

RGICS BRIEF

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National Plan of Action for Children (2016) Upholds Unsuccessful Mechanism to Deliver Un-fulfilled Promises

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PART: I Introduction and Background

Introduction:

Following from the National Policy for Children, 2013, the government of India has launched the National Plan of Action for Children, 2016 (NPAC-2016) in January 2017. The NPAC-2016 is India's fourth plan of action for children; earlier the government of India had adopted NPAC in 1979, 1992 and 2005. The latest plan of action promises to bring positive changes in lives of nearly 472 million children, who constitute 39% of India's population. The plan claims itself as country's practical expression for commitment to national progress and declaration of fundamental investment.

The NPAC-2016 is structured around four key priorities recognized nationally and internationally to make the world a better place for children. These priorities are Right to Survival, Right to Development, Right to Protection and Right to Participation as envisaged in various UN conventions and national policies including National Policy for Children, 2013. Each of these priorities has been further sub categorized with specific measurable goals and objectives. For example, reduction in mortality is measurable goal under right to survival; similarly, enrollment and retention in schools are measurable goals under right to development. Further, these indicators have been mapped against programmes/schemes of related Ministries and Departments. The document further takes each indicator and places it under strategies and actionable programmes of concerned Ministries/Department. This plan has set targets for the next five years and intends to achieve set targets by 2021. This plan has acknowledged that the previous plan (NPAC-2005) could not achieve its target and therefore, the current plan carries them forward. This document is an attempt to reflect on previous NPACs and logistics and implementation mechanism of the NPAC-2016 in the light of lessons learnt from the past.

India's Progress on Selected Output Indicators:

At the policy front, India has been proactive to express its commitment for children. Apart from several versions of National Plan of Action for Children, India had adopted National Policy of Children in 1974 and 2013. It acceded to the UN convention on the Rights of Child (CRC) in 1992 and developed a National Charter for Children in 2003. Moreover, the implementation of flagship programmes such as Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and Right to Education (RTE) are few examples of India's commitment to create better future of children in India. Each time it was envisaged to improve the situation and undoubtedly, implementation of child specific policies yielded positive results pertaining to realization of rights to the children. The plan of action for children has been formulated to catalyze the process of change and amplify the impact of efforts made by various stakeholders working towards realizing rights of children. There are several levels of governments, ministries, departments and agencies

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working on issues pertaining to children in India. For instance the National Commission for Protection of Children (NCPCR) is responsible for monitoring of violations of child rights, the department/ministry of education is the nodal agency for providing free and compulsory education to all, the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) looks after universal care and early education to all. These plans have also been envisaged to develop effective coordination and conversance amongst various stakeholders.

As it is mentioned above that India progressed in terms of realization of rights for children, but the progress remain very slow. Successive plans of action for children failed in achieving their goals. The following matrix describes India's progress on selected indicators after adoption of third NPAC in 2005.

Indicators	NPAC-2005 (Target 2010 or before)	Current Situation	NPAC-2016 (Target 2021 or before)
Maternal Mortality Ratio	reduce to below 100 per 100,000 live births by 2010	167 per one lakh live birth (SRS 2011-13)	<100
Neo-natal Mortality Rate	reduce to below 18 per 1000 live births by 2010	26 per 1000 live birth (SRS 2014)	21
Infant Mortality Rate	Reduce to below 30 per 1000 live births by 2010.	39 per 1000 live birth (SRS 2014)	25
U5 Mortality Rate	reduce to below 31 per 1000 live births by 2010	45 per 1000 live birth (SRS 2014)	25
Malnutrition among children	To reduce under five malnutrition and low birth weight by half by 2010. Stunted children- 48% Wasted Children- 19.8% Severely wasted children- 6.4% Underweight Children- 42.5% (NFHS-3; 2005-06)	Stunted children- 38.4% Wasted Children- 21.0% Severely wasted children- 7.5% Underweight Children- 37.5% (NFHS-4; 20015-16)	% of Children 0-59 months stunted – 24 % of Children 0-59 months severely stunted –4 % of Children 0-59 months underweight – 21.2
Early childhood Care and Education (ECCE)	To ensure integrated care and development and pre-school learning opportunities for all children aged 3 to 6	68.8% (Rural – 67, Urban 71.9) of children aged 3-6 years currently attending pre-school education	Provide universal and equitable access to quality Early Childhood Care

