

Sadique seeks tripartite cooperation to eradicate illiteracy

Education Minister ASHK Sadique yesterday sought sympathetic cooperation from both print and electronic media as well as journalists in making the nation's ongoing efforts to eradicate illiteracy a success, reports BSS.

Newspapers, television and radio could play a vital role in the process of making the country free from the curse of illiteracy, Sadique said at a workshop entitled "effective use of mass media in the expansion of mass education" at a city hotel here.

Presided over by Secretary, Primary and Mass Education Department Dr Saadat Hossain the inaugural function was addressed also by Director General of Non-formal Education Department Khandaker Shahidul Islam and Project Director, Non-formal Education Project-1, M Sirajul Islam.

Sadique gave a brief resume of the success of Sri Lanka in attaining the goal of almost 100 per cent literacy and said though belatedly the pro-

grammes taken by Bangladesh including promotion of mass education and non-formal education started yielding benefits.

He said programmes have been taken to ensure continuous education for people and urged the press to contribute to the process.

In the past, Sadique regretted, the country could not take necessary steps for the eradication of illiteracy as well as for the expansion of education.

He urged the members of various professional groups to encourage people in advancing the country in the field of education.

Referring to the adoption of unfair means in the examinations, the minister said the teachers would have to play an important role in stopping it.

Urging the newsmen to help the government with objective reports, he said that all news items were investigated by the government to get the actual picture on the respective issues.

Sadique also admitted that the reports of the journalists on the state of education were helping the government to a large extent.

In his speech Dr Saadat Hossain said the ongoing mass education movement would raise the country's rate of literacy up to 85 per cent within the next few years. He said, already 23 thanas of the country had been made free from illiteracy. And programmes, he said, were being continued across the country to strengthen the mass education movement involving all

social forces.

The government, Dr Hossain said, had been carrying out the programmes of mass education in each district to remove illiteracy.

He said the movement got momentum as the organisational capacity of the people had been linked with the strength and cooperation of the government.

Journalists and NGO representatives took part in the workshop.