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Edn share in GDP to go up

Shahin Akhter 10 June, 2026, 01:00



The share of education as proportion of the gross domestic product in the forthcoming national budget for 2026–27 financial year is slated to be increased to 2 per cent amid concern over a proper utilisation of the allocation.

Earlier, education as GDP share fell for the sixth year in a row, which was 1.53 per cent in the outgoing FY25–26.



Academics and researchers praised the government for increasing the budget allocation for the sector while urging it to ensure strict monitoring and accountability in fully utilising the allocation.

After the Bangladesh Nationalist Party-led government came to power in February this year, they pledged to give the highest priority on education and health sectors with a 5 per cent share of GDP in the budget for the education sector.

Education and primary and mass education minister ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon on June 3 at the Bangladesh Secretariat said that the share of education in GDP in the FY26–27 national budget would be increased to 2 per cent.

‘We wanted 3.5 per cent,’ said Milon, adding that prime minister Tarique Rahman assured them that the budget allocation for education would be gradually raised to 5 per cent.

On Monday at a briefing at the secretariat, the minister again said that the share of education in GDP in the FY26–27 budget will be 2 per cent which is

approximately Tk 1.23 lakh crore.

‘It is a good message for the education sector as the GDP portion for the sector was gradually decreasing for past few years,’ BRAC University professor emeritus Manzoor Ahmed said.

Rasheda K Choudhury, executive director of Campaign for Popular Education, said that looking at current realities and global contexts it seems that the government was somewhat forced to take the decision for 2 per cent GDP share for education because of financial provisions.

‘As Bangladesh’s tax-to-GDP ratio is so low, it cannot be much higher,’ she said, adding, ‘Our proposal was to start at least at 2.5 per cent and gradually reach 6 per cent within the next three years, which is Bangladesh’s international commitment as part of the Sustainable Development Goals.’

Professor Mohammad Ali Zinnah of the Institute of Education and Research at the University of Dhaka also said that compared to the types of budget provided during the previous government’s tenure, the current elected government, despite various challenges — especially the economic constraints, is going to allocate a 2 per cent budget for education, which was a positive decision.

He also mentioned that this money would be exclusively allocated for education while in previous budgets massive portions for other sectors like science and technology or the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant project were bundled within the education allocation.

Even then, it was under 2 per cent, he added.

In the FY24-25, the share of education in GDP was 1.69 per cent; in FY23–24 it was 1.76 per cent; in FY22–23 it was 1.83 per cent; in FY21–22 the share was 2.08 per cent; in FY20–21 it was 2.09 per cent; and in FY19–20 it was 2.11 per cent.

According to the Annual Development Programme (amended) 2025-26, between July 2025 and April this year the primary and mass education ministry spent 28.27 per cent of its ADP allocation which is 44.49 per cent and 37.67 per cent for the Secondary and Higher Education Division and Technical and Madrassah Education Division under education ministry.

On June 3 the education minister also said that the outgoing fiscal in its allocation for education also included the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant project and information and communication technology sector which will not happen in the upcoming budget.

The proposed Tk 95,644 crore education budget covers 12.1 per cent of the proposed Tk 7,90,000 crore budget outlay, while its share in the estimated Tk 62,44,578 crore GDP for FY25–26 was 1.53 per cent.

Professor emeritus Manzoor Ahmed said that allocation is one thing while utilisation is another thing.

Utilisation depends more on proper planning, he added.

Echoing him, Rasheda K Choudhury mentioned that the biggest concern, as they saw last year, was the inability to utilise the funds.

Another concern is that how much allocations are increased, they are usually increased in two or three specific areas like salaries, allowances, and

infrastructure, she continued.

‘In the case of infrastructure, we have seen limitless corruption,’ Rasheda said, adding, ‘If monitoring is done correctly, then this budget could be a good step.’

She also stressed on investing the allocation exactly where it was needed, proper planning, increasing food security, student security, teacher security, as well as teacher salaries and status and using the budget for eradicating inequality.

‘If we can turn these into reality, then this budget could be a successful beginning for this first step,’ she added.

Professor Zinnah also said that the utilisation of the budget involved decision-making and files movement from one ministry to another or from one desk to another, which consumed a lot of time.


‘By the time the actual work can begin, the time is spent on these processes,’ he continued.

If plans are made before the budget allocation and ministries become more active and sincere immediately after the budget is passed, it is possible to speed up the implementation of the incomplete projects and utilise the funds effectively, he added.

Tags [#GDP](#) [#education](#) [#gross domestic product](#) [#national budget](#)

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