

Project No. 51

EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM TO THE CHILDREN (ESPC) OF DINAJPUR AND RAJSHAHI REGIONS

Principle:

By providing financial support opportunities are created for *Adivasi* (indigenous) students to receive secondary education.

Objective:

- To support poor, orphan and needy students, particularly *Adivasi* and destitute children in the form of monthly grant to meet the cost of textbooks and the expenses of tuition fees, food, lodging and educational materials.

Background:

The project started in January 2005 and its first phase ended in December 2007. The second phase of the project is from January 2008 to December 2010.

Staff Strength:

There is no regular staff for this project. The project is implemented through a five-member committee formed with Caritas staff and Diocesan representatives.

Donor: Caritas Japan.

Expenditure:

Foreign Partners' Contribution : Tk. 2,355,198
Local Contribution : Tk. 491,280
Total : Tk.2,846,478

Beneficiaries:

Direct: Total 356 (boys 184 and girls 172)

Indirect: Total 2,190 (Male 1,116 and Female 1,074)

Target and Achievements:

Sl.	Items/Activities	Achievement as on June 2008	Performance in FY 2008-2009			Cumulative as on June 2009
			Target	Achievement	% of Achievement	
1	Grant for Higher Secondary Students	1,359	350	356	102	1,715
2	Coaching for pre Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination	12	30	60	200	72
3	Support for SSC examination form fill-up		30	30	100	30
	Total	1371	410	446	134	1817

The above Table shows that there was a plan to provide 350 students with stipend money. But in order to meet further demand additional six candidates i.e. a total of 356 students was given financial support. On the other hand, 30 students were scheduled to get stipend for pre S.S.C examination coaching, whereas 60 students got support for this purpose. For SSC examination form fill-up 30 students got financial help.

Impacts:

- Financial support has enabled the recipient pupils to carry on studies;
- Since the disadvantaged parents need not spend the minimum amount of money required for secondary education, they can defray other household expenses.

Conclusion:

All children have right to education. A large majority of the marginalized poor, orphan and *Adivasi* children cannot have access to education on account of poverty. So community people in cooperation with government and other development agencies arrange at least elementary education. But only primary education is not sufficient for students to build up career. Secondary education is an effective tool to make youngsters eligible towards achieving minimum ability to take up a profession. Education Support Program through its financial support helps poor pupils having potentials to achieve success. In due course most of them are expected to be equipped with skills in different dimensions, become employed to earn their livelihoods and help their communities.