

Have the Promises Been Met?

Analysis of Early Childhood Care & Development in Delhi Budget 2023-24

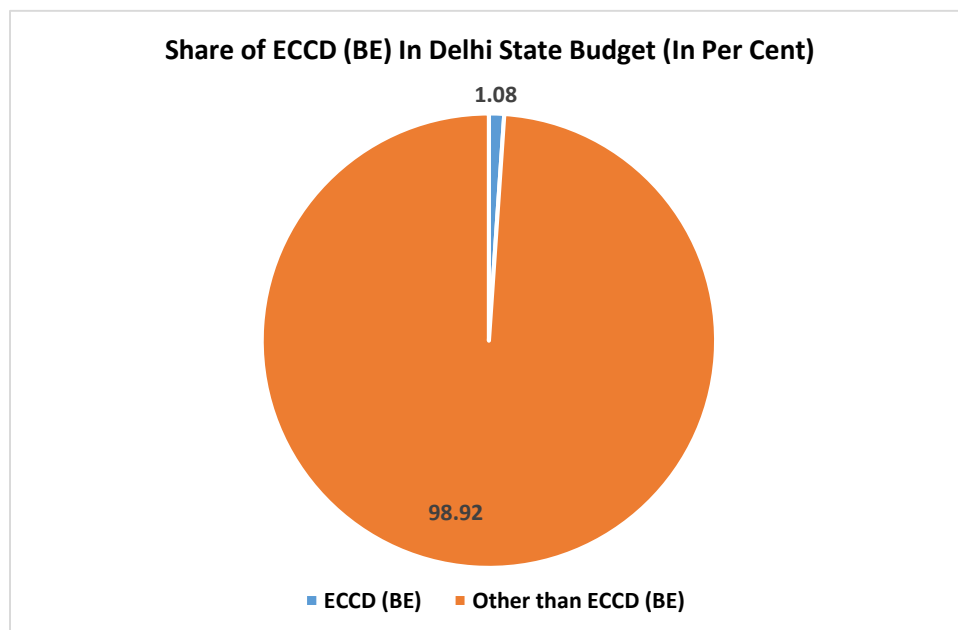


Delhi, being the capital of the Country, has always been at the centre stage of the best available services to people. In the last eight years, the governance structure in Delhi has also emerged as a model, especially in the health and education sector where the government services have been made accessible to people living in its urban slum areas. The Delhi government, has also been projecting itself committed for the poor and marginalised section of the society and therefore, plethora of Government welfare schemes have been rolled out in the past few years.

While presenting the Delhi Budget 2023-24, the Finance Minister Mr. Kailash Gahlot said that the theme of the budget is *Saaf, Sundar aur Aadhunik Delhi* (Clean, Beautiful and Modern Delhi). While placing the theme of the current budget as the reference point, it will be pertinent to examine whether the budget includes children in the age group of 0 to 6 years (which also constitutes 12 per cent of Delhi's total population) in its imagination of *Saaf, Sundar and Aadhunik Delhi*.

Key Highlights

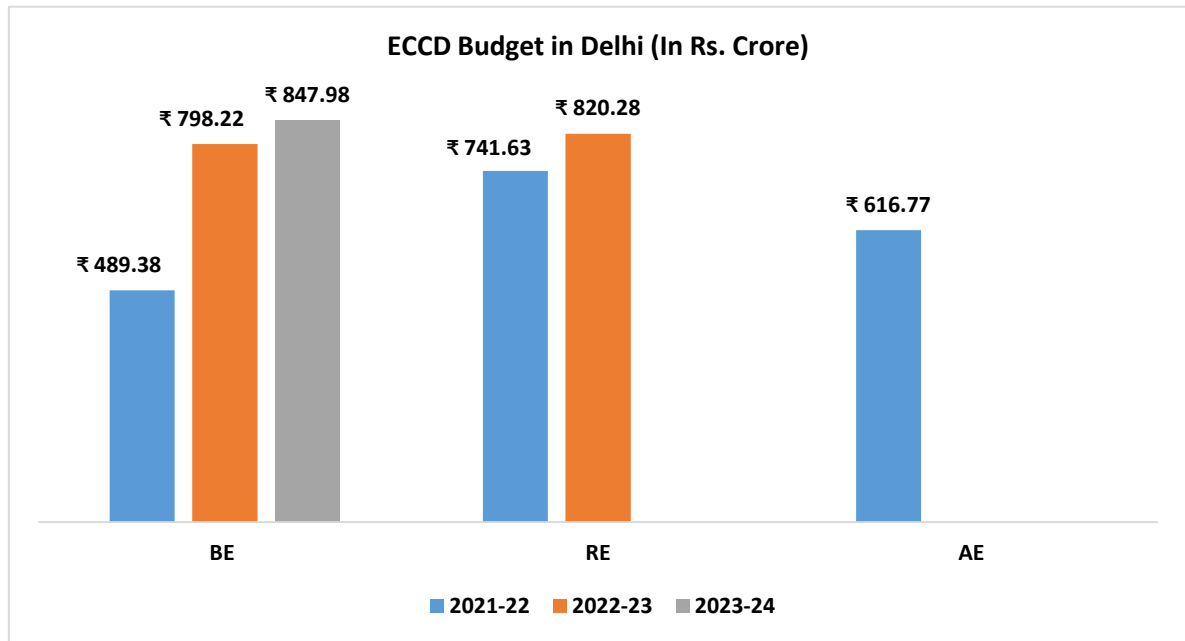
The share of budget for Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) in the Delhi Budget 2023-24 stands at 1.08 per cent.



