



ACADEMICIA
An International
Multidisciplinary
Research Journal
 (Double Blind Refereed & Peer Reviewed Journal)



DOI: 10.5958/2249-7137.2021.00998.8

CHILD HEALTH BUDGET IN INDIA: A POLICY BRIEF

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ABSTRACT

The importance for child budgeting has been emphasised that there must be compulsory allocations for child budget and such allocations must be reported in statement 12 (Allocation for children). The Government has not only acknowledged the need for provisioning suitable resources for children, it is also committed to secure and protect their interest while defining the schemes and programme for future growth of India. Nutrition interventions are spread across sectors such as food security, health, education, water and sanitation, poverty alleviation, social safety and agriculture. The past few years have seen some major transformations in terms of the nation's progress vis-à-vis child nutrition and development. That our health indicators for children look far from satisfactory still, tells us how critical the situation is. POSHAN Abhiyaan, launched in 2018, was to cover all districts across the country, with an overall target of reduction in stunting among young children from 38.4 per cent (NFHS-4) to 25 per cent by 2022. A number of departments thus, implement schemes that affect nutrition directly or indirectly. Children need a safe, protecting and enabling environment in which they can learn, grow and develop to their full potential. Therefore, child budget on health and nutrition sectors needs to be discussed to reach out of children. This ambitious target can only be achieved through adequate administrative support and prioritization, and overcoming delays in technological and infrastructural support through multi-stakeholder actions. This paper discussed and analysed the different aspects of child health budget and how it influences the health and nutrition of children. It is divided into major headings.

- a. *Introduction : An Overview of Children in India*
- b. *Thrust Areas for Child Health*
- c. **Union Budget 2020 India:** *Change in allocation for popular schemes, Child budgeting, health sector in budget speech of 2019-20*
- d. *Union budget 2019-20; allocation for children sees a mere 0.5 per cent increase*
- e. *Nutrition for women and children*
- f. *Summarizing promises and priorities 2019-20 : Budget for major schemes relating to Nutrition*
- g. *Promises and policy*
- h. *Public spending on major nutrition schemes in the country*
- i. *Conclusion*

KEYWORDS: *Child, Health, Nutrition, Budget, Policy, India.*

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