

Seva Mandir, Udaipur, Rajasthan

Seva Mandir was founded by Dr. Mohan Sinha Mehta in 1966. Its objectives are to improve the economic and cultural conditions of rural and urban people and to undertake relief and rehabilitation measures where necessary. The literacy aspects of the program involves one literacy centre in a Harijan colony of Udaipur, ten centres in farming districts in conjunction with the UNESCO—India Farmers' Training and Functional Literacy Program—and the Badgan Panchayat Literacy Project. This latter project which now involves fifty centres has been working since 1969 with the ambitious goal of total literacy in the block within five years.

The Udaipur Centre contains a small complex of rooms which are now being supplemented by an adult education building constructed with the assistance of Rs. 84,000 provided by the Canadian International Development Agency to match support from the Canadian Association for Adult Education. It will contain a library, village youth education facilities, rooms for teachers training courses, dormitories and administrative offices. Other activities include short vocational courses; fortnightly nutrition and child care programs for the Mahila Sabha; student league recreational and cultural programs, social service and labour camps; dramatic society and book clubs.

Eastern Uttar Pradesh Adult Education Association Deoria, U.P.

With an initial grant of Rs. 105,000, World Literacy of Canada has helped to establish an adult education centre in Deoria, a rural area where out of a population of 2½ million only 14% are literate. CIDA has to date contributed Rs. 280,000 for the extension and further development of this project.

The Deoria centre is collaborating with a number of educational institutions in initiating agriculture-oriented literacy programs, mobile libraries and farmers' forum. The Centre also helps to prepare demonstration farms attached to selected educational institutions, operates two libraries, organizes puppetry festivals and workshops, conducts seminars on relevant topics and offers tours for farmers to visit important agricultural research institutions.

Literacy International

There has been a need for some time for an international organization to co-ordinate and assist the activities of non-governmental institutions and agencies involved in adult literacy. Such an organization—Literacy International—is now being formed and will have its headquarters in New Delhi. Membership will be broad and include all organizations involved in promoting adult literacy. The organizers of Literacy International hopes that it will provide a forum through which information, expertise and experience can be exchanged. Its formation may speed the spread of facilities that will mean a better life for millions.

Literacy Information Centre established by the Literacy International Committee, New Delhi. With Miss Barbara Kerfoot, a Canadian University Service Overseas Volunteer who works at the centre, are Miss Meenakshi Dar and Miss Geeta Dhongadi.

