

BUDGET ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH CENTRE TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17



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About BARC Trust:

Budget Analysis and Research Centre (BARC) Trust is a registered trust based in Jaipur, Rajasthan. BARC Trust was registered on March 2015. BARC Trust conducts budget analysis, and policy research from socio-economic perspective, along with undertaking activities like tracking of programmes implementation and fund utilisation, conducting capacity building trainings for panchayat members, elected representatives, etc. One important objective of the BARC's work is to link the people with the government policies, programmes and schemes and try to ensure that people get benefits of the government programmes through awareness and spread of information.

Vision: BARC's vision is to create a policy environment that ensures rights, justice and well-being for all. BARC works to contribute in the efforts of the larger civil society to create pro people and pro marginalized public policies and budgetary process. BARC tries to highlight the concerns of women, dalits, tribals, minorities, children, elderly, and differently abled people. We do this by working on social sectors, social security and crucial sectors like agriculture, land, mining, and on the issues like climate change, at all levels of governance, from local to national.

Aims and objectives:

BARC Trust is committed to work towards eradicating poverty along with promoting rights, justice and the betterment of women, children, rural poor, slum dwellers, dalits, adivasis, unorganized workers, the elderly, and other marginalized groups. With its mission to enable people to become aware of their rights and ways in which they can ask for their rights by promoting their access to the development schemes and programmes, BARC Trust also aspires to work to achieve the following objectives:

1. To initiate and implement activities of research, analysis, public education, capacity building and any other related activities, so as to strengthen transparency and accountability of governance and to support poor and marginalized sections of society in India and elsewhere in improving their situation.
2. To work with the poor to improve their nutrition, housing, employment, and health conditions.
3. To make the Public Budget and its processes, and economic and other policies comprehensible to citizens; to work for accountability and transparency in public policy, particularly of policies affecting the poor and marginalized; to empower and increase the awareness of citizens to the need to participate in policy making at different levels of governance
4. To develop an educational institute which runs courses / workshops to make budgets and social policy more understandable to the citizens who participate.
5. To undertake training and capacity building, by itself or in collaboration with others, organizations or individuals, so as to improve the skills and knowledge of those working on common issues affecting the poor and marginalized communities.

6. To put together a library of soft and hard copies of documents and information relating to the above areas of work and develop Resource Centres, and Documentation Centres that would promote public education and accountability in the area of governance and public policy and related activities.
7. To educate citizens, disseminate information and knowledge related to Budgets, Public Policies and Governance, as well as Development related matters. This work would be done through newspapers, periodicals, newsletters, manuals, case studies, research papers, websites or other forms of publication as is necessary; through all forms of media; alone or in collaboration with other Centres or organizations.
8. To make submissions to statutory and non-statutory bodies, local, state, national and/or international
9. To coordinate and collaborate with organizations or individuals, in India and/or internationally, in whatever way needed, and to create networks and / or partnerships. These networks and partnerships would be focused on ameliorating deteriorating conditions affecting the poor and marginalized.
10. To undertake and provide consultancies to any person, institution, government and non-governmental organizations in the broad area of work.
11. To raise resources from the public, government and non-governmental organizations, institutions to sustain its activity, mission and vision.
12. All the Income, earnings, moveable-immovable properties of the Trust shall be solely utilized and applied towards the promotion of its aims and objects only as set forth in the Trust Deed and no profit on thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividends, bonus, profits or in any manner whatsoever to the present or past Trustees of the Trust or to any person claiming through anyone or more of the present or the past Trustees. No Trustee of the Trust shall have any personal claim on any moveable or immovable properties of the Trust or make any profits, whatsoever, by virtue of this trusteeship.

Activities and programmes undertaken by BARC Trust in 2016-17:

In order to achieve its objectives, BARC trust has undertaken following initiative during the year:

1. Budget Analysis and Advocacy:

After the Budget Announcement 2016-17, the BARC team responded to the State Budget and came out with budget notes on various issues affecting the vulnerable sections of the society, which were then shared with the media and were made available to the researchers, other NGOs. These notes were also sent to the MLAs and they have used the data provided by BARC team in discussions in the Vidhan Sabha.

Impact:

2. Panchayat Budget and Planning:

The Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) are the most important and lowest unit of governance institutions, which are mandated by the Constitution to plan for the development of their areas in a participatory manner. The 73rd amendment in the Constitution was introduced in 1992, which added a new chapter (Part IX) to the Constitution of India, giving the PRIs a constitutional status and providing them with powers to plan and make budget.

However, It has been seen that even after two and half decades of the 73rd amendment in the constitution that gave the PRIs a constitutional status and provided them with powers to plan and make budget the process of administrative and financial devolution in the country, there is still a huge gap in its complete implantation and massive variations are observed in the level of devolution across the states. Hence there is need to work closely with panchayats and the elected representatives of the local bodies. So far, BARC Trust has taken up following activities in this direction.

