The performance of the State in implementing Scheduled Caste Sub Plan is assessed regularly during the course of a Five Year Plan.

Its performance in implementing Tribal Sub Plan is assessed regularly during the course of a Five Year Plan.

The State Government does not explain clearly the basis on which various departments are reporting allocations under Scheduled Caste Sub Plan and Tribal Sub Plan.

All relevant stake holders are not consulted in the preparation of Scheduled Caste Sub Plan during the process of formulation of Five Year Plan and Annual Plans of the State.

All relevant stakeholders are not consulted in the preparation of Women’s Component Plan during the process of formulation of Five Year Plan and Annual Plans of the State.

The performance of the State in implementing Women’s Component Plan is assessed regularly during the course of a Five Year Plan.

(viii) Practices relating to Fiscal Decentralisation is the eighth parameter of transparency in the State Budget, which examines whether the State Government follows relevant budgetary practices relating to devolution of funds to Panchayat Raj institutions and urban local bodies. It also examines whether the budget documents provide information on the district-wise breakup of allocations and expenditures from the State Budget.

Practices relating to Fiscal Decentralisation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practices relating to Fiscal Decentralisation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
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<tr>
<td>100</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Positives
- The State Government has constituted the State Finance Commission but not at regular intervals over the last decade.

Negatives
- The State Government either does not publish the Action Taken Report on the recommendations of the SFSC in the legislature, or when it does, it is delayed by more than a year after the submission of the SFSC Report.

- The executive holds consultations with representatives of Panchayats and Municipalities during the course of a Five Year Plan.

The budget documents do not provide information on devolution of funds from the State Budget to the rural local bodies (RLBs) and LULAs.

- They do not provide disaggregated information on devolution of funds from the State Budget to the urban local bodies (RLBs) at different levels.

- They do not provide information on the district-wise breakup of allocations and expenditures from the State Budget.

Good Practices and Gaps in Budget Transparency in Andhra Pradesh

The assessment of transparency in the Budget of Andhra Pradesh has identified some good practices and also found a number of gaps in terms of ensuring public access to budget information that need to be addressed by the State Government. These are:

- Andhra Pradesh has initiated a number of efforts for providing budgetary information to its citizens with the help of Information Technology. State budget documents are uploaded on the Government websites on the day the budget is presented in the Legislative Assembly.

- A detailed budgetary statement has been uploaded on the state website.

Summary Scorecard on Budget Transparency in Selected States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>States</th>
<th>Andhra Pradesh</th>
<th>Assam</th>
<th>Chhattisgarh</th>
<th>Gujarat</th>
<th>Jharkhand</th>
<th>Madhya Pradesh</th>
<th>Maharashtra</th>
<th>Odisha</th>
<th>Rajasthan</th>
<th>Uttar Pradesh</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>51.8</td>
<td>50.1</td>
<td>50.1</td>
<td>61.7</td>
<td>48.3</td>
<td>60.2</td>
<td>51.1</td>
<td>52.6</td>
<td>64.0</td>
<td>53.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notion of Budget Transparency

Transparency in budgets can be interpreted as public access to information. It is an essential and quality aspect of budgetary processes and forms the basis on which the government can be held accountable for budgetary processes.

Scope of the Analysis

State-specific situations and factors should be taken into account in assessing transparency in State Budgets in India. The present analysis refers to a set of transparency parameters (explained in the subsequent pages) that would necessarily be relevant for the Budgets of all States. Although this set of parameters might not be adequate to capture all State-specific situations and factors, the study highlights the significance of the legislature, media, and general public as key stakeholders and draws attention to budgetary strategies relating to disadvantaged sections of the population and budget practices pertaining to fiscal decentralisation.

A structured questionnaire was administered during the period August to December 2010 to collect relevant information on the State Budget pertaining to the fiscal year 2009-10.
Transparency in the State Budget of Andhra Pradesh

(i) Availability of Budget Documents / Reports / Statements

* Positives
  - The State Government brings out most of the relevant budget documents and prepares some of the documents for internal purposes.
  - It does make some efforts to ensure that the budget-related documents are available to the relevant stakeholders.

