



**Study on
Budget Analysis by the Children**

Conducted by:
Centre for Services and Information on Disability (CSID)

Supported by:
Save the Children

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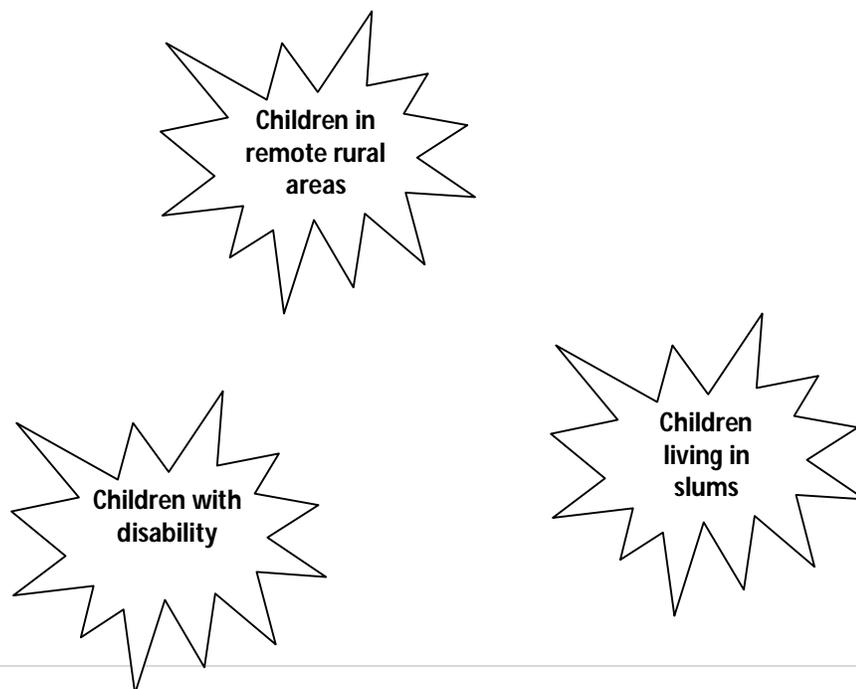
1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Budget analysis is conventionally recognized as the exclusive domain of experts and professionals. However, over the last couple of decades there is a growing trend among different sections of the population particularly among marginalized and disadvantaged groups to critically analyze the budget and raise their demands to ensure justice and fairness in the distribution of public resources. The idea is fundamentally premised on the ground that the tax-payers have every right to know how their money is being spent and participation in decision-making process is a constitutional right. Children are no exception in this case. Children's participation in the budget making process should be seen in this aspect. Their ideas, perceptions and opinions could inform the budget making process to make it more participatory and responsive one.

Such an exercise essentially requires providing children a proper orientation on budget, budget-making process and details about allocation of resources in a very child-friendly way. Center for Services and Information on Disability (CSID) with the support of Save the Children Bangladesh has undertaken such an initiative to involve a group of children in analyzing both local and national government budget from the perspective of their own local community and problems they face. The initiative could be seen as an Action Research project fully participatory in nature. It involved a series of workshops and dialogues among the child participants facilitated by a team of facilitators with required skills in facilitating child initiatives. It was a long 6-months project involving three different groups of children in analyzing the budget from their own perspectives.

The present report is one of the outcomes the 'budget journey' of the children with particular focus on their research findings.

