

A Study on Social Awareness Schemes and Social Welfare Policy in India

*** Dr.S.Sundararajan**

**** S.Deepa**

* (Research Supervisor) – Asst.Prof Dept of Public Administration, Government Arts College (Autonomous), Coimbatore – 641 018.

** (PhD Research Scholar) – Government Arts College (Autonomous), Affiliated By Bharathiar University, Coimbatore – 641 046.

Abstract

In the ground breaking reality of social awareness schemes and social welfare security policies that are apparently flashed up in this article in the dynamic shape with viable social related schemes in a wider perspective viewpoint. Based on the fruitful social awareness programmes through social welfare security schemes, numerous number of awareness are performable implemented as well as totally executed to wipe out all sorts of hardship existing in this scheme and further make impetus force to tune up in this socially related a variety of awareness schemes in the limelight of social welfare and social awareness policy in terms of plan and so on and so forth.

Introduction

The primary aim of social work is to help individuals to help themselves. Based on the Social case work is to be totally practiced by a variety of agencies and organizations in the community. Through case work the problems of the child can be studied thoroughly and gave them proper remedial measures. In the orphanages, the children faces several problems and the practice of case work will certainly help the individuals to maintain a normal balanced life. Social work research in this field is used to find out the problems of children and proper remedial measures can be sought out in a scientific way. Group work helps to the individuals in their relations to certain groups. Inside the orphanages, the researchers find out the scope of group works high. In the group work, the social workers engage the children in different group activities as well as focus orientated welfare scheme such as art and craft, games, sex education and discussion of problems causes of physical problems and other psychological problems. Social workers in terms of service orientated (philanthropist activity) must take more interest in study of the problems of the children's staying in orphanages and its findings of the research must be seriously considered by the government. The social welfare administration in the different institution can be developed for the welfare of children. By the way of community welfare organization and social welfare security scheme, the welfare of the children staying in orphanages could be promptly addressed and their problems could be amicably resolved.

Grants in Aid Scheme to NGOs for welfare of Women Labour

The Ministry is running a Grant-in-aid Scheme in a huge level for the welfare of women labour. This Scheme, which has been continuing consequence since Sixth Five Year Plan (1981-82), is administered through voluntary organizations by giving grant-in-aid to them for the following purposes: Organizing working women and educating them about their rights/duties, Legal aid to working women. Seminars, workshops, etc. aiming at raising the general consciousness of the society about the problems of women labour. Under this Scheme, Voluntary Organizations/NGOs are being provided invaluable funds by way of grants-in-aid to take up action-oriented projects for the benefit of women labour. Projects relating to awareness generation campaigns for women labour are funded under this Scheme. The focus of the Scheme is awareness generation among women labour, in the area of wages, like minimum wages, equal remuneration, etc. To disseminate information on various schemes of Central/State Government Agencies available for the benefit of women labour. This Scheme was introduced with the intention of furthering Government's policy of helping women workers become aware of the rights and opportunities available to them under various Schemes of the Government. Proposals of VOs/NGOs for providing grant-in-aid for undertaking awareness generation campaigns on women labour will be considered under this Scheme subject to their suitability. As per the productivity provisions of the Scheme, grants-in-aid is being provided as 75% of the total cost of the project. However, the projects relating to studies entrusted to various institutes are funded in full, i.e., 100% in full swing of operation.

The State Government in terms of CLEP

The State Child Labour Eradication Programme (SCLP) is an ambitious project of the government which had aimed at abolishing child labour all over Tamilnadu by 2007 with the help of the NGOs. The partnership between NGOs and the government is the fulcrum of the programme and is envisaged in three stages: **the identification and rescue of child labourers, their rehabilitation and their mainstreaming.** The programme is run through the department of labour and envisages enlisting of local NGOs all over the state. The department issues a public notice to enlist NGOs with at least two years of experience in child labour-related work. These NGOs are supposed to be situated at the district or sub-district (taluk) level. Once they are selected all the line departments of the government are supposed to assist them in **identifying, rescuing, rehabilitating and admitting the child workers** in the schools. These are four tiers of

