

Recent Welfare Schemes in Telangana State-An Observation

K. Ailaiah

Associate Professor of Sociology, Kakatiya University, Warangal, TS India

Abstract

The Government of Telangana was formed on 2 June 2014 after bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh as part of Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014. Government of Telangana is a democratically elected body that governs the State of Telangana, India. Telangana is a state in the south of India. It is situated on the centre-south stretch of the Indian peninsula on the high Deccan Plateau. It is the twelfth largest state and the twelfth-most populated state in India. Welfare is a government program which provides financial aid to individuals or groups who cannot support themselves. Welfare programmes are funded by taxpayers and allow people to cope with financial stress during rough periods of their lives. Welfare can refer to a government system designed to give money, food, and resources to the poor. . A scheme is a plan or arrangement involving many people which is made by a government or other organization. A welfare state is a political system wherein the State assumes responsibility for the health, education, and welfare of society. The welfare state is a concept of government in which the state plays a key role in the protection and promotion of the economic and social well-being of its citizens. Government of Telangana has been implementing various welfare schemes. **KEYWORDS:** Bifurcation, welfare schemes, resources, protection, promotion.

Introduction:

Welfare can refer to a government system designed to give money, food, and resources to the poor. Welfare systems have been around since ancient Roman times, but the U.S. welfare program didn't start until the 1930's, during the Great Depression. A scheme is a plan or arrangement involving many people which is made by a government or other organization. A welfare state is a political system wherein the State assumes responsibility for the health, education, and welfare of society. The system of social security in a welfare state provides social services, such as universal medical care, unemployment insurance for workers, financial aid, free post-secondary education for students, subsidized public housing, and pensions (sickness, incapacity, and old-age), etc. In 1952, with the *Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention*, the International Labour Organization (ILO) formally defined the social contingencies covered by social security.

Welfare is a government support for the citizens and residents of society. Welfare may be provided to people of any income level, as with social security, but usually it is intended to ensure that the poor can meet their basic human needs such as food and shelter. Welfare attempts to provide poor people with a minimal level of well-being, usually either a free- or a subsidized-supply of certain goods and social services, such as healthcare, education, and vocational training. Welfare is a government program which provides financial aid to individuals or groups who cannot support themselves. Welfare

programs are funded by taxpayers and allow people to cope with financial stress during rough periods of their lives. Government of Telangana has been implementing various welfare schemes.

Objectives:

The objectives of the present paper are as follows:

- To study about Amma Odi and KCR Kit, Arogya Lakshmi, Aasara Pensions.
- To discuss about Mission Kakatiya, Mission Bhagiratha, Amrutha Dhara.
- To know about Haritha Haram, Kalyana Lakshmi/ Shaadi Mubarak.
- To explain about Housing for the Poor, Rice Distribution, SHE Teams etc. Projects provided by Telangana state Government.

Methodology:

The present paper is on 'Welfare Schemes in Telangana State-An Observation'. The Data of the present study were collected through secondary sources. Secondary data required for the study have been collected from numerous books, journals, news papers and websites.

Amma Odi and KCR Kit:

Amma Odi and KCR Kit are two welfare programs for mother and child launched by the Government of Telangana. Amma Vodi provides transport facility for pregnant women before and after delivery. The program provides financial and medical assistance to women undergoing delivery of the child at any government hospital in the state. The program aims to reduce the Infant Mortality Rate and Maternal Mortality Rate which currently stands at 28 deaths per 1000 and 65 deaths per 1 Lakh deliveries respectively. The Aadhar-based Mother and Child Tracking System (MCTS) software is used by healthcare workers to track women at every stage of pregnancy.

