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Roundtable on WASH at School Level

## Bangladesh best in S Asia in sanitation management: Nahid

Staff Correspondent 7th November, 2016 11:24:30





Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid on Monday said Bangladesh is at the top among the South Asian countries in sanitation management.

“Schools and colleges are still facing various problems to address this issue due to shortage of resources but we are trying to overcome those,” he said.

Nurul Islam Nahid was speaking as the chief guest at a roundtable titled “The importance and expansion strategy of water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) at school level” held at the conference room of EWMGL at Bashundhara Residential area in the capital.

The roundtable was organised jointly by Caritas Bangladesh on behalf of the Swiss Water & Sanitation Consortium and Daily Kaler Kantho.

Eminent litterateur and Kaler Kantho Editor Imdadul Haq Milon moderated the roundtable. Vice-Chancellor of Stamford University Bangladesh Prof Dr M Feroze Ahmed was present as the keynote speaker.

The education minister said the objective of education is to help the new generation grow as the builder of modern Bangladesh. “We have to develop the youths as good persons and not only as educated.”

He said only 50 percent children used to come to the schools in 2009. But now as many as 99 percent children are admitted to the schools.

“It is proved that the girls will go ahead if equal opportunities are given. At this moment, 51 percent girls are reading at primary level, 53 percent at secondary level and 45 percent at university level,” he added. He also said “We are arranging separate toilets for boys and girls to ensure the sanitation facilities for the students. Drinking water facilities are available in educational institutions.”

Imdadul Haq Milon said sanitation and other problems should be taught to the students with importance. Sense of patriotism should be evaporated in the minds of the new generation by introducing stories on War of Liberation in the textbooks, he said adding that “Teachers and guardians should play an important role for this.”

In the keynote paper, Prof Dr M Feroze Ahmed said, “Currently 85 percent schools have the facilities of hand-washing with water. Of them, 35 percent schools have soap at hand-washing place while 32 percent students use it. The percentages are 27 and 49 in primary and secondary schools.”

He said “There was a median of 187 students per toilet in primary school while 200 students per toilet in secondary school. 68 percent schools have separate toilets for boys and girls.”

“Distance between toilets and the water sources are around 15 meters in 64 percent schools,” he added. He also said, “Ten percent of students use disposable pads during menstruation.”

Prof Dr Md Sharfuddin Ahmed, pro-vice chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), Md Wali Ullah, Chief Engineer of Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), Dr Mohammed Jahangir Hossain, Director (Planning & Development) of Directorate of Secondary & Higher Education, Dr Md Khairul Islam, Country Director of WaterAid Bangladesh, Hasin Jahan, Bangladesh Country Director of Practical Action, Md Muktadir Kabir, program chief (WASH) of BRAC, Alok Majumder, Country Coordinator of WASH Alliance, Dr Mahbubur Rahman, Director WASH of ICDDR’B, Talat Mahmud Program Director (SHIKHON) of Save the Children, Amrita Rozario, Country Representative of Caritas Switzerland, Fr Imanuel Canon Rozario, director Major Seminary, Sister Mary Dipti, Headmistress of Bottomley Home Girls High School, M Denis C Baskey Regional Director Caritas Rajshahi Region and Md Kamal Uddin, Deputy Assistant Engineer of Thakurgaon also spoke at the programme.

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