



# Annual Report

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*April 2016 – March 2017*



Forum for Learning  
and Action with  
Innovation and  
Rigour

**FLAIR - Forum for Learning and Action with Innovation and Rigour**  
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## Our Vision

We envision a society that is developing sustainably and where people are participants and beneficiaries in the process of economic and technological development in an equitable manner for ensuring justice, liberty, and dignity.



## Our Mission

FLAIR's Mission is to promote and engage in processes of participatory learning and action with innovation and rigour, leveraging the benefits of economic and technological development, for ensuring health, nutrition and education of poor, marginalized and vulnerable people and/or communities and ensuring for them a life with equity, justice, liberty and dignity.



## FLAIR AS A FORUM

FLAIR is a forum of expert individual researchers and practitioners as well as organizations. It was formally registered as a Society in June 2013 and it draws from the experience and expertise of the founding individuals and organisations. It is a membership based organisation where all stakeholders work together in the true spirit of partnership and membership is open to all individuals and organisations. Our foray into creating, nurturing and operating spaces for actions are through –



(a) participation in the processes of policy and programme formulation through research and development of protocols and SOPs based on a combination of learning from grassroots and inputs from sector and subject experts, (b) programmes in the social development sector that have an interface with Information and Communications Technology (ICT). We work on the dimensions of -

- (a) Health and Nutrition,
- (b) Education,
- (c) Agriculture, Renewable Energy and Environment, and
- (d) Skills Development and Livelihoods.

We work through – (a) Research and Documentation, (b) Trainings, Workshops, Consultations, Conferences and Advocacy (c) Programme Implementation for Model Creation, and (d) Technology led Innovative Solutions for Social Development to create, nurture and operate spaces in triumvirate, viz. (i) young people from the poor and marginalised communities, (ii) the government, and (iii) the technocrats and their associations. These are the spaces where all the thinking, learning and action happen and solutions emerge and get implemented. We have been working with the poor and the marginalised and the technocrats to develop sustainable solutions for eradication of poverty and marginalisation. We work with the corporate sector in helping them design and implement their strategies for social responsibilities and also for developing and implementing their CSR Policy and Programmes.



Main focus areas in the fourth year of FLAIR's inception varied across different activities and programs, research studies, partnership promotion, organizing workshops and training programs as well as seminars and consultation with partner organizations, academics, education and nutrition experts and parliamentarians. The specific activities during April 2016 to March 2017 include –

### **1. Research and Documentation**

- (a) Child Budget Analysis of Union of India and 12 States of India.
- (b) Budget Analysis of Union of India and the States of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal and Delhi from a Child Rights perspective with special focus on Health & Nutrition and WaSH.
- (c) Study on Impact of Farmers' Suicide on Children in Maharashtra, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha.
- (d) Due Diligence Study of Vedanta Plc.
- (e) Study on Girl Child Dropout in Uttar Pradesh

### **2. Trainings, Workshops, Consultations, Conferences and Advocacy**

- (a) Pre – Budget Advocacy Workshops in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand
- (b) Work with NGOs and State Governments on development of annual work plan and budgets for food, nutrition and health in the wake of recommendations of Fourteenth Finance Commission
- (c) Work with the Legislature on issues of Agriculture, Food, Nutrition and Health
- (d) Meeting with Parliamentarians on the issues of Social Welfare and Development with demands and recommendations based on analysis of policy and budgets

### **3. Programme Implementation for Model Creation**

- (a) Project for developing an effective Class 1 programme in mainstream State Schools with a focus on Emergent Literacy
- (b) Teach India – Skills Enhancement for Employment
- (c) Agriculture to Nutrition Pathways for prevention of Malnutrition

#### 4. Technology led Innovative Solutions for Social Development

- (a) Ezzy Poshan – Implementation and Model Building
- (b) Use of Solar Power in Agri-Nutri Connect Project for Nutrition

## 1. RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION

FLAIR's research is guided by its core value of rigour. Our researches are done with clear objectives, which are developed in consultation with all concerned stakeholders. We conduct all our research within the ethical framework towards both – (i) Our clients and partners who are users of the research, and also (ii) The subjects and respondents in the research.

