



Centre for Youth and Social Development (CYSD)

OBAC in brief.....

Initiated as a modest experiment in 2003, CYSD's budget analysis and advocacy efforts have come a long way. Maturing into an exclusive outfit called the Odisha Budget and Accountability Centre (OBAC), the unit now serves the state as a centre of excellence in the area of budget research and advocacy. Aiming to strengthen citizen-led advocacy for pro-poor budgeting in the state, the centre analyses the trends and quality of budgetary allocations for social sectors like health, education and agriculture every year. The findings are disseminated amongst legislators, policy makers, civil society agencies and actors with a view to enabling them to conduct quality discourses on the budget and policy issues of the state.

The centre also conducts training and other capacity building programmes for the State as also the district and community level organizations on how the state budget is made and how the budgetary allocations are likely to impact the lives of the poor and the marginalized. A wide range of Public education material, developed by the centre, has helped strengthen citizenry advocacy for pro-poor budgeting in the state. Media groups have been using the research findings for highlighting the actual needs and aspirations of people and how the same can be reflected in the state budget.

[BACKGROUND NOTE]

Sharing and consultation on "Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Watch report



Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD): Background and Scope of integration with budget analysis

Odisha is home to 50.36 lakh children under the age group of 0-6 years. However, the perpetual and bleak consequences of malnutrition, destitution, lack of facilities for preschool education posing hindrance to the progress of Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) in State. There are policies and programs to meet these challenges which require being stringent to ensure enabling environment for ECCD.

Budget reflects the government's aim at spending of available resources in a judicious and equitable manner. It is a tool which reflects Government's intention to fulfil the needs and aspirations of the general mass embracing the promises made during the budget presentation. Thus, budget analysis can play a pivotal role in enhancing accountability and ensure quality delivery of services for Early Childhood Care in Odisha. This can also facilitate us to recognize Government's priority in ECCD and to identify the existing gap between the service delivery and the receiving ends.

Budget analysis for ECCD by OBAC

Considering the bottlenecks prevailing in the process of ECCD, Odisha Budget and Accountability Centre (OBAC), CYSD has undertaken policy analysis work for "Strengthening Rights of Young Children through Citizenary Budget Tracking in Odisha" with the following objectives.

- To examine State's priorities in policies and budget formulation to ensure rights of the children in relation to ICDS.
- To enable the legislators media and civil society organizations to debate on issues related to child.
- To build the capacity of the civil society and the right based org to use budget as a tracking to monitor rights of the children and initiate evidence based dialogue with the State.

Sharing and Consultation on ECCD Watch Report

Preparing ECCD Watch Report...

As one of the crucial components of the above mentioned endeavour OBAC-CYSD has accomplished a study, "Early Childhood Care and Education Watch "encompassing the following aspects.

- Detailed analysis of the policy provisions for early childhood care and education with special focus on ICDS and other related programs.



- To prepare a broad map of budgetary processes and institutions for ECCD programs.
- To assess the extent of fund utilization by the state along with the quantum of fund allocated for ECCD programs indulging ICDS implementation.
- To assess the distribution of fund for different activities for ECCD programs with special reference to ICDS.
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- To draw some factual evidence on the major constraints in effective utilization of funds.

Sharing of ECCD Watch Report...

In order to share key issues related to ECCD and its relation to Budget, OBAC-CYSD intends to organise a consultation. The consultation will bring together experts, practitioners, policy makers, academicians, grassroots activists and development partners to debate and deliberate on key issues and challenges, as well as emerging issues and practices.

Objectives of the consultation

- To share and gather citizens feedbacks on the ECCD budget analysis.
- To carry out a frame of the advocacy agenda for the civil societies to address the issues related to ECCD.
- To highlight the ground level issues for policy discussion and further proceedings.