

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

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## *Budget Analysis Rajasthan Centre, Jaipur*

(A Unit of Astha Sansthan, Udaipur)

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Budget Analysis Rajasthan Centre (BARC), Jaipur is a programme of Astha, Udaipur. It was setup 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 the 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 shortcomings 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
- Urban Local Bodies and Panchayat Budget and Planning

### **IV. ACTIVITIES DURING 2017-18**

In the year 2017-18 various analysis, research, workshops, consultations and advocacy related activities have been undertaken by BARC in the compliance with its objectives and focus areas. The following pages will provide brief information about these activities:



## A. Budget Advocacy-

**Pre- Budget Advocacy:** Pre-Budget Advocacy for increasing participation of people in the budgetary process was taken up during the year. The Pre Budget Advocacy is done with the Rajasthan government by involving NGOs, CBOs, unions and associations functioning across Rajasthan. It involves conducting a pre-budget workshop with the MLAs of Rajasthan and conducting pre-budget consultation with state NGOs and civil society. 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 pre-budget consultation was organized by BARC on 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur. In the consultation about 60 people from various civil society

organizations (CSOs), POs and other research, academic and development organizations participated. The consultation started with a lecture from Prof. V.S. Vyas, followed by presentations from experts, and discussions. The consultation focused on discussing in detail the status and collecting demands for the budget 2018-19 on the following subjects: education, health, food security, pension, women and child development, marginalized communities like Dalits, tribal, nomad and minorities, agriculture, rural development, and labor and employment.

Based on the discussions and issues that emerged in this consultation, a Charter of Demands (CoD) was prepared for presenting to the department/ministries and other stakeholders of the government.

**Pre-Budget Consultation on Schemes and Budget for Minorities:** BARC (Astha), along with other stakeholders organized a consultation on the schemes and budget for minority communities on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017. The meeting was attended by 22 people from more than 5 districts, and the main objective of the meeting was to discuss the issues of minorities in state and to prepare a Charter of Demands for the upcoming budget of 2018-19. Based on the above discussion, a Charter of Demands for the upcoming budget 2018-19 was prepared and later submitted to the government. The demands raised during the consultation were also included in BARC's Charter of Demands for the budget 2018-19.

**Preparing and Sharing the Charter of Demands:** A Charter of Demands was prepared based on demands collected from the pre-budget consultation. Besides the above mentioned pre budget consultations, in preparing the CoD, we also benefitted from the consultations/workshop organized on minorities with organizations working on minority issues in Rajasthan 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 Consultation and some other meetings/consultations was prepared and submitted to the Chief Secretary (GoR), Finance Department, Planning Department, Tribal Area Development Department, Social Justice and Empowerment Department and Directorate of Minorities (GoR) in person. The Charter of Demands was also sent to various other departments.

The Charter of Demands was also shared with the Indian National Congress State Committee of Rajasthan on their demand for suggestions for the manifesto for the upcoming Assembly elections.

**Presenting Demands from CoD in Pre-Budget Consultation of the State Government:** Besides submission of Charter of Demands to the govt. officials and Director, Astha, of which BARC is a unit, it also participated in the pre-budget consultation organized by the Chief Minister (GoR) during January 2018 (for budget 2018-19). Main demands from the Charter of Demands were also presented in the meeting.

After submission of Charter of Demands (CoD) for the budgets 2017-18 and 2018-19, we visited the departments of Health, Social Justice and Empowerment, Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Department, Department of Minority Affairs, Department of Women and Child Development and Department of Planning and Finance.

The Charter of Demands was also shared with the Indian National Congress State Committee of Rajasthan, on their demand, for suggestions for the manifesto for the upcoming Assembly elections. (Repeated just above)



*Image: MLA Orientation Held on 5th February, 2018*

**Pre-Budget Workshop with MLAs:** Before the budget 2018-19, BARC organized a pre-budget workshop with MLAs of Rajasthan on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2018. Around 35 participants including 12 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.

The MLAs workshop helps us to keep in touch with the state MLAs. We come to know about their expectations from BARC (Astha), which helps us in developing our post budget advocacy strategy. The MLA workshop also gets media coverage and helps in generating discourse around budget in media and among people.

**District Budget Group Meetings:** BARC has already formed two district budget groups (DBGs) in two districts of Rajasthan i.e. Alwar and Udaipur. This year, BARC has formed four new district budget groups in Kota, Jodhpur, Bharatpur, and Bikaner. One district budget group meeting was held in each of the districts.

