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Govt plans to meet shortage of teachers for mentally retarded

Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar Friday said the government was trying to include education of the mentally retarded children under the programme education for all by the year 2000, reports BSS.

Inaugurating the 11th national conference of the Society for the Care and Education of Mentally Retarded, Bangladesh (SCEMRB) in Dhaka the Minister said the government would also consider setting up a cell for the education of the mentally retarded children in his ministry.

He expressed the confidence that illiteracy would be eradicated from the country by the year 2000 and sought cooperation of all including guardians, educationists, philanthropists and social workers to achieve this target.

Presided over by the President of SCEMRB, D.P. Barua, the inaugural function was held at the auditorium of the National Institute of Mentally Retarded (NIMR) at Eskaton. It was also addressed by former President of the SCEMRB Alamgir M A Kabir, former Minister M Azizul Huque, Acting Secretary-General of SCEMRB Jawaherul Islam Mamoon, Second Vice-President Advocate Sheikh Kamaluddin, First Vice-President Dr M Lutufur Rahman and Karl Johan Haanes, Advisor of

NFPU-Norwegian Association for Mentally Retarded based in Dhaka.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in messages of congratulations wished success of the programme and urged formulation of suitable programmes for education of the mentally retarded.

Messages were also received from President of NFPU-the Norwegian Association for the Mentally Retarded which supports programmes of SCEMRB.

In his speech Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar said the government is conscious of the need for working out appropriate programmes for the education of mentally retarded as part of their rights to education.

He said the programme should also be undertaken to meet the shortage of trained teachers for the mentally retarded.

In his presidential speech Mr D.P. Barua strongly pleaded for incorporating the rights of mentally retarded in the programme "education for all by 2000" launched by the democratically elected government.

Referring to the commitment of the government for universal primary education for the children and mass education for the adults, he urged opening of special education classes for the mentally retarded in all government primary schools.

In his address of welcome

Mr. Alamgir M.A. Kabir sug-

gested setting up of a cell for

mentally retarded in the Min-

istry of Education and provide

support to the SCEMRB in run-

ning its educational pro-

grammes.

Mr. Azizul Huq, a former

Minister in his keynote paper

at the conference strongly

pleaded for launching aware-

ness programme for establish-

ing the rights of the mentally

retarded. He urged practical

measures for providing educa-

tion to the mentally retarded

on a wide scale and training a

special type of teachers for

them.

Referring to the decision of

the world conference for edu-

cation under the auspices of the

United Nations, he said

Bangladesh as a signatory to

this declaration is committed

to provide basic primary edu-

cation to all including mentally

retarded by 2000 A.D.

The concluding session of

the conference in the afternoon

held in the same venue was at-

tended by Prof. Emajuddin

Ahmed, Vice Chancellor of

Dhaka University as chief guest

and presided over by A.H.K.

Morshed Chairman of

Bangladesh Institute of Inter-

national and Strategic Studies

and a former Foreign Secre-

tary.

During the two and half

hour of the session, Prof. Naz-

imuddowla Chowdhury, an emi-

nent Psychiatrist, Mr. Glas

Kamal Chowdhury, President

of BFUJ, Mr. Azuzul Huq, a

former Minister and represen-

tatives to branches of SCEMRB

took part in the discussion.

Earlier the recomme-

ndations formulated in the

SCEMRB workshop held on

January 14 was read out in the

session.