



A study of the Social Assistance Programmes in Chhattisgarh state of India

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A study of the Social Assistance Programmes in Chhattisgarh state of India Abstract
Social security is a wider concept that acts as a facilitator to the process of human
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Abstract :-

Social security is a wider concept that acts as a facilitator to the process of human development. Further, it provides opportunities for making various choices pertaining to the life of individuals, especially of the deprived sections of the society. In this regard, the responsibility of social assistance programme for the benefits of such people of the society who are socially, economically, physically or mentally weak lies not only with the state or the Government but also with the citizens or civil society. Under social assistance initiatives the support is provided to various sections of the society such as senior citizens, widows, disabled and abandoned women, so that they can live their lives with human dignity. In this study an attempt has been made to examine the various social security initiatives undertaken by the government of the Chhattisgarh state of India. This study considers the reports published by the social welfare department of the government of Chhattisgarh in analyzing the coverage of the socially security programmes in the state. The study concludes that an integrated approach is required for effectively addressing the various issues of the social security programmes in Chhattisgarh.

Keywords :-

Social Security, Integrated approach,
Disabled, Civil society

Introduction :-

Social assistance or security is an arrangement of providing some kind of support to a particular section of society. Under

this approach all individuals or group of individuals in a society is considered equal and important therefore the sections of society specially the ones who lives below a particular defined socio-economic conditions or measures (socio-economic caste census – 2011 in India) are given some kind of support for better or favorable decent life. Further, in developing economies like India, provisions for providing social security to underprivileged sections of the society have been well enshrined in the constitution.

Under Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP), the constitution through article 41 directs the state for welfare of poor and helpless people considering its financial limitations. Again article 41 of Indian constitution makes provision for welfare of the poor, senior citizens, widows, abandoned child and women, sick, disabled, unemployed and helpless section of society through encouraging state for provisioning of socio-economic support and development opportunities to these sections of the society. So the various social assistance programmes of state governments provide various kinds of opportunities that act as facilitator in human development. Proper healthcare facilities, opportunities for educational attainment and decent livelihood etc. to the above mentioned sections of the society are some of the important aspects of social development.

The National Assistance Program is a central scheme that starts on 15 august 1995. Under this program, each state provides benefits to the needy by different scheme. Social assistance programmes plays crucial role in providing financial support to the persons living below poverty line of a particular section of the society.

According to the Directive Principles of State Policy in the Constitution of India, every state should do welfare work for poor and helpless people and in the article 41 there is a provision to provide economic-social support and development opportunities to the unemployed, old, sick and disabled of the states.

Objectives of the study :-

This study aims to examine the followings :

1. To study the various social assistance programmes currently being implemented in the Chhattisgarh state of India.
2. To suggest the measures to enhance the effectiveness of these social assistance programmes in Chhattisgarh state of India.

Literature of Review :-

The literature review on social assistance, social security programmes across show diversified results in India, i.e. the effectiveness of these programmes varies from state to state. According to the working paper titled 'Resource Gap Analysis of National Social Assistance Programme' of the Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability, New Delhi, the National Social Assistance Programme is found to be underfunded. Further, expanding the financial horizon of the social welfare/ assistance schemes and revising the scheme guidelines was found significant for making the programme more inclusive and effective. In another study, 'Do Social Policies Improve Choices for Women in India'? Indira Mahendravada (2018) discusses about the various aspects of social welfare programmes and their effectiveness consider gender into prime consideration. Further, according to the study report titled 'A study of effectiveness of Social Welfare Programmes on Senior Citizen in rural Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat & Madhya Pradesh', the status of elder people in rural areas of India requires comprehensive protection, promotion and security at the village level. Further, Panchayat's in

rural areas can play significant role in awareness generation and providing direct social assistance among the rural people.

Research Methodology :-

In order to understand the various social assistance programmes / schemes for socio-economic welfare of people in Chhattisgarh, this study exhaustively reviews these schemes in a comprehensive manner. Information relating to the social assistance schemes for welfare and empowerment of people has been taken from the annual report and website of department of social welfare, Government of Chhattisgarh. Thus these schemes has been comprehensively analyzed and presented in discussion and conclusion section.

Discussions and conclusion :-

Discuss on the following aspects in detail with your observation / understanding According to these Directive Principles of State Policy, the government of Chhattisgarh, every year under the Social assistance Program is conducting various schemes such as Chief Minister Pension Scheme, Social Assistance Pension Scheme, Sukhad Sahara Scheme, Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme, Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme, Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension scheme and national family assistance scheme for respectfully living, social and financial support for senior citizens, widows and abandoned women in the society.

This scheme provides a fixed pension per month to its beneficiaries. Different Social assistance programmes have different criteria (which is we can see Table no. - 1) but all scheme under Social Assistance program have a common criteria that the benefit of the scheme will be given only to people below the poverty line.

From the below mentioned diagram / figure -1 the various aspects of the social assistance programmes can be observed.

The various aspects of the social assistance programmes can be observed from the below mentioned diagram -1.

Figure-1: An overview of social assistance programmes in India



Table-1: Social assistance programmes in Chhattisgarh state of India

S N	Programmes	Target section of the society / Eligibility criteria for availing social assistance programme	Programme launch details	Social assistance / monetary support	Number of beneficiaries
1	Chief Ministers Pension Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60 years or older (senior citizen) or widows 18 years of age or older or abandoned after marriage living below poverty line 	From financial year 2018-19	INR 350 per month or INR 4200 Per annum	3,10,797 (as on December 2018)
2	Social Security Pension Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disabled children in the age group of 6-17 years living below poverty line 	From financial year 1981-82	INR 350 per month or INR 4200 Per annum	5,16,649 (as on December 2018)
3	Sukhad Sahara Yojana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widows aged 18-39 years Abandoned women 18 years of age or older living below poverty line 	From the financial year 2001-02	INR 350 per month or INR 4200 Per annum	2,41,771 (as on December 2018)
4	Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme	60 years or older (senior citizen) living below poverty line	From financial year 1995-96	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For 60-79 INR 350 per month or INR 4200 Per annum For 80 to older INR 650 per month or INR 7800 Per annum 	6,62,446 (as on December 2018)
5	Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widows in the age group of 40 to 79 years living below the poverty line 	From financial year 2009-10	INR 350 per month or INR 4200 Per annum	1,72,776 (as on December 2018)
6	Indira Gandhi National Disabled Pension Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disabled in the age group of 18 to 79 years living below the poverty line 	From financial year 2009-10	INR 500 per month or INR 6000 Per annum	32,084 (as on December 2018)
7	National Family Support Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Person living below poverty line in age group 18-60, died accidentally or naturally is eligible for entitlement of this scheme. 	From financial year 2009-10	A lump sum INR 20000 to the head of the family	3,794 (as on December 2018)

Source: Department of Social welfare, Government of Chhattisgarh

From the above table-1, various social assistance programmes can be analyzed comprehensively along-with details of financial support provided and number of beneficiaries who availed the benefits of these programmes.

Suggestions :-

In order to enhance the effectiveness of these social assistance programmes in Chhattisgarh state of India, the following initiatives can be undertaken;

1. Creating awareness among people about social issues and various welfare programmes specially relating to the elders, widowed and women.
2. Convergence of the various schemes for socio-economic welfare of disadvantaged groups of the society at large.

3. Information, education and communication (IEC) about social assistance programmes to intended beneficiaries through participation of people at Panchayat level and extensive usage of social media for that may serve the purpose.

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