

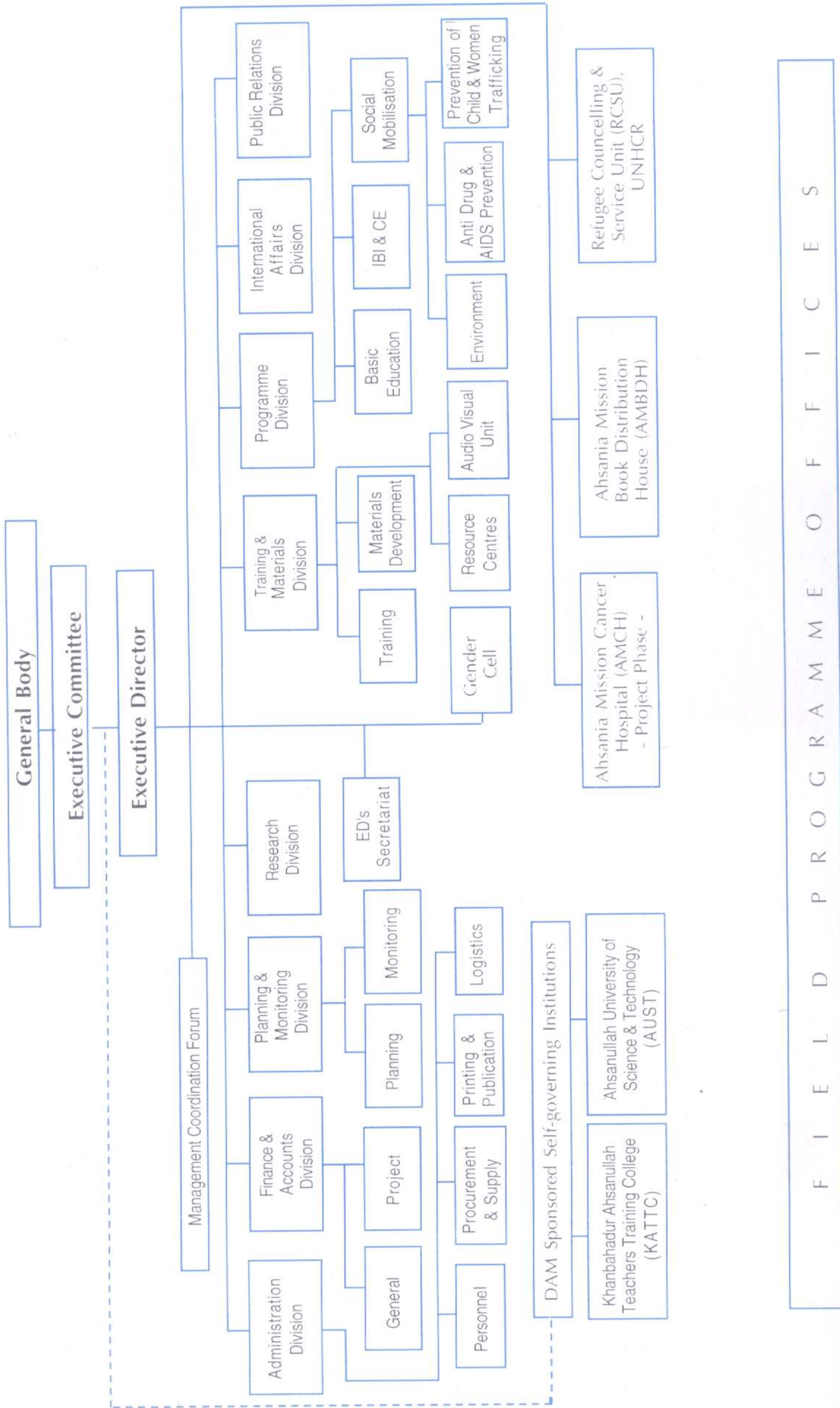
ACTIVITY REPORT

January 1997 - June 1998



Dhaka Ahsania Mission

DHAKA AHSANIA MISSION ORGANOGRAM



F I E L D P R O G R A M M E O F F I C E S

Activity Report

January 1997 - June 1998

Dhaka Ahsania Mission

House # 19, Road # 12 (New), Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1209.

Phone : (880-2) 819521-22, 9123402, 9123420

Fax : (880-2) 813010, 818522 E-mail : dambgd@bdonline.com

URL : <http://www.accu.or.jp/litdbase>

Dhaka Ahsania Mission

Estd.. 1958

Regd. No. DSS-316 of 1963
DSS/FDO/R/246.
Dated: 09.12.1987

Executive Director
Kazi Rafiqul Alam

Central Office

Dhaka Ahsania Mission
House #19, Road #12 (New),
Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1209,
Bangladesh.

Telephone

(880-2) 819521-22, 815909, 9123420

Fax : (880-2) 813010, 818522.

E_mail : dambgd@bdonline.com

Website : <http://www.ahsania.org>

Office in Europe

Zina & David Fear
4 Hayne Close
Tipton St John
Devon EX 10 0BA
ENGLAND

Tel & Fax : 01404-813996

E_mail : <ZinaFear@aol.com>

Office in America

Mohammad Anisul Kabir (Jasir)
Dhaka Ahsania Mission
P.O Box # 3674,
New York, NY 10017
Tel/Fax # 718-658-3870

PREFACE

I express my great pleasure to see that the Activity Report of Dhaka Ahsania Mission for 1997-98 is being published. Here I feel it necessary to inform the readers that in conformity with our recent decision to publish Annual Reports henceforth on the basis of financial year the present report has been an extended one covering the period from January '97 to June '98. I consider the report to be an important document, since it presents highlights on the programmes and activities of the organization carried out during the period under report. It portrays the development, growth and expansion of the organization itself and its areas of intervention.

As I look back to the founding days of the organization in 1958, when hardly a decade had elapsed since we were freed from the British Colonial Rule, it seems amazing to me that the objectives of the Mission envisioned by its illustrious founder are so very appropriate and relevant even in these days of our national life. Based on those original goals and objectives wide ranging programmes and activities have been embarked upon and new innovative ones are emerging with the passage of time.

Within our programme of intervention, some are national or cross-national and some global. Some of them are very much challenging, but thanks to the Creator, our journey in the road of serving the humanity has never stopped and is gaining momentum every day.

13.	Training and Material Development	27
14.	The Computer & Communication Network	30
15.	Research & Consultancy	31
16.	Public Relations	32
17.	Trafficking of Women & Children	32
18.	Destitute Children's Home	33
19.	Planning & Monitoring	33
20.	Partnership Building	34
21.	Institute of Literacy & Adult Education (ILAE)	35
22.	Khanbahadur Ahsanullah TT College (KATTC)	36
23.	Ahsanullah University of Science & Technology (AUST)	37
24.	Institute of Technical & Vocational Education & Training (ITVET)	38
25.	Institute of Primary & Non-Formal Education (IPNE)	39
26.	Centre for Extension Service (CES)	40
27.	Ahsania Mission Book Distribution House (AMBDH)	41
28.	Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital (AMCH)	42
29.	Bangladesh Literacy Resource Centre (BLRC)	43
30.	Participation in UN Activities	45
31.	Refugee Counselling Service Unit (RCSU)	47
32.	Prizes and Awards	48
33.	Financial Situation	49
34.	Development Partners	50

Tables

Table No. 01 : Number of Employees and Volunteer Workers of DAM	4
Table No. 02 : Programme-wise number of NFE centres and learners	7
Table No. 03 : Activities of AMIK Branch Committees	22
Table No. 04 : Activities of APOS Branch Committees	25
Table No. 05: Training activities during January'97 - June'98	27
Table No. 06: Workshops during 1997-98	28
Table No. 07 : Materials developed by DAM	29
Table No. 08 : Results of KATTC in the University Examinations	37
Table No. 09 : Assets & Liabilities of DAM	49

The Organisation

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) is one of the leading *Private Voluntary Development Organizations* (PVDO) in Bangladesh. It was founded by *Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah (RA.)*, an eminent educationist, social reformer and a great humanist. Beginning as a philanthropic organization in 1958, DAM gradually emerged to become one of the prominent development organizations working at the grass roots level as well as at national and international levels in the field of non-formal education, poverty alleviation, health, environment, women's development, disaster preparedness, housing and rehabilitation, child and women trafficking, etc. where positive intervention was found necessary.

As an NGO DAM is registered with the Department of Social Services and also with the NGO Affairs Bureau of the Government of Bangladesh.

It is the only national NGO in Bangladesh enjoying Consultative Status (category-II) with the UN ECOSOC.

DAM's membership is open to every one irrespective of caste, creed or religion; and whoever believes in the philosophy of the organization can be its member.

Besides being a member and host organisation for the Commonwealth NGO Liaison Unit-Bangladesh (CLUB), DAM enjoys the membership of a number of net-works of international and national organizations of which Asia South Pacific Bureau of Adult Education (ASPBAE), the International Council for Adult Education (ICAE), United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI), Commonwealth Association for Education and Training of Adults (CAETA), APPEAL Resource & Training Consortium (ARTC), International Council on Alcohol and Addiction (ICAA), NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs at Viena, Association of

Founder

Year Established

Registration

Status with UN

Membership

Networks

Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB), Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE), Bangladesh Shishu Audhikar Forum (BSAF), Education for All Network (EFAN), Voluntary Health Services Society (VHSS) and Coalition for Urban Poor (CUP) deserve special mention. Apart from that DAM works very closely with UNESCO Principal Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (PROAP), Bangkok, Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU), Japan, UNHCR-Bangladesh Office and UNESCO-Bangladesh.

Purpose

DAM's stands for the "*Divine and Humanitarian Services*", in other words, the unified purpose of serving the Creator through serving His creation.

Mission

DAM's Mission consists of ameliorating the conditions of the poor and disadvantaged group of people, especially girls and women, in both rural and urban areas and to promote human development, freeing every one from the curse of ignorance and illiteracy, poverty and malnutrition, exploitation and deprivation and instilling in them new hopes and aspirations for better conditions of living.

Vision

The ultimate vision of DAM is the development of a society perpetually engaged in the pursuit of knowledge, understanding and skill for the attainment of a world, self contained in all respects - intellectual, material, moral and ethical, where peace, harmony, mutual understanding, cooperation and tolerance will pervade the lives of the people and enable them also to attain spiritual goals of life.

Objectives

For the realization of its vision the Constitution of DAM clearly spells out the operational objectives of the organization, which are:

- Promotion of Human Resource Development (HRD) through both formal and non-formal, basic and higher education;
- Undertaking programmes for eradication of illiteracy and alleviation of poverty;
- Undertaking programmes for uplifting the dignity of women through spiritual, social and economic development;
- Preservation of natural environment and ecology;
- Prevention of illicit use of narcotic drugs, and treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts;
- Promotion of preventive and curative health services

including establishment of general/specialized hospitals, health clinics, maternity & child health centres, old peoples homes etc;

- Development, publication and distribution of books and other teaching learning materials;
- Supporting the work of the United Nations and the dissemination of the knowledge of its principles and activities.

Keeping relevance to its objectives and vision DAM works for the people in general to build a better tomorrow, giving *its main thrust on the poorest of the poor, the disadvantaged and marginalised people* who include -

- those who are landless or have a maximum of 0.50 acre of land inclusive of homestead;
- those who earn their livelihood from physical labour;
- those who sell labour for around 180 days a year.

However, the *total community is covered by some of the programmes of DAM*, such as Environment Programme, Anti-drug Programme, Cancer Hospital, Relief and Rehabilitation Programme etc. The Mission has also programmes on formal education in teachers training, professional, technical & science education at the tertiary level undertaken as a means to reinforce its role and function in the light of the profound socio-political and economic transformations that are desired to be accomplished. Hence the people of all levels and sections, may be in varying degrees, are the beneficiaries who are ultimately intended to participate and contribute to the overall well being of the society.

One thing deserves special mentioning that all programmes and activities of DAM are tilted in favour of girls and women who constitute about 70% of the total beneficiaries.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission functions through an Executive Committee which works as its apex policy making body. The Committee consists of 21 members including its President, Treasurer and General Secretary - all elected for two years term by the General Body of Members. As provided by the Constitution of DAM the General Secretary of the Executive Committee is also the Executive Head of the Organisation and is designated as Executive Director. He runs the day-to-day administration and functions of the organisation with the help

Beneficiaries

Management

Office

of ED's Secretariate, 8 Division Heads and other functionaries.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission works through its Head Office located in the capital city of Dhaka and 43 field offices spread over 21 districts. In addition to these, Anti-drug Programme Networks are spread in 150 Thanas (Police Stations) of 58 districts while Environment Protection Programmes in 107 thanas of 49 districts throughout the country. DAM also maintains its overseas offices in U.K., USA and Canada.

Staff

DAM's staff consists of full-time employees, part-time employees and volunteers both national and international. The following table gives a category wise break-up of the employees and volunteers for the period from 1992 to 1997-98.

Table No. 01 : Number of Employees and Volunteer Workers of Dhaka Ahsania Mission

Category Year	Full-time	Part-time	Centre Facilitators	Volunteers	Total
1992	143	06	363	-	512
1993	119	08	920	-	1,127
1994	310	08	2,477	-	2,795
1995	315	05	2,472	516	3,308
1996	303	05	2,163	10,000*	12,471
1997-98	426	05	4,660	16,478*	21,569

* The figure includes members of Anti-drug and Environment Networks.

Staff development

DAM recruits its staff very carefully and helps them grow professionally by providing various HRD and skill training both at home and abroad. Specialists of outstanding calibre are also commissioned occasionally for specific purposes.

Land & Building

In order to provide suitable accommodation and other infra-structural facilities for smooth and efficient administration and supervision of its ever expanding programmes and activities, DAM undertook a challenging task of constructing a multi-stored building in its newly purchased land in Dhanmondi, Dhaka. It will be a '*Development Centre*' in so far as it will house all the development oriented offices of DAM and also Resource Centres, Conference Halls, Training rooms and such other facilities. The construction work is progressing

satisfactorily and the first floor has already been put into use.

DAM has a built-in computerized monitoring system for monitoring of the programmes under implementation. In the process the HQ Office Desk is linked to the lowest implementation units, the centres under the facilitators. There are monitoring formats to collect information on a monthly basis from each of the units. The facilitators, the supervisors, the area coordinators and the programme officers all have their defined roles in the monitoring system and the information is sent to the Head office following the field hierarchy.

DAM maintains transparency & accountability in all of its activities. Projects and programmes are objectively evaluated mostly by engaging external evaluators and the reports thereon are made available to development partners, donors and interested individuals/organisations. News items, features and progress reports are published regularly in the Mission's quarterly, monthly and occasional publications and news bulletin and also in the national media.

DAM's activities in the initial years were mostly dependent on subscriptions and donations from its members and the generous public. With the spread and expansion of its programmes and activities both in scale and dimension and diversity or geographical location programme based financial assistance from the government and para-statal bodies within the country and also from international organisations and bilateral donor agencies became the main source of funds.

DAM's accounts are administered and managed, following standard accounting principles, by a full fledged Finance and Accounts Division headed by a Chartered Accountant as its Directors. The accounts are audited annually by a qualified Chartered Accounting Firm. The Executive Director and the Treasurers of DAM are jointly responsible for handling the funds of the Mission.

Monitoring

Transparency & Accountability

Funding

Accounts & Audit

NON-FORMAL EDUCATION



It is a recognized fact that education is the key to personal development as well as to economic, social and cultural development of societies. In other words, it is an indispensable element of development strategy as it contributes to human development in a big way. In Bangladesh, a small resource hungry country of *more than 120 million people living in an area of only 147,550 sq.km*, the prevalence of large scale illiteracy poses serious threats to all development efforts.



