



Annual Report

April 2015 – March 2016



Forum for Learning
and Action with
Innovation and
Rigour

FLAIR - Forum for Learning and Action with Innovation and Rigour
C - 102, J. M. Orchid
Plot No. GH-01/C
Sector 76, Noida – 201304



Contents

Contents

PAGE NO.

INTRODUCTION

2

FLAIR AS A FORUM

3

FLAIR'S ACTIVITIES DURING THE YEAR

4

Research and Documentation

5

Trainings, Workshops, Consultations, Conferences and Advocacy

7

Programme Implementation for Model Creation

9

Technology led Innovative Solutions for Social Development

11

FLAIR'S MEDIA COVERAGE

12

FLAIR'S MANAGEMENT TEAM

13

Our Vision

We envision a society that is developing sustainably and where people are participants and beneficiaries in the process of economic and technological development in an equitable manner for ensuring justice, liberty, and dignity.



Our Mission

FLAIR's Mission is to promote and engage in processes of participatory learning and action with innovation and rigour, leveraging the benefits of economic and technological development, for ensuring health, nutrition and education of poor, marginalized and vulnerable people and/or communities and ensuring for them a life with equity, justice, liberty and dignity.



FLAIR is a forum of expert individual researchers and practitioners as well as organizations. It was formally registered as a Society in June 2013 and it draws from the experience and expertise of the founding individuals and organisations. It is a membership based organisation where all stakeholders work together in the true spirit of partnership and membership is open to all individuals and organisations. Our foray into creating, nurturing and operating spaces for actions are through – (a) participation in the processes of policy and programme formulation through research and development of protocols and SOPs based on a combination of learning from grassroots and inputs from sector and subject experts, (b) programmes in the social development sector that have an interface with Information and Communications Technology (ICT). We work on the dimensions of -

- (a) Health and Nutrition,
- (b) Education,
- (c) Agriculture, Renewable Energy and Environment, and
- (d) Skills Development and Livelihoods.

We work through – (a) Research and Documentation, (b) Trainings, Workshops, Consultations, Conferences and Advocacy (c) Programme Implementation for Model Creation, and (d) Technology led Innovative Solutions for Social Development to create, nurture and operate spaces in triumvirate, viz. (i) young people from the poor and marginalised communities, (ii) the government, and (iii) the technocrats and their associations. These are the spaces where all the thinking, learning and action happen and solutions emerge and get implemented. We have been working with the poor and the marginalised and the technocrats to develop sustainable solutions for eradication of poverty and marginalisation. We work with the corporate sector in helping them design and implement their strategies for social responsibilities and also for developing and implementing their CSR Policy and Programmes.

80 pc of Education Outlay Spent on Salaries

NGO seeks more funds for child education; says 72 pc of kids aged between 6 and 59 months are anaemic

Express News Service

Hyderabad 'Save the Children', a non-governmental organisation, has demanded an increase in the budgetary allocation for child education and protection.

Speaking at a consultation programme organised here on Wednesday, Right to Education convener of Telangana Murali Mohan said, "Nearly 80 per cent of the budgetary allocation for education is spent on salaries. Today, 90 per cent of mandal educational officers and a majority of teachers are working on deputation. So, just doubling the outlay for education would not serve the purpose. Instead, a road map should be prepared and allocation made for overall development of children."

"There should be focus on pre-primary education and reduction of school drop-out rate and increase in the enrolment rate. Timely provision of school books, ensuring sanitation/toilet with water facility and a school compound to prevent trespassing are the need of the



Executive director of FLAIR, New Delhi and budget expert Ajay Sinha speaking on the topic 'The budget and our Expectations: Voice of Children' in Hyderabad on Wednesday. | A BHASKAR/ANAND

Mohan said. Alka Singh, state manager of Save the Children, said, "Nearly 72 per cent of children aged between 6 and 59 months, and 60 per cent of pregnant women aged 15 to

needed for JSY and Janani Sishu Suraksha Karyakram. Even if we estimate additional food provision to these people (1.28 crore) at ₹ 20 a day per person, it would require around ₹ 9,000 crore

The consultation, organised in collaboration with over 40 organisations, would list their demands and send suggestions to Telangana and Andhra Pradesh policymakers. The Telangana state budget will be announced on March 10.