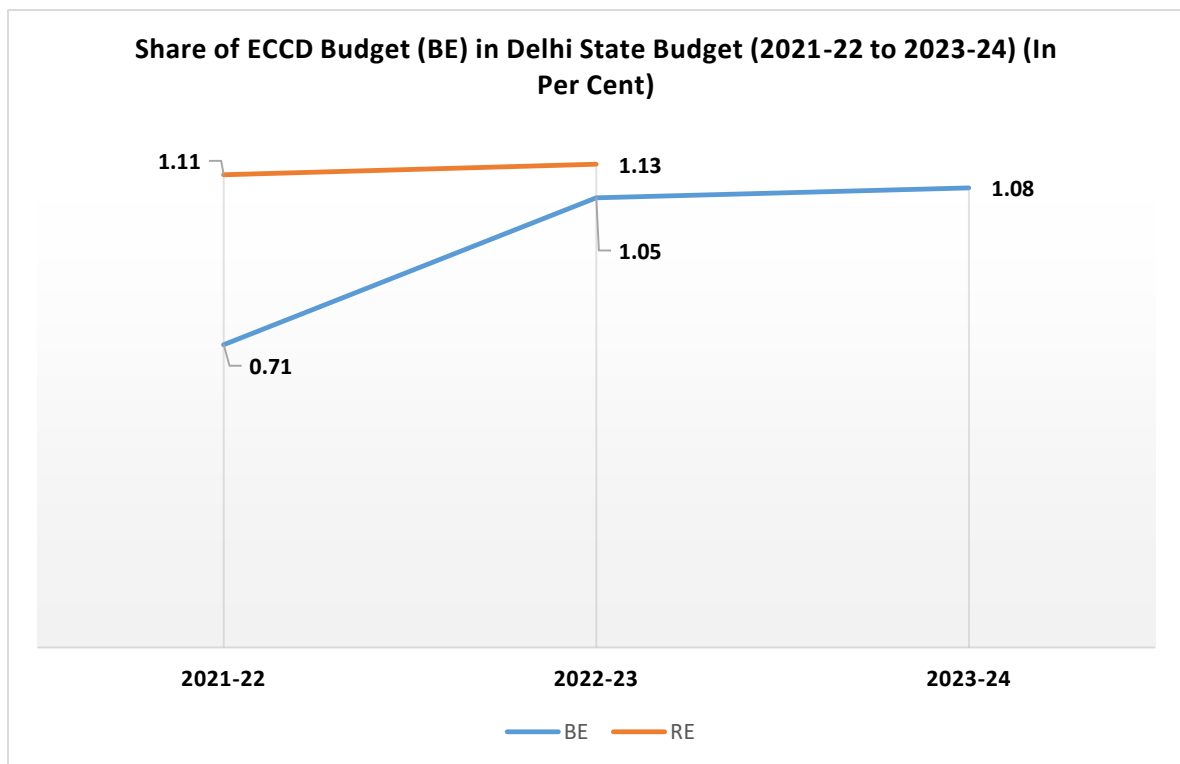
During 2021-22 to 2022-23, various programmes comprising of ECCD component observed a significant increase of 73.28 per cent towards the allocation at BE stage. In the FY 2021-22, the total allocation for ECCD programmes stood at INR 489.38 Crore whereas, it rose to INR 798.22 Crore in FY 2022-23 at BE stage.

On the other hand, the allocations for ECCD programmes observed an increase of 6.23 per cent between 2022-23 to 2023-24 when compared to allocations at BE stage. In the FY 2022-

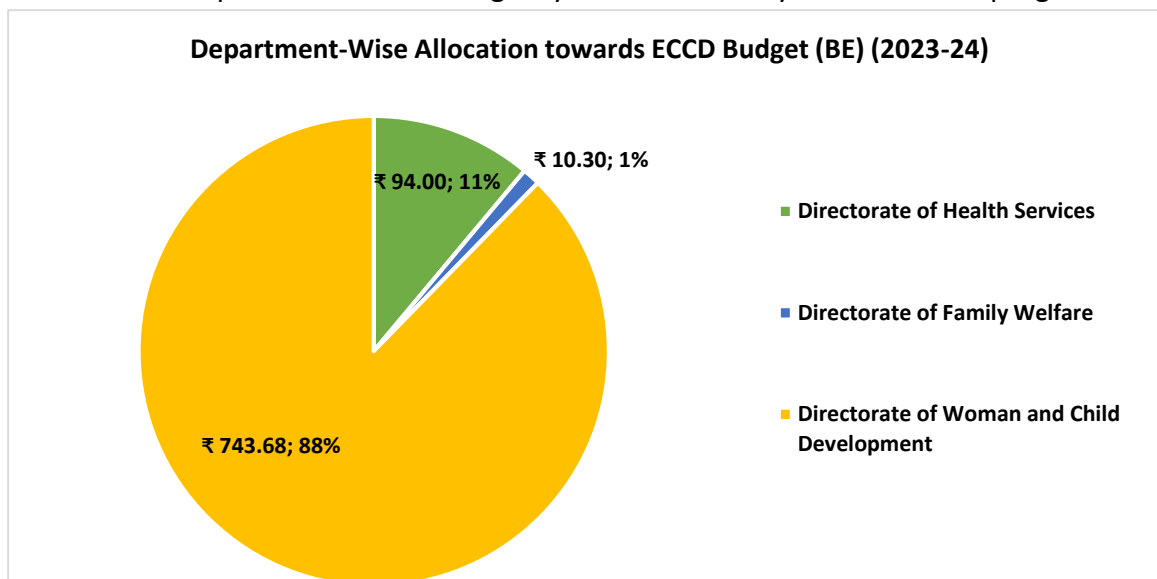
23, the total allocations at BE stage were increased by 2.76 per cent at the RE stage with an overall allocation of INR 820.28 Crore at RE stage.



