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Call to achieve education for all by year 2000

A seminar Saturday suggested a consensus between the government and the non-government agencies for strengthening education programmes to fulfil national commitments for achieving Education For All by the year 2000, reports UNB.

Speakers of the seminar said some NGOs used their own learning materials while the government used national curriculum, and there was no co-ordination among NGO activities, be it in any area-target group coverage and programme managements.

Organised by Underprivileged Children's Educational Programmes (UCEP), the day-long seminar on "Issues in Basic and Continuing Education - Bangladesh Perspective" was held at the auditorium of the Academy for Planning and Development.

National Professor Muhammad Shamsul Haq attended the seminar as chief guest while Technical Education Director General M. Rafiqul Haque was special guest.

The chief guest, however, observed there is no reason to be frustrated as the education problem is deeply related with our day-to-day life.

Prof Haq said political obstacle is a big problem in the development and expansion of voluntary technical education programmes in the country.

The former Foreign Minister said owners and management of industries should be involved with the programmes to achieve desired goal towards development.

"We have to try so that the country can join the stream of world knowledge," he suggested.

Presenting the keynote paper on the issue, Prof Shamsul Haque, also former director of Dhaka University IER, also highlighted some constraints of both of the government and NGOs in achieving Education For All that include inadequacies in supervision and management.

"Use of different materials by different NGOs pose another peculiar problem" for the

learners in getting admitted into a different NFE (non-formal education) centre when his family moves to a new place, said he in his paper.

Presided over by UCEP Chairman Salahuddin Kasem Khan, the seminar was also addressed by IER Prof Abu Hamid Latif, ex-BANBEIS Director Anwarul Haq, Technical Education Board Chairman Abdur Rasique and Dhaka Ahsania Mission Director MA Sobhan.