

College, univ teachers for budgetary allocation boost

DU CORRESPONDENT

Economist MM Akash suggested increasing allocation for education sector from 12.2 percent to 16 percent in the upcoming national budget.

He made the recommendation in his keynote paper at a seminar titled 'Education Budget of Bangladesh: Trend, Reality and Way Out,' organised by Bangladesh College-University Teachers' Association at the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University yesterday.

In a bid to make an addition fund for education, the Dhaka University professor suggested imposing education surcharge on taxes of the 10 percent richest taxpayers as well as additional education VAT (value added tax) on luxury products and services.

He said the government can increase budgetary allocation for education significantly only combating corruption and ensuring good governance in the country.

Education Minister Nurul Islam

RECOMMENDATIONS

Increase allocation from **12.2%** to **16%** of total budget

Levy education surcharge on top **10%** wealthy people

Eliminate corruption to increase revenue

Reduce excessive expenditure in admin services

Create technical, vocational education syllabus commensurate to market demand

Impose education VAT on luxury products, services

Increase number of scholarships

Make allocation for lunch for poor students

Nahid said people must pay respect to teachers considering them as the main regulator of education and the actor of making a brilliant nation by teaching students.

Nahid said, "We have brought a radical change in education sector but it is quantitative, not qualitative. If we

want to bring a qualitative change in education sector, meritorious teachers must be appointed in this sector and they will work as dedicated persons."

Stressing the need for increasing investment and budgetary allocation for education, the education minister said, "We have inadequate budget in education, so it should be increased to build skilled human resources for boosting socio-economic development and social changes in the country."

He also stressed the need for enrolling more students in vocational education institutions so that they can get jobs after graduation.

DU Vice Chancellor Dr AMMS Arefin Siddique said, "If we can't protect teachers' dignity, there will be no benefits from increasing budgetary allocation in education sector."

He said if teachers don't get respect, it will be difficult to get quality education and young generation will lose their attraction of teaching profession.