

# ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17

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*Budget Analysis Rajasthan Centre, Jaipur*

(A Unit of Astha Sansthan, Udaipur)

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## CONTENT

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	1
<b>II</b>	<b>Core Objectives of BARC</b>	1
<b>III</b>	<b>Focus Areas of BARC</b>	2
<b>IV</b>	<b>Activities during 2016-17</b>	2
<b>A.</b>	<b>Budget Advocacy</b>	2
	Pre- Budget Advocacy	2
	Post Budget Activities	7
	Deepening the Budget Work	8
<b>B.</b>	<b>Budget Tracking and research Studies</b>	10
<b>C.</b>	<b>Conferences and Workshops</b>	11
<b>V</b>	<b>Collaboration, Participation and Networking</b>	13
<b>VI</b>	<b>BARC as Resource Centre</b>	14
<b>VII</b>	<b>Publication</b>	15
<b>VIII</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>	16
<b>IX</b>	<b>Appendices</b>	18
	Appendix I: Activities during 2016-17 at a glance	18
	Appendix II: List of Publications	19

## **I. 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 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 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, 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 are some of the major activities 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.

## **II. 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.

### III. 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

### IV. ACTIVITIES DURING 2016-17

In the year 2016-17 various analysis, research and advocacy related activities have been undertaken by BARC in line with its objectives and focus areas. The following pages will provide brief information about these activities:

#### A. Budget Advocacy- Pre- Budget Advocacy

Every year BARC does Pre- Budget advocacy for increasing the understanding and participation of people in the budgeting process. The Pre Budget Advocacy is done with the Rajasthan government by involving NGOs, CBOs, unions and



**Pre-Budget Consultation held in Jaipur on 7-8th  
November, 2016**

associations functioning across Rajasthan; conducting pre-budget workshop with the MLAs of Rajasthan by giving suggestions and raising demands for the upcoming budget at both Centre and State. BARC also participates actively in the pre-budget advocacy on the union budget with the Union government by the People's Budget Initiative (PBI).

**Pre-budget Consultation:** A two day state level pre-budget consultation was organized by BARC with NGOs, POs and other research, academic and development organization on 7<sup>th</sup>& 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at State Resource Centre (SRC), Jaipur. Around 85 representatives from these organizations /institutes participated in this workshop. Harsh Mandar of Centre of

Equity Studies, New Delhi delivered key note address in the inaugural session of the consultation. Mr. Nikhil Dey of Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangthan (MKSS) and Kavita Shirivastav of PUCL, among others, also shared their views and expectations on the issue of state budget governance and transparency. A special session on the issues and problems of the homeless people in Rajasthan was also organized which was chaired by Harsh Mandar. Based on discussions and issues emerged in this consultation, a Charter of Demands (CoD) was prepared for presenting to the department/ministries and other stake holders of the government.

**Pre-Budget workshop on schemes and budget for Minorities:** BARC (Astha), along with Alwar Mewat Institute of Education and Development (AMIED) and Action Aid organized a workshop on the schemes and budget for minority communities on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss the status of minorities in Rajasthan and issues faced by them. The demands raised during the workshop were included in BARC's Charter of Demands for the budget 2017-18

### **Consultation workshop on Health Services and Schemes in Rajasthan (22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2016)**

BARC, along with Prayas and Jan Swasthya Abhiyan conducted a state level consultation workshop on the status of health services and health schemes in Rajasthan. The main objective of this meeting was to discuss health related issues regarding infrastructure, facilities, regional issues, etc in Rajasthan state and to come up with some demands which were then included in the Charter of Demand. There were about 40 participants in the meeting including Dr. Narendra Gupta (Jan Swasthya Abhiyan) and Dr. Meeta.

The Charter of Demand was then presented to the department of Public Health & Family Welfare (Demands regarding health), different government officials and CM (during pre-budget consultation by government).



- ❖ **Preparation of CoDs:** Each year, a Charter of Demands is prepared based on the pre-budget consultations. Besides the above mentioned pre budget consultations, in preparing the CoD, we also benefitted from the consultations/workshop organized on Health, Differently Abled People and TSP & SCSP with organisations like Jan Swasthya Abhiyan, Astha, and Centre for Dalit Rights and NCDHR and the meetings of the District Level Budget groups.
- **Submission of Charter of Demands:** As discussed above the charter of Demands (CoD) based on the above Pre-budget Consultations and some other meetings/consultations

was prepared and submitted for both years separately. The Charter of Demands was submitted to the Chief Secretary (GoR), Finance Department, Planning Department, Tribal Area Development Department, Social Justice and Empowerment Department and Directorate of PWD (GoR) in person. The Charter of demand was also sent to various other departments.

