

## Health awareness drive launched in State

By A Staff Reporter

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proving the level of awareness on health and hygiene should be central to any strategy that aims at ensuring better living standards for the people. It is with this objective that the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has started a campaign on health awareness through enhanced interaction between schoolchildren and

teachers.

"The abysmal level of awareness on health and hygiene among the masses can be effectively addressed by involving schoolchildren in the process of dissemination of information. The NRHM seeks to do that by engaging them in productive interactions," Manas Pratim Sarma, district media expert, NRHM, Goalpara, said.

Sarma said that the first part of the three-phase programme had already been conducted in Goalpara district and the response had been encouraging.

"The duration of the programme is 15 days, and we have so far covered about 100 schools. It would be extended so that more schools are covered," he added.

The programme involves interaction among teachers and students on different aspects of health and hygiene. "At the

(See page 4)

## Health awareness ...

(Contd from page 1)

ing adolescence and doing away with misconceptions about health-related issues are also discussed when the students are from the adolescence age group.

According to Sarma, the drive has shown that children naturally take keen interest in knowing and maintaining norms of health and hygiene, and can teach unaware adults a thing or two. Booklets containing health-related information and tips are distributed among the students. "We also encourage group discussion among

the students so that they take more interest in the subject," he added.

As part of its mass awareness programme, the NRHM, Goalpara also organized a street play *Samayyar Khoj* at Panisali recently. Organized together with a health camp conducted by the Red Horn Division of the Indian Army, *Samayyar Khoj* was a play focusing on family planning, hospital delivery, usage of contraceptives, etc.

The play was directed by Dilip Sarma.