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	years.	(RSOC 2013-14)	and Education (ECCE) for optimal development and active learning capacity of all children below six years of age
Education for 6-14 years age group	To provide free and compulsory education of good quality to all children in the 6-14 years age group.	RTE Act, 2009 ensures free and compulsory education to all in age 6-14 years age group	Ensure better implementation of RTE Act, 2009
Child Marriage	Eliminate Child Marriage by 2010	30.3% (Rural- 33.5, Urban - 22.4) of women in age group of 14-20 years before 18 years (RSOC 2013-14) 20.2% of men aged 25-29 married before age 21(RSOC 2013-14)	Prevent child marriage and promote protection of girl child
Child Labour	Complete abolition of child labour with the aim of progressively eliminating all forms of economic exploitation of children.	According to Census 2011, 3.9% children in age group 5-14 years are child labourers (4.25 in rural and 2.93% in urban)	0 by 2025
Out of School Children	100% access and retention in schools, including pre-schools.	2.97% (3.13% in rural and 2.9% in urban) children are out of school (SSA and SRI-IMRB, 2014)	Reduce to 1% by 2021

Source: NPAC-2005 and NPAC-2016

The matrix above shows that promises of NPAC-2005 remained unfulfilled and the new plan of action has extended the date for achieving these targets. In 2005, it was promised that situation will improve by 2010 and the current plan looks for realization of that change by 2021. The plan of action has simply collated self-set targets of various stakeholders working with children. Therefore, achieving the goals of the plan of action is responsibility of concerned stakeholder. The plan of action will act as a coordinating mechanism to monitor targets. The success of the policy relies on its ability to motivate several stakeholders and make them engaged.

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PART: II Lessons from the past

National Plan of Action (1992):

The second National Plan of Action for Children was adopted in 1992, which was revised later in 1997. It followed from the United Nations Convention on Child Right (CRC) as a national mechanism to realize goals of the CRC. The government of India in its plan of action picked 12 out of 27 priority children's issues discussed in World Summit for Children, 1990. The NPAC- 1992 had priorities issues such as health, nutrition, education, water, sanitation and environment. It had set quantifiable targets under each priority issue and promised to achieve them by 2000. The overall purpose of the plan was to improve the system for children in eight years from 1992 to 2000. In order to achieve set targets, the plan also highlighted actionable programmes of various sectors/ministries/department pertaining to priority issues of the plan. It was multi-sectoral document, where the responsibility of monitoring progress of quantifiable goals was with concerned sector¹. For example, the responsibility of health lay with the health department/ministry to achieve targets related to health and wellbeing of children. The implementation and monitoring of the plan was segmented. It had no mention of coordination and conversance between different sectors and governments. Much later in 2000, the government of India constituted a national coordinating mechanism within Department of Women and Child Development to coordinate programmes regarding implementation of the UN-CRC.

The government of India reported its progress on NPAC-1992 to the UN committee on Rights of the Child as it was India's implementation mechanism for UN-CRC. The government of India in its second periodic report to UN committee on Child Rights in 2001 claimed that major States have adopted State Plan of Action for Children for faster realization of goals. The report further claimed that a high-powered inter-ministerial committee in the Department of Women and Child Development had been constantly monitoring mid-decade and decadal goals². However, the United Nations expressed its concerns regarding efficiency of coordination mechanism established by the government. The observation of UN Committee on Rights of the Child, reads, "A national coordinating mechanism was constituted in January 2000, but only met once, in September 2000. The Committee is, however, of the view that greater coordination is still required among the different bodies responsible for the implementation of the Convention at the federal and state levels and between the federal Government and the states³." The committee on child rights of United Nations has also observed that despite the adoption of the National Plan of Action for Children- 1992 as implementation mechanism of CRC, the improvement in conditions of children was very slow.

