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Call to free country from curse of illiteracy

National Professor Muhammad Shamsul Huq on Wednesday called for a massive community involvement in the country-wide drive to free the country from the curse of illiteracy, reports UNB.

"No progress is possible without a strong educational infrastructure. Compulsory primary education can do a lot in this regard", he said.

He was addressing as chief guest at a seminar on "Community Participation on Mass Literacy Programme in Bangladesh," organised in connection with observance of the International Literacy Day.

Prof. Shamsul Huq, a former foreign minister, said the drive against illiteracy should be continued at all times. "Only then, the problem of illiteracy will find a permanent solution."

He underlined that parents' education is of paramount importance to have an educated generation. He observed that there should be goal-oriented campaign to wipe out illiteracy from the country.

The seminar was organised under the joint auspices of Bangladesh-2000 and the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) at its auditorium in Dhaka on Wednesday afternoon.

Khandakar Shahidul Islam, executive director of the government's non-formal and mass education programme, presented a key-note paper at the seminar.

Project coordinator of general education project Syed Alamgir Farrouk Chowdhury, Resident Representative of UNDP Michael Constable, officer in charge of UNICEF Dr. Dilawar Ali Khan and Canadian High Commission Counsellor Martin I. Souter.

Khandakar Shahid in his key-note paper underlined the need for commitment to sustain literacy campaigns involving people's participation and mobilisation of the community resources.

Shahid said that the government had given greater importance to "Education for All" for the adult education. This programme is an essential component of a 3-year project on integrated formal education.

The target of adult education under this project was to establish 5000 centres in 69 thanas to educate 2 lakh learners within 1993 at a cost of Tk 6.75 crore. He said the NGOs would serve as associate organisers for the adult education programme.