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For unaffordable expenses

# 80 pc secondary level students drop out education: study

About half of the primary school students and 80 percent at the secondary level drop out before they complete their education at those levels, a research study said, reports BSS.

"The children who drop out from the schools before class five and class ten, are being denied proper education because their guardians cannot afford the expenses due to poverty," the study

said.

Besides poverty, corruption, weak administration in the primary education management and limited resources are the other reasons for the drop outs of the students and poor quality of education, it said.

The study suggested introduction of nutritious meals in the classroom as one of the means to stop the drop out.

The study by 'Education Watch-2006' was carried out on 18,625 students of 313 primary and 16,529 students of 283 secondary schools both in the rural and urban areas by a group of experts led by noted economist Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad.

The focus of the study was the students drawn from government schools, registered private, private, madrasas, and community

schools located in both rural and urban areas of the country.

The main objective of the study was to gain an understanding on educational expenditures at primary and secondary levels in Bangladesh.

The study was dismayed over the disparity in the expenditures for rural and urban primary and secondary level students.

Huge money is needed to be invested in the education sector to improve the quality of education as well as proper utilization of money in a transparent way, the study said. "The study thinks the investment would play a key role in upgrading quality and time befitting education for kids and build a strong foundation in both primary and secondary levels' schools students".

The study suggested creation of student-friendly environment and appointments of well trained teachers at primary and secondary level schools aimed to provide quality education to meet 21<sup>st</sup> century's global challenge for the students who are the real wealth of Bangladesh.

The study pointed out that providing children with good education is a priority for Bangladesh as the country is a signatory to the World Declaration on Education For All (EFA).

Later on, decision makers from more than 150 countries, including Bangladesh, ratified the Dakar Declaration in 2000 and renewed their commitment to achieve Education for All by 2015 with specific focus on quality and gender equality.

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