¹ National Plan of Action-1992, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, retrieved from: <http://www.icds-wcd.nic.in/npac.htm>,

² Second Periodic Report of India to UN committee on the Rights of the Child, United Nations, Convention on the Rights of the Child, retrieved from: <http://www.childlineindia.org.in/CP-CR-Downloads/UNCRC%20India%20periodic%20report%202001.pdf>

³ Concluding Observations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on Third and Fourth Combined Report of India, United Nations, Convention on the Rights of the Child, retrieved from: <http://wcd.nic.in/sites/default/files/childobserv.pdf>

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National Plan of Action (2005)

In 2005, the government of India after several consultations with various stakeholders introduced a new action plan for children. The National Plan of Action for Children, 2005 (NPAC-2005) had renewed India's commitment to provide better life for its children. This NPAC further committed to achieve targets of 'World Fit for Children' a document adopted by United Nations on May 10, 2002. The document listed quantifiable indicators pertaining to child rights and set goal for next five years. In order to achieve set goals of the NPAC-2005, the document described objective, strategies and activities for each goal. The plan focused on 12 key areas which includes reduction in mortality, universalization of early childhood care and quality education, abolition of female foeticide and child marriage, improvement in services such as water and sanitation and ensuring rights of children in difficult circumstances. The then Minister of Human Resource and Development Mr. Arjun Singh placed this plan of action as an instrument to remove hurdles to improve conditions of children in India. In his message he wrote, "The present National Plan of Action has been prepared to remove obstacles to improve the condition of the children of our country. The goals for children can be achieved in quality and in time, if institutional arrangements, organizational requirements and resource commitments are more specifically identified and better assured in a joint endeavour by all segments of the society." The plan incorporated various mechanisms to realize the dream of the government expressed by Mr. Arjun Singh. The NPAC-2005 was a step ahead in terms of describing issues and proposing desired action. Moreover, it included various new mechanisms to ensure better implementation. Some of these mechanisms are- Child Budgeting to ensure sufficient resources, Monitoring Group to monitor progress of each target, Implementation mechanism and conversance and coordination between different sectors.

The concept of child budgeting initiated by the NPAC-2005 pushed for enhancement in budget of ministries and department directly working with children and 100% utilization of allocated budget. In the case of ministries and department having overt child budget were asked to demarcate specific child budget, spending and monitoring. The Ministry of Finance later adopted it as regular budget exercise. The yearly Union budget publishes child budget called Statement-12 (earlier Statement-22) which contains budget allocation for children specific schemes/program under various ministries and department. The child budget has been instrumental in identifying gaps between policy formulation and resource allocation.

Unlike the NPAC-1992 the plan of 2005 stressed on coordination and conversance between various stake holders, ministries, departments and governments to ensure better implementation of the plan. This plan moved from sectoral responsibility of 1992 to collective responsibility. In 1992 sectors were demarcated and the respective ministry/department was responsible for effective implementation of schemes in order to achieve goal of that particular sector. Realizing the complex nature of issues related to children, the plan of 2005 stressed for inter-sectoral coordination, convergence and cooperation. The plan distributes ultimate responsibility of implementation between central, state and local governments. It aimed at utilizing skill, expertise, knowledge, resources, infrastructure and network of various stakeholders including non-governmental organizations in more coordinated manner for effective implementation of the plan.

The NPAC-2005 had also put in place a comprehensive monitoring mechanism and expected regular monitoring and review at national, state and district level. All states were asked for formulate their own state level plan of action for children. At the national level a National Coordination Group was created to monitor overall implementation of the plan.

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The Department of Women and Child Development was created as a nodal agency for coordination and monitoring. It also suggested that more mechanisms of review and monitoring be developed which includes setting up of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights and Central Nodal Authority for combating trafficking. Realizing the lack of disaggregated data pertaining to children, the plan also incorporated efforts for strengthening existing data collection mechanisms and ensuring better quality data to assess performance on regular basis.

The NPAC-2005 brought in several new methods and mechanisms to create better life conditions for children in India. It was an ambitious document and wanted to achieve several targets by 2010. Compared to the plan of 1992, the NPAC-2005 was more elaborated with specific time-bound targets and multi-level monitoring and review mechanisms. It expected coordinated and cooperative teamwork of different ministries, departments and governments. However, the execution of the plan and therefore, the final outcome disappointed national and global communities working with children. The plan hardly achieved any target it set for 2010. The NPAC-2016 acknowledges that various goals of the previous plan of action remain unfulfilled; therefore, the new plan of action carries them forward and intends to achieve them by 2021.