### Presenting Demands from CoD in Pre-Budget Consultation of the State Government:

Besides submission of Charter of Demand, BARC also participated in the pre-budget consultation organized by the Chief Minister (GoR) during March 2016 (for budget 2016-17) and February 2017 (for budget 2017-18). Main demands from the charter of demands were also presented in the meeting.

## Appoint better qualified teachers: BARC to govt

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Jaipur:** Budget Analysis and Research Centre (BARC) held a series of workshops across the state over recent months to assess needs and build public opinion on what the government needs to pay attention to, in the Budget.

In a set of recommendations issued as a press release on Tuesday, BARC said that better qualified teachers need to be appointed in state schools. Also, teachers should be given accommodation near schools. The state must also review the decision to merge schools as children are deprived in parts of tribal and western Rajasthan, where the distance they have to commute to get to school would be stupendous.

The health budget saw a small decline last year. The free medicines and diagnostics scheme needs to be strengthened. Preventive healthcare should get a fillip, BARC said, advocating for proper vaccination, safe drinking water and sanitation.

**THE WISH LIST**

- Teachers should be given accommodation near schools
- Minimum support price for pulses and grains like wheat should also be properly implemented
- Minimum wages must be hiked under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, and budgetary provision for this must be increased
- There should be centres offering accommodation to women who have faced sexual abuse or domestic violence, during the period of their rehabilitation

BARC and its associates also called for proper implementation of the National Food Security Act. Minimum support price for pulses and grains like wheat should also be properly implemented.

In agriculture, the group called for better training to women as there is what it termed a "feminization of agriculture". The budget should also provide for cattle during drought, it said. Minimum wages must be hiked under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, and budgetary provision for this

must be increased. The allocation for minority affairs is extremely low and must be hiked, participants at the workshops held by BARC said. There should be centres offering accommodation to women who have faced sexual abuse or domestic violence, during the period of their rehabilitation. Anganwadi workers are mostly women, and their salaries are extremely low - this should be hiked to at least Rs 15,000. Schemes and budgetary allocation should also be made for the proper care of people who are differently abled.

After submission of Charter of Demand (CoD) for the budgets 2016-17 and 2017-18, we regularly visited the departments of Health, Social Justice and Empowerment, Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Department, Directorate of People with Disability, Department of Women and Child Development and departments of Planning and Finance.

BARC team members participated in MIS to JIS (Management Information System to Janta Information System) campaign of Suchana Evam Rozgar Adhikar Abhiyan and visited various departments to make demand for making the MIS more comprehensive. Some of the departments visited are IT Department, Social Justice and Empowerment Department, Food Security Department and Education Department.

### Pre- budget press conference on Health and Budget:

A Pre-Budget press conference was held on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 on budget for health in collaboration with Jan Swasthya Abhiyan and Prayas in which members of both print and electronic media participated. In the press conference, concerns about the lack of appropriate allocation of budget on health, underutilization of health budget and lack of monitoring of the schemes, as highlighted in the earlier pre-budget consultations on health and the analysis of health budget by BARC, was raised by Jan Swasthya Abhiyan and Prayas.

- **Pre-Budget Workshop with MLAs:** Before the Budget 2017-18, BARC organized a pre-budget workshop with MLAs of Rajasthan on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2017. Around 40 participants including 11 MLAs and people from different organizations, NGOs, media houses participated in the workshop. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the trends of state economy and budget allocation and expenditure of the government over the past few years and to give suggestions for the upcoming budget. Also the issues related to budget of different socio-economic sectors/groups could be raised by them in the state assembly.

