

Budget Analysis Rajasthan Centre

An Annual Activity Report

April 2011 – March 2012



Budget Analysis Rajasthan Centre

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Background

Budget Analysis Rajasthan Centre (BARC), Jaipur, a programme of Astha, Udaipur, was set-up in 2003 as a budget study and resource centre with the overall aim to analyze the state government budget to understand its policies and see if the commitments made by the government at various forums (policy documents, election manifestos, and at international forums) are matched by the financial provisions in the state budget.

Increasing hardship of the people, particularly of the poor people, in face of economic liberalization has been confirmed by many studies, including one conducted by Astha itself. One of the roles of civil society organizations in this scenario is to ensure that the governments do not withdraw from the social sector and the development schemes meant for the poor people. And budget analysis is the best way to keep an eye on the allocations made to various schemes and programmes meant for poor and marginalized in the society.

BARC, therefore, has been involved in analyzing the state budget with a perspective of poor and marginalized and has been using its analysis to further the issues and concerns raised by many civil society organizations by highlighting the short comings in the budget for the poorer sections, for dalits and tribals and women and children and for the important social services like, health and education, social security schemes for widows, for elderly, for unorganized workers etc.

One major role of BARC has been to work as a **resource centre** for the NGOs, POs, media and civil society as a large. We have provided data, analysis, training and resources in training workshops to many organizations across the state, and in some cases, even outside the state of Rajasthan.

Core Objectives of BARC

With the above background, BARC today works with following objectives:

- To bring about the changes in budget and policies of the government of Rajasthan which affect poor men and women in the state, in both urban and rural areas.
- To facilitate public discourses on budget governance issues, encourage citizen's participation in budget governance, and advance the rights of those most deprived.
- To advocate for a pro-people, pro-poor and pro-marginalized perspective in budget allocations.
- To demystify the budget by making it and the other budget related documents, transparent, user friendly and readable by the public.

- To examine budget spending trends and impact of budget policies on the poor.
- To bring about awareness in the civil society organizations on how the budget analysis could be used to change the policies/programmes and budget allocations as well.
- To help civil society organizations to learn how to strengthen their advocacy and lobbying work by using budget data

Core areas:

BARC focuses on following core areas:

- **Women/gender Rights**
- **Dalit and Tribal rights**
- **Child rights**
- **Minority rights**
- **Social Sector: Education, Health, Water and sanitation**
- **Social Security**
- **Agriculture and allied activities**
- **Food security**
- **ULB and Panchayat Budget and Planning**

Activities during the Year 2011-12

During the last one year the Centre has focused on the above mentioned issues through its various activities in research and advocacy.

Budget Advocacy

Pre-Budget Consultation on State Budget: As part of pre-budget advocacy efforts, BARC organized a pre budget consultation of NGOs, in October 2011, to discuss the issues of concern and expectations and suggestions for the upcoming budget. More than 50 participants from various parts of the state participated in the consultation. A memorandum of demands was prepared based on the two-days consultation, which was presented to the Department of Finance and other concerned departments.

Budget Analysis: BARC continued with analyzing the state budget from the perspective of poor and marginalized. The State Budget 2012-13 has been analyzed and related data and analysis have been provided to media and MLAs. Many news stories in various newspapers came up based on our analysis of the state budget. Analysis of state budget 2012-13 is also being published in April-June 2012 issue of the Budget Samachar, our quarterly news letter. We also tracked the status of the

budget announcements made in the last year's budget (2011-12). A report based on the status of the budget announcements related to 12 government departments was prepared and published on our website and was also circulated widely.

Influencing the 12th Five Year Plan Process:

The year of reporting is also happen to be the last financial year of the Eleventh Five Year Plan and the state government started the process of preparing its 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17) with the help of State Planning Board. Responding to the opportunity, we organized a consultation with NGOs to put forward demands and suggestions for the 12th Five Year Plan. Participants from NGOs, research organizations, and govt. departments participated and shared their views. The Deputy Chairperson of the State Planning Board also participated in the consultation. Recommendations based on the discussions in the consultation were presented to the State Planning Board, the Dept. of Planning and other govt. departments and also uploaded on our website.

At national level, BARC collaborated with CBGA and other budget organistions in influencing the 12th Five Year Plan process at national level. A detailed note was prepared and presented to the Planning Commission by the budget organizations across the country. Along with other organizations, BARC also contributed in preparation of the note.