PART: III

The National Plan of Action for Children-2016

The above discussion shows that despite improvement in writing a plan of action, successive plan of actions for children in India failed to achieve their targets. The new plan of action launched in 2017 has also added some new features, but experiences show that it alone cannot guarantee realization of set goals. There is need to learn from previous plan of actions, their achievement, failure, difficulties and shortcomings. However, it has not been followed by successive plan of actions for children in India. In fact, the new Plan of Action for Children (NPAC-2016) admits that it was finalized without undertaking any formal evaluation of previous plan of action. Therefore, the question remain in mind that, is it going to be another good document which does not take into account the ground realities responsible for its implementation. For the success of the new plan, we must review provisions of NPAC-2016 in the light of experiences from previous plans. The following section of this document is an attempt to evaluate selected implementation provisions of the NPAC-2016 in the light of lessons learnt from previous plans.

Data Gathering and Timely Reporting:

The NPAC-2016 has also acknowledged that there is a problem with the way data is collected and reported pertaining to the children in India. It has identified the absence of robust data reporting mechanism and availability of disaggregated data as one of major hindrance in assessing performance and achieving desired goals. This problem has been highlighted as a major challenge successively by last three plans of action for children. The NPAC-1992 promised to create sector-wise effective MIS system to obtain timely and reliable information. The responsibility of generating such data and monitoring progress was with respective sectors. The NPAC-2005 moved towards having a comprehensive system to collect and analyze data on children, based on age, gender, cultural and socio-economic grouping and special need and

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circumstances. In order to do this the policy focused on strengthening existing data collection mechanisms. There has been effort towards strengthening data collection mechanism especially in health and education sector.

Under the aegis of National Rural Health Mission, the government of India has developed various national and area specific data collection mechanism to monitor health indicators related to maternal and child health care and effectiveness of public health institutions. Data on enrollment of children, retention and drop-out has also been streamlined. However, the government itself acknowledged that these efforts were not enough. The third and fourth combined report of India to UN Committee on the Right of the Child (CRC), which was planned for submission in 2008 delayed by three years due to unavailability of data. On the issue of delayed submission of the report, the government of India in its report in 2011 accepted that the internal “discussion among ministries, constant feedback on the report and availability of new data has been a continuing challenge in the finalisation of the Report.”⁴ The UN Committee on the Right of the Child in its observation on the India’s third and fourth combined report to the Committee stressed the need for disaggregated data on all child rights indicators⁵. It shows that despite several efforts, it remains a major challenge for India.

Responding to this crucial aspect of the plan, the NPAC-2016 reaffirmed the need of having a robust data collection and analysis mechanism. The document suggests for developing a comprehensive database. However, the NPAC-2016 does not have any concrete plan to develop this database. It expects NIC and Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation to develop a system for such platform. The plan of action reads, “NIC and Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation may undertake the responsibility with the support of NCAG and other agencies engaged in collecting data.” It means the plan has set measurable targets for next five years, but it has not yet developed a system to measure it. Even after acknowledging data gap as one of the major challenges, the uncertainty over system of desired data collection and reporting system reflects callousness of the plan.

Implementation, Coordination and Conversance:

Unlike the NPAC-1992 the plan of action for children in 2005 involved state and local governments. The primary responsibility of realizing the goals of the plan was with central, state and local governments. In order to ensure effective implementation, regular monitoring and review of plan at district and state level were expected. Each state was asked to develop their state plan following from the national plan of action. However, the response from various state governments was disappointing. A study carried out by HAQ-Centre for Rights of Children in 2011 reveals that only 17 states have had some plan of action for children in place. According to the study these state includes Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal⁶. The study further reveals that most of these plans of action were formulated before adoption of NPAC-2005. Only Bihar and Odisha formulated their plan of action for

⁴ Third and Fourth Combined Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Ministry of Women and Child Development, retrieved from: http://icds-wcd.nic.in/crc3n4/crc3n4_lr.pdf

⁵ Twenty Years of CRC- A Balance Sheet, 2011, HAQ-Centre for Child Rights, retrieved from: <http://haqrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/twenty-years-of-crc-a-balance-sheet-volume-II.pdf>

⁶ Twenty Years of CRC- A Balance Sheet, 2011, HAQ-Centre for Child Rights, retrieved from: <http://haqrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/twenty-years-of-crc-a-balance-sheet-volume-II.pdf>

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children after the release of NPAC-2005. It means only these two states revised their plan of action for children according to NPAC-2005.

