

MARCHING TOWARDS A 10 TRILLION DOLLAR ECONOMY WITH ONLY 3.25 PER CENT FOR CHILDREN! *KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF UNION BUDGET (I) 2019-2020*



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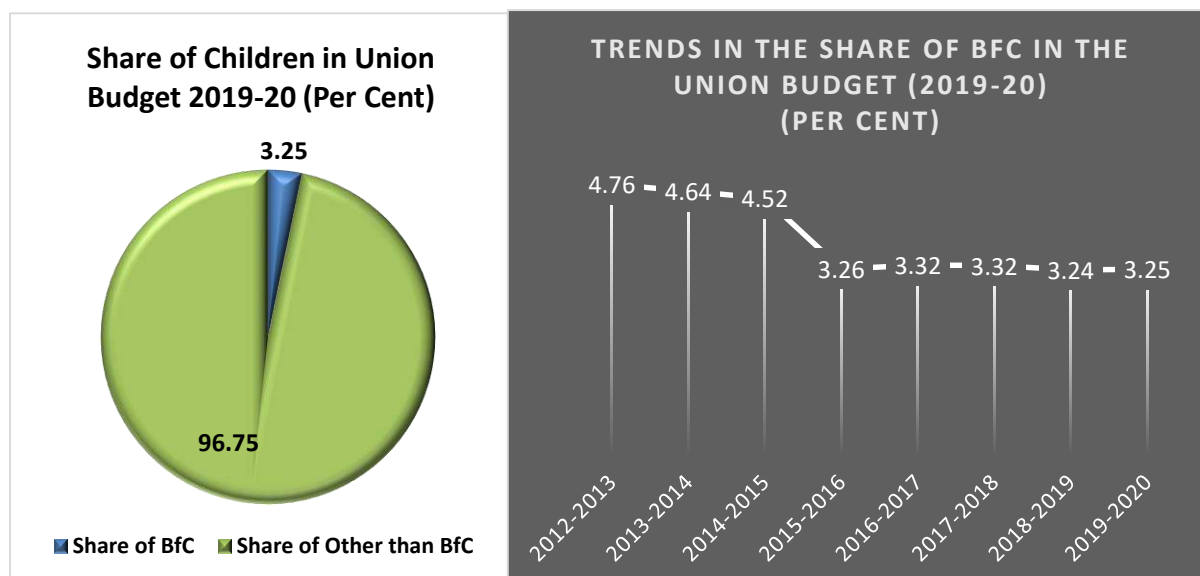
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Marching towards a 10 Trillion Dollar Economy with only 3.25 per cent for Children!

Even as the share of children in the Interim Union Budget 2019-20 observes a miniscule increase from 3.24 per cent in 2018-19 to 3.25 per cent, the fact is that the corresponding increase in the overall Union Budget is far greater at 14 per cent.



Sectoral Share in the Union Budget 2019-20					
Year	Health	Development	Education	Protection	Other than BfC
2018-2019	0.11	0.97	2.16	0.07	96.75
Sectoral Share within BfC 2019-20					
Year	Health	Development	Education	Protection	
2019-2020	3.41	26.20	66.48	2.14	

The Ministries/Departments that registers a gain are the Department of School Education & Literacy and the Ministry of Women and Child Development. Increase in two of the biggest programmes for children – the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) and the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPs) is indeed a very welcome move. But there are many critical schemes for children that remain neglected. Let us take a deeper look...

Increase / Decrease in the Allocations of Different Departments/Ministries	2018-19	2018-19	2019-20	Increase/Decrease (%)
	BE (Rs. Crore)	RE (Rs. Crore)	BE (Rs. Crore)	
Department of School Education and Literacy	48811.45	49224.24	55922.45	14.57
Department of Health and Family Welfare	3086.51	3328.71	3086.33	-0.01
Ministry of Minority Affairs	2393.01	2368.76	2331	-2.59

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment	808.06	937.44	672.44	-16.78
Ministry of Women and Child Development	20554.69	21905.97	24747.75	20.40
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports	25.00	25.00	21.00	-16.00
Ministry of Tribal Affairs	2066	2073.03	2063.5	-0.12

Even though two flagship schemes of the government viz., the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) and the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) have witnessed a significant increase in the allocations this year, the overall increase in the Budget for Children has risen only by 0.01 percentage points. Clearly, there are important schemes that have seen no change in allocations, or reduced allocations, or have been discontinued.

Programmes and Schemes that have witnessed a significant increase in allocations in 2019-20				
Programmes & Schemes	2018-2019	2018-2019	2019-2020	Increase (%)
	BE (Rs. Crore)	RE (Rs. Crore)	BE (Rs. Crore)	
Boys Hostel for SCs	0.5	1.2	1.5	200.00
Pre-Matric Scholarship for SCs	125	98.51	319.5	155.60
Mid-Day Meal for children (Chandigarh)	5.5	5.5	12	118.18
40th Book Committee	2	3	3	50.00
ATAL Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)	120	189.32	514	328.33
Scheme for prevention of alcoholism and substance (Drug) abuse	5	12	15.75	215.00
Children in need of care and protection (Chandigarh)	1.86	2.58	2.96	59.14
Integrated Child Protection Scheme	725	925	1500	106.90
National Nutrition Mission	2928.7	2990	3400	16.09
Anganwadi services	16334.88	17523.42	19427.75	18.93

- The **Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)** has witnessed a significant increase of 106.90 per cent with allocations increasing from Rs. 725 Crore in 2018-19 BE to Rs. 1500 Crore in 2019-20 BE.

