



BUDGET FOR CHILDREN IN TRIPURA 2015-2016

One third of the population in Tripura is below 18 years of age. It is 36.8 percent at the all India level. According to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and those countries that have ratified this Convention, this age-group is considered child population. The healthy growth and development of the child population results in robust youth and in a country like India it becomes a demographic dividend.

However the plight of children in India is disturbing. Out of the 400 million children in India, over 10.12 million are child labourers, as many as 11.6 million children die every year within one year of their birth and every second child is malnourished.¹ The status of children in Tripura is no different as can be noted from the information given in the box below. It is against such a dismal scenario of children in the country and in Tripura that the current study of budget for children is undertaken. The ultimate aim

of this exercise is to advocate increase of budgetary funds allocated for children, track the flow of funds from its source to the destination, assess the impact of the use of these funds on their beneficiaries and suggest various ways to better serve children.

With a population of 36.74 lakh (Census of India 2011), Tripura is the second most populous state after Assam in Northeast India. Its social composition is diverse consisting of different ethnic and religious groups. One third of its population belongs to the Scheduled Tribes. Tripura's unique geographical location at the north eastern periphery of the country has an impact on how children within the state have access to rights and entitlements.

The budget for children (BfC) in Tripura is an attempt made to assess how far the policy and programme meant for children is translated into action.

¹<http://www.cry.org/rights-to-know/statistics-on-children-in-india.html>

Unfortunately, as with other States in the country, for the political leaders and law makers in Tripura, children are not a significant portion of the population since they are not part of the electorate and do not constitute a vote bank. Therefore their rights and interests most often remain unnoticed and unaddressed. And this is clearly reflected in the budgetary provisions for children, the most important political statement of any State.

Despite being known as one of the best governed states in the country, Tripura ranks 21 in the Child Rights Index. High malnutrition among children and rising number of crimes against them are matters of serious concern. Data show that crimes against children in the State have increased between 2013 and 2014. According to news items, one of the reasons for the rise is children trafficked across the border to Bangladesh.²

² <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/guwahati/5-trafficked-Tripura-kids-rescued-Bangla-woman-arrested/articleshow/49551618.cms>

STATUS OF CHILDREN IN THE STATE

- According to Census 2011, the total population of children in Tripura up to 18 years of age group is 12.28 lakhs which is 33.43 percent of the total population of the state.³
- The child population in the age group of 0-6 years is 4.58 lakhs which is 12.47 percent of the population of the State and 37.30 percent of the total child population in Tripura.⁴
- Child sex ratio of Tripura within the age group of 0-6 years is 957. It is higher than the national average of 919.⁵
- The Birth Rate in the State is 13.9 which is much lower than the national average of 21.6.⁶
- The Infant Mortality Rate of the State is recorded as 27⁷ which is much below the national average of 40.⁸
- In Tripura, the full immunization coverage was 47.8 percent among children aged 12-23 months. The coverage of BCG and measles is 75.3 percent and 61.2 percent respectively as per District Level Household & Facility Survey – 4 (DLHS).⁹
- According to the National Family Health Survey - 4 (NFHS), in 2015-2016 almost half (48.3 percent) of the children between 6 and 59 months are anaemic: 45.7 percent of them in the urban and 49.2 percent in the rural areas.¹⁰
- As per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), 369 cases of crimes against Children were recorder in Tripura.¹¹
- According to the Census 2011, Tripura has 13,560 child labourers in the 5-14 age group.

³ Census of India 2011

⁴ Ibid

⁵ ibid

⁶ SRS Bulletin, 2013 – (http://www.censusindia.gov.in/vital_statistics/SRS_Bulletins/SRS%20Bulletin%20-September%202014.pdf)

⁷ National Family Health Survey 2015-16; http://rchiips.org/NFHS/pdf/NFHS4/TR_FactSheet.pdf

⁸ SRS Bulletin, 2013 – (http://www.censusindia.gov.in/vital_statistics/SRS_Bulletins/SRS%20Bulletin%20-September%202014.pdf)

⁹ Tripura DLHS-4 (2012-2013), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

