

Financing the Rights of the Young Child in India

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HAQ: CENTRE FOR CHILD RIGHTS



The numbers

- ▶ 13.59 % of the population is in the 0–6 year (158 million)
- ▶ The pre school age population projected is more than 70 million presently and 73 million of children by 2016.
- ▶ Almost half of children under age five years (48 percent) are chronically malnourished. The other parameters are of great concern
- ▶ Only one third (33 per cent) Indian children receive any service from an anganwadi centre; less than 25 per cent receive supplementary foods through ICDS; and only 18 per cent have their weights measured in an AWC.

Law and Policy

- ▶ Right to education in India is for 6–14 years leaving out the 0–6 year old children. (MHRD)
- ▶ Article 45 (Directive Principles of State Policy (Constitution of India)
- ▶ All the labour laws that call for provision of crèche facilities
- ▶ National Plan of Action 2005 (MWCD)
- ▶ National Policy for Children 2013 (MWCD)
- ▶ National Policy for Early Childhood Care and Education (MWCD)
- ▶ Early Childhood Education Curriculum Framework (MWCD)
- ▶ All other provisions for all children

Resourcing ECCE

- ▶ **International Standard**
- ▶ **Article 4– UNCRC** –“States Parties shall undertake such measures to the maximum extent of their available resources and, where needed, within the framework of international cooperation.”
- ▶ **General Comment No.7 on Implementing child rights in early childhood. UNCRC**–This requires an increase in human and financial resource allocations for early childhood services and programmes (art. 4).
- ▶ **National Policy on ECCE says...** Evidence indicates highest rate of return on investments made in early years.... Early Childhood (0–6 years) and ECCE budgeting would serve as an important dimension to assess investment in early years. *The exercise of segregated child budgeting for early childhood may be carried out regularly so as to take stock of investments for children and to identify gaps in resource investment and utilization. ...”*

Whose concern is ECCE?

The over all concern of the young child is spread over three ministries

- ▶ Ministry of Women and Child Development
- ▶ Department of Education, Human Resource Development
- ▶ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- ▶ Ministry of Labour (for ensuring provision of crèche facilities)

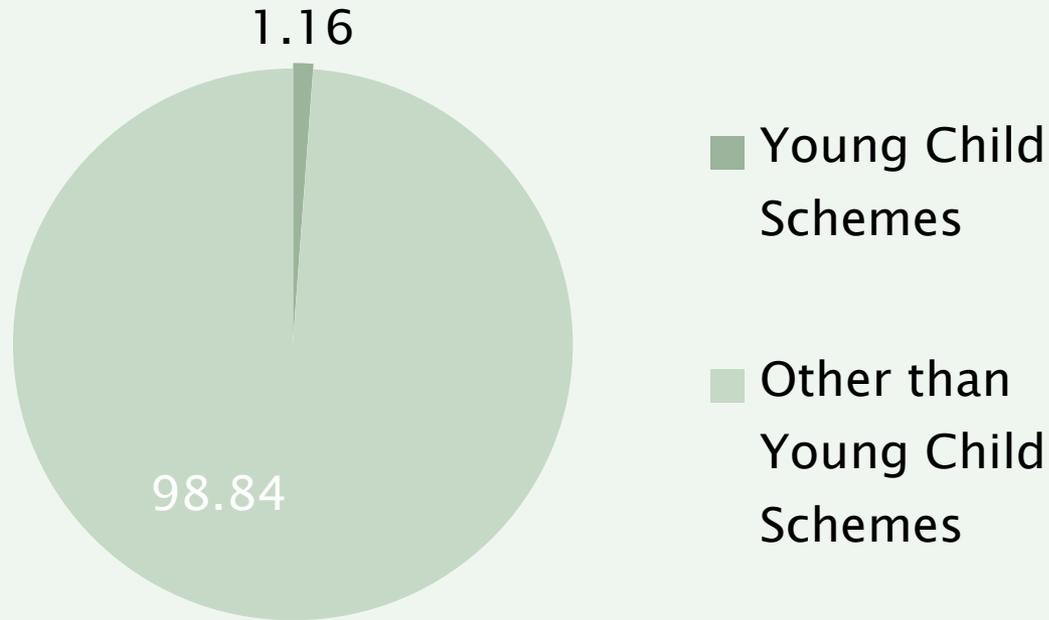
Disaggregating and tracking budget for a larger mandate of ECCD is a challenge and ECCE even bigger challenge

What is more, except for one scheme all other education components of ECCE falls within the Ministry of Women and Child which has no expertise on education!!

SL.no	Schemes for Early Childhood Care & Education (0-6 years)
	Health- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
1	Kalawati Saran Childrens Hospital, New Delhi
2	Lady Reading Health School & Ram Chand Lohia Infant Welfare Centre
3	Child Care Training Centre Singur Total
4	Manufacture of Sera Vaccine
5	IEC on PNDT Act
6	Routine Immunisation Programme
7	Pulse Polio Immunisation Programme
8	RCH Strengthening of Immunisation Prog & Polio Eradication Prog
9	Routine Immunisation Prog(NRHM)
10	Pulse Polio Immunisation Prog. GIA (NRHM)
11	Material Assistance for Strengthening of National Immunisation Programme and Polio Eradication
12	Supply of Vaccine under Routine Immunization(NE Area)
13	Supply of Vaccine under PPI Programme(NE Area)
14	Routine Immunisation Prog(Supplies & Material)NRHM-RCH Flexible Pool
15	Pulse Polio Immunisation Prog(Supplies & Material)NRHM-RCH Flexible Pool
	Pre-Primary Education- Ministry of Human Resources Development
1	Support to One Year Pre-Primary in Govt. local body Schools
	Child care services and creches
1	Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme
2	Integrated Child Development Scheme [ICDS]
3	World Bank Assisted ICDS programme Crechehd under different labour llaws
	Nutrition
1	National Nutritional Mission
	Social Protection
1	Adoption - NARA
2	Shishu Grah Scheme
3	Dhanlakshmi

Budget for Young Child

Average Share of Young Child Schemes (BE) in Union Budget(2008–09 to 2013–14) (Per Cent)



The private sector, both organised and unorganized, is perhaps the second largest service provider of ECCE-- although with varied quality.

There is no estimate of the number of children it caters too and the financial resources spent by families

Where must the finance come from?

- ▶ According to the human rights paradigm the STATE is the primary duty bearer– hence the **principal responsibility for financing ECCE/D vests with the Govt.**
- ▶ Hence the entry of private sector into basic services, on its own and under the public –private partnership model, **must not to state’s abdication of its responsibility and also make services unaffordable for the poor.**
- ▶ This should not lead to replacement of government by private sector. Instead it should be part of the pool or resources available to the government to be used to augment its own resources
- ▶ There is a need to harmonize the activities of all these service providers, in accordance with programme mandates, standards and legislations, the primary responsibility for which lies with the Government.