* Negatives
  - The State Government does not produce some of the documents, like, Budget Memorandum and Key to Budget Documents.
  - It does not present any separate document or statement on Women's Component Plan or Gender Budgeting.
  - It does not prepare any separate document outlining allocations for RBIs and UDBs.
  - It does not bring out any mid-year appraisal of the Five Year Plan and the Memoranda submitted to Finance Commission.
  - The Government of AP does not produce evaluation reports on the budget.
  - It needs to take additional measures to ensure distribution of all relevant documents related to the State Budget to the various stakeholders.

(ii) Completeness of the Information

* Positives
  - The budget documents provide complete information on government expenditures and receipts during the fiscal year 2005-10.
  - It presents a detailed classification of government expenditures and receipts broken down in terms of administrative units as well as in terms of government functions.
  - It makes available complete information about the outstanding debt at the start and the end of the fiscal year 2005-10.
  - It provides complete information on government expenditures and receipts during the fiscal year 2000-09 and beyond.
  - It shares a detailed account of the financial assets held by the government.
  - The State Government produces all the statements that are required under the disclosure norms of the State's Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act.
  - The budget documents present details of expenditures relating to maintenance and repair of capital assets.

* Negatives
  - The budget documents do not share extensive information on transfer of resources from the Union Government to the State for the fiscal year 2005-10.
  - The budget documents do not provide information about the nature and composition of public debt with the relevant details.
  - They do not share information on funds received by the State from the Union Government or external agencies, which are not included outside the State Treasury and hence not reflected in the State Budget.
  - The budget documents do not share an account of the physical assets held by the government.
  - They do not make available details of the liabilities of the State Government.
  - They do not inform about the estimated amount of revenue foregone by the State.

(iii) Facilitating Understanding and Interpretation of the Information

* Positives
  - The transparency parameter attempts to gauge whether the information provided by the State Government facilitates public understanding of its decisions relating to budgets.
  - The questions pertaining to this parameter look at whether the budget documents and other material provide adequate information to assist in understanding the budget proposals and whether these documents include any discussion of the relevant policy goals or priorities of the State Government.

* Negatives
  - The information provided in some of the budget documents includes a discussion of the relevant policy goals or priorities of the State Government.

(iv) Timeliness of the Information

* Positives
  - The executive adheres to the budget calendar in formulation of the State Budget.
  - The State Government obtains legislature's approval for the supplementary budget in a timely manner.
  - The State Treasury is linked to internet and detailed information on its receipts and disbursements are provided on a monthly basis.

* Negatives
  - The budget circular (for the next State Budget) is not made available to relevant stakeholders in a timely manner.
  - The budget calendar for the next State Budget is not made available to relevant stakeholders in a timely manner.
  - The reports of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India relating to the State Government, i.e. audit and accounts related reports, are not made available in a timely manner.
  - The reports of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India relating to the State Government, i.e. audit and accounts related reports, are not made available in a timely manner.

(v) Audit and Performance Assessment

* Positives
  - The information provided in some of the budget documents includes a discussion of the relevant policy goals or priorities of the State Government.
  - The information provided in some of the budget documents includes a discussion of the relevant policy goals or priorities of the State Government.

* Negatives
  - The State Government does not present the information in its budgetary reports relating to the State Government's performance assessment.

(vi) Practices relating to Budgeting for Disadvantaged Sections

* Positives
  - The State Government provides budget documents to the legislators for scrutiny at least one month before the beginning of the next fiscal year.
  - There are appropriate committees within the State legislature to look into the reports of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India relating to the State Government.
  - The committees within the State legislature, which are meant to look into the reports of the C & AG of India, are functioning regularly.
  - The executive seeks approval of the legislature before shifting funds between administrative units and functional heads during the course of the fiscal year.

* Negatives
  - There are no Departmentally Related Standing Committees in the State legislature to look into the details of the budgetary provisions for various departments.
  - The State Government does not present to the legislature any document outlining the MoUs to be signed by the State.
  - The executive does not hold consultations with the legislature on the financial summary to be submitted by the State to Finance Commission and Planning Commission.
  - The executive does not present to the legislature the internal assessment reports that are produced.

(vii) Practices relating to Budgeting for Disadvantaged Sections

* Positives
  - The process of formulation of Five Year Plan and Annual Plans of the State, most of the relevant stakeholders are consulted in the preparation of Tribal Sub Plan.
  - The State Government provides most of the information on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Annual Plan document. This also includes details of the government strategies and specific programmes for development of SCs and STs.