¹⁰ http://rchiips.org/NFHS/pdf/NFHS4/TR_FactSheet.pdf

¹¹ National Crime records Bureau, Crime against children 2014, Table 6.1

CHILD RIGHTS INDEX*

State	Overall National Ranking	Overall GDP	Birth Registration	Sex Ratio	Early Childhood Care	Child Marriage	Child Labour 5-14	Education	Health	Crimes Against Children Incidence	Crimes Against Children Victims	Cime by Children
Kerala	1	9	1	3	21	29	1	2	1	14	15	7
Karnataka	2	7	6	8	12	26	21	7	10	1	6	4
Maharashtra	3	1	8	27	14	19	7	4	7	4	11	3
Tamil Nadu	4	4	2	6	18	25	8	6	3	17	9	13
Andhra Pradesh	5	3	18	11	20	28	24	19	11	2	2	11
Gujarat	6	5	9	22	16	10	10	9	19	3	16	5
Rasasthan	7	8	10	26	24	24	26	18	22	5	5	2
Punjab	8	13	1	20	15	4	6	15	12	10	13	16
Himachal Pradesh	9	20	1	16	13	15	23	3	5	9	24	18
Haryana	10	12	7	28	26	17	12	12	16	7	8	15
Madhya Pradesh	11	11	17	21	8	23	20	17	23	6	3	8
Delhi	12	10	1	24	27	11	2	1	14	19	17	19
Uttaranchal	13	19	16	25	29	14	5	13	13	15	18	14
Orissa	14	15	4	17	7	21	13	20	18	21	20	10
West Bengal	15	6	3	9	23	27	14	26	15	12	7	17
Bihar	16	14	14	13	25	18	11	29	24	13	19	1
Jarkhand	17	17	21	15	9	16	16	28	27	11	1	6
Uttar Pradesh	18	2	19	23	10	13	9	24	28	16	10	9
Chhattisgarh	19	16	11	5	28	20	22	16	20	8	4	20
Goa	20	22	1	19	19	9	3	22	2	26	23	23
Tripura	21	23	1	10	5	22	4	11	17	24	27	21
Assam	22	18	12	7	11	12	15	25	29	20	22	12
Mizoram	23	28	1	1	4	2	29	5	6	22	28	28
Jammu & Kashmir	24	21	15	29	22	7	19	21	8	18	12	24
Sikkim	25	29	5	12	17	8	28	10	4	25	25	26
Meghalaya	26	24	1	2	6	3	25	23	21	23	21	22
Manipur	27	25	13	18	3	6	17	14	9	28	14	29
Nagaland	28	26	1	14	1	1	27	8	26	29	29	25
Arunachal Pradesh	29	27	20	4	2	5	18	27	25	27	26	27

Ranking 1-5 6-10 11-14 15-19 20-24 25-29

*Source: India: Child Rights Index. 2011. HAQ: Centre for Child Rights

A note on Methodology...

15 (3) of the Constitution of India mandates that in recognition of the vulnerability of children and women, states must make special provisions for them. Allocation of resources for children in the budget is one such step. So while all budgetary provisions for the public at large also has an impact on children, there are still special provisions made for them in the budget. Article 4 of the UN Committee of the Rights of the Child that India has ratified in 1992, also requires allocation of adequate resources for children.

Child Budgeting or Budget for Children (BfC) monitoring can loosely be described as research that examines how well governments are using programme development, budget allocation and programme implementation to respond to obligations BfC is not a separate budget. It is merely an attempt to disaggregate from the overall allocations made, those made specifically for programmes that benefit children. The analysis of BfC in India both at the level of the Union and a particular Indian state entails a rather complex exercise at disaggregating from various heads of account in the overall union or state budget to arrive at a comprehensive understanding of how financial allocation is impacting the lives of children. This enables us to assess how far the policy and programme commitments are translated into financial commitments.

This methodology and analysis was developed by HAQ in 2000 and has continued to be the same since then. This is the same method that has been adapted by most others undertaking similar analysis, in India and in other countries as well.

The departments/ministries that run the programmes for children are selected for calculating the BfC. Further, child-related expense heads in the detailed demands for grants (DDG) of the concerned departments are selected for the purpose of calculation. All three

budget figures [Budget Estimate (BE), Revised Estimate (RE) and Actual Expenditure (AE)] pertaining to the selected heads are entered and tabulated for comparison and analysis.

For preparing the BfC report, the programmes/schemes are divided into four sectors specific to children, which are health, development, education and protection. In other words, the total budget for children (BfC) is the sum total of the allocations made towards above mentioned four sectors. Then the sectoral totals and the BfC are compared with the total state budget. The share of BfC is calculated with the total state expenditure which is available in the Annual Financial Statement.

BUDGET FOR CHILDREN (BfC) IN TRIPURA: 2015-2016

Budgets are the most solid expression of a government's priorities, performance, decisions and intentions both at the national and State level. The analysis of the State budget from the point of view of children in Tripura is an attempt to assess how far the policies and programmes meant for children are translated into action. While similar attempts to study the allocation and spending for children have been made at the national level and in other states since 2000,¹² the budget for children (BfC) study is attempted for the first time in Tripura.

