

Education tool to avert curse of poverty: Hasina

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Thursday said education is the tool to overcome the curse of poverty from society, reports BSS.

Although poverty is our main problem it can be overcome through spreading education in every nook and corner of the country," she said while presiding over the first meeting of the National Primary and Mass Education Committee at the ICC in Dhaka on Thursday.

The meeting, which lasted about two hours, discussed the present situation in primary education, identified the problems and suggested measures to implement the programme to attain literacy for all within the next ten years.

The Prime Minister said her government is determined to remove the curse of illiteracy from society and stop the increasing number of drop-outs at the primary levels. She said no nation can attain development without education. In this connection she called for launching a social movement in favour of education for all.

She said after her party was elected to power, it had taken a numbers of steps to overcome the situation. "Even while in

opposition, we took programmes to increase the rate of literacy in the country," she said.

Education Minister A S H K Sadek, Deputy Minister for Primary and Mass Education Prof. Jinantun Nesa, State Minister for Information Prof. Abu Sayeed, Nurul Islam Nahid, MP, Akhtaruzzaman, MP, Health Secretary Muhammad Ali, Secretary, Primary and Mass Education Division, Dr. Shahdat Hussain, Dr. Abdullah Al Muti Sharfuddin and Kazi Fazlur Rahman, among others, participated in the discussion.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Salah Uddin Yusuf, State Minister for Women Affairs and Social Welfare Dr. Mozammel Hossain, State Minister for Religious Affairs Moulana Nurul Islam and committee members including members of parliament, secretaries and officials were present.

The Prime Minister stressed the need for appointing required number of teachers including women teachers in the primary schools and also reduce the burden of syllabus at the primary level to drive out

fear among the students. She said that curriculum should be attractive so that there were no more drop-outs. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also called for bringing similarities in the education system in all the schools including public and private and Kindergartens.

The meeting decided that Deputy Commissioners and Thana Nirbahi Officers should be included in the non-formal education expansion programme for ensuring accountability at the field level.

The meeting opined that the local government institutions should be directed to take up programmes as part of the Annual Development Programme for imparting education to a specific number of illiterate people.

It also decided to award eminent persons involved in spreading of education on the occasion of international literacy day on September 8 every year. The meeting also decided to take actions against the interested and vested quarters for creating hindrances in the expansion of non-formal education programme.

Prime Minister Sheikh

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Hasina suggested that students belonging to colleges and universities be involved in primary and mass education programme during their leisure period. She also suggested to involve elected representatives and parties in the programme for its success. She said the students should also be taught about the dignity of labour.