MLAs Workshop

The MLA workshop, organized every year with the state MLAs before the state budget is presented, was organized in February 2012 in Pant Krishi Bhawan, Jaipur. In total seven MLAs, one party spokes person, various political activists, media persons and more than 15 NGO representatives participated in the workshop. Various issues related to state budget, finances and development related issues were discussed in the workshop.

Research Study

During the last year BARC started two new studies:

1. Access of Muslim Families to the government schemes in Rajasthan

As the state govt. created a dept. of minority affairs, BARC started a study on 'access of Muslim families to the govt. schemes in Rajasthan'. The study is being conducted with NGOs working with Muslim families in six cities of the state. We hope it will provide us with enough advocacy material to work with the newly created department. Data collection for the study is over. A draft report of the study is expected by end of 2012.

2. Follow up study of Role of MNCs in southern Rajasthan

Two earlier studies have been completed and one of them published during the year:

1. **Right to Education in Southern Rajasthan:** The study focuses on the educational facilities and infrastructure available to the tribal children in the tribal districts of southern Rajasthan in context of the Right to Education Act. The study was completed and published during the year.
2. **MNCs in Agriculture in Rajasthan: A Study of Golden Rays Scheme in Tribal Areas of Rajasthan:** The study completed a draft a report prepared during the year. Major findings of the study presented in the agriculture conference organized in Udaipur, where it was suggested that we should go for a follow up study in the same areas with the same farmers. Therefore, as reported above, a follow up study is being conducted, data collection for which have been completed.

Conference on Agriculture in Rajasthan

BARC is focusing on agriculture in the state of Rajasthan. There have been many developments related to agriculture in Rajasthan during the last couple of years. The state govt. earlier went into a contract with private companies including an MNC to supply seed and assist in research and extension services in the state. Many NGOs including BARC opposed this move. Later this contract was canceled but the state govt. continues to procure seed from the MNC and distribute it to farmers under the schemes like 'Golden Rays'. Last year the government also came out with its draft agriculture policy and invited people's comments on it.

To discuss the developments, BARC organized a State level conference on agriculture on October 31, 2011 in Udaipur, focusing on Role of MNCs in Rajasthan Agriculture and Centrally Sponsored Schemes in Agriculture sector in Rajasthan. About 30 participants participated from Udaipur and other parts of the state. There BARC also presented the major findings of the study conducted on Golden Rays scheme in southern Rajasthan.

Comments on the State Agriculture Policy: BARC also came out with detailed comments on the Rajasthan's draft agriculture policy. The comments were sent to the agriculture department and also published on the BARC's website. An article based on these comments was published in 'Vividha Features'.

BARC also collaborated with CBGA to conduct a study on 'public investment in rain-fed and irrigated areas'. In Rajasthan the study is being conducted in Barmer and Alwar districts.

Issue based meetings

A 'one day issue based meeting' was also organized in on 'RTE in Southern Rajasthan' in Dungarpur in collaboration with Vagad Mazdoor Kisan Sangathan in which the major findings of the BARC study on 'RTE in Southern Rajasthan' were presented. About 50 participants from various districts of southern Rajasthan participated in the meeting.

Other two issue based meetings were organized in forms of consultations: one on 12th Five Year Plan and other with ULBs with the IV State Finance Commission.

Panchayat Budget

Panchayat finances and planning is one of the focus areas of BARC. We continued working on panchayat budget by initiating a study of panchayat budget in four districts of Rajasthan during the last year. A draft report of the study is ready. BARC also started providing resource on panchayat budget in various capacity building programmes for the elected representatives of the PRIs organized by other organizations.

BARC also compiled and shared data on the resources (funds) being devolved to the PRIs and ULBs by the state government from the state budget as the government started providing more information on this in its budget documents. The compiled data is being shared with many organizations and PRIs.

Fourth State Finance Commission

Last year the government created IV State Finance Commission to give recommendations on sharing the state resources with the PRIs and ULBs. We organized separate consultations of elected representatives of PRIs and ULBs with the IV State Finance Commission in which Chairperson of the commission also participated. Beside that we studied recent reports of the state finance commissions of other states. A detailed note on recommendations and suggestions, based on the two consultations and BARC's research, was presented to the IV State Finance Commission.

Collaboration and Networking

BARC has always worked closely with the NGOs and People's Organisations in the state. We continued our networking and collaborative efforts by organizing **issue**

based meetings and pre-budget consultation with various partner organizations like Centre for Dalit Rights, Dalit Arthik Adhikar Andolan, Resource Institute for Human Rights, Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti, Astha, Udaipur, Simant Kisan Sahyog Sansthan, Jaisalmer etc. Collaborations have also been made with various grass root organizations in conducting field level micro studies. BARC team has also provided resource in various workshops organized by various organizations in the state.