In spite of the constitutional obligation of the government to eradicate illiteracy and in spite of its commitments to various international decisions and declarations to that end, the fact remains that, neither infrastructural facilities, nor resources at the disposal of the government permit it to get rid of the monster of illiteracy fighting the menace alone. Here lies the need for mobilization of the civil society through involving NGO efforts in tackling the problem. Dhaka Ahsania Mission realized this much earlier and accordingly developed its non-formal approach to provide education to the illiterate population in the country.

DAM's non-formal education and literacy programme encompasses illiterates of all ages starting with the 5 year olds. The following are the **principal components of the non-formal education programme of DAM.**

- Pre-Primary Education (PPE)
- Primary Education for Children (PEC)
- Literacy Programme for Adolescents (LPA)
- Adult Literacy Programme (ALP)
- Continuing Education Programme (CEP)

The table over leaf gives an account of centres and learners under different NFE programmes of DAM during the period under report.

Table No.02 : Programme-wise number of centres and learners under NFE programmes of DAM during Jan.'97-June'98.

NFE Programmes	No. of Centres	Learners		
		Male	Female	Total
Primary Education for Children (PEC)	70	1,051 (50.05%)	1,049 (49.95%)	2,100 (100%)
Literacy Programme for Adolescents (LPA)	469	4,895 (40.22%)	7,290 (59.78%)	12,185 (100%)
Adult Literacy Programme (ALP)	4,274	32,085 (26.11%)	90,790 (73.89%)	1,22,875 (100%)
Continuing Education Programme (CEP) Gonokendra	873	7,857 (9.0%)	79,443 (91.0%)	87,300 (100%)
Total	5,686	45,888 (20.44%)	178,572 (79.56%)	224,460 (100%)

The basic elements of each of the above mentioned components and their coverage are described below:

Pre-primary education programme(PPE) has been designed for the little children of 5 years of age and its duration is of 6 months. The objective of the programme is to prepare boys and girls for admission in Grade-I of the formal school system and to provide them with exposure to basic moral, ethical and social values to build up a good foundation for future life. The programme has proved successful in helping the poor and disadvantaged families to send their children to schools with adequate preparations who otherwise would have remained out of school to grow up as adult illiterates.

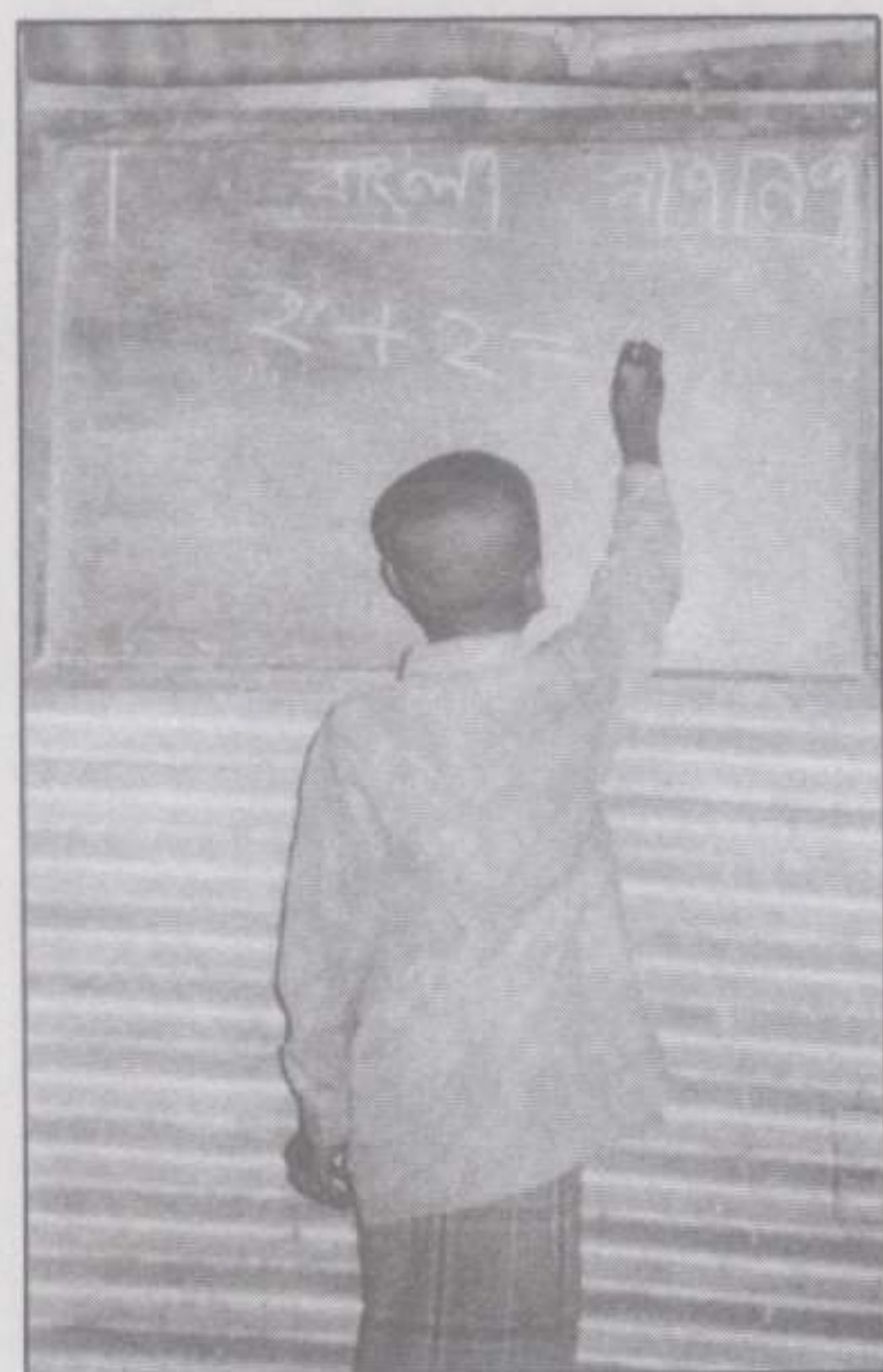
The contents of this programme include moral education, personal hygiene and environment awareness etc. Co-curricular activities like reciting rhymes, story telling, singing, dancing, drawing and painting are given importance.

In the years from 1993 to 1995 there were 1,350; 12,898 and 9,600 babies under this programme who were admitted in the formal primary schools in grade I in the subsequent years. For resource constraints however, the programme had to be kept limited since 1996.

Pre-Primary Education



Primary Education for Children (PEC)



Education for slum children

Literacy Programme for Adolescents

In Bangladesh, even after introducing compulsory primary education in 1993 by an Act of Parliament, a considerable number of primary school age population remain out of school and about half of the enrolled students drop out before

completing the primary education cycle.

The PEC programme of DAM has been designed to cover these unschooled children of 6-10 years and also the drop outs of the primary schools. The duration of the course is 4 years to make it equivalent to the education offered through Grade I to V of the formal primary schools. The programme provides a second chance to the non-enrolled and the drop out

children to enter or to be back in the process of receiving basic education, many of whom were found to proceed further. The contents of the programme cover subject areas like environment, health and sanitation, food and nutrition, germs and disease etc. apart from language and arithmetic. The competency levels of the different grades are proportionately similar to those of the formal primary schools for which the children under this programme can join the formal stream of education without difficulty. Work oriented and need based functional contents carefully woven into the reading materials attract the students and their guardians alike. In the programme emphasis is also given towards co-curricular activities like drawing and music beside games and sports. Use of indigenous, innovative and effective teaching aids is one of the distinctive features of the entire programme.

From 1989 till date a total of 1,16,520 children received education under this programme, most of whom were girls.

Realizing the urgency of providing basic education to the children living in different slum areas in the cities & towns DAM participates in programmes for the education of slum children in a modest way. *2,100 slum children in the city of Dhaka were served through 70 centres during 1997.*

Literacy programme for the Adolescents (LPA) for the age group of 11-14 years was designed in consideration of the special needs and relevance of the group. Prior to 1993, primers and education materials prepared for the adults or even for the little children of the primary education age group were being used in education and literacy programmes of the adolescents. In this country DAM was the first to identify the shortcoming and weakness of this practice and accordingly designed a

programme and appropriate curriculum exclusively for the adolescents which caught the attention of the activists in the field of non-formal education and received acclamation and admiration. The objective of the adolescents education programme is to prepare the boys and girls of this age group with necessary education, skill training and awareness of various socio-economic issues and concerns for their lives ahead. The duration of the programme is 12 months divided into two packages. Based on a set curriculum, the first package has three levels to be covered in a period of 9 months. The second package, which is essentially for follow-up education to consolidate the literacy skills acquired during the first 9 month period, is to be covered in the subsequent 3 months. During this 3 month period follow-up graded books and easy to read materials are provided and this is supplemented by monthly news letters and wall magazines of interest to the groups. The programme prepares the illiterate adolescents and also those who earlier dropped out from the primary school system and relapsed into illiteracy with essential literacy and some skill training along with knowledge of social, economic, religious, health, hygiene and nutrition matters for their adult life.



During January '97-June '98 a total of 12,185 adolescents received or are receiving education in 469 Adolescent Education Centres run by DAM. The corresponding figures for the years for 1994 to 1996 were 8,160 learners in 295 centres, 10,935 learners in 325 centres and 8,935 learners in 354 centres respectively.



While working in the slums with non-formal primary education programme it was noticed that a large number of adolescent boys and girls of the 11-15 years age group living there are employed undesirably as rickshaw pullers, workshop helpers, garment workers, hotel boys, factory workers, construction labourers, carpentry assistants, transport helpers and in such other odd jobs. Considering their special needs Dhaka Ahsania Mission executes an education programme for working children which is intended to free them from the curse of child labour while instilling in them the skills of literacy and numeracy as well as preparing them for adult life as skilled workers in the field of their individual choice. During the period under report 3150 working children were served through 105 education Centres setup in different parts of the City of Dhaka. In a country with millions of illiterate adults, it is difficult to get

Education for Working Children

Adult Literacy Programme (ALP)



optimum results from any programme of socio-economic development. DAM's **Adult Literacy Programme (ALP)** has been designed with the twin purpose of imparting literacy to the adults of 15 to 35 years age group, more importantly for motivating them, particularly the heads of the families, to impart education to their children which in its turn serves the double purpose of making the programme of universal primary education a success and simultaneously prevent children from growing up as adult illiterates. The duration of the programme is 12 months in two packages of six months each. The first package covers the basic learning skills and the second package is for follow-up education and consolidation of the newly learnt literacy skill. The reading materials contain topics on family life,

basic economic concepts including income generation activities and topics like health, sanitation and nutrition, various social and legal issues, awareness of environment and anti-drug matters and especially the subjects relating to gender sensitization, equality of men and women in all fields of life. *In the adult education programme of DAM there were 36,475 learners in 1319 centres in 1997. During January '97-June '98, 2,955 adult education centres have been set up with a total enrolment of 86,400.*

One important element in the adult literacy programme of DAM is the income generation credit support. DAM has a plan to gradually cover all its adult learners with credit support to augment their income and thus to break the vicious circle of poverty. Like all other programmes of DAM, in the credit programme, women are the most preferred beneficiaries and almost 90% of the credit goes to the women, which has multidimensional impact on their lives and activities and eventually they become partners in decision making in all their social, economic and family affairs.

Continuing Education Programme (CEP)

Continuing Education Programme (CEP) is a programme which, in the ultimate analysis, is directed towards all the literate people in the society, although it is primarily meant for the neo-literates of non-formal education programme. The CEP has been designed to help retention of already acquired literacy skill of the neo-literates and thereby to prevent them from relapsing into illiteracy. The programme is implemented through Community Libraries popularly known as "Ganokendras".

Ganokendras are designed by DAM primarily as platform centres from where to offer its follow-up and continuing education programme as a means to prevent relapse of the neo-literates into the dark old world of illiteracy from where they have just been rescued and then as a centre of community activity including sports and games. Although Ganokendra is understood by many as a community library, in all practical senses it is more than that. The community, mostly the community of the have-nots gather here in the evening hours to read books prepared for them, to continue to improve their learning skill and to meet their neighbours so as to exchange views on matters of common interest.



Ganokendra

The **Ganokendras** are normally developed in club-houses, in outer houses or unused rooms of members of NFE centre committees which are accessible to other members. These Ganokendras, as has already been indicated, are more than community libraries where the neo-literates of the nearby areas attend as semi-organized groups to read easy-to-read follow-up books and other materials. Under DAM's curricula of Ganokendra, it is not only a reading centre or library but also a multipurpose community centre in the true sense of the term. Here the neo-literates gather to read books and other materials prepared for them, engage in problem solving exercises with next-door neighbours, identify issues for community attention or to raise them to appropriate authorities. Participants, especially girls and women, get exposure to out-of-family situations, which widen their mental horizon and bring forth a positive attitudinal change. More over, the participants get wide opportunity for leisurely learning of many important aspects like agriculture and fish cultivation, livestock raising and poultry keeping and other income generation activities including small business enterprises and cooperatives, from the follow-up literacy materials developed by DAM.



Issues and concerns of environment, health, sanitation and personal hygiene, food and nutrition, dangers of evil vices like drug addiction, alcoholism etc are read and discussed by them in the Ganokendra. This not only creates awareness but helps formulate an attitude of community action. The Ganokendra is

used also as a centre for sports and cultural activities, which some time give it a festive look. It is so to say a life centre for them.

The centres invisibly serve to foster cooperation and collective community living and also help instill in the participants new hopes and aspirations seeking to ensure better life and living. Here lies the real impact of the Ganokendra concept of the continuing education programme of Dhaka Ahsania Mission. It is therefore not only a strategy, a way of delivery of some educational curricula. It is more than that. It contains a concept, a philosophy and a way of transformation of the people from a state of hopelessness to a state of hope and confidence to build up a better to-morrow for them, for the community and for the country at large.



In 1997-98, 873 Ganokendras were functioning which had 87,000 regular centre based learners. The community people numbering about one hundred forty five thousand take advantage of the Ganokendras for their further reading, for acquisition of knowledge and skill needed for their overall advancement.

MOBILE CONTINUING EDUCATION AND AWARENESS BUILDING PROGRAMME

In order to make the centre based or Gonokendra based continuing education programme more effective and life oriented and to have a positive impact on the life situation of the

neo-literates as well as the community at large a programme of mobile continuing education through the use of a mobile van has been introduced in 1996 by DAM. The programme has two distinct components - (a) a mobile library with a central library in the HQ and unit libraries in the non-formal education centres and community libraries, (b) mobile exhibition facilities for showing videos for motivational campaigns and awareness creation on various aspects of life - health, sanitation and nutrition matters, safe water and environment

preservation and the like on the one hand and to project various social and legal aspects of life e.g. women's rights, child rights,



linkages with the various nation building departments etc.

The body of the mobile van has been so designed as to give the look of an exhibition centre of books, when open and at the same time, devices have been fixed on the same for projection of the video films for the children as also for the adults.

Under this programme appropriate easy-to-read life-oriented and awareness creation materials are being distributed and recycled to the Gonokendras, as also videos developed on various life oriented themes being shown. The vehicle moves on scheduled dates to the Gonokendras and other libraries for distribution and recycling of materials as also with newer videos.

The programme has created good impact on the life and activities of the neo-literates, nay the whole community in the project area. Regular supply and recycling of reading materials has enabled the neo-literates to retain their interest in books, reading habits and at the same time to learn and be acquainted with various life oriented information- social, economic, legal, health and nutrition issues, as well as environmental matters. As for the videos, the people with low literacy achievement can better understand the issues when presented visually. The success stories of various groups of neo-literates and the individuals on income generation activities encourage others to engage in self-employment activities.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

From its experiences in implementation of the literacy programme DAM came to the realization that mere literacy or learning of the 3Rs is neither attractive nor acceptable to the target people; nor does it serve the purpose of meaningful, life oriented education leading to a tangible improvement in their life situations and in their socio-economic status. Hence DAM designed most of its NFE programmes, especially those addressed to the adolescents and adults tailored with curriculum contents which meet their avocational needs by providing for some kinds of skill training. Illiterate men and women including youths and adolescents attending DAM's NFE programme are prepared through skill training to go for some income generation activity.