BARC Trust a member of the State Level Resource Group for Panchayat planning

BARC Trust has been invited by the Department of Panchayati Raj to be a member of the State Level Resource Group for Panchayat planning in the state. Also the Department has invited and BARC Trust and other two civil society organisations in the resource group to help select panchayats and prepare model annual plans.

Booklet for Sarpanch on Use of 'Untied funds' for Panchayats in Rajasthan: Taking one more step in this direction, BARC Trust in collaboration with Astha, Udaipur has prepared a booklet for the Sarpanchs and the community workers working with panchayats, providing information on availability of 'untied fund' to the panchayats and it could be spent on what type of works.

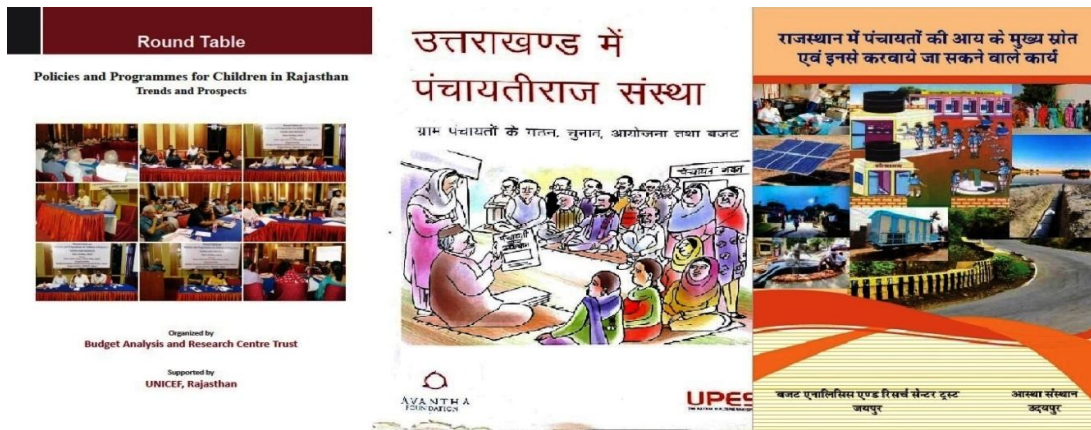
Providing Support to Tonk Panchayats: BARC Trust entered into a partnership with UNICEF, Rajasthan to work on a one year programme, which could be extended to another year, to provide support to the panchayats in two blocks of Tonk District – Malpura and Todarai Singh – in planning, implementation and monitoring of their activities. One component of the project also aims at conducting a comprehensive survey among the panchayats in order to rank their performances. The project just started in March, by the end of the reporting year and it will be majorly implemented in the next financial year.



Field Facilitators meeting with the Sarpanch in Malpura Block

Handbook on Panchayat Process for the Panchayat Functionaries in Uttarakhand:

There is always a need to have a simple and easily comprehensible handbook on panchayats for the elected representatives of panchayats as well as the organizations and individuals working with the PRIs. BARC Trust collaborated with the Avantha Foundation, Pune to prepare a handbook for the panchayats in Uttarakhand on functioning of and planning and budgeting by the panchayats in the state of Uttarakhand. The Trust Director also provided resource in the Capacity Building Workshop of the elected representatives of the panchayats in Dehradun.



The publications of BARC Trust

3. Workshops and Seminars

• Round Table on Policies and Programmes for Children in Rajasthan:

BARC Trust, with the support of UNICEF, organized a Round Table conference with the theme 'Policies and Programmes for Children in Rajasthan: Trends and Prospects' on May 5, 2016 in the Hotel Jaipur Palace, Jaipur and 52 representatives participated from almost 40 organizations including the State Finance Commission, Rajasthan University, various research institutes, NGOs and CSOs.

The round table discussion focused on the different aspects of Policies and Programmes related to Social Sector with special reference to Women, Children and the marginalized communities in the state. BARC Trust is also in process of publishing a report of the Round Table, which can be used as resource material by various organisations working with children and for development and welfare of children in the state.



Round Table on Policies and Programs for Children in Rajasthan

- **Workshop on Budget and Schemes for Minorities in Rajasthan**

A workshop on budget and schemes was organised in BARC office August 11, 2016 with NGOs and individuals from 10 districts of Rajasthan, with support of Action Aid, Rajasthan. A discussion on budget of Department of Minority Affairs and Schemes for the minorities was held. Jawed Alam Khan from CBGA Delhi also participated in the workshop. The present organisations expressed their views on working with minority communities in the state so that they could get benefits of these schemes and programmes.



[Workshop on Budget and Schemes for Minorities in Rajasthan](#)

Conclusion

BARC Trust plans to further its works in the areas of budget analysis, policy research, promoting economic and budget literacy, spreading awareness about government's schemes and programmes, and tracking of fund utilisation and implementation of the programmes and schemes with community involvement, working with panchayats to assist them in effective planning and budgeting in coming years.