Hello Readers!

February 2022 was all about celebrating significant steps and milestones at Indus Action. We were thrilled to see the results of the advocacy led by Hon’ble Amar Patnaik, Ram Mohan Naidu, Nadimul Haque, and many others - when the Ministry of Women and Child Development declared that a husband’s Aadhaar card will no longer be mandatory for pregnant women to avail maternity benefits under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) scheme. We hope that such a move creates a dynamo effect of meaningful conversations, like extending maternity benefits under PMMVY to the second live birth.

Our CEO Tarun Cherukuri interacted with Chamundeswari Dharmavarapu from Suno India to discuss the impact of the Covid19 crisis on children’s education and how to combat learning losses that resulted from school closures.

Listen to the full podcast in Telugu here.

Our partner IDInsight embarked on a new venture with The Dignity Project to empower social sector leaders with the tools to uphold the dignity of the communities they serve. We are excited about this new development and wish them success!

Another update coming from Odisha is that the RTE 12(1)(c) admissions are now open. We urge you to help students from your network to access unhindered education. Rupayaan and Indus Action is closely working with Education Department in Odisha in enabling school admissions in the state. Call toll free No. 1800 3456 722 or visit this link.

Blog: Budget 2022

In a poverty-stricken nation like India, the annual Union Budget is viewed not only as a financial document but as a guiding light for citizens, giving them hope and feeding their aspirations for the coming year. In our team’s assessment of the Union Budget 2022, they touch upon some important points, such as:

- Women constitute a large number of the beneficiaries and often depend on the MGNREGA scheme for employment, but its allocation has been reduced by 20%.
- Funds not allocated sufficiently to implement the PMMVY scheme and other maternal & child health measures.
- There was a need for doubling the education budget to ensure the provisions of the NEP be carried out effectively, especially in a pandemic-ridden scenario. This was not done.
- The budget allocations to reopen schools safely are being used for the maintenance of the physical infrastructure.
- There is no specification of social security benefits to 400 million unorganized workers in the budget.
- No urban job guarantee scheme has been announced even though urban employment is higher than the national average.

Read more and comment here to join our conversation.

Point Of View

As schools reopen after the third Covid19 wave, admissions under the Right
To Education Act (RTE 12 (1) (c) clause) are kickstarting across the country. Our team member Manab Singha shared his thoughts on how RTE is a right, and not a charity, in the South Asia Monitor.

Keeping up the momentum of these discussions, we partnered with OutLawed India to become joint petitioners on a Change.org petition titled: Karnataka: Make Education For All A Reality; Remove Restrictive Clause in 12.1. c of RTE. The rationale behind the petition #RTEinKarnataka:

DILUTING RTE 12 (1) (C)
Karnataka Government passed an amendment to Section 12(1) of the RTE Act in 2019 to allow only those students who do not have any government scholarship within 60% of their residence to apply under the 25% quota of private schools.

DECLINE IN APPLICATIONS
According to reports, the amendment has resulted in a 90% decline in applications to private schools under Section 12(1)(c).

DENIED OPPORTUNITY
If this clause is not struck down, close to 312,000 students will be denied an opportunity to seek admission in private aided schools in just three years.

Suresh, an auto driver, who filed the petition at the High Court recently, said

"My child’s future is in jeopardy. My daughter is studying in LKG in a private school under the RTE Act. Now, I have to discontinue her studies as the school won’t allow her to study in UKG. I also can’t afford the school fees."

Read more here.

Join us and ensure that children’s education remains inclusive under the RTE Act.

Sign The Petition

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To know more about Indus Action, visit our website and know more about our Samaaj 3.5% initiative.