The state government has launched KCR Kit Scheme for pregnant women. Pregnant women can utilize this scheme for maximum 2 deliveries. Women who give birth at a government hospital can utilize this scheme. The main aim of this scheme is to provide all the necessary items for pregnant women and the newborn baby. Under this scheme, pregnant women will be provided with financial assistance of Rs. 12,000 in three phases. In case of a baby girl, an additional Rs. 1000 will be given by the government. KCR Kit contains Baby oil, Soaps useful for mother and child, Mosquito net, Dresses, Handbag, Toys for child, Diapers, Powder, Shampoo, Sarees, Towel and Napkins, Baby bed.

Mission Kakatiya:

A flagship programme of the government aimed at restoring around 46,000 tanks in five years to provide irrigation source to about 25 lakh acres spending Rs 22,000 crore. As of February, 2017, restoration work has been started for nearly 20,000 tanks and

works have been completed for about 5,000 tanks. Government of Telangana has sanctioned more than Rs. 4,600 crore for this initiative in 2015-16 and 2016-17 budgets. As part of the Mission, activities like desiltation, repairing damaged sluices and weirs, restoring dilapidated tank bunds, stone revetments and plugging seepages are carried out.

Mission Kakatiya is aimed at improving the ground water table, reducing the power consumption by farm sector, getting higher yields, spurring the growth of livestock and rejuvenating rural economy on a whole. As per the ICRISAT study, application of silt on farm fields resulted in savings ranging from Rs 2,500 to Rs 3,750 on fertilisers and pesticides. And the yield of cotton increased by 1,000 kgs per hectare.

Mission Bhagiratha:

Under the Telangana Drinking Water Supply Project, a mammoth 1.30 lakh km stretch of pipelines would be laid to quench the thirst of Telangana towns and villages apart from providing water for the industrial needs. For this project, surface water of perennial rivers and major reservoirs would be utilised as a raw water source. Taken up with an estimated cost of Rs 35,000 crore, Mission Bhagiratha is intended to ensure that no female member of a household would need to walk miles to carry a pot of water. Under this flagship programme, it is conceived to provide 100 litres per capita per day (LPCD) treated and piped water to every household in rural areas, 135 LPCD in municipalities and 150 LPCD in municipal corporations. This pioneering scheme has been commended by the Government of India for other States to emulate.

Amrutha Dhara:

To provide a permanent solution to the problem of drinking water supply in the Towns and Cities of Telangana, the government has launched the Amrutha Dhara Program. This scheme is being jointly implemented by the Central and State governments. Under this scheme, the government has decided to provide at least 135 liters per person in urban areas.

Haritha Haram:

Another flagship programme of the government, Telanganaku Haritha Haram envisages increasing the green cover of the State from the present 25.16 to 33 per cent of the total geographical area. A total of 230 crore seedlings would be raised in the coming three years starting the first week of July celebrated as 'Green Week'. Fifty lakh saplings would be planted in GHMC limits alone this monsoon. Forest Department and District Water Management Agency (DWMA) have made ready 41 crore saplings for this year. Rs 325 crore has been set aside in the FY 2015-16 for the purpose.

Kalyana Lakshmi/ Shaadi Mubarak:

To alleviate financial distress of SC/ST, BC, EBC and minority families, Government decided to sanction a one-time financial assistance of Rs. 1, 00,116 at the time of marriage for brides who are residents of Telangana State. Accordingly, Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubaarak Schemes have been introduced with effect from October 2, 2014 for unmarried girls, who have completed 18 years of age at the time of marriage and whose parental income does not exceed Rs. 2 lakh per annum.

Arogya Lakshmi:

Telangana government provides one nutritious meal every day to pregnant and lactating women and children below the age of six through Anganwadi centres. The scheme was launched officially on January 1, 2015 by Honourable Chief Minister Sri K. Chandrashekar Rao. For the women, 200 ml of milk for 25 days a month and one egg each day will be given with meal. Children, aged between seven months and three years are provided with 16 eggs a month in addition to a 2.5 kg food packet. For children aged between 3 and six years, one egg a day in addition to rice, dal, vegetables and snacks is supplied.

