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Role of clinical legal education stressed

A two-day workshop on "clinical legal education" began in Dhaka on Friday as part of a process to develop skills of the law teachers and improve the standard of legal education in the country, reports BSS.

Law teachers from the Dhaka University, Islamic University and various law colleges of the country are participating in the workshop organised jointly by Bangladesh Law Teachers Association and Bangladesh Bar Council.

Two papers on the subject were presented at the workshop on the first day on Friday by Prof. Clinton Bamberger, a Fullbright scholar from the United States, and Mr. Yubaraj Sangroula, Director of Clinical Legal Education in the Tribhuvan University of Nepal.

Attorney General Aminul Huq, Chairman of the Legal Education Committee of the Bar Council Barrister Amirul Islam and Secretary General of the Association Barrister Shafiq Ahmed participated in the discussion on the papers.

In his paper Mr. Clinton Bamberger dwelt on various aspects of the clinical legal education and said "the presence of the teaching lawyer to look after the welfare of the client gives the student lawyer confidence that she can do what she thinks best without harming the client."

"Clinical practice gives the student lawyer the opportunity to practice under the protection of the teaching lawyer," he said.

Mr. Clinton Bamberger said a clinical legal education course also provides legal aid to poor people and teaches law students about the legal problems of the poor.

The other paper dealt with legal ethics.

Participating in the discussion Barrister Amirul Islam emphasised the need for improving the standard of legal education in the country along with upholding the rule of law.

He said the source for getting good judges and lawyers ultimately stems from legal education imparted to the students.

Barrister Shafiq Ahmed explained in detail the need for giving democracy an institutional base.

The session was concluded after questions and discussion on various aspects of the clinical legal education.