

राजस्थान में बाल विकास के लिये बजट आवंटन पर कार्यशाला

Workshop on State's Budget Allocation Towards Child Development in Rajasthan



2nd July, 2009 Venue : State Resource Center (SRC), Jhalana Institutional Area, Jaipur

Introduction

A State level workshop was organized on the imperative issue of "State's budget allocation towards child development in Rajasthan". Children under the age of 18 constitute the 42 % of total population of India which not only represent the future of our country but also are essential to secure present. Yet development indicators continue to show slow progress towards securing their welfare and delivering their basic rights. The very survival of the child continues to be at risk, particularly for girls, with their survival prospects getting grimmer. Successive census figures reveal a sharp decline in the child sex ratio. Despite a booming economy, investments in social development are insufficient and are also not yielding changes rapidly enough. It is one of the vehement issues in the state of Rajasthan.

Rajasthan has 48% children (below the age of 18 years) of its total population, still only 20% of the total budget is allocated towards child development. Of this the major portion i.e. 80-85% goes to salary and other administrative expenditures. Though there is provision that at least 3% to 6% of the state's GDP should be spent on education and health but in reality less than 1% on health and 4% on education is spent. Lackadaisical approach of the state machinery towards child care and development is the root cause of low human development index in the country.

Objective of the workshop:-

1. To discuss budget allocation for child development with various state and national level NGOs.
2. To converse about government policy regarding child care and development.
3. To discuss about proper implementation of laws and policies pertaining to child care and development.
4. To create a platform which will assist and work towards quality improvement in the government run programmes and will make state aware of the ground realities.
5. To make civil society aware of government budget.



The workshop on “State’s Budget allocation towards child development in Rajasthan” provided a platform to the International, National and Grass root level development organizations; who are already working on the issues pertaining to children in Rajasthan. The workshop was chaired by the renowned personality’s viz. Padmashree Dr. Vijay Shankar

Vyas, Shri Lalit Kishore - distinguished educationist and the economist. More than sixty representatives of various organizations from all over the state were present.

Opening Session: -

Session was opened with introduction of all the participant and welcome note by Vijay Goyal of RIHR.



Dr. Aishwarya Mahajan, Regional Manager, Jaipur Region has briefed about the Aide et Action. In continuation of that some of the orators presented their views on “Children’s say in State’s Budget- the ground realities.” Ms. Shikha Wadhwa of UNICEF, initiated the

discussion and gave her deliberation on the topic “Budget and Expenditure for Children in Rajasthan- result of two studies”. The presentation raised some of the striking issues regarding problem of child budget analysis such as there is no specific child category to analyze the budget, presence of varied sources of data. It threw some light on the trends of expenditure on the child related scheme of the total budget in the state of Rajasthan which has remained same for more than a decade. It also revealed that the education is the only category which is receiving maximum grant from government among child related issues, child welfare is the most neglected of all the issues. The conclusions of the studies conducted by UNICEF divulge that only 4% of Gross state domestic product (GSDP) is spent on

child related programme. Expenditure on the child health is less than 1% and child protection is the most severely neglected area of the budget allocation. Absence of proper utilization of the budget allocated to the state is another problem. Key constraints were that there is low fund absorption, inexpert staff, improper infrastructure, inefficient programme management, weak monitoring and lack of clarity among grass root level workers.

Vijay Goyal of RIHR was the second speaker who presented his views on the budgetary allocation for child development. The trends of budget in the past decade show that in last few years the special emphasis was given to the funds allocated for child development. And it also shows the comparative analysis of budget with expenditure on the specific head. The discussion gave an insight on the financial matter of the government which proves to be beneficial for the people present over there to scrutinize the predicament.

Last speaker of the opening session was Dr. Jyotsana Rajvanshi of IDSJ she gave valuable insight on the provision of finance among child protection schemes and gave detail breakdown of the money allotted, sanctioned and spent under various government programme and also presented comparative analysis of disbursement done on various heads per child for a period 7 years. Further she told about the expenditure on "Palanhar", a unique scheme implemented by social justice and empowerment department in the state of Rajasthan.

Next phase of the session was interaction with children, who came from the far flung places of Rajasthan and gave the authentic details of the circumstances which they face in their respective schools. The major problems were:-



- ✓ Their school is up to 8th standard and there is no school in the vicinity having facility of higher classes, they are forced to leave their study.
- ✓ Absence of lady teacher hampers the prospect of girls' education, as adolescent girls are hesitant to come to school.
- ✓ Non existence of kitchen in the school is another issue, as school authority is forced to cook food in the portico which create nuisance to children as smoke get filled in the classrooms and the quality of food also suffer.
- ✓ Lack of boundary wall of the premises.
- ✓ Lack of toilets in the school building.
- ✓ One teacher teaches to all classes.
- ✓ Teachers are not serious to their job.
- ✓ No improvement in the condition of education system especially in the primary and secondary school since ages.
- ✓ Irregularities in the classes.
- ✓ ICDS centers are not working appropriately.
- ✓ MDM scheme not working satisfactorily.