Budget for children is not a separate budget. It is merely an attempt to desegregate from the overall allocations made, those made specifically for programmes that benefit children. This enables us to assess how far the policy and programme commitments are translated into financial commitments.

Since this is the very first attempt of its kind, it is appropriate to provide a brief explanation about BfC. Budget for children is not a separate or standalone budget for children. It is merely an attempt to disaggregate from the overall allocations made in the State budget, those made specifically for programmes that benefit children. This enables us to assess how far the policy and programme commitments are translated into financial commitments. This would also indicate political commitments of the government towards its young citizens.

As mentioned earlier, in line with the definition of the child under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), this study considers a person up to the age of 18 years as a child.

However, as in other States of India, children in Tripura too are not a homogeneous group. Hence, their programme needs are determined by their age, gender, socio-economic status, physical and mental well-being and where they live. For example, nutrition and health inputs in the early childhood years are critical for the child's growth.

Table 1.1 Tripura - District Index : At a glance

Best Performing Districts (1)	Moderately Performing Districts (2)	Districts Need Attention (3)	Worst Performing Districts (4)	The numbers corresponding to each districts are RANKINGS and not their absolute values of sex ratio				
District	At Birth	0-6 Years	7-14 Years	15 up to 18 Years	All Ages	Child Labour	Child Marriage Males (0 to 17 Years)	Child Marriage Females (0 to 17 Years)
Dhalai	2 (975)	2 (968)	4 (947)	4 (907)	4 (944)	1	2	4
North Tripura	1 (1006)	1 (969)	1 (966)	2 (936)	1 (967)	2	4	3
South Tripura	3 (952)	4 (951)	3 (954)	3 (915)	3 (957)	4	1	1
West Tripura	4 (947)	3 (952)	2 (959)	1 (941)	2 (962)	3	3	2

¹² See <http://www.haqcrc.org/budget-children>

Therefore, inputs and interventions on these aspects in the early years are critical. In the later years, enrolment and retention in schools becomes crucial, as does the issue of prevention of entry into the labour market. The programme interventions in the adolescent years need to target their educational, health and sexual needs as well as their transition into adulthood. Besides, children who are especially socio-economically vulnerable and children with disability need special attention. All these must be reflected in the budget.

The District Index (Table 1.1) displays data on some key indicators like sex ratio, child labour and child marriage in the various districts of Tripura.

The honorable Finance Minister of Tripura, Mr. Bhanulal Saha presented the budget of 2015-16 in the state assembly on 11th February, 2015. Mr. Saha in his budget speech mentioned that state government will give high priority to ensure welfare of Women and Children with special focus on girl child.

“The State Government attaches high priority to ensure welfare of Children, Women. During the year 2015-2016, under Incentive to Girl Child the beneficiaries would be increased from 27,340 to 42,340. Top priority has been accorded for educational development of Scheduled Tribe children and to reduce dropout Ratio from primary to madhyamik levels.”¹³

There is a growing concern among states regarding the impact of the changing financial architecture of the country following the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission and the dismantling of the Planning Commission. This can be seen here too as the Finance Minister of Tripura while presenting the State budget expressed his worries and concerns regarding reduction of funds in the social sector and also about the NITI Aayog Institution. Here are few excerpts from the budget speech 2015-2016

“Our country has been facing a process of intensified globalization and economic liberalization disregarding the interests of the common people. In the name of fiscal consolidation, all the social sector schemes, like Food Security Act, National Health Mission, etc have been drastically curtailed in the last few months. This reduction in expenditure under social sector in the country would impose heavy burden on the common masses.

The constitution of NITI Aayog to replace the planning commission is a regressive step which will further push the country into market-driven economy and privatization. The disappearance of the planning Commission would mean what used to be plan transfer would now be doled out through the finance ministry, which would entail both a possible reduction in the total magnitude of transfers, and a definite increase in the Centre's control over States plans. Through the institution of NITI Aayog, the centre would force states to go for public-private partnerships....”

Children in Tripura have received an average of 3.23 rupees out of every 100 rupees in the Budget. In 2015-16, the children received only 2 Rupees and 68 Paise, with much less than 1 paise going for their protection.

The falling share for children as a whole, especially seen in the fall in development, health and protection sector is a matter of huge concern. What is more, the little that is allocated remains unspent.



