

Budget Analysis Rajasthan Centre

ANNUAL REPORT

2013-14



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Introduction

Budget Analysis Rajasthan Centre (BARC), Jaipur is a programme of Astha, Udaipur. It was set-up in 2003 as a budget study and policy research centre with the aim to analyze the state government budget to understand its policies and examine 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 underprivileged people, in face of economic liberalization has been confirmed by many studies, including one conducted by Ashta, 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 weaker sections. For this, Budget analysis is an important technique. It helps 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, tribals, women and children and for important social services like, health, education, social security schemes for widows, for elderly, for unorganized workers etc.

Working as a resource centre for the NGOs, POs, media and civil society and creating a pool of budgetary information/ data is one of the major roles of BARC. It provides data, analysis, training and resources in training workshops to many organizations across the state and even outside the state of Rajasthan.

CORE OBJECTIVES OF BARC

The above background has given shape to the following objectives of BARC:

- Bringing about the changes in budget and policies of the government of Rajasthan which affect underprivileged men and women in the state, in both urban and rural areas;
- Facilitating public discourses on budget governance issues, encouraging citizen's participation in budget governance and advancing the rights of the deprived;
- Advocating for a pro-people, pro-poor and pro-marginalized perspective in budget allocations;
- Demystifying the budget by making it and the other budget related documents, transparent, user friendly and readable by the public;

- Examining budget spending trends and impact of budget policies on the poor;
- Bringing 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;
- Helping civil society organizations to learn how to strengthen their advocacy and lobbying work by using budget data.

FOCUS AREAS OF BARC

BARC focuses on the following core areas for its work:

- 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 2013-14

Various research and advocacy activities have been undertaken by BARC in line with its objectives and focus areas, in the year 2013-14. They are as follows:

Budget Advocacy

Budget Analysis:

Like every year, BARC carried on analyzing the State Budget from the perspective of poor and marginalized. The State Budget 2013-14 was presented in March 2013. BARC studied, analyzed and shared the data and information with media, various CSOs and MLAs. Along with the analysis of budget and policies towards the social and economic development of the state, BARC also analyzed the budget for SCs, STs (SC-SP and TSP budget), minorities groups, children, and women (gender budget). Many newspapers used the information provided by BARC while reporting about the State Budget. An analysis of the State Budget 2013-14 was published in the April-June 2013 issue of *Budget Samachar*, BARC's quarterly news letter.

Pre- Budget Consultation on State Budget:

As part of pre-budget advocacy efforts, BARC organized a pre-budget consultation of NGOs on December 27th and 28th, 2013 to discuss the issues of concern as well as expectations and suggestions for the Budget 2014-15. More than 60 participants from various parts of Rajasthan were present in the consultation and a memorandum of demands was prepared with primary focus on issues related to health, women, children, dalits, tribals and rural development. This document was then presented to the Chief Secretary, Department of finance and other concerned departments. The expectations and demands for the budget 2014-15 were also published in the January - March 2014 issue of Budget Samachar.



Pre -Budget Consultation, Jaipur, December, 2013

Pre- Budget advocacy with the Union Government:

BARC is a part of People's Budget Initiative (PBI) and has contributed in PBI's efforts of pre- budget advocacy with the union government. BARC participated in the regional level Pre- Budget convention organized by PBI at Ahmadabad and National level Pre- Budget convention at Delhi in October 2013.

Pre- Budget MLA workshop:

Every year BARC conducts a capacity building workshop for the MLAs of the state before the state budget is announced. Last year the MLA workshop was conducted on February 19th, 2014 at Pant Krishi Bhavan, Jaipur. More than 50 participants attended the workshop including 12 MLAs and representatives of various NGOs. Various issues related to state budget, finances and development related issues were discussed in the workshop.



