

Education must reach rural masses : Aziz

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Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman said in Dacca on Sunday that the benefits of education must reach the vast majority of our population in rural areas, reports BSS.

He was speaking as chief guest at the fifth annual general meeting of the Foundation for Research on Educational Planning and Development in Dacca.

The meeting was presided over by Foreign Minister Prof. M. Shamsul Huq.

Shah Aziz said in the past research and planning have been unrelated to the needs of the commonman and pointed out that this should now be realistic and productive.

He said the Government had initiated planning for channelising manpower to gainful productive use both at home and abroad. Although the unemployment problem of educated youths was acute, yet unemployed manpower would become the greatest asset of the country, he added.

The Prime Minister stressed the need for non-formal education and said that efforts should be made to formulate a conceptual framework for the development of an adequate programme of non-formal education.

"Our aim is to convert massive manpower to productive activities", he said.

Referring to the study report published by the Foun-

dition relating to students' services in the six universities, the Prime Minister said the report should now be progressively implemented. Shah Aziz said, the old colonial system of education should now be changed suiting requirements of modern age of science and technology.

The Prime Minister appreciated the work of the Foundation which had carried on intensive research and so far published 16 useful reports.

He said though there was a scope for specialised study course in higher education yet the overall education system should now be mass-oriented.

In his presidential speech, Foreign Minister Prof. Shamsul Huq observed that an ever-increasing number of the educated youths were developing a strong inclination to the city-based jobs and migrate to cities from their village homes.

The cumulative effect of these process he said, was the gradual decline of the rural population on the one hand and increase in the number of the educated unemployed on the other.

He said the Government was making efforts to improve the present condition by controlling the population on a priority basis and to make education work-oriented up to the 12th grade through the reform of curricula.