राज्य बजट से पूर्व कार्यशाला में एक स्वर में बोले विधायक

## प्रदेश में पेट्रोल-डीजल पर मिले विशेष छूट



**कहा, पेट्रोलियम पदार्थों का उत्पादन करते हैं इसलिए मिले फायदा**  
**वैतन आयों लागू करने का तरीका बदले**

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क  
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जयपुर - विधानसभा में कहा कि राजस्थान का देश में पेट्रोलियम पदार्थों का उत्पादन करता है, लेकिन इसका फायदा हमें नहीं मिल रहा है। ऐसे में बंद सरकार राजस्थान को विशेष रूप से पेट्रोल-डीजल की कीमतों में छूट प्रदान करे। राज्य बजट से पहले गोरखपुर को चारों एक हेलोप में विधानसभा के लिए अधिवेशन बजट पूर्व कार्यशाला में यह बात एक स्वर में रखी गई। पत्रिका के वित्तिकारदार पर एक अधिवेशन आयोजित के पत्रों में पिछले आठ महीने से इनकी कीमतों को कम होना चाहिए। राजस्थान का महामंदर का बजट के लिए अपनी तरफ से योगदान के आग्रह उन विधानसभा के सदस्यों के लिए पर आने सम्बन्धित काम किए जाने की जरूरत है।



इन पर भी हुई चर्चा...

कृषि क्षेत्र पर चर्चा भी हुई कि कृषि क्षेत्र में उत्पादन वा अन्य को सिंचना कर अपने ऊपर टैक्स लगाया जाना चाहिए।  
किसानों को कार्टरीज टैक्स कम करने का प्रस्ताव भी किया है, ऐसे में अन्य के दूरे विधायक एकजुट आते हैं।

**मसालों से वैट हटे, व्यापार कल्याण बोर्ड बने**

## शिक्षक

विद्यार्थियों की कक्षाएं खाली पड़ेगी  
अध्ययन कक्षाएं खाली पड़ेगी  
अध्ययन कक्षाएं खाली पड़ेगी

राज्य स्तरीय परामर्शदात्री समिति की बैठक

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जयपुर, राजस्थान की उपराज्य में राज्य स्तरीय परामर्शदात्री समिति की बैठक में मंत्रालय को बजट पर चर्चा हुई और विधानसभा में अपने सुझाव दिए। राजस्थान शासन बजट संघ की ओर से राज्य स्तरीय परामर्शदात्री समिति की बैठक में चर्चा जारी है। विधानसभा में बजट पत्रिका में 2 प्रतिशत वृद्धि के साथ ही बजट में 1250 परामर्शदात्री समिति कागजातों को अब बजट 1800 हो गई है। जो, राज्य मसालों और सिमेंट, परामर्शदात्री बैठक करने में अन्य जनता के साथ परामर्शदात्री को भी सहित मिल सकते हैं। उन्होंने सीमा को प्रवेश कर से मुक्त करने, मन

अनुयायी रसोई के लिए सहयोग दिया

बैठक में अनुयायी रसोई के लिए सहयोग देना चाहिए। बजट में एक लाख रुपये का एक सेट दिया। इसके बाद शिक्षक उद्योग पर बजट से संबंधित बातों के प्रति भी चर्चा हुई। बजट पर चर्चा का अधिवेशन आयोजित करने के लिए भी चर्चा हुई।

राज्य स्तरीय परामर्शदात्री समिति की बैठक

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जयपुर, राजस्थान की उपराज्य में राज्य स्तरीय परामर्शदात्री समिति की बैठक में मंत्रालय को बजट पर चर्चा हुई और विधानसभा में अपने सुझाव दिए। राजस्थान शासन बजट संघ की ओर से राज्य स्तरीय परामर्शदात्री समिति की बैठक में चर्चा जारी है। विधानसभा में बजट पत्रिका में 2 प्रतिशत वृद्धि के साथ ही बजट में 1250 परामर्शदात्री समिति कागजातों को अब बजट 1800 हो गई है। जो, राज्य मसालों और सिमेंट, परामर्शदात्री बैठक करने में अन्य जनता के साथ परामर्शदात्री को भी सहित मिल सकते हैं। उन्होंने सीमा को प्रवेश कर से मुक्त करने, मन

budget advocacy strategy. The MLA workshop also gets media coverage and helps in generating discourse around budget in in media and among people.

**District Budget Group Meetings:** Two district budget groups have been formed in two districts of Rajasthan i.e. Alwar and Udaipur. One district budget group meeting was held in each of the districts.

❖ **Udaipur District Budget Group Meeting:** The meeting was held at Astha Training Centre, Udaipur on 06<sup>th</sup> December 2016. Around 18 people from various NGOs, CSOs and Institutes from Udaipur participated in this meeting. The main objective of this meeting was to discuss the needs of the area and to ensure that budget allocation at the district level is done according to the needs of the area and people of the district. The meeting concluded with the decision to formulate a demand letter in accordance with the demands generated out of discussions in the meeting which was then presented to the Governor during his visit to Udaipur on 22<sup>nd</sup>



Alwar District Budget Group meeting held at Alwar

December. Along with the demand draft, a draft of schemes for the betterment of schedule caste and schedule tribes was also presented to the Governor.