Story of Amia Bala

Many poor women forming groups under the income generating programme of DAM have been able to improve their lot and have become self-reliant in making a living for themselves and the family. Here is the case of such a women - Mrs. Amia Bala, wife of Mr. Kasom Chandra Jaladas of the village Halia Para, Thana-Banshkhali under the District of Chittagong.

Amia Bala has one son (8) and two daughters (5, 3). They are fisherman by profession. Her husband used to work on contract with fishing boats and nets and earn Tk. 30-40 a day only. Amia



Bala had to work in the neighboring rice mill. The earning of the wife and the husband was not sufficient to provide two square meals for the children and they were to remain half fed and half clad throughout the whole year.

Some three years back, Amia Bala came across one of the workers of DAM. Being acquainted with the group programme of DAM, she became member of one of the groups of DAM. Within the following 2-3 months she acquired literacy essential for undertaking any income generation activity. But she still continued to work in the rice mill and she used to deposit the installment in the group fund from the small savings accumulated out of his earning from the rice mill. Her honesty, sincerity and regularity in attendance in the group meetings were appreciated by all in the group. She got an amount of Tk. 2000 as the first loan from DAM income generating fund. With this fund she purchased thread for knitting fishing nets. Within a short time her income increased quite a bit and after around a year she could buy a small boat for her husband to fish with. Her husband was very happy as he needed no more to work with somebody else's boat and net. Thus his income also increased. As the income of both the husband and the wife increased, they were quite better off economically. She also started to grow vegetables in their small plot of land which also added to their income. They were quite happy now and their children are now going to school.

In addition to the vocational education being provided through skill training under the literacy or adult education programmes, DAM also organizes some specific training courses on occupational skills in response to local demands such as - Traditional Birth Attendant's (TBA) training, training for nursery raising, sanitary latrine making, fuel efficient oven making, sewing, handicrafts, etc. *In 1997 DAM offered TBA training to 40, nursery raising training to 26, fuel efficient oven making training to 340 beneficiary women of different working areas.* Besides these DAM conducted *vocational training on tailoring, sewing and needlework in the district of Munshigonj for 140 drop out girls of secondary schools* under a government promotional project called Female Secondary School Assistance Project (FSSAP).

SUPPORTING SMALL NGOS

Dhaka Ahsania Mission believes that the problem of illiteracy in Bangladesh is so gigantic both in dimension and volume that unless all possible initiatives both national and local are fully utilized the dream of having an illiteracy free learning society will remain an unachieved dream. It also believes that in order to reach the unreached the grass root level small initiatives are to be activated and strengthened as they successfully and effectively give the delivery of services. Considering all these aspects Dhaka Ahsania Mission operates a programme of supporting local level small NGOs in their capacity building for successful implementation of their efforts in the field of non-formal education by way of imparting management training to supervisors and others, by way of providing literacy materials support and supervision and monitoring, etc. *In 1997, there were 20 small NGOs in the districts of Jessore, Narsingdi, Jhenaidaha and Gaibandha under this programme. These NGO's were running 400 education centres with 10,000 learners.*

Scholarships/stipends

For further education of meritorious girls and boys of poor and disadvantaged families Dhaka Ahsania Mission provides stipends and scholarships to female students for pursuing their secondary and higher education. *In 1997-98 12 poor and meritorious students (secondary school-10, college-1, university-1) were offered such Scholarships/Stipends amounting to a total of Taka 21,250/-.* Besides an amount of Taka 9,200/- has been distributed among a number of needy students as cash grants.

POVERTY ALLEVIATION, INCOME GENERATION AND INSTITUTION BUILDING

Around 50% of the population of Bangladesh is now living below the poverty line and around half of them are the hard-core poor. Unless the people are provided with opportunities to enhance their level of income, all efforts to provide education and to improve quality of life will be frustrated. DAM is fully aware of this and have been making conscious and deliberate attempts to enable the people to improve their earnings while they are participating in some programmes of DAM, with particular attention to adult men and women. *DAM's development programme begins with education, proceeds with skill training, flourishes with savings accumulation and ultimately results in environmentally sustainable programme absorbing the children in the process and rolls on its own wheel to move to higher and higher levels.* As such DAM has been making all out efforts to cover as many adults as possible under its income generation credit support programme for those who are participating in its education programme. In fact group formation — meaning savings/cooperative/development groups and skill training are integrated components of the education programme offered to adolescents and adults, especially girls and women.

In these groups the participants accumulate their thrift savings, pool the same together to utilize in income generation activities. This is being developed as an institution and many adult education centres are forming such groups and preparing for income earning activities. *During the period under report, 302 such groups were working with 7,641 members.*

Neither the education nor the group formation is an end in itself; rather these are made to work for creating trainables for skill training, group management training, credit management, identification of income generation projects, awareness creation about available opportunities for generating productive employment for themselves to earn more and to improve their economic status.

DAM creates revolving funds with its own fund as also with the donor's fund for advancing credit for undertaking income



generation activities in the productive sector. Not only that DAM operates revolving loan fund but also it trains up the participants, the group leaders, deputy leaders, treasurers as also the ordinary members in revolving fund operation - to accumulate savings, to create an investable fund, to advance credit on productive sector to its members, realize the principal along with the interest and to maintain accounts with commercial banks, besides maintenance of cash books. In fact, some members after graduating from the group programme take bigger loans from the commercial banks which enable them even to offer some employment to fellow members and others.

One important feature of DAM's credit programme is that the overwhelming majority of the beneficiaries of the credit programme are women. This enables them to go for undertaking income generation activities which lead to an improvement in their life situation and enable their involvement in decision making.

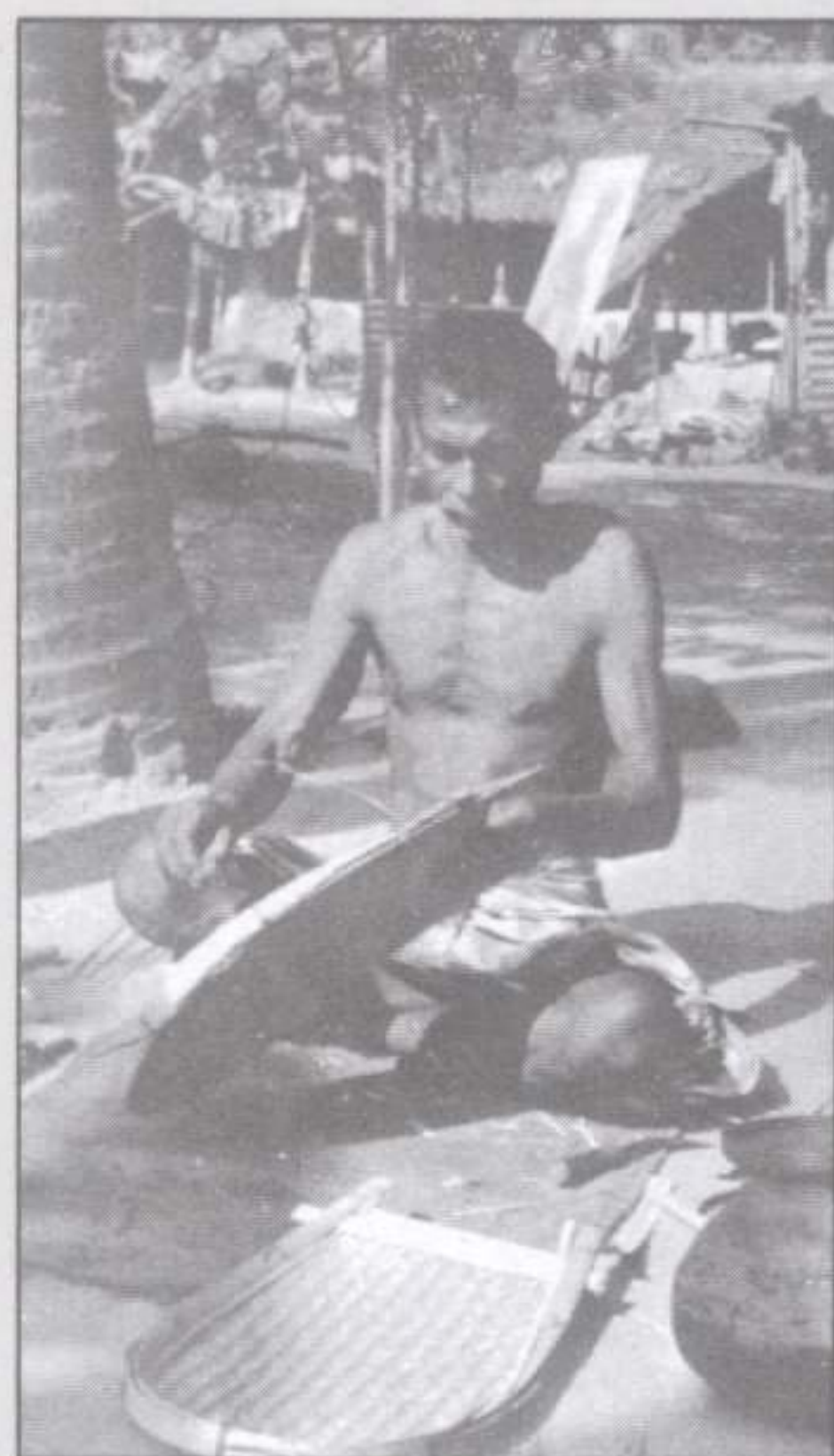
During the period under report, an amount of Tk. 2,36,71,100 was provided as credit to 7,565 members, the majority of whom were women. This excludes the amount of credit given by the group members from their own funds.

It may be noted here that DAM has developed a complete system of revolving credit fund operation with loan register, cash register, bank pass book, repayment register, etc. which makes the operation of revolving loan fund easier for the participants. DAM has drawn up detailed guide lines for revolving fund operation. Like many other guidelines and manuals, guide books, DAM's Revolving Fund Operation Guidelines are also used by many other organizations in the country.

It may further be noted here that it is neither the amount of credit advanced nor the number of participants covered under the revolving fund operation or the income generation credit support that matters, rather it is the institution developed which is being utilized by the poor people to earn an income, by self employment, that matters most.

One noticeable impact of the programme is that finding the poor women under DAM's programme improving their economic and social status women outside DAM's programme areas are also organizing themselves as groups, accumulating some fund by themselves and also trying to take advantage of the credit facilities of various Government and Non-Government organizations.

The women with the credit fund undertake activities like poultry raising, livestock rearing, vegetable gardening, nursery raising, fish farming and also commercial activities like vegetable selling, fish selling, cloth selling and the like. Sometimes DAM provides them with information and guidance about input procurement and marketing of the products. Some of the products are taken by DAM's own programme, for example, saplings from nurseries, wares for construction of sanitary latrines, and the like.



WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT

It is a well known fact that women are the most disadvantaged group in Bangladesh as in most other developing countries. Women and girls receive less education than men and boys. The disparity is particularly acute in the rural areas. Besides the obvious equity argument, it is now recognized that when women receive low levels of education, it hinders economic development and reinforces social inequality. Women represent an enormous potential source of human capital. DAM believes that the rate of return on investment in women's education is as or higher than for men, even if measured by income differential alone and that the education of girls and women brings particular benefits to society on a number of special counts. Firstly the mothers education is of crucial importance in ensuring that children attend school, acquire literacy and become effective members of the society. Secondly it is a safeguard for the children's own health and nutrition. Thirdly educated women are also likely to be better household managers and more informed producers, consumers and traders. Fourthly, education gives women better access to the employment market and earning opportunities. Finally women's education has a constraining effect on fertility by simple virtue of the fact that education tends to entail postponement of marriage and educated women are more likely to attach high priority to family spacing thus ensuring a better living standard.

In view of the above, DAM attaches high priority to improve the quality of life and status of women through a number of activities, such as -

- priority of women in programme implementation;
- recruitment of women for the field programmes;
- skill training;
- income generation support;
- gender sensitive materials development;

Women and girls receive preferential treatment in all the programmes of DAM including NFE. In DAM's programme women's development is all pervasive in the literacy, group formation, savings accumulation, skill training or in income





Story of Aleya

Aleya lives in the remote village Nachnapare under Amtali Police station of the Barguna district in the south.

Born of poor parents Aleya grew up as an illiterate, hopeless adolescent girl and was given into marriage at the age of 13 to one Nazrul Islam a day laborer of the same locality. Her husband also did not have any land beside his homestead. Neither he had any cow or buffalo to plough with in the fields of others as crop sharer. So Aleya's life was miserable. Neither Aleya nor her husband knew how to come out of the wretched condition in which they had been.

In 1990 one of the field workers of DAM met Aleya in her village. He was then organizing a literacy centre in the village. Being encouraged by the field worker and supported by her husband Aleya joined the literacy training course of DAM. Within three months as Aleya progressed with her literacy, the doors of a new world of self confidence, hope and dream started opening in front of her. She started knowing many things, mastering some skills and developed enough courage to undertake activities that could not be thought of earlier. Starting with better home management and healthy living and proceeding with kitchen gardening, poultry rearing she was able to accumulate small savings. In one stage she took a loan from the Mission and with the money received and the savings she made, she managed to buy a pair of buffaloes. And now with these buffaloes Aleya's husband Nazrul Islam is a proud cultivator - solvent, prosperous and happy. Aleya's bad days are gone. She is considered as an ideal now in and around her village.

generation credit support. More than 70% of the beneficiaries of DAM are women. In all its field programmes and training activities the overwhelming majority are women. Specially designed field level skill training for women were also offered. As regards recruitment of facilitators, around 70% of them are women. Except the adult male centres almost all literacy centres are run with female teachers. Almost the entire income generation credit support goes to women. In the materials developed for various groups and grades appropriate topics are incorporated in the text and primers bringing out the plight of the women emphasizing the need for equal rights and opportunity for women. DAM has been publishing a legal series bringing out women's rights and the means of protecting such rights and the remedies to be sought in case of violation of such rights. DAM has also been publishing an allied series on family laws- Marriage and Divorce -showing the equal rights of women to choose the alternatives and the right course and also seeking remedies when violation occurs. In one word, gender sensitization is fully practised in DAM's programmes.

By managing their own affairs, their own projects and their own life by themselves, women reach new heights of empowerment. They are now trained in group management, credit management and business management. They choose their own field of income generation activities, utilize the funds by themselves and sell the products themselves. They are now decision makers - decision makers not only in work situations but also in other spheres of life. They are partners in the family and in the society which leads to their actual empowerment.

In order to reinforce its existing gender related programmes and activities and also to be able to focus special attention to gender issues, DAM established its Gender and Development Cell (GAD) in 1996. Along with other activities included in its terms of reference the GAD Cell remained involved in the collection of information and materials, liaising with different gender development fora, advocacy, finalization of DAM's gender policy, etc.



HEALTH AND HEALTH RELATED ACTIVITIES

Non-formal education is DAM's lift off pad and so all other aspects of development start from there. But development must imply a balanced improvement of the whole of life. Health is very important to the full development and enjoyment of life and so from our first primer it has been given a prominent position in the non-formal, functional, life-oriented education which is the hall mark of DAM.

Many of DAM's continuing education booklets or lessons of the regular education programmes are on health related topics e.g. sanitation, nutrition, or have to do with Primary Health Care e.g. breathing, the quality of air or of water, avoiding common diseases. Some booklets deal with specific health subjects such as the training of Traditional Birth Attendants, preparing to give birth, avoiding and detecting cancer. The Mission has become involved in several activities which have very close connection with health e.g. the campaign against drug abuse, the campaign against cancer, preventing the spread of HIV-AIDS.



DAM has been operating a Health Education Programme in its working areas of Satkhira since July 1995 under which the Area Coordinators, Supervisors and Field Workers of DAM sit with local leaders, community members and beneficiaries of different programmes regularly according to a predetermined work schedule and discuss matters on primary health care and health related issues. The activities carried out in the field are reported to the Head Office on a monthly basis through a format specially designed for the purpose.

