

RGICS

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Union Budget 2015-16 and Allocation for Ministry of Women & Child Development

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Demand for Grants for HRD Ministry

Key Messages

- **The total expenditure in Ministry of Women & Child Development (MWCD) has drastically declined by 45.1% from Rs.18 thousand crores in 2014-15 (RE) to Rs. 10 thousand crore in 2015-16 (BE).**
- **The decline in the total expenditure is mainly on account of decline in the plan expenditure (45.3% decline).**
- **The total plan expenditure has now been divided into two broad components namely, Total Central Assistance to State Plans and Major Programmes under Central Plans.**
- **In the case of Central Assistance to State Plans (CSAP), it is seen that all schemes related to Women & Child Development have together seen a decline in allocation of Rs. 8746.24 crore from the year 2014-15 (RE) to the year 2015-16 (BE), i.e. a 49.5% decline.**
- **Within CSAP, one of the schemes named, the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS), which is to be fully supported by the Union Government, has seen a decline of Rs. 49.73 crore (13.5% decline) from 2014-15 (RE) to 2015-16 (BE). This is a matter of greater concern as the ICPS is one of the sources for funding the Juvenile Justice system- so not only is the NDA government pushing for a regressive Bill that will push children into the adult penal system, it is also underfunding the JJ system that was envisaged by the UPA government to ensure the “Care And Protection of Children”.**
- **Two important schemes for women have also been delinked from the Union support and their continuance has been left to the discretion of the states, viz., SABLA and Scheme for Protection and Development of Women.**
- **The budgetary allocation for Major Programmes under Central Plans for MWCD has seen a rise from 2014-15 (RE) to 2015-16 (BE).**
- **The demand for grant by the Ministry of Women & Child Development has seen a significant fall from Rs. 18588.39 crore in 2014-15 (RE) to Rs. 10382.40 crore in 2015-16 (BE).**

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Union Budget 2015-16 and Allocation to Ministry of Women & Child Development

The NDA government's budget for the year 2015-16 has seen drastic cuts in the overall social sector, with the sector's share dropping from 21.1% in 2014-15 (RE) to 19.7% in 2015-16 (BE). Women & Child Development (WCD) is one of the crucial ministries in the social sector. This ministry unfortunately also has seen a decline in budget allocation in the current year. **Thus, the total expenditure in WCD has drastically declined by Rs. 8271.05 crore from Rs.18 thousand crores in 2014-15 (RE) to Rs. 10 thousand crore in 2015-16 (BE). This amounts to approximately a 45.1 % cut for the Women & Child Development ministry.**

Not only has the WCD Ministry's share in the government's total expenditure gone down from 1.1% during 2014-15 to 0.6% 2015-16 (refer Table 1 below), but the ministry's share in the total GDP has declined from 0.15% in 2014-15 to 0.07% in 2015-16¹, clearly demonstrating the government's commitment to the Ministry of Women & Child Development and therefore to the Women and Children of our country.

Table 1: Expenditure Budget for Ministry of Women & Child Development and its respective shares in Total Budget Expenditure: 2014-15 (RE) and 2015-16 (BE)

	2014-2015 (RE)			2015-2016 (BE)			Change in Expenditure		
							(Absolute)		
							(in Rs. Crore)		
	Plan	Non-Plan	Total	Plan	Non-Plan	Total	Plan	Non-Plan	Total
Total Expenditure in WCD (in Rs. Crore)	18267.06	88.39	18355.45	9988.73	95.67	10084.4	-8278.33	7.28	-8271.05
Annual growth rate (in %)							(-45.3)	(8.2)	(-45.1)
Share of WCD in Total Expenditure (in %)	3.9	0	1.1	2.2	0	0.6			

Source: Estimated by RGICS team from the data provided by Expenditure Budget document Volume 1, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, 2015-16

Note: Excluding transfers from Central government to Union Territories

Not only has the overall budget of the ministry declined, a scheme-wise analysis indicates that this reduction has been made across almost all schemes too. Based on the recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission the Ministry has made a change in the pattern of the plan expenditure share for all schemes.² The

¹ GDP at current market prices (2011-12 series) for 2014-15 was Rs. 12653762 crore and for 2015-16 was Rs. 14108945 crore.