- ❖ **Alwar District Budget Group Meeting:** The meeting was held at Hotel Swaroop Vilas, Moti Dungri, Alwar on 25th February, 2017. Around 25 representatives of various NGOs, CSOs, Media Houses and Institutes from Alwar participated in this meeting. During this meeting many suggestions were raised for the betterment of the region. It was also discussed that in order to do so the district budget group needs to work in a more efficient manner and be more pro-active. Other than that, discussion regarding the strategy that the budget group should follow was also discussed so that a path-way for their work and participation could be determined for the coming months. It was decided in the meeting that in the upcoming months the budget group would work on enhancing the knowledge base of representatives of Panchayats as well as of the students studying in universities by conducting workshops, interactive sessions etc. Along with this, it was also decided that a lobbying strategy will be developed for budget analysis of different departments at district level and to work on related issues.

## **Post Budget Activities**

### **Budget Analysis**

After the announcement of State Budget in Rajasthan on 8<sup>th</sup> March (2017), BARC prepared/updated budget sheets in order to simplify the budget data which is provided by the government in the budget books. Budget sheets of budget summary (head wise and sector wise), Department wise budget, State Budget as a percentage of GSDP, tax revenue of Rajasthan Government, outstanding liabilities of Rajasthan Government, TSP and SCSP budget, Budget for Children in Rajasthan and Medical and Family Welfare budget and these budget sheets were uploaded to the website.

BARC also shared the analysis of the State budget (for both 2016-17 & 2017-18) with the media, researchers, civil society organizations and MLAs. Budget Notes were prepared for the budget for various sectors like, agriculture, health, rural development, minority affairs, education, gender budget etc. and were shared with the media and the MLAs.

### **Deepening the Budget Work**

We continued with our efforts to deepen the budget work to the district level and levels to local governing bodies i.e. having direct involvement at the levels of PRIs, ULBs and district administration.

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 every year. In 2014, a Panchayat Budget Manual was prepared and shared with many NGOs and Panchayat representatives and a capacity building workshop was organized for the members of panchayats to understand the budgeting process and



participate in order to make the planning and budgeting better and stronger at Panchayat level.

**Working with select Panchayats::** Panchayat finances and planning is one of the focus areas of BARC (Astha). BARC has been working with select panchayats to support them in planning



**Capacity building workshop for the ERs of Kaucha and Malwa Ka Chaura on 'Panchayat Planning and Budgeting Process' at KAS office in Kotra**

and budgeting in the districts of Alwar and Udaipur for making the Budgeting and Panchayat Planning process more effective. We are working in collaboration with Sohard in Alwar and Kotra Adivasi Sangathan (KAS) in Udaipur. The process includes forming groups of local volunteers in two panchayats of Neemrana Block (Alwar) and two panchayats of Kotra Block (Udaipur), conducting capacity building workshops for the volunteers, elected representatives of panchayat and

people, situation analysis of the intervention areas, motivating the panchayats to collect demands from the people of the panchayats and separately from the youth, women and the elderly, compiling the demands and preparing plans for the panchayats, and finally discussing the plan in gram sabha and getting the plans passed in the Gram Sabhas.

**Implementation of GPDP:** This year the government of India started Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPD), which is being implemented in Rajasthan as *Apno Panchayat Apno Yojna*. GPDP is a comprehensive planning process for the panchayats for all the available resources to the panchayats and the government has also created an institutional mechanism like Technical Support Groups and Gram Panchayat Coordination Committee at the panchayat level and other committees at block, district and state levels. BARC's intervention with the select panchayats in Alwar and Udaipur focused on implementation of GPDP and constitution and functioning of the new committees. In Alwar we also organised training for the TSG of the panchayats.

#### **Visit of Afghanistan Delegates:**

Two MPs and some government officials and members of civil society from Afghanistan visited BARC (Astha) and we took them to visit Kuteena panchayat and also made a presentation before them in Jaipur. In Kuteena the Afghan delegates had a meeting with sarpanch and other elected representatives of the panchayat and understood the process of panchayat budget and planning practiced by the panchayat.

In Jaipur we made a presentation on BARC's activities and panchayat process in India and Rajasthan.