¹³Excerpts from Tripura Budget Speech 2015-2016

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS OF BfC 2015-2016

- The impact of the changing fiscal architecture is reflected in the fact that the overall state budget decreased by 7.2 percent in 2015-16 as compared to previous year.
- In this scenario, it is heartening to see that despite the reduction in the state budget in 2015-2016, the share for children (BfC) within the state budget has actually increased by 10.22 percent. This indeed is a reflection of the state's commitment to its children and recognition of their needs.
- However, despite this increase, the share of children as a whole is a very small 2.68 percent of the overall budget, which is even lower than Assam where it varied from 3.46 percent to 5.57 percent during the last three years. It is lower than many other states of the country where it varied from 10 to 19 percent during the last five years. And what is of even greater concern is the fall in the share in the overall budget over the years from 4.76 percent in 2013-14. What could be the reason for this? Is it lack of resources or falling priority for children?

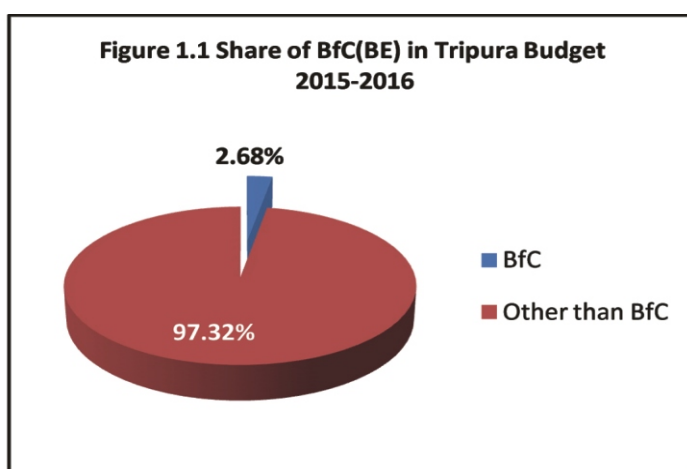
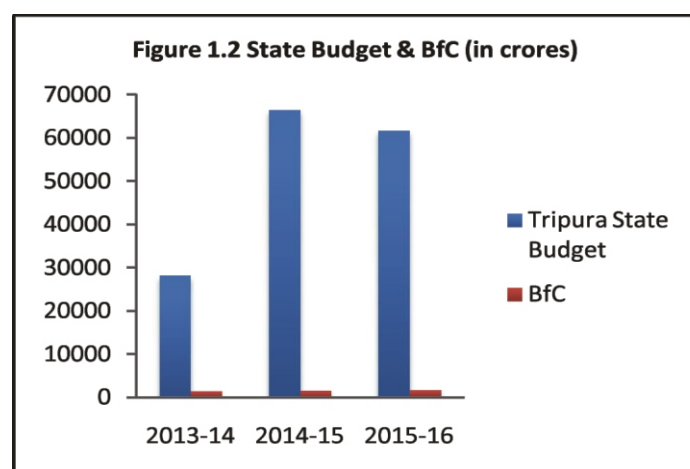
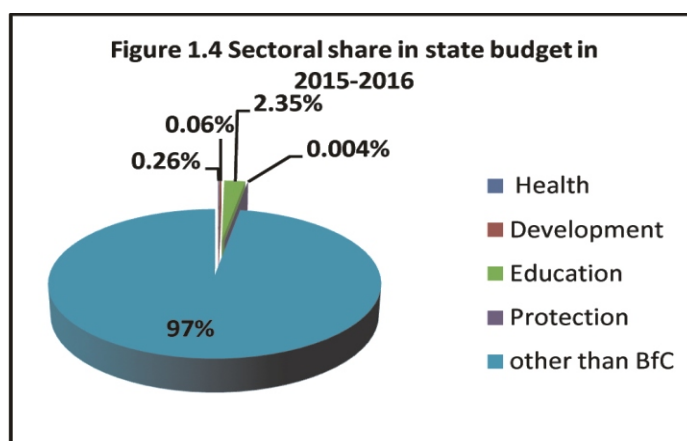
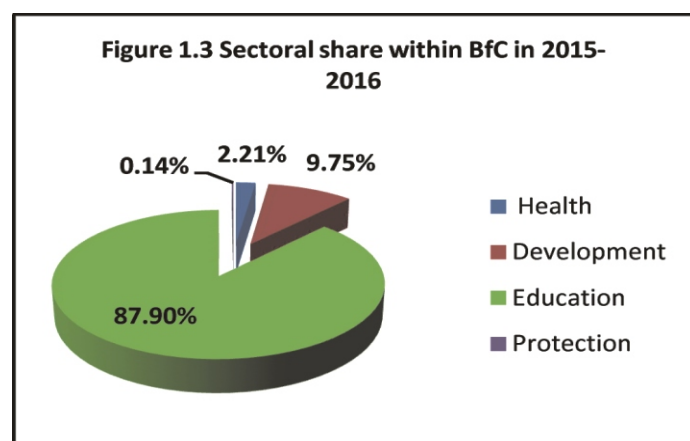


