Government to provide free books to students up to intermediate

Estimates Rs73.68b for elementary and secondary education, Rs7b for higher education

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The total provincial budget for elementary and secondary education has been estimated at Rs.5.6 billion for fiscal year 2014-15 against last year’s revised budget of Rs.4.76 billion.

The education budget makes for 28.85% of current revenue expenditures while education allocation has increased by 14% compared to the previous fiscal year.

The districts of Kohistan and Torkham, with nominal female literacy rates, will see an increase in enrolment of girls in schools with Rs.240 million.

According to the white paper submitted by the government, a 12% increase in non-salary budget, with total estimates for 2014-15 standing at Rs. 3.9 billion, has been undertaken.

Major allocations
The government has allocated Rs.3.25 billion for 100 seminars that will be given the status of primary schools and Rs.1 billion for the Kohistan Pakhtunawata Programme which will assist deserving and talented students presently not enrolled in schools at the union council level.

The districts of Kohistan and Torkham, with nominal female literacy rates, will see an increase in enrolment of girls in schools with Rs.50 million.

An allocation of Rs. 1.5 billion has been made to provide government school students with free curriculum books while the Ipas Pakhtunawata Voucher Scheme, a programme to help needy students, has been allocated Rs.500 million.

In order to award outstanding students of matric and intermediate, Rs.90 million has been allocated under the Stais of Pakhtunawata Programme.

Moreover, an allocation of Rs.100 million has been made to monitor the performance of government schools across the province.

Primary schools
There are 91,102 government primary schools in the province which Rs.1.4 billion will be spent, including Rs.9.8 billion as salary expenditure and Rs.1.6 billion as non-salary expenditure.

Middle, high and higher secondary schools
The number of middle, high and higher secondary schools stands at 92,104 on which Rs.35.91 billion will be spent, including around Rs.35 billion on salaries and Rs.8.7 billion on non-salaries.

Higher education, general colleges, archives and libraries
Separate from the elementary education, the budget for higher education, general colleges and archives and libraries has been estimated at Rs.8 billion, compared to last year's revised estimated budget of Rs.7 billion.