### **Documentary Film on Panchayat Budget and Planning:**

As proposed, a documentary film on panchayat budget and planning has been made which is now being edited and finalized. The film tries to explain the process of budget and planning and their current state and includes the views and experiences of elected representatives, government officials and NGOs working with panchayats.

### **Training with the elected representatives of Kuteena and Majra Panchayats, Alwar District on planning processes of Panchayats**

collected budget documents from four municipal corporations from Bihar (Arrah and Gaya) and Rajasthan (Udaipur and Ajmer) and presented them in simple and comrehensible manner to Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability (CBGA), the partner in the project. The budget documents of the four muncipal corporations are now been uploaded on the newly launched website <https://openbudgetsindia.org/>. The wesbsite is an effort to make aviable orioiginbal budget documents of the union government, state governments and the local bodies.

### **Analyzing the Municipal Budgets**

In the year of reporting, BARC

Beside providing the budget documents to CBGA, we also analysed the budgets of the two muncipal corporations of Rajasthan and prepared a report based on analysis of three years budget of the two muncipal bodie. Also, an workshop was organised in Ajmer to share the finding so the analysys of the municipal corporation of Ajmer with elected representatives and civil society organisations in the city.

### **B. Budget Tracking and Research Studies-**

Every year BARC conducts some studies with the purpose of making an assessment of the impact of the government policies and expenditures on the poor and marginalized section of the society. These studies give the actual situations at the grass root level and provide potential entry points for advocacy and better implementation of the government policies. The budget tracking studies provide information about the use of the funds allocated by the government for the welfare of the beneficiaries. This year, apart from budget tracking studies, BARC also conducted a study to find the status of transparency in State Budget at district level. BARC has been advocating for Budget Transparency at the State level since long as Rajasthan has proven to be one of the poor performing states in budget

transparency according to a study done by BARC with CBGA in 2011. These studies are as follows:

- District Budget Tracking Study of Tribal Sub Plan and Scheduled Caste Sub Plan on Rajasthan: This study was conducted last year and has been published in this year.
- Study on Access of People with Disabilities to Government Schemes in the State: The study has been completed this year and has been published.
- Gender Responsive Budgeting in SBM: Access to Public Toilets for Low Income Working Women: The methodology for the study has been finalized. Currently, secondary literature review is going on and the data collection will start soon.
- Advocacy Material: This year, BARC published one State-level Policy Brief titled “Policy Brief on Health Budget and Services in Rajasthan” and District Report Cards on Health for four district viz, Barmer, Bharatpur, Chittorgarh, and Jhunjhunu.

### **Budget Transparency**

BARC has continued to focus on transparency in the state budget at both state and district levels. A consultation on transparency in state budget was organized with IDS. The district budget groups have discussed the issue and have resolved to put it as a demand before the district administration as well as state government.

The study on transparency in budget focusing on the district level budget “Budget Transparency at District Level in Rajasthan” has been published.

**Joining the MIS to JIS campaign:** As discussed above, BARC team members joined and participated actively in MIS to JIS (Management Information System to Janta Information System) campaign initiated by people’s movements and other Civil Society Organizations like Suchana Evam Rozgar Adhikar Abhiyan. The campaign focuses on collectively reviewing the MIS and advocates for better MIS and BARC is advocating with the Treasury Department for a more transparent for providing the real time expenditure of budget in a more transparent way along with other departments like IT department, Social Justice Department, Food Security Department and Education Department.

### **C. Conferences and workshops-**

BARC conducted following conferences and workshops during the year 2016-17:

#### **Seminar on Goods and Service Tax:**

BARC organized a one-day seminar on Goods and Service Tax (GST) and its application in collaboration with Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2016. A total of 30 people from various NGOs in Rajasthan, academic institutions and universities participated in the seminar.

**State level workshop on Nutrition:**

BARC in collaboration with R4D, conducted a one-day findings sharing workshop on 30th August. In this workshop, the result of the analysis of budget for nutrition in the State as done by BARC with the support of R4D was shared with the participants that also included the Health Minister. The report of the analysis has been published by R4D.

**Workshop on Status of Nutrition in Tribal Areas:**

An issue based workshop was conducted by BARC in collaboration with Astha on nutrition on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2016 in Udaipur. In this workshop, representatives of almost 20 organizations working on tribal issues participated.

**TSP and SC-SP:**

A discussion on the implementation and legislation of the TSP and SCSP was organized by BARC with Dalit Aarthik Adhikaar Andolan and Dalit Adhikaar Kendra. In this workshop, members of 30 different organizations working on dalit and tribal issues participated.

