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Poshan Weekly is a knowledge dissemination tool intended to share research, evidence, policy and programme guidelines as well as tools on Maternal and Child Nutrition with colleagues around India.

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Parliamentary Discourse on Nutrition: What motivates lawmakers to ask questions?



Source: Parliamentary discourse on nutrition: What motivates lawmakers to ask questions? UNICEF, Centre for the Child and the Law, January 2023

Dear colleagues,

Malnutrition continues to be a critical issue in India affecting children, adolescents and adults. Parliamentarians have a pivotal role to play in the context of addressing malnutrition, they can shape effective development policies and discourse that can have

implementation and monitoring of programmes. Questions posed by parliamentarians to the Indian government help to ensure accountability for commitments made.

In this issue of PoshanWeekly, we are pleased to share a report, “Parliamentary discourse in nutrition: What motivates lawmakers to ask questions”. The report reviews two decades of parliamentary questions from 2000 until 2021 and their responses in relation to a timeline of critical nutrition events to identify key themes, trends and patterns observed in the discourse on nutrition. It attempts to identify what provoked these questions raised by the parliamentarians. Out of a total of 52,698 questions, 2,005 questions (4%) were raised on nutrition and associated themes. The highest number of questions (233) were raised in 2021 and the lowest number in 2004 (38). The years 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2021 saw higher number of questions being raised

It was found that a majority of the questions raised focused upon the national level implementation of key programmes such as the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Mid-day Meal Scheme (MDMS), Public Distribution System (PDS) and POSHAN Abhiyaan. With regards to house-wise distribution of questions, Lok Sabha had a higher number of questions as compared to the Rajya Sabha. In terms of probable triggers for parliamentary questions, only 10.7% of the total questions had references to specific articles or publications.

We hope that you will enjoy reading the full report that is listed in the resources section below. This report can be used as a reference to further build upon the nutrition advocacy efforts with the parliamentarians and create a stronger space for constituency-driven actions which in turn can go a long way in delivering better nutrition outcomes for women and children.

Kind Regards,
Arjan De Wagt,
Chief, Nutrition Programme | UNICEF India

Resources

- [Parliamentary Discourse on Nutrition: What motivates lawmakers to ask questions?](#)

