

No Protection for the Aam Bachcha



Budget for Children (BfC) in the Union Budget 2011-2012

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Photo credit: Gaurav Akrani; Kalyan-City.Blogspot.com

Children still Crying for More Protection



Children in any society constitute the most vulnerable group which needs 'protection' and is a responsibility of the state as well as the members of the society. Despite some commendable efforts and achievements of the Indian state, it is an explicit fact that the majority of children in India are suffering, deprived of basic resources and needs for an average human existence. Due to their own incapacity to fight for their rights, the 'unprotected child' in India is a collective failure of the Indian.

Children still Crying for More Protection

- An initial run-through of allocations shows a minimal increase in protection and a drop in the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) allocation that sets the tone for all protection measures for children in India. Considering that all protection schemes were subsumed under this umbrella it is leaving children unprotected and diluting the commitments set by the 11th Five year plan.
 - The 11th Five year plan document spoke of hefty allocations for protection but the budget allocations of 240 crores for the financial year leaves children wanting.
- With the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) statistics showing a 19% increase in crimes against children from 2007 to 2009, how does the Finance Minister justify this meagre allocation?
 - A day's cost to run one Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) and one Child Welfare Committee (CWC), as required by the Juvenile Justice Care and Protection Act, 2000 for the 602* districts in the country amounts to almost Rs. 21, 00,000/day. And this is only one small component of the ICPS.



*Excludes J&K and A&N Islands as MOUs have yet to be signed there

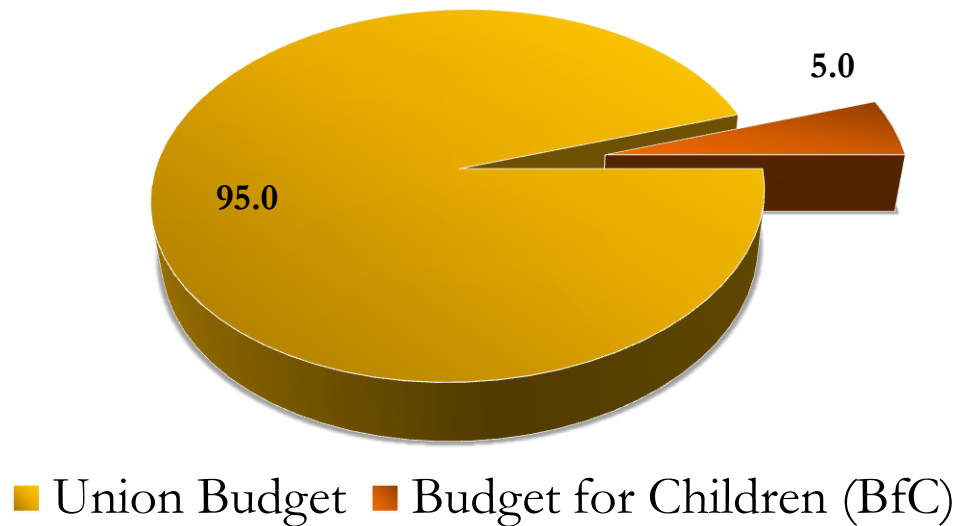
Children still Crying for More Protection (Cont'd)

- Health allocations once again take a back-seat.
 - Within the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MOHFW), the share for children has gone down from 21.7% in 2010-11 to 17.56% in the current budget
 - Polio seems to have taken a beating with a sharp dip in allocation not keeping in focus the increasing cases of polio. What accounts for this decrease when clearly all children are not covered by immunisation and Polio has not been eradicated
- All is not lost though. There are some sweet notes. Large increase in the allocations in the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) and Midday Meal Schemes will hopefully stem the dropout rate and the fillip given to Education with 40% increase in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) allocation will herald a new era in education.
 - Rs. 45 crores prematric scholarship for Scheduled tribe children
 - Rs. 196 crores prematric scholarship for Scheduled caste children
 - Major increase in setting up of 6000 model schools; Inclusive education is now a reality...the disabled children have some reason to cheer



