

## **Imam Orientation Training on Compulsory Primary Education** (Published in 1993)

### **a) Researchers' Identity**

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### **b) Objectives**

The following were the specific objectives of the study:

- i. To determine some socio-economic characteristics of the Imams;
- ii. To study the activities undertaken by the Imams and to identify some results of their efforts;
- iii. To explore their ways and means of dissemination of messages on education and their involvement in it;
- iv. To find out their monitoring processes on the activities undertaken by them; and
- v. To get some feed back information from them on the training programme they attended.

### **c) Executive summary**

The study titled "Imam Orientation Training on Compulsory Primary Education" was carried out in three districts of Rajshahi Division. Total number of respondents for the study was 27 Thanas of Rajshahi, Rangpur and Bogra districts were selected for this purpose. Data were collected from the respondents through a structured questionnaire. Besides, a simple guideline was used to get the opinion of the general public about motivating parents and school children by the trained Imams.

This report is an outcome of rapid appraisal and should not be considered as an indepth study. Total time allocation for the study was only one month. However, attempt was made to provide correct information on the study through checking and cross checking of collected data.

From the study it was found that beside their normal activities, majority of the Imams undertook some social mobilization activities for CPE after attending the training course. Some of those activities were: motivation of guardians for enrolment of their children, identification of dropout children, introduction of basic education along with religious education and speaking about CPE on every Friday (Jumma Payer day).

It was also found that after identification of dropped out school children, Imams had been able to send good number of children to schools for attending compulsory Primary Education. They also brought some books on basic education from various sources and distributed among the children. Some of them also maintained records on activities related to CPE.

Majority of the Imams expressed their satisfaction on overall management of the training course. On the other hand they remarked about the short duration of the course and suggested to extend duration of the future courses. However, they have mentioned that the knowledge they gathered at the training course have immensely benefited them.

Since the study had undertaken only after 5 months following the completion of the kraaling courses model, it may be early to make evaluation statements on the effectiveness of the Imams in the implementation of CPE. To make the training course more useful, courses with longer duration would be required. Proper criteria for selection of Imams should have to be made. Imams of the mosques situated in the countryside should be given preference in this regard.

#### **d) Conclusions**

The compulsory Primary Education is a government launched programme. The target of this programme is to educate the school going children throughout the country and the ultimate aim of this programme is to increase the literacy rate phasewise.

Success of any development programme depends on the education level of the beneficiaries. Education would enrich their knowledge which ultimately allows them to participate in decision making process and discharge duties

efficiently. On the basis of the above mentioned theme, launching social mobilization activities is very important. Considering Imam as one effective media towards popularising CEF is thus very appropriate.

Five months have already been passed that Imams have got time to work on CPE in their respective locality. Within this period a good number of Imams undertook some activities on CPE, discussion on CPE programme in their mosques, teaching some subjects of basic education along with religious education and encouraging guardians to send their children to schools. Activities performed by the Imams during this period are undoubtedly a good achievement.

The duration of training was one day. They found the training programme very much useful for them. But they were not happy about the duration of course. Study reveals that if Imams would be organized in better ways then Imams would be able to bring remarkable achievement towards successful implementation of CPE programme.

