Kushtia, Jessore and Khulna are deprived of Fire Station.

Three Fire Stations are needed at Alamdanga, Jibannagar thana head-quarters and Darsana industrial town to save valuable properties from fire incidents.