

Annual Report

2017-18



Institute of Policy Studies and Advocacy

New Delhi



Institute of Policy Studies and Advocacy (IPSA)

Integrating Research with Grassroots Development and Social Justice

Annual Report 2017-18

Activities under the banner of Institute of Policy Studies and Advocacy (IPSA) commenced in 2012. However, it was formally registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act in August 2016. Accordingly, the 2nd Annual Report of IPSA is being presented here covering the period from April 2017 to March 2018. The period is marked with our efforts to carve out a niche in the academic world by exploring areas of dedicated work and building relationship with like-minded institutions.

1. Consultation on Inclusive Development in Uttar Pradesh

A state level consultation was organized by IPSA on July 1, 2017 at Lucknow to influence the budget of Uttar Pradesh. It was joined by a number of local NGOs, activists and academia. The object of the consultation was to highlight needs of inclusive development in the state.



Jawed Alam Khan of IPSA (New Delhi), Dr Manjur Ali of Giri Institute of Development Studies (Lucknow) and other experts enriched the consultation. Recommendations for the state government were suggested by the participants and later on forwarded to the competent authorities for the needful.

2. Information & Facilitation Centre and Educational Seminar in Balrampur, UP

IPSA has taken an initiative to establish Information and Facilitation Centre at Noor Public Inter College, Gainsari Bazar, District Balrampur (Uttar Pradesh) which was opened on 2nd July 2017. Further, an educational seminar was organized by IPSA and the Lucknow-based SEWA to acquaint people with the welfare schemes of the government.



On this occasion Jawed Alam Khan General Secretary IPSA, Dr Manjur Ali Assistant Professor Giri Institute of Development Studies, an eminent local personality Shafeeq Ahmad and other guests addressed a large gathering. The center was anticipated to link local people with the government schemes and other welfare programs by generating awareness and facilitating the aspirants.

3. A Study on the Implementation of SDGs in Uttar Pradesh

Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is an internationally envisioned process of human development under the supervision of UNO. The Government of India is committed to implement these goals in different walks of life since their adoption for a fifteen-year period from 2016 onwards. Accordingly, the state governments are also obliged to make changes in their fiscal policies and targets and improve administrative machinery for their better realization.

As its core area of interest, IPSA has thought it proper to undertake a study on the implementation of SDGs in Uttar Pradesh. A few villages of two blocks of District Balrampur of the state have been chosen for the study. Consequently, a questionnaire was prepared and a research associate was appointed for data collection. By the close of the session the work on data collection was complemented and the process of analysis of the data has begun.

4. Community Participation in Municipal Governance in New Delhi

IPSA has organized a 'Discussion on Community Participation in Municipal Governance' on April 1, 2017 in association with Delhi Reyasati Majlis-e-Mushawarat and Volunteers of Change, in Jamia Nagar, New Delhi. Abdul Rashid Agwan the President of IPSA chaired the program whereas its General Secretary Jawed Alam Khan led the discussion. Other discussants were Athar Karim Kidwai representing Mushawarat, Sajid Anas and Dr MA Johar of Volunteers of Change. A good number of community leaders, social workers and activists of the Okhla area joined this awareness and advocacy event.

Discussion points:

- Salient features of 74th Amendment Act 1993

- Devolution of fund, functions and functionaries to urban local government in India
- Functioning of municipal corporations of Delhi
- Status of town planning in Delhi
- Participatory budgeting in municipal corporation
- Condition of basic services of South Delhi Municipal Corporation in Okhla

Suggestions:

- Greater devolution of power to urban local government and municipal corporation
- Strengthening of basic services to poor by South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) in Okhla
- Focus on improving participatory budgeting in Delhi
- Basic services for urban poor
- Community monitoring and tracking of municipal budget in Okhla



5. Workshop on Development Policies and Budgets for Disadvantaged Communities

Institute of Policy Studies and Advocacy (IPSA) has conducted a Workshop on “Budget Analysis for Disadvantaged Communities”. It was held on 25 December 2017 in Jamia Nagar, New Delhi. The participants of the workshop were Students, NGOs, Activists and Professionals of different multinational corporations. The workshop was mainly aimed at training youth to understand and strengthen fiscal processes as an instrument of affirmative action. Budget expert and General

Secretary of IPSA Jawed Alam Khan conducted the workshop whereas the IPSA President Abdul Rashid Agwan made the preliminary remarks. The trainees were provided with the Certificate of Participation. The National President of AIMMM Navaid Hamid also graced it for some time.

Objectives of Workshop:

- Budgets analysis at national, state, local levels and transparency of policies, budgets and advocacy especially for marginalized and deprived sections.
- Provide information to different communities for understanding the budget in simple way and safeguarding the interests of the people of the nation.
- To check bottlenecks in the implementation of different government schemes and policies at grassroots level and protect the rights of disadvantaged communities.