- a) **Kota District Budget Group:** Kota District Budget Group meeting was held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at Press Club, Kota. The district budget group includes NGO workers, press members, faculty of universities and colleges etc. The main objective of this meeting was to discuss the need of allocation of funds according to the needs and requirements of the district and the need of transparency in budget and financial policies at the district level. The role of this DBG was also discussed during the meeting like intervention and advocacy with government to improve

transparency in budget at district level, intervention at district level by getting people's needs included in the budget of Zilla Parishad, Department Budgets and Gram Panchayat budget, especially the needs of the deprived sections of the society.  
(Repeated in Bikaner DBG Point as it is)



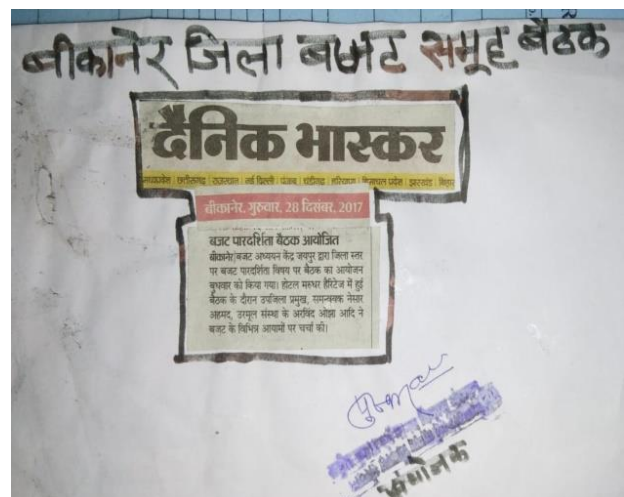
Image: Kota DBG meeting covered by Dainik Bhaskar, 27th September, 2017

- a) **Jodhpur District Budget Group:** Jodhpur District Budget Group meeting was held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at Unnati Foundation, Jodhpur. In the meeting, it was discussed that the Unnati Foundation will be taking charge of conducting a detailed analysis of budget of District Planning Committee of Jodhpur. It was decided in the meeting that NGOs that work in different sectors will come up with their own sets of demands and a collaborated Demand Charter will be presented to the government by the DBG. It was also suggested that instead of yearly meeting there should be a quarterly meeting so that the group can work in a more impactful manner and progress along with further strategy can be discussed regularly.
- b) **Alwar District Budget Group:** Alwar District Budget Group meeting was held on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at Ved Kumari Institute, Village Roundhmanch, Alwar. As it was suggested in the previous meeting that ERs from panchayat should also be included in the DBG, Sarpanch Training was also done along with DBG in Alwar. The main objective of this meeting was to discuss the need of allocation of funds according to the needs and requirements of the district and the need of transparency in budget and financial policies at the district level. It was discussed in the meeting that RUIDP and RUSIP have been working for 15 years for the development of urban sector in Alwar and it is important to the analyze its budget and achievements. It was also discussed that the DBG should also think about issues like education, opportunities and scholarships for people of Mewa community (Muslim) and the impact of DMIC on the district etc. and come up with a set of demands which can be submitted to the government in order to



better the situations. The meeting concluded with the decision that a conclusive demand draft with area specific demands will be formulated by the DBG and will further be presented to the government at least at the district level.

- c) **Udaipur District Budget Group:** Udaipur District Budget Group meeting was held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at Astha Training Centre, Udaipur. The DBG includes NGO workers, press members, faculty of universities and colleges etc. The main objective of this meeting was to discuss the need of allocation of funds according to the needs and requirements of the district and the need of transparency in budget and financial policies at the district level.
- d) **Bharatpur District Budget Group:** Bharatpur DBG meeting was held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at Hotel Om Complex, Bharatpur. In the meeting, 20 people participated including CSOs, press members, faculty of universities and colleges etc. The main objective of this meeting was to discuss the ways to increase participation of people in budgeting process, need of allocation of funds according to the needs and requirements of the district, and the need of transparency in budget and financial policies at the district level.
- e) **Bikaner District Budget Group:** Bikaner DBG meeting was held on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at Hotel Marudhar Heritage, Bikaner. In the meeting, 33 people including NGO workers, press members, faculty of universities and colleges etc. participated. The main objective of this meeting was to discuss the need of allocation of funds according to the needs and requirements of the district and the need of transparency in budget and financial policies at the district level. The role of this DBG was also discussed during the meeting like intervention and advocacy with government to improve transparency in budget at district level, intervention at district level by getting people's needs included in the budget of Zilla Parishad, Department Budgets and Gram Panchayat budget, especially the needs of the deprived sections of the society etc.



