



The impact of child budget on the development of the children in West Bengal In 21st century: A special reference to Kaliganj block

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Abstract

Children constitute almost 40 percentage people in India. They are the future Cornerstone of a nation. We cannot think the concept of Inclusive Development without children. Child Budget Is an initiative by union govt. in 2008-2009. At first union govt. then several states like Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal etc. took this initiative. Child budget is nothing but budgetary allocations of resources for upliftment of the children. Most of the Children as per as Indian society is concerned Suffering from Malnutrition, Poor health, child labour, physical torture etc. Infant Mortality rate is very high. This research paper we want to analyze whether child budget brings positive outcomes or not.

Keywords: Child budget, inclusive development, child labour, malnutrition

Introduction

Child Budgeting in India on allocating public funds to improve the well-being and development of children, Particularly in areas like Education, Health, Nutrition and protection. Children under the age of 18 Constitute 40 percentage of India's population. They represent not only India's future but also an integral to secure India's present. Child Budgeting in India is a policy tool tracking government expenditure on Child health, Education, development and protection. Although India is a part and parcel of United Nations Convention on the Rights of the child(UNCRC) ,Which announced the overall well-being of the children in areas like Education, Nutrition, health, protection etc, It is strange that budgetary allocations for children is very low. The constitution of India in Article 23 and Article 24 both are safeguards for Children, yet Government attitude towards children is a matter of questions. Sustainable development Goals which was adopted by UNO in 2015 adopted Gender quality, quality education, Good health etc. In the context of states like West Bengal adopted Child budget in 2024-2025 financial year. We have to look deep into the matter that what are the reasons behind it.

Background

"Child development "means all round development of the children. In Indian society as per as child is concerned suffers from Malnutrition, health, education, human trafficking this are problems that exist in India overall well-being of the children is hampered. Though India is going ahead in terms of financial security but in terms of children lagging behind. Now we have to analyze whether child budget may be the best solution to reserve the solution. Almost 40 percentage of people are children in the context of India.

Child mortality is very high. In the Indian context, which is more than its neighbour state Myanmar and Srilanka. India being world largest populous country produced very unskillful labour, man power in the society. India is quite far away from china.

Theoretical Framework

Every research work should have theoretical Framework. This research work is not exception of it. This research attempts to analyze a range of factors affecting the uptake of child health care services and their rights hence the understanding of Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) which was adopted by WHO and office of the High commissioner for Human rights (. OHCHR). This research will also be taken into consideration the System's Approach developed by David Easton and G.A

Almond. A system according to Almond is characterized by

1. Comprehensiveness.
2. Inter dependence
3. Existence of boundaries.

A system is considered Comprehensive in the sense it includes all the interactions inputs as well as outputs. Interdependence means that the various subsets of the system are closely connected with each other. Almond defined boundary as points where other systems end and the political system begins.

Literature Review

1. National policy for children 2013, High on promises, low on Budget; Manzoor Ali, EPW, (Dec, 2013) basically highlighted the perspective of National Children. He stated that budgetary outlays are not sufficient to take care of their health, education, protection and development.
2. 'The Paradox of Gender Responsive Budgeting'- Bhumika Jhamb, EPW(May 18, 2013) said that Despite the steps towards gender Responsive Budgeting, the budgetary allocations for promoting gender equality and women's empowerment show a decline. The Gender Budget statement in proportion to the total expenditure of the union Budget as well as the Projected Gross Budgetary Support for women and Child Development In 12th five year plan has decreased
3. " Budget for Children Analysis"- A Beginners Guide" Tohe Hindu centre for politics and public policy basically analyses save the children's priority, promoting Child Rights and Child centered Budget analysis.

- "Budget for Children in India and overview "Enakshi Ganguly Co- founder of HAQ (2015) ^[7]; centre for Child Rights has played a significant role regarding children basic needs i.e. education, health and protection. Mrs. Ganguly India being high poverty rate, Child welfare related Scheme received minimal increase. She conducted research both union and state level.
- 'Child Responsive Budgeting'- as a Public Finance Management Tool'; A case of Karnataka, in India basically analyze humanitarian crisis caused by COVID 19 which affected three dimensions of human development in particular income, health and education.
- 'Child Budgeting in Madhyapradesh' (India) Saifullah Khan discussed about Child Budgeting makes Budgetary decisions affecting makes budgetary decisions affecting children more visible, transparent and makes government more accountable.
- Gender and Child Budget (2024-2025) in this Pdf we can get the information that West Bengal govt. in 2025-2026 allocated 59000.13 crore for Child specific schemes from 50,107.64 crore (Actual) in 2023-2024. Basically focuses on various schemes that are taken for the overall wellbeing of the Children.

Various schemes By West Bengal Government

Government of West Bengal took some schemes for Children purpose with the focus area of Education, Health, and protection.

Education related Policy

- Kanyashree Prakalpa (Cash transfers for girls):** For Direct cash transfer to beneficiaries Rs 25000 at the age of 18 to unmarried girls in education.
- Sabooj Sathi Scheme:** West Bengal provides cycle from ix to xii to eradicate school dropout.
- Shishkhashree Scheme:** Scholarship assistance programme for scheduled caste students from class V to VIII.
- Aikyashree Scholarship:** This initiative is taken as a special aid for minority students.

Health Related Policy

- Sishu Sathi scheme:** The scheme free health checkup and heart operation children Up to 12 years of age in hospitals.
- Integrated child development service (ICDS):** Govt. emphasized on children Nutrition and Health.

Children protection related

Mission Vatsalya Scheme: This scheme was taken to protect child rights and reduce human trafficking. It also provides institutional care i.e. children home for children seeking protection.

Child Adoption service: It is taken for rehabilitation or justice for the orphan and distressed Children in need of caste and protection.

Why this topic?

As per as my opinion is concerned there are so many research articles and journals regarding child development in India. But there is little attention the impact of the child budget on Indian context
So it is high time researcher concluded research on the topics.

I have chosen West Bengal because of it is a new initiative for children that are taken by West Bengal govt. As a resident of West Bengal, it will be quite easier to collect data from there.

I have taken Kaliganj block because According to UNICEF Report, Kaliganj block is the amalgamation of S.C, St Minority and Muslim. so it will be the cake walk for researcher to conclude research.

Union govt. adopted the Child Budget in 2008-09, West Bengal Govt. took this child budget as a part of General Budget in 2024-2025, Although West Bengal is a part of union India as federal structure in India, then why state government took this decision being too late why and what are the reasons behind it? We have to look into the matter seriously.

Research Questions

- Is there any significant impact of child budgeting on girl child in India?
- Is health responsible for child development?
- Whether Child Budgeting has significant impact on rural areas of West Bengal?
- Whether Education is the factor of Child Development in India?

Research Methodology

In this research I would like to conduct research on both primary and secondary resources. In the block area I conclude field survey, interview, Questionnaire of the respondents. I shall further taken into consideration various Ranks published by Human development index, National crime records bureau (NCRB) and Global Hunger Index. Etc.

Conclusion

Children are the backbone of the Society. Today's children is tomorrow's future. Almost Everywhere in India children are living in vulnerable conditions. So bring their in the main stream of the Society Govt should formulate policy in such a way so that it could ensure betterment of the children. India's Rank in Human development index, Global Hunger index is still lower than its neighbour state Myanmar and Srilanka. Without Children we cannot ensure inclusive development the country as a whole. Government be it union or state should make policy in favour of Children above narrow politics.

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