The increase in allocation for ECCD programmes in absolute terms also reflects in the share of ECCD budget in the total Delhi Budget during 2021-22 to 2023-24. In 2021-22, the share of ECCD programmes stood at a mere 0.71 per cent, which increased to 1.08 per cent in the FY 2023-24.



A closer glance at all the ECCD Programmes/Schemes reveal that the Directorate of Women and Child Development is the nodal agency to roll-out many of the related programmes. In

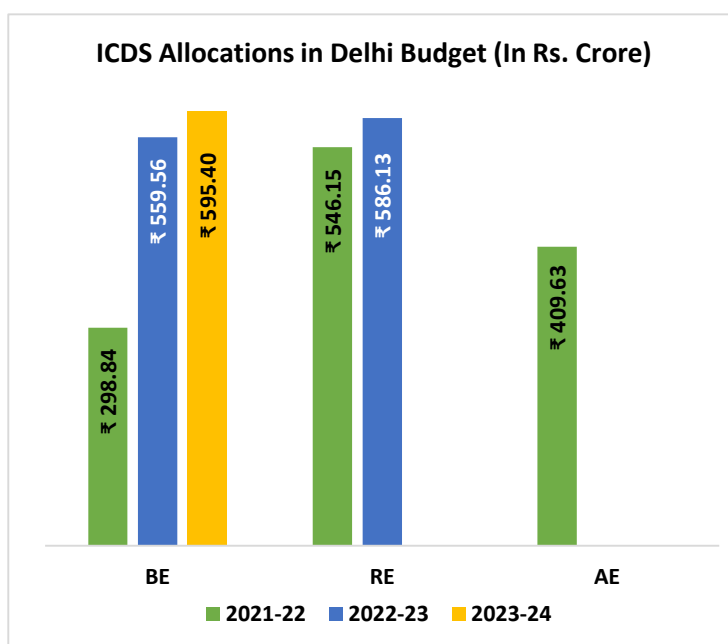


2023-24 Delhi Budget, the Directorate of Woman and Child Development, under the aegis of Social Welfare Department accounted for 88 per cent (INR 743.68 Crore) towards the ECCD related programmes.

Department-Wise Allocations Towards ECCD Budget (2021-22 to 2023-24) (In Rs. Crore)						
Departments	2021-22			2022-23		2023-24
	BE	RE	AE	BE	RE	BE
Directorate of Health Services	57.00	58.50	85.69	83.50	89.50	94.00
Directorate of Family Welfare	10.75	7.53	4.66	12.30	8.00	10.30
Directorate of Woman and Child Development	421.63	675.60	526.42	702.42	722.78	743.68

Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS)

ICDS is one of the largest centrally sponsored programmes catering to the needs of early childhood care and development. ICDS has recently been merged and named as Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0 which holistically aims to provide nutritional support to children in the age group of 0-6 years. In the Delhi Budget 2023-24, ICDS and allied components have been allocated a total sum of INR 595.40 Crore, an increase of 6.41 per cent as compared to the allocations made in 2022-23 at BE stage. It is notable that the Revised Allocation in FY 2022-23 was increased when compared to the



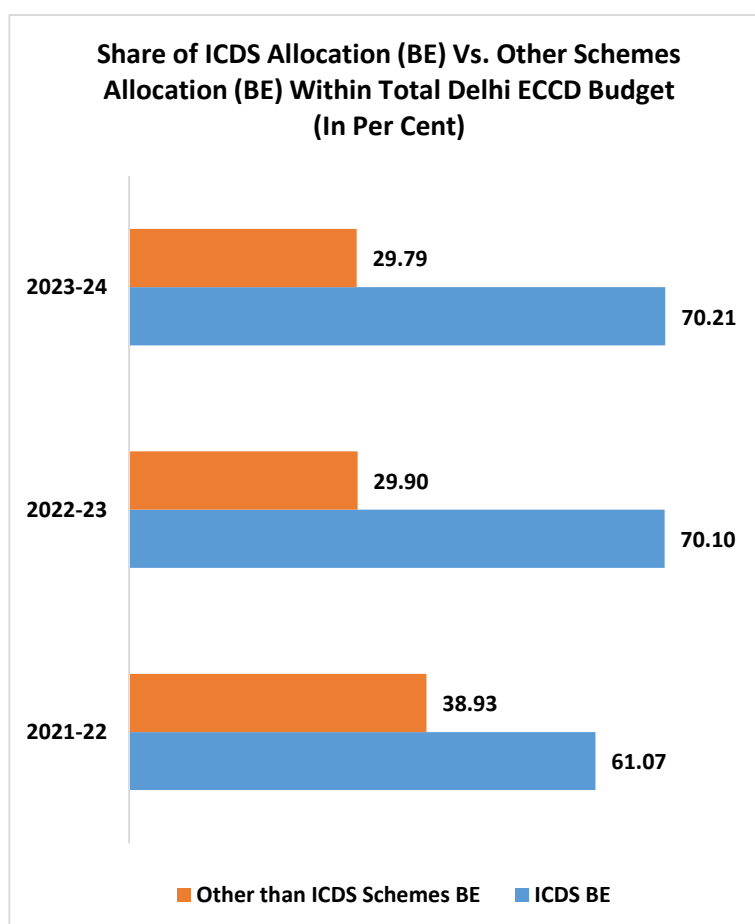
allocations made at BE stage in FY 2022-23. The scheme has gained much momentum in terms of allocation during FY 2021-22 to FY 2023-24 as there has been a welcome increase of 99.24 per cent as the scheme was allocated only INR 298.84 Crore in FY 2021-22. The allocations were further revised and increased with a total allocation of INR 546.15 Crore at RE stage in 2021-22.