## Post Budget Activities

### Budget Analysis:

After the announcement of State Budget in Rajasthan on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018, 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 (after GST), outstanding liabilities of Rajasthan Government, TSP and SC-SP budget, Budget for Children in Rajasthan and Medical and Family Welfare Budget and further all the above mentioned budget sheets were uploaded to the website.

BARC also shared the analysis of the State Budget (for both 2017-18 & 2018-19) 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 at the district level and at the level of local governing bodies i.e. having direct involvement at the levels of PRIs, ULBs and district administration.

**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 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).

**Implementation of GPDP:** This year, BARC conducted capacity building programs on planning and budgeting with select Gram Panchayats (2 in each district) in collaboration with the partner organization in Alwar and Udaipur districts specifically in the context of preparing Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP). The panchayats which have been capacitated with the knowledge of planning and budgeting process successfully prepared their plans and budgets for the next year according to the rules. Stress was also laid on the implementation and monitoring of the plan prepared last year by these panchayats in the compliance of Gram Karya Nirdeshika (GKN), which is a guideline to the panchayats to implement their programme. BARC has also prepared a summary of GKN for ease of

understanding for the panchayats. Following activities were conducted during this phase to strengthen the planning and budgeting process in panchayats:

- a) **Panch-Sarpanch Training on GPDP in Alwar:** The first training in Alwar was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> August 2017 at Sohard office, Alwar. A total of 21 elected representatives and other participants (12 women and 9 men) participated in this meeting including elected representatives from four gram panchayats. In this training, the planning process under GPDP and the progress of gram panchayats in Alwar (the ones which are under this project) were discussed.

During this meeting, the following decisions were also taken- creating a resource pool at panchayat level for the coming year, consultation with panchayat related departments, presenting the plan according to priority in the gram sabha and accomplishing the tasks accordingly, organizing mahila sabha before gram sabha, organizing ward sabha before gram sabha and to involve two Preraks (Panchayat Helpers) from each gram panchayat as Social Mobilizers.

The next meeting was held from 16-17 December 2017 at Sohard's office to follow up on the progress of the GPs and Budgeting process. In this meeting, 34 people (20 women and 14 men) participated. During this meeting, important aspects of Panchyati Raj Institutions were shared with the participants that included the rights and powers of the elected representatives, ward sabhas, gram sabhas, subjects devolved to the panchayats and the committees at the panchayat level.

In January, after the notice from the State Government on GPDP, Sohard organized ward sabhas in the select wards to help them make the GPDP by helping the ward in prioritizing their problems and demands. Further in this process, on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 112 proposals were passed in the Kuteena Gram Sabha and 130 proposals were passed by the Majra Gram Sabha.

- b) **Panch-Sarpanch Training on GPDP in Udaipur:** The first training in Udaipur was held on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2017 at KAS Office, Kotra. Elected representatives including Sarpanchs, Upsarpanchs and Ward Panchs from the two gram panchayats participated in the training namely Malwa Ka Chawra and Kaucha. In this meeting, we talked about GPDP and its process. We also discussed the GPDP submitted by the Gram Panchayats in year 2017-18 and what can be done to improve it. At the end of the meeting, it was ensured that Gaon sabha will be organized in the respective panchayats and therefore we sat with all the ward panchs in order to come up with a schedule of when Gaon sabhas will be held in their respective wards or collectively (4-5 wards together).

The next training was held from 17-18 September 2017 to build capacity of the participants on GDP, PESA, and the development of Revenue Villages. In this training, 48 people from the select panchayats participated including elected representatives, community leaders and others.

After the training, a drive was conducted from 20<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> September to prepare a Village Action Plan for 19 revenue villages. This included preparing a map of each village, and listing the development works that needed to be done.

BARC conducted another meeting with the ERs of the select panchayats on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017. In this meeting, the action plans prepared earlier were discussed. Also, the list of work was categorized and prioritized along with a discussion on budget.

On 27<sup>th</sup> January 2018, a meeting with the ERs, community leaders and other people of panchayats, was organized for discussing the proposals for the plan to present it in the gram sabha. The plan was built and approved in the March Gram Sabha.

**c) Field Visit by Udaipur Team (Along with ERs) to Alwar:** A field visit of the Gram Panchayat members as well as KAS members from Kotra, Udaipur was organized by Sohard Sansthan in Alwar on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017. During the field visit the members from Udaipur along with the Sohard team visited Majra Gram Panchayat in order to meet the ERs and people of the village. There they met the Sarpanch, Upsarpanch and few ward panchs. Along with this, they visited the village and conducted a meeting with the people of the village in order to understand the working of Majra Panchayat.



