

Classrooms not joyful, inspiring

Teachers' conference calls for redesigning tools of learning

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The existing teaching system in the country is not joyful and does not foster creative thinking among students as teachers mostly focus on rote learning, teachers and trainers said yesterday in Cox's Bazar.

Emphasising the need for redesigning the learning tools, they said the information communication technology (ICT) should replace the age-old teaching method of delivering lectures in classrooms.

Teachers should be more innovative in preparing classroom lessons, should present the lessons more interestingly and engage students more in classroom interaction, they said at a teachers' conference held at the Cox's Bazar Cultural Centre.

Access to Information (a2i) Programme under the Prime Minister's Office, and British Council in association with the education ministry and the primary and mass education ministry hosted the three-day conference.

The conference is aimed at inspiring teachers to prepare digital contents to be presented at multimedia classrooms. More than 100 teachers who had contributed to making Teachers Web Portal, digital contents and multimedia classrooms joined the conference.

Apart from the conference, a digital fair was also held, in which teachers and different organisations displayed digital learning contents.

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The government had so far introduced multimedia classrooms at 23,000 schools, according to the organisers.

Inaugurating the conference, Primary and Mass Education Minister Mostafizur Rahman said the use of technology should be increased in the education sector to keep pace with the global competitors.

On the opening day, two seminars on "Effective teaching-learning process: local and global perspective" and "Teachers' professional development: Bangladesh and world" were held.

Presenting the keynote paper on teaching and learning process, Iaidip Dey, a teacher of Teachers Training College in Chittagong, said, "We have to introduce a learning system blended with modern pedagogy and technology."

It is important to help students get interest in studies through the lessons, said Tasnifa Khanam, assistant teacher of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College in Dhaka.

"Teachers should know primary information about students and make their best preparation before holding a class," she said.

Bogra Cantonment Public School and College Assistant Teacher Sabrina Jerin said teachers should divide students in groups and give them separate tasks to help them learn better.

Technology like multimedia helps students learn most effectively than the traditional lectures, she said.

It is essential to have quality teachers for quality education, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said.

"We [the government] will continue to train teachers."

The government wants to use ICT for the development of the country's education system so that students can face the challenges of the 21st Century, Nahid said.

The minister today will honour 42 best teachers who prepared digital learning materials for multimedia classrooms.