### (a) Child Budget Analysis of Union of India and 12 States of India.

FLAIR has carried out Child Budget Analysis in Union of India and the States of Bihar, Rajasthan, Odisha, Jharkhand, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. It is mainly focusing on schemes for children with special focus on health and nutrition. FLAIR is doing this in partnership with Save the Children.

The Policy and Budget Analysis includes overall analysis of the selected sectors in terms of identifying discrepancies between (a) the provisions of the legislation and budget allocation, and/or (b) the requirements and budget allocation, after accounting for the Fourteenth Finance Commission led Fiscal Federalism. The purpose for the analysis is to demystify the 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission recommendations and engage with the States necessary, adequate and timely provisioning for different sectors.

### (b) Budget Analysis of Union of India and the States of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal and Delhi from a Child Rights perspective with special focus on Health & Nutrition and WaSH.

FLAIR along with Save the Children is carrying out a detailed budget analysis of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal and Delhi from a Child Rights perspective with special focus on Health & Nutrition and WaSH.

The Budget Analysis will be carried out for 3 thematic areas –

#### i. **Child Survival – It will include components of Child Health, Child Nutrition and WASH related initiatives.**

Child Survival is an important issue in India as 1.4 million children die every year, out of which 85% die of preventable causes, the U5MR has certainly come down in the last 10 years but the



decline in new born deaths is slow. It is dependent on the environment and services that the mother and the child gets. Even today almost 5 lakh children in India die before their first birthday. Every 20 seconds, a child under the age of 5 years dies and most of these deaths occur due to preventable and treatable causes such as pneumonia, diarrhoea and malnutrition.

In India, National Health Mission (NHM) is the major government programme to address the issues of child health. National Health Mission is a centrally sponsored programme that supports decentralized planning and flexible programming by the States including development of State and district level Project Implementation Plans (PIPs) with a focus on outcomes particularly relating to vulnerable sections, and community based monitoring & evaluation.

The analysis under this section will include analysis of budget allocations and expenditure of the components of child survival, new-born health, maternal health, nutrition and WASH.

## ii. Children's Education

Children's education aims at providing quality education and equal opportunities for all children in India. In spite of the largest education system in the world, India still faces problems of low levels of literacy achievement and poor quality of education with 37 percent of the population lacking literacy skills, 53 percent of children dropping out at the elementary level and over 75 percent of rural schools being under staffed.

The analysis under this section will include allocation and expenditure for the major schemes such as the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Mid-day Meal and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan.

## iii. Child Protection

Child protection works towards making a difference in the lives of the most socially excluded children by keeping children safe and free from harm. These include street children, child labourers, migrant children, trafficked and sexually abused children. It is most essential that India looks at investments in child protection and all the areas in which children need protection. The percentage of children not in schools and not living within the family is very large, whereas allocations of resources to this sector are next to nil.

Budget Analysis in child protection will include allocation and expenditure on schemes of child protection. The main scheme of Child Protection is ICPS (Integrated Child Protection Scheme).

## (c) Study on Impact of Farmers' Suicide on Children in Maharashtra, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha.

FLAIR's Executive Director Ajay Sinha is involved in a landmark study – Impact of Farmers' Suicide on Children. The sample has been drawn from Maharashtra, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha. This Study is being carried out by Action Aid India.

#### (d) Due Diligence Study of Vedanta Plc.



#### Social and Ethical Due Diligence Report of Vedanta Resource Plc

Study and Report By –  
FLAIR (Forum for Learning and Action with Innovation and Rigour)

Team –  
Ajay Kumar Sinha (Executive Director, FLAIR)  
Somnath Chakraborty (Director – Marketing and Communications, FLAIR)



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FLAIR had been commissioned by the Care India Solutions for Sustainable Development to carry out an independent Due Diligence for Social and Ethical dimensions of Vedanta Group. This Due Diligence and its recommendations were a mandatory requirement for Care India Solutions for Sustainable Development to enter into any partnership for welfare and/or social development with the Vedanta Group. The Terms of Reference (TOR) provided by Care India had the requirement of assessing the potential of CARE India's engagement with Vedanta in keeping with the organization's ethical standards, criteria and policies vis-a-vis potential ethical risks involved.

