

Child Budgeting in India; Friedman's Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Using Friedman's analysis, an attempt was made to present a macro picture of child budgeting after exploration of cutting edge perspectives of expenditure on various ECCD public initiatives, contemporary panorama concerning growth rate in select areas of investment (center based intervention, capacity building of care givers and institutional strengthening) and data base of economics of ECCD. Towards the end of the study, three sets of implications meant for policy designers & decision-makers, researchers and child right activists were determined.

The culmination of socio dynamics (Nomadic zero wave, Agricultural first wave, Industrial second wave, Information third wave and Responsive fourth wave), psycho structures (suppression of intra and inter family adult child interactions both at micro and macro level) economical shifts (child as object of welfare towards worthy unit of determining capability to economic gains), politico - legal events (international treaties, commitments and constitutional amendments), historical occurrence (deep rooted colonial perspectives), cultural identities (diversity of Indian childhood due to multiple social stressors and cultural bound syndromes) and emerging system of latchkey kids¹ have transformed the ecology of childhood in the shape it appears today. Though leading economists like Francis Fukuyama, an eminent American Professor of Public Policy, best known for his post cold war book *The End of History* (1992) has coined the term *The Great Disruption* (1999) to describe the massive changes in the construction of childhood over the past half century and Michael Rutter (2001) ironically notes that changes occurred during the span of past half a century have been one of the most unplanned interventions in recorded human history in bringing about worsening outcomes for children, yet it can be inferred that the construction of childhood is undergoing radical, if not, revolutionary change.

The testimony of this fact is evident from developments occurred during the past half century which *inter alia* have witnessed of undergoing the system of early childhood care and education through continuous and intense changes both at

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understanding and at organizational level. The system has figured at the central stage of most of the international treaties [Convention on Rights of the Child, 1989; World Conference on Education for All, 1990; The World Summit for Children, 1990; Dakar Framework of Action, 2000], constitutional commitments [Eighty Sixth Amendment act, 2002 substituting article 45], public policies [National Policy on Children, 1974; National Policy on Education, 1986; National Policy on Nutrition, 1993; National Health Policy, 1983; National Action Plan for Children, 2005, Proposed National Charter for Children] and public initiatives [Integrated Child Development Services Scheme, National Crèche Scheme, National Crèche Fund, etc]. Further, by mentioning in the constitution for the first time that the state shall endeavor to provide ECCE for all children until they complete the age of six years, the state by and large, has appeared to have recognized the pure public good and merit good nature² of early childhood care and education initiatives (Pandey, 2005 a).

In order to convert these public promises into action, series of initiatives are on the vague. They include not only of center based intervention during the critical period of childhood but also of capacity building of care givers and human resources involved therein and institutional strengthening intended to social action, documentation, research and the like. Thus, over the years, this multi directional ECCD system has come out as a super system having multiple sub systems dealing with many varied inputs [center based intervention, structured managerial system, inter and intra functional modalities]; multiple point entries [adolescent girls, children below six years, pregnant and lactating mothers with diverse participation and considerable varied age groups served from zero to forty five years], diverse process manifestation [care, zero level of early educational nurturance as defined by international standard classification of education , nutritional supplementation, advocacy and many more others], multi layered output [gender equality, universalization of elementary education, emergent literacy with Abecedarian exposure, economic independence] and accreditation mechanism based on thoroughly designed monitoring information system (Pandey, 2005 b).

The system, which has been designed primarily not only for child survival and safe motherhood (CSSM) but also for early center based intervention for cognitive and psycho linguistic learning outcomes, has attracted the attention of sizeable macro/micro level research and evaluation endeavors by cross category organization involving international, national bodies, technical institutions and centers for higher learning. However, meta analysis of these retrospective research endeavors brings in fore the triple realities of their convergence in nature (due to interpreting similar set of socio psycho variables), adopting nomothetic analytical strategies and using positivist approach for arriving out at some fundamental and action oriented results. This has left behind the unexplored area of economics of childhood in general and child budgeting in particular. The study in hand was a preliminary attempt in this direction.

Objectives

The paper aimed to decipher a macro picture of

- Contemporary panorama concerning growth rate in select areas of center based intervention, capacity building and institutional strengthening sub systems of ECCD;
- Cutting edge perspectives of investment among various public initiatives;
- Data base of economics of ECCD and
- Understanding the fast emerging field of child budgeting.

Defining the Terms

- **Growth Rate**—It refers to the percentage increase/decrease in budget expenditure in a year as compared to the previous year.
- **Child Budget**—A budget may be defined as the financial statement based on both the social and fiscal policy of the state. Unlike of other sectors like defense, education, power and alike, there is no mention of budget exclusively for child development. Thus child budgeting implies the evaluation of public finance earmarked for child development.
- **Centrally Sponsored Schemes**—Those public schemes, which are funded fully by DWCD, GOI but are being implemented through states/UTs. The expenditure of these schemes is met out from plan funds .The ICDS³ and WBICDS⁴ were considered under this category.
- **Central Schemes**—Those public initiatives, which are in full financially supported by DWCD, GOI but are mainly being implemented through NGOs. ECE⁵+ crèches⁶ and training component of ICDS⁷ were identified for inclusion under this category.
- **Institutional Expenditure**—The expenditure incurred on grant in aid to NIPCCD⁸, contribution to UNICEF⁹ and celebration of Children's Day was included under this head.
- **Child Related Schemes**—Those initiatives which benefits are directly reaching out to the children were categorized under this head. The ICDS, WBICDS , ECE + Crèches were placed under this sector.

Data Generation

The study basically involved the analysis of time series data. For accomplishment of this task, first of all, the annual reports of DWCD, GOI for ten FYs (1994/95–2004/05) were preliminary perused. Then budgetary data pertaining to ICDS, World Bank Assisted ICDS, ECE, Crèches, Grant in aid to NIPCCD,

Contribution to UNICEF, Celebration of Children's Day, Training of ICDS functionaries and other Non plan expenditures for both budget and revised estimates were disaggregated from these reports. Inferential statistics of F_r was used to present a mega panorama of this budgetary data.

Delimitations

Though several union ministries / departments like department of education, department of women and child development, ministry of health and family welfare, ministry of tribal affairs, ministry of rural development and many others are contributing towards strengthening various socio–psycho and physical domains of the child through their synergistic, interdependent and complimentary and supplementary inputs but due to time and other resource constraints, only budgetary allocation of department of women and child development (DWCD)¹⁰ was taken into account.

Analytical Strategy

From the time series data of ten FYs spanning over from 1994/95 to 2004/05, nine growth rates pertaining to three sets of samples (S) and ten sub sets of subjects (k), [S₁ of Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (k₁), World Bank Assisted ICDS Projects (k₂), ECE+Creches (k₃) and Institutional requirements (k₄), S₂ of Child Related Schemes (k₅), Training (k₆) and Institutional requirements (k₇) and S₃ of Central Schemes (k₈), Centrally Sponsored Scheme (k₉) and other Non plan expenditures (k₁₀)] were calculated. Then growth rate pertaining to each FY concerning k₁.... k₁₀ set of subjects of S₁, S₂ and S₃ samples were assigned the ranks from 1.... 4 in case of S₁ and 1...3 in case of S₂ and S₃. For the purpose of assigning the ranks, the lowest growth rate in each FY (among the four set of classification for S₁ and three set of classifications for S₂ and S₃) was assigned the lowest rank of one, while the highest rank received a rank of four or three (depending on number of subjects=k) and the intermediary growth rate received the rank of two and three respectively. Thus the total row in each ranks were constant and were equal to k (k+1)/2. After assigning the rank, Friedman's non-parametric statistics (F_r) was applied by adopting following post hoc analysis.

$$F_r = 12/N k(k+1) \left[\sum_{j=1}^k R_j^2 \right] - [3n(k+1)]$$

Where $R_j = \sum R_s$ of column j, N = number of subjects, k = number of samples

The merit of F_r in this case includes of not only having no requirements for normality and equal variance but also of fulfilling the restrictive assumptions of ordinal level of data measurement and independent nature of subjects.

Hypotheses

There appears no significant difference in budget and revised estimates between $k_1...k_4$ of S_1 (Ho_1^* & Ho_2^{**}), $k_5...k_7$ of S_2 (Ho_3^* & Ho_4^*) and k_8-k_{10} of S_3 (Ho_5^* & Ho_6^{**}).

Findings, Interpretation and Discussion

Table 1
(Time Series Data concerning Budget Expenditure on First set of Sample S_1)

FY	Rs in Crore							
	ICD Sk_1		WBICDS k_2		ECE+Creches k_3		Institutional k_4	
	RE*	BE**	RE	BE	RE	BE	RE	BE
1994/95								
N1	434.99	434.00	90.00	90.00	26.60	26.60	8.44	5.58
1995/96	567.64	512.00	90.00	64.00	26.60	26.60	8.83	8.81
N2	[4]	(3)	[1]	(1)	[2]	(2)	[3]	(4)
1996/97	515.94	515.94	154.30	154.30	26.60	26.60	9.08	9.08
N3	[1]	(3)	[4]	(4)	[2]	(2)	[3]	(1)
1997/98	600.00	479.40	214.50	214.50	25.46	26.60	8.01	9.13
N4	[2]	(1)	[4]	(2)	[3]	(3)	[1]	(4)
1998/99	768.41	603.14	140.00	331.95	24.85	26.55	9.80	8.71
N5	[4]	(2)	[2]	(4)	[1]	(1)	[3]	(3)
1999/2000	855.76	855.76	231.00	231.00	19.40	23.40	12.03	11.81
N6	[2]	(4)	[4]	(2)	[1]	(1)	[3]	(3)
2000/01	935.00	935.00	140.00	180.00	20.20	20.80	10.01	10.42
N7	[4]	(4)	[2]	(3)	[3]	(1)	[1]	(2)
2001/02	1217.54	1198.00	220.00	220.00	22.95	23.46	12.24	12.41
N8	[3]	(3)	[4]	(2)	[1]	(1)	[2]	(4)
2002/03	1287.95	1442.24	378.77	288.48	22.10	25.80	11.61	15.40
N9	[3]	(3)	[4]	(4)	[1]	(2)	[2]	(1)
2003/04	1341.46	1444.32	410.00	600.00	21.40	32.50	13.31	13.81
N10	[2]	(2)	[3]	(4)	[1]	(3)	[4]	(1)
2004/05	1490.40	1623.44	370.00	270.00	29.15	41.00	14.86	14.86
N11	[3]	(3)	[1]	(1)	[2]	(4)	[4]	(2)
Σ Rs	28	28	29	27	17	20	26	25

(F = 5.40, df = 3, <.01) ** (F = 2.70 df = 3, <.01).

Two way table 1 casting with $N_1...N_{10}$ rows and $K_1...k_4$ columns depicts the time series ranked data of budget expenditure on S_1 (ICDS, World Bank assisted ICDS Projects, ECE+ Crèches and institutional requirements) during the FYs of 1994/95–2004/05. Though, from the face value, it appears that there has been steadily increase over the decade in budget expenditures of all the four select areas of $k_1...k_4$ (nearly three fold for ICDS with 2.62* & 3.17**, nearly four fold for WBICDS with 4.11* and 4.21**, nearly one and half fold for ECE + Crèches with 1.09* and 1.54** and again nearly one and half fold for institutional requirements with 1.68* times respectively) but inter sectoral growth rate of budget allocation was not found

statistically significant $*(F = 5.40, df = 3, <01)$ & $** (F = 2.70 df = 3, <.01)$. Thus H_{01} and H_{02} stood accepted. Further, though difference was not found statistically significant, it appears that the state gives much importance to k_2 of WBICDS projects as its Σ Rs [29] was found to be highest than Σ Rs of k_1 (ICDS), k_3 (ECE + Creches) and k_4 (Institutional requirements), which stood at 28,17 and 26 respectively.

The findings may be ascribed in the light of multiple realities. *First* among them is that WBICDS have been the subject of intense monitoring due to their endowment with high infrastructure and communication technologies both not only at the micro level of ICDS projects but at the macro level of central/ state project management units as well. *Secondly*, due to regular visits of World Bank missions along with officials of GOI, these projects receives greater attention of the concerned states than their own projects of general ICDS (Pandey, 2005a). *Thirdly*, the flow of funds directly to the state ICDS cells make the utilization process more easy in case of WBICDS than the projects of general ICDS, where the funds flows through state treasury and thus reaches to the ground level after passing through cumbersome process. *Fourthly*, due to formulation of Project

Table 2
(Time Series Data concerning Budget Expenditure on Second set of Sample S_2)
Rs in Crores

FY	Child Related Schemes K_5		Training K_6		Institutional K_7	
	RE*	BE**	RE	BE	RE	BE
94/95						
N1	551.59	550.60	11.80	12.60	8.44	5.58
95/96	684.24	602.60	11.66	11.66	8.83	8.81
N2	[3]	(2)	[1]	(1)	[2]	(3)
96/97	696.84	696.84	11.66	11.66	9.08	9.08
N3	[1]	(3)	[2]	(2)	[3]	(1)
97/98	839.96	720.50	20.00	40.00	8.01	9.13
N4	[2]	(1)	[3]	(3)	[1]	(2)
98/99	933.26	961.64	40.20	40.00	9.80	8.71
N5	[1]	(3)	[3]	(2)	[2]	(1)
99/2000	1106.16	1110.16	35.00	60.00	12.03	11.81
N6	[2]	(1)	[1]	(3)	[3]	(2)
2000/01	1095.20	1135.80	20.00	35.00	10.01	10.42
N7	[1]	(1)	[3]	(3)	[2]	(2)
2001/02	1460.49	1441.46	55.00	40.00	12.24	12.41
N8	[2]	(3)	[3]	(1)	[1]	(2)
2002/03	1688.82	1756.52	60.00	62.00	11.61	15.40
N9	[3]	(3)	[1]	(2)	[2]	(1)
2003/04	1772.86	2076.82	50.00	76.50	13.31	13.81
N10	[2]	(2)	[1]	(3)	[3]	(1)
2004/05	1889.65	1934.44	74.00	54.00	14.86	14.86
N11	[1]	(2)	[3]	(1)	[2]	(3)
Σ Rs	18	21	21	21	21	18

* (F= .6 df= 2, < .01) ** (F= .6 df= 2, < .01)

Implementation Plans (PIPs) by not only adopting the state specific needs and variations but also in some cases by accommodating contextualized flavour of region/district marked needs, the concept of down up approach has come into reality, which in turn, improves the funds utilization mechanism at all levels. *Fifthly*, due to rich resource availability both in terms of input and process based requirements, several innovations are being carried out at various sub national system's level (State's/UTs). This, *inter alia*, not only opens the door for utilization of large chunk of funds but also prepares the stage for cumulative release of financial requirements.

The TS Rdata of budget expenditure on S_2 [Child Related Schemes (k_5), Training (k_6) and Institutional requirements (k_7)] incurred during ten FYs of 1994/95–2004/05 have been presented in two way table 2 with $N_1 \dots N_{10}$ depicting on the rows and $k_5 \dots k_7$ placing on the columns. As in similar lines of S_1 for steadily increase in budget expenditure of all the four select areas, S_2 also appears to have the same characteristic [nearly three fold increase for k_5 with 2.76* and 3.25**, nearly six and five fold increase in k_6 with 6.34* and 4.63** times and one and half fold increase in Institutional requirements with 1.6*]. However, inter sectoral growth rate of budget allocation concerning $k_5 \dots k_7$ was not found statistically significant *($F = .6$ df = 2, <.01) & **($F = .6$ df = 2, <.01) . Thus Ho_3 and Ho_4 stood accepted. Further, though difference was not found statistically significant, it appears that the state assigns equal weightage to training and institutional requirements as their Σ Rs [21] over ten FYs [1995/96-2004/05] were found to be the same for both classifications but stood higher than the Σ Rs of k_5 , which came out to be of having much lower value of 18. The occurrence of the finding may be ventured in the light of the fact that that training component of ICDS is fully funded by the world bank under project Udishia since 1999 onwards and is being implemented in all 35 States/UTs. This project receives greater attention of the policy makers due to trio realities of measurable outcome indicators in terms of number of persons trained, workable partnership with other international organizations like UNICEF and self professional developmental interest of not only of the policy designers but also of decision makers. The advisory role of NIPCCD, being the apex organization for providing technical support and inputs to DWCD and different States/UTs also paves the way for finalizing the State Training Action Plans (STRAP'S) more precisely, action worthy and prone to quick implementation. Further, nearly all allied activities of ICDS training are being monitored by NIPCCD across the country. This, in turn, puts the institutional requirements at the center stage of financial attention as equal to that of ICDS training.

Table 3 speaks about the time series ranked data of budget expenditure on S_3 [Central Schemes (k_8), Centrally Sponsored Schemes (k_9) and other Non Plan expenditures (k_{10})] during the FYs of 1994/95 – 2004/05. In concordance of first set of S_1 and second of S_2 for steadily increase in budget expenditure on all select areas of $k_1 \dots k_7$, the face value of S_3 also appears to have the same characters [nearly two

Table 3
(Time Series Data concerning Budget Expenditure on Third set of Sample S₃)
Rs in Crore

FY	Central Schemes K8		Centrally Sponsored SchemesK9		Other Non Plan Expenditure K10	
	RE*	BE**	RE	BE	RE	BE
94/95						
N1	563.39	550.60	524.00	524.99	5.79	5.58
95/96	54.27	54.27	657.64	576.00	6.66	5.92
N2	[1]	(1)	[3]	(3)	[2]	(2)
96/97	54.40	54.40	670.24	670.24	13.01	13.01
N3	[1]	(1)	[3]	(2)	[2]	(3)
97/98	56.33	83.71	814.50	693.90	8.01	7.09
N4	[3]	(2)	[2]	(1)	[1]	(3)
98/99	74.75	79.52	908.41	693.09	8.44	7.66
N5	[3]	(1)	[2]	(3)	[1]	(2)
99/2000	65.34	96.12	1086.76	1086.76	9.03	8.73
N6	[1]	(3)	[3]	(2)	[2]	(1)
2000/01	48.24	64.62	1075.00	1115.00	10.11	9.54
N7	[2]	(1)	[1]	(2)	[3]	(3)
2001/02	87.45	75.34	1437.54	1418.00	10.65	10.61
N8	[2]	(1)	[3]	(3)	[1]	(2)
2002/03	90.61	99.50	1666.70	1730.72	10.47	11.23
N9	[3]	(3)	[2]	(2)	[1]	(1)
2003/04	81.70	120.70	1751.46	2044.32	11.04	10.69
N10	[2]	(3)	[3]	(2)	[1]	(1)
2004/05	115.00	108.25	1860.40	1893.44	11.61	11.60
N11	[3]	(1)	[1]	(2)	[2]	(3)
ΣRs	21	17	23	22	16	21

*(F= .6 , df=2, < .01) ** (F= .4, df=2, < .01)

fold increase for k₈ with 2.11* and 1.99**, nearly two & half and three fold increase in k₉ with 2.82* and 3.28** times and one and half fold increase on k₁₀ with 1.74* and 1.95** times increase]. Not only this, the inter sectoral growth rate of budget allocation amongst k₈, k₉ and k₁₀ was also not found to be statistically significant *(F = .6, df = 2, < .01) & **(F = .4, df = 2, < .01). Further, though difference was not found statistically significant, it appears that the state is more concerned with k₉ of centrally sponsored schemes classification as the value of its Σ Rs [23] was found to be the highest followed with k₈ of central schemes with its Σ Rs numerical value of 21 and k₁₀ of other non plan expenditures with its value of Σ Rs =16. There appears no exaggeration to describe the fact that the fact that k₉ classifications of centrally sponsored schemes (ICDS + WBICDS) are not only major visible public tools meant for taking care of survival, protection, participation and developmental aspects of children but are also much voluminous in nature. Besides this, their implementation realities are being monitored much closely at the smallest unit of center based intervention through well defined organizational ladder. However,

as opposite of this, the central schemes of ECE+Creches and mega part of world bank assisted training project Udisha are being operationalized with the help of NGOs, the term, which is often used interchangeably with the terms Voluntary Organisations (VO), Private Voluntary Organisations (PVO in the US), Non Profit Organisation (NPO), and less frequently, not Profit Organizations (NFPO), Private Development Organisations (PDO) and UN term, Non State Actor (NSA) (IIPM, 2004). Though, usually state favours NGOs due to their substituting (and some times complementing) public efforts, however, it may not all the times necessary that all NGOs are favoured by the state (Tilak, 2004). They may be disliked if, there is political discontent, vested local power relations, engaged in religious activities, carrying out activities not favoured by the state, engaged in profit making activities (even while claiming to be non profit organizations) and / or sometimes making duplicate public efforts (Tilak, op, cit).

Implications

The study was conducted using time series financial data of DWCD pertaining to ten FYs of 1994/95–2004/05. The implications of the study may be discerned to mean for policy designers and decision makers, researchers and child rights activists. The *first set of policy designers and decision makers* can derive the benefits by glancing macro picture of public financing on mega tools (ICDS, WBICDS, ECE + Crèches, Institutional requirements, Non Plan expenditures, Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Central Schemes etc) designed for development and welfare of children either through center based intervention or through capacity building of child care givers and/or other ways of research, advocacy etc. This receives special mention, especially when, union government has instituted several initiatives including (but not limited to) designing national action plan for children-2005, identifying ICDS as one of the major scheme amongst other six initiatives of Government of India¹¹, almost two times increase in BE of ICDS in budget concerning FY of 2005/06, doubling the financial norms of supplementary nutrition cost, sharing one half of the total expenditure of supplementary nutrition being incurred by States/UTs¹², universalizing the ICDS, and identifying the potential of ICDS as one of the major vehicle to arrive at the targets of Dakar, EFA initiatives, 2000¹³. Similarly, on the lines of DWCD, GOI, which is carrying out the child budgeting initiative, the union government may direct various sister ministries/departments concerning ECCD (education, health, DWCD, social justice and empowerment, tribal affairs, rural development, finance and alike) to prepare their budget incorporating child budgeting as in built phenomenon as has been done in case of gender budgeting (Pandey, 2005) Policy designers and decision makers may also get it ensured that that every state/UT should have separate women and child development department with networking up to the district level so that various measures being adopted may be monitored closely and attended well to at the micro level reaching to the

smallest unit possible (Pandey, op cit). They may also like to direct all the 35 States/UTs to evolve their in built system of child budgeting as has been done by Tamil Nadu, though with the technical support from Indian Council of Child Welfare. In fact, there appears a strong need to set up a chair of child budgeting in India, preferably at NIPCCD, which is a national institution in twin field of public cooperation and child development. This has to be done with the financial assistance of UNICEF and on the lines of the UNESCO, which has set up educational chairs in various universities/research institutions in India in as diverse areas as culture, peace, human rights, teacher education and more such chairs are in offing (Pandey, op cit).

The *researchers* may extend their efforts towards generating and strengthening more rational organization of data bank related to economics of child development, which is, in fact, is being coming up as an distinctive field under new premised model of childhood as target of societal investment rather than welfare alone. They may carry out the child budgeting by employing different set of analytical strategies and employing diverse methodologies of data interpretation. The *child rights activists* may like to put a strong case before the state for providing more public funds as also advocated by number of social workers including Jean Dreze, an economist with a difference, who has put his opinion under the caption child development has been neglected in India. (Dreze, 2004).

Epilogue and Post Findings Actions

The contemporary practice of child budgeting presents a very grim and vicissitude picture. Though the state has realized the economics of child's investment with best of well-intentioned fiscal policies and programmes, the state of expenditure on different classifications pertaining to child development appears to stands far from reality. This situation is not only true in India but governments of majority world tend to allocate a diminutive part of their over all budget to early childhood services (Myres, 2000). Though shortage of financial resources may be the root cause for this unpleasant situation, however, there is another dimension of funding also. Most of the time the child development public initiatives suffers a lot not due to required financial inputs but on account of low utilization of funds by the implementing agencies. The prevailing practice of governing the fund management lies within a centralized, bureaucratic, hierarchical and highly structured administrative system. Most of the financial powers are vested in the hands of higher officials, and the lower levels have to go to them for all sorts of small sanctions. The loss of time is colossal because of the alternative costs involved (Jha, Saxena & Baxi, 2001). Thus, only earmarking of funds does not always guarantee their effective and full utilization in the absence of a well-designed technical support service for its utilization. Further, due to inefficient work culture in government system, the new ideas and practices are never welcomed. As poor

consequences of this, large amount of budgetary allocation made for different heads of innovative activities are remains surrendered or unutilized. This trend could easily be countered by articulating decisive measures for proper and effective utilization of financial resources, whatever is available.

Secondly, In order to have more funds for public spending, the state may explore ways to induce contributions from the corporate world¹⁴, perhaps through tax exemptions. The committee appointed by Government of India has also taken note of this while observing that Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the area of ECCE would be permissible under the automatic route without any bar. The committee further notes that as the level of FDI in ECCE is not likely to be significant so there is no need to recommend any regulation of such investment at the present time (MHRD, 2004). In fact after putting for more than 30 years of state owned model mechanism; there is a need to come out with alternate viable system of project mode delivery of implementation. The multiple added advantage of this model in the form of thorough accounting and performance budgetary system along with public scrutiny will definitely set new trends in rendering professional support to the community in the deeper sense. Once a quality consciousness will arise through such decisive efforts on experimental basis, it is likely that the model will receive popularity and demand for its successive continuation (Pandey, 2004).

