

Strategy for effective primary education soon

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By A Staff Reporter

The Government will soon convene a meeting of eminent scholars, educationists and all concerned to work out an implementation strategy for making primary education efficient and effective.

Disclosing this in Dhaka on Sunday, Education Minister Dr. Abdus Majeed Khan also said that a great awakening was needed for making the education sector productive and ac-

countable upto the optimum level.

The Minister was inaugurating a day-long seminar on "distance education" jointly sponsored by the National Institute of Educational Media and Technology, and the World View International Foundation at the Teachers' Training College.

Dr. Abdul Majeed Khan said that in the absence of a proper implementation strategy, the Government was finding it difficult to make progress in the plan of raising the rate of literacy upto 50 per cent by 1987.

Presided over by Quazi Jalaluddin Ahmed, Secretary, Ministry of Education, the inaugural function was also addressed by Dr. M. Selim, higher education expert, UNESCO regional office in Bangkok, K. M. Sirajul Islam Khan, Director, NIEMT and Mr. Beyont Byee, chief of WVIF among others.

The Education Minister pointed out that the problems in education sector were very basic, and "the future of the nation will remain bleak if the cloud of ignorance was not removed".

He pointed out that at pre-

sent the education imparted in institutions did not help qualitative improvement of activities in practical life.

The quality of instructions different widely from institution to institution, and except a handful of schools and colleges under the four education Boards the academic standard of the rest of the institutions had gone beyond recognition.

Again, he said, there remained wide disparity between urban and rural institutions, and learners of rural areas were to pay higher tuition fees and other allowances than their urban counterparts. In urban areas again, middle-class families relied entirely on a few better known institutions for education of their wards.

Against such a backdrop the

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number of good schools needs to be increased and proper care taken to guard against the drop out problem with a view to raising the rate of literacy the Minister said.

Dr. Abdul Majeed Khan said in such a situation mere expan-

sion of education budget would not deliver the goods if there was no efficiency and accountability. This year this budget had increased by about 33 per cent over last year's but no improvement was visible he said.

The Minister said that the present Government put maximum emphasis on introduction of distance education programme for raising the quality of teaching by training through correspondence courses on an emergency basis. The programme was also needed to remove the disparity in the quality of class-room instructions.

He urged the educationists at the seminar to help the framing of a realistic plan for introduction of distance education programme keeping in view the management efficiency and the accountability it calls for so that a significant improvement in the quality of education could be brought about without no further loss of time.

Dr. M. Selim in his address said that the practice of allowing private candidates to appear at examinations at different levels was the most striking example of distance education programme existing in Bangladesh for a long time. The concept had however now grown bigger and newer in scope and content he said.

He detailed on the latest developments in various Asian countries in the field of distance education and urged education planners to go for such programme by adequately ensuring that management efficiency and accountability would be maintained upto the optimum level.