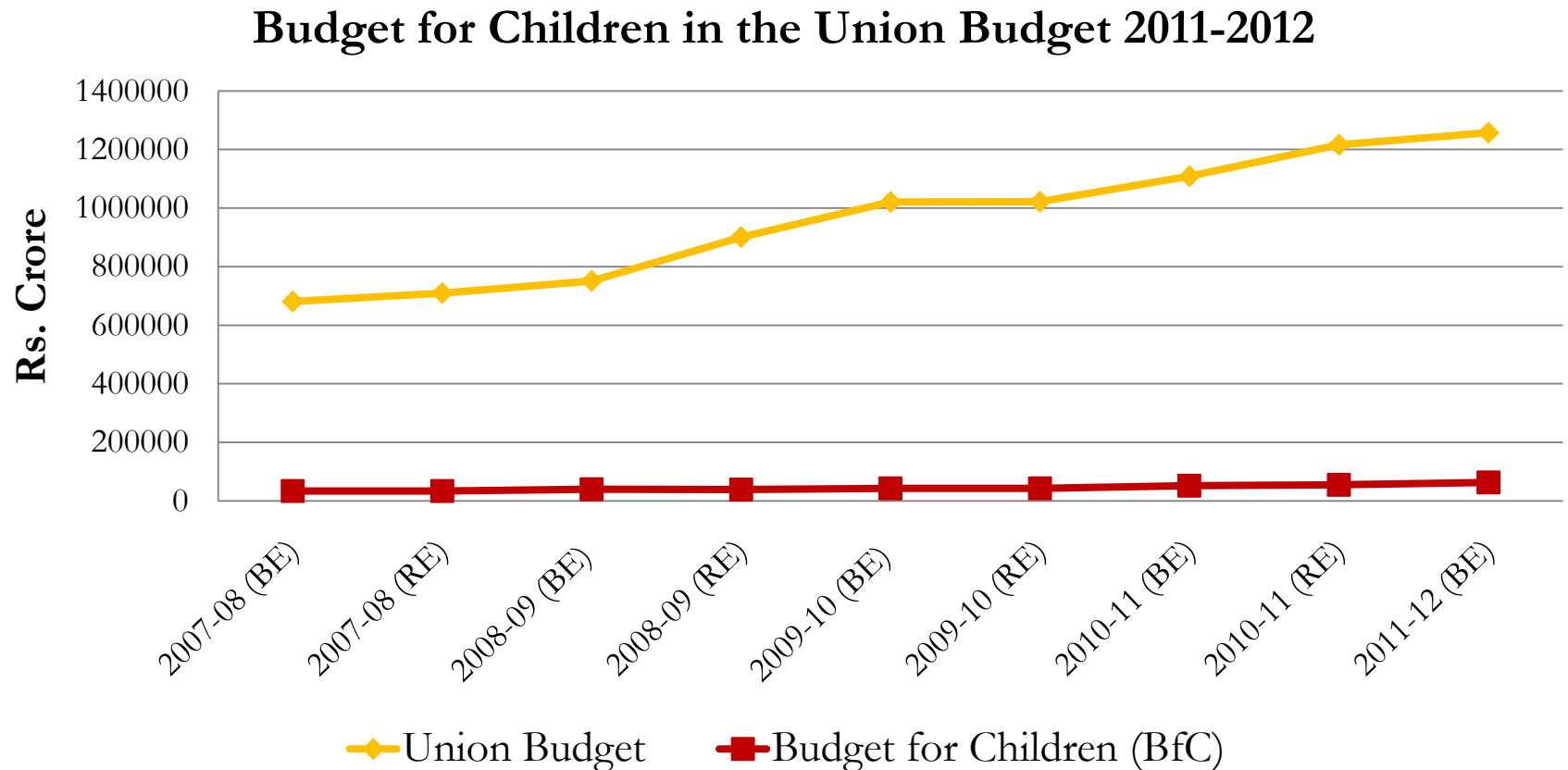
Share of Children in Union Budget 2011-2012

Percentage Share of Children in Union Budget 2011-2012



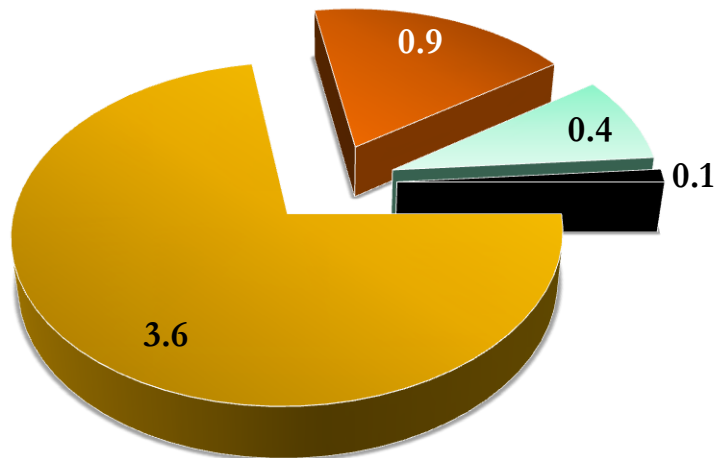
Overall increase in the percentage share of BfC from 4.65% in 2010-11 to 5.03% in the current budget