The plan had also focused on inter- sectoral coordination and conversance of programmes of various ministries and department affecting children. The NPAC-2005 empowered Department of Women and Child Development to take up responsibility of overall coordination between ministries, departments and governments. For this task, the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) was expected to create a National Coordination Group (NCG). However, the MoWCD constituted the National Coordination Group (NCG) for NPAC-2005 in 2007. According to a report of MoWCD, the first meeting of NCG held in 2008 where the group discussed provisions of NPAC, 2005, and the proposed actions to be taken collectively by all the Ministries and Departments, including the State Governments, for achieving the targets⁷. Despite having a provision of national coordination mechanism in NPAC-2005, it took more than two years to the government to materialize it. Moreover, it remains only on paper, according to a study of HAQ-Centre for Child Rights, after reconstitution of NCG in 2007, it met only once to discuss a list of indicators on the eight specific parameters chosen by the office of Prime Minister of India to monitor progress of NPAC⁸. In the absence of coordination, conversance and cooperation, the NPAC-2005 was bound to fail in its mission.

The implementation plan, coordination and conversance mechanism of new NPAC is largely similar to NPAC-2005. It encourages all state governments to formulate their state level plan of action for children. Similarly, it has empowered MoWCD as a nodal agency for overseeing implementation and monitoring of NPAC-2016. For this purpose, the ministry would constitute a National Co-ordination and Action Group (NCAG) within the ministry. The plan goes little further in detailing decentralized coordination and monitoring. The plan has also provision of constituting State Co-ordination and Action Group (SCAG) at state level to monitor progress of state and district level plans. The important issue here is that the new plan largely replicate institutional mechanisms of previous NPAC but does not reflect on its failure and non-implementation. We have experience from last NPAC that this system did not work but repeating same system without correcting its drawback is problematic. The idea of inter-sectoral coordination and conversance is old and important but we yet to find way to materialize it. The new plan of action should work on methodology and processes for coordination and conversance, else it will meet fate of previous NPACs.

Resource Allocation

Financial, human and infrastructural resources have been one big concern especially in the sector of health, education, nutrition and early childhood care. There have been various efforts to enhance financial resources in these sectors in order to improve around human resources and infrastructural facilities in schools, hospitals and ICDS centers. The NPAC-1992 had acknowledged it and promised to proactively work for ensuring adequate budget allocation for implementation of the plan. The NPAC in 2005 reaffirmed this commitment and assured adequate funding from central and state governments for the implementation of the plan. It went a step further and brought the concept of child

⁷ Third and Fourth Combined Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Ministry of Women and Child Development, retrieved from: http://icds-wcd.nic.in/crc3n4/crc3n4_lr.pdf

⁸ Twenty Years of CRC- A Balance Sheet, 2011, HAQ-Centre for Child Rights, retrieved from: <http://haqrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/twenty-years-of-crc-a-balance-sheet-volume-II.pdf>

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budgeting for central and state governments. The plan pushed for a statement along with annual budget of governments with demarcation of budget allotted for children. The government of India in 2008-09 formally initiated publication of child budget. Along with Child budget, the NPAC-2005 also pushed for enhancing budget for children in various department and ministries. To ensure more financial, material and technical resources for children, the plan envisaged collaboration with international development organization, civil societies, private sector and non-governmental organizations.

Child budgeting has been an integral part of the union budget, the government of India, releases statement on proposed investment on children on yearly basis. This exercise has shown that initially a marginal but continuous increase in child budget was observed. The total share of child budget in union budget increased from 3.9% (RE) in 2008-09 to 4.76% in 2012-13. However, a continuous decline in share of child budget has been observed from 2012-13 to till now. The latest budget for FY 2017-18 allocated only 3.32% of total budget to the children. Lack of financial resources for child specific sectors has been realized as major hurdle in realizing rights of children. Various studies have revealed that the consistent shortage of funds for child specific sector has produced under-performing public institutions. For instance, number of studies under NRHM has revealed that most of Sub-centers (SCs), Primary Health Centers (PHCs), Community Health Centers (CHCs) and District Hospital do not have desired number of human resources and adequate facilities to deliver health care services related to mother and child health care. The Rural Health Statistics, 2015 reveals huge scarcity of public health institutions and medical professionals. According to the report, despite significant increase in rural health institutions from 2005 to 2015, rural India still has shortfall of 35146 SCs, 6556 PHCs, 2316 CHCs. During 2005 and 2015 number of SCs increased by 5.2%, PHC by 8.9% and CHC by 61.3%. The availability of required human resources, medicine and physical infrastructure is so bad in existing rural health institutions that around 80% of PHCs and SCs do not comply with Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS). In the case of CHCs, only 26% of them in the country are functioning as per IPHS guidelines⁹.

