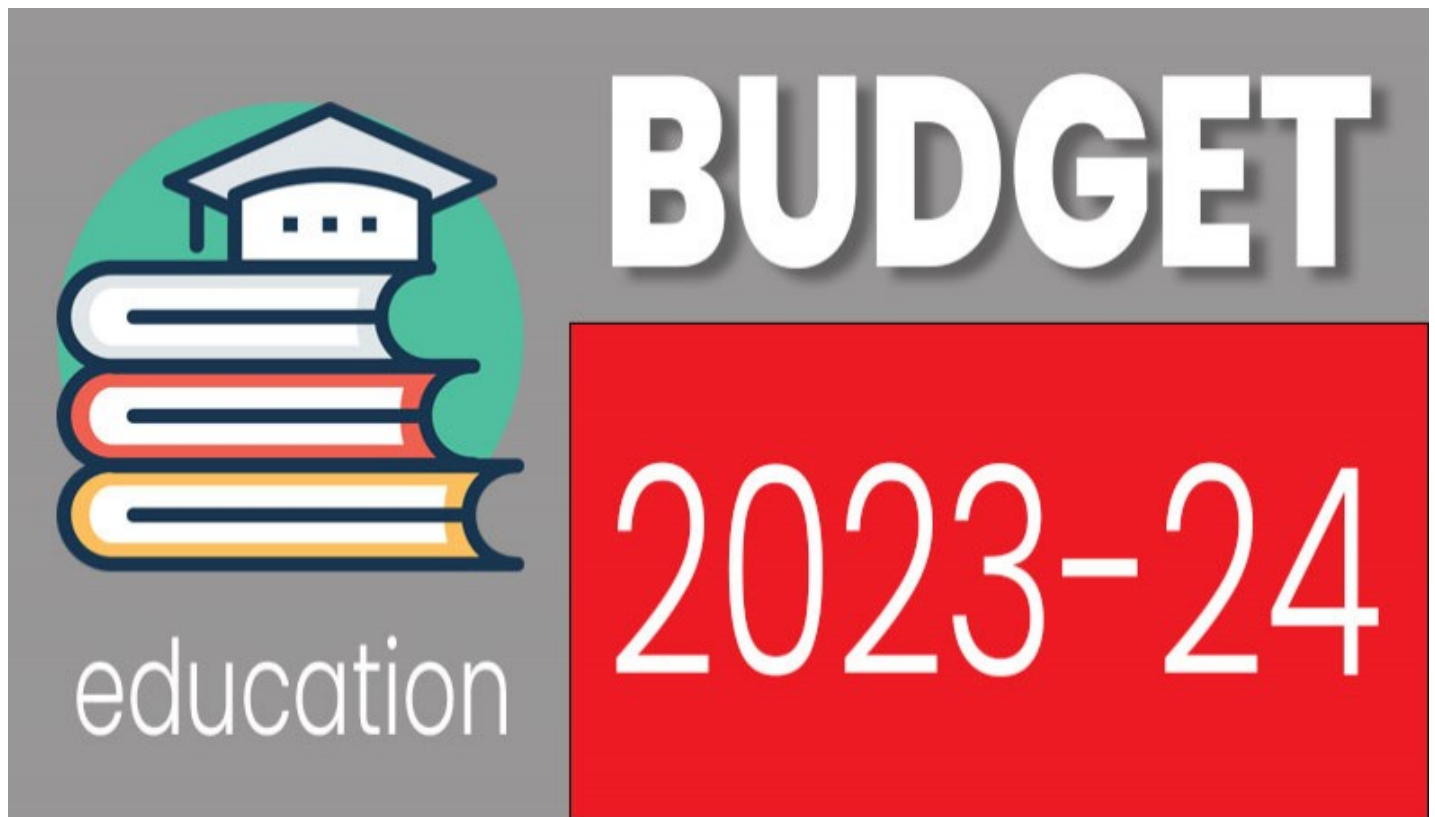


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NEWAGE

Education's share in GDP keeps falling

Shahin Akhter | Updated at 12:23am on June 02, 2023



The share of allocation for the primary and mass education and education ministries in the gross domestic product has fallen in the proposed national budget for the 2023–24 financial year.

The proposed Tk 88,162 crore education budget is 11.5 per cent of the proposed Tk 7,61,785 crore total budget outlay, with its share in the GDP of Tk 50,06,782 crore being 1.76 per cent.

In the outgoing FY22–23, the proposed Tk 81,449 crore education allocation was 12 per cent of the Tk 6,78,064 crore total budget outlay, with its share in the Tk 44,49,959 crore GDP being 1.83 per cent.

The share of education allocation in the GDP was 2.08 per cent in FY21–22.

The share of education allocation in the country's GDP gradually declines amid the educationists' demands for GDP's 6 per cent for education to recover the learning losses faced by about four crore students across the country during the Covid pandemic and for implementing the new national curriculum.

In the sector-wise resource distribution (including subsidies, incentives, and pensions) in the budget for the upcoming financial year, the education and technology sector's share is 13.7 per cent compared to 14.7 per cent in FY22-23.

The education and technology sector consists of primary and mass education, education, science and technology, and posts, telecommunications, and information technology ministries.

In the development budget, the education and technology sectors secured the second position with a 16.8 per cent allocation.

Finance minister AHM Mustafa Kamal on Thursday placed an estimated Tk 7,61,785 crore national budget for the 2023-24 financial year in Jatiya Sangsad.

In his budget speech, he proposed to allocate Tk 34,722 crore for primary and mass education, which was Tk 31,761 crore in FY2022-23.

He also proposed allocating Tk 42,838 crore for the secondary and higher education sector, which was Tk 39,961 crore in the 2022-23 financial year.

The finance minister also proposed to allocate Tk 10,602 crore in FY2023-24 for the Technical and Madrasa Education Division, which was Tk 9,727 crore in FY2022-23.

According to the proposed budget for the upcoming financial year, Tk 13,607 crore was allocated for the science and technology ministry, down from Tk 16,613 crore in FY2022-23.

In FY2023-24, Tk 2,368 crore was proposed for the Information and Communication Technology Division, which was Tk 1,916 crore in FY2022-23.

Education Watch chairman Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad told New Age on Thursday that more education allocation is currently necessary after the pandemic to prepare skilled manpower.

'We thought that the share of education in GDP would increase this year to ease the crisis we faced after the pandemic,' he said, adding, 'this fall in share in GDP requires reconsideration.'

In his budget speech, the finance minister also said that since 2009, 1,17,238 classrooms have been constructed in 30,348 government primary schools.

A total of 351 secondary schools and 371 private colleges have been nationalised from 2009 to April 2023, he said.

The enrolment rate in technical education in 2022 will be 17.2 per cent which was 1 per cent in 2010, he added.



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