Union Budget and the Budget for Children



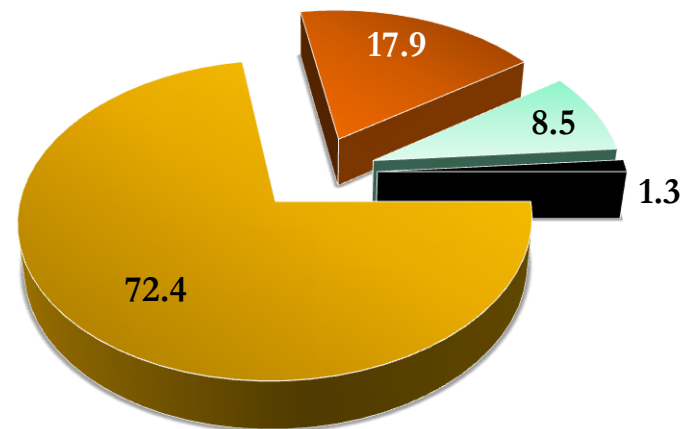
Sectoral Allocations

Sectoral Allocation within
Union Budget 2011-2012



■ Education ■ Development
■ Health ■ Protection

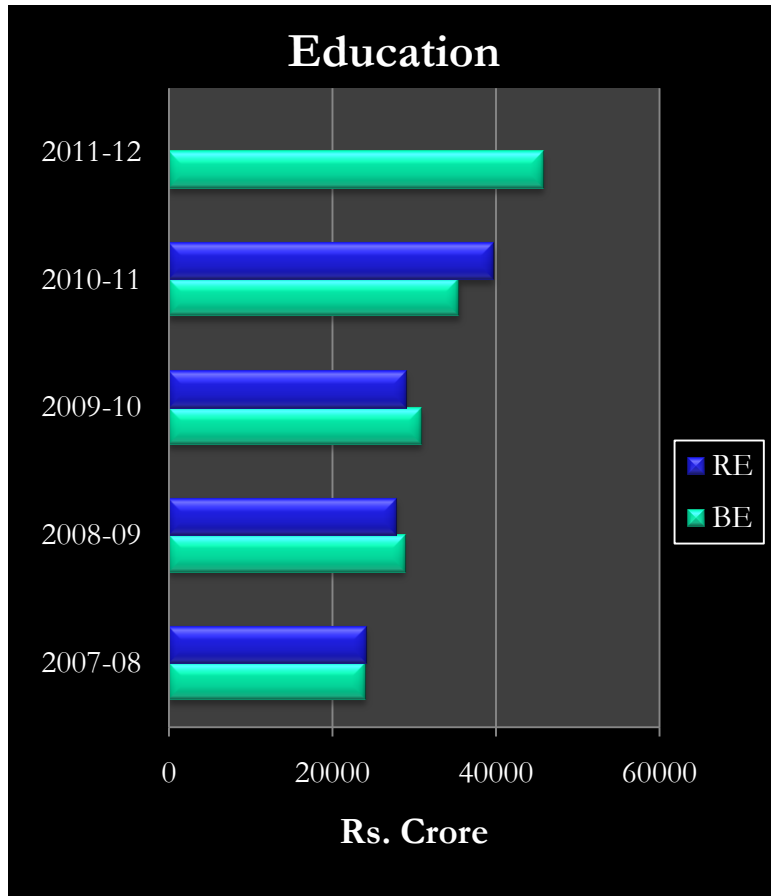
Sectoral Allocation within
Budget For Children 2011-2012



■ Education ■ Development
■ Health ■ Protection

Education

Education gets 72% of the share of BfC



- **There is an increase of 28.7% from 2010-11 to the current budget**

- There is a 40% increase in allocation for SSA and 9.96% increase in allocation for Mid-day Meal scheme
- There has been a welcome increase of 42% in the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)
- Major increase in the allocation for setting up of 6000 model schools
- There is a very welcome increase in allocations for inclusive education for disabled children by almost 43%

However, this increase in Education must be understood in the following context:

- According to the findings of Accountability Initiatives, SSA accounts for **60%** of GOI's elementary education budget and **63%** of funds for SSA come from the 2 per cent cess¹.
- According to an independent study, it states that the number of out of school children has come down from 134.6 Lakhs in 2005 to 81.5 Lakhs in 2009².
- Under Mid-day meal scheme, a total number 11.04 crore children (7.85 crore in primary and 3.19 crore in upper primary stages) have been benefited under the programme in 2009-10².
- Ninth report of the Supreme Court Commissioners, 2009 found neither Government of India nor the state governments have provided funds for meeting the full expenditure on SNP for adolescent girls.
- In states such as Bihar and Rajasthan, less than 40per cent of children under six are reported as getting supplementary nutrition and most states spent less than the stipulated amount of Rs.2 per day per child. In Assam the expenditure was lower than Re.1 per child per day³.



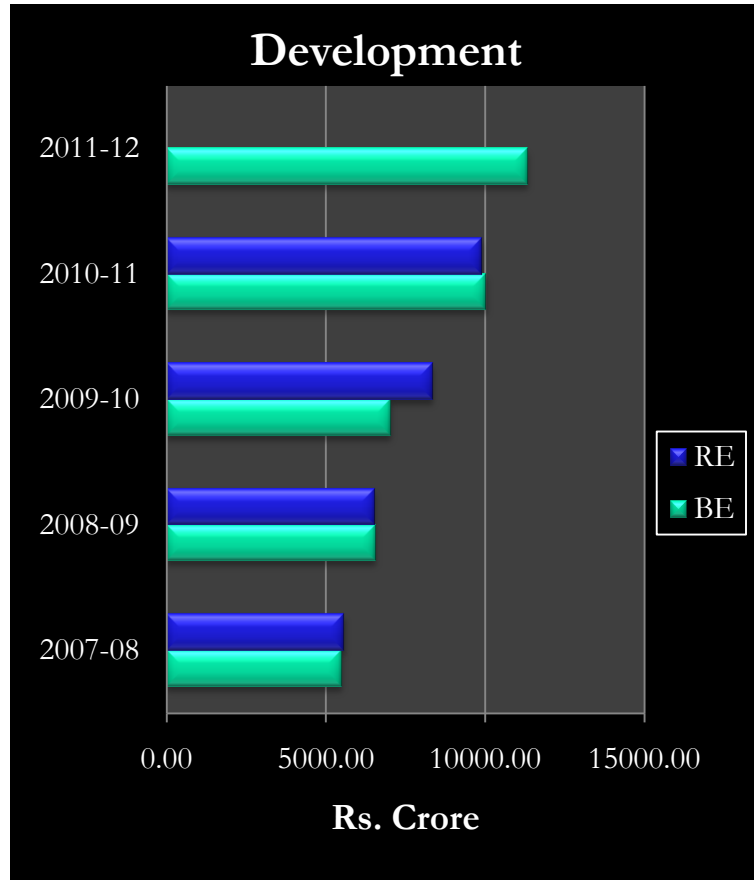
Source: ¹Accountability Initiatives

²Economic Survey 2010-11

³Ninth report of the Supreme Court Commissioners, www.righttofood.org

Development

Development gets 17.9% of the share of BfC



- **Share of Development within the Union Budget has decreased from 0.905% in 2010-11 to 0.900% in the current budget and within BfC from 19.49% in 2010-11 to 17.89% in the current budget**
- There has been a major increase in the allocation for ICDS
 - This increase has gone up by 17.16%, of which the major increase of 161.9% is in the World Bank ICDS - IV project, which clearly is an increased dependency on external aid
 - Increase in salaries for the Anganwadi workers from Rs. 1500 to Rs. 3000 and for the helpers from Rs. 750 to Rs. 1500 is very welcome
- But what explains the allocation in the Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme of only Rs. 76.50 crore when the actual expenditures in 2009-10 was almost 100 crores
 - This must be also seen in the context of the right to have a safe environment for children when their mothers go to work, in an environment of increasing crime

BfC for Development sector has to be seen in the context of the following:

- According to Ministry of Women and Child Development, as 31st December 2010 13.6 lakhs anganwadi centres were sanctioned and 12.4 lakhs operational. Another 1.6 lakhs have to be operationalised to reach the stage of universalisation coverage as per Supreme Court order¹.
- According to the National Family Health Survey-III, only 28 per cent of the targeted children received any services from the Anganwadi Centres (AWC) ².
- Almost 73.5 per cent children under the age of 6 years did not receive any supplementary food from an AWC in the 12 months preceding the survey, about 80 per cent did not receive health check-ups in the AWCs².
- According to Annual Report 2009-10 of MWCD, so far about 31,718 creches were sanctioned to the implementing agencies. The estimated number of beneficiaries of these creches is around 792950 as on 30.11.2009
- Dhanalakshmi-Conditional Cash Transfer for Girl Child with Insurance Cover launched in 2008 is now being implemented in eleven blocks across 7 states (Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab and Orissa) in the country³.