Mayawati, 8th standard student from Chowrata village is facing the problem of necessary infrastructure in the school which is one of the common problems of nearly all the government schools. Their school lack kitchen, which force the concern authority to prepare the mid day meal in veranda of the school because of it smoke enters the classrooms which makes the learning difficult and also degrades the quality of food. It's an irony as programme was implemented to attract students to school, but is doing exactly the opposite.

Session was concluded by facilitation of the children and indispensable suggestions by Prof Vyas. Some of his suggestions were: -

- The budget should reach to FRBM (Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management) committee of state; chief secretary is the conveyor of this committee.
- Use of standard methodology to calculate the percentage of budget allocated towards child development.

- Contribution of private players in the budget assigned for child development need to be analyzed to have a better understanding of the nature of its effect whether it is supplementing, overlapping or competing with the state budget.
- Budget should be analyzed at district level.
- Output per children should be calculated to have an apt understanding of the budget.
- Child related scheme should be universalized.
- Estimation on the basis of per head count should be calculated to know the number of children covered under the scheme and those who are left out.
- Gap between actual expenditure and budget should be minimized.
- Guidelines and norms should be strictly followed.

Second session:-

The second session was chaired by Dr. Lalit Kishore, Ex Director Lok Jumbish and the renowned Educationist. In this session some of the experts from development sectors share their views with addressees on the topic "Budget Planning & Child Development- the possibilities."

First speaker to share his outlook was Mr. Rajiv from Save the Children, Rajasthan. He reflected some of data revealing the pathetic condition of the children especially the girls in the state , as child marriage, child labour and child abuse are



rampant in the state. Low budgetary allocation not only in the state but also at national level is hampering the future human resource of the country. He said that not only the allocation part should be taken into consideration, but the implementation and optimum utilization of the funds is an important aspect.

Next voice was that of Prem Ranjan of Action Aid Rajasthan, he came with thought that it's the responsibility of the state to ensure that the basic right of a child is not violated and other agencies should play supportive role and their should be critical engagement with the state collaborating with the state. He further presented his ideas about the education intervention, which should be of five fold.

These are:-

- Community should be mobilized to work for their own upliftment.
- There should be teacher's union.
- Making school functional.
- Focus should be on each child, who is drop out or has never been to school.
- Quality of education should be ensured.

Shikha Wadhwa of UNICEF suggested that budget allocation and expenditure analysis of at least 7 flagship programmes of union government should be done.

Last orator of this session was Mr. Balwant Singh of Aide et Action. He expressed his views on having a common frame work all over the country to analyze the budget. Emphasized on developing tools to

make state accountable and have transparency in the budget of district, block and gram panchayat. Education must be looked from the perspective of poor and marginalized section, commercialization of education should be checked and financial plan should be linked with the policies.

After having the views of some of proficient orators there was brain storming sessions in which some of the valuable suggestion and experiences popped out. Some of the important points which came were: -

- Funds should be given according to ground reality.
- Planning should be two fold, long term and instant.
- Accountability of the state and the centre should be fixed regarding child development.
- More importance should be given to the Child protection.
- Institutional level planning should be done; schools should be accountable for their budget.
- There should be flexibility in hours, quality and infrastructure of school.
- Incorporation of corporate in the development sector.
- MDM scheme is negatively affecting the education.
- Transparency in the allocation and expenditure of the budget
- Community should be made vigilant to look after development programme.
- Budget allocation on child protection and child health should increase.
- Misconducts of CDPOs in the ICDS scheme should be checked.
- In the census there should be category for children under which children living in the adverse condition should be considered.
- Alarming situation of increase in crime among children especially among adolescent girls should be controlled.
- There must be a social audit at each and every level of education system.
- Trafficking of children should be checked.
- There should be a provision of separate fund for children during disaster as they are the most vulnerable section of the society.

After having the enriching and dynamic discourse the workshop was concluded by Dr. Aishwarya Mahajan, Regional manager Aide et Action who presented the way forward. Some of the points presented by him were -:

- Common strategy will be formulated on the issues.
- Concrete work need to be done where resources has to be generated.

- Capacity building of the grass root level worker will be done regarding the budget analysis.
- Scrutiny of budget shall be done at ground level.
- Capacity building of the partners will be done.
- Children's committee will be formed and their capacity building will be done.
- At last a forum will be constituted which will continue to work towards the agenda.