Our partner NGO Concern Universal has been relying on us for ancillary services to support its Primary Health Care programme in Cox's Bazar for a number of years and now has asked our Training Division to elaborate courses for its trainers in Cox's Bazar. Since 1996 DAM's own full-time physician has been offering preventive health education and treatment to the street children in DAM's non-formal education classes in the slums along with other responsibilities.

DAM had been planning and making the preparations needed to

Health Education
Programme

Primary
Health Care

TBA
Training

Free
Health Care
Centre

fuse all the elements together and launch into a formal Primary Health Care commitment in the near future.

DAM has been implementing a programme of Training the Traditional Birth Attendants (TBA), which is improved conditions of child birth and also contributing in the mother and child in the working areas of DAM.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission runs a Free Health Care Centre in Malibagh of Dhaka City. The Centre provides free health care services and treatment of common diseases to the poor and to those in need, including the slum dwellers, who cannot afford to pay for their medical care and treatment. Every day, except closed holidays, an average of 30 persons attend the centre for medicare. During the period under report, *about 12,500 persons received free medial care, advice and medicine from the centre on various common diseases like, fever, cough, influenza, asthma, rheumatic fever, gastro-intestinal ailments and disorders, skin diseases, chicken pox, measles, etc, Mission's health care services during the period also include cash grants of Tk.86,500/- to a number of people who needed it most for their treatment by specialist physicians.*

Drug Prevention And Control Programme (Amik)

DAM has long recognized the social, familial and societal consequences of drug abuse and undertook to address these issues through the establishment of a Drug Prevention and Control Programme (AMIK) in 1990.

DAM considers the participation of local communities as being paramount to the success of this programme and it has therefore

supported the formation of Local Branch Committees of AMIK throughout the Country.

DAM designed its Drug Prevention and Control Programme (AMIK) as a multi-dimensional anti-drug programme. It is designed to create a network of local level initiatives enlisting the support of volunteer youths for mobilizing the civil society against abuse of drug.

The total AMIK edifice is designed to involve the community in a way

which is very much cost effective and which depends mostly on voluntary involvement of youths, students, teachers and other conscious section of the society. At the national level there is a 25 member Central Community of AMIK which meets



quarterly to offer policy decisions and guidance for the Central Secretarial of AMIK and for the Branch Committees as well. The Central Committee organizes seminar/workshop and meetings and training courses for the branch committee members and also award prizes annually to the branch committees and their members for meritorious works. The branch committees, on the other hand, function through the Executive Committee with members of less than 35 years of age and the Advisory Committee with members of 35+ age group. The branch committee are responsible for actual translation into action and implementation of policy decisions of AMIK Central Committee through creation of awareness by using posters, stickers, leaflets and through organizing seminars, symposia, public meetings, discussion sessions, essay and debate competitions and personal contacts etc.

During the period under report, 402 Branch Committees were operational across some of 150 thanas of 54 districts of Bangladesh, each planning and implementing various local level initiatives which ultimately aim at reducing drug demand and minimizing the harm associated with their use.

The Branch Committees During the period organized Rallies, Discussion meetings, Debates, Essay & Sports competitions. Simultaneously, 34 Branch Committees organized training courses to develop their skill on drug demand reduction and the trained workers had given orientation on bad effect of drug to school students. Most of the Branch Committees have observed special days like No Tobacco Day, World Aids Day, etc. and organized cultural programmes. Eight areas were declared as smoke-free zones during this period. Through DAM's Training Division, 5 two week Master Trainers Courses on "Community Based Drug Demand Reduction and STD/HIV/AIDS Prevention in Bangladesh" were organized in Dhaka, Chittagonj, Rajshahi, Pabna, and Jessore in cooperation with ESCAP and the department of Narcotics Drug Control (DNC) of the Government of Bangladesh. In every course there were 15 participants from various Branch Committees of each areas and a total of 75 branch members took part in the courses. Through DAM's training Division, a two days evaluation workshop was organized in Dhaka with the cooperation of ESCAP, Bangkok & DNC, Bangladesh during 12-13 November 1997. Following completion of the above courses, the Master Trainers conducted further courses within their own local communities targeting other AMIK committee members, school students and community workers. They also



Activities of
Branch
Committees





organized different meetings, rallies, seminars, debates, essay competitions and cultural programmes in their respective areas for awareness building. During this period, for the first time 11 local based Detox camps were organized on in Dhaka, Chittagonj, Rajshahi and Jessore under Treatment & Rehabilitation Programme. 165 drug addicted persons had received treatment, four had received rikshaws, two vans and 12 sewing machines. The Central Committee conducted a seminar on the observance of the "International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking" on 26 June, 1997 and 1998 respectively. It also presented annual awards to three Branch Committees for outstanding works. It also observed "No Tobacco Day" in a befitting manner.

The table below provides a summary of the various activities of DAM's Drug Prevention and Control Programme during 1997-98 organized/conducted by the Branch Committees.

Table No: 03: Activities of AMIK Branch Committees during 1997-98

Sl. No.	Name of Activity	Number of Activity
1.	Formation of New Branch Committee	113
2.	Smoke Free Zones Declared	8
3.	Debates	3
4.	Discussion Meetings	823
5.	Essay Competition	23
6.	Observation of Special Days	332
7.	Public Rallies	196
8.	Sports	53
9.	Cultural Programmes	141
10.	School Based Training Courses	429
11.	Amik Member Training Courses	185
12.	Souvenir published	4
Total		2310

Curative Programme

Under its curative programme, DAM identifies the drug addicts through its local Committees and refers them to various clinics. After the treatment of the addicts, they are followed up by the members of the local committees. In a situation, where it is difficult to take the addicts to clinics, DAM's trained personnel through counseling and guidance persuade them to take as little substance as possible for the individual addicts so that gradually addiction can be brought down to the minimum. DAM also holds detoxification camps in different areas of the country. Under a memorandum of understanding signed with APON (Ashukti Punorbashon Nibash) DAM assists APON in getting necessary funds for its cure and rehabilitation programme for drug addicts and APON undertakes to strengthen DAM's anti-drug programme by offering their services for the treatment and recovering of addicts, an important component of DAM's anti-drug programme.

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND PROMOTION PROGRAMME (APOS)

DAM shares the view that development which destroys the environment is not development at all and that we have no moral right to destroy the environment which *we have practically borrowed from our posterity and not inherited from our ancestors and which we are morally bound and obliged to leave for posterity unharmed if not improved or enriched*. This idea is nurtured every where in the world and hence it is observed that all development projects now give special consideration to environmental issues.

DAM's environmental concern is all pervading in its programmes and activities right from education, materials development and training down to income generation activities. In the education programme, special deliberations and focus are on environment awareness, ways and means of protection, maintenance and enrichment of the environment acquainting with the whole range of environment friendly activities and its observable benefits. In the training of teachers, supervisors and all others concerned, including skill development trainees, special lectures are offered on environment matters so that they, in the course of their programme implementation, can utilize and transfer such knowledge to the concerned participants.

DAM undertakes materials development on a wide range and scale, including texts/primers and easy-to-read follow-up materials for continuing education, apart from the materials specially developed on environment issues. In all text books and primers for all grades and age-groups, carefully selected topics on environment concerns are incorporated, transmitting the information about the activities which hurt and affect the environment, and the activities which are environment friendly as also the needs and the necessity for undertaking such activities.

It is a recognized fact that the environmental degradation is wide spread in the country. Poverty, illiteracy ignorance, over population, etc. are mainly responsible for much of the environmental degradation and destruction. To improve the situation wide scale awareness creation and promotional activities at the grass roots level are essential. This



is a very gigantic task to be accomplished by any organisation working all alone. DAM therefore, devised an innovative mechanism of a two-tier organisation set up to implement a



nationwide programme of awareness creation and promotional activities on environmental protection and promotion called APOS. *The design consists of a central committees at the Mission's head quarter and a network of branch committees at the grass roots level.* The Central Committee, consisting of 33 renowned personalities, works as the apex body of APOS. It approves branch committees, gives policy decisions and guidance, organises seminars/ workshops/meetings, offers support to the branch committees by providing materials like posters, stickers, leaflets, etc. and by offering training to volunteer members of branch

committees who act as master trainers in their localities, awards prizes to branch committees and members for meritorious works. The range of activities of the branch committees of APOS network includes among others the following:

- Awareness raising, ● Supply of plants ● Smokeless oven-making
- Training of Environment Promoters and Community people
- Construction of latrines ● Sinking of tube-wells
- Development of educational materials on environment
- Organizing Environment Resources Centres ● Nursery raising

At present there are 221 branch committees of APOS in the network spread over 107 thanas of 49 districts out of 64 districts of Bangladesh. Efforts are continuing to bring the whole country under the network of APOS.

DAM undertook in 1995 a 3 year pilot project, called ENET which provide a number of special inputs supports to 100 branch committees of the APOS Network in 41 thanas of 24 districts. These inputs included - a) training for nursery raising, smokeless and fuel efficient oven making, motivation and mass mobilisation, b) supply of tube-wells and sanitary latrines, c)



financial support for setting up of nurseries, distribution of plants and seedlings and establishment of environment resource centre in the Gonokendras. The ENET project has created great enthusiasm in the respective areas and there is a great demand for extension of similar projects in other areas also. *In 1997, the concluding year of ENET programme,* 19 branches of Jhenaidaha, Shoolkupa, Kaligonj, Jessore Sadar, Kesobpur, Narshindi Sadar, Raipura and Shibpur has distributed 96 sanitary latrines in the respective areas. 25 tube-wells have also been distributed among 25 branches of Jhenaidaha, Kaligonj Sadar, Shoolkupa, Narshindi Sadar, Raipura, Shibpur, Jessore Sadar and Keshobpur. 24 Gonokendras

have been established in Jehaidaha Sadar, Shoulkupa, Kaligonj, Khulna Sadar, Jessore Sadar and Keshobpur.

The Central Committee of APOS observed the Word Environment Day 1997 and 1998 with activities like holding of discussion meetings participated by eminent environment scientists of the country, awarding prizes to the branch committees for commendable and meritorious work in the field of environment protection and promotion.

Representatives of the central committee visited more than 30 branch committees and offered on-the-spot guidance. About 20,000 posters on environment were also distributed throughout the country.

The branch committees of the network also remained very active during the period under report. The following table shows some of their activities during January '97 to June '98.

Table No 04 : Activities of APOS Branch Committees.

Sl.No.	Name of Activity	Number of Activities
1.	Discussion Meeting	514
2.	Debating competition	57
3.	Cultural Function	100
4.	Sports competition	111
5.	Published wall-magazine	212
6.	General meeting of Branch committee's	630
7.	Observance of	
a)	National Sanitation Week	136
b)	Tree plantation programme	95
c)	World Environment Day	142
d)	International Literacy Day	45
e)	Death & Birth Anniversary of the founder of the Mission	134
f)	Independence Day	95
g)	Observance of special days	315

The branch committees under ENET project carried on some special activities also during 1997. These are - tree plantation (32,646), setting up of nurseries (24), training of Nursery worker's (32), oven making (6050), sinking of tube-wells (25), etc.



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, HOUSING & REHABILITATION PROGRAMME

Bangladesh is very prone to various natural disasters like flood, river erosion, cyclone, tidal surge, etc. which visit the country almost every year. These natural calamities cause extensive damage to life and property including crops, housing and live-stock. The damage to infrastructures like roads and educational buildings are also sometimes very high. Although natural calamities effect everybody in some way or other, the suffering of the poor and the disadvantaged people is the

highest. Besides immediate relief in the form of food, medicine, cloth etc. these people need substantial help that would enable them to start a new life and to come out of their devastating situation. In the context of these realities, Dhaka Ahsania Mission, has a programme of disaster preparedness and rehabilitation within its agenda of activities. Under this programme DAM always remains prepared to rush on to stand by the side of the suffering people as and when required. It also implements its

programme of helping the disaster affected people by building low cost houses that would withstand natural calamities.

In 1997 DAM took up a Cyclone Affected Farmers Rehabilitation Project (CAFRP) in the Banshkhali thana of Chittagong district. The main objective of the project was to rehabilitate a number of cyclone affected families of the area by distributing among them cows, goats, poultry birds and also providing them with training on livestock rearing and management. *Under the project 300 beneficiary families received training, 100 families received ducks/hens and 100 received cows and goats.*



TRAINING & MATERIALS DEVELOPMENT

At the begining of 1997 DAM reorganised its former Training and Materials Development Divisions into one Division under the name of Training & Materials Development Division and placed it under the management of one Director.

Training

The training wing of the division with its experienced and capable faculty runs as usual various training courses for DAM's different categories of personnel as well as of other organisations, both government and non-government.

This wing also organizes training courses, workshops and seminars at the regional, sub-regional and national level on behalf of DAM as well as various national and international organizations and UN bodies including UNESCO.

During the period from January 1997 to June 1998, 7,021 persons received different types of training according to their field of activity, specialisation and interest. Some of these trainings were offered in the central training centre of the ILAE at Dhaka, some in the regional training centre set up in Satkhira and some at the working areas or grassroots levels.

It also organized a number of national, regional and sub-regional workshops during the period.

The table below and over leaf give accounts of training activities and workshops held during the period under report.

Table No. 05: Training activities during January'97 - June'98

Sl. No	Category of Participants	No. of Batches	No. of Participants
1	Education Centre Facilitators	104	2,357
2	Group Members & Supervisor	1	20
3	NGO Representatives	3	56
4	TBAs	2	40
5	Gonokendra Facilitators	28	540
6	Dropout Girl Students	7	140
7	Supervisor & AAC	8	182
8	Education Facilitators	103	2789
9	Group Members	17	317
10	Organiser & AAC	2	42
11	Beneficiaries	21	423
12	Workers of Anti-Drug Programme	55	3,025
13	Motivators	1	30
14	Community workers	106	2099
	Total	3,107	12,114



Table No. 06: Workshops during 1997-98

Sl. No	Titles of the workshops	No. and category of participants
1.	National Workshop on Women Empowerment through Post-Literacy Programme	20 NGO representatives
2.	Continuing Education for Development	17 NGO representatives
3.	PLP Workshop	10 NGO representatives
4.	Sub-regional Workshop on Women Empowerment Through PLP	20 From India, Nepal, Pakistan & Bangladesh
5.	Development of CE Materials	20 NGO representatives
6.	Planning Workshop & Community Level Training on drug demand Reduction	75 Community Workers
7.	Evaluation Workshop on Drug Addicts	21 AMIK Branch workers
8.	Regional workshop on capacity building of literacy resource centre for girls and women	18 Participants from 9 countries of the region
9.	National workshop on Development of literacy Materials for Primary School Children in Rural Areas	21 GO-NGO representatives
10.	Regional Planning Meeting : Capacity Building for Local NGOs	15 From Combodia, Nepal & Bangladesh

Materials Development

For success of non-formal education and literacy programmes availability of appropriate materials is the most important determining factor. There is no alternative to written materials like primers, readers, etc in the success of any education or literacy programme for children, adolescents or adults. Considering this Dhaka Ahsania Mission developed for its own programmes different materials following existing theories and practices of materials development and also its experience and knowledge of the specific needs of its clientele groups for whom the programmes are designed.

DAM has developed four kinds of basic education materials for four age groups namely, - (1) Pre-primary, (2) Primary, (3) Adolescents and (4) Adults. These are continuously being reviewed and reproduced in the light of feed-backs received and new developments in the field of materials development for literacy programmes both nationally and internationally. It is

also felt that for retaining the benefits of a literacy programme there must be appropriate reading materials in abundance for the neo-literates and persons with limited literacy skills so that they do not relapse into illiteracy. Besides, the neo-literates need reading and learning materials to continuously broaden their knowledge base in matters that concern their lives and help them move forward confidently in the achievement of sustainable development. In consideration of these



aspects DAM has been continuously developing follow-up and continuing education materials and also different types of

awareness building, information and advocacy materials. It also translates important NFE materials into Bangla and publishes them.