Implementation involved in this. While selecting NGOs the department of labour also selects a project director in each district from outside its bureaucracy. Usually these project directors are selected from either a social work or legal background. Once the project director is selected she/he in collaboration with NGOs is supposed to conduct a comprehensive survey in his/her town/district to be followed up by the rescue effort. The rescue is supposed to be done with the help of all the line departments such as labour, police, health, education, social welfare, etc. There are magnitude problems in the identification and rescue of child labourers; the employers are antagonistic; the line departments lack coordination; some of the line departments do not participate at all: e.g., the health department; finally parents of the children too are unwilling. The identification and rescue is the basis on which child labourers are brought in by NGOs for rehabilitation. The NGOs take up rescue work nonetheless because they are committed and need the project money to work and survive. Despite these hurdles the NGOs with the collaboration of departments do succeed in rescuing child labourers. They rehabilitate child labourers in special rehabilitation centres. Each NGO is allowed and funded to rehabilitate up to 50 child labourers. In the process of identification some NGOs choose to concentrate on localities where the child labour is likely to be concentrated or where the communities in which child labour is concentrated. The government gives sufficient freedom to the NGOs to choose their strategies and the ideology and vision of the NGOs matter to some extent. Some of them concentrate on Dalit children, some from the minority communities, and some exclusively on girl children. Some NGOs told us that work related to women's self-help groups led them to identifying the child labourers. Rehabilitation of child labourers is done through temporary hostels and bridge schools. Acquainting them with the fun of growing up, equipping them with emotional and practical skills to face the big bad world and providing them precious shelter from the vicissitudes of life are numerous NGOs in the country, working for children.

Indira Awaas Yojana

Based on the IAY is a tremendous flagship scheme of the Ministry of Rural Development to provide houses to the poor in the rural areas to avert all kind of hardship existing in rural poverty as well as rural house holding in a larger extent. The objective of the Indira Awaas Yojana is primarily to help construction/upgradation of dwelling units of members of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, freed bonded labourers, minorities in the below poverty line and other below poverty line non-SC/ ST rural households by providing them a lump sum financial assistance for root out the deep-seated burning poverty line existing in a large scale.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

Under the crux of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) was launched on 25th December 2000 as a fully funded Centrally Sponsored Scheme to provide all weather 1414 Kurukshetra February 2014 road connectivity in rural areas of the country. The programme envisages connecting all habitations with a population of 500 persons and above in the plain areas and 250 persons and above in hill States, the tribal and the desert areas. According to latest figures made available by the State Governments under a survey to identify Core Network as part of the PMGSY programme, about 1.67 lakhs Unconnected Habitations are eligible for coverage under the programme. This involvement plus core valuable construction of about 3.71 lakhs km. of roads for New Connectivity and 3.68 lakhs km.

Cradle Baby Scheme

In a ground breaking level, the Cradle Baby Scheme was launched in Salem in the year 1992 by the Government of Tamil Nadu with the aim of eradicating female infanticide. This Scheme was later extended during 2001 to Madurai, Theni, Dindigul and Dharmapuri, as these districts were also found to be prone to this evil practice of female infanticide. Reception centres were started in the above districts with sufficient staff and infrastructure facilities including telephone, life saving medicines, life-orientated saving medical equipment, refrigerator and incubator. Cradles are also placed in the District Social Welfare Offices, District Collectorate, Government Hospitals, Orphanages, Railway Stations, Bus Stands, Primary Health Centres and Sub Health Centres to receive the deserted / abandoned babies which paved way high sorts of valuable process in a larger extent. These reception centres play an important role in receiving the deserted / abandoned babies and in protecting their lives. The children received in the Reception Centres are rehabilitated and handed over to licensed adoption agencies to enable the children to find a family and issueless parents to have a child. From the year 1992 to February 2010, 3622 babies (male 529, female 3093) were received under the scheme and were rehabilitated under adoption programme. The District Social Welfare Officers are designated as the Coordinating Officers for this scheme. A sum of Rs.6.21 Lakh is provided in the budget estimate for 2008-2009 for the 5 Reception Centres. A sum of Rs. 8.79 Lakh is provided in the budget estimate for the year 2009-2010 for the 5 reception centres. A sum of Rs. 2.99 Lakhs is provided in the budget estimate for the year 2010-2011 for the 5 reception centres in a spectacular way.

Welfare schemes for women in India

In a significant breakthrough of constitutional provision, Under Article 15(3), the constitution of India allows for positive discrimination in favour of women. The article, under right to equality, states: "Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any special provision for women and children. In addition to the directive principles of State Policy 39(a) state that: "The State shall, in particular, direct its policy towards securing that the citizens, men and women equally, have the right to an adequate means of livelihood."The Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (National Credit Fund for Women) was set up in 1993 to make credit available for lower income women in India. More recent programmes initiated by the Government of India include the Mother and Child Tracking System (MCTS), the Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana Conditional Maternity Benefit plan (CMB), and the Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls – Sabla.

