

Report on Pre-Budget Consultation on thematic issues of District base Citizen's Charter of Demand.

By- District Budget Watch Group, Balangir

Organised by- ADHAR, Balangir

Supported by- OBAC, CYSD, BBSR

Venue- ATMA conference Hall, Balangir

Dated- 16th January 2015

The western part of Odisha is well known as the under developed districts .Out of 640, Balangir maintains its uniqueness having 250th position as one of the most backward district. If we consider the development scenario vital gaps could be easily identified in various fields like agriculture, health, Education and early child care. Considering these situation CYSD, Bhubaneswar through its OBAC network in collaboration with Adhar, Balangir and with the support of other civil society organizations formed a Budget Watch group to put the budget related issues before the state budget authorities. It made a modest attempt to collect vital data from different sources to reveal the ground reality.

In this context a **District pre budget Consultation** meeting have been organized in **ATMA Conference Hall, Balangir** with the participation of different NGOs, SMC members, Farmers, Research personnel, Village Club members etc to Consult and discuss the findings of collected data on Agriculture, Health, Education and Early Child care and to present the Charter of Demand before the concerned district level authorities based on the findings.

As per the agenda Mr. Sudarsan rath, PC, Adhar, Balagir commenced the meeting by a warm welcome to all participants and discussed the objective of the said meeting. After having a short introduction from all participants he highlighted the findings and ground realities of the above issues.

Here are some findings and demands raise by District Budget Watch Group, Let's have a look-

Elementary Education

- 112 children are out of school in the sample 6 villages

- 41 children are migrated to out of state
- Out of the sanctioned positions of 6 only 3 headmaster positioned are filled and out of 12 scaled teacher 6 scaled teachers are in position.
- There are 3 schools which do not have a office room, 01 school does not have classroom and 6 schools do not have electricity and play ground
- 3 schools do not have a boundary wall, 2 schools do not have ramps
- The BEO and the DEO have visited only 2 schools in a year

Demand for Elementary Education

- Enhance provisioning for Infrastructure Development at Primary and Upper Primary Schools.
- Adequate budgetary resource provision for appointment of regular teachers in Primary and Upper Primary Schools: (to fulfill remaining 69.02 PTR as per 30:1 PTR norm of RTE Act).
- Adequate provisioning for Capacity Building of School Management Committees.
- Provisioning for remedial class at formal schools especially for migrant children after their return
- Provisioning for more number of residential schools for undisrupted education of migrant and SC, ST children.
- Enhance provisioning for travel allowances for monitoring of schools

Health and Sanitation

- ❖ Drugs are not available in the sub-centres
- ❖ The maternal health care schemes like JSY, referral services are not functioning properly
- ❖ Load of patient in district hospital on an average 650 in a day. There are 41 toilets and 48 water taps Out of the water taps there are 5 taps which have leakages and 2 taps are not working.
- ❖ There are only 33 cleaning staffs out of which 24 are outsources staff at the district hospital,

- ❖ The conditions of wards and corridors of the hospital are unhygienic, dirty, filthy and the medical wastes are dumped within the premises of the hospital
- ❖ Out of the 190 sanctioned post only 151 doctors are in position
- ❖ 14.8% received full antenatal care
- ❖ IMR is 98, highest in Odisha

Demand for health and sanitation

- ❖ Budgetary provisions for appointment of medical professionals at District, PHC, CHC and Sub Centres
- ❖ adequate budget should be allocated to improve the infrastructure as per IPHS norms for ICU, proper OT, number of beds, accommodations for the hospital staffs
- ❖ budget provisions for purchase of free medicines. Opening up of 'Janaushadhi Stores to minimise out of pocket expenditure in medicines
- ❖ Public provisioning for effective referral services and maternal & child care centres at the PHC and CHC level
- ❖ The budget provisions for training of health workers
- ❖ Enhance budget allocation for sanitation services with planned provisioning for cleaning staffs, toilets, water tap and drainage system
- ❖ Budget allocation need to made for disposal of bio-medical wastes

Early Childhood Care and Education

- ❖ Out of five anganwadi centres, 02 are found running in private houses
- ❖ Only 3 centres have pucca houses
- ❖ 04 centres are not imparting pre-school education
- ❖ 03 centres do not have pre-school education kit
- ❖ 01 anganwadi worker is not trained on pre-school education
- ❖ The AWCs do not provide proper immunization, health check up and referral services as per requirement.
- ❖ Out of the total 2443 anganwadi centre, 1277 are running in own building

- ❖ 87 anganwadi centres do not have anganwadi workers and 275 anganwadi workers are not trained.
- ❖ There are 19893 children who do not attend anganwadi

Demand for Early Childhood Care and Education

- ❖ Budgetary allocation is required for construction of building of AWCs (1166 nos) which have no building.
- ❖ There should be special budget provision for the training of Anganwadi workers, pre-school education kit
- ❖ More public provisioning towards creating awareness among the parents on taking care of health, hygiene, care and nutrition of children to check malnourishment.
- ❖ Adequate provisioning should be made for supplementary nutrition programme for severe malnourished children and their mothers

Agriculture

- ❖ There are only 03 mandis are available at the Gram Panchayat level
- ❖ Farmers do not get adequate seeds, fertilizer, training and implement support
- ❖ Insurance schemes do not include all crops
- ❖ Only 02 villages have 04 small irrigation points and 3 watershed project
- ❖ Big irrigation points and canal irrigation facility is non-existent in all villages.
- ❖ Only one village has cooperative

Demand for Agriculture

- ❖ Budget for setting up Mandi for Purchase of Agricultural Produces at the Gram Panchayat Level: (Establishing more 56 marketing points (mandi) at the Gram Panchayat level by giving responsibility to the Gram Panchayat itself)
- ❖ Budget for setting up Cold Storages in all the blocks for storage of agricultural produces.
- ❖ Budget for promoting Watershed Projects, Micro, Small and Medium Irrigation Points.

- ❖ Budget for Enhanced Subsidy (Enhanced budget allocation for supporting farmers with agricultural implements and other facilities like seeds, fertilizers, pesticides etc. at subsidized rate which should be equal to prevailing market price)
- ❖ Enhanced budget provisioning for providing agriculture input and necessary training

Then Mrs. Uppaly Mahanti, facilitator, CYSO, also discussed on representation of the Citizen Charter before the concerned authorities and do follow up to know the actions taken in favour of the demands by Budget Watch Group.

Participants also gave their views to include some more demands like engagement of an additional preschool teacher in the AWC for its well functioning and increase availability and accessibility of early child care at ground.

Major Action taken by Budget Watch Group

So with the signatures off all participants the charter of demands presented before the CDMO, DEO, DSWO, and the agriculture officer of Balangir on the very day.

It's a vital step to highlight the ground realities before the district and state authorities to generate budget allocation for the required fields. As vital gap identified in data related to the above issues as inadequate "MANDI" for farmers, Insufficient staffing in district hospital, Inadequate AWCs etc, the effort of the district budget Watch Group can hopefully boost the budget allocation to fill the gaps in near future.
