

50pc dropout at primary level in Bangladesh

Global Campaign for Education concerned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Global Campaign for Education (GCE) yesterday expressed its concern at the 50 percent dropout of students at the primary level in Bangladesh.

"The issue of dropout is a serious problem for Bangladesh. It is a great challenge for the new government to wipe out illiteracy from the society because around 50 percent students, admitted in class one, drop out before completing class five," said Kailash Satyarthi, president of GCE, at a press conference in a city hotel.

Kailash, also the founder of Global March Against Child Labour, expressed his concern over the quality of education, and said the government should

give more attention to quality education by providing modern trainings to teachers and education materials to students.

"Apart from recruiting meritorious persons for teaching profession by providing handsome salary, the government could arrange regular trainings for teachers, updated curriculum, textbooks and free distribution of education materials for the students, and special financial assistance for poor guardians to check the dropouts," he added.

The GCE president also suggested the government to stop child labour and trafficking which are other reasons for the children to leave the school.

Kailash said around 80 million children in the world are still out of school and almost a billion adults are

unable to read and write.

"Education is not a commodity which can be sold or bought. It is a birth right of all people. Personally, I think education is a goal, which can be achievable," he added.

GCE members Assibi Napoe, chief regional coordinator of Education International's Africa Regional Office, Camilla Croso Silva, coordinator of the Latin American Campaign for the Right to Education, and Rasheda K Choudhury, former adviser to caretaker government and director of Campaign for Popular Education (Campe) also spoke on the occasion.

The GCE members also met with media men after holding their annual meeting.