National Child Labour Project (NCLP) for rehabilitation of child labourers. Under the scheme, the Project Societies had got sounded at the district level were fully funded for opening up of Special Schools/Rehabilitation Centers for the rehabilitation of child labourer. These special schools/rehabilitation centers provide non-formal education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition, stipends, etc. to children withdrawn from employment.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act [2005]

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, (MNREGA) was keenly notified on September 7, 2005. The objective and framework of the Act is to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

National Social Assistance Programme

The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) then comprised of National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS), National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS). These programmes were meant for providing social assistance benefit to the aged, the BPL households in the case of death of the primary breadwinner and for maternity. These programmes were aimed to ensure minimum national standards in addition to the benefits that the States were then providing or would provide in future. Thus, presently NSAP now comprises of the following five schemes:- (1) Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS): Under the scheme, BPL persons aged 60 years or above are entitled to a monthly pension of Rs. 200/- up to 79 years of age and Rs.500/- thereafter. (2) Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS): BPL widows aged 40-59 years are entitled to a monthly pension of Rs. 200/-. (3) Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS): BPL persons aged 18-59 years with severe and multiple disabilities are entitled to a monthly pension of Rs. 200. (4) National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS): Under the scheme a BPL household is entitled to lump sum amount of money on the death of primary breadwinner aged between 18 and 64 years. The amount of assistance is Rs. 10,000. (5) Annapurna: Under the scheme, 10 kg of

food grains per month are provided free of cost to those senior citizens who, though eligible, have remained uncovered under NOAPS.

PURA

PURA aims to achieve a holistic and accelerated development of compact areas around a potential growth centre in a gram panchayat (or a group of gram panchayats) by providing livelihood opportunities and to improve the quality of life in rural areas. It recognizes the rapid growth potential of rural India if enhanced connectivity and infrastructure are provided. The rural population would then be empowered and enabled to create opportunities and livelihoods for themselves on a sustainable and growing basis. Aajeevika Skills: is the skill and placement initiative of the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India (MoRD). It evolved out of the need to diversify incomes of the rural poor and to cater to the occupational aspirations of their youth. The programme's focus is on skilling and placement in the formal sector for rural youth who are poor.

Aajeevika Skills

Its origins in the 'Special Projects' component of the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY). Besides helping to reduce poverty, it rides on the hopes and aspirations for a better quality of life in large sections of the rural poor. Aajeevika Skills aims to skill rural youth who are poor and provide them with jobs having regular monthly wages at or above the minimum wages. Skilling and placement under Aajeevika Skills involves eight distinct steps i. Awareness building within the community on the opportunities. ii. Identifying rural youth who are poor iii. Mobilizing rural youth who are interested. Counseling of youth and parents. v. Selection based on aptitude. vi. Imparting knowledge industry linked skills and attitude that enhance employability.

Watershed Development

The Watershed approach as well as watertight proposal has conventionally aimed at treating degraded lands with the help of low cost and locally accessed technologies such as soil and moisture conservation measures, afforestation etc. and through a participatory approach that seeks to secure close involvement of the user-communities. The broad objective was the promotion of the overall economic development and improvement of the socio-economic conditions of the resource poor sections of people inhabiting the programme areas. Many projects designed within this approach were, at different points of time, taken up by the Government of India. The Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and the Desert Development Programme (DDP) were brought into the watershed mode in 1987. The Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP) launched in 1989 under the aegis of the National Wasteland Development Board also aimed at the development of wastelands on watershed basis. The focus of these programmes has, with the advent of the Department of Land Resources (DoLR) shifted to the enhancement of the viability and quality of rural livelihood support systems.

Hariyali

New projects under the area development programmes shall be implemented in accordance with the Guidelines for Hariyali with effect from 1.4.2003. The main objectives are: Objectives harvesting every drop of rainwater for purposes of irrigation, plantations including horticulture and floriculture, pasture development, fisheries etc. to create sustainable sources of income for the village community as well as for drinking water supplies. Ensuring overall development of rural areas through the Gram Panchayats and creating regular sources of income for the Panchayats from rainwater harvesting and management.

Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana

To provide benefits to the farmer community, the Ministry of Agriculture has launched the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) during the Financial Year 2007-08 to encourage the States to invest more towards agriculture and allied sectors so as to achieve 4% annual growth. This would help in increasing the production and productivity. The Ministry has envisaged an outlay of Rs.25,000/-cores for the 12th Five Year Plan. The scheme requires the States to prepare District and State Agriculture Plans for creation of such infrastructure, which are essential to catalyze the existing production scenario for achieving higher production. The scheme provides adequate flexibility and autonomy to the State Governments in selection, planning and implementation of project under this new flagship scheme

National Food Security Mission

Understanding the importance of food security, the National Development Council in its 53rd meeting held on 29th May, 2007 adopted a resolution to launch Food Security Mission comprising of rice, wheat and pulses to increase the production of rice by 10 million tons, wheat by 8 million tons and pulses by 2 million tons by the end of Eleventh Plan. Accordingly National Food Security Mission has been launched since Rabi 2007 with a financial outlay of Rs. 4882 cores (Eleventh plan period).

Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana

To improve the present status of women in Agriculture, and to enhance the opportunities for her empowerment, Government of India has announced “Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana” (MKSP), as a sub component of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) and decided to provide support to the tune of Rs. 100 core during 2010-11 budget. The primary objective of the MKSP is to empower women in agriculture by making systematic investments to enhance their participation and productivity, and also create and sustain agriculture based livelihoods of rural women.

Awareness

Although there is no dearth of developmental programmes, yet we are far behind in vital developmental indicators like education, health, sanitation etc. This is because masses are not aware of the different programmes launched for them. Hence there is an immediate need to make people aware by using various audio, video and audio visual sources. Information and communicational technologies (ICT) can be very useful in creating awareness. Any rural development strategy should focus in harnessing the innate capabilities of the poor so as to manifest the perfection in them and complement them with capacities such as information, knowledge, skills and attitudes so that they can participate and contribute effectively in the growing economy of the country. This is also necessary if we are to make the democracy truly representative and an inclusive one.

Change in attitudes of Elders in families: Due to the socio-culture reasons, older women (mothers-in-law) do not allow their young women (daughters-in-law) in their family to become the members of SHGs. Because of which, younger women who are interested to join SHGs remain complacent and do not realise their full potential. It is in this view, family should be taken into account and all family members' particularly older ones should be convinced that they should motivate their daughter-in-laws to become the part of SHG. The leaders of existing SHGs and SMSs can be roped in motivating young rural women to overcome social/ cultural barriers and to come out from the four walls of their houses to get benefit of the schemes and programmes implemented for their development.

Conclusion

The underlying awareness of the rural people totally regarding the newly and afresh launched social security schemes was highly compared to the previous schemes launched by the Government that would standstill, as mentioned in the previous studies. The awareness of the rural population is completely affected by in terms of the age, gender, literacy status and socioeconomic class of the people in a longer in a number of aspects in different perspective in the rest of world and so on and so forth. Though awareness remains high about social security schemes, the enrolment of the rural population in these schemes remains considerably low. The awareness about this scheme as well as social security which has glorious in a serious of legacy programme in a resounding manner in a larger extent.

The systematic parallel line between Scheme awareness and welfare social security that are quite significant as much as too relevant in a longer extent in a perennial extent. If it goes beyond profound level, there are n-number of ifs and buts that evolve in many aspects and in several respect.

References:

1. Agnes, F. 1960, Wife Beating: Changes in Social Structure in Sood (Ed) Violence against Women Arihant Publishers, 1960.
2. Alam M. Ageing in India, Socio-economic and health dimensions;2006: Academic Foundation Press, New Delhi.
3. Amartya, S. and Jean, D. (1989), In public action for Social security: Foundation and strategy. The Development Economic Research Programme, London School of Economics.
4. Annual Report of Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme, Government of Tamil Nadu, 2009-2010, p. 42.

5. Balarajan Y, Selvaraj S, Subramanian S V. Health care and equity in India. Lancet (London, England). 2011;377(9764):505- 515.
6. Boskin, M.J. (1977), The Crisis in Social Security: Problems and Prospects, Institute for Contemporary Studies, San Fransisco.
7. Bachrach, L.L. Chronically mentally ill women – an overview of service delivery issues in L.L. Bachrach and C.C. Nadelason (Eds) Treating Chronically mentally ill women, American Psychiatric Press, Washington D.C. 1988
8. Charlyulu, U.V.N. (1996), Social security initiatives in Kerala, State Planning Board, Government of Kerala. Thiruvananthapuram.
9. Government of India (1999). National Policy for Older Persons, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, New Delhi.
10. G.O. (2D). No. 23, Social Welfare, Women Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu, Dated 16-02-2007.
11. Ghuman BS, Mehta A. Health Care Services in India: Problems and Prospects. In Ramesh M, Besharov DJ, CoChiarman, Program Committee. The Asian Social Protection in Comparative Perspective. 2009 Jan 7-9; Singapore.
12. Ginneken W.V. (1995), Social Protection for the Unorganised Sector, background Paper to a round Table Discussion, Paper No. ILO/SAAT, New Delhi.
13. Indian Council of Social Science Research. Report of the Committee on the Status of Women in India, New Delhi, 1976.

=====