Other resources

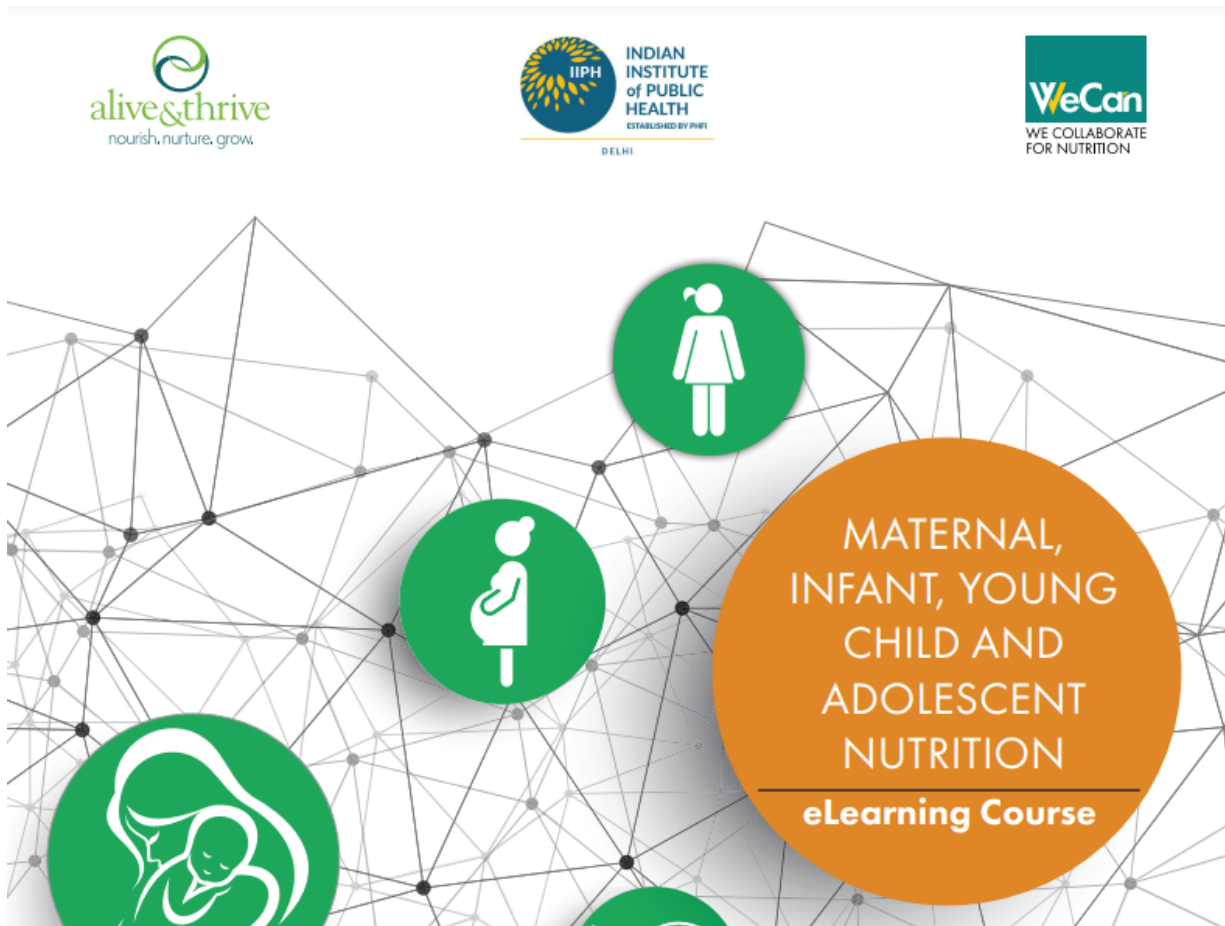
- [NFHS-5 Parliamentary Constituency Tracker](#)
- [NFHS-5 Tracker for Districts](#)
- [Visualizing Child Undernutrition across Assembly Constituencies in India](#)
- [COVID-19 Metrics Across Parliamentary Constituencies in India](#)
- [Visualizing Village Level Child Undernutrition](#)

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[Nutrition indicators now available!](#)

- 02/12/2022: [New video series on latest NFHS insights for states - Part I](#)

[Announcements](#)



Maternal, Infant, Young Child and Adolescent Nutrition (MIYCAN) eLearning Course

Offered by:

Indian Institute of Public Health- Delhi
Public Health Foundation of India

The Indian Institute of Public Health Delhi (IIPH Delhi), the Public Health Foundation of India, in collaboration with Alive & Thrive and WeCan with contributions from Food, Drugs and Medico-Surgical Equipment Committee of FOGSI, Indian academy of Pediatrics (IAP-IYCF Chapter), Indian Society of Perinatology and Reproductive Biology (ISOPARB), Human Milk Banking Association, Indian association of Preventive and Social Medicine (IAPSM) and Nutrition International developed an eLearning course on Maternal, Infant, Young Child and Adolescent nutrition (MIYCAN). This course would sensitize participants on the

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systems protocols and evidence-based approaches for quality MIYCAN programming
Admission open for April 2023 batch.

