UNIT 14 : SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMMES

UNIT STRUCTURE

14.1 Learning Objectives
14.2 Introduction
14.3 Welfare of Women and Children
14.4 Health and Family Welfare.
14.5 Welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Schedule Tribes
14.6 Right to Information Act and National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005
14.7 Recent Social Welfare initiatives
14.8 Let us sum up
14.9 Further Readings
14.10 Answers to check your progress
14.11 Possible Questions

14.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit you will be able to-

- identify the some programmes associated with social welfare.
- understand the impact of defferent programmes.
- identify a few recent social welfare programmes

14.2 INTRODUCTION

Social welfare programmes are initiated by the government in various sectors for the development and welfare needs of the different sections of the society. At the local level, welfare programmes are undertaken by the authorities, but due to lack of finances, expertise, political will and apathy of local people, mostly only Municipal Corporation could undertake these programmes. To make the programmes effective local

bodies should be encouraged to participate in the execution, preparation and implementation of various programmes.

14.3 Welfare of Women and Children

The status of women has been a chequered one and in spite of various developmental measures, the condition of women remains grim. No scheme of development whether economic or social can be successful unless women play a constructive role. The first two plans emphasised on providing services to women and children.

The Centre and the Union territories have launched a number of programmes for improving the social and economic status of women. Various State Governments have taken up centrally sponsored scheme of integrated child development services for implementation in the states. Central and state governments give aid to voluntary organisations for construction of women hostels, provision of crèches and other establishments. Further, central social welfare board, state social welfare advisory board, Indian council for women welfare. Red cross etc have been working for women's welfare.

Moreover, central social welfare board has introduced social economic programmes in which training is imparted , work is provided to women in need in social welfare institutions which are seen by voluntary agencies. Voluntary organisations work for eradication of social evils like drug addiction, dowry death, bride burning etc. The government from time to time introduces and amends laws to suit the interests of women. They are the Equal Remuneration Act 1976 to prevent discrimination against the women employees. Marriage laws Amendment Act 1976, the Dowry Prohibition Act 1961, Child Marriage Restrain Act 1978, Maternity Benefits Act etc. These legislative measures help in removing social prejudices, social inequalities and social status against women. The Association of Social Health in India runs the Family Life Institute in Delhi. This institute provides counselling services and family life education for souses, parents, unmarried youths, teenagers, child dropouts etc.

Indira Mahila Yojana

This programme was initiated on November 19, 1989 to create awareness of rights and priviledges of women as equals. Government sponsored 90 schemes for women were brought under this scheme. The money allocated for women welfare was spent on salaries and establishment charges. Voluntary lady workers called Saathian were in charge of informing women of the schemes available to them. There was also a scheme of opening women and child development centres in every village panchayat area on Municipal areas of the country.

Women Development Corporations

These corporations were proposed to be set up in all the states and the Union territories in 1986-1987. The objective was to provide employment to women and thereby making them self-sufficient. They should promote schemes for women and groups belonging to weaker sections. Its function is to identify employment areas, give assistance for project formulation and finances, arranging raw material and providing training facilities and infrastructure for marketing. These corporations have been set up in 12 states.

Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA)

Government of India sponsored this scheme for development of women and children belonging to families below poverty line in rural areas. It also runs Anganwadi Training Centre under Integrated Child Development Scheme of Government of India. Welfare schemes for children can be classified into institutional and non-institutional services.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

1. Social welfare programmes are initiated by the government in various sectors for the _____ and _____ of the different sections of the society.
2. Indira Mahila Yojana was initiated on _____ to create awareness of rights and priviledges of women as equals.

3. Voluntary lady workers called _____ were in charge of informing women of the schemes available to them.
4. Women Development Corporations' objective was to provide _____ to women and thereby making them _____.
5. Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) also runs _____ Integrated Child Development Scheme of Government of India.

14.4 Health and Family Welfare

Since independence health status of the people has made considerable progress. Mortality rate has been reduced while life expectancy has increased. Dispensaries, hospitals and institutions giving specialised care have been developed at all levels. Drugs, pharmaceuticals, vaccines, hospital equipments etc are produced indigenously. Although, many diseases have been controlled. There are certain problems which still exist. The high rate of population has adverse effects on the health of people and quality of life. Mortality thereby increases and the nutritional level is low leading to malunutrition. There is lack of potable water in rural areas as well as basic sanitation facilities leading to diarrhoea and infectious diseases. As such, training and education of medical and health care personnels are required to reorganise the health care services.

