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Saifur says Education policy should be on schooling for child

Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman on Sunday took a swipe at the concept of adult education, saying that government's education policy should concentrate on schooling for the child instead of elderly people, reports UNB.

"The elderly people can be educated by their grandchildren," he said, in a cautious approach amid differences of opinion about the importance of elders' education in the country.

"I'm not discarding education for the elderly people ... at the same time we'll have to decide if we should waste resources for educating people above 40 years of age," he told a seminar at BIAM auditorium.

The Department of Primary and Mass Education and Directorate of Non-formal Education organized the seminar on "Importance and Effectiveness of Non-formal Education in Bangladesh" marking the International Literacy Day and Elderly Education Week 2002.

Primary and Mass Education Secretary Prof Tahmina Hossain presided over the function and State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan also spoke. Officials of the projects concerned highlighted the significance of non-formal education.

"The government has undertaken a comprehensive education policy to provide complete education to every child," said the Finance Minister, listing the education incentives the government declared in the current budget.

"If we can educate each and every child, the country will move ahead to a great extent," he said. Government's topmost priority is to alleviate poverty, and poverty in education is one of the major causes that should be addressed.