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Ministry of Primary and Mass Education

Bangladesh

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Adult Learning and Education (ALE) IN Bangladesh

Literacy for youth and adults

- Government considered education for all as a high priority and adopted a provision in the Constitution of Bangladesh to make free and compulsory primary education for all children as well as eradication of illiteracy from the country within shortest possible time. The Government also made commitment in the various international forums on 'Education for All' and took pragmatic initiatives such as National Plan of Action-I & II, PRSP, 5th Five Year Plan, National Education Policy 2010, NFE Policy 2006, NFE Act-2014, etc.
- All Illiterates of 15+ have to involve in functional literacy programme. Priority will be given to 15-24 age-group, followed by 25-45 age-group to address age-group specific needs. The neo-literates (Literacy course graduates) enable to gather further education and livelihood skill training in order to foster a better life style and to develop them as enlightened and productive citizens involved in lifelong learning. Special efforts will be given for enrolment for the people living in remote locations, marginalized people, ethnic groups, people living in slums and hard core poor areas.

Look back

Name of the Project	Project Period	Target in million	Target Achieve in Million	Donors
1. Integrated Non-Formal Education Project (INFEP)	1991-1997	1.7	2.47	UNDP, UNICEF, NORAD and SIDA
2. Non-Formal Education Project - I (NFE-I)	1996- 2001	2.95	2.95	ADB, IDA, SDC
3. Non-Formal Education Project - 2 (NFE-2)	1995-2002	8.18	3.7	SIDA, NORAD and USAID (PLU-480)
4. Non-Formal Education Project – 4 (TLM)	1997-2003	22.88	9.2	GOB
5. Post-Literacy and Continuing Education For Human Development-I (PLCEHD-I)	2001-2007	1.2	1.1	World Bank, IDA and SDC
6. Post-Literacy and Continuing Education for Human Development Project-2 (PLCEHD-2)	2002-2013	1.6	1.4	ADB, DFID & SDC

Impact of Literacy Program

Change of attitudes, values, habits of Socio Economic status	Previous Status % male	Post Status % male	Previous Status % female	Post Status % female
Savings	23.25	49.28	15.04	39.57
Family Planning	28.57	62.24	39.49	68.54
Income Generating Activities	30.36	49.76	12.22	25.21
Credit Program	6.02	11.57	5.64	12.31
Sending the children to school	24.68	44.81	34.54	54.96

Impact of Post Literacy and Continuing Education for Human Development project (PLCEHD)

SL #	Issue	Before PLCEHD-1	After PLCEHD-1	Achievement
1.	Functional Literacy Skills	11%	25%	14%
2.	Self employed	73%	76%	3%
3.	Wage-employed	16%	18%	2%
4.	No Income-learning	11%	5%	6%
5.	Wage Income	Tk 77/Per day	Tk.85 per day	Tk. 8 Per day (10% Increased)
6.	No part in hose-hold decision making	33%	19%	14%
7.	Never Participation in community activities	84%	64%	20%

SDG 4 Provision for Non-Formal Education

- **4.6. By 2030**, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy
- **Indicator 4.6.1:** Percentage of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex
- Adult Literacy Rate of population 15+ years (percent) in Bangladesh is 74.7

(Source: Report on Bangladesh Sample Vital Statistics-2019)

NFE Act 2014 Provision

The two classification of Non-formal education according to the NFE Act are:

- ❖ *Non-formal primary education* intended for children in the age range of 8 to 14 years, who have never been to schools or dropped out from the schools without completion of primary education.
- ❖ *Non-formal adult and lifelong learning* for 15+ years who have never been to schools or dropped out from primary education or become neo-literates and who desire to continue acquisition of life-efficiency or livelihood skills.

NFE in 7th Five Year Plan (2016-2020)

Goals	Target to attain	Input Indicators	Output Indicators	Achievement	Impact Indicators
Elimination of illiteracy/ Providing Basic Literacy.	32.5 million adolescent and adult illiterates	Allocation of fund and development & printing of learning materials	32.5 million adolescent and adult illiterate became literate.	2.4 million Adult (15+ years) illiterates are complete basic literacy course	Socio-economic condition and lifestyle changed, zeal for education arose among the people.
Establishing a CLC Network to create scope for ICT based continuing and lifelong learning.	5025 (Minimum one in each union + in certain urban areas).	Financial allocation from Government, community contribution.	5025 learning centers established.		Awareness for education enhanced.
Extending opportunities for effective skill training	5 million graduates of Basic Literacy Project	Financial allocation, Development of Training Materials, Guides etc.	5 million literacy graduates became skilled in different trades/occupations		Improvement in life-style.
Establishment of Non-Formal Education Board	1 (One)	Financial allocation, Making rules etc	One NFE Board established.		Scope created for attaining higher education and skill through establishment of Equivalence between Formal and Non-Formal Education

Source: Planning Commission, 7th Five Year Plan, p.572

NFE in 8th Five Year Plan (2021-2025)

Goals	Target to attain	Input Indicators	Output Indicators	Impact Indicators
Elimination of illiteracy/ Providing Basic Literacy.	Basic Literacy provided to 33.79 million adolescent and adult illiterates	Financial Allocation, development of learning materials ,etc.	33.79 million adolescent and adult illiterate to became literate.	Socio-economic condition and lifestyle changed, zeal for education arose among the people.
Extending opportunities for effective skill training	Continued operation of the Basic literacy Project; 5 million graduates of Basic Literacy Project	Financial allocation, Update of raining Materials, etc.	5 million graduates of Basic Literacy Project became skilled in different trades	Improvement in life-style.
Establishment of Non-Formal Education Board	1 (One) NFEB established	Financial allocation, Making rules, etc.	Establishment of NFE Board.	Scope created for attaining higher education and skill through establishment of Equivalence between Formal and Non-Formal Education.