Table 1.2: Share of Children in the State Budget (in Crore)			
Year	State Budget (BE)	BfC (BE)	Percentage of BfC
2013-14	28140.55	1338.78	4.76
2014-15	66502.47	1497.81	2.25
2015-16	61713.46	1650.96	2.68

Sectoral Allocation in the State Budget & within BfC

Among the four sectors, Education sector always receives the highest share, followed by Development, Health and Protection. Both health and protection sectors have been accorded low priority even though they deserve better attention considering the poor health condition and increasing crimes against children in the state.



- Though protection of children is considered as an important concern but the allocation shows otherwise. Despite the introduction of the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS), protection sector received the lowest share of 0.14 percent in BfC and very minimum of 0.004 percent in the state Budget in 2015-16.
- The education sector has been given the maximum preference both in the state budget (2.35 percent) and within BfC (87.90 %) in 2015-16. This is good, but still lower than what is needed. Besides, unless children are healthy and protected, they will not be able to access their rights to education.
- Although Development Sector received an allocation higher than the health and protection sector, it was at only 0.26 percent in the state budget (9.75 % within BfC) in 2015-16.

Table 1.3: Sectoral share within BfC (in percent)

Year	Health	Education	Development	Protection
2013-14	10.50	78.72	10.63	0.15
2014-15	5.75	88.00	6.02	0.23
2015-16	2.21	87.90	9.75	0.14

Table 1.4 Sectoral share in the State Budget (in percent)

Year	Health	Education	Development	Protection
2013-14	0.50	3.75	0.51	0.007
2014-15	0.13	1.98	0.14	0.005
2015-16	0.06	2.35	0.26	0.004

- In the Tripura state budget both education and development sectors observed little higher allocation 2015-16 as compared to previous year's budget, but the share for health and protection sector has fallen. **(See table 1.4)** Within the BfC apart from the development sector, all the shares of all other sectors has reduced. **(See Table 1.3)**

While low allocation of funds is bad enough, worse is the fact that even these paltry allocations remain unutilized. **Table 1.5** below shows **schemes that showed under spending**. In schemes like Maternity and Child health and National Iodine deficiency control programme, more than 90 percent of the funds remained unutilized.

Table 1.5 BE and AE (in thousands) and under-spending (in percent) under different schemes in 2013-14

Schemes	BE	AE	Under-spending
National Programme for Control of Blindness (CSS)	2468	324	-86.87
Maternity & Child health	841400	75713	-91.00
National Iodine Deficiency Control (CSS)	4499	160	-96.44
Integrated Child Development Scheme (CSS)	1097308	754102	-31.28
Juvenile Home	570	398	-30.18
Mid Day Meal Scheme (CSS)	39819	23688	-40.51
Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahayog Yojna (IGMSY)	21719	6094	-71.94

Child Health

Access to health care is the basic right of every child. But unless this is matched with financial allocations, it remains lip service. Given the health indicators of children in the state, this is a sector that needs much greater priority and investment. Adolescent health and diseases remain neglected areas as most of the child health related initiatives are confined to the young child.

- Health sector received an allocation of 36.42 crore in the Tripura state budget 2015-2016. The allocation in the current year's budget decreased by 58 percent as compared to previous year which is attributed to non-receipt of any fund under the Maternity and Child Health Programme this year though an amount of 50 crore was allocated in 2014-15. It is quite unfortunate that a good number of important Schemes that contribute to the health of children, like Indira Gandhi Matruva Sahayog Yojana, Training of ANM, Training and Employment of Multipurpose workers etc failed to receive any fund since 2014-15.
- In 2015-2016 a scheme like Anti TB clinic received an allocation which was increased by 300 percent as compared to previous year.
- The allocation under Scheme "National Programme for Control of Blindness" increased by 200 percent in the current year's budget as compared to previous year, which is remarkable.

