

VU asked to start education in Urdu

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ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT, Raza Hayat Hiraj has asked the management of the Virtual University to initiate educational programmes in Urdu and other regional languages in agriculture, animal husbandry and poultry farming for the upliftment and renaissance of the rural population.

Hiraj said this during a press conference addressed by Rector VU Dr. Naveed Malik accompanied by Chairman Higher Education Commission Prof. Attaur Rehman and Chief of VU's upcoming education television channels, Tajdar Alam here on Monday.

It is worth mentioning that the press conference had been arranged by the first public sector distance learning virtual university for IT for announcing launching of a four-year bachelors degree programme in liberal arts including subjects like finance, commerce, management, marketing, mass communication, psychology sociology and law, after receiving charter in that regard from HEC.

While VU had total missed any degree programmes in agriculture, animal husbandry and poultry farming which is bread and butter for the over seventy percent population based in the rural areas of the country.

However, Minister of State

for IT, Raza Hayat Hiraj stressed that the educational programmes of the university should be oriented more towards the needs of the rural community. He said the university should initiate programmes in agriculture, animal husbandry and poultry farming instead of just focusing on programmes for urban communities.

VU, Hiraj said, was an ideal institute for informal education and should pay attention to cater to the educational demands of the rural population who earn their living through agriculture.

He demanded the format should be in Urdu and other regional languages for easy understanding of the rural population to enhance their productivity through better management practice via knowledge leading to upliftment in their living standards by poverty reduction.

Hiraj said VU programmes would be beneficial for those students who have not much time to attend the classes and want to get higher education. The government wants to raise the level of education in the country and it will be a very good step in the right direction.

Chairman HEC, Dr. Atta termed the launching of liberal arts degree an important step by the university and stressed by international linkages for

promoting quality education. He said that the university would be delivering its educational transmission through two television channels for which PEMRA had already granted the licenses.

Earlier speaking on the occasion Rector of VU said the university would be able to offer programs suited to the vast majority of students in Pakistan who aspire for a quality degree.

He said students could get top quality education at very affordable prices, as the total fee of this four-year program would be Rs 68,000.

He said the liberal arts program would enable students from every corner of the country to acquire quality education by some of the Pakistan's most qualified professors.

Head of VU television, Tajdar Alam, speaking to The Frontier Post said that he had made the feasibility of the television channels in such a manner that even without selling the air time of channels for entertainment programmes they would be financially viable.

Alam disclosed Nepal had shown interest for the education programmes of VU. He said that if the university managed to clinch deals for online distance learning with other countries then the satellite channels would easily become financially viable.