*Image: KAS's teams visit to Alwar, hosted by Sohard on 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2017*



## B. Budget Tracking and Research Studies

Every year BARC conducts some studies with the purpose of assessing 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-roots 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, an important study was conducted on “Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB)” in Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) i.e. “Access to Public Toilets for Low Income Working Women”. Apart from this, BARC conducted a study on “Status and Effectiveness of Child Protection Schemes in Rajasthan” and another on “Status of Child Protection Laws in Rajasthan” supported by Prayatn, an organization working on the issues of children in Rajasthan.

**Achievements in Budget Transparency at District Level:** In the last two-three years, the state government started publishing a booklet titled “District-Wise Budget Announcements” (*Zilewar Budget Ghoshnayen*) which lists the announcements made in the budget speech for every district.

The state government has also started providing the ceiling of expenditure for various line departments in a district. It is called “**Consolidated Total District Plan 2018-19**”. It gives the total amount available for each of 35 line departments for every district, as well as for TSP and SC-SP. It also provides amount available for various schemes under each department and amount of TSP and SC-SP under each scheme. Also, this document is provided to the Chief Planning Officer before the beginning of the financial year, so that the line departments can make their plan for the coming financial year and it becomes part of the District Development Plan.

These two documents are quite close to the district budget we have been asking for.

### Budget Transparency

BARC has continued to focus on transparency in the state budget at both state and district levels. 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. BARC also prepared and published a policy brief on the transparency in budget.

Due to BARC’s regular advocacy efforts regarding transparency in the budget with the finance department of GoR and other departments at district level through the District

Budget Groups for preparing District Budget Statements, the government has started publishing “**District-Wise Budget Announcements**” since the budget of 2018-19.

### **Joining the MIS to JIS Campaign:**

BARC has been actively involved in the Management Information System to Janta Information System (MIS to JIS) campaign activities especially related to panchayat information, District Mineral Foundation Trust and the openness of the treasury website. The treasury website provides the facility of guest login for the common visitors. It also gives an option to find the expenditure under certain budget heads in a given duration, which was earlier not properly working. BARC members raised this issue with the Treasury Department and it is now working. Still the treasury website of Rajasthan is not providing as much data and is not as user-friendly as are the treasury websites of some other states and we have raised this issue in the department.

During one of the MIS to JIS meetings, two of our suggestions were taken up by the Panchayati Raj Department in building the Panchayat open portal. These suggestions were: keeping a record of the levels of permissions sought and granted for panchayat works and giving a rough estimate about the amount available to the panchayats for the next financial year’s budget in order to make better plans.

Apart from this, BARC has also participated in a consultation organized by AG office in Rajasthan. The AG office is conducting a special audit of NFSA, Jal Swalambhan Yojna, SBM, and Udaipur Municipal Corporation. It invited some NGOs including BARC to give suggestions on how to go about this audit process. In the meeting we gave our suggestions particularly on NFSA and SBM.

### **Capacity Building Programmes**

BARC conducted following conferences and workshops during the year 2017-18:

1. **Capacity Building of Activists:** Five workshops have been organized for capacity building of activists under this project.
  - a. **First Workshop:** The first workshop was held on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> August 2017 at Institute of Development, Jaipur. There were around 20 participants in the training from various NGOs from different districts of Rajasthan. This workshop focused on understanding budget and budget analysis through presentations, games, group work, and budget books. Participants were divided into four groups and were given task to analyze the budget for education, health, nutrition and social justice and welfare. The groups presented their preliminary findings on the second day of the workshop.



*Image: Second workshop on budget for social activists in Rajasthan held on 28-29th September, 2017*

- b. Second Workshop:** The second workshop was held on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at State Resource Centre, Jaipur. The main objective of this meeting was to discuss budget allocation towards the deprived sections of the society with a specific session on gender responsive budgeting.

The workshop was picked up from the point at which the last workshop ended. Two of the four groups (Education and Health) presented their analysis in the workshop. After the presentations, the concept of analysis of budget allocated towards various deprived sections of the society was explained by Dr. Nesar Ahmed and an open discussion regarding this also took place. After this, a presentation on the status of TSP and SC-SP was given by Mahendra Singh Rao. After this presentation, a specific session on Gender Budgeting was taken up by Barkha Mathur. Second day of the workshop started with discussion on budget for children and its analysis, budget for PWDs and its analysis and budget for minorities and its analysis. Once the discussion was done the participants were divided into 6 groups namely Agriculture, Tribal Welfare, Social Justice, SCSP and Child Welfare, Education and Health, Minorities and Gender. The purpose of forming these groups was to collect information at district level regarding budget of the specified section of the society which would then be presented in the next workshop.

