

# Education gets budget boost

## Universalising access to secondary education, skill training

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FINANCE minister has substantially increased the allocation for education and skill development in the budget. With over 70 per cent of Indians expected to be of working age in 2025, Mukherjee says universalising access to secondary education, increasing the percentage of scholars in higher education and providing skill training is necessary.

Mukherjee has increased the allocation for education by 24 per cent to Rs 52,057 crore. Experts from the education industry see this as the government's commitment to right to education (RTE) and indicate its intention to scale up its existing efforts in the education



sector. However, they also think that sustained investments and better policy initiation are needed.

"Government has successfully balanced its allocation between skill developments and sustainable employability generation," said

Sanjeev Mansotra, chairman, Core Projects. "The additional allocation is not intended for the private sector and the bulk of this money will be spent on government schools. However, this increase in allocation might lead to the creation of

schools and institutions through PPP and it is only through this model that private players operating in the K-12 space can benefit," said Anand Sudarshan, MD, Manipal Education.

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