The Agenda of the Workshop consisted of three sessions as listed below:

Session 1: Basic concept and terminologies related to budgets and policy in India: Budget making processes and institutions of central, state and local governments.

Session 2 : Policy and Budgets for Dalit and Adivasis and Policy and Budgets for Muslims.

Session 3 : Questions and Answers of the participants.



6. Pre-Budget Consultation and Advocacy

A Pre-Budget Consultation and Advocacy was jointly organized by IPSA and AIMMM in New Delhi on 28 August 2017. The workshop was successful for conveying the information related to budget and different types of schemes for the participants. Participants also got benefitted from the discussion of the groups under the

guidance of experts. Questions and answers session followed suit. The following enriched the discussions.

Chair: Navaid Hamid, President AIMMM

Moderations: Abdul Rashid Agwan

Presentation of Policy Ask: Jawed Alam Khan

Panelists: Sayeeda Hamid the former member Planning Commission, Siraj Hussain the former Secretary Government of India and Dr Waqar Anwar.

Key Points of Discussion

- Enhancement of Budget Allocation and Implementation of Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme (15-PP) for Welfare of Minorities
- The guidelines of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) covered under 15-PP should allow for customized intervention by identifying and filling up the development gaps in minority dominated localities.
- Minorities have not been included in budgetary process of either the Union or the State government by opening a minor head in detailed budget book and introducing a budget statement on minority related programs. The government should include minorities in the budgetary processes based on the strategy of implementation of SCSP and TSP.



- MSDP guideline should be revised to focus on undertaking initiatives that are need-based instead of topping-up approach adopted in the existing CSS covered under 15-PP. MSDP should emphasize Plans to overcome local development deficit instead of aiming to saturate the coverage of already

existing national program. Secondary and senior secondary schools need to be made functional already constructed under MSDP in many MCDs or Minority Concentrated Blocks. Further, there is a need for the establishment of degree colleges and construction of women hostel in MCDs for promoting higher education among the minority communities.

- The unit cost of scholarship has to be revised. There is a strong case for increasing allocation for Pre-Matric Scholarship including other scholarships (Post-Matric, Merit-cum-means, free coaching) from the existing level. Currently, Rs.1000 per annum under Pre - Matric Scholarship is allocated for each student of the minority community (Day Scholar) which is insufficient, especially if we take into account the rate of inflation and the increasing cost of quality education.
- Large number of students are deprived of scholarships due to technical glitches at the State level and many minority-run institutions are not able to register themselves on the online scholarship web portal. There is lack of coordination between bank and district administration in terms of opening bank account of students, hence delays in scholarships happened. Also, the application procedures need to be streamlined.
- Muslim community should try to grab the benefits from the general sector program and minority specific programs.
- There is a need to engage the government with regard to problems faced by the minority community.
- To conduct more research studies, impact evaluation and awareness about development programs.

Impact of the consultation: The policy asks on minority budget prepared during consultation was shared with the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment. The later had accepted several recommendations of the policy asks prepared by IPSA. It includes the suggestions like hike in minority budget, better utilisation, monitoring and evaluation, hike in the amount of scholarship schemes, demand driven and data on beneficiaries in MSDP and PM's New 15 Point Programme as two key components of minorities development in India.

حکومت کی اسکیموں سے اقلیتوں کو فائدہ اٹھانا چاہیے انٹی ٹیوٹ آف پالیسی اسٹڈیز کے زیر اہتمام سمینار میں مقررین کی اپیل



نئی دہلی (ایس پی این) آل انڈیا مسلم مشاورت کے ہال میں انٹی ٹیوٹ آف پالیسی اسٹڈیز (ایپا) کے زیر ایک روزہ بجٹ ورکشاپ کا انعقاد کیا گیا جس میں پسماندہ طبقات، خاص طور سے اقلیتوں کے لئے حکومت کے ذریعہ چھٹی جانے والی پالیسیوں، بجٹ اور اس کے نفاذ پر روشنی ڈالی گئی۔ ورکشاپ میں بڑی تعداد میں مختلف میٹھاؤں سے تعلق رکھنے والوں نے شرکت کی۔ ورکشاپ میں انہماک کے جنرل سکریٹری ہادیہ عالم خان نے اپنے خطبات کا اظہار کیا۔ انہوں نے مرکزی حکومت کے بجٹ 2018-19 اور اقلیتوں کی توقعات پر روشنی ڈالی اور حکومت کے ذریعہ اقلیتوں کے لیے چھٹی جاری اسکیموں، پالیسی، بجٹ اور اس کے نفاذ میں جو دشواریاں پیش آ رہی ہیں اس پر ایک تجاویز کیا۔ اس موقع پر گورنمنٹ آف