ICDS & Allied Components in Delhi Budget (In Rs. Crore)			
Year	BE	RE	AE
2021-22	298.84	546.15	409.63
2022-23	559.56	586.13	NA
2023-24	595.40	NA	NA

The Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) in Delhi has 95 projects with 10,897 Aanganwadi Centers, functioning in various parts of Delhi covering a population of approximately 13.38 lakh children, pregnant women and nursing mothers in year 2021-22 and approximately 13.28 lakh in year 2022-23 (up to December, 2022), who are economically deprived.¹

ICDS and Other Schemes

The analysis of the ECCD Budget for FY 2021-22 to 2023-24 also revealed that ICDS scheme constitute the maximum allocation within the ECCD budget. In FY 2023-24, the allocations for ICDS and allied components accounted for 70.21 per cent of the total ECCD Budget. This trend has been consistent throughout the three financial years included for the purpose of the analysis. In FY 2021-22, ICDS allocations accounted for 61.07 per cent of the total ECCD Budget. Apart from the ICDS programme, the allocations included National Creche Scheme/PALNA, immunization programmes, Pradhan Mantri Matru vandan Yojna (PMMVY), schemes for pregnant and lactating women and Ladli Yojna.

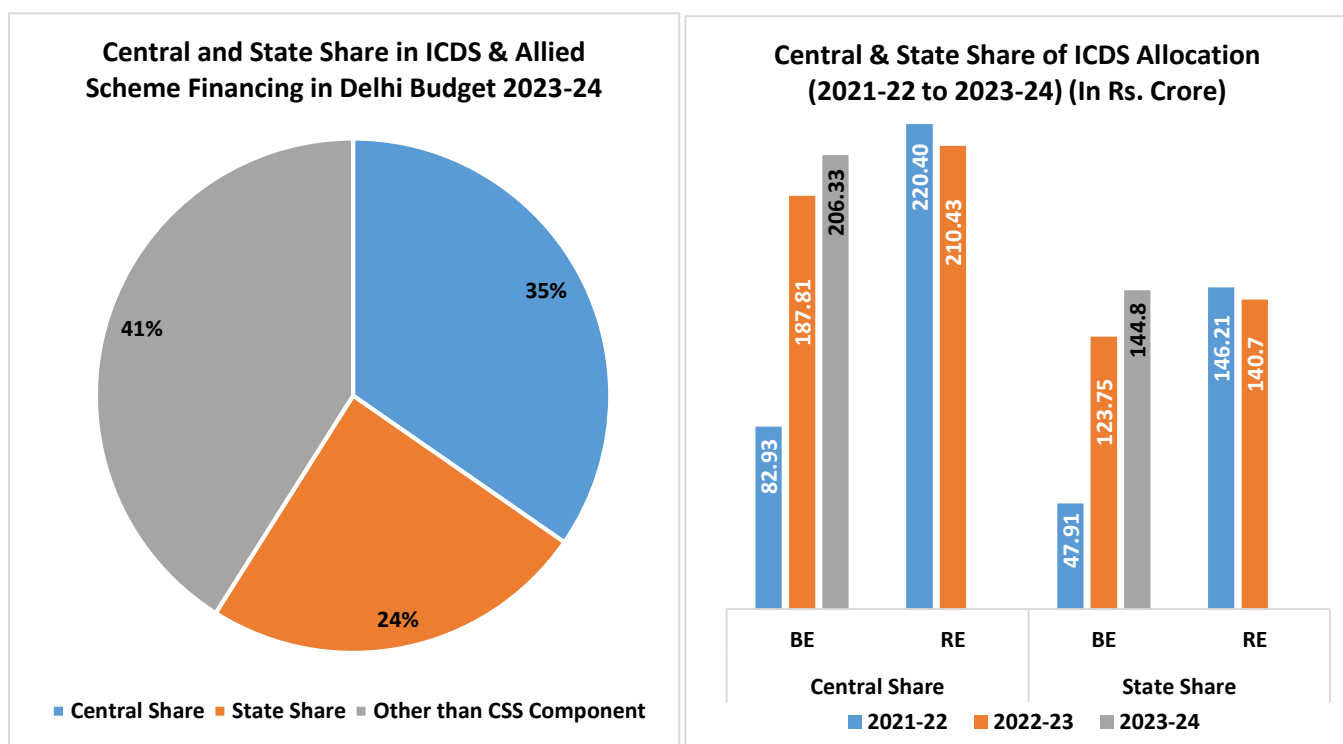


¹ Economic Survey of Delhi 2022-23;

<http://delhiplanning.nic.in/sites/default/files/All-PDF/Ch.%2017%20Social%20Welfare%20and%20Security.pdf>

Central and State Share for ICDS Allocations

The cost sharing for the ICDS programme in Delhi is between the Central Government and State Government on 50:50 ratio for Supplementary Nutrition component and 60:40 for other than nutrition component such as immunization, health check-ups, referral services and pre-school non formal education. Out of INR 595.40 Crore for ICDS and allied components in Delhi budget 2023-24, INR 206.33 Crore was the Central Govt. contribution whereas INR 144.8 Crore was allocated by the State Government.



