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Literacy workshop begins

A fortnight long sub-regional workshop on "Training for Literacy Trainers" began in Dhaka on Wednesday emphasising spread of mass education for the socio-economic and political development of the region, reports UNB.

Education Adviser Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui inaugurated the workshop jointly organised by the Education Ministry and Asia Pacific regional office of UNESCO, at a local hotel in the morning.

A total of 24 literacy trainers from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal and Bhutan are taking part in the workshop.

The Education Adviser put a special stress on non-formal mass education to bring the vast illiterate population into the mainstream of national development efforts.

Referring to Bangladesh's high rate of dropout in school education Siddiqui cautioned that giving emphasis on formal education alone would hardly help combat illiteracy in the developing countries.

UPE in phases

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government primary schools at the rate of Taka 500 each per month with effect from January 1, 1991.

Following is the text of the Press Note issued by the Ministry of Education today.

"Attention of the government has been drawn to a news item published in a section of the press on January 2, 1991 regarding implementation of the Universal Primary Education. The news item which has been attributed to a press conference held in the Ministry of Education on January 1, 1991 does not reflect the correct position. Government, therefore, considers it necessary to issue the following clarification to let everyone know the correct position:

The government has taken no decision, whatsoever, to postpone the programme of Universal Primary Education (UPE). In fact, the government has undertaken a programme for universalisation of Primary education since 1981 and a new project at a cost of Taka 1100 crore has also been approved and has gone under implementation during the current Fourth Five-Year plan."

"While the Compulsory Primary Education (CPE) Act provided for introduction of CPE in phases from January 1, 1991, the then government took an ambitious decision to bring the entire country under CPE in one go from the same date. Necessary preparatory work was undertaken accordingly. Owing, however, to the political unrest in the country from October, 1990, the progress of the preparatory work was hampered.

In view of the changed situation obtaining in the country the government has reviewed the earlier decision and has decided to implement CPE in phases as envisaged in the relevant Act. It may be noted that the preparatory work has been revived in full swing and the government has decided to renumerate four eligible teachers of all registered non-government primary schools at the rate of Taka 500 each per month with effect from January 1, 1991.

It should, therefore, be clear that neither the UPE nor the CPE has been postponed as reported in a section of the Press.

The government hopes that there will remain no scope of any confusion regarding implementation of the UPE and the CPE among the masses.