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Concept and Practice of Gender & Child Budgeting in the Indian Context

A Webinar organised by

B. R. Ambedkar Institute of Panchayats & Rural Development (BRAIPRD), *Government of West Bengal*

In association with UNICEF, West Bengal

Registration

FREE

<https://braiprd.org.in/training>

October 08, 2020

10:30 a.m. - 1.30 p.m

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Globally, a systematic approach to reducing gender inequality was first initiated in 1979, when the United Nations adopted the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Gender budgeting as a concept and tool in reducing gender discrimination evolved first in Australia in 1984 when the Government asked its ministries to analyse the effect of their budgetary allocations on women. Canada and South Africa followed in 1993 and 1995, respectively. However, gender budgeting as a UN priority was clearly pronounced at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 in Beijing, China, when the Conference Declaration urged upon the participating nations to inculcate in decision-makers the principle of looking at budgets through a gendered lens. Thus, gender responsive budgeting (GRB) was brought into mainstream budget exercise across the globe.

Over the years, there have been several attempts to create women-centric schemes and allocate fund for such activities in various countries. GRB goes beyond this; it is related explicitly to allocating portions of national budgets to promote women's advancement and study the gendered impacts of such allocations to different government departments. It also considers how money is raised to make the budget, in terms of direct and indirect taxes and fines, and how this affects men and women differently.

The Fourth World Conference produced the Beijing Platform of Action, which contained the specific reference of using budgets for the advancement of women, in chapter VI (Financial Arrangements) clause 345:

“ Full and effective implementation of the Platform for Action, including the relevant commitments made at previous United Nations summits and conferences, will require a political commitment to make available human and financial resources for the empowerment of women. This will require the integration of a gender perspective in budgetary decisions on policies and programmes, as well as the adequate financing of specific programmes for securing equality between women and men. ”

Since then, over 80 countries have tried some variant of GRB. Countries either include GRB as sections within the primary budget documents (as in Uganda) or as an annexe to the main budget documents, publishing it as a stand-alone report, as is done in India, Bangladesh and Rwanda.

While GRB attempts to create a budget reflective of the different needs of men and women, gender-responsive budget analysis shows “how and to what extent the policies affect diverse groups of men and women as service consumers, infrastructure users, and taxpayers.” It requires an in-depth analysis of national budgets to glean disaggregated data for men and women, with the added relevant social categories of age, income, location, education level and the like. The process of analysing GRB can also enable practitioners to monitor and quantify the extent to which countries have achieved global and local commitments on improving gender equality. GRB helps highlight gaps between international commitments (such as those established at the Fourth World Conference on Women) and the amount of public spending earmarked for the achievement of gender-specific benchmarks and targets.

In our country, initiatives for preparation of gender responsive budgets have been taken at the national and sub-national levels. In the ninth five-year plan (1997-2002), 30% of fund was sought to be earmarked for all women related sectors. However, the policy was ultimately in paper only and did not take a shape in reality. In 2004-05, the Ministry of Finance, Government of India launched the National Common Minimum Programme, which emphasises empowerment of women. To coordinate the issues of women empowerment, the national government decided to introduce gender budgeting. It mandated setting up of Gender Budget Cells (GBCs) in all Ministries and Departments and highlighted the need for budget data to be gender sensitive. Government of India introduced an accounts statement on gender budgeting in 2005-06 Budget Book on Expenditure. In 2007, the Ministry of Finance also issued the Charter for Gender Budget Cells outlining the composition and functions of the gender budget cells. Since then, GB Cells have been set up in 54 Ministries/ Departments. The Twelfth Five Year Plan has also given thrust on Mainstreaming gender through gender budgeting. The Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India has been continuously trying to embed the concept of gender budgeting in the budgeting processes across the country. Still the scenario of India in the context of gender budgeting is blurry having varying degree of implementation across states. In case of local self-government, the progress is not at all encouraging. When it comes to child budgeting and child budget analysis, initiatives are few and far between at all level- national, sub-national and local self-governments. Nevertheless, child and gender budgeting is very much necessary for local self-governments and we propose to promote such exercise and analysis for which most important requirement is of capacity building. Hence B. R. Ambedkar Institute of Panchayats & Rural development (BRAIPRD), West Bengal located at Kalyani aims at introducing child and gender budgeting at the local self-government level. As a concrete step to realise this objective, BRAIPRD seeks to tread through this path with support from the leading lights in this domain of knowledge through conducting a series of webinar (one-day) in collaboration with UNICEF, West Bengal.

Webinar No.	Topic	Date
GB&CB-01	Concept and Practice of Gender & Child Budgeting in the Indian context	08 October 2020
GB&CB-02	Gender & Child Budgeting: Approach and Methodology	15 October 2020
GB & CB-03	Gender & Child Budgeting at the Local Self Government Institutions and Gram Panchayat Development Plan	12 November 2020
GB & CB-04	Addressing gender inequality in the Asia Pacific through public policy	26 November 2020

