

DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS

'Expand JSC course in dists to ensure education for all'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Participants at a conference yesterday called for expanding Junior School Certificate (JSC) programme for disadvantaged students, who dropped out from regular education, in all districts with a view to ensure education for all by 2015.

They said JSC programme under Bangladesh Open University (BOU) is now playing a vital role in bringing back poor students to education especially for completing Secondary School Certificate (SSC) Course, but the programme is now running only in 40 centres in Dhaka, Khulna, Jessore, Dinajpur, Parbatipur, Sonargaon, Savar and Munshiganj.

The JSC Tutors Conference was organised jointly by the Campaign for Popular Education (Campe), BOU and Unesco at LGED Bhaban in the capital where several hundred teachers from remote areas

were present.

The teachers said vast number of students are dropping out from the formal education due to various reasons including poverty while the JSC programme is helping dropped out students in receiving education.

Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, secretary to primary and mass education ministry, said time has come to expand the JSC programme in all districts.

"Around 40 percent students at secondary level dropped out before reaching SSC examination because most of them are involved in different types of works. JSC programme can bring back those dropped out students to education," he said while addressing as chief guest.

Tapan Kumar Das of Campe presented the keynote paper on JSC programme and said mass campaign is needed to create awareness among the common people about JSC programme.

Hasan A Kenan of Unesco, Moazzem Hossain of Gram Bikash Kendra, BOU Professor Mizanur Rahman and Tasneem Atahar, of Campe also took part in the conference.