New initiatives in networking have been made with other budget study groups in the country, particularly, with the Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability, New Delhi. BARC collaborated with CBGA and other budget organizations in influencing the 12th Five Year Plan process at national level. A detailed note was prepared and presented to the Planning Commission by the budget organizations across the country. Along with other organization, BARC also contributed in preparation of the note.

BARC as Resource Centre

As stated above, one of the roles BARC assumes is to be a Resource Centre for the NGOs/POs, as well as the journalists, MLAs, and the public at large. The Centre was set up to provide high quality research data and analysis to support advocacy efforts. During the year, we have provided support to the public hearing on tribal issues organized by the Rajasthan Adivasi Adhikar Manch and have provided budget and other data to MKSS, Rajasthan Adivasi Adhikar Manch, Astha, Udaipur etc.

Beside, most of the studies conducted by BARC have been in collaboration with various NGOs/POs. We collaborated with various units of Astha and associated people's organizations while conducting the studies. And as mentioned above, the workshops and issue based meetings as well as meeting with state MALs have been organized in partnership of various organizations in the state.

Publications:

As a resource centre, BARC continued with various publications during the reported year. During the year we published one report of a micro study ('Right to Education in Southern Rajasthan: A Study'), and another publication titled 'Rajasthan: A Study of State Finances', and four issues of BARC's quarterly newsletter during the year. Besides, we have come out with many brief online publications during the year. The recommendations for the IV State Finance Commission, the recommendations for the state 12th Five Year Plan, the comments on the State Agriculture Policy have all been published on our website.

We also continued to write in newspapers on budget and other related issues. This year our articles appeared in Daily News, DNA, Vividha Feature, Diamond India and other publications.

A complete list of BARC publications is provided in Appendix 1.

The publications have been sent to NGOs/POs across the state and have been used for training and other purposes.

Conclusion:

This was the first year of the new three year programme, BARC has taken up, starting from February 2011. We have started with positive interactions with government bodies like State Planning Board and constitutional body like the State Finance Commission. We also continued to engage with the elected representatives like MLAs and elected members of PRIs and ULBs. Though, this year, we could not organize the informal meeting with state MLAs, the annual MLAs workshop was organized.

We also continued with networking and collaborating with the people's organizations as we participated in their programmes and conducted studies with them. BARC has provided data, analyses, research reports, and copies of BARC newsletter to the people's organizations/movements for their campaign work. We engaged closely with these organizations for the research studies and pre and post budget advocacy. In the research studies we need to go beyond the micro studies and explore the budget tracking studies of select important programmes.

Appendix 1

Activities organized/conducted during 2011-12

Activities	Activities organized/conducted during 2011-12		
Issue based meetings	Right to Education in Southern Rajasthan with Vagad Mazdoor Kisan Sangathan	NGOs consultation on 12 th Five Year Plan	Consultation of ULBs with the IV State Finance Commission
Publication	State of Education in Southern Rajasthan	Rajasthan: A Study of State Finances	
Budget Samachar	Four issues of Budget Samachar published during the year		
Pre-Budget Consultation	Conducted in October 2011		
Post budget analysis and advocacy	Provided budget data and analysis to MLAs and Media		
MLA meeting	Informal meeting with MLAs could not be organized	7 MLA participated in the MLA workshop organized in February 2011	
Panchayat Budget	Consultation of PRI representatives on panchayat finances with 4 th State Finance Commission	Compilation of data on fund being devolved to PRIs and ULBs by state government from the state budget.	
Research and micro studies	Access of Muslim Families to the Govt. Schemes in Rajasthan	Follow up study on impact of 'Golden Rays' with the tribal farmers in southern Rajasthan	
Meetings as resource persons	DCA's partners platform in Raipur	Gender Cell, DWCD, GoR	Public Hearing on Tribal Issues organized by Rajasthan Adivasi Manch CASA
News paper article	News items based on our inputs appeared in DNA, Dainik Bhaskar and Hindustan Times etc.	We also published articles in publications like DNA, Daily News, Diamond India, Vividha Feature etc.	

