

School dropout causes loss of \$3.21 billion a year: study

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BANGLADESH loses up to \$3.21 billion a year or 1.45 per cent of its gross domestic product because of children dropping out of school, according to a recent study.

The study conducted by world's leading logistics company DHL, made the estimation using macroeconomic approaches. In microeconomic estimation, the economic loss of Bangladesh stood at \$2.7 billion or 1.22 per cent of the GDP.

The study titled 'A Way Back to School' said that

Bangladesh, with the highest percentage of school dropouts compared to its total population, is facing growing pressure to tackle the issue before its window of opportunity disappeared.

In 2015, the rate of dropout was 5.06 per cent, 44.48 per cent and 54.9 per cent at primary, secondary and upper secondary levels respectively, said a release issued on Thursday by DHL Dhaka office.

The percentage of dropouts at secondary and higher secondary levels was the

highest in Bangladesh in the region which covered India, Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam and Indonesia, it said.

In the year, the number of dropouts was 1.10 million in the country — 6.38 lakh in primary, 31.14 lakh in secondary and 71.67 lakh in higher secondary levels.

The highest number of dropouts in the region is 56 million in India.

The rate of continuation to secondary school in Bangladesh is 81 per cent.

Asia's five fastest growing

economies — Bangladesh, India, Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia — lose nearly \$34 billion or 2 per cent of their GDP because of children failing to complete secondary education, the report said.

The report calculated the economic cost — including wage premium to secondary school and the income foregone due to lack of education.

Some of Asia's fastest-growing economies may struggle to reach their full potential due to high rates of dropout.