- c. Third Workshop:** BARC organized its third social workers' training workshop on budget and budget analysis on 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 at School for Democracy (SFD), Bheem, Rajsamand. This workshop focused on budget tracking at district and below level, and understanding the budget and planning process of PRI. In the workshop, 16 social workers participated. The meeting included sessions on budget transparency and fund flow mechanism, budget documents available at state, district and below level, budget

tracking of government schemes/programmes and panchayat planning and budgeting. During the training, a short film on right to information and employment was presented by Vineet from School for Democracy after which he shared his experiences regarding the implementation of right to food (public distribution system- PDS) at local level.

- d. **Fourth Workshop:** The fourth workshop in this series was held from 5-6<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 at State Resource Centre, Jaipur. During this workshop, presentations were made by the participants on the budget analysis of the subject of their choice. The subjects on which the participants made presentations in this workshop were agriculture, social justice and empowerment, nomadic communities, Tribal Area Development Department, Health, and Education.
  - e. **Fifth Workshop:** The fifth and last workshop in this series was held on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2018 at State Resource Centre, Jaipur. This workshop prepared the participants to track budget down to district and below levels. The participants were divided into groups and were asked to analyze the budget till district and below levels for at least one policy/scheme/programme of the subject/department they chose in the fourth workshop and present the findings in the fifth workshop.
1. **Capacity Building in Universities:** Two capacity building workshops were organized with students this year. They are as follows:
    - a. **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 January 16<sup>th</sup> 2018. 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.

BARC has been advocating with the Central University of Rajasthan to include Budget Study in their curriculum and has received a very positive response in this regard. This course will be added in the curriculum from the next academic year.

- b. **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 November 16<sup>th</sup> 2017. In this workshop, 40 students and teachers participated. In order to create a better understanding of 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.

- c. Apart from the above-mentioned workshops, BARC delivered a guest lecture on the State and Central Budget at Maharishi Arvind Institute of Engineering and Technology, Jaipur on February 20<sup>th</sup> 2018.

### **C. Trainings, Workshops and Consultation on GRB**

**Continuous Trainings and Support to 3 Organizations on the Gender Issues at the State Level for GRB:** Three local organizations were provided basic training and support in using GRB for strengthening their work on welfare and empowerment of women. These organizations are:

- National Muslim Women Welfare Society, Jaipur
- Mahila Housing Trust, Jaipur, and
- Ekal Nari Shakti Sangathan, Kota.

A total of 4 workshops were conducted under this activity on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 26<sup>th</sup> July, 4<sup>th</sup> August and 28<sup>th</sup> September in the year 2017-18 respectively.



*Image: Workshop with CSOs on GRB, held on 1-3 November 2017*

#### **a. Training on GRB for CSOs:**

A two and a half day GRB training was conducted in Udaipur for CSOs working on women's issues in Rajasthan. In this training, 31 people participated. Dharmishtha Chauhan was the lead trainer for the workshop. Various aspects and frameworks of GRB were discussed during the workshop. The participants brainstormed on ideas to use GRB in their regular work.



*Image: State level consultation (Findings sharing meeting)? held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018*

- b. State Level Consultation:** A half day round table meeting was organized for sharing the findings of the study conducted on **Swachh Bharat Mission** in the Royal Milenge Beacon Hotel in Ajmer on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018. In this meeting, 33 people participated including 5 ward councilors and 28 members of various organizations working on sanitation, urban development and women empowerment. In this meeting, findings of the project were shared with the participants for validation and some of their valuable insights were noted and included in the report.

**Consultation and Capacity Building for Minorities:** Under the project on “Countering the Marginalization: Raising the Issues of Minority in Rajasthan”, Alpsankhyak Adhikar Manch (Minority Rights Front) has been formed. The Manch organized three consultations in Jaipur, Kota and Ajmer this year. A public lecture by noted journalist and activist Ram Puniyani on the issue of communal harmony was organized and a capacity building workshop for youth working with minorities was also organized under the programme.

## **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 participated in Annual Budget Workshop conducted by NFI, National Consultation of CBGA.

