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World Bank study says 40 pc pry stipends goes to children of richest quintiles

A significant portion of the country's primary stipend programme goes to children from richer households, says a World Bank study, reports UNB.

"About 24 per cent of stipend recipients belong to the 40 per cent richest quintiles," according to the study findings, revealed at a workshop titled "Education for All" at the World Bank office in Dhaka on Wednesday.

It also found that children from the poorest families benefit less from the primary education spending.

The World Bank conducted the study on the status of Bangladesh in terms of achieving the EFA (Education for All) Goals, which was shared with key stakeholders and offered some policy options to

accelerate achievement of the EFA Goals.

"Education for All" is an international commitment to bring the benefits of education to "every citizen in every society" to which Bangladesh is a signatory too.

Two of the EFA goals are among the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to be achieved by 2015. The government's National Plan of Action for EFA (2002-2015) embraced all the EFA goals of making education compulsory, accessible and inclusive.

Primary and Mass Education Secretary Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, senior officials and representatives from development partners, civil society and NGOs were present at the workshop.

Addressing the meeting, World Bank acting country director Mohamed Al Housseyni Toure appreciated the country's success in achieving gender parity in both primary and secondary education.

He observed that the government has been instrumental in the progress made over the past decade by recognising primary education as a critical sector for investment to reduce poverty.

A World Bank policy note also reports low levels of learning achievement, poor literacy and numeric skills of primary school graduates.

It suggested that Bangladesh is likely to meet the adult literacy target by 2015 if the national literacy rate increases at the current rate of 3 per cent per annum.