

A national workshop on planning and implementation of National Literacy Programme in Bangladesh was organised by the National Institute of Educational Media and Technology (NIE-MET) from 30 November to 5 December, 1984 in collaboration with UNESCO-ROEAP (Regional Office of Education for Asia Pacific) in Bangkok. The aim of the workshop was to discuss and formulate outlines for the national literacy programme in the light of the action plan prepared by the Ministry of Education.

The workshop was attended by specialists from Ministry of Education, Directorate of Primary Education, Planning Commission, NIEAR, various NGO's, engaged in the field of mass literacy and adult education. Mr. T. M. Sakya, Literacy Specialist, ROEAP represented UNESCO in the workshop. This was attended by 56 participants including experts. The workshop made the following recommendations:

a) There should be provision for incentives for the learners and they should be given priority in getting credit facility and employment opportunity.

b) Literacy programme should be firmly linked with the promotion of primary education as eradication of illiteracy is not possible without the 'UPE' (Universal Primary Education).

c) A motivation of campaign about the need for literacy programme should be started.

d) Special efforts should be made to involve the NGOs in implementing the literacy programme.

e) Minimum qualification of literacy instructors should be SSC and they should be given cash remuneration of Tk. 200 per month with the provision for incentive reward of Tk. 20 for each learner achieving literacy under his instruction.

f) The existing infrastructural facilities of primary education in the country including teachers should be used to the maximum.

A PROFILE OF

Here the reference of the "International Literacy Day" of UNESCO which falls on September 8 may be made.

This day symbolises the gigantic strides made by UNESCO the world over to eradicate illiteracy from the face of the earth.

Mr. M. Bow, Director-General UNESCO in his draft pro-

gramme and budget for 1986-87, Volume-I gave special

stress on the extension and

improvement of education in

rural areas. He said, "It is

envisioned that technical as-

sistance will be provided to

member states by means of

seminars and practical work-

shops, training courses, con-

sultative services and the

preparation of guides and me-

thodological documents.

"The purpose of this assis-

tance is to contribute to de-

veloping the various levels,

types and forms of educa-

tion for children, young peo-

ple and adults in rural areas;

improving the standard and

relevance of education by

means of a revision of edu-

cational content and methods;

developing education by

means of a revision of edu-

cational content and methods;

developing education in the

technologies needed for pro-

gress in rural areas and ex-

panding national capacities

for the training of educational

personnel working in

rural areas. Special attention

will be devoted in this respect

to education for women".

Here emphasis has been gi-

ven by Mr. M. Bow on wo-

men's education. This is of

very much importance to our

society, where bulk of the

women folk are still illiterate.

It will not be irrelevant here

to mention the recommendations

put forward by Prof

Kazi Abdul Latif, Member

University Grants Commis-

sion (UGC) after attending

a study programme from May

26 to 22 June 1985 in USA.

He visited a number of universities and national level institutions and organisations there.

The purpose of his visit was to recommend measures on the basis of his experience for the formulation of educational policy for the universities and colleges in Bangladesh.

The UNESCO approved par-

icipation programme was

entitled "Reorganisation of

the courses and curricula at

tertiary level of education in

Bangladesh".

In his participation report

Prof. Latif recommended,

the following for ensuring

improvement in the quality

of education at tertiary level

in Bangladesh.

1. Emphasis should be given

on improving quality of

teaching at lower levels so as

to ensure production of better

quality students capable of

assimilating the advanced

teaching material at the ter-

tiary level.

2. In order to ensure qua-

lity and dedication of tea-

chers, they should be well-

trained, well-paid and made

accountable for their specific

roles, and at the same time

there should be provision for

reward in the form of pro-

motion enhancement of sala-

ry for the really active and

dedicated one.

3. In the teaching and ex-

amination systems, introduc-

tion of "Yearly System" in-

stead of half-yearly or "se-

mester" System in all institu-

tions should be ensured im-

mediately. The courses should

be so designed as to neces-

sitate holding of examina-

tions annually, instead of

holding them at the end of

2 to 3 years. Once success

is achieved, we may go for

the semester system.

Another point to be stressed:

Dr. M. N. Hug, Director Ge-

neral, National Institute of

Educational Administration

Extension and Research (NI-

EAER) visited, Nepal, India