

'Education should aim at curbing class difference'

Education Minister Kazi Jafar Ahmad on Monday said the first and foremost task of education in the country will be to unite the whole nation by doing away with or at least minimising the differences between different classes of people in the society, reports BSS.

He said our education had long been theoretically urban-oriented and largely isolated from the real problems of the society and one of the foremost tasks

of the new education policy must be to integrate the intelligentsia with other sectors of the society.

Inaugurating a week-long leadership training workshop of college teachers at the education extension centre the Minister said so long our education had been divorced of practice production and research. He said time had come to bring a radical change in education in terms of quality.

The workshop is being organised by the Bangladesh College Teachers' Association in cooperation with the Canadian Teachers' Association and World Confederation of the Organisations of the Teaching Profession.

Reminding the teachers of their responsibilities to the society, the Education Minister said college teachers as the leader and guide of our youth force would be held responsible for guiding them to the constructive national goals of community development.

He said radical change of attitude of teachers and the taught should take place and they should be interested in the skills and attitude valuable for a life of productive self employment and service to the community.

Suggesting a 9-point programme in which the teachers can lead the students in giving community service, he said they should eradicate illiteracy from the surrounding localities of the educational institutions, organise population education programmes, and assist Government officials in different extension programmes.

Kazi Jafar Ahmed said the teachers can also give leadership in organising small scale industries, women's work, assisting health programmes, helping the people in times of natural calamity work in beautifying the country and in organising cultural functions and discussions to narrow communication gap amongst members of the community.

He said to turn resource potentials into meaningful resources our educational programmes should be integrated with development programming and in that context college and university courses should be remodelled to meet the indigenous needs of the community.

He said the college teachers should give effective leadership in eradicating ignorance, poverty and diseases.

Presided over by Prof A F M. Khalilur Rahman President Bangladesh Teachers' Association (BCTA) the workshop was addressed among others by Principal A K M Shahidullah and Prof M Shareeful Islam Vice President and Secretary General of B C T A respectively Mr Robert M Barker Director of External Programmes Canadian Teachers' Federation and Mr Aloysius Mathews leader of Malaysian teaching community and Sub-Regional Assistant of World Confederation of the Organisations of the Teaching Profession.

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