DEMANDS

- Recruitment of 90,000 more teachers for bridge and regular schools with a budget of ₹ 135 cr
- Establishment of 1,200 more Primary Health Centres (PHCs) with an annual allocation of ₹ 1.2 cr for each PHC
- Linking of school to local health institution/PHC for protective health care of children
- Enhanced supplementary nutrition food services through ICDS to children and women
- Safety of girl children at Ashram schools with provision for education and health
- Adequate funds for the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)
- A separate department for care, protection and rehabilitation of street children with adequate budget
- Special package for rehabilitation of children and families

Main focus areas in the first year of FLAIR's inception varied across different activities and programs, research studies, partnership promotion, organizing workshops and training programs as well as seminars and consultation with partner organizations, academics, education and nutrition experts and parliamentarians. The specific activities during April 2015 to March 2016 include –

1. Research and Documentation

- (a) FLAIR working paper: Child Under-Nutrition in India and Public Finance for Food and Nutrition Security
- (b) Annual Budget Analysis: Policy and Budget Analysis of the Social Sector Programmes – Union of India and 12 States
- (c) Budget for Food and Nutrition Programmes and Agriculture : Union of India and Selected States

2. Trainings, Workshops, Consultations, Conferences and Advocacy

- (a) Pre – Budget Advocacy Workshops in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal
- (b) Work with NGOs and State Governments on development of annual work plan and budgets for food, nutrition and health in the wake of recommendations of Fourteenth Finance Commission
- (c) Consultation on Public Policy & Finance: Agriculture, Food and Nutrition
- (d) Work with the Legislature on issues of Education
- (e) Meeting with Parliamentarians on the issues of Education with demands and recommendations based on analysis of budgets

3. Programme Implementation for Model Creation

- (a) Project for developing an effective Class 1 programme in mainstream State Schools with a focus on Emergent Literacy
- (b) Teach India – Skills Enhancement for Employment
- (c) Agriculture to Nutrition Pathways for prevention of Malnutrition

4. Technology led Innovative Solutions for Social Development

- (a) Ezzy Poshan – Testing and Implementation
- (b) Use of Solar Power in Agri-Nutri Connect Project for Nutrition

1. RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION

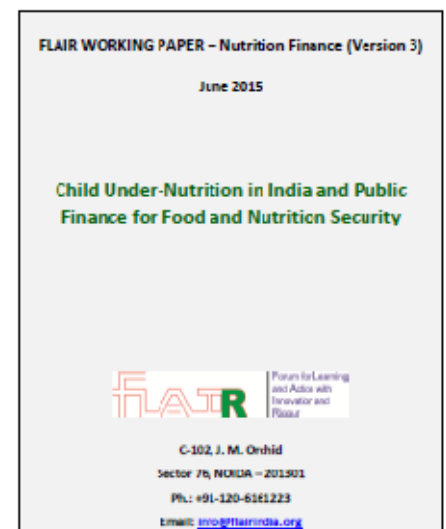
FLAIR's research is guided by its core value of rigour. Our researches are done with clear objectives, which are developed in consultation with all concerned stakeholders. We conduct all our research within the ethical framework towards both – (i) Our clients and partners who are users of the research, and also (ii) The subjects and respondents in the research.

(a) FLAIR working paper: Child Under-Nutrition in India and Public Finance for Food and Nutrition Security

In India indicators of Malnutrition – Stunting, Wasting and Underweight are not development indicators and thus many-a-times malnutrition is out of the Government's priority attention. Studies shows that children with a weight-for-height below -3 SD based on the WHO standards have a high risk of death exceeding 9 fold than that of children with a weight-for-height above -1 SD. Unfortunately, there is no Policy and Program to specifically address the issue of wasting and stunting in an integrated way and neither any attempt to bridge the divide between the two categories in India. In this context FLAIR prepared a working paper on the Budget for Food and Nutrition Programmes and Agriculture for Union of India and the States of Bihar and Himachal Pradesh highlighting budgetary allocations and expenditure pattern for Programmes/Schemes having direct/indirect impact on food and Nutrition Security in the Country. In this process, Union budget and State Budgets of Bihar and Himachal Pradesh were studied to find out change in allocations for different Nutrition Programmes in FY2015-16 as compared to annual budgets for FY2014-15; also whether decrease or very marginal increase in allocations for important nutrition programmes/schemes in Union Budget in the FY2015-16 are adequately compensated for those programmes/schemes in State Budgets or not. The idea is to share the findings



FLAIR Working Paper – Nutrition Finance (Version 3)



through series consultations with researchers, practitioners and policy makers to refine the note towards preparation of demand for public finance for Nutrition and submit them in next budget 2016-17.