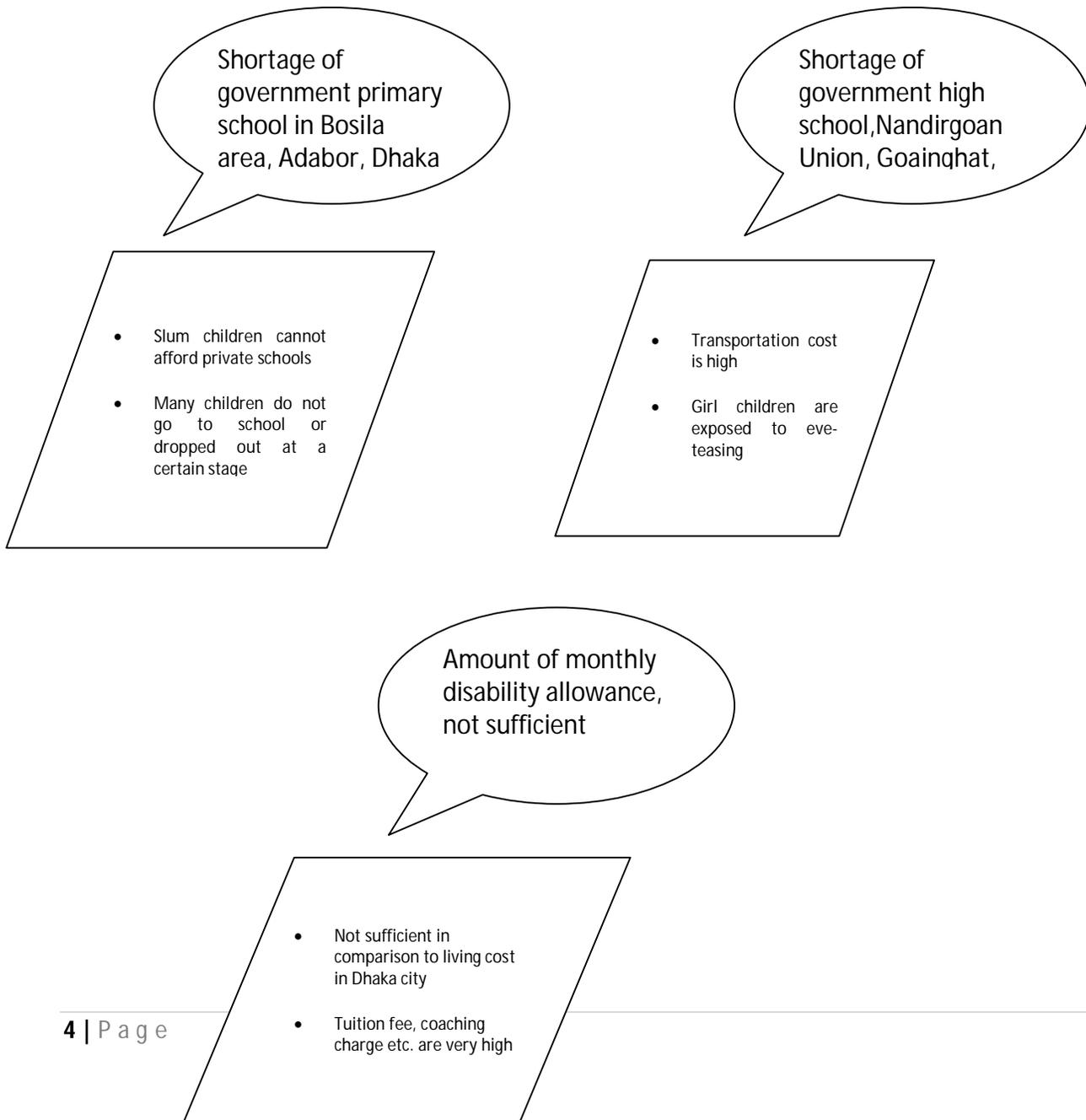
Groups of Children engaged in Budget Analysis



2. CHILDREN GROUPS, CONTEXT AND ISSUES

A total of 57 children, comprised of three groups were involved in the research project. Three different groups were namely Slum Group (20), Remote Rural Group (22) and Disability Group (15). Three groups have identified three different issues through intense debate and discussion among themselves in order to look into the budgetary allocation from that perspective. Tasks were identified to look into the budgetary documents whether allocations are in place to address their identified problems. It involved data collection from both local government and national government offices and discussion with elected representatives of the local government and national government officials.