Pre- Budget MLA workshop, Jaipur, February, 2014

Advocacy meeting for legislation of Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SC-SP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP):

BARC along with National Coalition on Legislation of SCP and TSP conducted a one day meeting on 6th May, 2013 for discussing the issues related to legislation of SC-SP and TSP Bill and for presenting demands from and suggestions for the bill. There were 16 participants and Dr. Nesar Ahmad and Shri Paul Diwakar presided over the meeting. A representative body from the meeting presented the Charted of Demands prepared during the meeting to the Chief Secretary (Government of Rajasthan).

Panchayat Budget:

Panchayat finances and planning is one of the focus areas of BARC. Data on the resources (funds) that are being delegated to the PRIs and ULBs by the state have been compiled by BARC and shared. This year BARC has also published a Panchayat Budget Manual for the elected representatives of Panchayats as well as the trainers and people working with the PRI representatives.



Workshop on Panchayat Budget, Ajmer, October, 2013

Capacity Building workshop on Panchayat Budget-

A capacity building workshop on Panchayat Budget was conducted on October 8th, 2013 in Ajmer. More than 70 elected representatives and people from NGOs working on panchayat participated in the workshop. During the workshop, participants were made familiar with the basic concept of the state and panchayat budgets and how procedure of drafting panchayat level budget in the state according to the panchayat related laws.

Budget Tracking and Research Studies

During the year 2013-14, BARC completed four studies and started one new study. They are as follows:

- **Status of Gender Responsive Budget in Rajasthan-**

BARC completed a comprehensive study on status of Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) in Rajasthan, with support of UN-Women and National Foundation of India during the last year. The study covers all the departments of the state government. The status report on Gender Budget in Rajasthan, based on the study was published in November, 2013 titled “Gender Responsive Budget in Rajasthan” (in Hindi). This study was part

of a National level study conducted by UN Women and NFI and published as “Assessing Gender Equality Investments”.

- **Expenditure Tracking Study of RKVY-**

BARC also initiated an expenditure tracking study of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) in two districts of Rajasthan last year which has been completed this year and published in November 2013 titled “Budget Tracking Study of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna in Rajasthan” (in Hindi). This study is part of a National Level study conducted by People’s Budget Initiative (PBI) on tracking expenditure at district level, published as “What Ails Utilization of Funds in Development Schemes?”

- **Gender Responsive Budgeting Process and Marginalised Women: A Study in India, Bangladesh and Nepal-**

Gender Responsive Budgeting is a process of mainstreaming the gender issues and concerns in the national and sub-national government budgets. This study has been conducted by BARC in collaboration with Dan Church Aid (DCA), South Asia to study the process of gender responsive budget in India, Nepal and Bangladesh, from the perspective of marginalized women, namely dalit and tribal women, single and widow women and women working in the marginalized sectors. The study report has been prepared in two forms, one is a detailed report one and the other one is a brief version of the detailed report. Both of them are completed and are being reviewed and will be published.

- **Study of implementation of TSP and SC-SP at district level and below-**

TSP and SC-SP are two sub- plans which direct the state governments to allocate Plan resources for promoting welfare and development of the population belonging to the SC and ST communities in proportion to their population in the state. Though these allocations in the state are increasing now, they have never been up to the stipulated norms, and BARC had been raising the issues of low allocations. This study is designed to understand the district and below level implementation of the two sub- plans in the state. The study was conducted in six districts of Rajasthan. The report of the study is ready and will be published soon.

- **A study on the status of mining and its socio- economic impact on mine workers in Rajasthan-**

Rajasthan is richly endowed with a great range of minerals. Mining activities are widespread. Unfortunately, the miners who toil hard to produce the stones and minerals face agony, misery and pain. BARC has initiated a study to understand the status of mining and the socio- economic status of the mine workers in Rajasthan. This study is being conducted in seven districts of Rajasthan. The data collection and data entry for the study has been done and currently, the analysis of the data is in progress.

Conferences and workshops

BARC conducted following conferences and workshops during the year 2013-14:

Agriculture conference

For last four years BARC has been conducting an agriculture conference every year. The last conference was organized on 25th and 26th November, 2013 in Jaipur. About 70 participants from 8 districts attended the conference. The objective of the conference was to discuss the issues and problems related to agriculture like



Agriculture Conference, Jaipur, November, 2013

the present status of agriculture in Rajasthan, climate

change, agriculture policy, Kisan Ayog (Farmer's Commission), National Agriculture Development Plan, etc.