As for follow-up and continuing education materials DAM has so far developed and produced as many as 153 materials including 27 developed during the period under report, which is the highest on the part of a single organisation in Bangladesh.

An account of the materials developed and published by DAM is given in the table below:

Table No. 07 : Materials developed by DAM.

Sl.No.	Category of Materials	Number of Publications
1.	Primers for Children	09
2.	Primers for Adolescents	07
3.	Primers for Adult	03
4.	Group Development Materials	06
5.	Training Manuals	03
6.	Appeal Training Materials (translation)	05
7.	Posters	13
8.	Stickers	07
9.	Chart, Games, Folders, etc.	15
10.	Booklets	12
11.	Follow up and Continuing Education Materials	73
	a) Health and Nutrition	14
	b) Income Generation	14
	c) Environment	06
	d) Law	10
	e) Women's Development	07
	f) Culture	02
	g) Rights & Duties	07
	h) Biography	04
	i) Rhymes	01
	j) Fiction and Tales	06
	k) Comics	02
	Sub-Total	73
	Total	153

The Mission also publishes every month one magazine entitled 'Alap' (the dialogue) and one prototype wall-magazine entitled 'Amader Patrika' (our Magazine) for the neo-literates. Publication of these magazines continued during the period under report.

Both the basic learning materials as well as the follow-up and continuing education materials of DAM are used by different agencies and organizations, both Government and non-government, extensively. Among them Directorate of Non-Formal Education (DNFE) in the government sector and leading NGO's including BRAC, PROSHIKA, CCDB, CMES etc. in the non-government sector are the prominent ones. During the period under report about 2 lakh copies of such materials were purchased by DNFE and 35 leading NGO's of the country for use in their programmes.



Audio-Visual facilities

Audio-Visual facilities are very important for effective functioning of the non-formal education sector. There is, however, acute shortage of such facilities in the country. The Audio-Visual Unit of DAM has so far produced several videos depicting various aspects of non-formal education and it has continuously producing videos and other motivational a/v materials. A video with the title *Phul Banur Golpo (the story of Phul Banu, a distressed woman)* got the (Asia/pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU) award in 1994. Again in 1996 one of the videos received honourable mention in a competition of innovative literacy materials organised by ACCU, Japan. This Unit is being developed as an infra-structural and mainstreaming facility to provide audio-visual support to other divisions and organizations as well, working on socio-economic development particularly non-formal education.

THE COMPUTER & COMMUNICATION NETWORK

Starting with only a few PCs in 1989 DAM's Computer and Communication Network has now been put on an organized footing with all necessary facilities including adequate number of PCs, Printers, Scanners, and also with arrangement of E_mail and Internet facilities. DAM's computer facilities have been strengthened to meet its need for desktop publication and other day-to-day printing needs, data-base management, development of Management Information System etc.

The latest facilities of information technology are now being used by DAM through its E_mail and Internet connection. By entering into the International Super Highway of Information through the World Wide Web DAM has not only widened its global communication relations but also created its Home Page in cooperation with the Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU), Japan and one can visit DAM's Home Page in its address:

[Http://www.accu.or.jp/litdbase](http://www.accu.or.jp/litdbase)

DAM has another Homepage of its own with the following address :

[Http://www.ahsania.org](http://www.ahsania.org)

In addition, the Ahsania Book Distribution House (AMBDH) has developed its facilities for storage and dissemination of information on the book world of both home and abroad, through the use of CD ROM catalogue.

RESEARCH AND CONSULTANCY

Experience says that for effective functioning of any complex socio-economic undertaking like a Non-formal Education Programme, the commitment and experience of its practitioners are not enough. The planners, organizers and implementors of such programmes require to be guided by the feedback of operational information provided by research so that policy

E-mail

Internet

Homepage

decisions as well as planning and implementation decisions are based on research findings. The Research Division of DAM established in 1994 has been undertaking research and evaluation of the various project activities with a desire to provide the programme planners with necessary feedback information on the on going project activities so as to enable necessary improvement in them.

During the period under report the Research Division undertook the following activities:

- A mid-term evaluation on the project "Functional Education through Local Initiatives".
- A study on the "success stories" of a few women participants in DAM's literacy and micro-credit programme.
- Terminal evaluation of projects entitled "Adult Mass Education Demonstration Units" "Comprehensive Basic Education Programme" and Functional Education Through Local Initiatives".

The Division also undertook impact study on the projects: "Smokeless Oven" and "Basic Education Through Community Organizations (BECO)", work on 'Situation Analysis: Prevention of Child and Women Trafficking' and also on a Unesco funded project 'Reaching the Unreached' is progressing satisfactorily.

Consultancy at national and international levels constitute one of the important activities of DAM. DAM has been able to gather in its employment a good number of very dedicated specialists and experts of excellent quality in different fields. Besides them a number of associates are there to work for DAM in offering appropriate consultancy to different authorities and agencies including government departments and international organizations like UNESCO, ESCAP and others.

The following are some of the important consultancy services offered by DAM to various organizations during the period.

- Dhaka Ahsania Mission has been working as consultant in the Nutritional Surveillance project of Hellen Keller International. The purpose of the project is to establish a surveillance system which produces, analyses and promotes the use of child health and nutrition data for project management and review and disaster preparedness and response.
- Under an agreement with UNESCO, PROAP, Bangkok DAM offered the services of Mr. Ehsanur Rahman, Director, Programme Division of the Mission to assist UNESCO in preparing the background document off its regional framework for developing literacy as a tool for empowerment of the poor during February 1997.
- Under a contract signed with UNESCO, DAM assisted UNESCO in the organization and conduct of 4 National Workshops on Continuing Education for Development held in Dhaka, New Delhi, Katmandu and Lahore respectively during December-1996 to April - 1997 and under another contract in the conduct of a study on "Reorienting Basic Education Towards Poverty Alleviation" in the Bangladesh context. The study was completed in February 1997.

Research

Consultancy

Trafficking of Women & Children

The fast increasing incidence of women and child trafficking are creating a serious situation effecting the society in the moral and human spectrum. In this context DAM felt it its impending responsibility to intervene and do something in this area and accordingly set up an unit for the purpose in the latter part of 1997. Since its inception the unit has accomplished the following :

- In order to exploring of cross border cooperation and inter-country networking, DAM officials visited Calcutta, India in November, 1997. Mentionable outcome of the visit : willingness of Indian NGOs to promote cross-border cooperation in combating the problem in child/women trafficking.
- Organized jointly with BSAF a consultative meeting with interested NGOs and shared with them experience of Calcutta visit and held discussion about the next plan of action for prevention of Child & Women trafficking in Bangladesh.
- Organized two consultation meetings with DAM's existing local NGOs one at Jessore and another at Gaibandah.
- Started collecting relevant data and information from various sources including national dailies, research reports and publications. It has been collecting comprehensive & dependable data/information including posters/leaflet/videos etc. from different sources in Bangladesh and from other Asian countries .

It has contacted Child In Need Institute(CINI) for return of 38 trafficked Bangladeshi Children who have been rescued and placed under the care of a Madras-based voluntary organization 'Udum Karangal' It has also initiated actions for return of 73 children/women to their respective homes, who were rescued in Jessore district during trafficking. It has contacted Bangladesh Society for Enforcement of Human Rights for cooperation for return of another 12 children from India .

Public Relations

Public Relations Division (PRD) of DAM was created in January 1997 and during the year it remained busy in making appropriate and objective projection of DAM's activities in the print and electronic media; publication of annual report, brochures, quarterly news bulletins etc., along with other assigned duties like - meeting all queries received from individuals/agencies/organisations, arranging documentation of Mission's activities; promoting & strengthening relations with relevant government and non-government organisations and also national and international agencies, etc.

Destitute Children's Home

In order to offer education to the unfortunate destitute children including orphans for their upbringing and alround development DAM has been running its Hafezia Madrasah and Children's Home since long. It is housed in the Mission's own building in Malibag in the city of Dhaka. Free food, lodging, medicare and education are offered to the enrolled inmates of the Home. The Madrasah is functioning there under DAM's management so as to meet the education needs of these children as of others. During the period under report, 25 children were there in the Home.

Planning & Monitoring

The Planning and Monitoring Division (PMD) of DAM was established in June 1997 with the responsibility of facilitating developing perspective plan, annual plan, periodical plan, resource planning and resource mobilization, developing information communication system for smooth flow of information both horizontally and vertically etc. Within a year of its creation the PMD has initiated/accomplished a number of planning related activities of which the following deserve special mention :

1. For the first time an exercise was attempted for preparing a Five Year Plan for 1997-2002. Preparation of a strategic plan is under process.
2. The PMD has helped the individual divisions to formulate their respective annual plans (AP) for 1998 on the basis of the draft FYP.
3. PMD has prepared a comprehensive checklist for planning projects and preparing progress reports.
4. A number of project documents have been prepared; significant few of those are—
(a) Literacy as a Tool for empowerment of the Poor, (b) Construction of the Building for Centre for Development, (c) Establishment of CLRC, d) Strengthening of the GAD Cell, e) Establishment of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital, f) Each One Teach One, g) Strengthening of the Physical and Operational Capacity of IPNE, h) Re-orienting Education for Sustainable Development, and i) Awarwness Creation on Child and Women Trafficking in Bangladesh.

Children's Home

Hafezia Madrasah

Perspective Plan

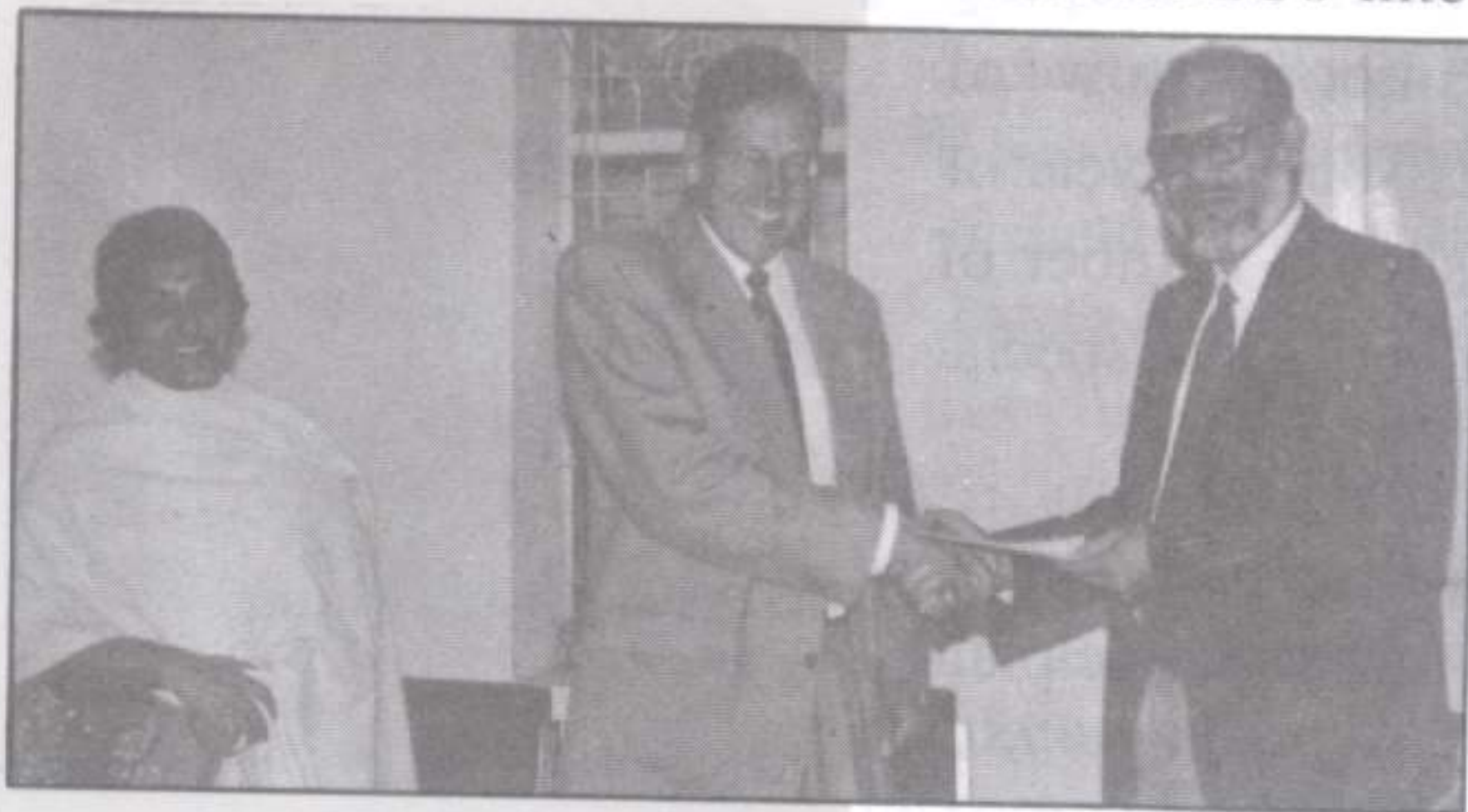
Five Year Plan

New Projects

PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

Dhaka Ahsania Mission believes in the philosophy of partnership for development through pooling of resources, skill and expertise and through sharing of responsibilities. DAM also believes that by working together in a cooperative or collaborative manner with definite goals ahead quicker implementation and better performance can be achieved. DAM, therefore, always makes conscious efforts to develop collaboration and to build up partnership with others - government organizations, national NGOs, international organizations, bilateral or multilateral donor agencies.

With this particular purpose of building up wider partnership with an increasing number of international partners DAM created its International Affairs Division three years back. This Division is responsible, inter alia, for maintenance of contact with DAM's international development partners as well as to



look for new partners not only for continuation of DAM's continuing programme of activities but also for new programmes like, prevention of women & child trafficking setting up of resource centre for child labour, establishment of Cancer Hospital, Strengthening of the IPNE, etc.

During the period under report relations with the EU delegation in Dhaka, the Danish, German, Netherlands, French and Japanese Embassies and the U.K. and Australian High Commissions were strengthened. Abroad contacts we developed with the Department of Foreign Affairs of Ireland, a number of Universities in Great Britain and Canada and with NGOs in Great Britain and Ireland, USA, Germany, the Netherlands, Australia and Japan were revitalized. Conversely we received representatives of many overseas organizations either in our office or in other locations in the city, notably: BILANCE and Memisa of the Netherlands, C.U. War on Want and CAFOD of England, the Overseas Service Bureau of Australia, Ryerson University of Canada of Ireland, the Ambassador of in New Delhi, SPIEC and ACCU of Japan, the UNHCR, UNESCO and the Heifer Project Int'l of USA.

INSTITUTE OF LITERACY AND ADULT EDUCATION (ILAE)

Education is the main concern of DAM and so it considers education to be the most important basic input of development. For this reason DAM has been trying its best to serve the cause of education, particularly the non-formal education sector, through provision of technical and infrastructural facilities. With that end in view, DAM established the Institute of Literacy and Adult Education (ILAE) in 1984.

This is the only Institute of its kind in the country. *The Institute has been recognized by the Ministry of Education, Government of Bangladesh as the National Training Institute for Literacy Personnel. The ILAE is the focal point institution for the purpose of UNESCO sponsored APPEAL Training Materials for Literacy Personnel.*

The main objectives of the Institute are-

- Development of non-formal education personnel through appropriate training, workshops and other devices;
- Development of non-formal basic and continuing education materials for different age groups;
- Development and improvement of technical skills of various occupational groups.

ILAE also provides advisory and consultancy services on planning, designing, implementation, management, research, evaluation and monitoring of non-formal education programmes, to various agencies and government and non-government organizations.