Problem identified, consequences visualized



2.1 Disability Group: The amount of monthly Disability Allowance in very poor

Currently monthly Disability Allowance is BDT 600. According to the members of the disability group the amount is very poor in terms educational expenses and living cost in Dhaka city. Most of the group members are studying in schools. Tuition fee, coaching charge and transportation etc. has gone up. On an average, they need pay BDT 400 as tuition fee, BDT 1000 as coaching charge and BDT 300 as transportation cost. Parents feel difficulties paying these essential costs associated with their studies. Many families do not send their disabled children to schools simply because of the high cost of sending kids to schools.

2.2 Remote Rural group: Establishing a Government High School in Nandirgaon Union, Goainghat, Sylhet

In Nandirgaon Union of Goainghat Upazilla, Syleht, there are one Junior Secondary school and 2 secondary schools. But all are private schools where tuition fees are very high (BDT 100-200) in comparison to the living cost of this remote and poverty-prone area. In this Union, more than 27 thousand people are living in 15 villages. Schools are located in two different parts of the Union. Cost of transportation is added in the total expenses associated with study. Moreover, girl children are often exposed to eve-teasing while they are on their way to school. Establishing a government Junior Secondary school can help these poor children and their families from spending a lot of money for education.

2.3 Slum Group: Establishing government primary schools in Bosila area, Adabor, Dhaka

According to Census of Slum Areas and Floating Population 2014 (BBS: 2014), there are 549 different types of slums in Adabor area, Dhaka North city Corporation with more than 80,000 people living in these slums. However, there are only 4 government primary schools with many more private and NGO-run schools available in this area. The members of Slum groups, mostly living in the Bosila area of Adabor Thana are of the same view that the private schools are very expensive and NGO schools are mostly non-formal in nature while government schools are overcrowded. Since their parents are very poor, mostly day-laborer living in the slums, families face difficulties sending their kinds to private schools. In Bosila area there is just one government primary school available now. Many poor families do not send their children to school because of the shortage of government primary schools. Establishing a couple of primary schools in Bosila area has become a need of the time. It would help them continue their study.

3. METHODOLOGY

For the children, the research project was fundamentally an `explorotative' one. The principal methodology applied was participatory workshop which included group work and presentation, drawing pictures, exercise of priority setting, area visit, debate and discussion with different types of funs and games.

It involved a 'data collection' phase where a semi-structured open-ended questionnaire was developed by each group and visited both local government and national government representatives and their offices to collect budget related data and interview the officials. A select number of children from each group were involved in data collection process and interviewing officers.

Group	Office visited	Person interviewed
Slum (5 persons)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ward Commissioner Office• DNCC Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ward commissioner, Ward-33, DNCC• Concerned officer (Budget), DNCC
Remote Rural Group (6 persons)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UNO Office• Union Parishad Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Upazilla Nirbahi Officer (UNO), Goainghat Upazilla, Sylhet• Chairman, Nandirgaon Union Parishad• Secretary, Nandirgaon Union Parishad• Member (1), Nandirgaon Union Parishad
Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thana Social welfare Office• Department of Social Services (DSS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thana Social Welfare officer• DG of DSS

4. BUDGET ANALYSIS AND MAJOR FINDINGS

The Disability Group has gathered the following budgetary data mainly from three budget related documents: 1) Annual Development Programs (ADP), Social Safety Nets (SSNPs) and budget of the Department of Social Services (DSS).

