

# Financing of Nutrition Specific Interventions: Implications for Program Decision Making

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# Presentation Outline

- Context and objectives of the Budget Expenditure Review
  - of nutrition interventions of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and National Health Mission programs
- Methodology
- Key findings
- Implications for program decision making

# Context and Objectives

- Lack of reliable budget expenditure data, limits the government's ability to incorporate an evidence-based understanding of nutrition into its budget planning and review process.
- Objectives of the Budget Expenditure Review:
  - Understand if government allocations are in line with prioritized nutrition interventions.
  - Insights on the budget management process.
  - Assess allocation and utilization trends.

# Methodology for Budget Expenditure Review

- Poor performing states:
  - Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh
- Well performing state:
  - Tamil Nadu
- Quantitative budget allocations and expenditure data for 3 previous FYs in identified states was reviewed.
- Qualitative interviews at state levels were conducted.
- Excel tool developed, that collates and presents data in a user friendly manner:
  - Finding, extracting, cleaning, standardizing, categorizing and developing into dashboards
- Limitations:
  - Restricted to published data
  - Data insufficiency and incompleteness

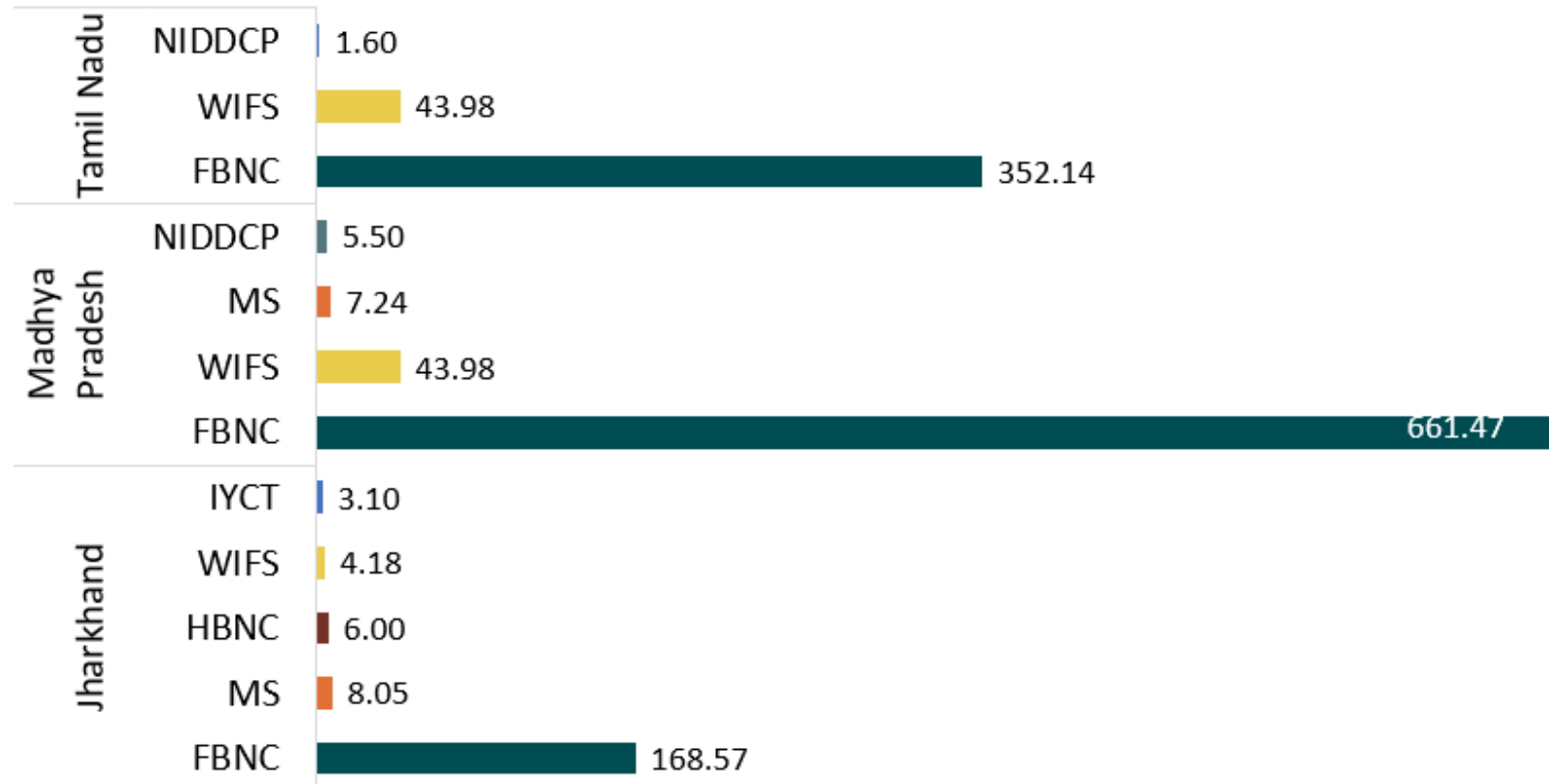


# Key Findings

- States employ different systems and strategies for developing program budgets
- ICDS and NHM allocations and expenditures vary across the three states.
  - Contrary to belief, all the three states were generally found to have high budget utilization rates for ICDS
  - The high budget utilization rates however conceal gaps in program design and implementation
- Budget formats do not disaggregate by target groups
  - ICDS allocated budgets equally across target groups children < 3, > 3, adolescents, pregnant and lactating women, and women.