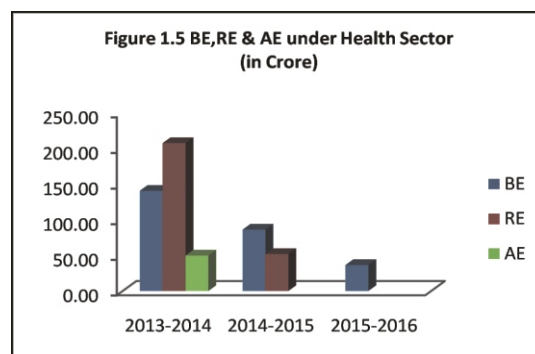


Table 1.6 Allocation under major schemes in Health Sector (in thousands)

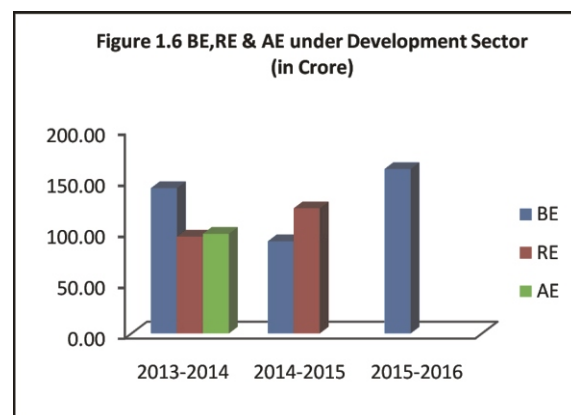
Schemes	2014-15	2015-16	Increase(+)/decrease(-) (percent)
Anti TB clinic	10	40	+300
National Programme for control of Blindness	30	90	+200
Family welfare & Preventive Medicine	36.09	36.40	+0.86
Maternity & Child health	500000	0	0

Figure 1.5 shows that the Government has not been able to spend the full amount allocated at BE or RE stage. Despite 48 percent increase of allocation at RE stage for the Health Sector for children, there was 35 percent under-spending in the year 2013-14 which is a matter of serious concern.

This under spending has been caused due to the under-spending in the schemes like National Programme for Control of Blindness, Grants in aid in Family Welfare & Preventive Medicine, Maternity & Child Health, National Iodine Deficiency Disorder Control, Indira Gandhi Matruva Sahayog Yojana etc.

Child Development

Much of the investment within the Development sector is for early childhood care interventions, primarily through the Integrated Child Development Services. Given the large funding for the flagship scheme, combined with other miscellaneous programmes for child development, this sector in most states and nationally is fairly well resourced. It is therefore not surprising to see that despite its share in the overall state budget being low, in real terms there has been 79 percent increase in allocations this year, from 90.17 crore to 161.05 crore in the budget 2015-2016.



There has been 36.62 percent reduction in the budgetary allocation in between 2013-14 and 2014-15 in development Sector.

- This increase in the allocation is attributed mainly to 82 percent increase in the Central share under **Integrated Child Development scheme** a nearly 86 percent increase in the allocation under **Tripura Scheme for Incentive to Girl Child**; And almost 7.54 percent increase in the allocation under children **home for boys and girls** as compared to previous year.
- It is disappointing that the scheme SABLA, Which aims at development and empowerment of adolescent girls of 11-18 years failed to receive any central share since 2014-15 though it received an allocation 4.6 crore under state share this year which is 2.47 percent higher as compared to previous year. The important scheme Kishori Shakti Yojana also failed to receive any allocation this year under the centrally sponsored scheme head.
- What remains disappointing is that the spending does not match the allocations with 31.43 percent of the allocated amount in 2013-2014 remaining unutilized.

Risky shape of Anganwadi center remains unsafe for the children: Wrecking of Govt. Funds

Tripura info Way News, June 6, 2015

UDAIPUR, June 6 (TIWN): More than 20 children are coming to the Dhon Tara Anganwadi center under Korbok Sub-Division, which is in very dilapidated condition from the last few months. But the students are used to sit and play in that class-room under perilous situations. The fund which has been deployed to run the center smoothly has been going to vain due to the negligence of the in-charge of the center. Apart from this issue, the Anganwadi also faces problems in their mid-day meal. Allegedly it has been said that the center faces problems in the mid-day meal due to irregularity of the in-charge. The food items have been kept with the in-charge, so when she remains absent the children have to remain empty stomach.....

Source: <http://www.tripurainfoway.com/news-details/TN/29032/risky-shape-of-anganwadi-center-remains-unsafe-for-the-children-wrecking-of-govt-funds.html>

Table 1.7 Allocation under important schemes in Development Sector (in thousands)

Schemes	2014-15	2015-16	Increase(+)/decrease(-) (in percent)
National Service Scheme	0	14350	0
ICDS(Central Assistance to state plan)	713996	1299366	+82
Children home for boys & girls	19370	20831	+7.54
SABLA(State share)	44980	46093	+2.47
Tripura scheme for incentive to Girl Child	96416	179480	+86.15

Child Education

Education is one of the key instruments for social change and empowerment of marginalized communities. Keeping this in mind much emphasis has been given to enhancement in the budgetary allocation under child education in Tripura during 2015-16.

