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## Teacher training key to early childhood dev: Bobby Hajjaj

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*State minister for primary and mass education Bobby Hajjaj. | File photo*

State minister for primary and mass education Bobby Hajjaj on Monday stressed the importance of strengthening teacher training and curriculum reform to advance early childhood development in Bangladesh.

He made the remarks while addressing a trans-disciplinary seminar titled 'National Dialogue on Early Childhood Development Policy and Practice,' organised by the department of public health under the School of Pharmacy and Public Health of Independent University, Bangladesh.



The seminar brought together policymakers, academics, development practitioners and representatives from government and non-government organisations to discuss ECD policy, teacher development, curriculum reform and implementation strategies, said a press release.

‘Improving early childhood development requires sustained investment in both curriculum and teacher development. Curriculum reform must come first, as it provides the foundation for how children learn and how teachers engage with them,’ Hajjaj said.

He added that learning at the pre-primary and primary levels should focus on developing children’s cognitive abilities, curiosity, communication skills and problem-solving capacity rather than emphasising memorisation and examination performance.

The state minister also praised IUB for facilitating a national-level dialogue involving key stakeholders working in the ECD sector.

The seminar was chaired by Professor M Tamim, vice-chancellor of IUB.

Didar A Husain, chairman of the IUB board of trustees, trustee Javed Hosein

and Farid Ahmed, director general of the National Academy for Primary Education, attended as special guests.

Keynote presentations were delivered by Mahmuda Akhter, vice-chair of the Bangladesh ECD Network, and Kamran ul Baset, dean of SPPH. Professor Daniel W Lund, pro-vice-chancellor of IUB, delivered the closing remarks.

The event was hosted by Tanvir Ahmed, senior lecturer of public health at IUB. Bilkis Banu, associate professor of public health, delivered the opening remarks.

Tags [#Bobby Hajjaj](#)

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