Finally the workshop was closed with the vote of thanks by Mr. Medhatithi Joshi of RIHR who ended the session by considering the workshop as an ice breaking step towards a long lasting coordination with organization working on same thematic area and marked the occasion as a small step towards achieving colossal objective.

Recommendations:-

- All suggestion regarding the budget allocation should reach to FRBM committee of the state.
- Use of standard methodology in the calculation of budgetary allocation should be used, mere stating the percentage will be of no help, and also the expenditure and output per child should be calculated. This will present a clear picture not only to common mass but also to the government.
- Expenditure should be calculated on per head count basis to know how many people are left out.
- Transparency in the financial matter of the government, by making the budget available to public scrutiny.
- Gap between actual expenditure and money allocated should be minimized
- Planning should be two folded, one is instant and other is long term.
- Private expenditure need to be calculated separately.
- Implementation of the government programmes should be monitored.
- Accountability and responsibility should be sought out for proper implementation of the programme.
- Emphasis should be on micro level planning.
- Decentralized approach should be followed.
- There should be link between budget and policies of the government.
- Capacity building of grass root level worker.

- Allocation of funds on child protection and health should augment.
- Free legal aid in the case of child delinquency.

Abbreviations

SRC	State resource center
RIHR	Resource institute for human rights Rajasthan
NGO	Non government organization
AeA	Aide et Action
UNICEF	United nation children's fund
GDP	Gross domestic product
GSDP	Gross state domestic product
IDSJ	Institute for development studies, Jaipur
FRBM	Fiscal responsibility and budget management
MDM	Mid day meal
ICDS	Integrated child development service
CDPO	Child development project officer

List of Participating organizations & Participants:

Sl. No.	Name	Organization
1.	Prakash Sharma	Tabbar Society
2.	Manju Kanwar	Vatsalya , Jaipur
3.	Ramakrishna Yadav	Vatsalya , Jaipur
4.	Lalit Kishore	Culp
5.	Mahesh Sharma	M.M.S.V.S , Alwar
6.	Ranjit Singh	M.M.S.V.S , Alwar
7.	Manish Prasad	Cecoedecon , Jaipur
8.	Garima Kala	SPRI , Jaipur
9.	Raj Bhandan(Director)	CCCHD
10.	Govind Benzwal	Rajasthan labour watch
11.	Suresh Bal	RIHR
12.	Mahesh Panpalia	Dhara
13.	Sandeep Edwin	World Vision
14.	Geeta Yadav	Dainik Bhaskar
15.	Jyotsna Rajvanshi	IDSJ
16.	Prof. V.S Vyas	IDSJ
17.	Osmaal Kharhua	Sure , Barmer
18.	Richa	Jan chetna sansthan
19.	Pradeep Singh	Manthan, Kakri
20.	Dr. Ashok	Jan chetna sansthan
21.	Rajeev	Save the children
22.	Harpreet lal	Sara
23.	Mohan	Jan kala sahitya manch sansthan
24.	Manju Chowdhary	AMIED
25.	Monu Gupta	AMIED
26.	Maya	AMIED
27.	Anjuman	AMIED
28.	Rukhsar	AMIED
29.	Asin	AMIED
30.	Manju	Centre for advocacy and research
31.	Sanjay Bohra	Hindustan, Jaipur
32.	Gulzar Singh	Artist
33.	Krishna	PRIA
34.	Ajay Sharma	Aide et Action
35.	Shikha Wadhwa	UNICEF
36.	Raman Shukla	Rajasthan patrika
37.	Richa Bakshi	Aide et Action
38.	R.K Saxena	CHRI & PUCL
39.	Dr. Aishwarya Mahajan	Aide et Action
40.	Mr. Balwant Singh	Aide et Action
41.	Mr. Jaswant Singh	BTV News
42.	Mr. Jogendra Singh	BTV News
43.	R. K. Sharma	
44.	Tulsi Nayal	Allarippu
45.	Harlal Barega	Pratirodh, Chittorgarh
46.	K.B. Khothari	Pratham Rajasthan
47.	Rakesh	
48.	Anuradha	UNICEF
49.	Amit	Mahka Bharat
50.	Aini	
51.	Prem Ranjan	Action Aid
52.	Vijay Goyal	RIHR
53.	Medhatithi Joshi	RIHR

54	Noor Mohammed	AMIED
55	Bhartaram	SURE, Barmer
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59	Ahmad Tahrumn	Pria, Jaipur
60	Paakesh	Pratirodh, Chittorgarh
61	Mukesh Chouhan	Daliy News
62	Nirmal	Allarippu
63	Anil	

