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02 Steps to upgrade primary edn taken: Sadique

Education Minister ASHK Sadique on Saturday said the government has taken up plans to introduce a programme to evaluate the primary school teachers' performance for promoting the standard of the primary education, says BSS.

"We know the qualitative and infrastructural problems of our primary education sector and a number of steps have already been adopted to overcome them," he said while speaking at a dialogue on the occasion of publication of an independent review of Bangladesh's Development.

Organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) of Prof. Rehman Sobhan, the discussion was participated by policy makers of the government, academics, officials, and representatives of different donor agencies and NGOs.

Speaking on the CPD study on primary education, conducted by Prof. Muzzaffar Ahmed, the Minister said in the past years a little portion of the allocation for education were spent for the primary education sector.

But the government now plans to spend more for the sector as the Kudrat-e-Khuda Commission report recommended that 60 per cent of the total education budget should go to the primary education sector.

Mr. Sadique said the government is negotiating with the lending agencies for allocating more resources for the primary education.

The Minister said at present there is no effective system for evaluating the teachers performances but the government has planned to introduce an evaluation procedure instead of the existing loose routine monitoring system.

He told the function that due to several socio-economic problems the standard of quality of teachers could not be ensured while, the non-government teachers could not be provided training for want of infrastructural constraints.

But the government has taken

decision to introduce a crash programme for their training through it is not sufficient for achieving the goal, he said.

Mr. Sadique told the function that a high powered committee was working on the overall problems of the primary education sector and the government would decide its policies on the sector after receiving the recommendations.

In his study, Prof. Muzaffar Ahmed, a renowned economist, suggested that if the foundation of "our education has to be strong we need to pay more attention to the quality of the educators and the quality of teaching materials besides improving the physical environment for curricular and co-curricular activities with a more creative and innovative bias."

The study noted that the enrollment particularly, the enrollment of female students have increased and rate of drop out have reduced in the recent period.

But the standard of education could not be ensured as desired as according to conventional standard, about 50 per cent of students achieve minimum competence securing only 30 per cent marks in all subjects, the study said.

Mr. Rahman Sobhan, who chaired the function, said the objective of the CPD study is to review the problems and achievements in different sectors from a non-partisan angle and the CPD study reports will be made available to the country's policy makers including the MPs for necessary action.

Former member of the Planning Commission Kazi Fazlur Rahman, member of the commission Kazi Shamsul Alam, senior research fellow of BIDS Mahmud Alam, UNESCO Representative Dr. Ansar Ali Khan, Shamsi Hossain of voluntary organisation GSS, Monika Malakar of Swedish SIDA and Anwarul Haq of Primary Education Department of the government, among others, spoke on the occasion.

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