

Take special projects to ensure education for deprived people

Rasheda tells dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Primary and Mass Education Adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury yesterday said special projects will have to be taken to ensure education for all and reach the target of Millennium Development Goal (MDG) by 2015.

"We have performed well in many fields especially declining of dropout rate and gender disparity. But we are yet to reach our target in some deprived areas like Char, Haor and Monga-hit region and the people of Dalit community. Now time has come to focus on them," said Rasheda at a dialogue in the city.

She said professional courses like TOEFL might be introduced for enhancing the quality of teachers.

"I hope the next elected government will take this type of programme to improve the quality of teachers," she added.

The dialogue on 'Achieving Universal Primary Education with Quality and Equity' was organised jointly by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) and Campaign for Popular Education (Campe) at Brac Centre Inn where educationists, experts and top officials of education ministry and concerned bodies took part.



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Primary and Mass Education Adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury speaks at a dialogue on 'Achieving Universal Primary Education with Quality and Equity' at Brac Centre Inn in the city yesterday. On her right are Prof Rehman Sobhan and Badrul Alam Tarafdar.

CPD Chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan, who moderated the dialogue, said new thoughts and ideas on how to ensure quality education for all will have to be gathered through continuing dialogue on education.

"A total of 82 percent of boys and 87 percent of girls are attending the schools in 2008 while this partici-

pation was 63 percent and 51 percent respectively in 1988," said Dr Mahabub Hossain, executive director of Brac, while presenting his keynote paper.

Identifying the main causes behind the dropout from the school, he said boys are dropped out to give labour to family enterprises while the girls for early mar-

riage.

Manzoor Ahmed, senior adviser of the Institute of Education Development of Brac University, also presented a keynote paper where he suggested introduction of unified or common school system to implement the right to education.

"Primary education should be extended up to class eight," he said, adding that one ministry titled 'Education and Human Resource' should be made merging existing two ministries of education, and primary and mass education.

Primary and Mass Education Secretary-in-Charge Badrul Alam Tarafdar, former education minister Sheikh Shahidul Islam, Prof Siddiqur Rahman of Dhaka University, former vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Kazi Saleh Ahmed, Education Expert Amir Chowdhury and primary school teachers BM Asadullah and Shamsul Alam also took part in the dialogue.