A total 18, 96,844 lactating mothers, 5, 18,215 infants and 21,58,479 pregnant women were covered under the scheme expending Rs 627.96 crore in the past year. The quantity of food items supplied under the scheme has also been increased across all the categories.

Aasara Pensions:

As a part of its welfare measures and social safety net strategy, the Telangana government has introduced the “Aasara” pensions, with a view to ensure secured life with dignity for all the poor. ‘Aasara’ pension scheme is meant to protect the most vulnerable sections of society in particular the old and infirm, people with HIV-AIDS, widows, incapacitated weavers and toddy tappers, who have lost their means of livelihood with growing age, in order to support their day to day minimum needs required to lead a life of dignity and social security.

The Telangana Government introduced “Aasara” - a new Pension scheme - enhancing the monthly pension from Rs. 200 to Rs. 1000 for the old aged, widows, weavers, toddy tappers and AIDS patients and Rs. 500 to Rs. 1500 for disabled persons. The government has spent Rs 4,700 crore on pensions benefitting 37, 65, 304 people including senior citizens, widows, physically handicapped, poor & old-aged artists and beedi workers.

Housing for the Poor:

This hallmark initiative of the Telangana government is intended to provide quality and respectable housing to the poor. The ‘housing for the poor’ plan provides for two and three storied buildings with the 2 BHK flats in Hyderabad and other urban areas while they are to be built as independent houses in rural areas. A pilot has been taken up at IDH Colony in Bhoideguda, Secunderabad. As many as 396 units - with each comprising of two bedrooms, hall and kitchen - are being constructed in 32 blocks of G+2 on 580 square yards at a cost of Rs 37 crore at 7.9 lakh per each flat.

Land Distribution to Dalits:

Another significant welfare scheme of the government that provides 3 acres of agricultural land to landless SC women, along with the provision for creation of irrigation facilities, land development and other agricultural inputs for their sustained livelihood. Government distributed 2,524 acres of land to 959 Dalits spending Rs 94 crore in the first year.

e- Panchayat Project:

To ensure electronic delivery of public services in every village in the state of Telangana, the government has launched the e-Panchayat Project. In this program, every village in the state will be provided with the ICT services. All 8770 villages will be enabled to provide e-services like issuance of online certificates like Birth & Death Certificates, Payment of Pensions and Electricity bills in a phased manner.

Rice Distribution:

A whopping 87.57 lakh eligible families, approximately 2,86,00,000 (two crore eighty six lakh) beneficiaries, are being supplied rice from 1st January, 2015 at 6 kgs per person at Re. 1 per kg without any ceiling on the number of members in the family. More than 1.80 lakh MT of rice per month would be required for this purpose. Rs. 1,597 was being spent on the subsidy. To arrive at the eligibility of the BPL families, the family income limit in rural areas has been increased to Rs. 1.50 lakh and in urban areas to Rs. 2 lakh. The land ceiling has also been increased to 3.5 acres of wet land and 7.5 acres of dry land.

Government started supplying superfine rice, or Sanna Biyyam, to schools and hostels benefitting 56 lakh students annually with an additional outlay of Rs 120 crore. More than 12,500 MT of rice is being distributed for the purpose.

Strengthening Security Apparatus:

To safeguard and secure the lives of its citizens, the Telangana Government sanctioned an amount of Rs. 271 crore for the purchase of 4,433 vehicles for Hyderabad and Cyberabad Police. Out of these, 3,883 vehicles equipped with modern technology have already been purchased. The number of new vehicles provided to the remaining nine districts in the State is 550. Additionally, 1500 motor cycles have been provided to Cyberabad Police to respond within 10 minutes of receiving a complaint or call. State government has allocated a monthly amount of Rs.75, 000, Rs.50,000 and Rs.25,000 to each police station in the city, district headquarters and villages, respectively.

The Government has taken up CCTV project under which one lakh CCTV cameras are planned to be installed in 2015-16 in Hyderabad city. All these cameras will be connected to the proposed Command and Control Centre.

