

## Business Recorder

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# 'Pakistan should have uniform educational policy'

### RECORDER REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan should have a uniform educational policy to improve standard of education and removing difference of opportunities, said Chairperson National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) Nafisa Shah.

While addressing the inaugural session of workshop on the development of National Framework for Literacy and Provincial Literacy Plan (2010-2015), she said that education policy must adequately reflect commitments to the society.

"For any nation, it is an essential prerequisite for integration, security and journey towards nation building," she added.

The workshop was organized by National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) in collaboration with Unesco

and Ministry of Education.

Nafisa Shah said that literacy is key to social, economic and political change. "To meet the challenges of the 21st century, we must harness the energy and creativity of our citizens" she said adding that at present nearly 45 percent people in the country are illiterate hence the importance of a coherent policy can not be overlooked."

She said Pakistan was unable to meet Universal Primary Education (UPE) goals set by UN due to poverty, underdevelopment and poor coverage of services to the people.

The aim of the workshop is the orientation of heads of education departments to adopt a uniform literacy plan at the provincial level.

Nafisa said Pakistan could not meet the set targets without initiating literacy campaigns on

war-footings.

"A national literacy programme that is linked with not only provincial but also district, tehsil and union council programme must be evolved," she added.

She said literacy should not just address those who could not read and write but also those whose literacy skills are weak. She said concepts such as literacy at workplace, use of tools like computers would enhance the quality of literate people.

She said it was essential to help expand school enrollment, as educated parents would prove beneficial in better educating their children.

She expressed optimism that the workshop would help provide participants the opportunity to discuss various issues regarding education and making a uniform policy.

Speaking on the occasion, Joint Education Advisor Ministry of Education, Chaudhry Muhammad Akram said that the training workshop would be helpful in planning that would enable provincial education heads to prepare state of the art literacy plan, incorporating technical requirements.

Programme Specialist UNESCO Ichiro Mianzawa, Dr Muhammad Salim Ministry of Education, Iqbal-ur Rehman Director Education NCHD and others also spoke on the occasion.