



National Budget 2023-24: Summary

Education



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সেন্টার ফর পলিসি ডায়ালগ (সিপিডি)
Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)

BUDGET HELPDESK 2023

1. Context and Significance of Education Budget

To foster the development of a prosperous nation, it is crucial to prioritise the education sector in the budget and focus on enhancing the education system. The Government of Bangladesh is diligently working towards a transformative change in the country's education system, with the primary objective of elevating the quality of education across all levels. Currently, a range of policies and initiatives are being implemented to establish a science-based, technology-driven, skill-enriching, and innovation-oriented education system that fosters creativity and growth.

From FY2009 until FY2023, a total of 351 secondary schools and 371 colleges have been nationalised. Additionally, private secondary schools situated in 315 Upazilas, where government schools were lacking, have been transformed into model schools. Moreover, 180 buildings have been constructed for government post-graduate colleges. These ongoing measures undertaken by the government are expected to contribute to the realisation of Vision 2041 and the SDG 4 set by the United Nations, which aims to provide 'Quality Education for All'.

The national parliament approved the budget for FY2023-24 on 26 June 2023. The education sector received an allocation of BDT 70,507 crore in the revised budget for the FY2022-23 budget, accounting for 10.7 per cent of the total revised budget. For the upcoming FY2023-24 budget, BDT 88,162 crore has been allocated for the education sector, constituting 11.6 per cent of the total budget. This allocation encompasses three ministries and divisions within the education sector, namely: (a) the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, (b) the Secondary and Higher Education Division, and (c) the Technical and Madrasah Education Division.

The education sector is set to witness various ongoing and proposed projects in FY2023-24. In this year's budget, an allocation of BDT 28,928 crore has been made for the education sector under the Annual Development Programme (ADP). The ADP related to the education sector entails significant initiatives such as skill-based training, targeted support for female students, establishment of new educational institutions, infrastructure enhancements for existing institutions, financial aid for underprivileged students, and provisions for nutrition, mental health, reproductive health, physical education, and student services. The parliament approved the budget of FY2023-24 on 26 June 2023.

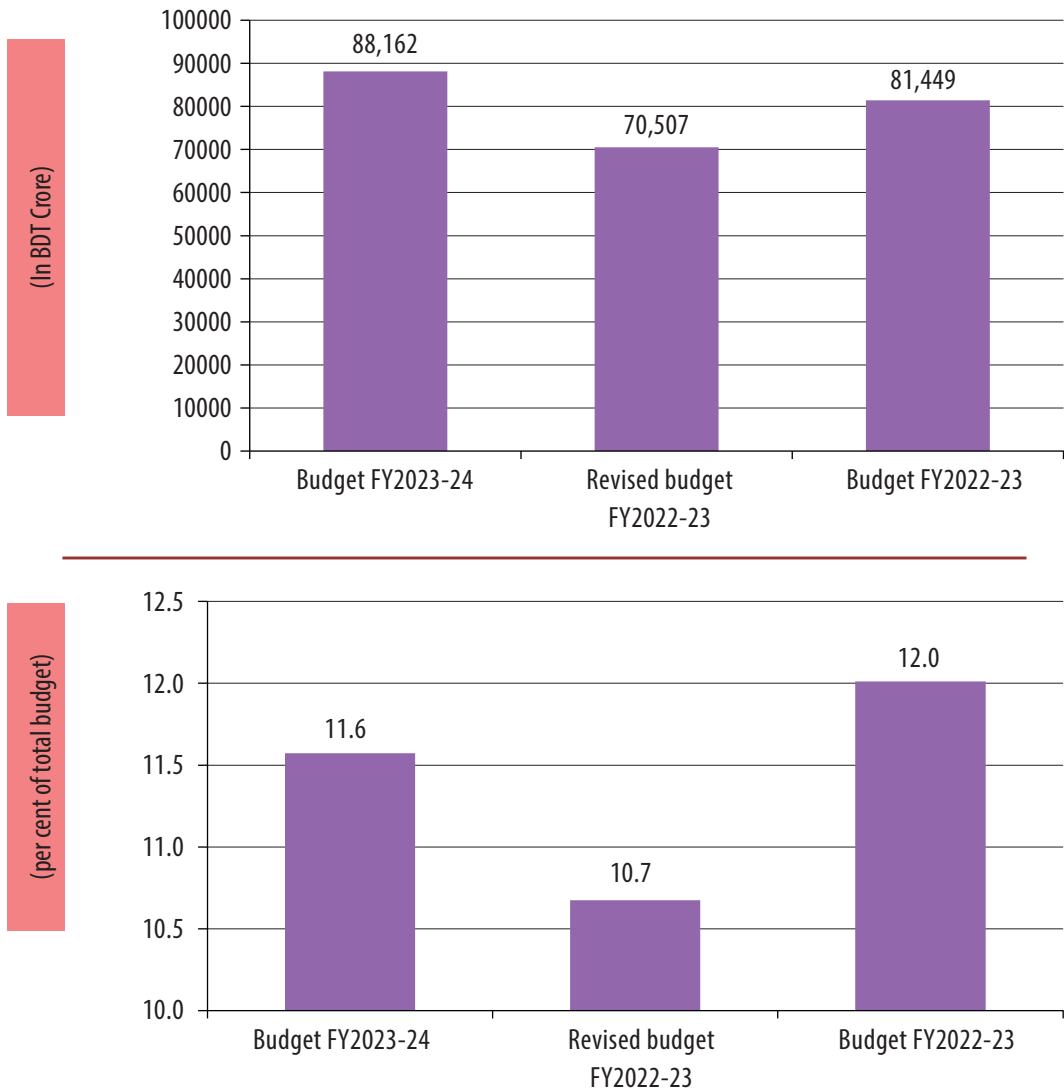
Moreover, there will be a focus on providing comprehensive training for teachers, modernising and digitising the traditional education system, improving the aesthetics of educational institutions for young learners, advancing technical and madrasa education, and increasing the inclusion of small ethnic groups and students from the third gender. These projects aim to enhance the quality and accessibility of education across various dimensions.