This process focused on verification and study of all policy documents related to the areas of Due Diligence covered in the scope and also the documents and proof of putting these policies into practice. A verification of the underlying management system and reporting processes was also undertaken through the study of documentary evidences regarding the same.



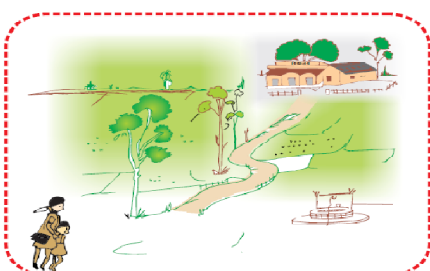
## (e) Study on Girl Child Dropout in Uttar Pradesh

## बालिकाओं के शिक्षा के चुनौतियों के आकलन हेतु

गाँव का नाम.....

(संचालक द्वारा भरा जायेगा)

उत्तरदाता अपने बारे में चिह्नित करें, वे हैं (✓)

माता ☐ पिता ☐ बालिका ☐ विद्यालय प्रबन्धन समिति सदस्य ☐ पंचायत प्रतिनिधि ☐ अन्य ☐आपके अनुसार आपके गाँव में बालिका शिक्षा के मुख्य अवरोधक क्या है,  
अर्थात् उनके विद्यालय न जाने के मुख्य कारण क्या है। कृपया चिह्नित करें (✓)1. विद्यालय बहुत दूर है। ☐2. बाल मजदूरी ☐3. विद्यालय का रास्ता असुरक्षित है। ☐4. बालिकाओं को अपने छोटे भाई-बहनों की देख-भाल करनी पड़ती है। ☐

FLAIR has conducted a study on the factors influencing the drop out of girl children in Uttar Pradesh with Oxfam India.

The biggest reason for drop out of girl children was their involvement in sibling care followed by no facility of toilets in schools followed by far distance of schools from home.

## 2. TRAININGS, WORKSHOPS, CONSULTATIONS, CONFERENCES AND ADVOCACY

### (a) Pre – Budget Advocacy Consultations in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand

FLAIR and Save the Children organized pre budget workshop in Lucknow on 25 March 2017 and in Dehradun on 8 April 2017.

The consultation in Lucknow was organized with Giri Institute of Development Studies and in Dehradun with the Doon University.

The focus of the State Consultation were Child Health and Nutrition and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene.

The allocations and expenditure trends of the previous years were presented and discussed and recommendations were made for the respective State Budget of 2017-18.



### (b) Work with NGOs and State Governments on development of annual work plan and budgets for food, nutrition and health in the wake of recommendations of Fourteenth Finance Commission

FLAIR continued the process of involvement with different NGOs, nutrition experts and Academic Institutions across the country to develop annual work-plan and budgets for different food and nutrition programmes of the Governments. Working/discussion paper on budget analysis of Union and State Budgets of FY2016-17 is prepared for food, nutrition and health programmes which are in the process of sharing findings with NGOs and Nutrition Experts to work out annual work plan and budgets to be submitted to respective state governments.



**(c) Work with the Legislature on issues of Education and Agriculture, Food, Nutrition and Health**

FLAIR team has been influential in analysing parliament questions put forth by different Member of Parliaments to the **Ministry of Human Resource and Development**. It is during the Question Hour that the members can ask questions on every aspect of administration and Governmental activity. We have analysed the question raised in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha from 2009 till March 2015 (when this analysis was done) for the Ministry of Human Resource and Development. We have found out –

- i. the share of questions in MHRD in the total questions,
- ii. the share of questions on the three broad areas (a) RTE Act, (b) SSA, and (c) MDM in MHRD

FLAIR along with **Campaign for Change** has been involved in preparing demand for enhancement of the allocation to education, with an emphasis on making foundational investments in early childhood and elementary education. Findings from the Costing and Budget Analysis of SSA undertaken by FLAIR and Save the Children were used and cited by National RTE Forum to prepare the '*Demand for Financial Requirement for fulfilment of RTE Act 2009 from Union Budget 2016-17*'.