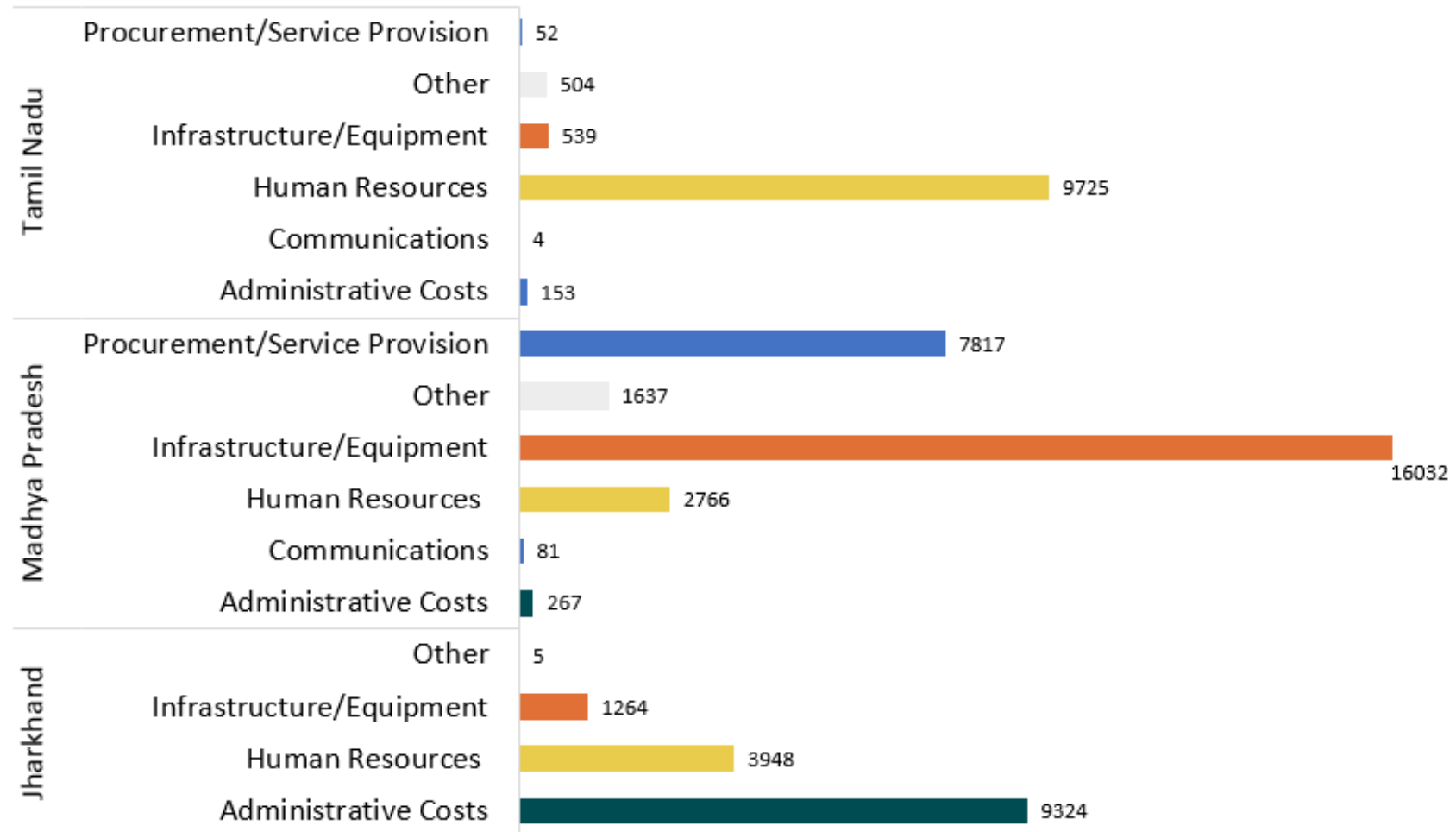
# Key Findings

- State-Wise NHM Budget Estimates by Intervention 2016-17 (₹ million)



# Key Findings

- **State-Wise ICDS Budget Estimates by Line Item Mix 2016-17 (₹ million)**



# Key Findings

- Increased center-state devolution has had no noticeable impact on state ICDS and NHM budgets
- Lack of adequate funding and flexibility hampers program innovation and restricts targeted interventions





# Implications for Program Decision Making

- Budgeting exercise is not undertaken by
  - age groups
  - interventions
- Unit costs are not known
- Limits prioritization for nutrition outcomes



# Implications for Program Decision Making

- To support planning for and implementation of priority nutrition interventions
  - Plan by age group and interventions
  - Need to have clear definitions for program components
  - Build and streamline processes for:
    - Budget planning to achieve key nutrition results
    - Regular review of expenditures for corrective actions
- Advocate to key decision makers and influencers to make data available in sufficient granularity to allow for analyzing efficiency