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UNB

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The Finance Division of the Ministry of Finance is providing skills training towards creating employment for five lakh individuals by 2020 with a view to helping poverty elimination and ensuring sustainable development in the country, reports UNB.

Senior government officials disclosed this at a consultation workshop on Social Marketing Strategy of the Skills for Employment Investment Program (SEIP), held in the capital yesterday.

SEIP in collaboration with PIACT Bangladesh organised this workshop to finalise the social marketing strategy of SEIP, aiming to help mobilise disadvantaged communities towards skills training and job placement.

Additional secretary of the Finance Division and also national project director of SEIP Jalal Ahmed spoke at the workshop as the chief guest, while executive project director of SEIP (additional secretary) Abdur Rouf Talukder presided over it.

The government's move came in line with the government's vision to make Bangladesh a middle-income country by 2021, before going on to attain developed country status by 2041, they said. In the first phase of SEIP, a total of five lakh workforces will be trained by 2020. Among them, 2.60 lakh people will be trained by December 2017. At least 70 per cent of the five lakh trained workforces will be provided with gainful employments, they added.

At least 30 per cent of the total trainees will be females and one lakh from the disadvantaged community. Under the SEIP, one lakh individuals have already been trained since inception of the programme in July 2014, they said.

Jalal Ahmed said that training is being provided through 34 government training institutes, 11 industry associations, PKSf, and SME division of Bangladesh Bank. Special emphasis has been given skills that can help trainees avail overseas employment opportunities, he said.

Apart from government finance, the Asian Development Bank and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SIDA) are providing financial support to this program.

Abdur Rouf said they are giving utmost priority to ensure enrolment of females and the disadvantaged communities, including ethnic community, people from remote place like chars, haors, people from recently extinct enclaves and persons with disabilities in the training. SEIP training is provided free of cost and participants are given training allowances. Disadvantaged communities are given special stipend in addition to training allowances, he said.

The training is being given in nine priority areas including garments and textile industries, construction, information and communication technology, shipbuilding, leather and footwear industry, tourism and hospitality, nursing and health technology and agro processing.

People with elementary education aged above 15 are eligible to take part in training in their

areas of choice.

Bangladesh Technical Education Board (BTEB) is providing certificates after conducting assessment on which component would help avail jobs at home and abroad.

Besides, Director General of Women Affairs Department Sahin Ahmed Chowdhury, additional secretary of Finance Division Md Mainul Islam, gender and social development specialist of SEIP Satyajit Karmaker and Deputy Director of PIACT Bangladesh Joyeeta Saha Piwoo also spoke on the occasion.

Prof Dr Ahmedullah Mia and Dr Aliur Rahman jointly presented the draft social marketing strategy at the workshop.

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