A report of the Agriculture Conference has been published on the official website of BARC and can be found at http://www.barcjaipur.org/admin/cat-images/catImg_1391250543.pdf

National Conference on Gender Budget

A national conference on Gender Budget was organized by BARC on 30th August, 2013 for discussing the Gender Budget and sharing the study of GRB process in Rajasthan and other states of the country. Almost 55 participants from various states were present during the meeting along with representatives of various NGOs from Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujrat, Asam, Odisha and Tamil Nadu who also presented their views about the status of gender budget in their respective states.

Issue Based Meetings

During the year 2013-14, BARC organized following issue based meetings:



Issue based meeting on SC-SP and TSP, Udaipur, Januar, 2014

- **On Tribal Sub Plan**

An issue based meeting on 'how to track Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) at district level and below' was organized by BARC in collaboration with Astha, Udaipur on January 13, 2014. Almost 40 people were present in this meeting. In this meeting, the current status of the TSP in the State Budget and the way it is implemented at Panchayat and Block levels was discussed.

- **On Gender Budget**

Another issue based meeting was organized on ‘Gender Budget in Rajasthan’ by BARC in collaboration with Ekal Naari Shakti Sangathan, Kota on 8th January, 2014. In this meeting, the participants were made familiar with the concept of gender, status of gender budget in the state and problem related to women such as domestic violence. More than 30 people participated in this meeting.



Issue based meeting on Gender Budget, Kota, January, 2013

COLLABORATION, PARTICIPATION AND NETWORKING

BARC is an active member of People’s Budget Initiative (PBI), a network of a few hundred civil society organizations from across the country; and participates in all its activities. BARC participated in PBI’s pre-budget regional and national consultations. BARC also was part of the joint study conducted by some PBI partners on district level fund tracking of major government schemes.

During the year 2013-14, BARC also participated in various meetings and seminars like the National Seminar organized by National Foundation for India in Hyderabad; National Seminar organized by NCDHR on SC-SP and TSP; Regional seminar conducted by PUCL in Ahmadabad, a National Seminar on National Rural Employment Guarantee held in Bhopal; workshop conducted by NFI on Monitoring and Evaluation of Budget work; National Seminar on Gender Budget conducted by NFI in collaboration with UN Women; protest organized by Pension Parishad at Jantar mantar; Annual meeting of Budget Groups organized by NFI at Trivandrum in February, 2014 to name a few.

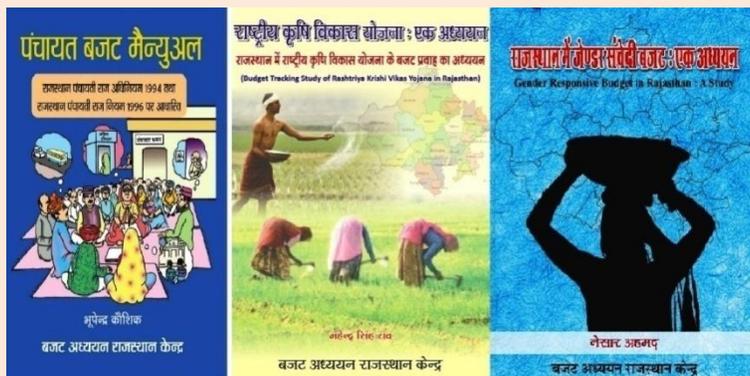
BARC AS RESOURCE CENTRE

As stated above, one of the roles that 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 2013-14, BARC has provided support to various organizations including UNICEF for which BARC team prepared pre-budget child advocacy brief, which was used by UNICEF for advocating better allocation in state budget 2013-14 for the fulfillment of the rights of the children.

Apart from this, BARC conducted sessions and made presentations in various capacity buildings and awareness generation workshops organized by various organizations in the state.