Table 1: Monthly Disability Allowance (FY 2016-16)

		program/project/scheme	Tk. (in Crore)
Local government Budget	Ward Commissioner Office (Ward No. 33), DNCC	No projects are available	0.00
	DNCC	No projects are available	0.00
National Government Budget	Social Safety Net Programs (SSNP) and Department of Social Welfare (DSS)	Allowance for the poor disabled people	540.00
		Stipend for the disabled students	47.88
		Grants for the schools for the disabled	12.50
		Fund for the welfare of burnt and disabled	3.00
		Trust for the protection of the persons with neuodevelopmental disabilities	10.50
		Welfare Trust for physical disabilities	5.00
		Child Development Center	4.80
		Service and assistance for disabled	53.08
		Establishment of hostel for the visually impaired children (37 Units)	7.17
		Establishment of autistic academy in Bangladesh	60.00
		Institute of pediatric Neuro disorder	17.23
Total	761.16		

It has been found that all disability related government activities are carried out by the national government. Local government has nothing to do with it. National government has allocated BDT 761.16 crore for the FY 2016-17 under 11 different programs/projects to conduct all disability related activities including BDT 540.00 crore for Disability Allowance. BDT 600 is given

as monthly allowance for all poor disabled people. The Disability Allowance program is designed for all poor disabled, not just for the children. It is the national government who decides the amount of money given to the disabled people.

- Local government (DNCC) does not deal with disability allowance
- National government has allocated Taka 761.16 under 11 different projects
- Department of Social Welfare provides monthly allowance of Taka 600 for the poor disabled; however this is not exclusively for the children
- Monthly allowance of Taka 600 is not sufficient of the poor disabled children as tuition fee, coaching charge, transportation etc. for school going children is very high

The Remote Rural group has found that there is no allocation for establishing a government Secondary School in Nandirgaon Union in the FY 2016-17. However, they found that BDT 143.14 is allocated for establishing a number of secondary schools in different parts of the country primarily in urban and cantonment areas. Two local government units (UP and UPZ) has just BDR 35 lacs for education development for serving al types of schools in Nandirgaon and Goainghat area.

Table: 2 Establishing Secondary schools: Budget at a glance

		program/project/scheme	Tk. (in Crore)
Local government Budget (FY 2016-17)	Union Parishad Budget	Total allocation for 'Education Development'	0.05

	Upazilla Parishad Budget	Total allocation for Education	0.30
National Government Budget	Ministry of education	Establishment of 11 secondary school and 6 colleges in Dhaka city	69.00
		Establishment of 7 secondary schools in Sylhet, Barisal and Khulna city	60.00
		Establishment of English version Cantonment public school and college under national curriculum at Comilla Cantonment, Comilla	8.92
		Establishment of English version Cantonment public school and college under national curriculum at Shahid Shalauddin Cantonment, Ghatail, Tangail	5.22
		Total	143.49

- The total amount is calculated as Taka 143.49 crore including UP and UPZ budget for education development.
- Two local government units have allocated Taka .35 crore for education development. The amount is for all kinds of schools in Goainghat Upazilla.
- The National Government has allocated Taka 143.14 for establishing secondary schools in Bangladesh. However, all those schools will be established in urban and cantonment areas.
- No allocation is seen for establishing schools in rural areas.

The Slum group observed that local government, DNCC has nothing to do with establishing any new government primary school. It is the exclusive domain of the national government. National government has one project under its ADP with BDT 186 crore for the FY 2016-17 to establish 1500 government primary schools where there are no such schools. It is very difficult to find information related the area where it is being established. No consultation is made with the local government as far as establishing such schools are concerned.