ILAE is a special organ of DAM, rather an institution so to say, and is engaged in curriculum development, materials development for all groups and grades of non-formal education, continuing education materials, materials for all other programmes including environment and anti-drug network, women's development, health education programme among others and includes text books/primers, posters, stickers, news letters and magazines etc. as also audio-visual materials. The



ILAE also collects, preserves all available non-formal education materials published by DAM as well as other agencies in the country as also in the neighbouring countries for the planners and researchers on education, particularly non-formal education.

Khanbahadur Ahsanullah Teachers Training College (KATTC)

Dhaka Ahsania Mission is a development organization in all senses of the term and therefore extends its attention and activity to whatever aspects of our national life it finds intervention necessary and possible. Teacher training so as to meet the needs of the ever expanding secondary education sector is one such field which needs physical expansion as well as qualitative improvement to face the challenges of the future. Consequent upon the recent measures and efforts to universalize primary education, rapid expansion in the secondary education sector is



inevitable. Hence, DAM considered it essential to go for pioneering a project of offering secondary school teachers training in the private sector. Besides supplementing the government efforts to provide teachers training through the 10 government teachers training colleges, DAM's initiative was also a path finder one, as we find a few more teachers training colleges came up in

the private sector following our example and are now trying to stabilize their role and position in this important area of formal education in the country. Another innovative and far sighted approach of DAM in this field is its collaboration with the Bangladesh Christian Education Commission under which a second campus of the KATTC was opened in the St. Joseph High School Campus in 1995.

Application of new innovative approaches in the organization and conduct of the curricular and co-curricular activities and sincere and devoted services of all involved in the running of the college resulted in the achievement of an excellent performance quality in the teacher education and training sector in the country.

The following table shows the performance of the college in the university examinations during the period from 1992-1998.

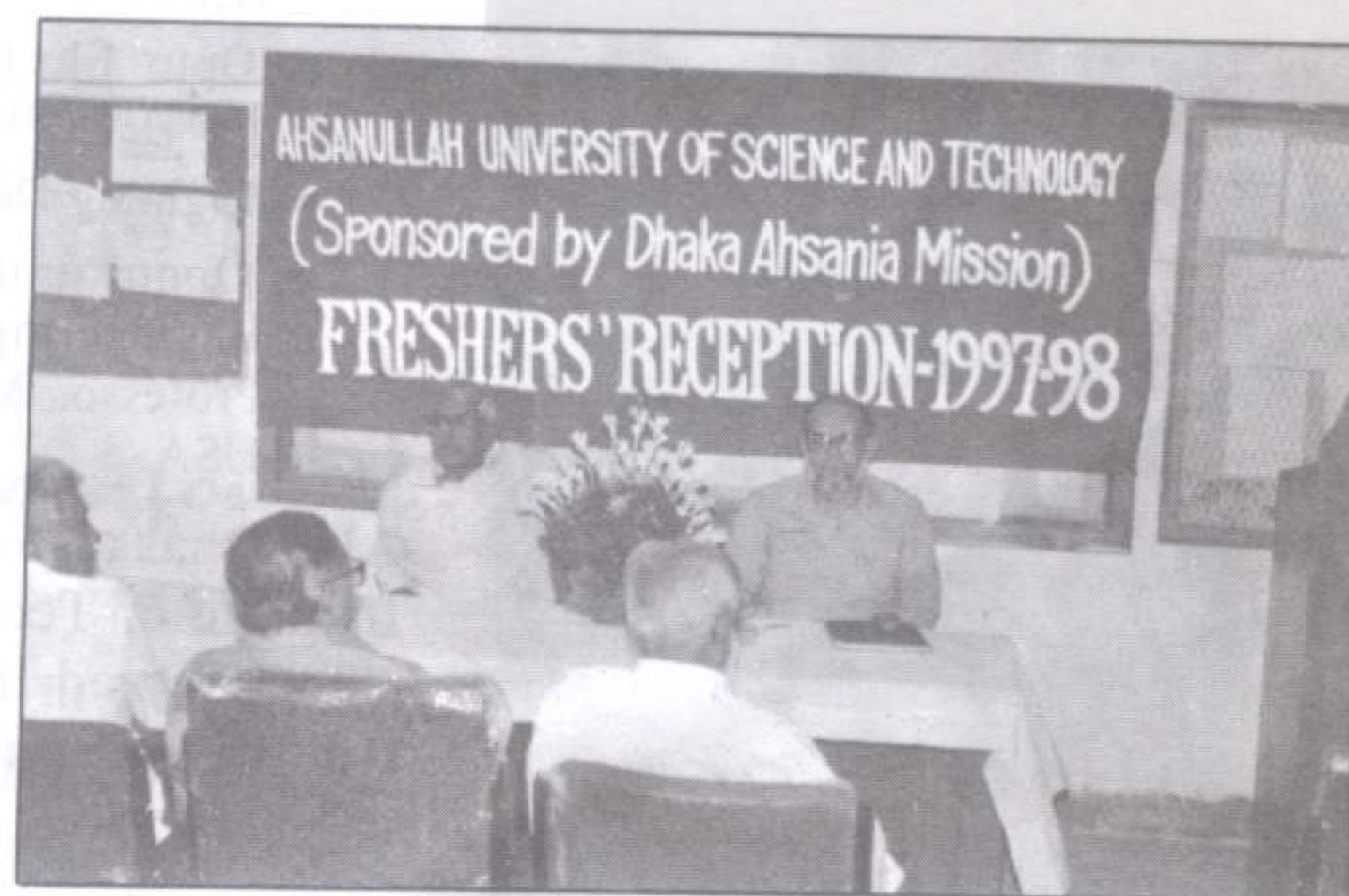
Table No.08 : Results of KATTC in the University Examinations.

Academic Year	Total Examinees	First Class	Higher Second Class	Second Class	Absentees	% of success
1992-93	124	39	97	05	01	99.0%
1993-94	226	93	122	09	02	99.2%
1994-95	223	33	176	16	08	96.6%
1995-96	359	77	266	0	09	98%
1996-97	423	67	-	343	01	97.15%

In July, 1997, 545 students enrolled themselves in KATTC for the 1997-1998 session of whom 315 are women.

Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST)

In spite of a phenomenal growth in the recent time in the different fields of higher education in the country the existing facilities have been found to be very inadequate compared to the total demand and therefore thousands of students have to go abroad to receive higher education causing a big drain or hard earned foreign exchange. This led the government to make legal provisions by an Act of the Parliament in 1992 to allow private sector initiatives for establishment of universities. Responding to this opportunity a number of private universities sprang up but mostly with a profit motive. DAM itself a non-profit development NGO considered it necessary to establish its own university not as a stereotyped one but as an innovative one - innovative in the field of courses and curriculum, as also in the curriculum delivery systems. As of now *the university offers degree courses of 4 to 5 years duration in Architecture, Civil Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering, and Business Administration.*



In the 1997-98 session 565 students were studying in different faculties of the university of whom 291 in the first year, 148 in the second year and 126 in the third year.

The Bangladesh Open University has proposed to open a Tutorial Centre for 'Diploma in Computer Application Programme' (under the Faculty of School of Science and Technology) of two years duration from January, 1998 in the

University. This will be the first step of collaboration of AUST with a Government University.

For doing Collaborative Research in the field of Technical Training, Technological input for different programmes in the field of Technical Education a Memorandum of Understanding between Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology and Centre for Occupational Research and Education (CORE) has been signed on 14.8.97.

During the period under report AUST held the following seminars :



- *'The Private University of Science and Technology at the Service of a Developing country : Models, Modes and Mechanism for Higher Education and Training'* (28th February, 1997). Paper presented by Professor M.L. Sanderson, Cranfield University, Bedfordshire, UK.
- *'Optical Computing and Neural Network'* held on the 10th August 1997. Paper presented by Dr. A.A.S. Awal, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Wright State University, USA.
- *'Engineering Curriculum Modification to Include Research Results and New Technologies'* (19th October 1997). Paper presented by Dr. Sadrul Ula, Ph.D., University of Wyoming, USA.
- *'VLSI in Industry'* (17th December 1997.) Paper presented by Mr. Mujibur Rahman, VLSI Design Engineer, Cyrix Corporation, Texas, USA.
- *'Logic Design'* (18th December 1997.) Paper presented by Professor F. Islam, Texas A & M University, USA.
- *'System Loss in Bangladesh : Towards its Identification & Remedies'* (5 April 1998).
- *'Opto Electronics & Fiber-optic Telecommunication'* (13 May 1998).
- *'Lighting Design'* (18 May 1998).
- *'Opportunities for study in Computer Science/Computer Engineering in USA'* (June 30, 1998). Paper presented by Professor Mustafa A. Kamal, Central Mission State University, USA.

AUST has also established **two specialized institutes**, viz. - Institute of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (ITVET) and Institute of Primary and Non-formal Education (IPNE) and **one Centre** for Extension Service (CES) within its jurisdiction.

Institute of Technical & Vocational Education & Training (ITVET)

As the existing opportunities for technical and vocational education and training in the country are very limited, many of the secondary school graduates do not get a chance to pursue technical and vocational education and thus remain unemployable. Against this backdrop DAM considered it

necessary to establish an institute where there would be opportunities for technical & vocational education of the secondary school graduates who are either sitting idle or working elsewhere but have a desire for further education and/or improvement of skills. Accordingly the Institute of Technical & Vocational Education and Training (ITVET) was established in 1996 under the Ahsanullah University of Science & Technology (AUST). The Institute is the first of its kind in the private sector in Bangladesh offering mid-level technical education with an innovative delivery method.

The Institute now offers programmes in five disciplines, viz. Architectural Technology, Civil Technology, Electronic Technology and Computer Technology leading to the award of Diploma-in-Engineering. The courses are open to all types of S.S.C graduates irrespective of age or year of passing S.S.C Examination. As the programme operates in the afternoon and evening persons engaged in full time jobs also can join the programme as regular students. The institute envisages to introduce certificate courses for skill training for various clientele groups including secondary school drop outs as well as graduates of different non-formal education programmes and formal primary cycles.

For the 1997-98 session the Institute admitted 175 new students in different departments (Architecture Technology 16, Civil Technology 14, Computer Technology 110, Electrical Technology 12 and Electronic Technology 23).

Number of students pursuing different courses in the session is 369; year wise number being 175 first year, 134 second year and 160 third year.

Institute of Primary and Non-formal Education (IPNE)

Considering the ever increasing demand of professionally qualified and trained personnel in the fast expanding primary and non-formal education sub-sectors in Bangladesh as also elsewhere and in the absence of sufficient formal institutional facilities for producing such personnel, the Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology, so to say, DAM, felt the urgent need of establishing the Institute of Primary and Non-formal Education (IPNE) for the purpose of offering need-oriented post-graduate programmes to meet the requirement of qualified manpower, especially mid-level personnel, in the primary and non-formal education sub-sectors.

The Institute in July 1997 started functioning by offering a full-time post graduate degree programme, in non-formal education called B.Ed. (Non-Formal). B.Ed.(Primary) programme will start in the next year which will be followed by full-time M.Ed. (Non-formal) and M.Ed.(Primary) programmes.

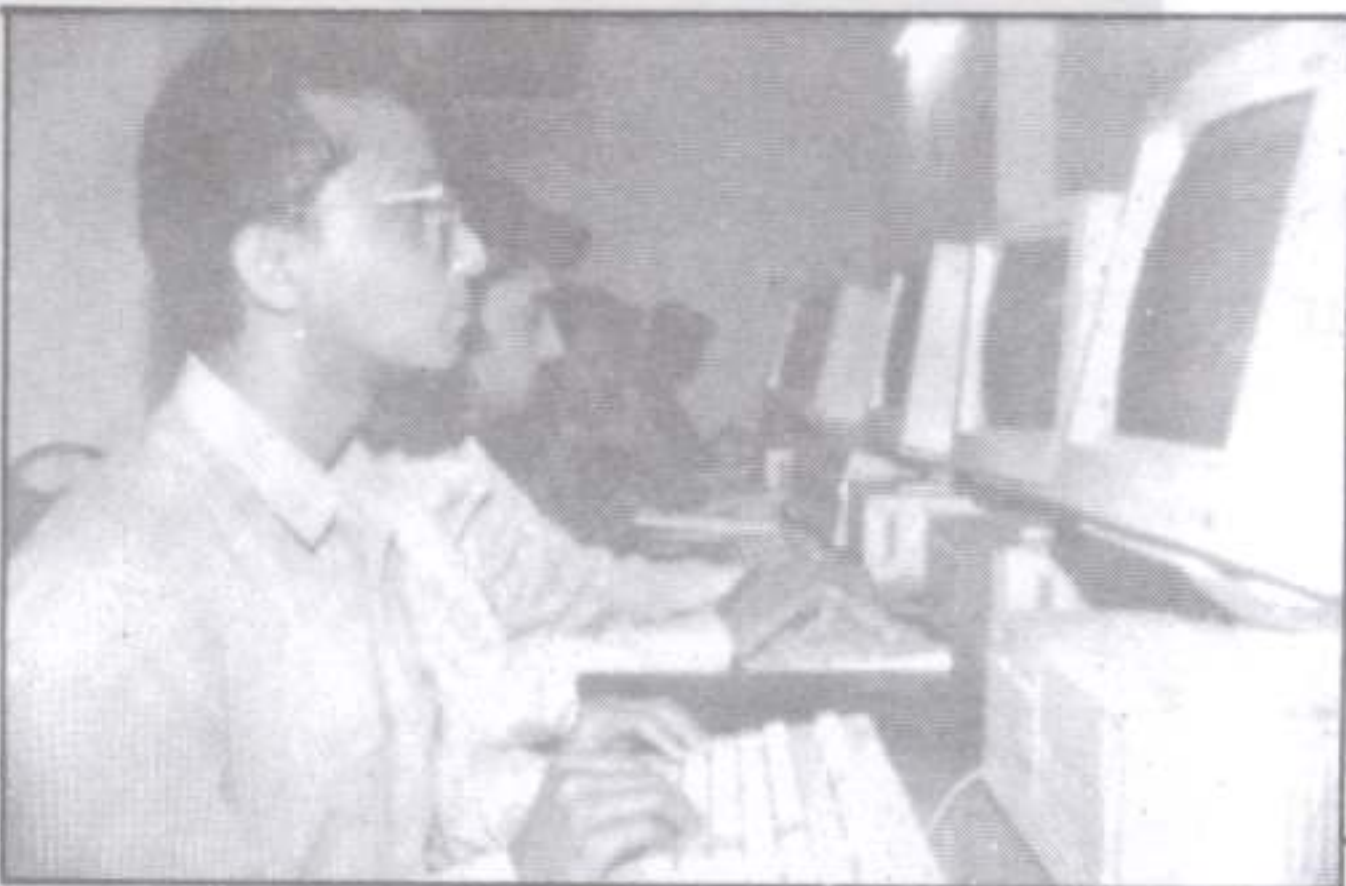
In 1997-98 session, 16 students were pursuing the B.Ed. (Non-Formal) programme almost all of whom came from different NGO's.

In the near future the Institute will offer part-time B.Ed. and M.Ed. Programmes and conduct short-term and tailor-made courses as and when required. It will organise seminars, workshops, conferences, conduct research and sponsor publication of educational literature also.

DAM plans to make IPNE a Centre of Excellence and keep it open to students and scholars both from home and abroad.

Centre for Extension Service (CES)

The Centre for Extension Service (CES) has been established in February, 1997.



Under this Centre all outside jobs relating to sponsored research, testing, consultation, designing, training courses etc. will be done -

Under the Centre the following courses were conducted during the period under report.

- Course on *C++ Programming with Operating System and Application Software* of five months' duration was conducted from 15.02.1997.
- Course on *Computer Aided Design using AutoCAD 13* of five Weeks' duration was conducted from the 2nd August, 1997.
- Course on *Visual Basic (ver. 4) Programming to create powerful applications for Microsoft Windows operating system* of 8 weeks' duration was conducted from the 15th September, 1997.