PUBLICATIONS

As a resource centre, BARC continued to release various publications during the reported year. Four issues of Budget Samachar were published along with four books titled: Gender Responsive Budget in Rajasthan, Panchayat Budget Manual, Budget Tracking Study of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna in Rajasthan, Welfare Schemes for minority community and Access of Muslim Families to Government Schemes in the State. BARC also published various online reports like Budget Summary, comments on the state and centre budgets, suggestions and demands for the State Budget.



BARC continued writing for newspapers on budget and policy issues. For the present year BARC's articles appeared in Daily News, the Economic Times, Vividha Features and the Hindustan Times.

The complete list of BARC's publications is provided in *Appendix 2*. Every publication is sent to NGOs and POs across the state and is used for training and other purposes.

CONCLUSION

BARC has been working on the state budget and policy related issues for a decade now. Our work has been able to generate much needed interest in the government budgetary process in the state. We have highlighted and continue to highlight the issues of marginalized people and the shortcomings in the budgetary process while dealing with them. We continue to raise the issues of lower allocations and expenditure under the sub-plans for tribals and dalits, lower allocation for the children, discrepancies in the gender budget statement (GBS) etc. The issues of governance and accountability are also being highlighted. The budget tracking studies of RKVY and district level implementation study of TSP and SC-SP have their objectives to understand the ground level problems in implementations. We hope that we would able to continue to raise the meaningful issues and contribute to the improvement in lives of people.

Appendix I: Activities during 2013-14 at a glance

S. No.	Activities	Detail
1	Budget Adocacy	Provided budget data and analysis to MLAs, Media and NGOs
		Pre-budget workshop with MLAs organized in March, 2014
		Pre-Budget Consultation conducted in December 2013
		Workshop on advocacy for legislation of the SC-SP and TSP Bills in May 2013
2	Panchayat Budget	Capacity building workshop on Panchayat Budget as well as sessions on Panchayat Budget in various training workshops in October 2013.
3	Agriculture Conference	Held in October 2013
4	Issue based meetings	On SC-SP and TSP on 13 th January, 2014
		On Gender Budget on 8 th January, 2014
5	Publications	Gender Responsive Budget in Rajasthan (Hindi), November 2013
		Panchayat Budget Manual (Hindi), September 2013
		Budget Tracking Study of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna in Rajasthan (Hindi), November 2013
		Welfare Schemes for minority community (Hindi), March 2014
		Access of Muslim Families to Government Schemes in the State (Hindi), February 2013
6	Newsletter (Budget Samachar)	Four issues of Budget Samachar published during the year
7	Budget Tracking and Research Studies	Status of Gender Responsive Budget in Rajasthan (completed)
		Expenditure Tracking Study of RKVY (completed)
		Gender Responsive Budgeting Process and Marginalised Women: A Study in India, Bangladesh and Nepal (completed)
		Study of implementation of TSP and SC-SP at district level and below (completed)
		A study on the status of mining and its socio- economic impact on mine workers in Rajasthan (initiated)
8	Media	News items based on BARC's 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.
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Appendix II: List of Publications

