

Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar on Sunday highly appreciated the newly undertaken "Female Secondary School Assistance Project (FSSAP)" funded by the World Bank and said it would fulfil the desired goals through its methodological approaches, reports BSS.

The project will go a long way towards reducing child mortality, improving health-care, bringing down population increase and raising literacy

rate in the country," he said.

The Education Minister was addressing as the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of a two-day workshop of the ESSAP at a local hotel. Education Secretary Md Irshadul Haq, in the chair. The FSSAP and the World Bank Resident Mission in Bangladesh jointly organised the function.

The inaugural function was also addressed by State Minister for Education, Principal Muhammad Eunos Khan, Chief of World Bank Resident Mission in Bangladesh Christopher Willoughby, Director General of the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education Muhammad Eunos Miah, Task Master of World Bank Ms. Paula T. Valad and Project Director Mrs. Touhida Faruki.

The Education Minister said the present government had given special emphasis on education and made the highest allocation in the sector keeping in view the prime need for human resources development.

He said investments in the education sector being made by the government as well as international organisations like World Bank and Asian Development Bank would not go in vain.

Mr Sircar referred to the aims of the project and said it would accelerate enthusiasm among the girl students leading to the benefit of the women education in the country.

Principal Eunus Khan said

the present democratic government was deeply concerned about raising women literacy from the present level of 16 per cent to 25 per cent during the current five-year plan period.

The Taka 348 crore project will cover 118 thanas in two phases during 1994-96 and 1997-99 to support about 1.5 million girl-years of education from grade 6 to grade 10.

Bangladesh government will share the project by 15 per cent while the rest will come from International Development Association (IDA).