

Scientific literacy programme suggested

By A Staff Reporter

A call has been sounded from the current six-day national workshop on out-of-school science and technology education for increased "scientific literacy" in the country.

In a paper titled 'science & technology education for out-of-school youths and adults', by Mr. Md. Ferdouse Khan, ex-Additional Secretary, Ministry of Education, the author pointed out that scientific literacy 'emphasises that side by side with basic reading and writing skills broad knowledge about science and technology is to be looked upon as essential component of minimum general education required of an enlightened citizen today.'

Scientific literacy, Mr. Khan said, would not only give us an intelligent understanding of our environment and create in us greater self-confidence, but will also foster yearning for technological advancement and prepare the ground for easy transfer of technology.

The author pointed out that
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there were 1,611 lakhs of out-of-school youths and adults (youths 177 lakhs and adults 334 lakhs). He suggested a three-fold programme for imparting 'scientific literacy' to this huge number of people. The three-fold programme includes the following: (a) follow-up literacy programme; (b) use of mass media channels like radio, TV, Press for dissemination of worthwhile science exhibitions.

Referring to the government's literacy drive as a result of which about 90 lakhs of illiterates have been made literate, Mr. Khan said "suitable follow-up books are urgently needed to save them from relapse into illiteracy."