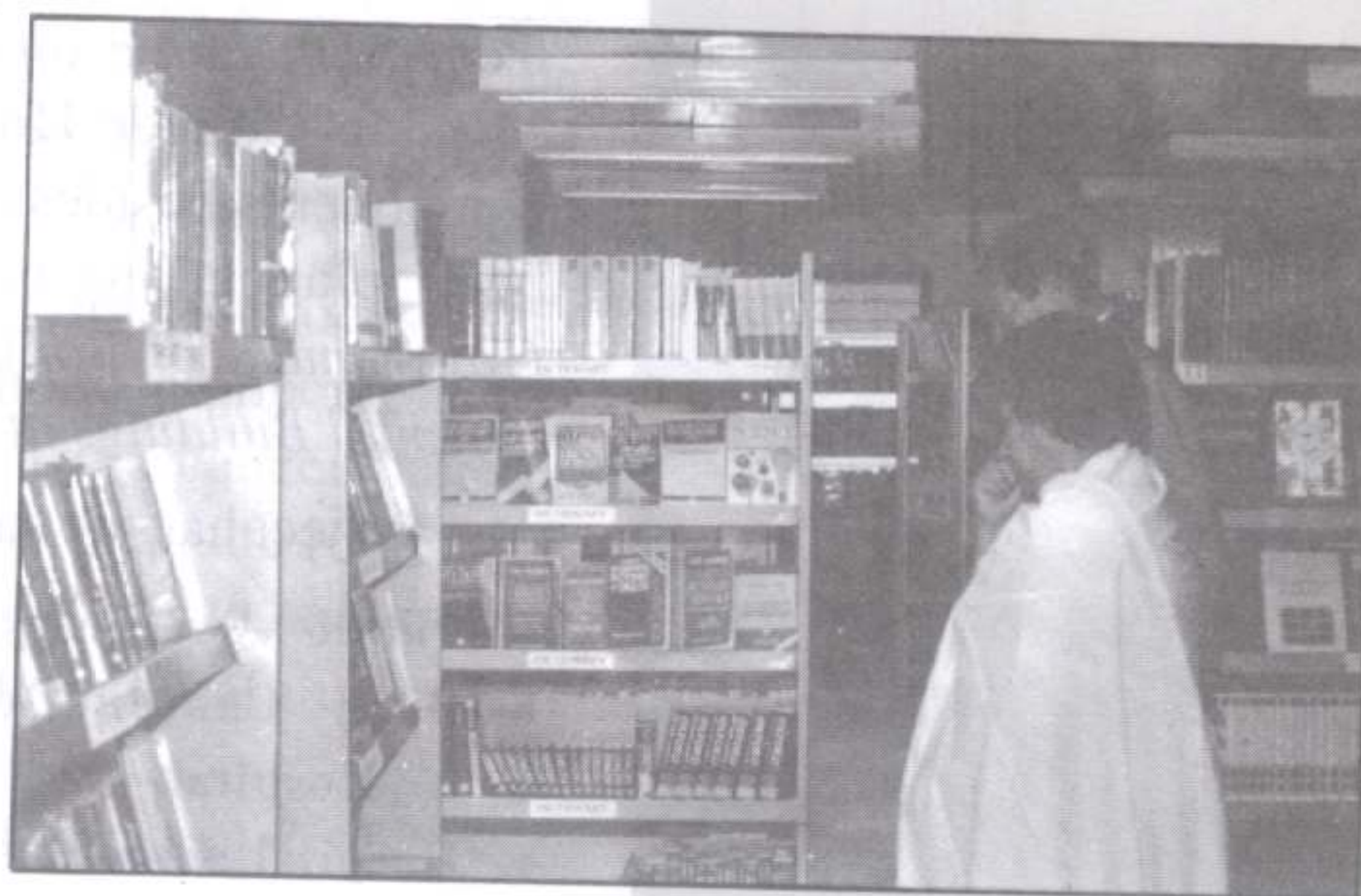
Ahsania Mission Book Distribution House (AMBDH)

In financing all its development programmes and activities the Mission has all through been dependent on external cooperation, assistance and help from its well-wishers and development partners. DAM considers that such dependence should be reduced as much and as early as possible. That means, DAM considered it wise to go for building up its own resource base, as much as possible. After a critical analysis of the book world situation in Bangladesh it was revealed that there was no single book distributing agency to distribute and sell books all over the country and that book promotion as also promotion of readership in Bangladesh was a neglected area. Specially on these two considerations Ahsania Mission Book Distribution House (AMBDH) was established in 1995.

Some of the other objectives of AMBDH are-

- promotion of reading habit among the literate section of the people of Bangladesh;
- making all books, magazines and reading materials produced and printed in Bangladesh available throughout the country;
- distribution of books, magazines and materials printed/produced in foreign countries which may be of value to the citizens of Bangladesh;
- exporting books produced in Bangladesh to different countries of the world and creating a demand for those and thereby projecting and promoting Bangladesh publications abroad;
- facilitating small book sellers in Bangladesh to draw all types of books on credit for the wider distribution and availability of such publication at the local level by involving the financial institutions like banks in the process.

AMBDH is housed in an excellent building in a posh area of Dhanmondi in the city on Mirpur road and has developed an excellent show room or display centre with all modern facilities including latest computer and information technology. Through its CD ROM catalogue one can reach the global book market and even have a glimpse of the future world publication situation down to three years.



Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital (AMCH)

Cancer is one of the major killer diseases in Bangladesh as in many other countries. Through appropriate education, awareness building and preventive measures, it can be avoided in many cases or at least its sufferings can be brought to the minimum. Also curative medical interventions, if applied timely and appropriately, can do a lot to minimise the sufferings to allow a healthy living. Unfortunately little has been done in Bangladesh as of now in the field of preventive education, research or in the field of treatment of cancer.

Against the above backdrop Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) has come up with a project for establishing a cancer hospital *entirely on a voluntary basis with the cooperation and assistance from both home and abroad* under the name of **Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital** which will have other necessary components besides offering hospital services. The project has been planned to be implemented during 1998-2003. *The Government of Bangladesh has already allotted land for the Hospital Buildings at Tongis, Dhaka.*

The project has the following five components :

- **Public Awareness & Education Programme**
- **Early Cancer Detection Centres**
- **A Hospital**
- **Hospital Care at Home**
- **Research**

Education Programme

There is a lack of awareness among the people about the various aspects of cancer causes, symptoms and its prevention, control and treatment. The awareness/education programme will be directed to-

- a. create awareness among the people about cancer.
- b. educate the people about the various ways of prevention as also the formation of cancer, food habits, life styles etc..
- c. disseminate information about the facilities available for the treatment of cancer.
- d. prepare books, booklets, posters stickers etc. and other information materials including A/V materials on different aspect of cancer.

Early Cancer Detection Centres (ECDC)

There was a time when cancers were considered beyond any cure. But it is now known that many of the cancers can be cured

or at least kept under control if only these are detected at an early stage. The project therefore envisages the establishment of 6 Early Cancer Detection Centres at six Divisional Headquarters for the purpose of

- undertaking the required investigation for the early detection of cancer;
- persuading cancer patients to undertake treatment.
- referring and recommending cancer patients for treatment in the Cancer Hospital.

The Hospital is the main component of the project. It will be a full-fledged hospital set up in the city of Dhaka with 200 beds initially run on "no profit no loss" basis. Patients will be divided into two groups. From the first group full cost of the treatment will be realised while for the second group treatment will be on an affordable cost or full free basis. It will be gradually raised to international standards and the ECDCs at the Divisional Headquarters will be raised to be the branches of the Hospital.

The treatment of cancer is still a long drawn process. In Bangladesh the hospitals with their limited number of beds cannot serve even a minor percentage of the cancer patients requiring services. Hence it is only expedient that after intensive care for a certain period of time "*home service*" can be provided to serve more and more patients. It is only natural that cancer patients living at home will get better psychological support to get rid of melancholy and the treatment of terminal cases could be more effective if treatment in the home atmosphere can be provided.

The Research Centre will undertake research on various aspects of cancer including its treatment in collaboration with other research organizations. Special research will be undertaken on the causes of cancer particular to Bangladesh, arising from our life style and habits - herbs or practices that cure or lessen the incidence of cancer -etc.

Bangladesh Literacy Resource Centre (BLRC)

In order to act as a resource base for information support for capacity building of the relevant agencies involved in NFE Programmes the need for establishment of a Literacy Resource Centre (LRC) can hardly be exaggerated. Dhaka Ahsania

The Hospital

Home Care Service

Research

Mission in cooperation with the Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO, (ACCU), Japan, established in 1995 the Literacy Resource Centre for Girls and Women in Bangladesh. The BLRC is to be housed in the spacious first floor of DAM's own multistory building, construction of which has progressed satisfactorily during 1997. It has started functioning in the new building in April 1998.

Set up with the purpose and objective to act, inter alia, as a data-base of NFE in general and of girl's and women's education in particular, as a centre to facilitate gender development, as a documentation centre for literacy activities and as a clearing house of literacy materials the centre has started to performing the following functions:

- Collection, preservation, dissemination of information relating to literacy activities;
- Organization of training courses on capacity building;
- Arrangement for exchange or sharing of services and resources;
- Providing support services to develop programmes for mass-media;
- Providing documentation services with AV unit and data base of literacy programmes and activities;
- Establishment of communication network at different levels.

Child Labour Resource Centre (CLRC)

In Bangladesh, as elsewhere, child labour has become a part of life for the poor section of the population. This is depriving the children of their basic rights and retarding their growth and development both physical and mental. The parents and guardians of these children have not much knowledge and awareness about the harmful effects of child labour in respect of physical and mental growth of them, the employers, on the other hand, are out and out for profit and never hesitate to employ child labour at a low wage and without providing minimum amenities at the work place. And the children are completely ignorant about their own position and do not know the way out of the situation.

Various government and non-government organizations are currently working with the programme for elimination of child labour. But very often organizations working on child labour elimination face difficulty for want of appropriate information and technical services in terms of training and resource materials in this field. To meet this requirement DAM took up the responsibility of setting up of a Child Labour Resource Centre (CLRC) in Bangladesh.



The centre has already started functioning with activities like-collection of information on child labour situation, various legal and resource documents and preparing materials like : booklet, folder, poster, newsletter and bulletin etc. for education, awareness and advocacy for gradual elimination of child labour.

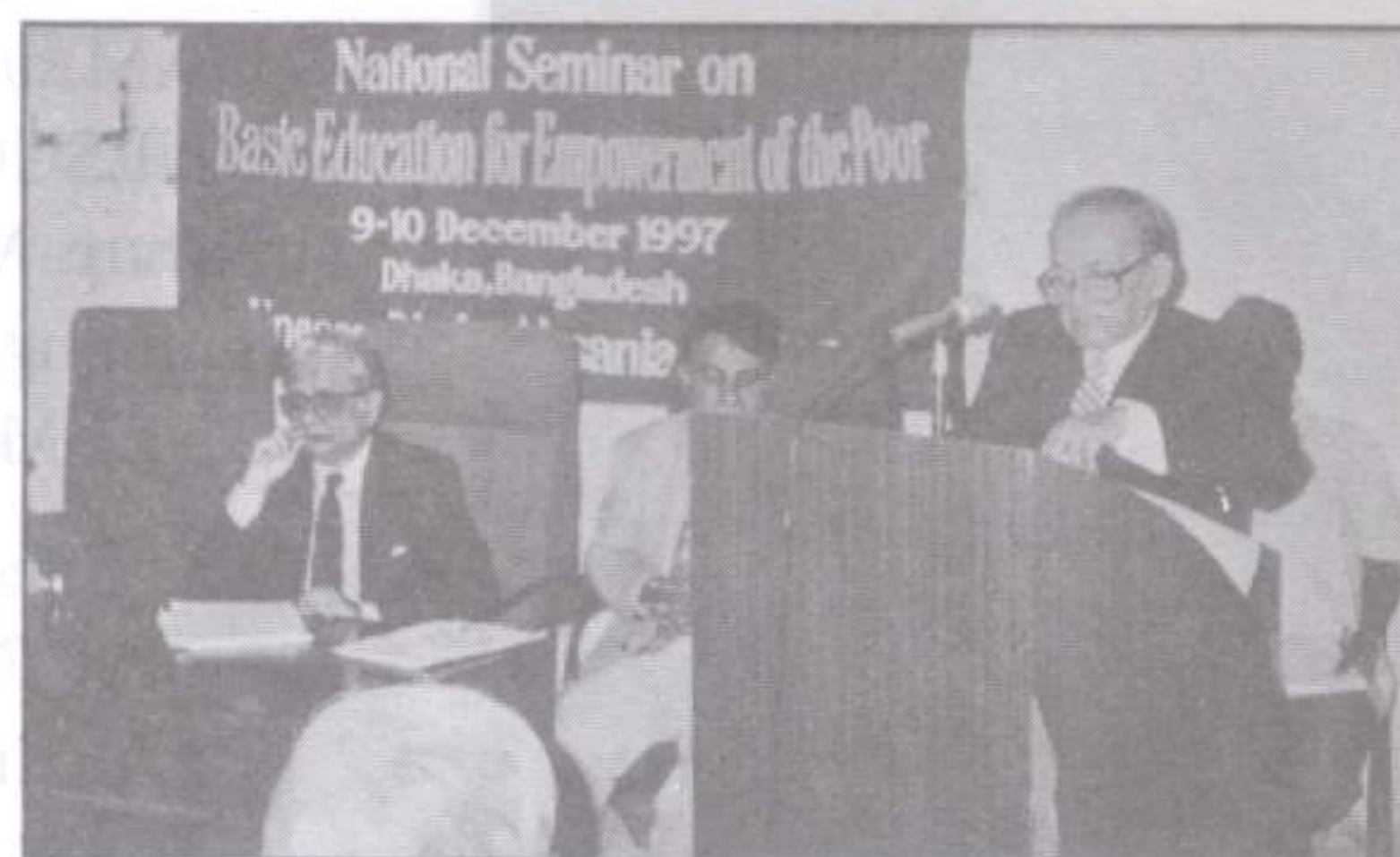
PARTICIPATION IN UN ACTIVITIES

Dhaka Ahsania Mission is constitutionally obligated to foster the ideas and ideals of the United Nations and of all other organizations of the UN family. In recognition of its activities to that end the UN ECOSOC accredited Dhaka Ahsania Mission with Consultative Status (Category II) in 1993. DAM has been associating itself with the programmes and activities of various UN family organizations, especially UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP, ESCAP, UNDCP, UNHCR etc.

Of all the international organizations with which DAM has working relations, UNESCO is the most important one. DAM's Institute of Literacy and Adult Education has been designated by UNESCO as the focal point institution for the purpose of APPPEAL Training Materials for Literacy Personnel. Accordingly DAM translated into Bangla 5 APPEAL Training Materials which are now being widely used in Bangladesh. DAM not only participates in programmes and activities of UNESCO but has also been actively involved in the organization and conduct of various activities, especially workshops on Adult Education and other areas of Non-formal Education including Continuing Education. DAM has, so to say, been given the leadership role in this sub-region in the field of non-formal education, development of literacy primers and follow-up and continuing education materials and training of literacy personnel.

