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NEWAGE

Experts urge teacher quality focus in edn budget

Staff Correspondent 18 June, 2026, 01:41



Educationists and researchers on Wednesday said the increased allocation for the education sector in the proposed national budget for the 2026-27 financial year should be spent on priority areas, particularly improving teachers' quality through better training, pay and accountability.

They said meaningful reform of the education system would not be possible unless teachers' social and economic conditions improve.



The observations came at a press briefing titled 'Education Budget: Reality and Public Expectations' organised by Campaign for Popular Education, with support from Education Watch, at the National Press Club in Dhaka.

Presenting the keynote paper, CAMPE deputy director Mostafizur Rahaman said the proposed education budget of Tk 122,495 crore for FY27 was the highest allocation ever for the sector and appeared to halt a decade-long decline in education spending.

He, however, questioned whether the education sector had the capacity to absorb the sharp increase in development expenditure, which rose to Tk 52,597 crore in the proposed budget from Tk 20,750 crore in the current financial year.

Mostafizur also noted that budget utilisation declined from 90 per cent in FY24 to 85 per cent in FY25.

Executive director of BRAC Institute of Governance and Development Imran Matin, one of the discussants, said teachers and students remained at the

heart of the education system, while everything else served as supporting infrastructure.

‘Everything else is just the ecosystem surrounding that teacher-student relationship,’ he said.

He stressed the need for accountability and compassion, reform of the assessment system, action to address the ongoing learning crisis and prioritisation of key areas in budget implementation.

Centre for Policy Dialogue executive director Fahmida Khatun said past experience showed that when budget cuts became necessary, social sectors such as education and health often suffered while physical infrastructure projects were protected.

She said investments in education required greater attention because improvements in the sector were qualitative, gradual and less visible than infrastructure development.

Fahmida urged civil society organisations to monitor education spending throughout the year and said improving the quality of teachers was as important as building classrooms.

‘Beyond physical infrastructure like classrooms, there is a dire need for quality trainers to provide education,’ she said, adding, ‘there must be a year-round effort to improve the quality of educators.’

She also said the teaching profession, particularly at schools and colleges, must be made more attractive to draw qualified people.

Professor Syed Shahadat Hossain of the Institute of Statistical Research and Training at the University of Dhaka emphasised the need for research-based evidence to support education policymaking.

CAMPE executive director Rasheda K Choudhury said the increased allocation should be used to improve learning outcomes and address the country's learning crisis.

Among its recommendations, CAMPE called for adopting a national education vision by 2027, removing all taxes and duties on imported learning materials, ensuring timely release of approved development funds and strengthening implementation capacity.

Tags

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[#national budget](#)

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