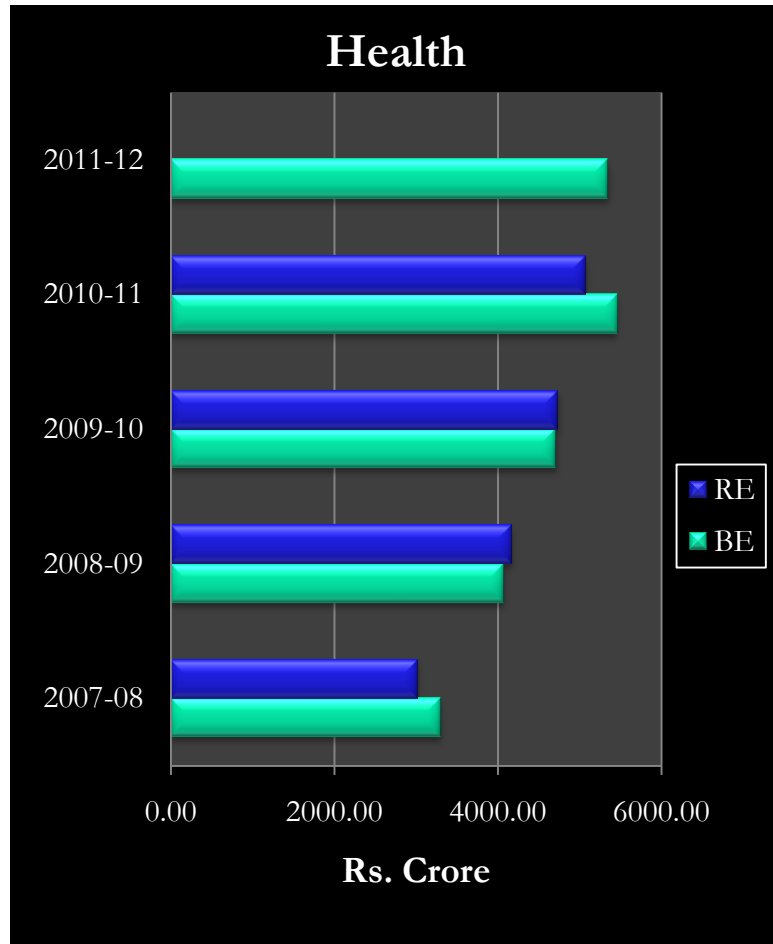
Source: ¹ www.wcd.nic.in

² NFHS-III, 2005-06

³ Annual Report of MWCD, 2009-10



Health gets 8.5% of the share of BfC



Health

- There is a fall in the share of BfC in the Health sector for children
 - Within the MOHFW, the share for children has gone down from 21.7% in 2010-11 to 17.56% in the current budget
 - Union Budget has decreased from 0.49% in 2010-11 to 0.43% in the current budget
- There is a 18% decline in allocations for immunisation and 93.5% decrease in allocation for Pulse Polio
 - The PIB data on Pulse Polio reported that in 2009, 721 cases were reported.
 - What accounts for this decrease when clearly all children are not covered by immunisation and Polio has not been eradicated
- While there was a Rs. 351 crore allocation for Conditional Maternity Benefits Scheme last year, there is no allocation this year
- Increased Taxation for the Private Health Providers is bound to impact access to health especially for the girl-child in a country where private sector accounts for 78.05% of total health expenditure

However, this decrease in Health must be understood in the following context:

- Approximately 67,000 mothers die each year due to complications during pregnancy and childbirth¹.
- Tuberculosis (TB) remains the most common disease in India, killing more than 1,000 people per day. Every year, TB results in 300,000 children leaving schools¹
- As on March, 2008, Community Health Centres, which provide specialised medical care, had a shortfall of 70.4 per cent of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists, 70.6 per cent of Physicians and 77.4 per cent of Paediatricians².
- Lack of skills for newborn care (such as for resuscitation, management of sick newborns and use of equipments e.g. baby warmers) is a major obstacle to provision of newborn care services³.
- In-patient care of sick children needs much more attention. Standard protocols for providing in-patient care for sick children, such as those with severe diarrhoea, severe pneumonia are not in place.; nor are the utilisation of facilities for sick children monitored³.
- Services for management of severely malnourished children at health facilities do not exist in most states (some notable exceptions are MP, Gujarat and Maharashtra), despite high levels of severe malnutrition³.