**Consultation Seminar on Transparency in state budget:** A consultation seminar on Transparency in State Budget was organized by Budget Analysis Rajasthan Centre (BARC-Astha) and Institute of Development Studies (IDS) at IDS, Jaipur on 06<sup>th</sup> February 2017. Around 35 academicians and NGO representatives and media persons participated in the seminar. Prof. V S Vyas, Deputy Chairperson of earlier State Planning Board participated in the inaugural session.

**Workshop on Budget and Schemes for PWD:**

A consultation was organized on 29<sup>th</sup> December, 2016 in collaboration with Astha, Urmul and Directorate of differently abled on the budgets and schemes for differently abled in the State and for at least 3% reservation.

**Workshop on Municipal Budget in Ajmer:**

A workshop was organized by BARC on December 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2016 in Ajmer for the councilors of Ajmer Municipal Corporation on the planning and budgeting of Municipal Budgets. In this workshop, a total of 70 people participated including the Mayor, the Chief Financial Officer, almost all the councilors and members of Civil Society Organizations in Ajmer.

**Workshop at Central University of Rajasthan:** BARC conducted a workshop on understanding the state Budget for the students of Department of Social Work, Department of Economics and Department of Public Policy of Central University, Kishangarh on October 18<sup>th</sup> 2016. In this workshop 50 students and teachers participated. Apart from discussion on

basic concepts of budgeting, the State budget and social sector budget were also discussed during the workshop with the help of presentations and group-work.

**Workshop at Udaipur School of Social Work:** BARC conducted a workshop on understanding the state Budget for the students of Social Work, Udaipur School of Social Work on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016. In this workshop 60 students and teachers participated. In order to create a better understanding budget among students, group activities were conducted. Other than that, basic budgetary concepts, the state budget, social sector budget etc. were also discussed in order to create a better understanding of budget through presentations.

#### **Meetings of the Advisory Group:**

**Budget Advisory:** BARC has constituted an advisory group apart from the trustees of the BARC Trust who also act as an advisory to the BARC Team. Meetings of both the advisory groups have been conducted during the reporting period. The advisories include seniors academic, NGO persons and retired bureaucrat and consultants.

### **V. COLLABORATION, PARTICIPATION AND NETWORKING**

At national level, 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 actively participates and contributes 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. We have also participated in the activities of MAKAAAM, a national network of organization working with women farmers and farm workers and Right to Food campaign.

Apart from this, at the State level, this year, BARC has joined the MIS to JIS, a campaign by civil society organizations in Rajasthan. BARC also worked in collaboration with IDS and participated in workshop conducted by IDS, Jaipur on Human Development Index in the State. BARC also participated in Annual Budget Workshop conducted by NFI, BRICS Seminar conducted by CBGA and Oxfam on Inequality, workshop conducted by CBGA on mother and child issues, workshop conducted by SUMA Network on issues related to motherhood and new born children and National Food Security Seminar conducted in Ranchi.

#### **Supporting Accountability Efforts**

BARC members have contributed in other efforts of accountability by other networks like Vada na Todo Abhiyan and we contributed two articles in a booklet prepared on accountability of the State Government of Rajasthan on completion of three years

Nesar Ahmad of BARC has written a background paper for the Rajasthan State Human Development Report being prepared by the Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur.

BARC supported in analyzing the data on collected by the POs on status of drought in Rajasthan and providing it to the campaigns.

At state level, BARC has always worked in collaboration with the various state level networks and organizations like Right to Food Campaign, Suchna evm Rozgar Adhikar Abhiayn, MKSS etc. There is good number of participation from state NGOs in BARC's pre budget consultations and other programmes. During the year 2016-17, BARC collaborated with many organizations for conducting various research studies and interventions as mentioned above. Apart from this; BARC also participated in various meetings, seminars and advocacy initiatives undertaken by various organizations like the following:

## **VI. BARC AS RESOURCE CENTRE**

As stated earlier, 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 2014-15, BARC has provided support to various organizations. Some of the organizations which requested for specific budget data and information include MKSS, Right to Food, CDR, Cecoedecon, Action Aid and SR Abhiyan and other Civil Society Organizations. Apart from this, BARC supported in analyzing the data collected by the POs on status of drought in Rajasthan and providing it to the campaigns.

BARC conducted sessions and made presentations in various capacity buildings and awareness generation workshops organized by various organizations in the state. BARC has been constantly publishing its studies which are sent to a number of NGOs/ POs, journalists, MLAs and the other stakeholder. These studies are also uploaded on BARC's website and are freely accessible.