(b) Annual Child Budget Analysis: Policy and Budget Analysis of the Social Sector Programmes – Union of India and 12 States

FLAIR is carrying out Child Budget Analysis in Union of India and the States of Bihar, Rajasthan, Odisha, Jharkhand, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. It is mainly focusing on schemes for children with special focus on health and nutrition.

The Policy and Budget Analysis includes overall analysis of the selected sectors in terms of identifying discrepancies between (a) the provisions of the legislation and budget allocation, and/or (b) the requirements and budget allocation, after accounting for the Fourteenth Finance Commission led Fiscal Federalism. The purpose for the analysis is to demystify the 14th Finance Commission recommendations and engage with the States necessary, adequate and timely provisioning for different sectors.

(c) Budget for Food and Nutrition Programmes and Agriculture : Union of India and Selected States

With regard to vertical distribution, FFC has recommended by majority decision that the States' share in the net proceeds of the Union tax revenues be 42% which is a huge jump from 32% of 13th Finance Commission. As a result of this central's allocations in many important schemes across different sectors are reduced drastically and shortfall in the Schemes for the Welfare of Poor, Disadvantaged and Marginalised on account of FFC award are to be made up by the States from their enhanced resources. FLAIR is carrying an analysis of Union and State's annual budgets for schemes/programmes from different social as well as economic sectors that have direct or indirect impact and Food and Nutrition Security of poor and marginalized. The aim is to find out whether the decrease or only a marginal increase in Allocations for the important food and nutrition schemes/programmes in the Union Budget has been adequately compensated by increase in the Allocations in those schemes in the selected State Budget. The study also is analysing whether the state finances are in conformity with the state's performance on Human Development Indicators, in terms of health and nutrition indicators; what is the trend of utilization of allocated fund, which

are instrumental in improving different development indicators if not utilized for the purpose they are allocated.

2. TRAININGS, WORKSHOPS, CONSULTATIONS, CONFERENCES AND ADVOCACY

(a) Pre – Budget Advocacy Workshops in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal

FLAIR organized Pre – Budget Workshops in Delhi, Kolkata and Lucknow with special focus on children, health and nutrition and water and sanitation.

(b) Work with NGOs and State Governments on development of annual work plan and budgets for food, nutrition and health in the wake of recommendations of Fourteenth Finance Commission

FLAIR initiated a process of involvement with different NGOs, nutrition experts and Academic Institutions across the country to develop annual work-plan and budgets for different food and nutrition programmes of the Governments. Working/discussion paper on budget analysis of Union and State Budgets of FY2015-16 is prepared for food, nutrition and health programmes which are in the process of sharing findings with NGOs and Nutrition Experts to work out annual work plan and budgets to be submitted to respective state governments.

(c) Consultation on Public Policy & Finance: Agriculture, Food and Nutrition

FLAIR initiated a process of engagement with our Members of Parliament in a process of dialogue to present our facts and figures from our analysis and also learn and develop greater clarity on issues after listening to our esteemed Members of Parliament. FLAIR along with Save the Children organized a consultation on Public Finance for Food and Nutrition at the Dy. Chairman Hall, Constitution Club, Rafi Marg, New Delhi on 14 May 2015 from 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM. The aim of the consultation was



presentation of findings, technical discussion, collation of recommendations and discussion with the Members of Parliament on further proceedings. The presentation was based on the findings of

- i) **Costing on ICDS in Bihar and Rajasthan** from the publication “Costing and Budget Analysis of National Flagship Programmes (ICDS, SSA and ICPS) for Children – The Union of India and the States of Bihar and Rajasthan (FLAIR and Save the Children)” – **Published**; and
- ii) **Budget for Food and Nutrition Programmes and Agriculture** - The Union of India and the examples of the States of Bihar and Himachal Pradesh - Current Analysis of Budget 2015-16

(d) Work with the Legislature on issues of Education

FLAIR team has been influential in analysing parliament questions put forth by different Member of Parliaments to the **Ministry of Human Resource and Development**. It is during the Question Hour that the members can ask questions on every aspect of administration and Governmental activity. We have analysed the question raised in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha from 2009 till March 2015 (when this analysis was done) for the Ministry of Human Resource and Development. We have found out –

- i. the share of questions in MHRD in the total questions,
- ii. the share of questions on the three broad areas (a) RTE Act, (b) SSA, and (c) MDM in MHRD

FLAIR along with National RTE Forum has been involved in preparing demand for enhancement of the allocation to education, with an emphasis on making foundational investments in early childhood and elementary education. Findings from the Costing and Budget Analysis of SSA undertaken by FLAIR and Save the Children were used and cited by National RTE Forum to prepare the ‘*Demand for Financial Requirement for fulfilment of RTE Act 2009 from Union Budget 2015-16*’.