### **Supporting Accountability Efforts**

BARC has always worked in collaboration with the various state level networks and organizations like Right to Food Campaign, Suchna Evam Rozgar Adhikar Abhiayn, MKSS etc. There is a good number of participations from state NGOs in BARC's pre-budget consultations and other programmes. During the year 2017-18, 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 CBGA, NFI, PBI, MAKAAAM, SR Abhiyan etc.

## 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 2017-18, BARC has provided support to various organizations. Some of the organizations which requested for specific budget data and information include MKSS, CDR, Cechoedecon, Action Aid and SR Abhiyan and other Civil Society Organizations.

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

## VII. PUBLICATIONS

As a resource centre, BARC continued to come out with various publications during the reported year. ***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 (2017) and July-September issue (2017) and October-December issue (2017) covering many issues like nutrition, health, education, minorities, Gender Budget, DMFT etc. Another issue of ***Budget Samachar*** i.e. January-March (2018) was published in April 2018.

**Study Reports and Policy Briefs:** This year, four policy briefs on TSP-SCSP, Transparency, Minorities and GRB in SBM have also been published by BARC. Apart from these documents, BARC is also publishing the report of the study on "Gender Responsive Budgeting in SBM: Access to Public Toilets for Low Income Working Women" and a booklet on the schemes and programs for the poor in Rajasthan with special focus on minorities. All the publications brought out by BARC during the year are listed as follow:

- Policy Brief on Tribal Sub Plan and Scheduled Caste Sub Plan on Rajasthan.
- Policy Brief on Budget Transparency in Rajasthan.
- Policy Brief on the Issues and Programme and Schemes for Minorities in Rajasthan.
- Policy Brief on GRB in SBM
- Policy Brief on GRB in Agriculture



- A study report on “Gender Responsive Budgeting in SBM: Access to Public Toilets for Low Income Working Women”
- Booklet on the schemes and programs for the poor in Rajasthan with special focus on minorities.

BARC team members continue to write for the newspapers on budget and policy issues. During the reported year, BARC’s articles and news items appeared in various newspapers e.g. *Dainik Bhaskar*, *Rajasthan Patrika*, *Daily News*, *Times of India*, and *Hindustan Times* etc.

#### **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 2017-18, we have made some changes in the website e.g. the format of health budget and have also added budget of health-related schemes to it.

We have also compiled budget notes of different sectors like health, education, people with disabilities, housing for all, budget for children, gender budget, rural development etc. and added them to the website in publications under “Analysis of Rajasthan Budget: Budget Notes of BARC”. Other than that, we have updated the website with new publications and ***Budget Samachars***.

We have also updated the Revenue Budget Sheet and have included tax (GST) in it. We have prepared three new documents this year presenting Rajasthan’s budget data related to Panchayati Raj, Department wise Gender Budget and Revenue of Rajasthan Government.

## VIII. CONCLUSION

BARC has been working on the state budget and policy related issues for 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 continues to highlight the issues of marginalized people and the shortcomings in the budgetary process while dealing with them. It has 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. Also, a study on Gender Responsive Budgeting in SBM was conducted by BARC to understand the ground level problems in implementation and access to public toilets for low Income working women. We have seen some positive changes this year in form of increased budget for the pro people schemes like Mukhya Mantri Free Medicine and Free Diagnostic schemes in the budget for 2018-19. The budgets marked for TSP and SC-SP also show significant increase in 2018-19 budget compared to the last year's budget. Also, as the adjacent box shows the transparency has improved as the district level budget information is now made available by the state government.

### Improved Budget Transparency at District Level:

In the last two-three years, the state government started publishing a booklet titled “**District- Wise Budget Announcements**” (*Zilewar Budget Ghoshnayan*) which lists the announcements made in the budget speech for every district.

The state government has also started providing the ceiling of expenditure for various line departments in a district. It is called “**Consolidated Total District Plan 2018-19 District- Wise**”. It gives the total amount available for each of 35 line departments for every district, as well as for **TSP and SC-SP**. It also provides amount available for various schemes under each department and amount of **TSP and SC-SP** under each scheme. Also, this document is provided to the Chief Planning Officer before the beginning of the financial year, so that the line departments could make their plan for the coming financial year and it becomes a part of the District Development Plan.

These two documents are quite close to the district budget we have been asking for.

We have continued with the partnerships and networking with various state level and national organizations. 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 the budget analysis and advocacy work and the policy research work in the same manner while exploring new areas for strengthening budget work at the same time.

