

The News 25th July, 2009

■ NCHD WORKSHOP

Literacy key to economic, political change in society

Our correspondent

Islamabad

National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) Chairperson Nafisa Shah has said that literacy was a key instrument for social, economic and political change of any society.

She stated this while addressing the opening session of the work titled 'Development of National Framework for Literacy and Provincial Literacy Plan (2010-2015)' here on Friday.

The aim of the workshop, organised by NCHD in collaboration with Unesco and Ministry of Education, is to create awareness among the focal persons of education departments on the format and lines of provincial literacy plan and processes to be adopted for their finalisation and approval of the plan at the

provincial level.

Nafisa Shah said: "At present nearly 45 per cent people in Pakistan are illiterate, therefore, the importance of a coherent policy and integrated plan on literacy is the need of the hour."

She said in order to meet the challenges of the 21st century, we must harness the energy and creativity of our citizens. She also said that the education policy must adequately reflect commitments to society. "For any nation, it is an essential prerequisite for its integration, security and its journey towards nation building," she remarked.

She said that Pakistan had remained unable to meet Universal Primary Education (UPE) goals due to poverty, underdevelopment and poor coverage of services to the people.

Nafisa Shah said that Pak-

istan could not meet the set targets without initiating literacy campaigns on war-footing basis. She said literacy policy should not just address those who could not read and write, but also those whose literacy skills were weak. She said concepts such as literacy at work place, the use of tools like computers would enhance the quality of literate in the country.

Stressing the need for adult education, she said that it was essential to help expand school enrolment, as educated parents would prove beneficial in educating their children. She expressed optimism that the workshop would help provide participants the opportunity to discuss various problems and issues regarding education and make a combined uniform policy.