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## Teacher shortage, accommodation problem hit primary education

From Our Correspondent

NARAIL, Nov 30:—The Compulsory Primary Education Programme in three thanas of Narail district has been facing serious setback due to manifold problems.

There are 287 government primary schools and 73 registered non-government primary schools in the district. There are some non-government primary schools having no registration. The number of children attending the govt. primary schools is 81,229 and 14600 children attend the non-govt primary schools.

The dilapidated condition of most of the school buildings, inadequate furniture and shortage of teachers are main problems which are hampering the primary education in the district.

Besides these high price of paper and lack of necessary educational appliances, shortage of benches and accommodation and other social problems are also hampering the education of children.

The primary schools damaged in floods, storms, cyclones and other natural calamities during the last few years, have not yet been repaired. The children take lessons standing due to shortage of benches and accommodation.

### 55 posts vacant

In addition, 55 posts of primary school teachers have been lying vacant for a long time in three thanas of the district. About 19 posts of head-masters and 36 posts of assistant teachers have been lying vacant.

The quota of teachers in govt. primary schools in the district is not maintained properly. Some schools with a large number of students are facing shortage of teachers while many schools with requisite number of students have more teachers, than the requirement.

About 5000 children of the district are denied primary education due to

shortage of schools, necessary education appliances and poverty of guardians.

A survey reveals that teacher's attendance is satisfactory in the school situated by the side of the highways or in a place connected with good road with the district and thana headquarters. But the situation is reverse in the schools located in the remote areas with bad communication where inspecting personnel hardly pay visit and teachers in mutual understanding remain absent for months together showing them on duty.

### False bills

The posts of district primary education officer and assistant district primary education officer including a post of assistant thana education officer, have been lying vacant for a long time. Some teachers make false bills as travelling expense in collaboration with the headmasters of concerned schools although they do not visit schools.

Teachers are not methodical and cordial to make the lesson interesting as they are busy with their household affairs or private coaching.

Absence of subjectwise recruitment of teachers is another factor which is responsible for deterioration of standard of education. There are many schools where madrash teachers, who are deficient in English, Bengali, Arithematics, Social Science and General Science, teach the students.

The government school buildings have become unfit for use. They may collapse at any moment due to precarious condition of the school building. Teachers hold classes in these dilapidated school building. Accommodation crisis prevails in almost all the schools. Some primary schools founded at the local initiatives, did

not get any financial support from the government.

### Drinking water scarcity

Scarcity of drinking water in the educational institutions has been prevailing as most of the tubewells sunk in the schools are either out of order or their heads have been stolen away. The Public Health Engineering Department did not repair these tubewells despite repeated reminders.

Absence of proper sanitation in the educational institutions is another impediment. The pupils and teachers go to the nearby bushes or by the side of the canals in response to the call of nature.

### Gopalganj

Our Gopalganj correspondent reports: The students of 52 government primary schools in five thanas of Gopalganj district are attending classes under open sky.

According to the district education office source, classes of 14 government primary schools in Gopalganj sadar thana are being held under the open sky and 12 schools in Kotalipara thana, 15 schools in Kasiani thana, 8 schools in Muksudpur thana and 4 schools in Tungipara thana have no buildings.

The teaching staff is not sufficient in the schools. About 150 posts of teachers are lying vacant in these 52 primary schools.

There are 525 government primary schools and 145 private and registered primary schools in Gopalganj district.

There are 9 government primary schools and 6 private and registered primary schools in Gopalganj pourashava area.

There are 3,50,000 boys and girls between the age group of one and 14 years. More than 5000 teachers and 200 more primary schools are needed for the district.



GOPALGANJ : The Bashbaria Model Government Primary School (left) under Tungipara thana has no roof which has been blown away in the cyclonic storm in 1986 and Narail: The cyclone-hit Amtala Govt. Primary School (right) has not yet been repaired hampering the education of children. — OBSERVER