Allocations for ICDS and Allied Components

With regards to the coverage of ICDS in Delhi, Supplementary Nutrition (under ICDS) was given to approximately 8.43 lakh children and women in year 2021-22 through 10897 Aanganwadi Centers. At present, supplementary nutrition is provided at the rate of 8.00 per child, 9.50 per woman and 12.00 per malnourished child per day for about 300 days in a year (w.e.f. October 2018).² As per the Status Report of the Outcome Budget 2022-23, about 6.38 lakh children and pregnant/nursing mothers are accessing services of nutrition, vaccination and health services.³

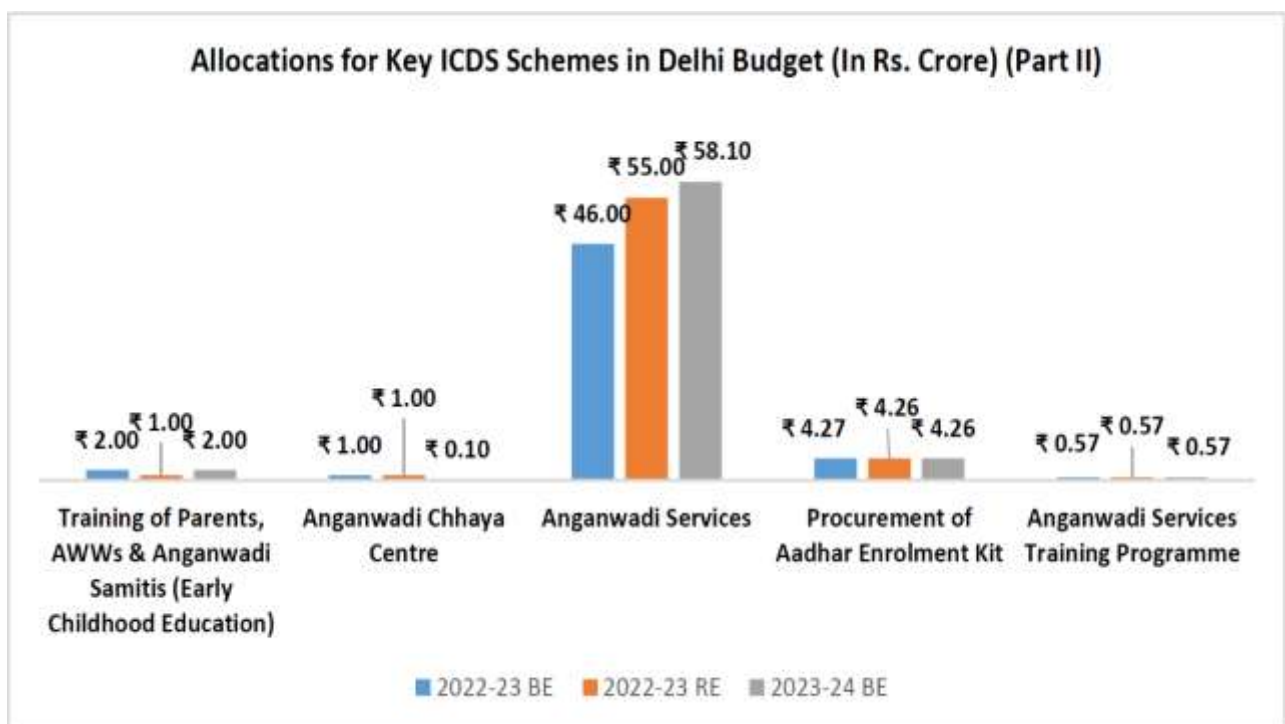
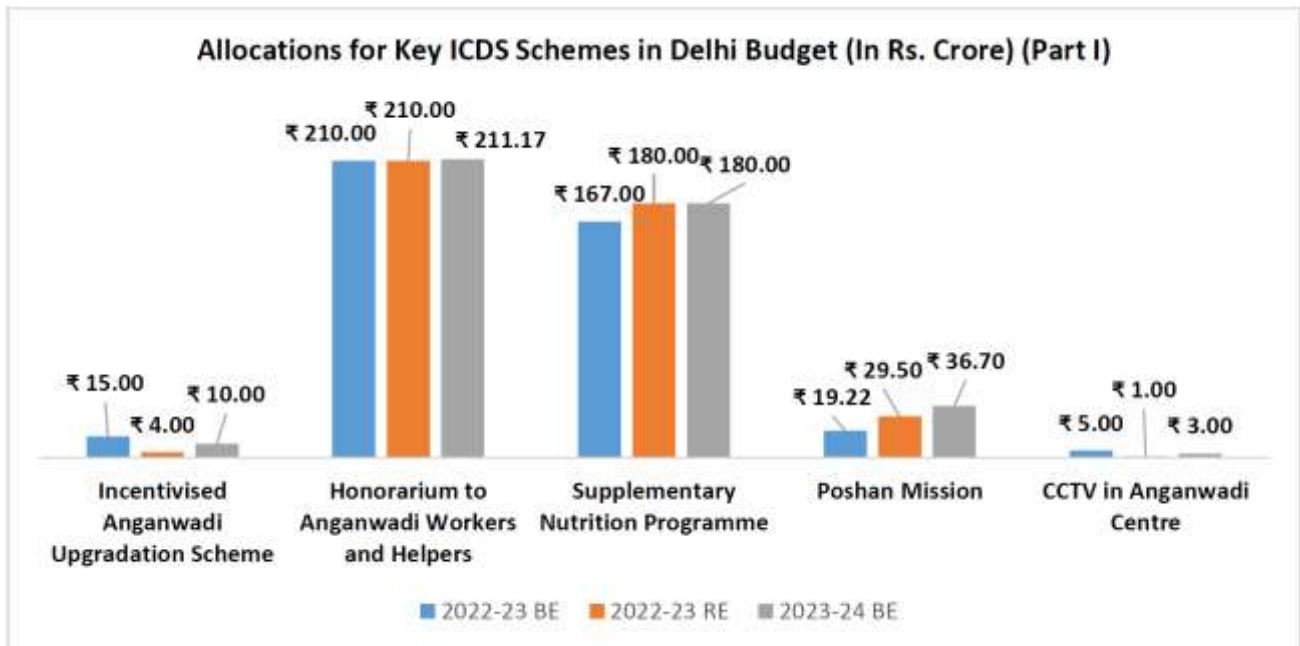
The ICDS and allied components include programmes such as Honorarium to Anganwadi Workers and Helpers, Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP), Poshan Mission, CCTV in Anganwadi Centres, Training of Anganwadi Samitis and Anganwadi Chhaya Centres etc. These components have observed marginal growth as compared to the allocations of FY 2022-23.