Family Welfare

This is a voluntary programme which includes overall strategy of growth covering family, health of children, mothers old people nutrition, immunisation, living conditions and allied problems of the family and above all family planning. These programmes should be integrated and included in the mainstream of development planning. Family planning was adopted in 1952 in the first five year plan. Centres were opened to give advice and provide clinical service. In 1966 Department of Family Planning was opened and the Family Planning Programme was reorganised and made target oriented. Important changes covered all the areas relevant to family planning like mass education and motivation, services and supplies, training of

workers, research and education etc. In order to educate the people, the medium of films, radio television, audio, media etc as put to use.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

6. In 1966 _____ was opened and the Family Planning Programme was reorganised and made target oriented.

7. What does the Family Welfare Programme deal with?

14.5 Welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Schedule Tribes

Social welfare aims to organise the Scheduled Castes to help their community. Under Article 341, certain backward classes/communities suffering from untouchability has been abolished and its practice in any form is forbidden.

Representation in Legislature and Services.

In Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies seats are reserved for SC and ST in proportion to their population. In Gram Panchayats and local bodies seats are reserved so as to give them proper representation. The government has made reservation for SC and STs in the services under the control to help in the representation. Concessions such as age relaxation, relaxation in qualifications have been provided.

Centrally sponsored Schemes.

- Post matric scholarship for SC and ST students.
- Pre-matric scholarship for the children of those engaged in unclean occupations.
- Book bank for SC and STs studying in medical and engineering colleges.
- National Scholarship for those pursuing research in public universities.
- National overseas scholarship.
- Aid to voluntary organisations for SCs.

- Schedule Caste Development corporations.

Welfare programmes at state level.

Departments of welfare of schedule caste and backward classes in state governments and union territories administer a number of programmes for the welfare of the Schedule castes. These welfare programmes include initiatives such as - educational and training programmes, economic upliftment and health, housing programmes to mention a few.

Tribal development and welfare strategy

The constitution provides safeguards for promotion and protection of the STs. Government of India allocates funds for their development and also evolves policies and programmes for the development by consulting the state government also.

Some of the measures undertaken for the welfare of the STs are :

- Constitutional safeguards
- Appointment of Commissioner for Welfare programmes.
- Creation of welfare departments and ministries in the state.
- Appointment of Backward Class commission
- Reservation of seats in the union and state legislatures.
- Reservation of positions under government
- Tribal commission.

Tribal sub-plan (TSP)

Tribal sub-plan (TSP) was implemented during the fifth five year plan for the development of the tribal people and tribal areas. Its main thrust is on protection and promotion of interests through legal administrative support and implementation of developmental schemes to raise their level of living.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

8. In Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies seats are reserved for SC and ST in proportion to their _____.
9. Name some Centrally sponsored schemes for SC's and ST's
10. What is the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP)?

14.6 Right to Information Act (RTI) and National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) 2005

The RTI Act is a cross cutting legislation, which empowers ordinary individuals and communities to demand entitlements and make better informed choices. Across India, individuals have used the RTI act successfully to demand equal wages, transparency in government spending under different policies and schemes.RTI provides for setting up of a practical regime to enable and empower citizens to secure access to information under control of public authorities.

The RTI has quite rightly been regarded as a foundational right-which is the key to realisation of other fundamental human rights. Groups such as Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangthan (MKSS) and Parivartan have already started integrating the RTI into campaigns such as right to food and water and right to work.

The parliament passed the NREGA in August 2005, with the objective of providing guaranteed employment on demand to that proportion of the India's adult rural population willing to undertake physical or manual labour. NREGA is a practical reflection of the idea that, "...guaranteed employment as a means and an instrument of which the main objective is the creation of social assets to eradicate poverty, famine and floods". (Kulkarni, 2005). Thus, this Act seeks to provide individuals willing to do manual labour, employment in development and public works project such as water harvesting, drought proofing, and afforestation land development projects.

