

Education of women integral part of uplift

The Foreign Minister, Prof. M. Shamsul Haq, on Monday inaugurated the Asian Regional Seminar on Educational Opportunity for women, with the stress that the problem of women education should be approached as an integral part of economic and social development of the people, reports BSS.

He told the Seminar, organised jointly by the UNESCO, the International Alliance of Women (IAW) and Bangladesh Mahila Samity, that the problem of equality of opportunity to women was a complex one and bound us with wide-ranging economic, social and psychological factors. Based on the findings of the research carried out in Bangladesh, he said the Government was approaching this problem as an integral part of economic and social development of the people linking it to the programmes of non-formal education.

The inaugural session of the five-day seminar was presided over by Mrs. Laurel Cosinader Vice-President of IAW, and was addressed by Dr. Mrs. Neelima Ibrahim, President of the Bangladesh Mahila Samity, Mrs. Greta Borgmann, Chairman of IAW Education Commission

and Mrs. Meher Kabir, Vice-President of the Mahila Samity. Women representatives from Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka are also participating in the seminar due to conclude on November 30.

Prof. Haq said special impetus was being provided in the form of special facilities created for education of women and girls. A scheme for the establishment of one girls school in each of the 350 thanas is already under implementation and half of this programme had already been completed either through setting up of new high schools for girls or through development of the existing ones at thana level.

Similarly, he said, one degree college for women is being established in each of the 19 districts to provide greater education facilities to girls. He also told the seminar that in order to develop a corps of technically trained women, a polytechnic institute for girls was also being set up in Dacca.

Earlier in her welcome speech, Dr. Mrs. Neelima Ibrahim gave a brief account of the activities of the Mahila Samity which has so far 35 branches in Bangladesh. The Samity she said, had given certificates of vocational training to 148 women. Besides, 91 young ladies were trained in leadership training course. She expressed the hope that the seminar would open a

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great opportunity for the participating delegates and observers to know each other and to review the condition of women literacy in developing countries of South Asian region.

Mrs. Greta Borgmann explained the activities of the IAW and discussed various aspects of the non-formal education. She spoke highly about some of the projects taken for the education and training of women in Bangladesh.

Mrs. Laurel Cosinader in her presidential address, stressed the need of exchange of information on women development and activities in the developing countries. She said that the International Alliance of Women had taken up a number of projects for the development of women community.

The inaugural session was followed by a cultural function.