انڈیا کے سابق سکریٹری سراج حسین نے کہا کہ مسلمانوں کو اقلیتوں کے لیے مخصوص اسکیموں کے ساتھ ملحق اسکیموں سے بھی زیادہ فائدہ اٹھانا چاہیے۔ سابق منبر پلاننگ کمیٹی ممبر سعید مجید نے کہا کہ مسلمانوں کو حکومت کے ساتھ بڑ کرانے حقوق کی بات کرنی چاہیے، ساتھ ہی ریسرچ اور ایڈوکیسی میں آگے آنا چاہیے۔ ڈاکٹر قادر احمد نے صدر مقررہ معاملہ نے تمام شرکاء کا شکریہ ادا کیا۔



7. Post-Budget Consultation on How the Budget 2018-19 fared for Minorities?

Just following the presentation of Union Budget 2018-19 for approval in the Parliament on February 1, 2018, IPSA organized its review discussion on 'Development Justice: How the Budget 2018-19 Fared for Minorities' on 4 February 2018. The consultation was successful for conveying the information related to budget and different types of schemes for the participants. Participants also got benefitted from the discussion of the groups under the guidance of experts. Many participants suggested that the program should be conducted regularly for the awareness of the people. Many participants asked different questions on the

budget 2018-19. Questions and answers session was done successfully. Budgets are the government's most powerful tool to meet the needs of its people, especially those who are poor and marginalized. But in too many countries, budgetary decisions are made behind closed doors with little or no regard for the public interest. The results are poor policy choices and squandering of scarce public resources.

Objectives of Consultation:

- Budgets analysis at national, state, local levels and transparency of policies and advocacy especially for marginalized and deprived sections.
- Provide information to different communities for understanding the budget in simple way and safeguarding the interest of the people of the nation.
- To check the implementation of different government schemes and policies at ground levels and safe the rights of disadvantaged communities.

The participants of the consultation were Students, NGOs, Social Activists and Professionals of different multinational corporations. The program was moderated by Abdul Rashid Agwan. Panelists were Dr. Waqar Anwar, member of Jamat-e-Islami Hind and A. Abid Hussain, an expert in minority budget.

Key Points of Discussion

- Increase in Budget Allocation and Implementation of Prime Minister New 15 Point Programme (15 PP) for Welfare of Minorities
- The guidelines of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) covered under 15 PP should allow for customized intervention by identifying and filling up the development gaps in minority dominated localities.
- Discuss on Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for getting benefits for minorities.
- Survey the beneficiary of Government Scheme on the ground level whether people are getting benefits or not.
- The government should include minorities in the budgetary processes based on the strategy of implementation of SCSP and TSP.
- There is need to engage government with regard to problems faced by the minority community

- Large numbers of students are deprived of scholarships due to technical glitches at the State level and many minority-run institutions are not able to register on line scholarship web portal.
- To conduct more research studies, impact evaluation and awareness about development programmes
- Provide the suggestions to the government regarding the implementation of govt. scheme.
- Comparing ground situation with the amount of budget allocation.
- Getting information from different government organizations regarding different scheme and prepare questionnaire of particular program.
- Policy Asks for minorities on Union Budget 2018-19



8. Manual on Budget Analysis – Lets Understand Budget of Uttar Pradesh

IPSA has prepared a Manual on Budget and Development Schemes for Minorities of Uttar Pradesh in Urdu for the information of concerning sections of society. Its

soft copies have been circulated among functionaries of NGOs and community organizations.

9. Consultation on Sustainable Consumption and Climate Change

A joint Consultation on Sustainable Consumption and Climate Change was organized by Islamic Relief Worldwide and the Centre for Educational Research and Training at IICC, New Delhi on 21 December 2017. The President of IPSA and environmentalist Abdul Rashid Agwan played a key role in making it successful. Various environment activists and NGOs joined it to chalk out a joint strategy for promoting sustainable consumption and production under the drive of SDGs.

10. Participation in conferences and consultations

IPSA and its associates have been part of wider CSO platforms and government consultations, conferences, workshops and advocacy meetings. Some important events have been as follows:

- International Ambedkar Conference on “Reclaiming Social Justice, Revisiting Ambedkar” held at Bangalore under the aegis of the Government of Karnataka on 21-23 July 2017
- Peoples Budget Initiatives- a civil society network, New Delhi
- NITI Aayog (Government of India) – NFI Consultation on SDGs, New Delhi
- NITI Aayog –RIS Consultation on SDGs, New Delhi
- Participated in many consultations, seminars and conferences of research organisation, NGOs and think-tanks based in Delhi and Lucknow