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Literacy survey '99 to be conducted April 1-3

The countrywide Child Education and Literacy Survey, 1999, will be conducted in April at a cost of about Tk 3.5 crore to assess the result of investment in basic education in Bangladesh, reports APB.

The disclosure came yesterday at the opening session of a two-day workshop, organised by the Compulsory Primary Education Implementation Monitoring Unit of Primary and Mass Education Division.

State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Satish Chandra Roy was the chief guest at the opening session, which was addressed, among others, by Dr Sadat Hussain, Secretary, Primary and Mass Education Division, and Dr M Anwarul Huque, Director General of Compulsory Primary Education Implementation Monitoring Unit.

The survey will also give a guideline on what type of changes and modifications are needed in primary education management.

Efforts have been made to diversify the survey so that the data obtained can be utilised, if necessary, in semi-formal education, secondary and higher education, statistics department, Local Government Department, Education Ministry and population wing of Planning Commission.

Necessary arrangements have already been made to conduct the house-to-house census April 1-3 by enumerators selected from various agencies.

Similar surveys were carried

out in 1995 and 1997 and a sample survey was conducted in 1996.

From this year the survey will be carried out every alternate year, according to official sources.

More than 150 enumerators will be given training on how to collect education-related data of admission-seeking children and primary school children from each family.

Besides the survey, seminars, workshops and social mobilisation campaigns such as programmes on radio and television, printing of posters and calendars, souvenirs and hoardings will also be organised to inform the people about the importance of the census.

Inaugurating the workshop Satish Chandra Roy stressed the importance of properly conducting the literacy survey to provide basic guidelines for planning.

Terming the survey a tough task, the state minister urged the enumerators to conduct the survey sincerely and faultlessly so that the exact data can be projected. He also emphasised the necessity of follow-up action:

Primary education is basic education, he said, adding that quality primary education can also help ensure quality in higher education.

He also called for finding ways and means to decrease the number of dropouts from primary schools and to increase enrolment.