The webinars are meant for the following broad group of people

Officers and Faculty in the NIRD & PR and SIRD network across the country

District Magistrates and senior district level officers

BRAIPRD and STARPARD faculty

Block Development Officers

Senior leaders in the panchayats

Academicians

CSO representatives

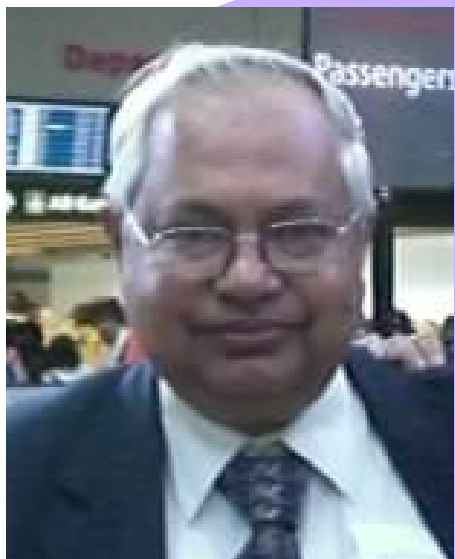


The first Webinar
Concept and Practice of Gender & Child
Budgeting in the Indian Context
 is scheduled for
8 October 2020
 from
10.30 AM to 1.30 PM (I.S.T.)

Schedule of the Webinar

Time	Subject	Presenter/ Inaugurator/ Chair
10:30-10:40	Inaugural Session	Dr. M.V. Rao <i>ACS, P&RD Department</i>
10:40 - 10:50	A brief on the webinar series	Dibyendu Sarkar <i>Director, BRAIPRD</i>
10:50 - 11:00	Introduction to the Webinar by the Chairperson	Mr. Prasad Ranjan Roy <i>IAS (Retired)</i>
11:00 - 11:20	Development through gender lens: Gender Budgeting and Gender Budget Analysis	Dr. Paramita Majumdar <i>Gender Practitioner</i>
11:25 - 11:45	The 'woman' face (not just human face) of development: the good, bad and ugly	Dr. Aasha Kapur Mehta, <i>Professor & Chairperson, IHD</i>
11:50 - 12:10	The concept of child budget and child budget analysis	Mr. Prabhat Kumar <i>Social Policy Specialist, UNICEF, West Bengal</i>
12:15 - 12:35	A tender touch: essential but not compensated: Women in agriculture	Dr. Dibyendu Sen <i>Development Expert</i>
12:35 - 1:10	Question-Answer Session	
1:10 - 1:25	Discourse Summary	Mr. Prasad Ranjan Roy <i>IAS (Retired)</i>
1:25 - 1:30	Vote of thanks	

Speakers



Shri Prasad Ranjan Ray (Chairperson)

Shri Prasad Ranjan Ray was an IAS Officer of the 1972 batch. During his illustrious career, he served the Government of West Bengal in various capacities which included his tenure as the Principal Secretary in the Panchayats & Rural Development Department and Additional Chief Secretary in the Department of Home & Hill Affairs. Post-retirement, he headed the West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission for five years. In addition to his administrative acumen, Shri Ray is an ardent reader and famous for his scholarly pursuit and well known as an orator.



Dr. Paramita Majumder

Paramita Majumdar, former student of JNU, New Delhi has been working in Gender Studies and gender transformative approaches for more than 20 years dealing with governments, international development agencies like the UN Women, UNDP, ADB and other NGOs as a Consultant/researcher/evaluator. She has worked with Central Ministries and sub-national governments to mainstream gender in the budgeting process, institutionalizing Gender Audit in Internal Audit of Govt etc. and represented Government of India in different platforms. Her experience is concentrated mainly in India at the national and provincial level with additional assignments in Afghanistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Timor Leste.



Dr. Aasha Kapur Mehta

Professor Aasha Kapur Mehta is Chairperson, Centre for Gender Studies and Visiting Professor at the Institute for Human Development, Delhi; Senior Adviser, IWWAGE – LEAD at Krea University; and Founder Member, Feminist Policy Collective. Prior to this, she was Professor of Economics at IIPA for many years. She was invited as an expert to assist NITI Aayog in formulating the Rural Economy chapter. She has served as a Member of the Core Group of the Ad-hoc Task Force constituted by Cabinet Secretariat for reviewing the RFDs or performance targets of Ministries/ Departments. She has contributed in the field of Gender and Gender Budgeting as Chair or Member in number of national level Working Groups, Review Missions, etc. Together with MWCD and UN Women, she prepared the Gender Budgeting Handbook for Government of India Ministries/ Departments/ State Governments/ District Officials/ Researchers/ Practitioners which was published in October 2015. She led the work of the Chronic Poverty Research Centre in India for over a decade. Her books, articles and working papers are on poverty, poverty dynamics, health, poverty and care, human and gender development indicators, gender budgeting, deprivation and data gaps.



Mr. Prabhat Kumar

Mr. Prabhat Kumar is a development professional, social scientist and demographer working on Social Policy, Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation for more than 16 years. He is presently working as Social Policy Specialist with UNICEF West Bengal Field Office. Prior to this he has worked with UNICEF in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and Bihar Field Offices. Since 2010, he has anchored critical program planning processes and M&E systems to strengthen UNICEF's core programming for child rights agenda. Prior to joining UNICEF, he worked with Nielsen India, where he demonstrated expertise in leading large-scale social sector research and evaluations at national and sub-national levels. He has extensively worked in the area of Population, Health & Nutrition.



Dr. Dibyendu Sen

Dr. Dibyendu Sen started his career as a Lecturer in Agricultural Extension in his alma mater, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vswavidyalaya. Later on, he served in different capacities at several national level institutes including NIRD&PR, Hyderabad. He came back to the Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vswavidyalaya as the Director of Extension. He had several areas of specialisation including extension management, gender in agriculture, social and community forestry and rural energy management.