- The child education sector received 10.09 percent higher allocation in 2015-16 in State budget as compared to 2014-15.

- Child education and especially elementary education received the maximum share of financial resources within Budget for Children.
- Both the Central Share as well as State Share for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan observed a significant increase of 48 percent and 56 percent respectively in the State Budget 2015-16.
- The higher allocation in Education sector in the 2015-16 is mainly attributed to nearly 54 percent increased fund under Post-Matric scholarship to ST students, 29 percent enhancement in the allocation for welfare of Handicapped under the institution of deaf and hard of hearing. Increase in the Grants-in-aid for Ashram School by almost 20 percent has also helped in raising the allocation under Education sector.
- On the other hand it is observed that almost 81 percent reduction in Grants-in-aid under Education to Madrasa, minorities and disabled during this year gave major constraint in raising the overall allocation in the child education sector.
- **Rastriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan** which is aimed at providing quality education at secondary level received the central assistance of 29.83 crores in 2015-16 which is lower by 51.49 percent as compared to 2014-15 Tripura Budget.
- The budget allocation for Education sector has been fairly impressive with an annual growth of 25 percent in between 2013-14 and 2014-15 and 10 percent in between 2014-15 and 2015-16. But the utilization of the fund was not satisfactory as nearly 10 percent of the allocated fund remained unutilized in 2013-14. Some of the flagship schemes have reflected poor utilization of allocated funds, which has further affected the implementation of these schemes. (Table 1.5)

- Much emphasis has been given on reducing the dropout ratio at primary to secondary level.
- Arrangement has been made for providing scholarship and imparting coaching to SC, ST and OBC students.
- During 2015-16 Pre-Matric and Post-Matric scholarship was given respectively to 32500 and 24932 students.
- Altogether 27603 students belonging to Minority community have been brought under the ambit of stipend and scholarship scheme in the current year.

Source: Budget Speech 2015-2016, Tripura

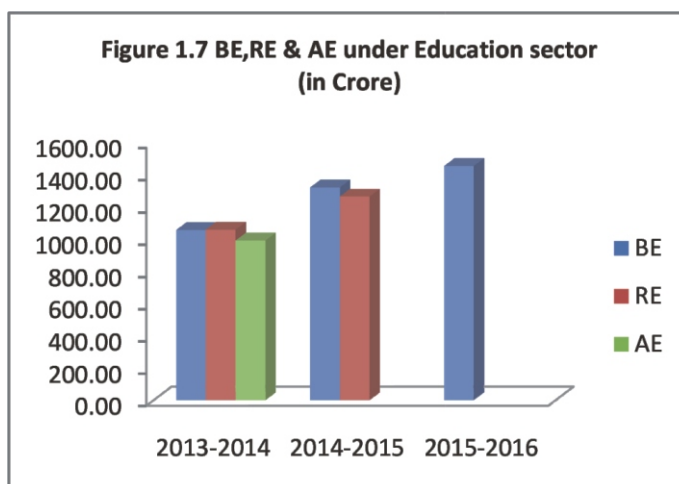


Table 1.8 Allocation under major schemes in Education Sector (in thousands)			
Schemes	2014-15	2015-16	Increase(+)/decrease(-) (in percent)
Assistant to Non Government primary school	65097	69050	+6.07
Primary Education	3164831	3605028	+13.9
SCERT	23147	25042	+8.2
Government Secondary School	5322700	5560344	+4.5
Mid-day Meal	5353	5404	+0.95
Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan(SSA)-State Share	123143	182000	+47.79
Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan(SSA)-Central share	1006795	1575000	+56.43
RMSA(CSS)	615000	298324	-51.49

Child Protection

Child protection has been the most under resourced sector all over the country and Tripura is no different. Protection sector received the lowest priority in the Tripura state budget.

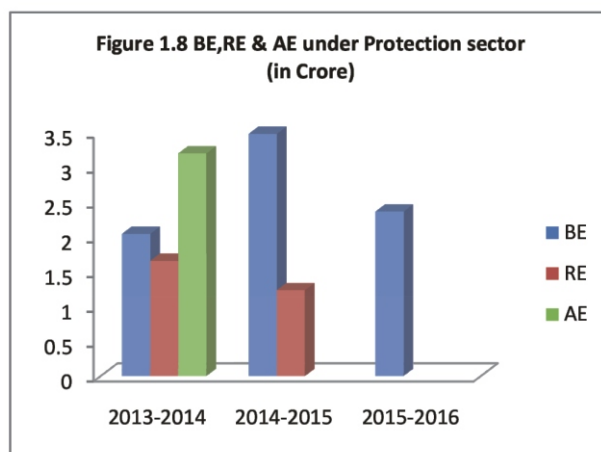
During a seminar held on 1st July 2015 at Pragna Bhawan on 'Integrated Child Protection scheme'¹⁴, the State Minister for Social Welfare and Social Education Ms. Bijita Nath expressed concern over the rising crimes against children in the state and promised to adopt certain measures to curb it down.