² Economic Survey of Delhi 2022-23;

<http://delhiplanning.nic.in/sites/default/files/All-PDF/Ch.%2017%20Social%20Welfare%20and%20Security.pdf>

³ Status Report on Outcome Budget 2022-23; <http://delhiplanning.nic.in/sites/default/files/All-PDF/Status%20Report%20-%20English%2014.03.2023%2019.00%20PM.pdf>

The graphs below represent a comparative depiction of allocations for FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24.



The Government of NCT of Delhi has earmarked the total amount of INR 2.57 Crore towards the **Training of Anganwadi Workers** in 2023-24 Budget. It is important to highlight that the allocation has seen no change as compared to the previous year's allocations. In FY 2021-22, a sum of INR 2.37 Crore was allocated for the training programmes for Anganwadis. Unfortunately, the expenditure in 2021-22 reflects ZERO for these programmes. The Delhi

Govt. has revised **Honorarium for Anganwadi Workers and Helpers** w.e.f March, 2022 onwards at the rate of INR 12720/- per month to Anganwadi Workers and at the rate of INR 6810/- per month to Anganwadi Helpers. This may have resulted in the marginal increase in the allocation for Honorarium for Anganwadi Workers and Helpers going from INR 210 Crore in FY 2021-22 to INR 211.17 Crore in FY 2022-23.

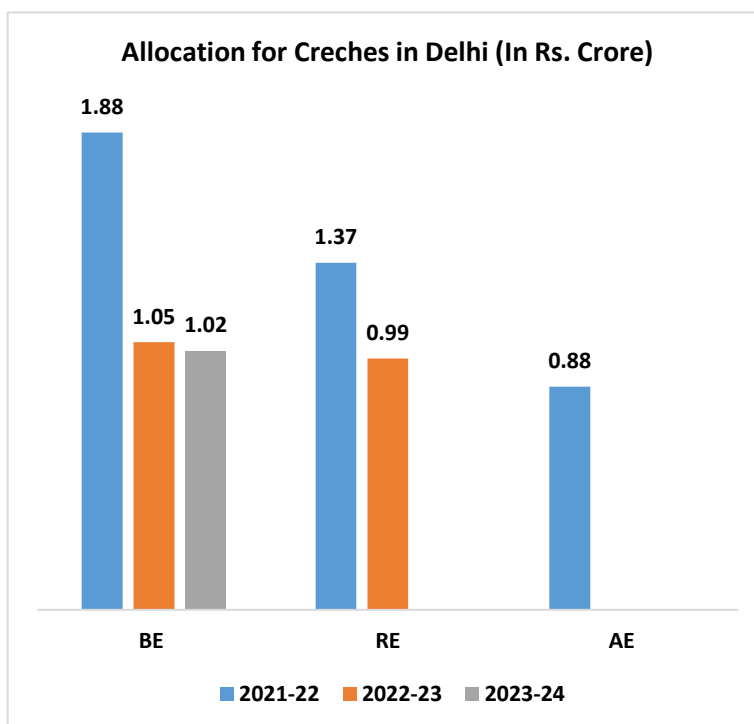
Anganwadi Chhaya Centres

In the Budget 2021-22, Delhi Government announced a new initiative called ‘Saheli Samanvay Kendras (SSKs) for socio-economic empowerment of women and development of children. Accordingly, the Department of Women & Child Development has taken up the task of setting up SSKs in the Anganwadi Hub Centres using the existing infrastructure and manpower of the hub. As one of the initiatives of SSKs, in order to support women’s participation in the work force for their economic empowerment, day care cum crèche services are provided either through the SSKs or by getting such children enrolled in the nearby crèche being run by the government.⁴ This Scheme (Anganwadi Chhaya Centres) have been allocated a total sum of INR 0.10 Crore in the Delhi Budget 2023-24.

National Crèche Scheme/ PALNA

Ministry of Women and Child Development implements the National Crèche Scheme for the children of working mothers as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme through States/ UTs with effect from 01.01.2017 to provide day care facilities to children (age group of 6 months to 6 years) of working mothers.