For more details or to submit online application, visit <https://cdl.phfi.org/portal/node/313>
[Brochure \(Downloadable\)](#)

Contact email: miycn_el@iiphd.org

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Nutrition in the news

Date	News	Source
23/01/2023	Aspirational Blocks Programme: Building blocks of Viksit Bharat	Indian Express
23/01/2023	Budget 2023: Thinking beyond free grain	Money Control
23/01/2023	Assam cabinet nod to 'massive police crackdown' on child marriages Others	Hindustan Times
23/01/2023	Pune startup to introduce millets in mid-day meals to fight malnutrition among children	Indian Express
20/01/2023	'Free 5 kg rice': Odisha BJP to put up banners of PM Modi at PDS shops	Hindustan Times
20/01/2023	Why mothers in Gujarat are feeding nutritious rations meant for children to cows	The Scroll
20/01/2023	Food security: How to deal with effects of climate change on Indian agriculture	Times of India
20/01/2023	Endorsements should not endanger health	New Indian Express
19/01/2023	Need To Increase Production, Processing Of Millet: Minister Narendra Singh Tomar	Outlook India
19/01/2023	Workshop thrust on bringing out improved crop varieties	Hindustan Times
19/01/2023	52 doctors issued notice for refusing to work in tribal areas, Maha govt tells Bombay HC	India Today
19/01/2023	Decision to stop PMGAY behind price rise of rice: Kerala to Centre	The Hindu

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18/01/2023	Ahead of central inspection, Bengal govt asks schools to ensure cleanliness	Hindustan Times
18/01/2023	Food security assured, now thrust is on nutritional security, says Minister B.C. Patil	The Hindu
17/01/2023	India among countries evolving food systems for bigger gains for farmer-allied SMEs: WEF study	Yours Story
17/01/2023	Farm sector's pesticide dilemma	The Hindu
16/01/2023	Not all schools are giving egg in midday meals	The Hindu
16/01/2023	State will launch projects to address malnutrition in children, says CM	The Hindu
16/01/2023	Minister inaugurates 'Millet Mela' in Mohali Says coarse grains extremely important for physical, mental health	Tribune India
16/01/2023	Centre must review NFSA beneficiaries for Budget. Use Aadhar database, not 2011 Census	The Print
16/01/2023	Centre to send team to review implementation of midday meal scheme in West Bengal	Economic Times
16/01/2023	Nutritious food essential to ensure food security: Kerala CM	The Print

[Link to previous issues](#)

- 16/01/2023: [A convergent approach to Early Childhood Development: learnings from Maharashtra's "Aarambh" programme](#)
- 06/01/2023: [How to deliver maternal nutrition : lessons from Telangana](#)
- 23/12/2022: [Poshan Gyan...a comprehensive repository for communication resources on health and nutrition](#)
- 16/12/2022: [PoshanWeekly: We need your valuable feedback!](#)
- 12/12/2022: [Resources on Early Stimulation to support healthy growth and well-being for every child](#)
- 02/12/2022: [New video series on latest NFHS insights for states - Part I](#)
- 25/11/2022: [PoshanWeekly past issues 2021-2022 list now available!](#)
- 18/11/2022: [Celebration of World Toilet Day 2022](#)
- 11/11/2022: [One-stop guide to nutrition resources!](#)

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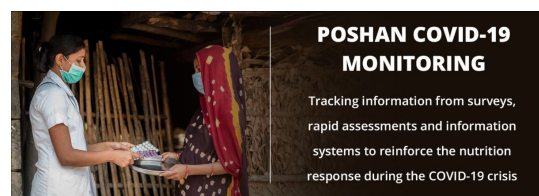
- 14/10/2022: [Celebrating Global Handwashing Day in mission mode - towards improved health and nutritional status of children!](#)
- 10/10/2022: [Resource Toolkit from Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2022 now available!](#)
- 09/24/2022: [Poshan Maah- Women show the way in improving Water Management](#)
- 09/16/2022: [Poshan Maah - Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi, Holistic Development for Every Child!](#)

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One-stop guide for nutrition resources



Ministry of Women and Child Development
Government of India



Center on the Developing Child
HARVARD UNIVERSITY



Centre of Excellence for
Management of Severe Acute
Malnutrition (CoE-SAM) Network



ROSHNI
Center of Women Collectives
Led Social Action



National Centre of Excellence and
Advanced Research on Diets

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Abhiyaan**
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Scheme for Holistic
Nourishment

सही पोषण - देश रोशन



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Inspiring Trust, Assuring Safe & Nutritious Food
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India



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