

Educated women have a pioneering role to play

By A Staff Reporter

The educated section of women should play a pioneering role in disseminating simple scientific knowledge of better housekeeping, crop processing and preservation to the rural women to enable them to live a better life.

This would also help the rural women to avoid many wastages that they make due to lack of scientific knowledge and ultimately contribute more effectively to national development.

This was the consensus at the seminar on "science for nation's welfare: the role of women" organised on the 4th day of the central function of the 6th National Science Week at Dhanmandi Government Boys' High School premises on Tuesday.

Begum Roushan Ershad was the chief guest at the seminar presided over by Dr. Shafia Khatun, Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs. The seminar was also addressed by Dr. Abdullah Al-Muti Sharfuddin, Chairman, 6th National Science Week Organising

Committee, Dr. Roushan Ara Samad, Principal Scientific Officer, BCSIR, Dr. Ayesha Akhtar Munim, Associate Professor, Dhaka University, and Dr. Maleka Alim Al Razee, President, Bangladesh Mohila Bigyani Samity.

They noted the progress women had made in fields like education, medicine, nursing, family planning services, research and laboratory experiments in past 12 years pointing out that this progress remained confined to the well-to-do families.

The vast majority of the womenfolk of the country remained illiterate, and they even did not know the simple techniques of better housekeeping. It was therefore, the responsibility of the educated women to reach

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these simple information to rural women, they suggested.

In her address Begum Roushan Ershad called upon all to come forward with the spirit of sacrifice, sincerity, and service to work out solutions of the problems faced by the neglected poor, and helpless women of the rural area who did not have the light of education and remained far behind the educated women in life.

She said that educated women constituted only an insignificant fraction of the total women population and urged them to work for the overall welfare of those who remained poor and illiterate.

Emphasising the role of science in improving the quality of life, Begum Roushan Ershad called for disseminating the knowledge about the basic scientific techniques to leading healthy life to rural women. They could be given the knowledge about better upkeeping of children the nutrition value of food items etc. We should evolve ways of stopping wastages of crops during their process-

ing and disseminate those to the rural areas, introduce improved oven and make rural women aware of the use of biogas she said.

She pointed out that in developed countries there were not different roles for men and women in nation building activities, both had equal responsibilities. The educated women of the country should play the leading role for accelerating the pace of development, and science could be fruitfully utilised to the nation's welfare only when the educated women, women scientists would consider themselves as human beings, she said.

Begum Roushan Ershad thanked the women scientists, and organisers who brought in innovative projects to the exhibition with the aim of building a new Bangladesh.

The Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Dr. Shafia Khatun called for making the women science-oriented, make science and technology familiar to all. This could be done through culture of science as was now being encouraged by organising science weeks.

Later, Begum Roushan Ershad went to the exhibition, and talked to children about the projects being displayed.