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Call to spread pri. edn. all over country

Begum Roushan Ershad on Monday called upon the people to take up the primary education as a movement and put in concerted efforts to reach the light of education to every nook and corner of the country to rid the society of the curse of illiteracy, reports BSS.

Inaugurating a seminar on "education for all by the year 2000" she emphasised the need for ensuring primary education to one hundred per cent children between the age group of six and ten years.

Presided over by Mr. Mahbubur Rahman, Minister for Education, the inaugural session was also addressed by Mr. Golam Sarwar, Deputy Minister for Education and Mr. M.A. Saeed, Secretary, Education Ministry.

She said informal education should be provided to the drop outs from schools and arrangements should be made to provide vocational training to the elderly people so that those could ensure job opportunities.

Begum Roushan Ershad pointed out that the past education programmes could not be successful as those were not realistic.

Begum Roushan Ershad said although education was the key to all developments yet the greater section of the population had been deprived of education for long.

She said as there was no alternative to mother's milk for the growth of a child similarly a nation could never march ahead keeping its population uneducated.

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Pri. education

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Begum Roushan Ershad said the programme of "education for all by the year 2000" was a timely step and added, the people wanted to eliminate all kinds of superstitions through the light of education.

She expressed the hope that the deliberations in the seminar would help formulate policies to carry forward the pace of development in the education sector.

Speaking on the occasion Education Minister Mr. Mahbubur Rahman explained the efforts of the government to promote the education sector. In this context, he pointed out that even from his hospital bed President Ershad had enquired about the educational arena.

He pointed out that the Government had started providing awards to one college in each division annually except two in Dhaka Division for their performances.

Besides, he said, one school in each of the old district areas would be given incentives for their performances.

Our Staff Correspondent adds:— In the afternoon session Mr. Fazle Hasan Abed, Executive Director, BRAC presented the key note paper on "measures taken by BRAC for spread of education and recommendations of non-government organisations.

Mr. Abed stressed the need for joint efforts of the government and non-government organisations to spread education among the country's teeming millions. The government can select areas for the NGOs to eradicate illiteracy, he said. He also suggested adoption of an integrated programme between the government and NGOs for freeing the country from the curse of illiteracy.