"Some couples adopt children and then dump them after few months. The increasing trend of returning children back to the orphanage should be checked. If necessary, strict steps would be taken against them," Bijita said.¹⁵

Despite the increasing rate of crimes against children in the state, the Tripura government fails to protect its children, with low budgetary allocations in the protection sector both in the state budget and within BfC. Such ignorance towards the child protection raises serious concerns.

It is interesting to note that in 2013-2014 there was 57 percent overspending of the allotted fund towards child protection programmes/schemes. Both at BE and RE stage, the allocation for Protection sector remained very low but the actual expenditure was high. This raises many questions like on what basis initially the plan was made, from where the money had been diverted, what could be the reason for this overspending? (See Figure 1.8)

- The total allocation for the protection sector in the current year is only 2.36 Crore which is nearly 32 percent lower as compared to previous year.
- There is a 48 percent reduction in both *Central assistance to the State Plan* and *State share* under the **Integrated Child Protection Scheme** and due to this the allocation under the protection sector has decreased in the current budget.
- Nearly 6 times increase in the fund under Juvenile Home in this year is remarkable.



Child rapes rising in NE: NCRB report

Oinam Sunil | TNN | Apr 30, 2013, 09.45 AM IST

Guwahati: The statistics of the National Crimes Record Bureau (NCRB) has revealed that the country has recorded 48,338 child rape cases from 2001 to 2011. Among the Northeastern states Tripura registered the highest number of child rape cases in the region with 457 cases between 2001 and 2011.

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/guwahati/Child-rapes-rising-in-NE-NCRB-report/articleshow/19796064.cms>

Table 1.9: Allocation under important schemes under Child protection (in thousands)

Schemes	2014-15	2015-16	Increase(+)/decrease(-) in percent
ICPS (state share)	30000	15600	-48
ICPS(Central Assistance State Plan)	3000	1560	-48
Juvenile Home	775	5445	602.5
Tripura State Commission for Protection of Child Rights	1000	1000	0

¹⁴ <http://thenortheasttoday.com/tripura-crimes-against-children-increasing-says-social-welfare-minister/>

¹⁵ Ibid

Conclusion

Despite the fall in the state budget by 7.2 percent in 2015-16 as compared to 2014-15, the share of BfC in this year rose a little to 2.68 percent from 2.25 in 2014-15.

In 2013-2014, the share of BfC was much higher as compared to the share of 2014-2015 and 2015-2016. It was 4.76 percent but the actual expenditure was just 1.92 percent of the total BfC in the 2013-14. Funds allocated under many schemes remained unutilized. There remained a major lag between fund allocated and actual spending in that year which is a serious concern.

The priority sectors like child health and child development were neglected as the allocation under these sectors was very low. Similarly the least prioritized child protection sector remained under resourced, which is not desirable.

Education sector despite receiving maximum share in the state budget failed to achieve total success as the fund provided under it was not utilized properly in many cases. It is evident from the fact that nearly 40 percent of the fund provided under Mid-day-Meal scheme remained unutilized in the year 2013-14. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan which aims at universalization of elementary education and providing quality education to the children, received a higher allocation in this year as compared to previous year, but success of it can be ensured if the amount is utilized properly and effectively.

Recommendations

- While allocating funds fair attention need to be given to all sectors without placing undue emphasis on the education Sector.
- Allocation under health and protection must be increased sufficiently with a view to improve the quality of life of children. This helps in higher rate of enrolment and retention of students in schools.
- Funds under different schemes must be allocated with judicious planning so that priority sector is not being deprived of getting higher share.
- Irregularities in flow of central fund constraints in implementing many important schemes. So it is to be ensured that the fund from centre is being received regularly and sufficiently.
- Since there is limitation of resources, the fund must be utilized properly so that there must not be any scope of under spending or overspending.
- Emphasis is to be given to development of children belonging to backward sector, physically handicapped and underprivileged.
- Proper monitoring is to be done to ensure that the funds under various schemes are properly utilized.



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