

Budget for Children 2019-20: KEY ASK

Is the government doing enough for the survival, development and growth of the girl child?

A quick analysis of the Budget 2019-20 and a few schemes presents a grim picture!

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)

BBBP was launched with much fanfare in January 2015, with an aim to change mindsets and arrest practices like sex selective abortions that result in declining child sex ratio.

Effective enforcement of Pre Conception & Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC&PNDT) Act is an important component of the scheme. While the Budget for the scheme remains unchanged at INR 280 Crore, child sex ratio

continues to be on a decline and sex ratio at birth is even worse.

Responding to a question in the Lok Sabha, Dr. Virendra Kumar, Minister of State, Ministry of Women and Child Development admitted that the Ministry has not carried out any impact

assessment of the scheme. Out of INR 280 Crore allocated for the scheme in 2018-19, a 19 per cent (INR 53.66 Crore) remained unspent, only 25 per cent (INR 70.63 Crore) was released to states/districts and 55.6 per cent (INR 155.71 Crore) was spent on media related activities. The scheme has come under criticism for spending INR 364.66 Crore out of an allocation of INR 648 Crore in the last five years on media related activities.

Child sex ratio (CSR) witnessed an overall decline of 2 points from 908 in 2005-06 to 899 in 2015-16.

- National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4), 2015-16

Sex ratio at birth declined from 887 per 1000 boys in 2014 to 881 in 2015, and further to 877 in 2016.

- Vital Statistics of India based on the Civil registration System, 2016, Office of the Registrar General of India & Children in India-2018, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

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**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4114
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.01.2019**

BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO

+4114. SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL:
SHRI SANJAY HARIBHAU JADHAV:
KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV:
SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:
SHRI SHIVKUMAR UDASI:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(c) the total funds allocated/ earmarked, released and utilised under the scheme since its inception;

(d) the details of funds utilised/spent in advertising the scheme during the last five years and the current year;

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR)

(c) & (d): The details of expenditure of funds allocated/earmarked, released, utilized, spent in advertising under the scheme since its inception and the current year are as under:

(Amount in Crore)

S. No	Financial Year	Funds Allocated	Funds Released to States/ Districts	Funds released for the Media activities
1	2014-15	50	13.37	18.91
2	2015-16	75	39.08	24.54
3	2016-17	43	2.9	29.79
4	2017-18	200	33.2	135.71
5	2018-19*	280	70.63	155.71

achievements in the last four years (2014-18), the Ministry of Women and Child Development failed to report on progress made under this scheme and budget implications of the scheme are never disclosed. Is this because the burden of spending by way of opening bank accounts is on the parents and guardians of the girls intended to benefit from the scheme, instead of the government? If nothing else, the budget speech should at least reflect some gain in terms of interest rates that families would get if they invest in such a scheme.

National Scheme for Incentive to Girl Child for Secondary Education

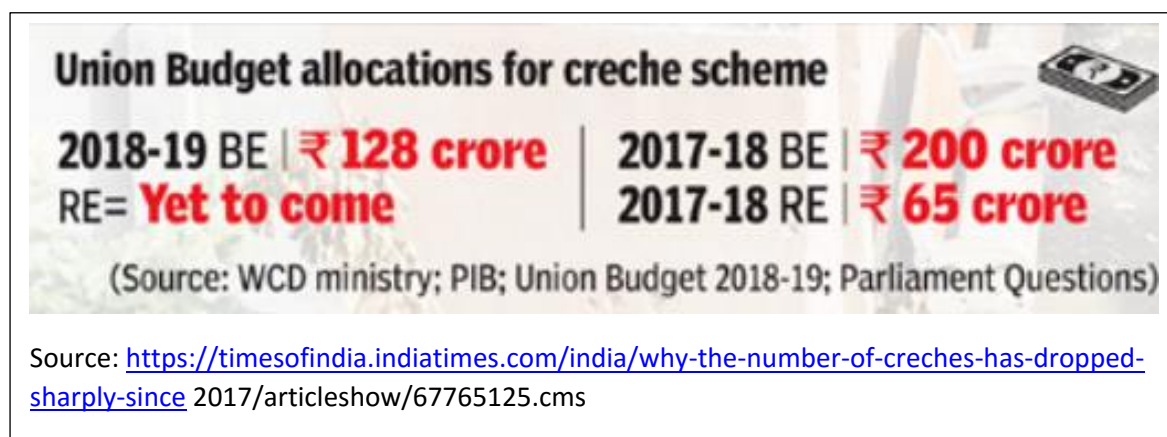
Clearly education of the girl child does not seem to be a priority.

One of the key objectives of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme is to advance education of the girl child. While the budget under the scheme remains the same between 2018-19 and 2019-20, how much is allocated towards this objective and spent on it is not known.

On the other hand, budget for the National Scheme for Incentive to Girl Child for Secondary Education has seen a substantial cut of 61 percent, reducing from INR 255.90 Crore in 2018-19 to INR 100 Crore in 2019-18.

National Creche Scheme

The



budget for the National Crèche Scheme is reduced from 128.39 Crore in 2018-19 to only 50 Crore in 2019-18 despite reports indicating that that there are only 7,316 crèches operational in India as against a target of 23,555 crèches to be reached by April 2018.¹ This is a huge set back for children and parents who have nowhere to leave their children when they go out to work. The ever increasing rates of crimes against children also do not present a very encouraging picture to allow reduction in funds for such critical schemes. The NCRB reports kidnapping of 1896 children below the age of 6 years in 2016, of whom 1014 were girls. Even with most cases not being reported, it is clear that girls are more at risk and facilities like crèches cannot be compromised.

One of the objectives of the National Plan of Action for Children, 2016 is to “create a caring, protective and safe environment for all children, to reduce their vulnerability in all situations”.

¹ Ambika Pandit, Times of India. *Why the number of creches has dropped sharply since 2017*, Jan 31, 2019. Available at: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/why-the-number-of-creches-has-dropped-sharply-since-2017/articleshow/67765125.cms>

The 2019-20 budget is not too far from 2016, when this plan was developed, but memories definitely seem to be short lived and left behind for convenience!

For further information and clarifications, kindly contact:

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