Source: ¹USAID, http://www.usaid.gov/in/our_work/health/index.html

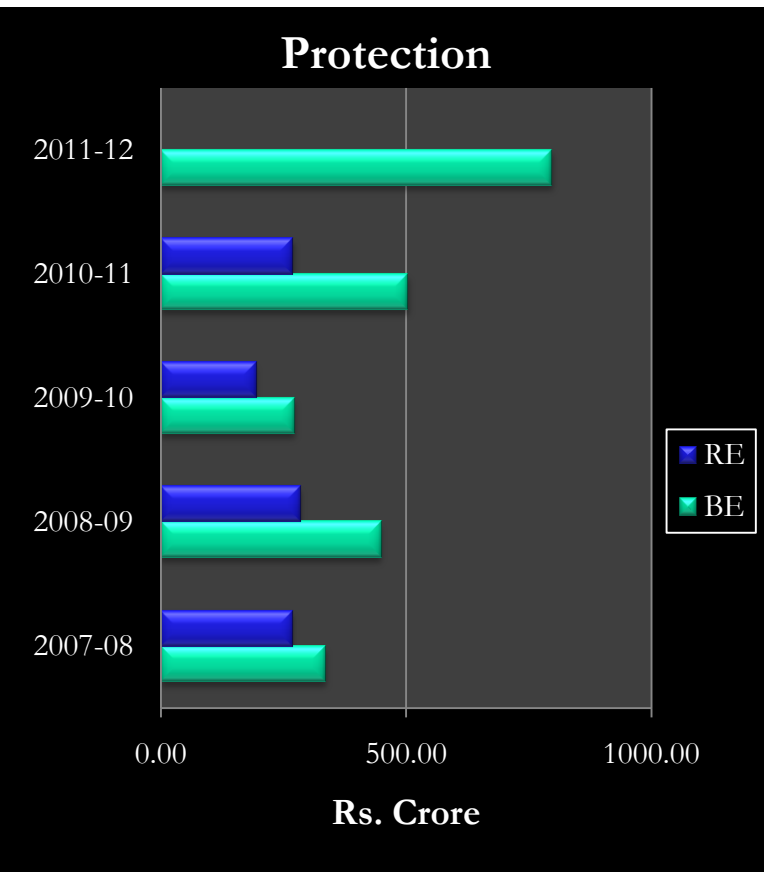
² Rural Health Statistics in India 2008, *Updated As On March, 2008*, <http://www.mohfw.nic.in/>

³ National Rural Health Mission Reproductive & Child Health Program Phase II 6th Joint

Review Mission, May 25 – July 7, 2009



Protection gets 1.26% of the share of BfC



- **There is a very very slight increase in the share of BfC in the Protection sector for children**
 - **Union Budget has increased from 0.05% in 2010-11 to 0.06% in the current budget**
- The Finance Minister has allocated only Rs. 240 crores for the entire financial year. How does he justify a fall in allocation of ICPS in the face of a 19% increase in violence against children since 2007
 - Considering that all protection schemes were subsumed under this umbrella it is leaving children unprotected and diluting the commitment set by the 11th Five year plan.
 - A day's cost to run one JJB and one CWC, as required by the Juvenile Justice Care and Protection Act, 2000 for the 602* districts in the country amounts to almost Rs. 21, 00,000/day. And this is only one small component of the ICPS.
- How can one expect outcomes when 33 MOUs have just been signed. Surely they would need resources to only now start implementing the programme



*Excludes J&K and A&N Islands as MOUs have yet to be signed there

However, this very slight increase in protection must be understood in the following context:

- India is the main destination of "alarming flows" of cross border trafficking in South Asia, says the study by global child rights group ECPAT International¹
- A total number of 24,201 cases of crimes against children were reported in the country during 2009 as compared to 22,500 cases during 2008, an increase of 7.6 per cent².
- According to the Annual Report of the Ministry of Labour and Employment 2009-10, 10,000 NCLP schools are being run in 271 districts of the country with an enrolment of only 5 lakh children.



Source: ¹ <http://www.d-sector.org/article-det.asp?id=428>

²Crime in India, NCRB 2009