

Caring Society in the budget 2020

Dr. Challoju Jyothsna

Asst. Professor
Department of Political Science
GDC Sadashivapet, Medak Dist
Telangana
Ph: 9849617361
email: kpjyodl@gmail.com

Abstract

The budget 2020 proposed the ACE themes i.e. **Aspirational India** (4,82,401cr)in which all sections of the society seek better standards of livingwith access to health, education and better jobs. The second is **Caring Society (62,626 cr)**that is both humane and compassionate. The thirdof this is **Economic development for all (2,37,604cr)**. As Indicated in the Prime Minister’s exhortation of – SabkaSaath, SabkaVikas, SabkaVishwas, this would entail reforms across swathes of the economy. **The objective of these goals are promoting** Ease of Living to all citizens and a need to uplift the governance

Among the three ACE themes, Caring society occupies key position as it is concerned with three areas of Women&Child, Social Welfare, Culture and Tourism and Environment and Climate Change.

In the field of women & Child, Social Welfare, there is need for improving maternity mortality rate.

Regarding Culture & Tourism there is a focus on foreign tourism. The US president Trump’s visit to India will have an impact on the tourism front. Hence higher education in the tourism field needs focus.

With reference to the Environment & Climate Change, global partnership in achieving the sustainable development goals is necessary. Eco friendly energy resources are to be developed.

In accordance with these ideas, in view, a society that cares for society, climate and tourism needs to be developed to create the New India not only in view ofIndia @ 75 in 2022 but in view of 2047 when independent India turns 100

The 2020 budget is woven around three prominent themes, aspirational India, in which all sections of society seek better standards of living, economic development for all, indicated in Prime Minister's exhortation 'SabkaSaath, SabkaVikaas', and lastly, ours shall be a caring society.

A. Women & Child and Social Welfare

BetiBachaoBetiPadhao” has yielded tremendous results. Gross enrolment ratio of girls across all levels of education is now higher than boys. At elementary level, it is 94.32 % as against 89.28% for boys. At Secondary level, it is 81.32 % as compared to 78 %. At higher secondary level it is 59.70 % as compared to 57.54 % for boys.

To improve the nutritional status of children (0-6 years), adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers “Poshan Abhiyan” was launched in 2017-18. More than six lakh anganwadi workers are equipped with smart phones to upload the nutritional status of more than 10 crore households.

In the experience of these achievement, the government has promised the following aspects that includes – constituting a task force to suggest measures to lower the MMR and to improve the nutrition level. The report to be presented in 6 months. Further, 35600crore will be allotted for nutrition-related programmes. About 28,600crore allocated for programs that are specific to women.

With reference to social welfare, the government is determined that there shall be no manual cleaning of sewer systems or septic tanks. Suitable technologies for such tasks have been identified by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. The Ministry is working with urban local bodies for the adoption of these technologies. Legislative and institutional changes. Financial support for wider acceptance of such technologies will be provided.

B. Culture & Tourism

India has moved up from rank 65 in 2014 to 34 in 2019 in the Travel & Tourism Competitive Index (World Economic Forum). Foreign exchange earnings grew 7.4% to `1.88 lakh crores for the period January to November 2019 from `1.75 lakh crores. Growth of tourism directly relates to growth and employment.

The budget proposes to establish the Indian Institute of Heritage and Conservation under Ministry of Culture. It shall have the status of a deemed University to start with.

Five archaeological sites would be developed as iconic sites with on-site Museums. They are: Rakhigarhi (Haryana); Hastinapur (Uttar Pradesh); Shivsagar (Assam); Dholavira (Gujarat); Adichanallur (Tamil Nadu).

It is also proposed to re-curation of the Indian Museum in Kolkata(It is the oldest in the country. In the historic Old Mint building Kolkata, a museum on Numismatics and Trade will also be located. Four more museums from across the country shall be taken up for renovation and re-curation so that a world class experience can be offered to visitors.

The government will also support setting up of a Tribal Museum in Ranchi (Jharkhand).A maritime museum would be set up at Lothal- the Harrapan age maritime site near Ahmedabad, by Ministry of Shipping.

In addition to the role of the union, the states also required to play a critical role. They have to – develop a roadmap for certain identified destinations; formulate financial plans during 2021 against which specified grants will be made available to the States in 2020-21. For purpose of tourism promotion 2,500 crore will allocated

C. Environment & Climate Change

In September 2019, the Prime Minister has launched the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) with its Secretariat in Delhi. This global partnership is the second such international initiative after the launch of International Solar Alliance in 2015.

This Global Partnership will help in addressing a number of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as also the aims of Sendai framework. It will enhance climate change adaptation with a focus on disaster resilient infrastructure

India submitted its Nationally Determined Contribution, under the Paris Agreement in 2015 on a “best effort” basis, keeping in mind the development imperative of the country. Its implementation effectively begins on 1st January 2021.

For the thermal power plants that are old and their carbon emission levels are high utilities running them would be advised to close them, if their emission is above the pre-set norms. The land so vacated can be put to alternative use.

In large cities having population above one million, clean air is a matter of concern. The government proposes to encourage such States that are formulating and implementing plans for ensuring cleaner air in cities above one million. Parameters for the incentives would be notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate change. Allocation for this purpose is 4400 crore for 2020-21.

Issues

It is exciting to see about the caring society in the budget. Caring for culture, tourism, environment and climate change. However, lumping it with women and children and social welfare, distracts one from a very serious gender issue and robs it of its political significance—the management of the care economy so disproportionately shouldered by women.

It looks like, the budget is synchronised with the sustainable development goals of the UNO. But, such incorporation of contrasting issues under the umbrella concept of caring society will only going to create confusion.

More over women and child welfare and the welfare of scavengers can not be achieved, merely by sprinkling of the financial allocations. If we break down the women and child development sector by schemes, there is the much talked about BetiBachao, BetiPadhao project, which was aimed at addressing the issue of declining child sex ratio. In the 2001 Census the child sex ratio of India was 927, which declined to 919 in the 2011 Census.

According to the National Family Health Survey-4, the child sex ratio was 919 in 2015–16; we hope it improves in the 2021 Census. But, it may be noted that the allocation to this scheme, `220 crore is lower than what was budgeted in 2019–20, which was `280 crore, but slightly higher than the revised estimate of `200 crore.

Looking at some other schemes like the Pradhan Mantri MatruVandana Yojana (maternity benefit scheme), which can be perceived as supporting women in their homemaker's role, the allocation between 2019–20 and 2020–21 has remained the same, `2,500 crore as budgeted last year. As far as the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), which takes over a large responsibility of childcare, is concerned, the estimate for 2020–21 is `20,532.38 crore, higher than the revised 2019–20 estimate of `17,704.50 crore (16%), but a mere 3.5% increase compared to the budget estimate of 2019–20.

It is unfortunate that environment and climate change is not addressed in conjunction with the productive sectors of the economy, but tagged on the care work economy. There is a romantic view that women are closer to nature and more caring, and hence are likely to care

more for the environment. This is unfortunate, as it puts the burden of protecting the environment on women, who are already burdened as noted above.

How much would be achieved for a critical theme of the union budget with such increases remains doubtful. Finding solutions to care work is a challenge faced by an increasing number of women entering the workforce, as they seek to simultaneously fulfil their responsibilities in bearing and raising the next generation. As SDG 5.4 states, recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.

Women will certainly not have ease of living unless this issue is sorted out, by providing much higher allocations to public services, social infrastructure and creating a gender-conscious society.