2. Education Sector in the Budget for FY2023-24

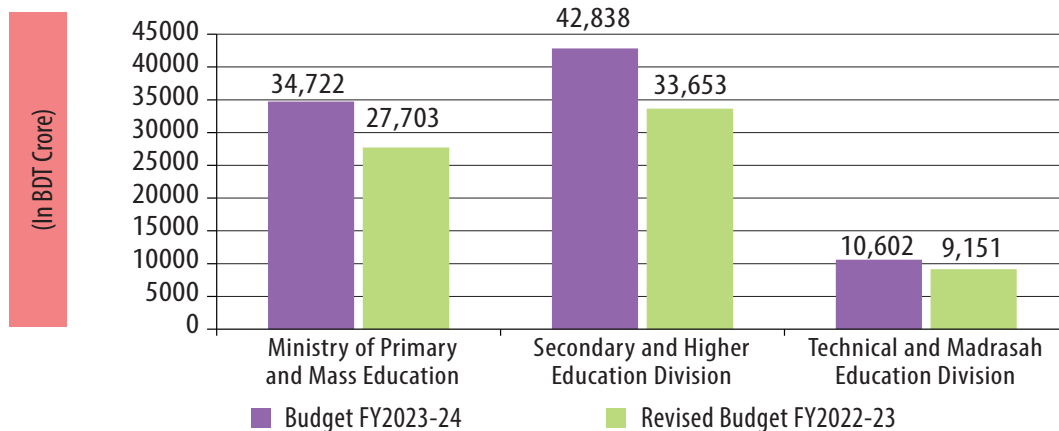
In FY2022-23, the education sector was initially allocated BDT 81,449 crore, equivalent to 12.0 per cent of the total budget. However, in the revised budget, this allocation was reduced to BDT 70,507 crore, accounting for 10.7 per cent of the total budget (Figure 1). Looking ahead to FY2023-24, BDT 88,162 crore has been allocated for the education sector, constituting 11.6 per cent of the total budget (Figure 1). This allocation reflects an increase of 8.3 per cent compared to the budget allocation in FY2022-23 budget and a significant increase of 25.1 per cent compared to the revised allocation for FY2022-23 (Figure 1).

For FY2023-24, an increase has been made in the allocation for ministries and departments related to education compared to the FY2022-23. Notably, the highest allocation of BDT 42,838 crore has been made for the Secondary and Higher Education Division (Figure 2). Additionally, an allocation of BDT 34,722 crore has been made to the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (Figure 2). Furthermore, BDT 10,602 crore has been allocated for the Technical and Madrasa Education Division in FY2023-24 (Figure 2).

Figure 1: Allocation for Education Sector in the Budget for FY2023-24



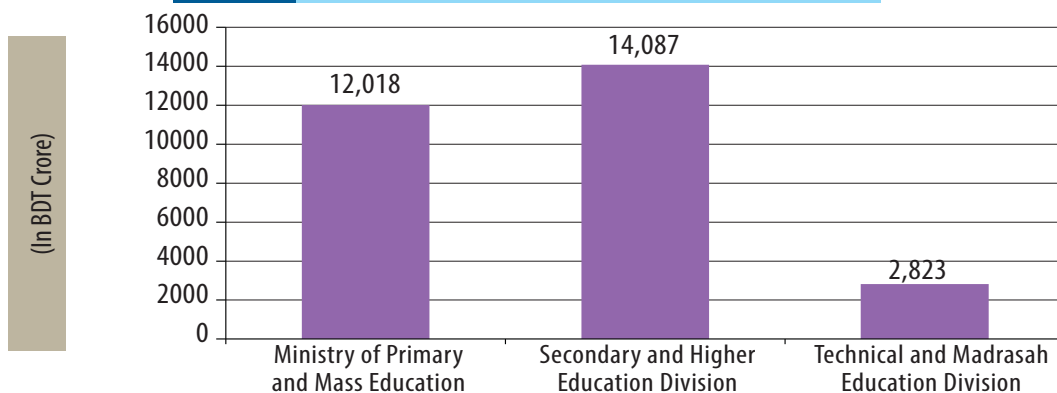
Source: Budget in Brief.

Figure 2: Ministry/Department wise Allocation for Education Sector

Source: Budget in Brief.

3. Allocation to the Education Sector in Annual Development Programme

In FY2023-24, the allocation for the Annual Development Programme of the education sector amounts to BDT 28,928 crore (Figure 3). Among the different divisions and ministries, the highest allocation of BDT 14,087 crore has been made for the Secondary and Higher Education Division (Figure 3). Additionally, BDT 12,018 crore has been allocated to the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (Figure 3). Furthermore, BDT 2,823 crore has been allocated to the Technical and Madrasa Education Division (Figure 3).

Figure 3: ADP Allocation in Education Sector for FY2023-24

Source: Annual Development Programme, FY2023-24.

4. Conclusion

Developing a well-functioning education system is imperative for the progress of a nation. The education sector in Bangladesh has faced significant challenges, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic which led to several setbacks. Hence, it is crucial to prioritise and allocate adequate resources to the education sector in the budget while ensuring their effective utilisation. This approach will help address the current issues and pave the way for an improved education system in the future days.