शीर्षक	Title in English	प्रकाशन तिथि
अल्पसंख्यक समुदायों के लिये कल्याणकारी योजनायें	Welfare Schemes for Minority Communities	मार्च, 2014
राज्य में मुसलिम परिवारों की सरकारी योजनाओं तक पहुँच	Access of Muslim Families to Government Schemes in the State	फरवरी, 2014
राजस्थान में राष्ट्रीय कृषि विकास योजना के बजट प्रवाह का अध्ययन	Budget Tracking Study of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna in Rajasthan	नवम्बर, 2013
राजस्थान में जेण्डर संवेदी बजट	Gender Responsive Budget in Rajasthan	नवम्बर, 2013
पंचायत बजट मैनुअल	Panchayat Budget Manual	सितम्बर, 2013
दक्षिणी राजस्थान में शिक्षा का अधिकार : एक अध्ययन	Right To Education In Southern Rajasthan : A Study	फरवरी, 2012
बजट को वंचित समुदायों की हकदारी से जोड़ने के प्रयास	Linking Budgets To The Concerns Weaker Sections	2012
राजस्थान : वर्तमान वित्तीय स्थिति	Rajasthan : A Study of State Finances	फरवरी, 2012
भारत में राज्य बजट में पारदर्शिता : मुख्य परिणाम	Transparency in State Budget in India : Summary Fact Sheet	2011
भारत में राज्य बजट में पारदर्शिता : राजस्थान	Transparency in State Budget in India : Rajasthan	2011
बजट अध्ययन: एक परिचय	Budget Study: An Introduction	अगस्त, 2010
राज्य में खाद्य सुरक्षा एवं सम्बन्धित योजनाएं : एक अध्ययन	Food Security and Related Schemes in the State: A Study	अगस्त, 2010
कृषि ऋण—कितना सार्थक ?	Agriculture Loan: How Good	जून, 2010
लुप्त होती लघुवन उपज : खतरे में आदिवासी आजीविका	Depleting Mining Forest Produce: Threat to Tribal Livelihood	दिसम्बर, 2009
दलितों के लिए राज्य की कल्याणकारी योजनाएं	State's Welfare Schemes for Dalits	जून, 2009
राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी कानून : क्रियान्वयन में सुधार की आवश्यकता	NREGA: Need of Reform in Implementation	दिसम्बर, 2008

स्वजलधारा : व्यर्थ बहा जनता का पैसा	“Swajal Dhara”: People’s Money Drained	जुलाई, 2008
ग्रामीण लघु उद्योग क्षेत्र में सरकारी प्रयासों की कथनी-करनी : एक नजर	Reality of Government Efforts in Small Industry Sector: A Study	अप्रैल, 2008
सरकारी विकास योजनाएँ और आम आदमी तक उनकी पहुंच: एक आंकलन	Government Development Schemes and their reach to common People: An Assessment	दिसम्बर, 2007
सामाजिक सेवाओं पर व्यय (राज्य के बजट से)	Spending on Social Sector (From State Budget)	मार्च, 2007
राजस्थान में विधवाओं का अभावग्रस्त जीवन : राज्य ने क्या भूमिका निभाई?	The Destitution of Widows in Rajasthan: What role has the state played?	फरवरी, 2007
स्थानीय स्तर पर लिंग आधारित बजट (जेण्डर बजट) : कैसे करेंगे पैरवी	Gender Budget at State Level: How to do Advocacy	दिसम्बर, 2006
दलित, गरीब तथा वंचित लोगों के लिए समाज कल्याण, ग्रामीण विकास विभाग, पंचायतीराज विभाग एवं खाद्य-नागरिक आपूर्ति विभाग की कल्याणकारी योजनाएं	Welfare Schemes for Dalits, Poor and Marginalised	नवम्बर, 2006
राजस्थान में फसल बीमा : सुधार की आव यकता	Crop Insurance in Rajasthan: Need of Improvement	सितम्बर, 2006
बजट की तकनीकी शब्दावली	Budget Terminologies	सितम्बर, 2006 जनवरी, 2005
दलित एवं आदिवासियों के लिए बजट एवं योजनाएं	Budget and Schemes for Dalits and Tribals	नवम्बर, 2005
गरीबी हटाओ अभियान: कितना सफल-कितना असफल	Gharibi Hatao”: How Successful?	

List of Online Publications

Title	Year
Suggestions and Demands for State Budget	2014-15
Report of Agriculture Conference	2013
Rajasthan State Girl Child Policy 2013- Analysing from GRB Perspective	2013
Suggestions on Gender Budget	2012-13
Suggestions from pre budget consultation on budget 2013-14.	2012-13
Suggestions from Agriculture conference-Hindi	2012-13
Gender Budget in Rajasthan by Nesar	2012-13
Progress Review of Budget 2012-13 Announcements.	2012-13

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