

# *A Report on Validation of District Charter of Demands for State Budget 2015-16*

<b>Organized by:</b>	District Budget Watch Group/Sundargarh Education Society
<b>Supported by:</b>	Odisha Budget & Accountability Centre, BBSR
<b>Venue:</b>	Conference Hall, Soil Conservation, Sundargarh
<b>Date:</b>	03-01-2015
<b>Number of Participants:</b>	39

## **Introduction:**

In the last few years Sundargarh Education Society (SES) started analyzing the state budget with the support of Odisha Budget and Accountability Centre (OBAC). The District Budget Watch Group, with SES as Lead Organisation, has brought along different groups like citizen forum, community leaders, students, media, etc to enhance the understanding of budget process of the state. It also generates community voices on budget-making and policy priorities of the state. Above all it creates accountability on the part of the government at district level.

The core group consultation was organized at SES conference hall, Sundargarh on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014. Mr. Bhawani Prasad Mohapatra, Associate Programme Manager, CYSD facilitated the programme. There was an open discussion on issues related to Education, health, Livelihood, ICDS and TSP. Five thematic teams were formed for collection of data and preparation demand draft. Accordingly a draft demand was prepared.

To finalize and validate the demand charter District Budget Watch Group has organized Pre-Budget workshop with the participation of retired Govt. employees, members of civil society, farmers, students, academicians, community leaders. It was presided by Mr. Janmejy Patel, President, SES.



## **Objective:**

- To enhance citizen participation in the Budget Process
- To Finalize and validate charter of demand for the budget 2015-16

Mr. Janmejy Patel started the programme with a warm welcome to all the participants. He shared the objectives of the workshop. Then there was a round of self introduction. Mr. Patel Presented the charter of demand prepared by the five thematic teams. There was an open discussion about all the demands. After in depth discussion the participants suggested to include the following demands.



### **Education:**

- There is surplus books in BRCC office but in the ground level children are deprived of books because of poor distribution system. A monitoring committee should be formed including the members of School Management Committee to monitor the distribution of books. The SMC and the School Head Master should certify that all the children of their school got text books in time.
- To ensure accountability and larger participation of the community social audit should be conducted once in a year in every school.

### **Health:**

- It is observed that there is regular absence of medical personnel particularly in the CHCs and PHCs. Apart from the vacancies, the existing staff do not remain at headquarters. To ensure regular presence of medical personnel a Bio-Metric machine should be installed in every health centre.

### **Livelihood:**

- Earlier the government used to distribute seeds through block. But now it is partially privatized. The private firm monopolized the distribution of seeds and also creating artificial shortage. So the privatization should be stopped and seeds should be distributed through block as earlier.
- Government is purchasing only 15-16 quintals of paddy from a farmer. Rest they have to sell in the open market which leads to distress sale.
- In order to avoid harmful impacts of chemical fertilizer, there is the need to promote Bio fertilizer and organic farming. Bio fertilizer needs a big scale investment.

**TSP:**

- A proper legislation is necessary to regulate allocation and utilization of TSP funds in line with the similar Act passed by Andhra Pradesh.

Mr. Ajit Kumar Behera concluded the programme with a vote of thanks.

**President****Sundargarh Education Society**