

Govt mulls integrated primary education system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Primary and Mass Education Adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury said yesterday the government is thinking of plan-

ning an integrated primary education system comprising both formal and non-formal education to achieve a higher literacy rate.

While discussing the causes of

unsatisfactory literacy rate, the adviser said formal education has been the main focus on our primary education system, adding that those who were left out, missed out and dropped out from formal education could not get any further chance of education.

She was speaking at a roundtable to mark the International Literacy Day-2008 jointly organised by Bureau of Non-Formal Education (BNFE) and Bangladesh National Commission for Unesco (BNCU) at the Banbeis auditorium in the city.

Presided over by M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, secretary to the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, the meeting was attended by Unesco Representative Malama Melisa and Buet Prof MM Shafiullah were present as the guest of honour and as special guest respectively.

Rasheda said, "The government is now thinking of taking an integrated primary education system consisting both formal and non-formal education which is badly needed to achieve a satisfactory literacy rate."

She said there had been a misconception about investing on adult education and for that adult literacy rate is not up to the mark. Emphasis should also be put on adult education to ensure education for all by 2015.

"Though there had been a lot of projects and programmes taken up in the country but those did not succeed much for lack of long-term vision and proper planning," added the adviser.

Presenting a keynote paper at the meeting, Chairman of Bangla department at Dhaka University Prof Abul Kashem Fazlul Haque said that for achieving a satisfactory literacy rate, quality education should be imparted and economic opportunities be created for the people during and after their education.

Prof Nazrul Islam of Brac University said also spoke at the programme.

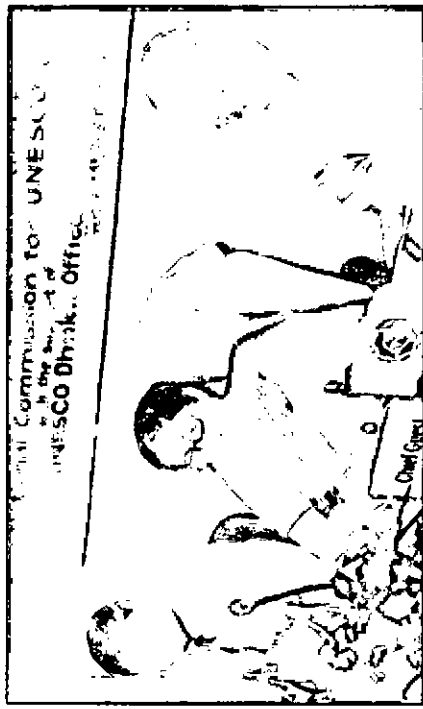


PHOTO STAR

Primary and Mass Education Adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury speaks at a roundtable at Banbeis auditorium in the city yesterday. On her left is Prof MM Shafiullah and on her right is M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan.