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GENDER-RESPONSIVE BUDGETING FOR DALIT WOMEN (2023-2024)- PART II

National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights –
Dalit Arthik Adhikar Andolan



About Dalit Arthik Adhikar Andolan

Dalit Arthik Adhikar Andolan (DAAA) is a Unit of the National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights and is working towards securing and strengthening the economic rights of the Dalit and Adivasis Community and believes strongly in bolstering the agency of the community. The main vehicle is through access to public entitlements like Livelihood schemes, education, entrepreneurship and asset building through the constitutional provisions of budgetary allocations. DAAA believes strongly in the inclusion and promotion of marginalised communities in the economy of the country. DAAA makes strategic interventions in public policy, planning, budgeting, advocacy and research and implementation and monitoring of the SCP TSP sub-plans.

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GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING FOR DALIT WOMEN

Achieving gender equality is a complex process and government policies play a vital role in it. Gender gaps across the country have been worsened by cultural and societal norms and most recently by the pandemic. One of the ways to ensure equality in public expenditure is to employ Gender Responsive budgeting from the formulation stage itself. The status of the gender-responsive budget is a major cause of concern particularly from the Dalit perspective. It is unclear, vague and unjust considering that the Dalits are the most vulnerable community and are marginalized in the majority of the socio-economic and educational sectors. Producing a gender budget statement is the mechanism adopted by the Indian government, however, the status of Dalit women remains the same with almost negligible allocation for them in FY2023-24 too.

Data Source and Methodology

This note is prepared based on the data collected from the union government's Detailed Demand for Grants, particularly Statement 10A referred to as Statement on allocation for Welfare of SC in the Expenditure Profile of Union Budget 2023-24 published by the Ministry of Finance used for allocating funds for SCs along with Statement 13 (GBS) referred to the fund allocation towards women. This document analyses the GBS of the Central government that features schemes funded by the central government. We have compiled, tabularized and analysed the data pertaining to allocations towards Dalit women particularly pertaining to health, education and livelihood, especially for the women engaged in manual scavenging from the above-noted sources comparing the scheme allocation both from statements 10A and 13 and calculating the allocation for Dalit women based on their population percentage. The period of the analysis is from 2023-24 which includes the latest union budget data. Analysis of 2019-2023, a four-year analysis is published as the first part of the document. This document is the second part of this budget series.

Skewed Structure

Gender Budget Statement consists of two parts i.e. Part A and Part B, Part A consists of schemes that allot 100 percent of funds for women and Part B encompasses schemes that allocate atleast 30percent of funds for women. Since its start, allocations have always been dominated by Part B. The table below shows the allocations for women particularly Dalit women in the current financial year.

Allocations	2023-24 (BE)
Allocation in Part A of GBS (Rs. Cr) for women	Rs.88044.21Cr
Allocation in Part A of GBS (Rs. Cr) for Dalit women	Rs.2534.97Cr
Allocation in Part B of GBS (Rs. Cr) for women	Rs135175.54 Cr
Allocation in Part B of GBS (Rs. Cr) for Dalit women	Rs. 6715.42 Cr
Total Allocation in GBS (Rs. Cr) for women	Rs.223219.75 Cr
Total Allocation in GBS (Rs. Cr) and Statement 10 for Dalit women	Rs.9250.39 Cr
Source: Union Budget Expenditure Profile FY2023-24, Statement 10A and 13	

The numbers reflected in the table are not striking and show a very minimum allocation for the Dalit women considering the marginalisation and discrimination faced by them in almost all the sectors. Here it is pertinent to ask if gender concerns are integrated into the planning process of the country. The allocation for Dalit women accounts for only 0.65% in the current financial year from the total eligible centrally sponsored schemes (CSS) and Central Sector Schemes (CS).

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This year only 3 schemes were addressing the health needs of women from marginalised communities.



Major Concerns

The three most critical areas of health, education and livelihood & employment have seen the same trend also in the current financial year. As per the Oxfam report, SC and ST women are the most marginalized and vulnerable groups having the highest number of anaemic women, malnutrition, high MMR and IMR and other diseases and are denied dignity and quality service and access to health care. Notably in this financial year not a single scheme under MSJE has catered 100% benefits to the SC women.

Access to health care services

As per the OXFAM report, Dalits and Adivasis are marginalized in health care sectors, as the privatization of health care and low-quality service at public hospitals are pushing the communities more towards debt and poverty. Dalit women live 15 years less than the dominant caste. Also, anaemia is prevalent among the ST and SCs due to lack of nutrition and proper diet, about 65% of ST women suffer from anaemia compared to 46.6% of other social groups. 26% of Dalit women did not receive PreNatal-Care while 15% of dominant caste women were provided with the service.

In the current financial year too the allocations for Dalit women towards healthcare facilities have not shown any major differences. In the FY 2023-23 the total allocation for Dalit women for health was Rs.613.38Cr from the total eligible centrally sponsored schemes (CSS) and Central Sector Schemes (CS). This year only 3 schemes were addressing the health needs of women from marginalised communities. The allocations could be seen only in the Department of Health and Family Welfare mainly towards 3 major schemes namely Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), Infrastructure Maintenance and Flexible Pool for RCH and Health System Strengthening, National Health Programme and National Urban Health Mission. None of these schemes are targeted and have no specific allocations for Dalit women. For instance, Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana saw an allocation of Rs.97.58Cr in the current financial year 2023-24. However, the PMJAY scheme aims to provide healthcare to poor and low-



er-middle-income families through a health insurance scheme covering Rs.5lakh per family. This is a general scheme and there is no specific target for the SC community. Similarly, other schemes like ‘Flexible Pool for Communicable Diseases’ saw an allocation of Rs375.02Cr in 2023-24. We also saw many non-targeted allocations across the years. This year we saw an allocation of Rs.140.77Cr towards “Infrastructure Maintenance” which is a very notional allocation and does not directly benefit the community.

Financial Year	SC women Allocation for health-related schemes (in Rs. Crs)	Targeted Allocation (in Rs. Crs)	Non-Targeted Allocation (in Rs. Crs)	General Allocation (in Rs. Crs)
2023-24	613.38	0	141	472.6
2022-23	565.75	0	565.75	0
2021-22	451.51	0	325.41	126.1
2020-21	172.6	0	0	172.6
2019-20	70.77	0	0	70.77

Source: Union Budget Expenditure Profile FY2019-24, Statement 10A and 13

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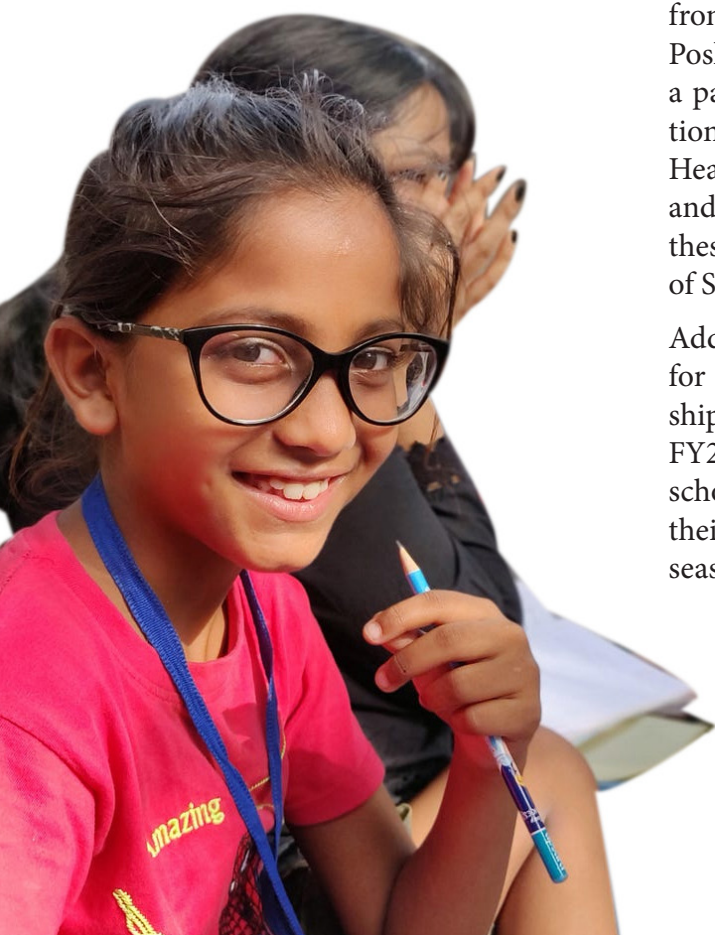
As compared to the last financial year, there has been an increase in allocation from Rs.3056Cr in 2022-23 to Rs.4196.72Cr in the current year. The budget didn't reflect any such allocations addressing the specific needs of the young Dalit girls.

Access to Education

Education is another important area with very little allocation for Dalit students, especially young girl students. This year allocation for education was Rs.4196.72Cr from the total eligible centrally sponsored schemes (CSS) and Central Sector Schemes (CS). As compared to the last financial year, there has been an increase in allocation from Rs.3056Cr in 2022-23 to Rs.4196.72Cr in the current year. The budget didn't reflect any such allocations addressing the specific needs of the young Dalit girls.

However, a deeper analysis of the schemes reveals that this year too there has been a huge allocation towards general and non-targeted schemes. Our analysis reveals the allocation towards the general schemes has increased from Rs.911.12Cr in 2022-23 to Rs.1791.68Cr in 2023-24 and there has also been a substantial increase in non-targeted allocation from Rs.155.87Cr in the FY 2022-23 to Rs.172.31Cr in the FY 2023-24. There was a substantial increase in the allocation towards general schemes this year. For instance, the allocation towards the 'Samagra Shiksha' scheme is Rs.625.40 Cr and 'Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0' saw an allocation of Rs.393.46Cr. Samagra Shiksha scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme for school education covering the entire gamut from pre-school to class XII. While Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0' is also a centrally sponsored scheme providing a package of six services, namely, (i) Supplementary Nutrition; (ii) Pre-school Non-formal Education; (iii) Nutrition & Health Education; (iv) Immunization; (v) Health Check-up; and (vi) Referral Services to all eligible beneficiaries. None of these schemes has targeted the objective of the development of SC students.

Additionally, some very important direct benefiting schemes for SC students saw declined allocations. National Fellowship for SCs saw a decrease in allocation from Rs.51.90Cr in FY2022-23 to Rs. 48.90Cr in FY 2023-24. Another important scholarship for the SC & ST students who want to achieve their higher education abroad is called the National Overseas Scholarship (NOS) which is a Central Sector scheme for



Master degree or PhD courses. Since the last two financial years the allocation for the scheme is Rs15Cr. Some other important schemes saw a very small increase in allocation as compared to last financial year. ‘Top class education for SCs’ saw an allocation of Rs.33.30Cr as compared to Rs.32.40Cr in last financial year. Furthermore, the pre-matric scholarship saw an allocation of only Rs.15Cr. Some changes are introduced in the pre-matric scholarship in this year, it will now cover children of class IX and X only. This will hugely impact students from marginalized communities, particularly Dalits. Post Matric Scholarship (PMS) is one such direct benefiting scheme launched in 1944 and is one of the best centrally-sponsored schemes under the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCP). This scheme enables the students to continue and complete their education without encountering several financial obstacles, as well as to ensure a better employment future and accomplish their objectives. This year Post Matric Scholarship saw an allocation of Rs.1907.74Cr as compared to Rs.1698Cr in last financial year.

Financial Year	SC women Allocation for education-related schemes (in Rs. Crs)	Targeted Allocation (in Rs. Crs)	Non-Targeted Allocation (in Rs. Crs)	General Allocation (in Rs. Crs)
2023-24	4196.72	2232.73	172.31	1791.68
2022-23	3056.62	1989.63	155.87	911.12
2021-22	2484.53	1576.34	69.14	839.05
2020-21	1997.86	1232.71	70.22	694.93
2019-20	1970.92	1211.74	89.39	669.79

Source: Union Budget Expenditure Profile FY2019-24, Statement 10A and 13

Livelihood and labour market

Approximately 83.3% of individuals experiencing multidimensional poverty in India hail from marginalized tribal and caste groups, with Scheduled Tribes (ST) exhibiting the highest poverty rate at 50.6%, followed by Scheduled Castes (SC) at 33.3%. This data indicates a disproportionately high poverty rate amongst ST communities, with a poverty level three times greater than that of privileged communities, and a poverty rate among SC communities that is nearly twice that of their advantaged counterparts. This highlights the requirement for tailored measures and schemes for their livelihood and to reduce poverty among these group especially women.

It is against this backdrop that the women’s budget shows a quite depressing picture. This year allocation for Dalit women for livelihood and entrepreneurship was Rs.1874.16Cr from the total eligible centrally sponsored schemes (CSS) and Central Sector Schemes (CS). The most allocation of Rs. 871.5Cr for Dalitwomen was made under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme which is a general scheme. A deeper analysis of the schemes and programmes shows that there has been a huge allocation towards non-targeted and general schemes. Allocation towards the targeted schemes has been very minimal with Rs.642.74Cr in the current financial year. This increasing trend of general allocation is very disturbing as these schemes may or may not benefit the women on the ground.



Financial Year	SC women Allocation for livelihood-related schemes (in Rs Crs)	Targeted Allocation (in Rs Crs)	Non-Targeted Allocation (in Rs Crs)	General Allocation (in Rs Crs)
2023-24	1874.16	642.74	0	1231.41
2022-23	2210.52	631.2	1276.61	302.71
2021-22	1682.78	600	772.73	310.05
2020-21	248.56	33	0	215.56
2019-20	238.79	33	0	205.79

Source: Union Budget Expenditure Profile FY2019-24, Statement 10A and 13

Another programme with recent allocation for Dalit women is Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur KushaltaSampannHitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) Yojana. This is one of the very few targeted schemes for Dalit women helping for their economic upliftment. The allocation for this scheme towards Dalit women was Rs.25.20Cr in the FY 2022-23 and this financial year it has increased to Rs.27.74Cr. In this fiscal year, no money is allocated for the rehabilitation of manual scavengers under The Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers compared to Rs70 Cr in FY 2022–2023. However, a new scheme has been introduced by the MSJE called NAMASTE (National Action for Mechanised Sanitised Eco-system) which aims to provide safe and secure cleaning of sewers and improved access to safety gear and machines. However, no allocation of the same is seen under the gender budget statement.

The Way Forward

Although GRB has not effectively translated into policy positively impacting women, especially Dalit women, we still have a couple of ways to ensure to deepen the GRB efforts in the country. There is a need to have a strong institutional mechanism for GRB for its effective implementation. Additionally, the country's budget should include the GRB perspective throughout the budget cycle, especially an intersectional approach. There is a need to focus on the schemes depending on the women's priorities and development to visibilise them in all the sectors of development. There needs to be very targeted programs and schemes incorporated so as to address the concerns of the most marginalised women.

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Gender Responsive Budgeting for Dalit Women

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