² Plan outlays for 2015-16 reflects a major compositional shift in the expenditure estimates. These changes are on account of long standing demand of the states for the greater devolution and greater flexibility in design of Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The reduction in Central Assistance to State Plans (See Table 2) is a reflection of this change in fiscal federal relations. However, it is expected that the overall outlay for the programme will remain unchanged with states pooling resources from their enhanced devolution. Under this change sharing pattern of expenditure, the programmes under Central Assistance to State Plans are classified under 3 categories which are as follows:

- **Schemes to be fully supported by Union government:** Allocation of these programmes have been fully provided for from Union's resources.

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total plan expenditure has now been divided into two broad components namely, **Total Central Assistance to State Plans** and **Major Programmes under Central Plans**.

In the case of Central Assistance to State Plans, it is seen that (refer Table 2) all schemes related to Women & Child Development have seen a **decline in allocation of Rs. 8746.24 crore from the year 2014-15 (RE) to the year 2015-16 (BE), i.e. a 49.5% decline**.

Of 6 key schemes run by the Ministry, it is shocking to note that the **Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS), which is to be fully supported by the Union Government, has seen a decline of Rs. 49.73 crore (13.5% decline) from 2014-15 (RE) to 2015-16 (BE). This is a matter of greater concern as the ICPS is one of the sources for funding the Juvenile Justice system- so not only is the NDA government pushing for a regressive Bill that will push children into the adult penal system, it is also underfunding the JJ system that was envisaged by the UPA government to ensure the “Care And Protection of Children”.** Further, the **Integrated Child Development Service**, which will now be under the changed sharing pattern of expenditure between the Centre and the State, has seen a **decline in allocation by 51%, i.e. from Rs. 16316.05 crore to Rs. 8000 crore from 2014-15 (RE) to 2015-16 (BE)**. Such a significant reduction in these two marquee schemes under the WCD, is witness to the government’s negligence towards basic child care and development – an areas where India still needs strong government support.

Two important schemes for women have also been de-linked from the Union support and their continuance has been left to the discretion of the states. These schemes are:

- **Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG)-SABLA**
- **Scheme for Protection and Development of Women**

Scheme-wise Plan Expenditure Analyses: Central Assistance to State Plan

Table 2: Scheme-wise Expenditure under Women & Child Development and their respective shares in State Plan Budget Expenditure: 2014-15 (RE) and 2015-16 (BE)

Scheme	Expenditure Budget (in Rs. Crore)		Change in Expenditure Budget (in Rs. Crore)
	2014-15 (RE)	2015-16 (BE)	
Schemes under Women & Child Development	17669.03	8922.79	-8746.24
Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY) [§]	358.4	400	41.6
Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG)-	621.3		-621.3

- **Schemes to be run with changed sharing pattern:** The Centre-State funding pattern is being modified in view of the larger devolution of tax resources to States as per the recommendations of 14th Finance Commission whereby for schemes under this category, the revenue expenditure is to be borne by the States.
- **Schemes delinked from union support:** Under this category, States may decide to continue (or not) with these programmes out of their increased resources resulting from the recommendation of 14th Finance Commission.

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SABLA**			
Scheme for Protection and Development of Women**	5.55		-5.55
Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) \$	367.73	318	-49.73
National Nutrition Mission (NNM) \$		204.79	204.79
Integrated Child Development Service*	16316.05	8000	-8316.05

Source: Estimated by RGICS team from the data provided by Expenditure Budget document Volume 1, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, 2015-16

Note: Excluding transfers from Central government to Union Territories

\$: Schemes to be fully supported by Union government

*: Schemes to be run with changed sharing pattern

While evaluating the programs under the Central Plan, it is clear that there is an increase in budgetary allocations for WCD from 2014-15 (RE) to 2015-16 (BE) (refer Table 3).

Table 3: Scheme-wise Expenditure under Women & Child Development Sector and their respective shares in Central Sector Budget Expenditure: 2014-15 (RE) and 2015-16 (BE)

	Expenditure Budget (in Rs. Crore)		Change in Expenditure Budget (in Rs. Crore)
	2014-15 (RE)	2015-16 (BE)	
Ministry of Women and Child Development	503.23	988.94	485.71
Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Campaign	50	100	50

Source: Estimated by RGICS team from the data provided by Expenditure Budget document Volume 1, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, 2015-16

Note: Excluding transfers from Central government to Union Territories

Finally, it is shocking to note that the demand for grant by the Ministry of Women & Child Development is Rs. 10382.40 crore in 2015-16 (BE). This has seen a significant fall from 2014-15 (RE) which was Rs. 18588.39 crore.

References

Union Budget 2015-16: Accessed from: <http://indiabudget.nic.in/budget.asp>