**(d) Meeting with Parliamentarians on the issues of Education with demands and recommendations based on analysis of budgets**

FLAIR team is also in contact with our Members of Parliament on regular basis inviting them in meetings, consultations as well as meeting them in person to keep them updated on facts and findings on Education including budget analysis of education programmes on the wake of fourteenth finance commission. Simultaneously, demands and recommendations based on the analysis and through consultative meetings with different NGOs working in the dimension of education are also presented to the parliamentarians to debate on the floor during budget session.

### 3. PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MODEL CREATION

#### (a) Project for developing an effective Class 1 programme in mainstream State Schools with a focus on Emergent Literacy



Though Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (RTE Act), talks about compulsory schooling for children in the age group of 6 to 14 years, there are available documentation that shows school access does not necessarily transform the school into an inclusive learning space. There is an imperative need for effective school programmes at the Class 1 level which are based on an understanding of Early Childhood development and Emergent Literacy processes. This project aims developing interventions for a conceptually sound Class 1 programme with some of the key elements as under:

- Designing a programme for facilitating effective home to school transitions in Class 1 within mainstream, government primary schools based on conceptually sound and grounded principles of Emergent Literacy and Early Learning.
- Developing a programme for tapping local forms of knowledge and bringing them into the purview of the formal education system in the early years of schooling



- Integrating a programme of community participation in children's learning
- Setting up demonstration sites to facilitate the expansion of the key elements of the Early Learning and Emergent Literacy programme to wider locations.
- Building a resource base and process documentation for wider dissemination and training.

**The programme has started in Sarfabad, Sorkha and Barola villages of Noida and in Sectors 76, 77, 78 and 79 along with Sectors 116 and 117.**

### **(b) Teach India – Skills Enhancement for Employment**

Through the TEACH INDIA Initiative, FLAIR has been able to further our relationship with youth and communities and brought a meaningful and logical dimension to our community engagement. The Learners have benefitted immensely from the programme. They have been placed in good companies as per their interest. Some of our Learners have been placed through Teach India at an initial salary of Rs. 15000/- per month. We connect with the youth through evening and weekend meetings where we have discussions on the issues of society and country and how they specifically affect them. We mobilise the youth for joining Teach India programme as it is an excellent platform to achieve the goal financial independence and contribution to the family, society and country.

### **(c) Agriculture to Nutrition Pathways for prevention of Malnutrition**

FLAIR has started a project in Gaya district of Bihar on Agriculture – Nutrition connect. The idea is to link the Famers Producers Organisations with the Market for their produce directly. In the first phase FLAIR has been able to form Farmers' Groups and identify lands and mark them for various agriculture produce through the year in various seasons. An analysis is also underway on the food habits, recipes, tastes and markets for the produce along with the nutritional requirements.

## 4. TECHNOLOGY LED INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### (a) Ezzy Poshan – Smart Phone App to facilitate the execution of Malnutrition Programme

Ezzy Poshan has been awarded IT Innovation of the Year 2014 by Computer Society of India.

This innovative tool to provide this solution is a system of four integrated stages –

- Data collection through mobile application – “Ezzy Poshan” working on any of the three platforms – iOS, Windows and Android. Each single child is issued an unique ID and is tracked for treatment and subsequent rounds of anthropometric measurements for longitudinal data sets;
- Data transmission to the main server and data analysis on the server;
- At the data analysis stage itself there is a provision for recognition of a malnourished child in need of treatment and/or referral and alert is sent to the concerned officials with details of the child’s identity and location for referral and/or treatment of the malnourished child. A provision has been made that this action is taken within 4 days of anthropometric data enumeration of the child.
- Statistical Data Analysis and Report Production.

We have observed that a major problem in dealing with the scourge of malnutrition lies in collecting anthropometric data for identification of the malnourished child at an appropriate time and using this data for treatment and/or referral of the malnourished child within a medically acceptable time limit.

Also the statistical analysis and report production after the data collection takes such long time that it becomes useless for any corrective action at policy and programme level.

- The data collection, storage and analysis need to be streamlined in such a manner that the whole process takes a maximum of one month or in Real Time during the times when huge data sets are being collected for research and planning purposes.
- Also, for regular programme implementation an intervention is required that allows for quick analysis of anthropometric data at the project level for referral and/or treatment of the malnourished child. It will be a huge boon and go a long way in treating the malnourished child.