## **VII. PUBLICATIONS**

**Budget Samachar** is the quarterly newsletter issued by BARC and sent to around over 1000 institutions, government departments, people etc. During the given time period, BARC issued four Budget Samachar i.e. April-June issue published in July (2016) and July-September issue published in October (2016) and October-December issue was published in January (2017) covering many issues like nutrition, health, education, GST bill, Sustainable Development Goals etc. Another issue of Budget samachar i.e. January-March (2017) was published in April 2017.

**Publication of the studies conducted during the last phase:** Report of the three studies – Implementation of TSP and SC-SP, Access of People with Disabilities to Government Shcemes in the State and Transparency in Budget at District Level- conducted during the last year have been finalized and are sent for printing. Apart from this, BARC has prepared District Health Report for Barmer, Bharatpur, Chittorgarh and Jhunjhunu, Policy Brief on Health Budget and Services in Rajasthan.

**Updating the website:**

BARC operates a website on which we publish all our work i.e. publications, newsletter, reports, comments, articles etc. Other than that, the website also provides state budget data in a simplified form under various heads. The information and publications of BARC are freely available to all. In the last three months BARC websites has been visited by more than 15000 visitors.

**VIII. CONCLUSION**

BARC has been working on the state budget and policy related issues for a more than a decade now. Its work has been able to generate much needed interest in the government budgetary process in the state. It has highlighted and continued to highlight the issues of marginalized people and the shortcomings in the budgetary process while dealing with them. It continued 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, transparency and accountability are also being highlighted by BARC regularly. The budget tracking studies and district level implementation study of TSP and SC-SP have their objectives to understand the ground level problems in implementations.

During this year, BARC held Pre-budget consultations with almost 250 people from all over Rajasthan and prepared a Charter of Demands from the demands raised in these consultations. The Demands from the CoDs were submitted by BARC to the state government found place in the budget announcements and allocations. 11 MLAs were trained this year on the issues of budget and after the budget was announced, BARC shared its analysis with the MLAs of Rajasthan. MLAs used our analysis of the state budget during the discussion on the state budget and raised issues related to Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Irrigation, MGNREGA, Education, Health, SC-SP and TSP etc. beside the overall income and expenditure trends, during the budget debate. At least 3 MLAs this year and 1 MLA last year used our analysis in the debates in the Rajasthan Assembly.

BARC conducted 7 workshops/ consultations on different issues including TSP-SCSP, nutrition, health, and transparency, schemes for PWDs, Municipal Budgets, and GST in which almost 245 people participated. BARC conducted trainings on budgets for 110 students from Central University of Rajasthan and Udaipur School of Social Work.

BARC deepened its intervention with two select panchayats in Alwar and Udaipur. Various capacity building trainings were conducted on planning and budgeting process of Panchayats which helped these four panchayats to prepare an annual plan in a more democratic manner.

The District Budget Groups initiated by BARC in Alwar and Udaipur strengthened budget advocacy work at the district level. They submitted memorandums to the District Administration demanding better implementation of TSP and SCSP and legislation for both.

The DBG submitted the memorandum to the District Administration, demanding better implementation of TSP and also demanding for an act for the TSP and SC-SP. In Alwar, it has been decided to conduct training on panchayat planning and budgeting for elected representatives of the panchayats and members of the DBG, which will be organized this year.

BARC has been closely associated with other organizations and campaigns like Right to Food, Suchna evam Rozgar Abhiyan, Mahila Kisan Adhikar Manch etc.

We hope to continue our budget analysis and advocacy work in the same manner while exploring new areas for strengthening budget work at the same time.



## IX. Appendices

### Appendix I: Activities during 2016-17 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 January, 2017
		Pre-Budget Consultation conducted in November, 2016 and January, 2017
		Submission of Charter of Demands
		Post-Budget Analysis and sharing
		Meetings of District-Level Budget Groups
2	Panchayat Budget	Capacity building Intervention and research study with Sohard, Alwar and KAS, Kotra
		Finalization of the Documentary Film on Panchayat Budget and Planning
3	Municipal Budget	Analysis of Udaipur and Ajmer Municipal Corporation Budget
4	Budget Training	Budget Training in Central University, Kishangarh in October, 2016
		Budget Training at Udaipur School of Social Work in December, 2016
5	Issue based meetings	Seminar on Goods and Service Tax in September, 2016
		Workshop on Status of Nutrition in Tribal Areas in October, 2016
		Discussion on implementation and legislation of TSP and SCSP
		Consultation on Transparency in state budget in February, 2017
		Consultation on budget and schemes for PWDs in December, 2016
		Workshop on budget for Ajmer Municipal Corporation in December, 2016
5	Publications	Budget Transparency at the District Level in Rajasthan: A case study
		Study on the Access of People with Disabilities to Government Schemes in the State
		District Budget Tracking Study of Tribal Sub Plan and Scheduled Caste Sub Plan in Rajasthan
		Policy Brief on Health Budget and Services in Rajasthan

