

অবিষ্কৃত... 10 MAR 1990
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Literacy must for uplift : VP

DHAKA, March 9 (BSS): Vice President Moudud Ahmed today said literacy was the core component of development. Desired results could never be attained without having literate citizens, he added.

The Vice President was addressing as the chief guest the concluding function of the three day long regional seminar on "Role and importance of legal literacy in South and South Asian countries" organised by Bangladesh Mahila Ainjibi Samity (BIMAS) at a city hotel.

Presided over by the President of the Samity, Mrs Sigma Huda, the function was also addressed by participants from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Singapore.

Besides Bangladesh, 11 delegates participated from the South and South-Asian countries representing Pakistan, Singapore, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Malaysia.

Mr Moudud Ahmed said be-

it law or any policy for socio-economic amelioration it should have to be comprehended by the community to whom it was addressed. But without literacy, he said, comprehension of law or policy guidelines would be impossible. So the literates would always be subjected to exploitation in the hands of the selfish coterie, he pointed out.

The Vice President said the government of Bangladesh had enacted law for imparting free primary education to all children. He said to make this programme successful every village of Bangladesh would have at least one government primary school. He said the government had also decided that outside the municipal areas girls would be provided with free education upto Class VIII. After this decision, he added, there was marked increase in the enrolment of girl students in the rural areas. He said, the target of the government was to have 60 per cent literacy rate by 1995.

Mr Moudud Ahmed said women comprise half of our population and development in any field could not be thought of without involving this community. He further said social justice and civilisation was impossible without ensuring women's right. For guaranteeing women's right and ensuring secured position in the society the government had enacted laws and made policy reforms. He underscored the need for greater exposure of men and women to knowledge.

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