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Literacy rate now 23.70 pc

A total of 58 lakh persons became literate in the country during the last 15 years till February, 1987, a national seminar on Compulsory primary education and mass education was told in Dhaka on Thursday, reports BSS.

The number of illiterate persons rose by 1.92 crore during the same period, the seminar was informed.

Prof. Mohammad Osman Ghani, Secretary General of the Bangladesh Sakhrota Samity in his paper "Compulsory primary education and mass education to achieve education for all," said for every 10 new literate people there emerged 33 illiterates.

Prof Ghani said the number of illiterate persons was doubled during the 35 years between 1951 and 1986. Giving a break-up, Prof. Ghani said there were 3.06 crore illiterate persons in 1951, in 1967 the figure became 3.30 crore, in 1974 it was 4.58 crore, in 1981, the figure was 5.59 crore.

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Literacy rate

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crore and in 1986, the figure rose to 6.18 crore.

He said the rate of literacy is now 23.70 per cent of which male constitute 31 per cent.

Referring to the long term government plan to enroll 90 per cent children into the primary schools by the year 2000 to achieve the target of education for all, Prof. Ghani said arrangement had to be made to ensure education for 6.23 crore illiterate persons and admission of 2.08 crore children into primary schools.

PRY SCHOOLS

Prof. Ghani also yesterday called for nationalisation of 69864 registered non-government primary schools of the country by January 1990 to achieve the target of education for all by 2000.

Addressing a press conference at the Jatiba Press Club in Dhaka Prof Ghani also called for free compulsory and universal primary education system from January 1990.

He said initially the system should be started with class one and the universal primary education be implemented in phases by 1994 upto class five.

Prof. Ghani called for starting a second shift (evening shift) for working and poor children to check drop-outs and also setting up of one-room primary school house before 1990 with the help of local people in the villages where there are no primary schools.

Dr Khandakar Bazlul Huq, Treasurer of the Samity, also addressed the press conference.