14.7 Recent Social Welfare initiatives

The Central Government lead by Narendra Modi has become quite famous for launching a number of social welfare schemes throughout the country within a short span of time. Some of them are mentioned below-

- **Digital India**

  Digital India Program was launched in August 2014 to change the face of India digitally and electronically. This would in turn pave way

for a digitally empowered nation and economy. As per this campaign, all offices and departments of Government of India would be digitally connected to each other and to the target population, thereby making the government mechanism smoother and malpractices free. This would also ensure effective governance in the country.

- **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana**

  Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, which ensures a bank account for every Indian. In this mass drive, more than 15 million saving accounts were opened across the length and breadth of the country with almost all public sector banks participating in it. It was the first ever financial inclusion program launched in the country and has seen success so far. More than Rs 1,500 has been deposited in banks so far by the account holders.

- **Swachh Bharat**

  The campaign was launched in 2014 with almost every big and small personality of the country taking to the streets and taking part in it.

- **Make in India**

  This was more of a slogan than a campaign coined by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure self sufficiency in the field of mass production. The vision has been to attract global investors to invest in domestic market and thus create India a manufacturing hub for the entire world. Make in India would also ensure that there are sufficient job opportunities for the national youth who are struggling to get a decent job in order to compete with their international counterparts.

- **Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana**

  As per Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana, each MP would take out some part of their funds for the development of their constituencies. Physical and institutional infrastructures are some of the way through which the villages of the country can reach up to their empowerment, as a whole. The Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana ensures the same.

The campaign which started in year 2014 is said to be successfully concluding by year 2019.

- **Atal Pension Yojana**

  Low cost benefits have been the core guiding principles of the Narendra Modi lead Central Government in almost all the schemes they are launching. Atal Pension Yojana too is one such scheme, which ensures old age pension to those who are not covered under any other pension or social security scheme. This way, those people who have been working in unorganized sectors and enjoying no pension scheme would be covered and can ensure a healthy and comfortable old age.

- **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)**

  Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana is primarily a welfare housing scheme launched by the central government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. With PMAY, the intention is to provide housing to all by year 2022. In order to make the scheme a success and reality, a total of around 2 crore houses would be constructed across the length and breadth of the country by year 2022.

- **Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)**

  The PMJJBY is a term life insurance policy that goes a long way in ensuring a safe financial future for the policy holder and comes with lowest cost on a yearly basis.

- **Suraksha Bima Yojana**

  Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana targets social security through insuring accidental deaths and partial or permanent disabilities.

- **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana**

  Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana would ensure that adequate infrastructural arrangements are made so that maximum fields in the country are connected to the irrigation system properly.

- **Kaushal Vikas Yojana**

  Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana would facilitate necessary arrangements so that the younger lot of workforce in India is provided with world class training as far as technical expertise is concerned.

- **Garib Kalyan Yojana**

  Under this scheme, the government would run several micro campaigns to ensure that that the welfare needs of the poor population are met and taken care of. It would conduct workshops to meet its agendas.

- **Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana**

  Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana is one of the most promising and relevant schemes launched by the Narendra Modi Government. SSY lays special emphasis on financial empowerment of the girl child. Through this scheme, the parents of any girl child below 10 years can open a saving account for their daughters and operate it till they attain an age of 21 years.

- **Pradhan Mantri LPG Subsidy PAHAL Yojana (DBTL)**

  The first phase of the scheme was launched in 54 districts of India on a trial basis and ran successfully. Now, the scheme is executed and functional throughout the country. The full form of PAHAL Yojana is Pratyaksh Hanstantarit Scheme and concerns the LPG customers. The new PAHAL scheme makes every consumer eligible for a subsidy. The subsidy is now directly transferred to the consumer's saving bank account under two options. Cash Transfer Complaint is the functional process under which all the consumers of LPG would avail the benefits from PAHAL scheme. The subsidy that a consumer gets under the scheme would be directly transferred to the customer's bank account.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

11. The RTI has quite righty been regarded as a foundational right which is the key to realisation of other_____.
12. The parliament passed the NREGA in _____.
13. Digital India Program was launched in August 2014 to change the face of India _____.
14. What does the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana deal with?

15. When was the Swachh Bharat campaign launched?
16. _____ensures self sufficiency in the field of mass production.
17. What is the Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana?



