

# **WOMEN'S VOICE AND LEADERSHIP PAKISTAN**

## **Women Specific Budgeting in Pakistan (2016-2017 to 2020-2021)**

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## **SYNOPSIS**

# Women Specific Budgeting in Pakistan (2016-2017 to 2020-2021)

Budget is the most important document prepared by the government during the year. It is the document that translates government policy into action. Political parties in their election campaigns make commitments for the social uplift of marginalized communities. Governments made commitments on international fora for inclusive development through special protection to the weaker sections. One such commitment that the Pakistani government is making for the last two decades is Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. The yardstick to measure these government commitments should be explored in budget documents.

This knowledge document tracks the allocations made by federal and provincial governments to Women Specific Development Schemes (WSDS) in the last 05 years (2016-17 to 2020-21). The

document further compares the allocation made by the governments to WSDS in Budget Estimates and Revised Estimates. It also compares the percentage of the Total Development Budget allocated to WSDS by federal and provincial governments.

Women-specific development schemes are segregated from the development budget of federal and provincial governments for the last five years. Information analysis highlighted that for most of the times, the Revised Estimates were less than the Budget Estimates. In Punjab, the Revised Estimates for WSDS were more than Budget Estimates only in FY 2020-21. This happened due to the increase in the Revised Estimates for Health sector by 361% for that year. For the federal budget, the revised allocation to WSDS remained lower than Budget Estimates for the straight 05 years.

In Balochistan, it was only during FY 2016-17 that Revised Estimates for WSDS allocations surpassed Budget Estimates. For the succeeding 04 years, the Revised estimates allocations could not get anywhere near to Budget Estimates. The largest gap was in 2018-19 when Revised Estimates were 36% less than the Budget Estimates. The largest gap between the number of WSDS in Budget Estimates and Revised Estimates was also identified in the same year. This gap was as large as 76%. Initially, 223 WSDS schemes were identified in Budget Estimates which were reduced to 54 in Revised Estimates.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), FY 2016-17 was the only year when the Revised Estimates graph is higher than Budget Estimates. In that year, Budget Estimates were PKR 7,184 million. The Revised Estimates were increased by 5% to PKR 7,536 million. The maximum allocation to WSDS was identified in FY 2019-20 when Budget Estimates were PKR 12,155 million and Revised Estimates were PKR 9,498 million. The maximum number of

WSDS was also identified in FY 2019-20. The number was 90 in Budget Estimates and 67 in Revised Estimates.

In Punjab, the Revised Estimates graph is higher than Budget Estimates in FY 2020-21 only. In that year, Budget Estimates were PKR 8,060 million. The Revised Estimates were increased by 119% to PKR 17,627 million. The maximum allocation in Budget

Estimates was achieved in FY 2017-18 when PKR 16,628 million were allocated to WSDS. The maximum allocation in Revised Estimates was made in FY 2020-21 when PKR 17,627 million were allocated to WSDS.

In Sindh, FY 2016-17 was the only year when the allocation for WSDS in the Revised Estimates was greater than the Budget Estimates' allocations. This increase was only marginal, and allocation was increased from PKR 2,317 million to PKR 2,453 million (+5%). For the rest of four years, Revised Estimates remained lower than the Revised Estimates. The maximum allocation in Budget Estimates was made in FY 2018-19. The largest gap between Budget Estimates and Revised Estimates, in terms of percentage, was identified in FY 2019-20 when Revised Estimates were decreased by 55%. In Budget Estimates, the largest allocation for WSDS was in 2018-19 when PKR 3,923 million were allocated to WSDS. This allocation was reduced by 37% in Revised Estimates. The lowest allocation in Budget Estimates was identified in FY 2020-21, which

was PKR 1,917 million.

For all the five years in federal budget, the revised Estimates graph for WSDS allocation remained lower than Budget Estimates, although it was marginal for starting and end year. The largest gap in terms of allocation was identified in 2017-18 when there was a decrease of PKR 8,807 million. In FY 2019-20, the percentage decrease between Budget Estimate and Revised Estimates was 63%. In FY 2018-19, this decrease was 60%. In federal budget, the number of WSDS remained relatively low. The Budget Estimates for the FY 2018-19 had 31 schemes that were later reduced to 8 (-74%). This year holds the record both for the maximum number of WSDS in Budget Estimates and minimum WSDS in Revised Estimates. A balance was observed in FY 2020-21 when the number of WSDS for Budget Estimates was equal to the number in Revised Estimates. A near-to-complete balance was achieved in FY 2016-17 when there was a difference of only one scheme between Budget Estimates (23) and Revised Estimates (22).

Overall, during the five years, the cumulative difference between Budget Estimates and Revised Estimates for five years is PKR 33,210 million. This implies that federal and provincial governments, collectively allocated 33,210 million less to WSDS in Revised Estimates than the commitment made in Budget Estimates. The largest difference in Budget Estimates and Revised estimates was observed in the federal government. The federal government allocated PKR 14,040 million less to WSDS in Revised Estimates than was committed in Budget Estimates. The KP government allocated PKR 8,744 million less to WSDS in Revised Estimates than in Budget Estimates. The next in line are Sindh, Punjab and Balochistan governments.

During the period under review, the Balochistan government allocated 2.2% of its Total Development Budget to WSDS in Budget Estimates. The allocation was increased to 2.4% for Revised Estimates.

For the KP government, this allocation remained 3.6% in Budget Estimates and 3.5% in Revised Estimates. Punjab Government allocated 2.6% of its Total Development Budget to WSDS in Budget

Estimates. It was decreased to 2.1% in Revised Estimates. Sindh government allocated 1.1% of its Total Development Budget in Budget Estimates and

Revised Estimates. For Federal Government, this percentage was 1.1% in Budget Estimates and 1% in Revised Estimates.

The report suggests federal and provincial governments to set their clear and SMART goals for women's development for the next ten years. The minimum budget required for women-specific schemes can only be calculated based on these goals. The report also advocates for special protection to WSDS. Prior approval of assembly should be required for any re-appropriation in WSDS allocations. This can only be achieved through greater legislative control on budgetary issues, and legislation for more transparency and stakeholders' participation in budget making and execution.