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Investment In Education

1.7% of our GNP is allocated for education which computes out at a figure of US dollar 0.323 billion, or approximately Taka 1033 crore which again computes down to Taka 258 per head per child far too small an investment put that way to do much good. Our allocation as a percentage of the GNP is one of the lowest in the world, lower even than the poorest 25% of developing nations who spend on average 3% of their GNP.

This low investment in education has been possible only at the expense of quality particularly within the primary education sector and this has had reverberating effects on the standard of students going in for higher levels. As a result we are suffering today through the poor quality of our students at the SSC level. Imbalance in sectoral priorities has been shown in the inequitable allocation of funds usually at the expense of the primary level learning due to pressures on the government to increase salaries and the nationalisation of secondary schools.

The competing financial demands of the various sectors within the educational setup makes it difficult for the government to reach its goals of primary education enrolment for 90% of all small children by the year 2000 unless a more pragmatic overview is undertaken by increasing the percentage of the GNP allocated for education. If children are our future hope then even at the expense of some other sectors we must increase our spending on education at once if our future is to become tomorrow's wealth.