In the Delhi Budget for FY 2023-24, a total of INR 1.02 Crore has been allocated for National Crèche Scheme/ PALNA, whereas in FY 2022-23, the scheme was allocated INR 1.05 Crore.



National Creche Scheme/PALNA (Rs. Crore)			
Year	BE	RE	AE
2021-22	1.88	1.37	0.88
2022-23	1.05	0.99	-
2023-24	1.02	-	-

⁴ Economic Survey of Delhi 2022-23

It will be worthwhile exercise to dive deeper into tracing the functioning of Crèche Scheme before 2017. Prior to 2017, this scheme was being implemented as Rajiv Gandhi National Crèche Scheme with a funding pattern of 90:10, where 90% of funds were to be provided from the Union Government and the remaining 10% funds were to be contributed by the implementing NGOs. Under the erstwhile Rajiv Gandhi National Crèche Scheme (which was into effect up to 31.12.2016), a total of 21,012 Crèches were functional in the country. As per the available information, a grant of INR 21,14,000 was released by the Govt. of India to the Government of NCT of Delhi in 2021 for running the 58 Creches.⁵

I am directed to refer to your letter No.76(Creche)/Authorization /DWCD/ICDS/15-16/Pt-1/16332-34, dated 19.01.2021 on the subject mentioned above and to say that the proposal has been examined in the Ministry and approval for **re-validation** for incurring an expenditure **Rs.21,14,100/ (Rupees Twenty One Lakhs Fourteen Thousand One Hundred Only)** is conveyed as per details given below :-

Sl. No.	Scheme Component	Ceiling of Expenditure	Expenditure per crèche for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th quarters for 58 Creches	Gol share (90%)
1	Honorarium to Crèche Worker	Rs.3000/- per month	Rs.3000x9x58= 15,66,000/-	Rs.14,09,400/-
2	Honorarium to Crèche Helper	Rs.1500/- per month	Rs.1500x9x58= 7,83,000/-	Rs.7,04,700/-
3	Honorarium to Doctor	Nil	Nil	Nil
4	Supplementary Nutrition @Rs.12.00 per day per child for 26 days in a month for 25 children in a creche		Nil	Nil
5	Medicine Kit	Nil	Nil	Nil
6	PSE Kit	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Total		Rs.23,49,000/-	Rs.21,14,100/-

On the other hand, with the introduction of the new National Crèche Scheme in 2017, the funding pattern was also revised. As per the revised funding norms, the scheme is being implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) where pattern of assistance for all components of the scheme will be in the cost sharing basis of 60:30:10 amongst Centre, State Governments & NGOs running the crèches, 80:10:10 amongst the Centre, State Governments & NGOs running the crèches for the 8 North Eastern States and 3 Himalayan States and 90:10 between the Central Government and the NGOs running the crèches for the Union Territories. The State Government shall ensure the 10% contribution from the NGOs actually running the crèches and will provide documentary evidence/proof of 10% share.⁶

⁵ <https://wcd.nic.in/sites/default/files/NCT%20of%20Delhi%20revalidation%20.pdf>

⁶ NATIONAL CRECHE SCHEME FOR THE CHILDREN OF WORKING MOTHERS; Gol; Ministry of Women and Child Development;
https://wcd.nic.in/sites/default/files/National%20Creche%20Scheme%20For%20The%20Children%20of%20Working%20Mothers_0.pdf

After the introduction of the new cost sharing norms for implementing the Crèche scheme, there is a sudden drop in the number of functional crèches across the country.

Year	Number of Functional Crèches
2016-17	21012
2017-18	18040
2018-19	8018
2019-20	6458
As on 30.06.2022	5613*

Source:

<https://wcd.nic.in/sites/default/files/Funtional%20Creche.pdf>

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1796835>

*LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 977; Answered on 22.07.2022

As per the response to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question, the Minister of Women and Child Development reported that Delhi has a total of 53 operational crèches as on 30.06.2022.⁷

Ladli Scheme

The government of Delhi started the Ladli Scheme in January 2008. The main objective of this scheme is to promote the socio-economic development of the girl child by providing education-linked financial assistance. In the FY 2023-24, Ladli Scheme has been allocated INR 100 Crore, which is the same as allocation of FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23. In the FY 2021-22, 89 per cent of allocated funds were utilised towards this scheme. As per the Economic Survey

YEAR WISE FINANCIAL PROVISION OF CONTRIBUTION

S. No.	Year	Budget (₹ in Cr)	Expenditure (₹ in Cr)
1.	2008-09	86.38	86.44
2.	2009-10	87.00	86.97
3.	2010-11	110.00	89.26
4.	2011-12	93.00	92.90
5.	2012-13	105.50	103.00
6.	2013-14	113.00	112.29
7.	2014-15	96.00	95.64
8.	2015-16	103.27	101.92
9.	2016-17	106.00	96.67
10.	2017-18	101.87	100.65
11.	2018-19	100.00	97.54
12.	2019-20	100.00	85.30
13.	2020-21	100.00	89.10
14.	2021-22	90.00	89.95
15.	2022-23 (up to Jan. 2023)	100	69.35
Total		1492.02	1396.98