(e) Meeting with Parliamentarians on the issues of Education with demands and recommendations based on analysis of budgets

FLAIR team is also in contact with our Members of Parliament on regular basis inviting them in meetings, consultations as well as meeting them in person to keep them updated on facts and findings on Education including budget analysis of education programmes on the wake of fourteenth finance commission. Simultaneously, demands and recommendations based on the analysis and through consultative meetings with different NGOs working in the dimension of

education are also presented to the parliamentarians to debate on the floor during budget session.

3. PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MODEL CREATION

(a) Project for developing an effective Class 1 programme in mainstream State Schools with a focus on Emergent Literacy



Though Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (RTE Act), talks about compulsory schooling for children in the age group of 6 to 14 years, there are available documentation that shows school access does not necessarily transform the school into an inclusive learning space. There is an imperative need for effective school programmes at the Class 1 level which are based on an understanding of Early Childhood development and Emergent Literacy processes. This project aims developing interventions for a conceptually sound Class 1 programme with some of the key elements as under:

- Designing a programme for facilitating effective home to school transitions in Class 1 within mainstream, government primary schools based on conceptually sound and grounded principles of Emergent Literacy and Early Learning.
- Developing a programme for tapping local forms of knowledge and bringing them into the purview of the formal education system in the early years of schooling
- Integrating a programme of community participation in children's learning
- Setting up demonstration sites to facilitate the expansion of the key elements of the Early Learning and Emergent Literacy programme to wider locations.
- Building a resource base and process documentation for wider dissemination and training.

The pilot programme has started in Sarfabad, Sorkha and Barola villages of Noida and in Sectors 76, 77, 78 and 79 along with Sectors 116 and 117.

(b) Teach India – Skills Enhancement for Employment

Through the TEACH INDIA Initiative, FLAIR has been able to further our relationship with youth and communities and brought a meaningful and logical dimension to our community engagement. The Learners have benefitted immensely from the programme. They have been placed in good companies as per their interest. Some of our Learners have been placed through Teach India at an initial salary of Rs. 15000/- per month. We connect with the youth through evening and weekend meetings where we have discussions on the issues of society and country and how they specifically affect them. We mobilise the youth for joining Teach India programme as it is an excellent platform to achieve the goal financial independence and contribution to the family, society and country.

(c) Agriculture to Nutrition Pathways for prevention of Malnutrition

FLAIR has started a project in Gaya district of Bihar on Agriculture – Nutrition connect. The idea is to link the Famers Producers Organisations with the Market for their produce directly. In the first phase FLAIR has been able to form Farmers' Groups and identify lands and mark them for various agriculture produce through the year in various seasons. An analysis is also underway on the food habits, recipes, tastes and markets for the produce along with the nutritional requirements.

4. TECHNOLOGY LED INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

(a) Ezzy Poshan – Smart Phone App to facilitate the execution of Malnutrition Programme

Ezzy Poshan has been awarded IT Innovation of the Year 2014 by Computer Society of India.

This innovative tool to provide this solution is a system of four integrated stages –

- Data collection through mobile application – “Ezzy Poshan” working on any of the three platforms – iOS, Windows and Android. Each single child is issued an unique ID and is tracked for treatment and subsequent rounds of anthropometric measurements for longitudinal data sets;
- Data transmission to the main server and data analysis on the server;
- At the data analysis stage itself there is a provision for recognition of a malnourished child in need of treatment and/or referral and alert is sent to the concerned officials with details of the child’s identity and location for referral and/or treatment of the malnourished child. A provision has been made that this action is taken within 4 days of anthropometric data enumeration of the child.
- Statistical Data Analysis and Report Production.

We have observed that a major problem in dealing with the scourge of malnutrition lies in collecting anthropometric data for identification of the malnourished child at an appropriate time and using this data for treatment and/or referral of the malnourished child within a medically acceptable time limit.