Increase in the ICPS budget alone has affected the share of Child Protection in the total Union Budget 2019-20, going up from 0.05 per cent in 2018-19 to 0.07 per cent in 2019-20. While some of the significant schemes like *National Child Labour Project (NCLP)* have seen reduced allocations by 16.67 per cent against previous year, others like the *Scheme*

for Welfare of Working Children in Need of Care and Protection has been discontinued this year.

- ***Beti Bachao Beti Padhao***, one of the most advertised and flagship schemes of the NDA Government has seen no change in allocation against the previous year and stands at Rs. 280 Crore in the current Interim Budget.
- The allocation for the ***National Crèche Scheme*** has been reduced by approximately 61 per cent from Rs. 128.39 Crore in previous year to a mere Rs. 50 Crore in the current year. Such reduced allocations also raise questions on Government's intention to provide a safe environment of children for working mothers and encouraging the work participation of women in our country.
- ***Anganwadi Services***, a core workforce of the ICDS, have been increased by 18 per cent in the Interim Union Budget. Such increase can also be attributed to the announcement of increase in the honorarium of Anganwadi staff by 50 per cent as mentioned in the Budget Speech of the Finance Minister.
- A decrease of 8.91 per cent in the allocation for ***Manufacture of Sera and BCG Vaccine*** is bound to affect the immunization goals, considering that only 62 percent of children aged 12-23 months are reported to have received basic vaccinations as per NFHS-4. Under the child health related schemes, Child Care Training Centre, Singur has also received a reduced allocation Rs. 23.50 Crore (16.58 per cent reduction).
- The budget for child education too does not present a very promising picture.

The budget for child education has decreased from 2.25 per cent in the 2018-19 Union Budget to 2.16 per cent in the current Interim Budget. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) have been clubbed together under a new scheme called "Samagra Shiksha", which is allocated a total sum of Rs. 36,322 Crore. However, the specific allocations for SSA, RMSA and Teacher Education, which comprises the third component of "Samagra Shiksha", are not clear.

Children belonging to the minority communities will be pushed more towards the periphery as most of the schemes catering to the educational needs of children belonging to Schedule Castes, Other Backward Castes or children whose parents have been involved in unclean occupations, have been drastically cut down.

- Many schemes for children belonging to the SC, ST, OBC and other Minorities too have witnessed a decline in allocations this year.

Significant decrease in allocations related to Programmes for Children belonging to of Minorities				
Programmes & Schemes	2018-2019	2018-2019	2019-2020	Decrease (%)
	BE (Rs. Crore)	RE (Rs. Crore)	BE (Rs. Crore)	
Post Matric Scholarship for Minorities	692	500	530	-23.41
Grants-in-Aid to Maulana Azad Education Foundation	125.01	123.76	70	-44.00
Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for SCs	300	600	120	-60.00
Girls Hostel for SCs	15.55	2	9.28	-40.32
Pre-matric scholarship for children of those engaged in certain occupation	5	3.6	4.5	-10.00
Up-gradation of Merit of SCs Students	0.01	0	0	-100.00
Assistance to Voluntary organisation for SCs	5	0	0	-100.00
Post Matric Scholarship for OBCs	110	98.33	90.91	-17.35
Boys and Girls Hostel for OBCs	5	3	3	-40.00
Assistance to Voluntary organisation for OBCs	5	0	0	-100.00
Pre matric scholarship for OBCs	232	118.8	108	-53.45
Tribal Education (Pre-Matric Scholarship)	350	310	340	-2.86
Grant-in-aid to Voluntary organisation working for welfare of STs	130	120	110	-15.38

KEY CONCERNS ...

It is rather unfortunate that a one-and-a-half-hour budget speech failed to mention anything about the welfare of children. The main focus of the Budget Speech by the Finance Minister Mr. Piyush Goyal remained the announcement of “goodies” for tax payers. Election or no Election, children are certainly not a vote bank and hence never a priority.

Do we really care for the survival and development of the girl child?

A quick analysis of the budget for flagship schemes like the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao reflect a grim picture!

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (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 a declining child sex ratio. Effective enforcement of Pre Conception & the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC&PNDT) Act is an important component of the scheme. While the Budget for the scheme remains unchanged at RS. 280 Crore, the child sex ratio continues to be on a decline and the sex ratio at birth is even worse.

Child sex ratio (CSR) witnessed an overall decline of 9 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

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

* as on 31.12.2018

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 RS. 280 Crore allocated for the scheme in 2018-19, 19 per cent (RS. 53.66 Crore) remained unspent, only 25 per cent (RS. 70.63 Crore) was released to states/districts and 55.6 per cent (RS. 155.71 Crore) was spent on media related activities. The scheme has

come under criticism for spending RS. 364.66 Crore out of an allocation of RS. 648 Crore in the last five years on media related activities.

Sukanya Samridhhi Account Scheme (SSAS), which forms part of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign, seems to have been forgotten. Even while reporting its significant achievements in the last four years (2014-18), the Ministry of Women and

And what about the education of the girl child?

One of the key objectives of the 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 RS. 255.90 Crore in 2018-19 to RS. 100 Crore in 2019-18.

While children in the juvenile justice system have received the much deserved attention in the budget this time, those living with their families stand neglected.

In 2018-19, allocation for the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) was RS. 725 Crore. It has been increased to RS. 1500 Crore in 2019-20. With the Supreme Court of India monitoring implementation of the juvenile justice law and passing several directions for improving its administration, a 107 per cent increase in the budget for ICPS is a much awaited and welcome move.

However, the budget for the National Crèche Scheme is reduced from Rs. 128.39 Crore in 2018-19 to only Rs. 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 setback 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”. 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!

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>