		District Health Report (Barmer, Bharatpur, Chittorgarh, Jhunjhunu)
6	<b>Newsletter (Budget Samachar)</b>	Four issues of Budget Samachar published during the year
7	<b>Budget Tracking and Research Studies</b>	Study on Access of People with Disabilities to Government Schemes in the State Gender Responsive Budgeting in SBM: Access to Public Toilets for Low Income Working Women Study on Budget Transparency at the district level A Standard of Disclosure of Budget Documents Training Module on Economic and Budget Literacy Policy brief on health District Health Reports
8	<b>Media</b>	News items based on BARC's inputs appeared in DNA, Dainik Bhaskar, Times of India and Hindustan Times etc Published articles in publications like DNA, Daily News, etc.

## Appendix II: List of Publications

शीर्षक	Title in English	प्रकाशन तिथि
जिला स्वास्थ्य प्रतिवेदन (बाड़मेर, भरतपुर, चित्तोड़गढ़, झुंझुनू)	District Health Report (Barmer, Bharatpur, Chittorgarh, Jhunjhunu)	2017
राजस्थान में अनुसूचित जाति एवं जनजाति उप	District Budget Tracking Study of Tribal Sub Plan and Scheduled Caste Sub Plan in Rajasthan	2017
राजस्थान में स्वास्थ्य बजट एवं सेवाओं पर नीति प्रपत्र	Policy Brief on Health Budget and Services in Rajasthan	2017
राज्य में विशेषयोग्य जनों की सरकारी योजनाओं तक पहुँच : एक अध्ययन	Study on the Access of People with Disabilities to Government Schemes in the State: A study (in English)	2017
राजस्थान में जिला स्तर पर बजट पारदर्शिता	Budget Transparency at the District Level in Rajasthan: A case study	2017
राजस्थान में खनन एवं खान मजदूरों की स्थिति पर अध्ययन	A Study on the Status of Mining and Mine Workers in Rajasthan	जुलाई, 2015
राजस्थान में जेण्डर संवेदी बजट की प्रक्रिया : एक अध्ययन	Status of Gender Responsive Budgeting in Rajasthan: A Study (English)	मार्च, 2015
जेण्डर संवेदी बजट प्रक्रिया एवं सीमांत महिलाएं : भारत, बांग्लादेश एवं नेपाल का एक अध्ययन	Gender Responsive Budgeting Process and Marginalized Women: A Study in India, Bangladesh and Nepal (in English)	नवम्बर, 2014
राज्य में अनुसूचित जाति एवं जनजाति उपयोजना के क्रियान्वयन का जिला एवं निम्न स्तर पर अध्ययन	A study on implementation of SCSP and TSP at district and below level in the state	मार्च, 2014
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 आव यकता	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 पहुँच: 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
BARC Comments on Rajasthan Budget 2017-18 (English)	2017
Charter of Demands for the State Budget 2017-18	2017
Transparency in State Budget (English)	2017
BARC Comments on Rajasthan Budget 2016-17 (English)	2016
BARC Comments on Rajasthan Budget 2015-16 (English)	2015
Utilization of the untied and BRGF Funds- Understanding Priorities	2015
Charter of Demands for 2015-16 (English)	2015-16
Charter of Demands for 2015-16	2015-16
Suggestions and Demands for State Budget	2014-15
Comment on Rajasthan Land Acquisition Bill 2014	2014
Raj Land Acquisition Bill- Main Provision (Hindi)	2014
Report of Agriculture Conference 2013	2014
Rajasthan State Girl Child Policy 2013- Analyzing from GRB Perspective	2013
Suggestions on Gender Budget	2012-13
Suggestions from pre-budget consultation on budget 13-14.	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

- The online copies of all the above mentioned publications are available at [www.barcjaipur.org](http://www.barcjaipur.org)