This Application has been tested in real life operations in Bihar’s Muzaffarpur and UP’s Aligarh Districts. In Aligarh the testing was carried out jointly with Aligarh Muslim University.

## 5. FLAIR'S MEDIA COVERAGE

1. FLAIR's Article in ENN - Challenges in addressing undernutrition in India -

<http://www.ennonline.net/fex/50/undernutrition>

2. FLAIR's research reported in the Hindu on Undernutrition - <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/states-unlikely-to-bridge-gap-in-funding/article7228917.ece>

3. FLAIR's report in Times of India - India has highest number of deaths of children under five years of age <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/India-has-highest-number-of-deaths-of-children-under-five-years-of-age/articleshow/46722307.cms>



## 80 pc of Education Outlay Spent on Salaries

NGO seeks more funds for child education; says 72 pc of kids aged between 6 and 59 months are anaemic

Express News Service

Hyderabad 'Save the Children', a non-governmental organisation, has demanded an increase in the budgetary allocation for child education and protection.

Speaking at a consultation programme organised here on Wednesday, Right to Education convener for Telangana Murali Mohan said, "Nearly 80 per cent of the budgetary allocation for education is spent on salaries. Today, 90 per cent of mandal educational officers and a majority of teachers are working on deputation. So, just doubling the outlay for education would not serve the purpose. Instead, a road map should be prepared and allocation made for overall development of children."

"There should be focus on pre-primary education and reduction of school drop-out rate and increase in the enrollment rate. Timely provision of school books, ensuring sanitation/toilet with water facility and a school compound to prevent trespassing are the need of the hour. Unless this happens, the KG-to-PG scheme of the government would be of no use,"



Executive director of FLAIR, New Delhi and budget expert Ajay Sinha speaking on the topic 'The Budget and our Expectations: Voice of Children' in Hyderabad on Wednesday. L to R: Murali Mohan, Ajay Sinha, and Sishu Suraksha Karyakram.

Mohan said, Alka Singh, state manager of Save the Children, said, "Nearly 72 per cent of children aged between 6 and 59 months, and 60 per cent of pregnant women aged 15 to 49 years in the state are anaemic. To eradicate this problem, an enhanced support is needed for JSY and Janani Sishu Suraksha Karyakram. Even if we estimate additional food provision to these people (1.28 crore) at ₹ 20 a day per person, it would require around ₹ 9,000 crore which seems to be not achievable for the state government due to its other priorities."

The consultation, organised in collaboration with over 40 organisations, would list their demands and send suggestions to Telangana and Andhra Pradesh policymakers.

The Telangana state budget will be presented on March 11 and AP state budget on March 12.

### DEMANDS

- Recruitment of 90,000 more teachers for bridge and regular schools with a budget of ₹ 135 cr
- Establishment of 1,200 more Primary Health Centres (PHCs) with an annual allocation of ₹ 1.2 cr for each PHC
- Linking of school to local health institution/PHC for protective health care of children
- Enhanced supplementary nutrition food services through ICDS to children and women
- Safety of girl children at Ashram schools with provision for education and health
- Adequate funds for the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)
- A separate department for care, protection and rehabilitation of street children with adequate budget
- Special package for rehabilitation of children and families of displaced community



### **GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS (2013-14)**

1. Prof. Abdul Matin – President
2. Mr. Ajay Kumar Sinha – Secretary
3. Mr. Somnath Chakraborty – Treasurer
4. Mr. Vinay Krishna – Joint Secretary
5. Ms. Soni Prabha – Member
6. Dr. Raj Bhandari – Member
7. Ms. Mridusmita Bordoloi – Member
8. Ms. Shweta Verma – Member

### **SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM**

1. Mr. Ajay Kumar Sinha – Executive Director
2. Mr. Somnath Chakraborty – Director, Marketing
3. Ms. Soni Prabha – Director, HR and Admin
4. Ms. Dolon Bhattacharyya – Director, Research and Documentation
5. Ms. Mridusmita Bordoloi – Adviser, Research