Source: Planning Commission, 8th Five Year Plan, p.646

Ongoing Project: Basic Literacy Project (64 districts)

Project Title	: Basic Literacy Project (64 districts)
Sponsoring Ministry	: Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MOPME)
Executing Agency	: Bureau of Non-Formal Education (BNFE)
Project Period	: February 2014 - June 2021
Project Area	: 250 Upazila of 64 Districts in Bangladesh

Objectives of the Project:

1. To provide Basic Literacy to 4.5 million illiterate adolescents and adults of age between 15 to 45 years. A total of 2.1 million from the total targeted beneficiaries will be addressed in Mujib Borsho (March 2020 to March 2021) to celebrate the Birth Centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
2. To contribute in the eradication of illiteracy from the country and achieve national (The Seventh Five Year Plan) and international commitment (SDG4) at the same time.
3. To support National Literacy Programmes this will lead the country to achieve the targets of SDG4 in alignment with the 7th Five Year Plan along with Non-Formal Education Act-2014.

Progress of this project:

(a) First phase activities:

In 134 Upazila located in 63 districts of Bangladesh, around 23,59,441 men and women have been provided with basic literacy through 39311 learning centers. The learning process went on from December 17, 2018 to June 30, 2019 (6 months) at respective learning centers.

(b) Second phase activities on the occasion of 'Mujib Borsho' (the centennial birth anniversary of the father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman):

- ❖ According to Awami League Government's 2018 election manifesto, the goal of providing 21 lakh illiterate men and women (aged 15-45) with basic literacy has been determined on the occasion of 'Mujib Borsho' (the centennial birth anniversary of the father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman)
- ❖ To implement the field level programs, agreements have been signed with 114 implementing NGOs located in 114 enlisted Upazila of Bangladesh.
- ❖ On the occasion of 'Mujib Borsho' (the centennial birth anniversary of the father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman), a total of 35000 learning centers were to be opened from April 1, 2020 in 114 enlisted Upazila of Bangladesh in order to provide 21 lakh, illiterate men and women, with basic literacy. However, the plan got halted due to the current outbreak of coronavirus in Bangladesh. The program will resume as per government instruction when coronavirus situation is normal.

Challenges and Priorities in adult Literacy/NFE programmes in Bangladesh:

- About 25.3% people (15 and above years age) are illiterates in the country.
- Ensuring 100% literacy in the country by 2030 remains a major challenge, and will require adequate resources and effective implementation strategy for quality outcome.
- Establishment of an equivalent framework between non-formal and formal education programmes to promote NFE as an educational system to grade the learners' achievements.
- Establishment Public Private Partnership towards implementation of Literacy/NFE Programs.
- Organizing and establishing linkages with other relevant programmes (skill training, micro finance, employment outfits etc) and organizations to assist NFE program participants to put their new-found learning, job skills and knowledge to work towards poverty reduction.

Challenges and Priorities

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- Support of Development Partners in adult literacy programmes is declining and is becoming a major challenge.
- Poor budgetary allocation in NFE sub-sector.
- Constraints of resources for adult literacy program.
- Establishment of sustainable Community Learning Centers.
- Absence of long-term and sustainable planning in NFE programs.
- Absence of NFE Training Institute/Academy at national or district level.
- Lack of permanent NFE officials/staffs at upazila (sub-district) level.
- Lack of decentralized management and planning in NFE sub-sector.

Impact of the COVID-19 Crisis on ALE

- Due to covid-19 2nd Phase of Basic Literacy Project (64 districts) program could not start in time; starting time was 1 April, 2020.
- 2nd Phase of this program shall be started on May 2021 by adopting physical distance according to the order of Government;
- All preparation has been taken to start the 2nd Phase of Basic Literacy Project (64 districts).
- Total target of learners are 21 million.

Innovative program of Adult learning in Bangladesh

CLC based ICT Learning:

Under BNFE Community Learning Center (CLC) based adult Literacy Program have been implemented in Rangpur District. Union Parisad (UP) based Non-Formal Education Resource Center (NFERC) mobile libraries are arranging exhibition of publications and documentary films with the help of the Mobile Library 3 days a week at various CLCs in the union especially at the disadvantaged areas.



Use of ICT at Union Non-Formal Education Resource Center (NFEURC)

With the commitment of building up a skill and knowledge-based informative developed society, 6 Information Service Centers in sadar and Kaunia Upazila Under Rangpur district have been established.

All NFERC are providing support to CLCs and operating e-library.



E-mobile Library



All e-mobile libraries stabilised with Laptop, Multimedia Projector, IEC Materials in a Covered rickshaw van. E-mobile library move community to community and demonstrate documentary shows and reading materials also. Village people are receiving much awareness information on various issues by watching documentaries.

Community Radio

Under this Project RDRS Bangladesh established the ‘Radio Chilmari’ as a community based radio.

Through the radio station RDRS disseminating Education, Health, Agriculture, environment, disaster, Civic Rights and Empowerment related information with participation of local government, Public administration, NGO representatives, professionals, media practitioners, socio-cultural activists, and community people.



Prospects for sub-regional Co-operation

- Increase the scope of Fund raise for adult education in this region.
- Increase the Adult Literacy rate in this region.
- Develop a harmony strategy for teaching learning method.
- Exchange of views and experience among this countries.
- Develop a training academy for Adult Education.

Thanks