

**Concept note**

**Annual Seminar on Public Policy, Processes and Performance at Different  
Stages of Life Cycle: *Sharing of Recent Research from CBPS***

**21<sup>st</sup> January 2017**

**Hotel Chancery Pavilion, Residency Road,  
Bangalore – 560025**

Indian society is characterised by deeply entrenched social hierarchies, defined by the ubiquitous markers of inequality- caste, gender, region and religion, and uneven distribution of income and wealth. Public policy discourse in India which attempts to address these issues and aims to promote overall well-being of the people is faced with various challenges. One of the major stumbling blocks faced by public policy in India is the lack of convergence between various policy measures. A life cycle development approach, which is basically a ‘paradigm’ based on the concept of ‘well-being’, provides one perspective of examining the public policy discourse and actions, which views human development holistically, and offers an opportunity to examine how an integrated approach to policy planning can be taken, keeping in mind the linkages between the various stages of life.

Centre for Budget and Policy Studies (CBPS) holds a seminar annually when it presents the recently concluded or ongoing studies to the invited participants who include researchers, academics, policy makers and practitioners from the government, academia and civil society. The seminar provides CBPS an opportunity not only to disseminate the findings of its studies, but also to obtain valuable feedback and suggestion from the participants, and add to the ongoing discourse on public policy processes and outcomes.

This year, in the seminar scheduled for 21st January 2017, we are presenting research studies that cover all major stages of life cycle: early childhood, childhood, adolescence, and adulthood. Although these studies have not necessarily been conducted with the theoretical frame of the life-cycle approach, these can contribute to the discussion on using the approach to policy panning. The seminar is divided into six sessions. The first session focuses on discussing the concept of life cycle approach to human development and linking it to social sector public policies in India. Dr. Ramya Subrahmanian will present the concept, evolution and relevance of the approach to social sector public policy formulation and our chief guest, Mr. S C Khuntia, currently Chief Secretary to the Government of Karnataka, will respond by reflecting on the Indian experiences. We expect this session to set the tone for an engaged discussion for the rest of the day.

The next four sessions focus on presentations of recent research studies by us. While the first two presentations are based on research undertaken in Karnataka with implications for national policies, the next two are based on multi-state studies. The first presentation will be on early childhood; CBPS

would present the findings from a recently concluded study on the quality of service delivery and expenditure tracking of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme in Karnataka. The presentation will raise issues about the need for restructuring the ICDS, a scheme started four decades ago, in the light of challenges that determine the landscape in present times. The second presentation will focus at elementary education; we will present on the role of technology in enabling an inclusive school education system in Karnataka. Based on our studies on Right to Education and Teacher management in Karnataka, we will argue that technology can either enable or work against inclusion, and the impact depends on how and for whom it is being used.

We next move on to adolescence and adulthood, and to multistate/national studies. Using our study on open and distance learning (ODL) as a flexible mode of delivery for secondary and higher secondary levels, we present an analysis of primary data from two states: Andhra and Rajasthan. Based on this analysis and supported by our analysis of All-India student data for the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and tracer study in four states presented in the last year seminar, we argue that while ODL can be an effective means of certification, it faces many difficult barriers to be an effective means of schooling, especially when it comes to those who face locational as well as socio-economic disadvantages.

The last presentation relates to adults, dealing with the issue of women's empowerment. CBPS is analysing and evaluating the impact of women's collectives and action in the form of *Mahila Samakhya* on economic empowerment of women in Bihar and Karnataka. We are following a mixed method approach, and will present our initial findings from both quantitative and qualitative analyses. While in Bihar we are looking at MS in a historical perspective through our research in three districts that became part of MS in three time-periods, in Karnataka, we are following the MS processes and impact in a 'new' district in Karnataka.

The concluding session will be a panel discussion on the topic of **"Life Cycle Approach to Human Development and Public Policy"**. The panellists will include Mr. J V R Prasada Rao, former Health Secretary to the Government of India, Prof. Rajagopalan from IIT, Bangalore, Prof. Shobhita Rajgopal from IDS, Jaipur, Ms. Uma Mahadevan, Principal Secretary, Women and Child Development, Government of Karnataka and Dr. Ramya Subrahmanian. The discussion will try to connect the research findings presented to larger issues of public policy choices especially from the perspective of life cycle approach.

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Agenda**

9:00 – 9.30	Registration
9.30-10.30	<p>Welcome: A. Srinivas, CBPS</p> <p><b>Invited Talk:</b> Life Cycle Approach to Human Development and Implications for Social sector Public Policies by <b>Dr. Ramya Subrahmanian</b>, Executive Director, Know Violence in Childhood: A Global Learning Initiative</p> <p><b>Chief Guest's Address:</b> <b>Sri Subhash Chandra Khuntia, Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka</b></p> <p>Release of CBPS-UNICEF Hyderabad report on “A Review of Expenditure and Services for ICDS in Karnataka”</p>
10.30-11.00	Tea Break
11.00–12 noon	<p>Research Presentation One</p> <p><b>Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme in Karnataka</b> <b>Chair: Mr. J V R Prasada Rao</b>, Former Health Secretary to the Government of India</p>
12.00– 01.00	<p>Research Presentation Two</p> <p><b>Role of Technology in enabling Inclusive School Education System in Karnataka</b> <b>Chair: Ms. Uma Mahadevan</b>, Principal Secretary, Women and Child Development, Government of Karnataka</p>
01:00–01:45	Lunch Break
01:45– 02.45	<p>Research Presentation Three</p> <p><b>Open and Distance Learning (ODL) at Secondary Level</b> <b>Chair: Prof. Rajagopalan, IIIT, Bangalore</b></p>
02:45-03.45	<p>Research Presentation Four</p> <p><b>Mahila Samakhya and Women's Economic Empowerment</b> <b>Chair: Prof. Shobhita Rajgopal, IDS, Jaipur</b></p>
03.45-04.00	Tea Break
04.00-5.15	<p><b>Panel Discussion on Life Cycle Approach to Human Development and Public Policy</b></p> <p>Panelists: Mr. J V R Prasada Rao, Prof. Shobhita Rajgopal, Dr. Ramya Subrahmanian, Prof Rajagopalan, IIITB and Ms. Uma Mahadevan, Principal Secretary, Women and Child Development, Government of Karnataka</p> <p>Convener: Jyotsna Jha, CBPS</p>
5.15-5.30	Vote of Thanks: A. Srinivas, CBPS

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