## IX. Appendices

### Appendix I: Activities during 2017-18 at a Glance

S. No.	Activities	Detail
1	Budget Advocacy	Provided budget data and analysis to MLAs, Media and NGOs
		Pre-budget workshop with MLAs organized in February, 2018
		Pre-Budget consultation conducted in November, 2017
		Submission of Charter of Demands
		Post-Budget analysis and sharing
		Meetings of district level budget groups
2	Panchayat Budget	Capacity building intervention on panchayat budget and planning according to GDP with Sohard, Alwar and KAS, Kotra.
3	Budget Training and Capacity Building	5 workshops have been organized for capacity building of social activists.
		Budget training at Udaipur School of Social Work in November, 2017.
		Budget training in Central University, Kishangarh in January, 2018.
5	Consultations, Lecture, and Issue-based Meetings	State level consultation for sharing the findings of the study on Gender Responsive Budgeting in SBM.
		State level meeting with NGOs working on the issues of minorities (held in Jaipur on 24 <sup>th</sup> August, 2017).
		Consultation on the issues of minorities (held in Kota on 26 <sup>th</sup> September, 2017).
		Consultation on status minorities like Muslims and Christians in the state (held in Ajmer on 28 <sup>th</sup> November, 2017).
		Lecture on Agriculture and Allied Issues by Devinder Sharma.
		Public lecture on Social Harmony by Prof. Ram Puniyani on 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2017.
5	Publications	Merger of Plan and Non-Plan Budget and Future of Tribal Sub Plan and Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (Policy Brief)
		Transparency in the State Budget (Policy Brief)
		Status and Issues of Minorities in Rajasthan (Policy Brief)
		GRB in Swachh Bharat Mission (Policy Brief)
		Schemes and Programs for the Poor in Rajasthan with Special Focus on Minorities (Booklet)
		Gender Responsive Budgeting in SBM: Access to Public Toilets

		for Low Income Working Women (Study Report)
		Policy Brief on GRB in Agriculture
6	<b>Newsletter (<i>Budget Samachar</i>)</b>	Four issues of <b><i>Budget Samachar</i></b> published during the year
7	<b>Budget Tracking and Research Studies</b>	Gender Responsive Budgeting in SBM: Access to Public Toilets for Low Income Working Women
8	<b>Media</b>	News items based on BARC's inputs appeared in <b><i>Rajasthan Patrika, Dainik Bhaskar, DNA, Times of India</i></b> and <b><i>Hindustan Times</i></b> etc.
		Published articles in publications like <b><i>DNA, Daily News</i></b> etc.

## Appendix II: List of Publications

शीर्षक	Title in English	Publication Date
आयोजना की समाप्ति और अनुसूचित जाति एवं जनजाति उपयोजनाओं का भविष्य (संक्षिप्त प्रपत्र)	Merger of Plan and Non-Plan Budget and Future of Tribal Sub Plan and Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (Policy Brief)	2018
राज्य बजट में पारदर्शिता (संक्षिप्त प्रपत्र)	Transparency in the State Budget (Policy Brief)	2018
राज्य में अल्पसंख्यकों की स्थिति एवं संबंधित मुद्दे (संक्षिप्त प्रपत्र)	Status and issues of Minorities in Rajasthan (Policy Brief)	2018
स्वच्छ भारत मिशन में जीआरबी की स्थिति (संक्षिप्त प्रपत्र)	GRB in Swach Bharat Mission (Policy Brief)	2018
राजस्थान में गरीबों हेतु योजनाएं एवं कार्यक्रम: अल्पसंख्यकों के विशेष संदर्भ में (पुस्तिका)	Schemes and Programs for the poor in Rajasthan with special focus on minorities	2018
स्वच्छ भारत मिशन में जीआरबी: सार्वजनिक शौचालयों तक निम्न आय वर्ग की कामकाजी महिलाओं की पहुंच (अध्ययन रिपोर्ट)	Gender Responsive Budgeting in SBM: Access to Public Toilets for Low Income Working Women	2018
थजलास्वास्थ्य प्रतिवेदन (बाड़मेर, भरतपुर, चित्तौड़गढ़, झुंझुनू)	District Health Report (Barmer, Bharatpur, Chittorgarh, Jhunjhunu)	2017
राजस्थान में अनुसूचित जाति एवं जनजाति उपयोजनाएं	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 विशेष योग्य जनों की सरकारी योजनाओं तक पहुंच : एक अध्ययन	Study on the Access of People with Disabilities to Government Schemes in the State: A study (in English)	2017
राजस्थान में जिलास्तर पर बजट पारदर्शिता	Budget Transparency at the District Level in Rajasthan: A case study	2017
राजस्थान में खनन एवं खानमजदूरों की स्थिति पर अध्ययन	A Study on the Status of Mining and Mine Workers in Rajasthan	July 2015
राजस्थान में जेण्डर संवेदी बजट की प्रक्रिया : एक अध्ययन	Status of Gender Responsive Budgeting in Rajasthan: A Study (English)	March 2015
जेण्डर संवेदी बजट प्रक्रिया एवं सीमांत महिलाएं : भारत, बांग्लादेश	Gender Responsive Budgeting Process and Marginalized Women: A Study in India,	November 2014

