

Open University to reach education at people's door-steps

Education Minister Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury Saturday said Open University in Bangladesh could only provide education and training to people in different fields at their door-steps, says BSS.

Inaugurating a national workshop on Bangladesh Open University, in Dhaka the Education Minister said the Open University system would provide educational access to masses belonging to different age groups and social strata whereas the conventional system benefits small numbers, mostly

belonging to certain age group—18-28 of which all are full time students, he said.

Jointly organised by the Ministry of Education and the Asian Development Bank the inaugural session of the workshop was also addressed by the State Minister for Education, Principal Md Yunus Khan, Education Secretary A N M Eusuf presided. Dr Ram Reddy, Vice President, the Commonwealth of Learning Vancouver, Canada was present. Technical support is being provided by Education Consultants India Limited (ECIL).

Prof B. Chowdhury said Open University system could provide access to all levels and sectors of education and impart continuing education to professionals who need updating their knowledge and skills.

Besides, he said the particular system could also provide general awareness like family planning, environment education, disaster management and use various communication technologies for imparting education.

Distance education through Open University should get a

preference in Bangladesh, he said adding "as a matter of policy recommendation" I personally support allocation of more fund for the establishment of Open University in Bangladesh to combat poverty and accelerate the pace of development in the country.

He said unless the people were given proper education, all our efforts in other fields would be wasted.

He said unlike the Open University concept the present educational institutions in Bangladesh were highly elitist in nature. He said only a small percentage of population has access to these institutions.

He hoped that the workshop would come out with valuable suggestions to supplement the government efforts to improve the quality of life of the people through meaningful educational system.

Speaking on the occasion the State Minister for Education Principal Md Yunus Khan said as formal education system in the country which had grown enormously was unable to meet the demand a massive expansion of the existing system was not possible due to our limited resources. The government was thinking seriously of setting up of an Open University in Bangladesh, he added.

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