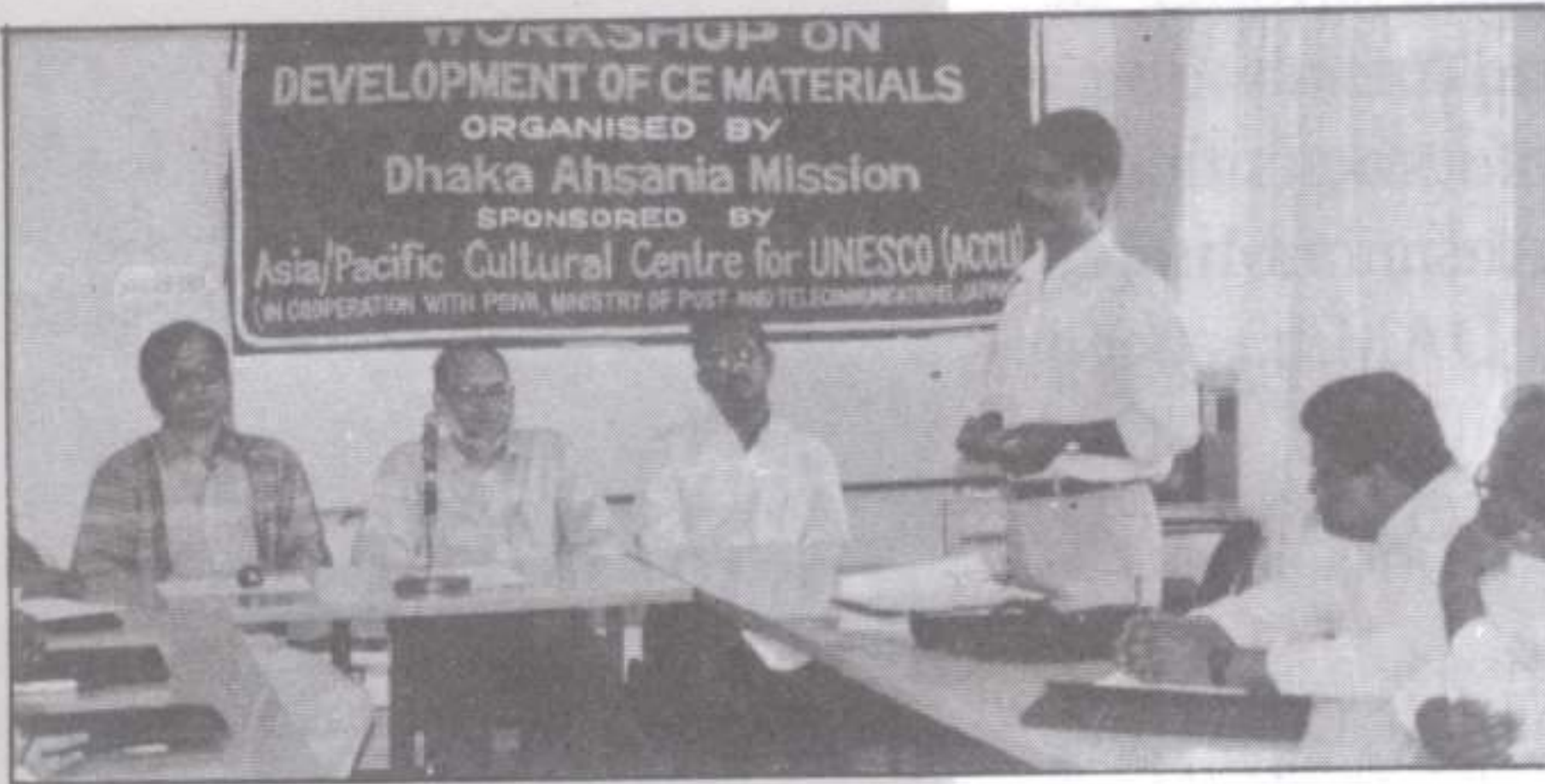
As in the previous year, during the period under report DAM actively participated in and/or organized a number of activities the UN Agencies including UNESCO.

- Following the Sub-regional Workshop on Continuing Education for Development held in Dhaka from 28 May - 6 June, 1996. UNESCO designated Dhaka Ahsania Mission to organize from December'96 - April'97, on behalf of UNESCO, 4 national workshops on Continuing Education for Development, one each in Dhaka (Bangladesh), New Delhi (India), Kathmandu (Nepal) and Lahore (Pakistan) and



at the same time to provide these workshops with resource persons to facilitate their organisation. These workshops were organized from 29 December 1996 - 7 January 1997 (Dhaka), 24 February 1997 - 5 March 1997 (New Delhi), 10-19 March 1997 (Kathmandu), and 7-16 April 1997 (Lahore) respectively. The Executive Director of DAM acted as the co-organiser and resource person in each of these workshop.

- Under a UNESCO initiated Technical Support Services Project for the UNESCO Member countries in the Asia Pacific region under its APPEAL Programme, *DAM* was designated as a 'nodal centre' to undertake a study on 'Reorienting Basic Education Towards Poverty Alleviation and Improvement of Quality of Life' - in the Bangladesh context. The study was completed in February 1997.



- DAM's Executive Director on special invitation from UNESCO, Bangkok participated in the Technical Working Group Meeting on APPEAL Inter-country Resource and Training Consortium (ARTC) organised in Pune, India from 21-27 May 1997.
- The Executive Director participated in the Planning Meeting on ACCU Regional Literacy Programmes in Asia & the Pacific held in Japan in July 1997.
- The Executive Director, DAM represented the Mission in the Conference on Adult Education **Confentia-V** held in Hamburg, Germany in July, 1997.
- On request from UNESCO, Mr. Shahnewaz Khan, Director, Training & Materials Development Division of DAM assisted UNESCO, PROAP during 1-31 August 1997 in organising and conducting a Regional Workshop on Planning & Monitoring of Literacy & Continuing Education.



- DAM organised a national seminar from 9-11 December 1997 to review proposed regional programme framework on 'Literacy as a tool for empowerment of the Poor' in the

Bangladesh contest on request of UNESCO, Bangkok.

- On request from UNESCO, DAM organised a regional Expert Group Consultation Meeting on Development of NFE Data Base held in Dhaka from 15-18 December 1997.
- The Executive Director of DAM attended the 41th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs held in Vienna from 11-20 March, 1998.
- The Executive Director also participated in the 20th Special Session of the UN General Assembly which was devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, trafficking in and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substance held in New York from 8-10 June 1998.

Refugee Counselling Service Unit (RCSU)

The Refugee Counselling Service Unit (RCSU) of Dhaka Ahsania Mission has been working since 1993 offering its counselling and social services to the Urban Refugees under UNHCR in Bangladesh. As per terms of contract with UNHCR the RCSU's services include distribution of subsistence allowance, extending support for medical care, primary and secondary education of children, higher education of selected persons, skill development etc.

The following are some of the important activities undertaken by RCSU during the year under report:

- Subsistence allowance was provided to 101 refugees per month on an average.
- Medical assistance was provided to the refugees who needed it for consultancy, hospitalization, medicine and pathological tests, etc. and still going on.

Based on profiling exercise, (June, 1997 - September 1997) a decision was taken by UNHCR, Bangladesh Office, Dhaka to provide a lump sum amount equivalent to 6 months subsistence allowances plus subsistence allowance of the receiving month (in addition, a lump sum amount for tools & equipment and skill development training) to concerned ICs in order to be self-sufficient in Bangladesh on temporary basis until a durable solution can be found on condition that acceptance of such lump sum will make the concerned individual case ineligible for further UNHCR financial & medical assistance with effect from the date of receipt of said lump sum amount. However, lump sum grant have been extended upto 10 months depending on individual self-reliant project.



PRIZES AND AWARDS

DAM received prizes and awards for its meritorious works in the field of non-formal education, materials development and human resource development almost every year. In 1997 it received 12 national awards & regional prizes. The following is a list of prizes and awards received by DAM on various fields of its activities during the period from 1991-1997.

Year	Particulars of Awards/Prizes received
1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1st prize for best Managing Committee of NFE Centre in Gaibandha - 2nd prize for the publication of innovative follow up materials for the neo-literates from DNFE, GOB. - 10 best prizes at regional level awarded by DNFE, GOB.
1996	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grand Prize from the Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU), Japan for Literacy follow-up materials on environment - Honourable Mention from ACCU, Japan for a Video under the title -"Rewards of Literacy". - 2nd prize from the DNFE Government of Bangladesh for innovative literacy follow-up materials.
1995	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ESCAP HRD AWARD 1994 for significant contribution to Non-formal Education, especially of Girls and Women: - 3rd prize for Non-formal Education Materials Development (Video on a distressed woman) from ACCU, Japan. - 2nd Prize for the Publication of follow-up materials for the Neo-literates from INFEP, GOB (1st prize was not awarded) - 3rd Prize for publication of ALAP (the Dialogue), a monthly newsletter for the Neo-literates and for Continuing Education from INFEP, GOB. - Special Prize for the publication of a wall magazine for the neo-literates and for Continuing Education from INFEP, GOB.
1993	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In recognition of its contribution to the socio-economic development including education the organization was accredited with Consultative Status (Category-II) with the UN ECOSOC.
1992	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Honourable Mention for Non-formal Education Materials Development (Posters on Equal Rights for Women) from ACCU, Japan.
1991	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Received 4 Awards including the first prize from NAPE, Mymensing for Non-formal Education Materials Development.



FINANCIAL SITUATION

From a modest beginning DAM has been expanding its activities gradually in all of its field of operation with higher and higher amounts involved in financial transactions. As of June, 1994, the figures of financial involvement were more than 64% higher than the figures of June, 1993, the figures of June, 1995 were 65% higher than those of June, 1994 the figures of June, 1996 were 64% higher than those of June, 1995 the figures of June, 1997 were 80% higher than the figure of June, 1996 and the figures of June 1998 are 70% higher than these of June 1997. The details of the financial situation is presented in the table below:

Table No.09 : Assets & Liabilities of DAM for the years from June 1993 to June 1998

(figures. in '000 taka)

Items	June 30, '98	June, 30 '97	June 30, '96	June 30, '95	June 30, 1994	June 30, 1993
Fixd Assets	69,565	53,772	17,841	11,621	7,822	6,253
Stocks	10,168	6,239	5,768	2,799	1,387	654
IPCA		1,396				
Revolving Loan in circulation	14,635	20,780	14,369	13,377	1,192	1,267
Advance	32,281	4,932	17,869	4,796	3,117	9,221
Cash at Bank	75,268	29,984	31,986	21,002	17,974	
Accrued Interest (P.F.)	542					
Total Assets	202,460	1,17,103	87,832	53,595	31,492	17,395
General & Project Fund	131,428	73,035	54,100	33,798	26,329	14,847
Revolving Loan Fund	18,133	21,396	21,396	14,302	2,164	1,227
Employee Benefit Fund	2056	1,108	2,562	2,637	1,586	267
Mission Education Fund	276	266	266	235	216	
Members Benevolent Fund	449	403	403	351	299	23
Mission Development. Fund	887	878	878	878	840	1,009
Cutrrrent Liabilities	23,072	6,197	8,227	1,394	58	22
Employee Providend Fund	3,606	1,454				
Missions Trust Fund	960	480	-	-	-	
Capital Fund of HF Madrasah	1,373	1321				
Mission Publication Trust Fund	1,357	1,321	-	-		
University Reserve Fund	18,863	10,565	-	-		
Total Fund & Liabilities	202,460	1,17,103	87,832	53,595	31,492	17,395

our

Development Partners

MoE, MoA, PMED, DNFE, DNC

Government of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh

and

- BILANCE, The Netherlands
- Concern Universal, U.K.
- Kirby Laing Foundation, U.K.
- Heifer Project Int'l, USA
- GOAL, Ireland
- Electric Aid, Ireland
- World Mercy Fund, Ireland/Austria
- Royal Danish Embassy
- Save the Children Fund, U.K.
- Canadian High Commission, Dhaka.
- Helen Keller International
- SKN, The Netherlands
- IIZ, Germany
- DANIDA, Denmark
- DfID, UK
- CAFOD, U.K.
- MEMISA, The Netherlands
- APSO, Ireland
- RTE One World Fund, Ireland
- AIDLINK, Ireland
- European Union
- German Caritas
- VSO of U.K.
- Lauback Literacy Int'l, USA
- CTA, Toronto, Canada
- Dept of Foreign Affairs, Ireland
- Hiroshima University, Japan
- ACCU, Japan
- Church of LDS, USA
- War on Want, U.K.

and also

UNESCO

ILO

ESCAP

UNDP

UNDCP

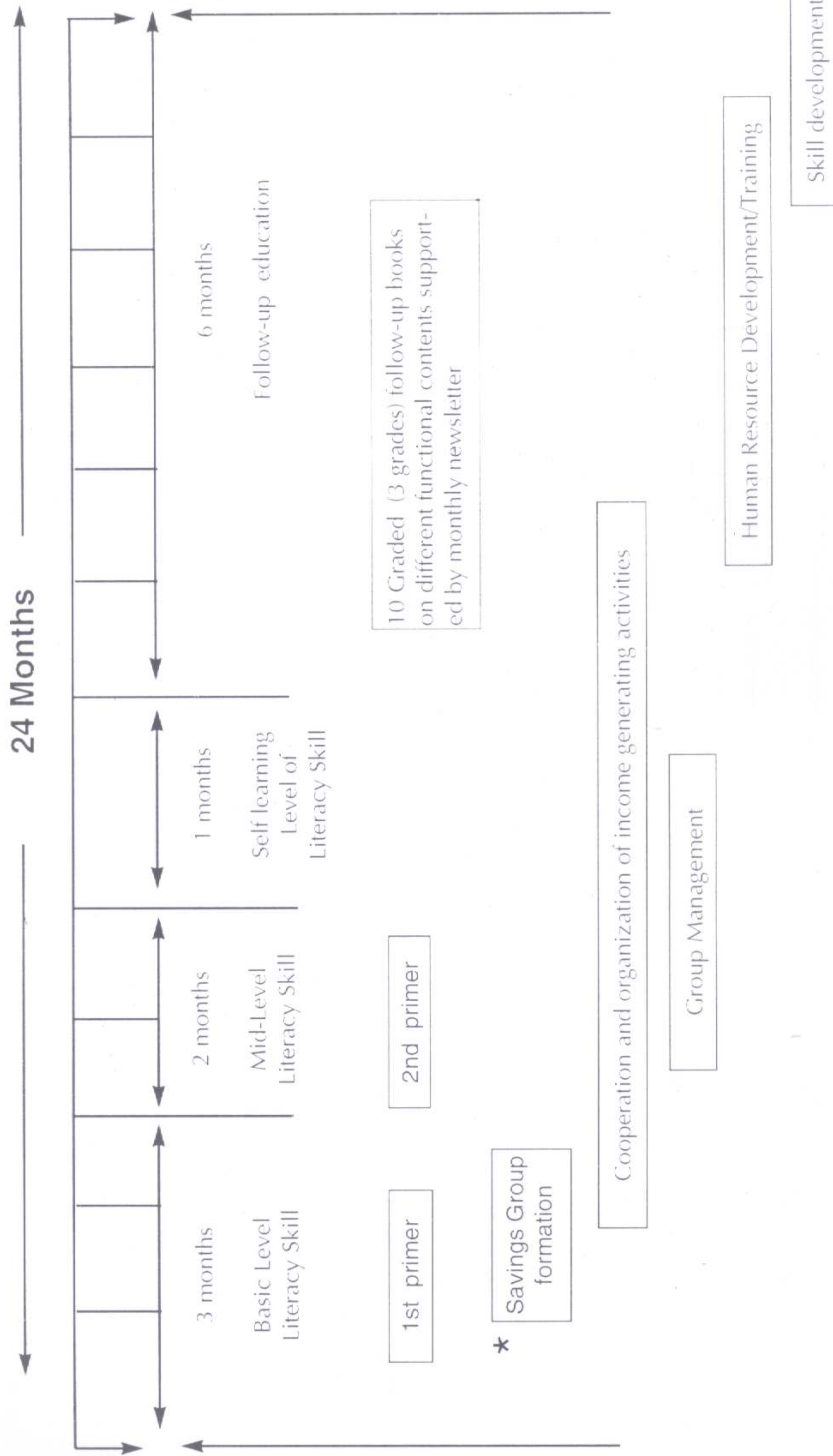
UNHCR

IFAD

Dhaka Ahsania Mission

Dhaka, Bangladesh

Sperad of Adult Literacy Programme



* Savings Group formation starts when the learners feel that they need it.

SPREAD OF DAM's ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT BANGLADESH

