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Multipronged steps to combat illiteracy emphasised

A three-day meeting of officials in charge of literacy and adult education was inaugurated in Dhaka Tuesday with the objective to suggest solutions for problems encountered by the participating countries to combat illiteracy, reports BSS.

The Islamic Scientific, Educational and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO) and Bangladesh National Commission for Unesco (BNCU) jointly organised the meeting in the context of the efforts exerted by ISESCO in the field of combatting illiteracy in its member states.

Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar inaugurated the meeting at a city hotel while Secretary, Education Division M. Irshadul Huq, the ISESCO representative Ahsanullah Hossal and BNCU Secretary S. M. Saifuddin, among others spoke on the occasion.

Secretary, Primary and Mass Education Division Qaz. Raqibuddin Ahmad presided over the inaugural session.

Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar stressed the need for multipronged strategies along with formal and

non-formal education to combat illiteracy in the member states.

He said, formal and non-formal education have a complementary role and this calls for a new vision to establish linkages in a coordinated way.

"Particular targets should be women, unschooled youths and dropouts who, without a second chance, may grow into illiterate adults," he said with a call for putting stress on the need for education of poor, disadvantaged and powerless in the society.

Mr. Sircar referred to the inadequacy of funds in many Islamic countries where structures for training and facilitating institutional arrangements were not in place. "These are to be developed," he observed.