Thirdly, the State may also consider providing the financial subsidy for non-state child development initiatives and tax exemption for receiving the benefits of center based childcare and developmental interventions as available in range of other countries across the world.

NOTES

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1. Children, who go to empty houses after school hours and are left alone until their parents arrive from work (Harmon and Jones, 2005).
2. By resolving in Constitution to provide ECCE, the Government of India has appeared to implicitly recognized the pure public good (the benefits of center based child care and education intervention are not only confined to children but also benefits the other institutions of the society—externalities-considerably) and merit good (state is more aware about the benefits than the individuals availing the interventions) nature of ECCE.
3. Integrated Child Development Services Scheme , popularly abbreviated as ICDS, is one of the innovative programme of its kind and the largest public initiative in the world to offer the early childhood care and educational services. The basic premise of the programme revolves around the growing consensus among researchers and

practitioners that childcare and education are inseparable issues and must be considered as one. Based upon this fundamental assumption, the modus operandi of the programme has been designed in such an integrated way so as to address this twin issue on a continuum basis adopting holistic approach. The process execution of the programme includes integrated package of minimum basic services-care, nourishment and educational nurturance to children, adolescent girls and pregnant and lactating mothers so as to reach a multitude of objectives encompassing children's improved health and nutrition status, development of their psychological competencies, preparation of adolescent girls for safe motherhood and mother's improved health and child bearing and rearing practices.

4. ICDS scheme is being implemented within the state own resources and with the external assistance from plethora of both multi lateral and bilateral agencies. Starting with World bank assisted ICDS I in the states of AP and Orissa and followed with ICDS II in Bihar and MP (1993-2002) with full utilization of approved IDA credit of US \$ 194 million, the ICDS III project covers five states of Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Tamin Nadu with approved IDA credit for the project of US\$ 300 million including nationwide training component. WB assisted ICDS component of APEAR programme was made effective in 1999-2004 to cover 2651 child development blocks of Andhra Pradesh. The total IDA credit is US\$75 million.
5. The Early Childhood Education (ECE) Scheme was started in 1982 by the Department of Education as a distinct strategy to reduce the drop out rate and to improve the rate of retention of children in schools. The scheme was transferred to DWCD in 1987-88 with 100 ECE centers. The scheme was finally dropped in 2003.
6. The central sector scheme of Crèches/ Day care centers was introduced in 1975 in pursuance of NPC, 1974. A corpus fund of Rs. 19.90 crore was made available to DWCD out of the Social Safety Net Adjustment Credit from the World Bank to meet out the growing requirement of working mothers for opening more crèches centers.
7. The national ICDS training project Udisha was launched in 1999 with an outlay of Rs. 600 crore over a five year period, which has since been reduced to Rs. 409.03 crore under the restructured project.
8. National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) is an autonomous organization registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860. The Institute functions under the aegis of DWCD, GOI.
9. UNICEF has its largest programming in India. India has been contributing towards UNICEF's general resources. It has progressively increased its contribution. The GOI and UNICEF cooperation is governed by the Master Plan of Operation (MPO) agreed between both partners.
10. Within the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), the department of women and child development is the nodal agency to take care of early childhood care and developmental aspects of children, which *inter alia* includes (but not limited to) supplementary nourishment, health,care and early educational aspects of child development. It does so not only by financing the public institutions of Anganwadis within the over all realm of public support scheme of ICDS (which has its ubiquitous presence, and espoused nationally and received acuminous internationally) but also by institutional support to various agencies like NIPCCD, FNB and non governmental organizations for multi dimensional purposes of research, training, consultancy and developmental initiatives.

11. The speech of Hon'ble Finance Minister in the Parliament on Aug, 25th, 05 while presenting the outcome budget aiming at to measure the physical targets achieved on the financial outlays of various ministries. The six flagship programmes includes SSA, food for work (to be converted into the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme), mid day meal, ICDS, national highways and the components of Bharat Nirvan.
12. The text of the speech of Hon'ble Finance Minister in the Parliament, while presenting the budget of FY 2005/06.
13. National goal number 1 of EFA corresponding to the six Dakar goals.
14. The address of Hon'ble President on the eve of Independence Day, 2005.

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