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35,000 children not getting primary education

GAIBANDHA, Jan 27: About 55 thousand children in the district do not attend schools due to acute hardship and ignorance of guardians. As a result large number of children remain deprived from primary education. Maximum of such children come from poverty stricken families living in remote areas.

According to a statistical report the number of Govt. and Non-Govt. primary schools in the district stands at 1,022 where about 2,15,886 students are educated. Of that 737 are Govt. primary schools and 235 non-govt. and 50 unregistered ones where a total 1,78,637 students read in govt. schools and 37,229 students in non-govt. schools.

About 3,041 teachers are now engaged in different primary schools in the district but total 91 posts are still lying vacant in different areas that causes major hindrance in the education of children. Out of the total, the vacant posts of teachers are 17 at Gobindganj, 12 at Palashbari, 9 at Fulchari, 18 at Sadullapur, 19 at Sundarganj and 10 at Gaibandha Upazilas.

Maximum schools have no basic amenities for the students such as teacher shortage, scanty sitting arrangement, lack of accommodation, toilet and drinking water are the main problem of many schools. Moreover, there are no roof on many of the school houses. According to an unofficial assessment condition of about 500 school houses in ramshackle condition.

It is alleged that in non-govt. schools teachers have been serving almost voluntarily. Although government allotted Tk. 500/- for four teachers of each school but the teachers of Gaibandha district still remain deprived from getting remuneration despite filing appeals to the higher authority. These schools mainly depends on the contribution of local people which is almost uncertain.

Irregular attendance of teachers is the another problem of remote areas where time schedule or routine is not maintained properly which hamper the education of children.

Concerned authority should take steps to mitigate the bottlenecks of primary education sector.

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