14.8 LET US SUM UP

- Social welfare programmes are initiated by the government in various sectors for the development and welfare needs of the different sections of the society.
- The Centre and the Union territories have launched a number of programmes for improving the social and economic status of women.
- Central social welfare board has introduced social economic programmes in which training is imparted, work is provided to women in need in social welfare institutions which are seen by voluntary agencies.
- There is Equal Remuneration Act 1976 to prevent discrimination against the women employees.
- The Association of Social Health provides counselling services and family life education for souses, parents, unmarried youths, teenagers, child dropouts etc.
- Indira Mahila Yojana was initiated on November 19, 1989 to create awareness of rights and priviledges of women as equals
- Women Development Corporations were proposed to be set up in all the states and the Union territories in 1986-1987,
- Women Development Corporations objective was to provide employment to women and thereby making them self-sufficient.
- Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) scheme was sponsored for development of women and children belonging to families below poverty line in rural areas.
- Family Welfare is a voluntary programme which includes overall strategy of growth covering family.

- In Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies seats are reserved for Sc and ST in proportion to their population.
- Tribal sub-plan (TSP) was implemented during the fifth five year plan for the development of the tribal people and tribal areas.
- The RTI Act is a crosscutting legislation, which empowers ordinary individuals and communities to demand entitlements and make better informed choices.
- The parliament passed the NREGA in August 2005, with the objective of providing guaranteed employment on demand to that proportion of the India's adult rural population willing to undertake physical or manual labour.



14.9 FURTHER READING

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Sachdeva,D.R. Social Welfare Administration in India. Kitab Mahal:Allahabad,1998

Complete List of Schemes lunched by Modi Government , Available at http://www.gr8ambitionz.com/2015/08/complete-list-of-schemes-launched-by-modi-government-with-details.html

14.10 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans to Q No. 18. Social welfare programmes are initiated by the government in various sectors for the development and welfare needs of the different sections of the society.

Ans to Q No. 19. Indira Mahila Yojana was initiated on November 19, 1989 to create awareness of rights and priviledges of women as equals

Ans to Q No. 20. Voluntary lady workers called Saathian were in charge of informing women of the schemes available to them

Ans to Q No. 21. Women Development Corporations objective was to provide employment to women and thereby making them self-sufficient.

Ans to Q No. 22. Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) also runs Anganwadi Training Centre under Integrated Child Development Scheme of Government of India.

Ans to Q No. 23. In 1966 Department of Family Planning was opened and the Family Planning Programme was reorganised and made target oriented.

Ans to Q No. 24. Family Welfare is a voluntary programme which includes overall strategy of growth covering family, health of children, mothers and old people nutrition, immunisation, living conditions and allied problems of the family and above all family planning.

Ans to Q No. 25. In Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies seats are reserved for SC and ST in proportion to their population.

Ans to Q No. 26. Some Centrally sponsored schemes for SC's are -

- Post matric scholarship for SC and ST Students.
- Pre-matric scholarship for the children of those engaged in unclean occupations.
- Book bank for SC and STs studying in medical and engineering colleges.
- National Scholarship for those pursuing research in public universities.
- National overseas scholarship.\
- Aid to voluntary organisations for SCs.
- Schedule Caste Development corporations.

Ans to Q No. 27. Tribal sub-plan (TSP) was implemented during the fifth five year plan for the development of the tribal people and tribal areas. Its main thrust is on protection and promotion of interests through legal

administrative support and implementation of developmental schemes to raise their level of living

Ans to Q No. 28. The RTI has quite righty been regarded as a foundational right which is the key to realisation of other fundamental human rights.

Ans to Q No. 29. The parliament passed the NREGA in August 2005.

Ans to Q No. 30. Digital India Program was launched in August 2014 to change the face of India digitally and electronically.

Ans to Q No. 31. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana ensures a bank account for every Indian. In this mass drive, more than 15 million saving accounts were opened across the length and breadth of the country with almost all public sector banks participating in it.

Ans to Q No. 32. Swachh Bharat campaign was launched in 2014.

Ans to Q No. 33. Make in India ensures self sufficiency in the field of mass production.

Ans to Q No. 34. Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana one of the most promising and relevant schemes. SSY lays special emphasis on financial empowerment of the girl child. Through this scheme, the parents of any girl child below 10 years can open a saving account for their daughters and operate it till they attain an age of 21 years.



14.11 POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

A) Long Questions (Answer each question in about 300-500 words

Q.1. Write a short note on Indira Mahila Yojana?

Q.2. Write a short note on RTI and NREGA?

Q.3. Discuss some recent social welfare schemes?

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