

## **Legislative Advocacy by OBAC: Key Processes**

Odisha Budget and Accountability Centre (OBAC) have matured a lot in terms of Legislative Advocacy during the past few years. With a constant effort, OBAC has now been able to engage legislators, particularly through bilateral discussion, in the process of having a participatory and equitable budget for the State. Efforts have been made this year to provide them questions in local languages to initiate dialogue more convincingly during the “Department Debate Session”. The State and District level Charter of Demands and the other budget documents are shared with the Members of Legislative Assembly at a regular interval for better understanding on departmental budget along with the existing need of the people at the grass-root level.

As part of its regular activities, immediately after the State budget presentation by the hon'ble Finance Minister Mr. Pradip Kumar Amat, Odisha Budget and Accountability Centre (OBAC), a constituent unit of Centre for Youth and Social Development (CYSD), prepared the “[Quick Response](#)” based on the implications of the State Budget on social and economic sectors and **shared the same among [43 MLAs](#) before the commencement of the “General discussion” in Legislative Assembly.**

**Preparing the “Departmental Analysis” and bi-lateral discussion with the Standing Committee Members:** “Departmental Analysis” at micro (Major Head wise) and micro (Detail Head wise) level was done on [Agriculture](#), [Health](#), [School and Mass Education](#) and [SCs and STs Development OBC and Minorities Welfare](#) and conversed in bi-lateral discussions with the Chairman of the respective Standing Committee Members as per the prefixed appointments with the intention of incorporating the demands in the “Recommendation Report”.

**Preparing questions to be asked at “Department Debate session” and disseminating to the Standing Committee Members:** Considering the scheduled time, OBAC prepared the relevant question on “SCs and STs Development OBC and Minorities Welfare” and “Women & Child Development” in Odiya for the legislative members to raise pertinent questions related to the departmental budget allocation at the time of the “Departmental Debate Session”.

This year, on 9th of July the standing committee reports were presented in the assembly. Some of OBAC's critical findings concerning “Health and Family Welfare” and “SCs and STs Development OBC” and Minorities Welfare got addressed in the recommendation of Standing Committees' Report.

OBAC-CYSD in its “Departmental analysis” for Health and Family Welfare, among other critical issues highlighted the following issues.

- As per Economic survey 2013-14, there are 6688 Sub-Centres, 1228 PHCs and 378 CHCs in the state. Apart from this, there is a huge gap existing between the availability and requirement of health institutions in Odisha. As per the IPHS norm Odisha needs 1671 Sub-Centres and 170 PHCs to render the health services. Again, the govt. had promised in its election manifesto for the establishment of 11 new medical colleges and 3 new general nursing training Centres. This year the state budget has allocated Rs 575.82 Cr. under the state plan including thirteenth Finance Commission grant for infrastructure development of Medical colleges, sub centre building and new PHC buildings, the budget seems to be insufficient to cater the huge needs.
- Developed health delivery service is the key to the development of health status in the state. This needs appropriate human resources in positions. As per the FRBM Act, 2014-15 around 8000 staff positions are lying vacant against the sanctioned posts for last three years in the department. Looking to the population size and dependency of poor people in govt. health care services the state should take steps to increase the man power for smooth delivery of health services
- The number of inpatient to the total population which was 8.78% in 2009-10 has increased to 10.22% in 2011-12 at the same the bed occupancy rate is also showing an increasing trend. But the number of bed is constant 16537 since last two years.
- Again, budget for bedding, clothing and linen is showing a declined trend from 2010-11. It was 1.82 Cr. In 2010-11 which decreased to 1.56 Cr. in 2014-15 BE. As the statistics of number of indoor patient is showing an increasing trend, accordingly it had to be articulated in budgetary term.

#### **Observation/ Recommendations of the committee (Health & Family Welfare)**

16. The Committee observed that there are 6688 Sub-Centres, 1228 PHCs and 378 CHCs in the state. Apart from this, there is a huge gap existing between the availability and requirement of health institutions in Odisha. As per the IPHS norm the state needs 1671 Sub-Centres and 170 PHCs to render the health services. The Govt. has declared for the establishment of 11 new medical colleges and 3 new general nursing training centres. This year the state budget has allocated Rs.575.82 Cr. under the state plan including the Thirteenth Finance Commission grant for infrastructure development of Medical Colleges, sub-centre building and new PHC buildings. The Committee recommends that for development of health delivery service is the key to the development of health status in the State. This needs appropriate human resources in positions. As per the FRBM Act, 2014-15 around 8000 posts are lying vacant against the sanctioned posts. Looking to the population size and dependency of poor people, Government should take steps to increase the man power for smooth delivery of health services.

17. The number of patient to the total population which was 8.78% in 2009-10 has increased to 10.22% in 2011-12 at the same time the bed occupancy rate is also showing an increasing trend. But the number of bed is constant 16537 since last two years. Again, budget for bedding, clothing and linen is showing a declined trend from 2010-11. It was 1.82 Cr. in 2010-11 which decreased 1.56 Cr. in 2014-15 BE. As the statistics of number of indoor patient is showing an increasing trend, accordingly it had to be articulated in budgetary term. The Committee recommend that proper sanitation and management of medical waste in govt. hospital is of the significant criteria which indicate quality and smooth functionality, looking at the increasing number of indoor patient and number of hospitals in the state, the budgetary allocation under bio-waste management is constant since last three years and there is no allocation of fund under sanitation expanses since last five years.

*Source: Standing Committee Report Health and Family Welfare, pg. no. 56*

OBAC-CYSD in its "Departmental analysis for SCs and STs Development OBC and Minorities Welfare Department, among other critical issues highlighted the following issue.

**Need of separate budget statement for Scheduled caste Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub-plan:**

As per the planning Commission of India there is a separate share of budget as per the percentage of SC and ST population of the state named Scheduled caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub-plan(TSP) under which around 40% of the state plan has been allocated. But there is no any separate budget statement for this huge amount of fund. Recently, Andhra Pradesh Government made a separate Act to implement and to stop diversification of this fund. There is also need for an act for the effecting implementation of the SCSP and TSP fund in our state.

**Observation/ Recommendations of the committee (ST & SC Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare Department)**

1. The Committee observed that there should be a separate Budget made for ST and SC Development Department similar to Agriculture budget to provide better facilities to such communities as is done in Andhra Pradesh

*Source: Standing Committee Report ST & SC Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare Department, pg. no. 29*