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## 15.2 pc allocated for edn sector 15,000 primary teachers will be recruited

An allocation of Tk 19 thousand 7 hundred and 1 crore has been proposed in the new budget for human resources development which is 25 per cent of the total budget.

Of the amount, 15.2 per cent has been allocated for education and 6.9 per cent for health sectors, reports UNB.

Proposing the amount, Finance Advisor Mirza Azizul Islam on Thursday said human resource is the foundation stone for building social infrastructure.

He said since education and health are the main vehicles for human resource development, it is not possible to ensure accelerated and sustained development without competent human resources.

The Advisor said in the present day world, development of a country is dependent on its well-groomed workforce trained in modern technology.

To this end, he said the government has taken up a new initiative for research and investment in higher education.

Islam said the government will provide financial assistance to the faculties of physical science, life science and mathematical science of any public or private university in the country if they can publish at least three research papers in recognised and well-reputed journals and can also organise an international seminar in a year.

The proposed assistance will be provided following a purely competitive process based on specific research proposals, he said, adding an allocation of Tk 10 crore has been made in the next year's budget as education research grant.

On primary education, the Advisor said the present government has prepared a National Work Plan for universal primary education.

In FY 2007-08, about 15,000 primary teachers will be recruited of which 60 per cent will be female. This will bring the current student-teacher ratio of 55:1 down to 46:1.

Some 55 lakh primary students will be given monthly stipend at the rate of Tk 100. Actions are underway to bring back dropouts in 11,000 teaching centres.

In the next fiscal year, he said 10,000 teachers will be trained. As many as 18 thousand 186 classrooms will be built. Some 6.5 lakh persons from among those who have attained literacy through mass education programme will be provided with income gener-

ating training.

Alongside the secondary female stipend programme, the Advisor said the government is also introducing stipend programme for the poor male students.

Sixty-three per cent of the non-government budget allocation of the Education Ministry is spent for salary subventions of the teachers and staff of non-government educational institutions.

In the revised budget of the current fiscal year, Islam said there is an allocation of Taka 3 thousand 13 crore for this purpose. In order to make this huge spending cost effective, he said the allocation against each institution will be linked with performance.

An Independent Inspection Body will undertake performance evaluation.

Steps are being taken to provide special training for the teachers.

Emphasis has been laid on English language and vocational education.

Information and statistics on education are being enriched.

About the health sector, the Finance Advisor said efforts aimed at human resource development cannot succeed without concurrent development in the health sector.

He said the government is taking steps to put in place improved hospital management system for improving the quality of health services.

However, one of the strategies in this case would be to ensure increased involvement of the private sector at different levels of health services.

The areas where private sector is more efficient will be contracted out on management contract basis. Alongside the steps to increase the number of nurses rapidly by setting up more nursing institutions in the public sector, measures have also been taken to mobilise the support of hospitals, universities and other institutions operating in the private sector.

He said a decision has been taken to ensure increased involvement of NGOs in activities like population control and prevention of malnutrition and contagious diseases. Implementation of a programme on health infrastructure development is underway across the country.

The Advisor said institution-based project implementation has been strengthened to extend the facility of specialised health services. Monitoring has been intensified at the same time.