

## ATTITUDE TOWARDS SOCIAL WELFARE SCHEMES AMONG PEOPLE IN RURAL AREAS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ANAKKARA PANCHAYATH OF PALAKKAD DISTRICT

Ledid Bin Abdul Khader

Ad-hoc Assistant Professor, M. E. S. KEEVEEYAM College, Valanchery

### Abstract

Welfare is defined as a procedure or social effort designed to promote the basic physical and material well-being of people in need. Welfare was a system created to help those who could not help themselves; today that system is being misused and abused. The government collects money from working individuals in the form of taxes and distributes it to assist those who cannot work on their own, or those who simply choose not to work.

A Government consists of group of people who govern a state. The proper governing of state plays a very important role in the development of a country. The government should take all necessary steps for the betterment of the country and its people. A democratic country is for the people, by the people and to the people. Therefore, government of any country should act wisely for the development of the community. Social welfare is a policy in which the well being of a society at large is the main target. It includes every class/group of people in the society i.e. children, women, the disabled, old etc and the basic standard of living is guaranteed to everyone. This study aims to analyze attitude of rural people towards different welfare schemes launched by state (Kerala) and central government.

*Keywords: Social welfare schemes, rural people, central and state government schemes.*

### Statement of the problem

Social welfare programs are generally understood to be programs created and supported by governments designed to provide goods or services to citizens. These goods and services were, until relatively recently in human history. Social welfare programs provide assistance to the elderly, the unemployed, the disabled and the destitute. But some of them argue that these are not reaching in the right hands. There are too many problems and formalities for the weaker section in our state for receiving social welfare schemes. So this study focuses on how these schemes are reaching to poor people among rural areas and their attitude towards it.

### Objectives of study

- i. To study about the various social welfare schemes provided by the government to people in rural areas.
- ii. To know how people are aware about the social welfare schemes available to them.
- iii. To know how much government is involved in solving problems of people in rural areas.

### Research Design

The research methodology adopted for carrying out this study is mainly designed as an empirical work based on primary and secondary data obtained through pre-determined questionnaire, observation of selected persons. The secondary data have been used mainly for getting an idea about the awareness of rural people in different social welfare schemes.

### Primary data:

The primary data for the study is collected from people in Anakkara Grampanchayat of Palakkad district through direct interview method. The primary data has been mainly used for evaluating attitudes of rural people about various social welfare schemes available to them.

### Secondary data:

The following sources are used to avail secondary data for this study:

- Business journals
- Related websites

### Tools for data collection:

Questionnaire is used for data collection.

**Tools used for analysis:**

. The following are the tools used for the data analysis and presentation

- Percentage analysis.
- Pie diagram
- Ranking method
- cross tabulation

**Sample size:**

This study is proposed to be formed by collecting information from 50 people in Anakkara Grampanchayat of Palakkad district (mainly focused on poorest people).

**Sampling technique:**

The technique used for the research is convenient sampling because the population is finite.

**Limitations of the study**

- i. This study covers the reachability of social welfare schemes among people in rural areas using responses only from a small population (Anakkara grampanchayat) representing the whole Palakkad district.
- ii. For the purpose of achieving stated objectives for the study, the researcher confronted both financial and time constraints.
- iii. Speedy nature of respondents.

**Major Findings**

- i. Most of the people living in rural areas belong to Other Backward sections or Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribes category. Only 12% constituted general section caste.
- ii. Most of the people in rural areas are self-employed or household industry worker. Even in rural areas agricultural labours are less.
- iii. 34% of the people in rural areas had secured graduation level qualification and 28% of them had completed their higher secondary education. So most of the people in the rural areas are educated.
- iv. Even though people are educated, most of the people's monthly income falls below 5000 (60%). Monthly income of 28% of the people in rural areas is between 10000 and 15000. Even looking at the family income, only 2% of the people are above 25000 and 50% is below 5000.
- v. The most popular scheme among people in rural area is Kudumbashree schemes, followed by Integrated Child Development Scheme (80%) and Indira Awas Yojana (74%) respectively. The least popular scheme is Balika Samriddhi Yojana (18%).
- vi. Social welfare schemes provide assistance to food and improve access to affordable medical care. But most of the people in rural areas don't believe that it helps in distributing society's wealth in balanced way and provides assistance where it is needed the most.
- vii. Most of the people in rural areas gets notification regarding the schemes from Panchayat (42%), Public (24%) and friends (18%). Least of the people receives notification from online and newspapers.
- viii. Majority of the people in rural areas are not getting support from Panchayat for the problems that they are facing.
- ix. 48% of the families in rural areas are not enjoying any schemes provided by the government.
- x. 92% of the people are not receiving the benefits of welfare schemes on time
- xi. Most of the people depend on Panchayat (50%) and Akshaya centres (42%) for applying for the schemes provided by the government. Even though most of the people are educated, none of them had applied for schemes with the use of their own computers.

- xii. 94% of the people living in rural areas want some more schemes for the development in their areas.
- xiii. More than half of the people (68%) had faced problems when they applied for the schemes.
- xiv. 64% of the people in rural areas opinion that benefits of social welfare schemes are in the wrong hands.
- xv. 80% of the people didn't receive any classes on various social welfare schemes provided by the government. They are not getting complete awareness regarding the schemes

## Conclusion

The impact of the various governmental programs for improving the socio-economic lots of the disadvantaged groups has remained uneven and continues to be not so satisfactory. The main reason for the dilution of these welfare schemes is lack of will, sincerity and commitment. Most crucially the majority of these excluded groups do not have capabilities to avail of the benefits of these schemes. Poverty has its severest and absolute manifestation among these groups. Although people are aware about various schemes provided by the government, they find difficulties in being the member of such schemes. Also they are not being able to apply for it. Only a small population of rural area are enjoying the benefits of social welfare schemes provided by the government. Most of the benefits of social welfare schemes are in the wrong hands. Even though the government is providing various supporting schemes for the betterment of people in rural areas, the complete awareness about such schemes are not reaching to them properly. Classes about such schemes are reaching to only a small population. So it is the duty of government to take initiative to make people aware about each and every schemes provided by the government.

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