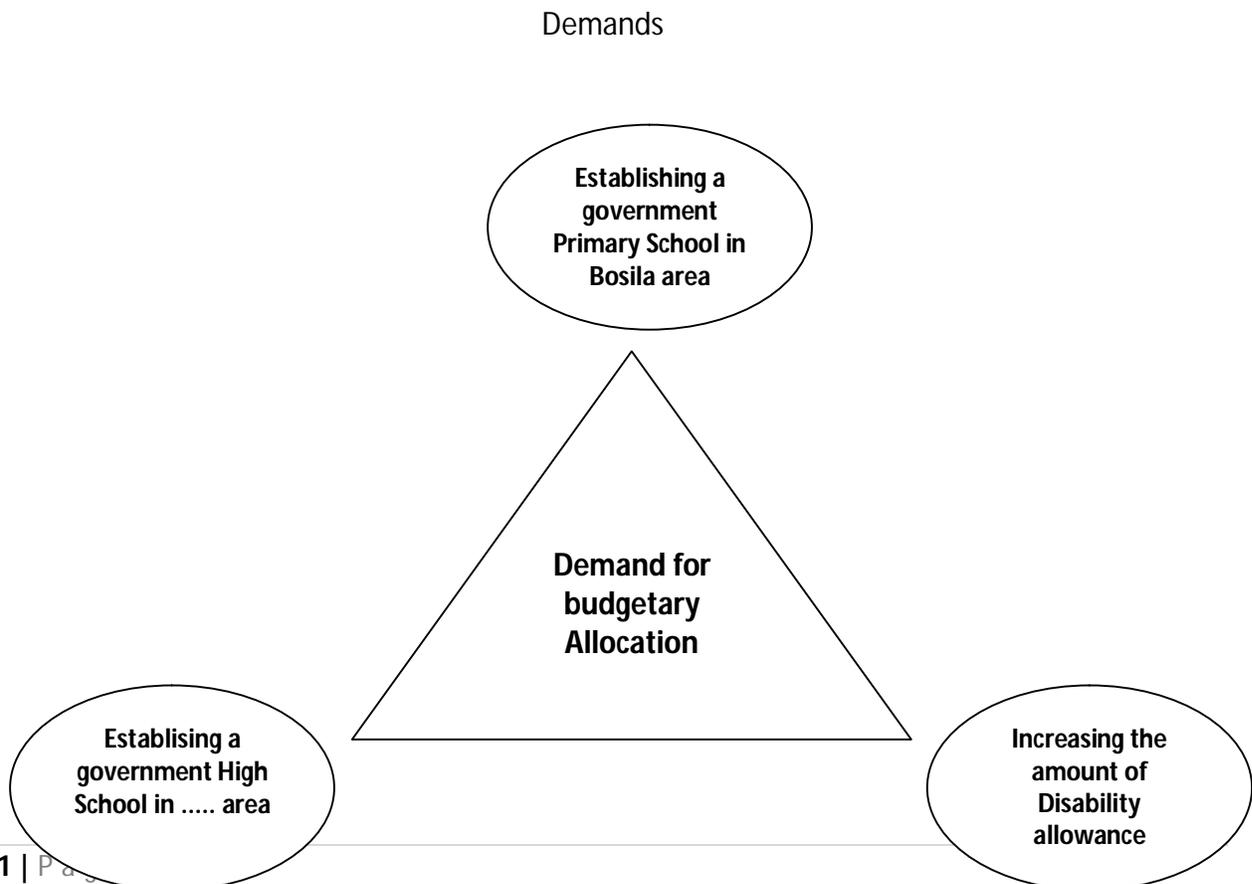
Table: 3 Establishing government primary school: Budget at a glance

		program/project/scheme	Tk. (in Crore)
Local government Budget (FY 2016-17)	Ward Commissioner Office (Ward No. 33), DNCC	No allocation for establishing government primary school	0.00
	DNCC	No allocation for establishing government primary school	0.00
National Government Budget	Ministry of primary and mass education	Establishment of 1500 government primary schools where there is no such schools (2010-16)	186.00
		Total	186.00

Taka 186.00 crore has been allocated for establishing 1500 schools through the country. However, it is not mentioned whether any such schools will be established in Bosila area.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Disability group demands increasing the amount of money for Disability Allowance to meet needs of their educational expenses
- Remote Rural group asks for budgetary allocation for establishing a secondary school in Nandirgaon Union, Goainghat.
- Slum Group demands for establishing government primary school in Bosila area, Adabor



- All children groups suggest that the budgetary allocation be handed over to the local government authority so that they can easily get the information they need most
- Children ask for their active participation in making any budgetary decision related to their life, livelihood, education etc. They ask the policy makers for holding consultation with them before making any budgetary decision; be it local or national government.