Appendix 2
List of BARC Publications

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nf{k.kh jktLFkku esa f'k{kk dk vf/kdkj % ,d v/;;u	Right To Education In Southern Rajasthan : A Study	Qjoh] 2012
jktLFkku % orZeku foUkh; fLFkfr	Rajasthan : A Study of State Finances	Qjoh] 2012
Hkkjr esa jkT; ctV esa ikjnf'kZrk % eq[; ifj.kke	Transparency in State Budget in India : Summary Fact Sheet	2011
Hkkjr esa jkT; ctV esa ikjnf'kZrk % jktLFkku	Transparency in State Budget in India : Rajasthan	2011
ctV v/;;u% ,d ifjp;	Budget Study: An Introduction	vxLr] 2010
jkT; esa [kk] lqj{kk ,oa IEcfU/kr ;kstuk,a% ,d v/;;u	Food Security and Related Schemes in the State: A Study	vxLr] 2010
d'f"k _k&fdruk lkFkZd\	Agriculture Loan: How Good	twu] 2010
yqlr gksrh y?kqou mit% [krjs esa vkfnoklh vkftfodk	Depleting Mining Forest Produce: Threat to Tribal Livelihood	fnIEcj] 2009
nfyiksa ds fy, jkT; dh dY;k.kdjh ;kstuk,a	State's Welfare Schemes for Dalits	twu] 2009
jk"V ^{ah} ; xzkeh.k jkstxkj xkjaVh dkuwu% fdz;kUo;u esa lq/kkj dh vko';drk	NREGA: Need of Reform in Implementation	fnIEcj] 2008
Loty/kkj% O;FkZ cgk turk dk iSlk	'Swajal Dhara': People's Money Drained	tqykbZ] 2008
xzkeh.k y?kq m kksx {ks= esa ljdkjh iz;klksa dh dFkuh&djuh % ,d utj	Reality of Government Efforts in Small Industry Sector: A Study	vizsy] 2008
ldkjh fodkl ;kstuk,sa vkSj vke vkneh rd mudh igqap% ,d vkadyu	Government Development Schemes and their reach to common People: An Assessment	fnIEcj] 2007
lkekftd Isokvksa ij O;; ¼jkT; ds ctV Is½	Spending on Social Sector (From State Budget)	ekpZ] 2007
jktLFkku esa fo/kokvksa dk vHkkoxzLr thou% jkT; us D;k Hkwfedk fuHkkbZ\	The Destitution of Widows in Rajasthan: What role has the state played?	Qjoh] 2007
LFkkuh; Lrj ij fyax vk/kkfjr ctV ¼tS.Mj ctV½% dSlS djsaxs iSjoh	Gender Budget at State Level: How to do Advocacy	fnIEcj] 2006
nfy] xjhc rFkk oafpr ykxksa ds fy, lekt dY;k.k] xzkeh.k fodkl foHkkx] iapk;rhjkt foHkkx ,oa [kk k&ukxfjd vkiwfrZ foHkkx dh dY;k.kdkjh ;kstuk,a	Welfare Schemes for Dalits, Poor and Marginalised	uoEcj] 2006

jktLFkku esa Qly chek% lq/kkj dh vko';drk	Crop Insurance in Rajasthan: Need of Improvement	flrEcj] 2006
ctV dh rduhdh 'kCnkoyh	Budget Terminologies	flrEcj] 2006 izFke&tuojh] 2005
nfyr ,oa vkfnokfl;ksa ds fy, ctV ,oa ;kstuk,a	Budget and Schemes for Dalits and Tribals	uoEcj] 2005
xjhch gVkvks vfHk;ku% fdruk lQy&fdruk vlQy	'Gharibi Hatao': How Successful	

List of Publications-Online

Title	Year
BARC comment on Union Budget 2012-13 English by Nesar.	2012
BARC comment on Union Budget 2012-13 Hindi by Nesar.	2012
Progress Review of Budget 2011-12 Announcements.	2012
Recommendations from pre-budget consultation on budget 2012-13, October 13-14, 2011.	2011
Transparency in State Budget : Fact sheets 2011	2011
Recommendations From NGOs Consultation on Rajasthan's 12th Five Year Plan June 2011	2011
Agriculture conference recommendations August 2010	2010
Suggestions for Fourth State Finance Commission. 2011	2011

List of Publications-English

Title	Year
How Long would the Dalits Continue to be Deprived of Their Due Shares?	December, 2007
Understanding Budget Terminologies and Process of Monitoring Public Expenditure	April, 2007
The Destitution of Widows in Rajasthan: What role has the state played?	February, 2007
Trade Liberalization and Indian Farm Sector	

Abbreviations Used in the Report

BARC:	Budget Analysis Rajasthan Centre
CBGA:	Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability
CDR:	Centre for Dalit Rights
DAAA:	Dalit Ardhik Adhikar Andolan
GoR:	Government of Rajasthan
LSG:	Local Self Governance
MGNREGA:	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
MKSS:	Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan



BARC Publications