एवनेपालका एक अध्ययन	Bangladesh and Nepal (in English)	
राज्य में अनुसूचितजाति एवं जनजाति उपयोजना के क्रियान्वयन का जिला एवं निम्नस्तरपर अध्ययन	A study on implementation of SCSP and TSP at district and below level in the state	March 2014
अल्प संख्यक समुदायों के लिये कल्याणकारी योजनायें	Welfare Schemes for Minority Communities	March 2014
राज्य में मुसलिमपरिवारों की सरकारी योजनाओं तक पहुँच	Access of Muslim Families to Government Schemes in the State	February 2014
राजस्थान में राष्ट्रीय कृषिविकास योजना के बजट प्रवाह का अध्ययन	Budget Tracking Study of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna in Rajasthan	November 2013
राजस्थान में जेण्डर संवेदी बजट	Gender Responsive Budget in Rajasthan	November 2013
पंचायत बजट मैनुअल	Panchayat Budget Manual	September] 2013
दक्षिणी राजस्थान में शिक्षा का अधिकार : एक अध्ययन	Right To Education In Southern Rajasthan : A Study	February 2012
बजट को वंचित समुदायों की हकदारी से जोड़ने के प्रयास	Linking Budgets To The Concerns Weaker Sections	2012
राजस्थान : वर्तमानवित्तीय स्थिति	Rajasthan : A Study of State Finances	February 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	August 2010
राज्य में खाद्य सुरक्षा एवं सम्बन्धित योजनाएं : एक अध्ययन	Food Security and Related Schemes in the State: A Study	August 2010
कृषि ऋण—कितना सार्थक ?	Agriculture Loan: How Good	twu]2010
लुप्त होती लघुवनउपज : खतरे में आदिवासी आजिविका	Depleting Mining Forest Produce: Threat to Tribal Livelihood	December 2009
दलितों के लिए राज्य की कल्याणकारी योजनाएं	State's Welfare Schemes for Dalits	June 2009
राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी कानून : क्रियान्वयन में सुधार की आवश्यकता	NREGA: Need of Reform in Implementation	December 2008
स्वजलधारा : व्यर्थबहाजनताकापैसा	"Swajal Dhara": People's Money Drained	July 2008
ग्रामीणलघुउद्योग क्षेत्र में सरकारी प्रयासों की कथनी—करनी : एक नजर	Reality of Government Efforts in Small Industry Sector: A Study	April 2008
सरकारी विकास योजनाएँ और आम आदमी तक उनकी पहुँच: एक आंकलन	Government Development Schemes and their reach to common People: An Assessment	December 2007
समाजिक सेवाओं पर व्यय (राज्य के बजट से)	Spending on Social Sector (From State Budget)	March 2007
राजस्थान में विधवाओं का अभावग्रस्त जीवन : राज्य ने क्या भूमिका निभाई?	The Destitution of Widows in Rajasthan: What role has the state played?	February 2007
स्थानीय स्तर पर लिंग आधारित बजट (जेण्डर बजट) : कैसे करेंगे पैरवी	Gender Budget at State Level: How to do Advocacy	December 2006
दलित, गरीब तथा वंचित लोगों के लिए समाजकल्याण, ग्रामीण विकास विभाग, पंचायतीराज विभाग एवं	Welfare Schemes for Dalits, Poor and Marginalized	November 2006



खाद्य-नागरिकआपूर्ति विभाग की कल्याणकारी योजनाएं		
राजस्थान में फसलबीमा : सुधार की आवश्यकता	Crop Insurance in Rajasthan: Need of Improvement	September 2006
बजट की तकनीकी शब्दावली	Budget Terminologies	September 2006 January 2005
दलित एवंआदिवासियों के लिए बजट एवं योजनाएं	Budget and Schemes for Dalits and Tribals	November 2005
गरीबी हटाओ अभियान: कितनासफल-कितनाअसफल	Gharibi Hatao: How Successful?	

### List of Online Publications

Title	Year
Charter of Demands for the State Budget 2018-19	2018
BARC Comments on Rajasthan Budget 2018-19	2018
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).