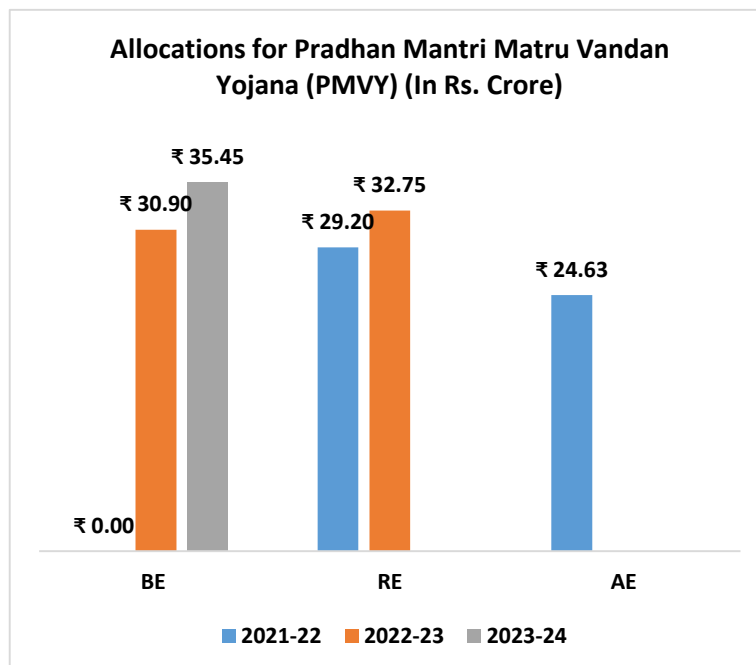
Source: Department of Women & Child Development, GNCTD

⁷ LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 977; Answered on 22.07.2022

of Delhi 2022-23, 10.64 lakh girls have so far been registered up to March, 2020 under the scheme of which 2,59,044 girls have already received the final maturity value of INR 403.93 Crore during 2008-09 to 2019-20.

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) Programme is a centrally sponsored Maternity Benefit Programme started on 01.01.2017. It provides financial support to pregnant women and lactating mothers for improving health & nutrition of mother & child. The scheme also provided with compensation for wage loss. In the Delhi Budget 2023-24, PMMVY has been allocated a total sum of INR 35.45 Crore, which is 14.72 per cent more than that of allocations in FY 2021-22.



Since the inception of this scheme, a total of 4,02,230 beneficiaries have been enrolled under this scheme during January 2017 to February 2023 and a total of INR 164.25 Crore have been disbursed during the same period. In FY 2022-23, 68976 beneficiaries registered under this scheme and INR 31.09 Crore were disbursed upto February 2023.⁸

Key ECCD Programmes with Reduced Allocations in Delhi Budget 2023-24 (In Rs. Lakh)				
Programme	2022-23		2023-24	% Increase/Decrease
	BE	RE	BE	
Expenditure on Post-Partum units in Hospitals	60000	50000	50000	-16.67
Grants for expenditure on Post-Partum units in Hospitals	60000	30000	50000	-16.67
Child Welfare (Minor Head)				
Creches	6500	5900	6200	-4.62
Incentivised Anganwadi Upgradation Scheme	150000	40000	100000	-33.33
Anganwadi Chhaya Centre	10000	10000	1000	-90.00
Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0 (State Share)				
Anganwadi Services Scheme - Procurement of Aadhar Enrolment Kit	17100	17000	17000	-0.58
Women's Welfare (Minor Head)				
Shelter Home for Destitute, Pregnant and Lactating Women	9000	9000	8000	-11.11
Mission Shakti (CSS) (Sub Head)				

⁸ Economic Survey of Delhi 2022-23

Samarthya - Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)	18000	10800	15000	-16.67
PMMVY - Flexi Fund	21000	35000	18200	-13.33
Child's Welfare (Minor Head)				
CCTV in each Anganwadi Centre	50000	10000	30000	-40.00

Key ECCD Programmes with Increased Allocations in Delhi Budget 2023-24 (In Rs. Lakh)				
Programme	2022-23		2023-24	% Increase/Decrease
	BE	RE	BE	
GIA to Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya	835000	895000	940000	12.57
Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0 (CSS)				
Anganwadi Services Scheme - Supplementary Nutrition Programme	800000	900000	900000	12.50
Poshan Mission	153800	177000	239000	55.40
Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0 (State Share)				
Anganwadi Services Scheme - Anganwadi Services (General)	460000	550000	581000	26.30
Poshan Mission	38400	118000	128000	233.33
Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0				
Anganwadi Services Scheme - Anganwadi Services (General) (Wages)	2100000	2100000	2111700	0.56
Mission Shakti (State Share) (Sub Head)				
Samarthya - Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)	262000	258200	310000	18.32
PMMVY - Flexi Fund	8000	23500	11300	41.25
Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0 (SCSP)				
Anganwadi Services Scheme - Supplementary Nutrition Programme	150000	180000	180000	20.00

Conclusion

While presenting the 2023-24 Delhi Budget, there was a significant focus on creating *Clean, Beautiful and Modern Delhi*, but a closer look at the allocations for early childhood care and development (ECCD) raise concerns over inclusion of almost 12 per cent of its population falling under 0-6 years' age category. The allocations for ECCD programmes did not observe much momentum as compared to 2022-23 budget. Some of the significant schemes like *Anganwadi Chhaya Centres, Samarthya - Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), Incentivised Anganwadi Upgradation Scheme* etc. observed significant budget cuts in 2023-24 budget which would add to the existing nutritional challenges of children in the age group of 0-6 years. While we all are recovering from the aftermath of COVID, it is quintessential to amplify the budgetary resources towards ensuring the nutritional well-being of children in the NCT of Delhi. This will have an incremental effect in the country's aspirations to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well.