Also the statistical analysis and report production after the data collection takes such long time that it becomes useless for any corrective action at policy and programme level.

- The data collection, storage and analysis need to be streamlined in such a manner that the whole process takes a maximum of one month or in Real Time during the times when huge data sets are being collected for research and planning purposes.
- Also, for regular programme implementation an intervention is required that allows for quick analysis of anthropometric data at the project level for referral and/or treatment of the malnourished child. It will be a huge boon and go a long way in treating the malnourished child.

This Application has been tested in real life operations in Bihar’s Muzaffarpur and UP’s Aligarh Districts. In Aligarh the testing was carried out jointly with Aligarh Muslim University.

5. FLAIR'S MEDIA COVERAGE

1. FLAIR's Article in ENN - Challenges in addressing undernutrition in India - <http://www.enonline.net/fex/50/undernutrition>
2. FLAIR's research reported in the Hindu on Undernutrition - <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/states-unlikely-to-bridge-gap-in-funding/article7228917.ece>
3. FLAIR's report in Times of India - India has highest number of deaths of children under five years of age <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/India-has-highest-number-of-deaths-of-children-under-five-years-of-age/articleshow/46722307.cms>



80 pc of Education Outlay Spent on Salaries

NGO seeks more funds for child education; says 72 pc of kids aged between 6 and 59 months are anaemic

Express News Service

Hyderabad 'Save the Children', a non-governmental organisation, has demanded an increase in the budgetary allocation for child education and protection.

Speaking at a consultation programme organised here on Wednesday, Right to Education convener for Telangana Murali Mohan said, "Nearly 80 per cent of the budgetary allocation for education is spent on salaries. Today, 90 per cent of mandal educational officers and a majority of teachers are working on deputation. So, just doubling the outlay for education would not serve the purpose. Instead, a road map should be prepared and allocation made for overall development of children."

"There should be focus on pre-primary education and reduction of school drop-out rate and increase in the enrollment rate. Timely provision of school books, ensuring sanitation/toilet with water facility and a school compound to prevent trespassing are the need of the hour. Unless this happens, the KC-to-PG scheme of the government would be of no use,"



Executive director of FLAIR, New Delhi and budget expert Ajay Sinha speaking on the topic 'The Budget and our Expectations: Voice of Children' in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

Mohan said, Alka Singh, state manager of Save the Children, said, "Nearly 72 per cent of children aged between 6 and 59 months, and 60 per cent of pregnant women aged 15 to 49 years in the state are anaemic. To eradicate this problem, an enhanced support is

needed for JSY and Janani Sishu Suraksha Karyakram. Even if we estimate additional food provision to these people (1.28 crore) at ₹ 20 a day per person, it would require around ₹ 9,000 crore which seems to be not achievable for the state government due to its other priorities."

The consultation, organised in collaboration with over 40 organisations, would list their demands and send suggestions to Telangana and Andhra Pradesh policymakers. The Telangana state budget will be presented on March 11 and AP state budget on March 12.

DEMANDS

- Recruitment of 90,000 more teachers for bridge and regular schools with a budget of ₹ 135 cr
- Establishment of 1,200 more Primary Health Centres (PHCs) with an annual allocation of ₹ 1.2 cr for each PHC
- Linking of school to local health institution/PHC for protective health care of children
- Enhanced supplementary nutrition food services through ICDS to children and women
- Safety of girl children at Ashram schools with provision for education and health
- Adequate funds for the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)
- A separate department for care, protection and rehabilitation of street children with adequate budget
- Special package for rehabilitation of children and families of displaced community



Forum for Learning and Action with Innovation and Rigour



GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS (2013-14)

1. Prof. Abdul Matin – President
2. Mr. Ajay Kumar Sinha – Secretary
3. Mr. Somnath Chakraborty – Treasurer
4. Mr. Vinay Krishna – Joint Secretary
5. Ms. Soni Prabha – Member
6. Dr. Raj Bhandari – Member
7. Ms. Mridusmita Bordoloi – Member
8. Ms. Shweta Verma – Member

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

1. Mr. Ajay Kumar Sinha – Executive Director
2. Mr. Somnath Chakraborty – Director, Marketing
3. Ms. Soni Prabha – Director, HR and Admin
4. Ms. Dolon Bhattacharyya – Director, Research and Documentation
5. Ms. Mridusmita Bordoloi – Adviser, Research