The Rapid Survey on Children, 2013-14 conducted by MoWCD reveals that nearly 60% of ICDS centers do not have their own building, 48% centers do not have separate kitchen to cook supplementary food, 57% centers do not have toilet facilities and more and 55% centers do not have drinking water facilities¹⁰. Similarly, despite several commitments, the education for children remains underfunded from state and central governments. According to a study of Right to Education Forum, governments responsible for ensuring fundamental rights of education failed to provide adequate resources for the financing of RTE¹¹. The union budget has observed consistent decline in budget allocation for Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) from 2013-14. The budget allocated for SSA funds cost of implementing the Right to Education. According to the Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability (CBGA), the MHRD approved Rs. 55,000 core for

⁹ Rural Health Statistics, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, Retrieved from: [https://nrhm-mis.nic.in/Pages/RHS2015.aspx?RootFolder=%2FRURAL%20HEALTH%20STATISTICS%2F\(A\)RHS%20-%202015&FolderCTID=&View=%7BC50BC181-07BB-4F78-BE6F-FCE916B64253%7D](https://nrhm-mis.nic.in/Pages/RHS2015.aspx?RootFolder=%2FRURAL%20HEALTH%20STATISTICS%2F(A)RHS%20-%202015&FolderCTID=&View=%7BC50BC181-07BB-4F78-BE6F-FCE916B64253%7D)

¹⁰ Rapid Survey on Children (RSOC), 2014, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, Retrieved from: <http://wcd.nic.in/sites/default/files/RSOC%20FACT%20SHEETS%20Final.pdf>

¹¹ Status of Implementation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, 2014-15, Right to Education Forum (RTE Forum), retrieved from: http://www.rteforumindia.org/sites/default/files/Report_2014-15.PDF

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implementation of RTE in 2017-18, however the government of India allocated only Rs. 23500 core¹². The current allocation is mere 42% of total financial resources required for RTE in the financial year.

The inadequate financial support for children specific sector has been a major hindrance in realization of goals set for children in previous NPACs. The latest plan of action (NPAC-2016) reaffirms the commitment of adequate allocation of financial resources for implementation of the plan. It seeks minimum 5% of union budget for children; however, the first budget of the NPAC-2016 allocated only 3.3% of total union budget for children. The only addition in this segment of the plan, the NPAC-2016 would develop a comprehensive child budget, which will reflect similar allocation by various state governments and local bodies. Like previous NPACs, the provision related to adequate financing for NPAC-2016 is also recommendatory in nature. Previous NPACs showed that India has been setting progressive targets with half-hearted financial commitment. In order to bridge the gap between targets for children and adequate financing, there is need to go beyond recommendations and ensure required financial resource for children.

PART: IV Conclusion

While releasing the third national plan of action for children in 2005, the then Minister of Human Resource and Development stressed on arrangement of institutional mechanisms, organizational requirements and adequate resources as key to realization of rights for children in quality and in time. Moreover, successive plans of action for children proposed materializing these keys of success in best ways. Each NPAC evolved with conceptualizing issues pertaining to effective implementation of plan but none of them were executed. Poor performances of successive NPACs shows that the implementation mechanism is very poor and does not match with ground realities. We severely lack in methodology and processes to execute implementation plan of NPAC. The latest plan of action for children has also flipped through this crucial issue, as it has not tried to evaluate failure of previous NPACs. Without having robust implementation mechanisms and adequate financial resources, all promises of NPACs are nothing more than lies. In order to be honest to children of the country, more than a new plan, India needs determination to fulfill its promises for children.

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¹² What Do the Numbers Tell? An Analysis of Union Budget 2017-18, CBGA, India, Retrieved from: <http://www.cbgaindia.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Analysis-of-Union-Budget-2017-18-4.pdf>