SHE Teams:

Keeping rising incidents of crime against women in mind, the Telangana government has constituted a seven member committee headed by IAS officer Poonam Malakondaiah to advise it on the measures to be taken for the safety and security of women and girls. The committee submitted its report with 77 recommendations. Forming SHE teams is one of them. The teams keep tab on the eve-teasers and stalkers in crowded places. Initially set up in Hyderabad and Cyberabad police Commissionerates, they were expanded to all the Telangana districts on 1 April following the encouraging results.

Sheep Distribution:

This scheme gave a quantum jump to the rural economy and is designed for the upliftment of Yadava/Golla/Kuruma families who are approximately 4 lakhs in the state. Provision of financial support to these skilled families for rearing sheep on a large scale will facilitate not only their economic development but also facilitate production of sufficient meat in the state. It is also targeted to make Telangana a hub for meat export in near future. The traditional shepherd families will be supported with the supply of (20+1) sheep on 75% subsidy with a total project outlay of Rs. 5,000 crores.

SoFTNET:

Society for Telangana Network is an initiative that provides quality education and training to identify groups who aim at achieving the last mile connectivity by utilizing the potential of Satellite Communications and Information Technology. SoFTNET uses GSAT 8 Satellite and telecasts four channels. T-SAT NIPUNA and T-SAT VIDYA cater to the distance learning, Agriculture Extension, Rural Development, Tele-Medicine and E-Governance requirements of the people of Telangana. SoFTNET has entered a fresh MoU with ISRO that came into effect from 28 September 2016. Apart from the launch of TS-Class programme, it also started coaching classes for TSPSC Group II Services aspirants. SoFTNET has also promoted digital and cashless payments through awareness videos.

TASK (Telangana Academy for Skill and Knowledge):

This is a unique skill development initiative from IT, E&C Department aimed at improving the quality of graduates coming out of colleges by imparting industry-grade skill sets. More than 800 colleges have registered with TASK and over 1 lakh youth from across Telangana have been skilled since TASK's inception in June 2015. TASK has also bagged the prestigious SKOCH Platinum award for Revamping Skilling Initiatives for youth in Telangana.

T-Fiber:

Video on demand, etc T-Fiber aims at creating a scalable, robust, resilient, secure and long-lasting digital infrastructure to deliver various services, applications, content from Government and service providers. With a state-of-the-art network infrastructure, it is designed to achieve the goal of 'Digital Telangana'. Affordable & reliable high-speed broadband connectivity is provided to every household, government and private institutions in Telangana. T-Fiber provides high-speed broadband connectivity to over 3.5 Cr. people and institutions in Telangana. T-Fiber will also form the basic platform for the provision of a number of services like e-governance, e-health, e-commerce, e-banking.

Rythu Bandhu Scheme:

Rythu Bandhu Scheme / Farmers' Investment Support Scheme (FISS) is a welfare program to support farmer's investment for two crops a year by the Government of Telangana. The government is providing 58.33 lakh farmers, Rs. 4000 per acre per season to support the farm investment, twice a year, for rabi and kharif seasons. This is a first direct farmer investment support scheme in India, wherein the cash is paid directly. The scheme offers a financial help of Rs. 8,000 per year to each farmer (two crops).

There is no cap on the number of acres, and most of the farmers are small and marginal. The total farming land is 1.43 crore acres and the number of farmers in the state stood at 58.33 lakh. Around 55% of population in Telangana makes a living from agriculture.

Input Subsidy for Farmers:

To reduce the production cost of farmers and to double their income, the government has decided to provide Rs 4000 input subsidy per acre per season for all the farmers in the state from 2018-19 financial year. This amount can be used by the farmer to buy fertilizers, seed or any other inputs. The government is conducting a Rythu Samagra Survey (RRS) to identify the real beneficiaries in the state for implementing this scheme.

The government will credit this subsidy amount directly into the bank accounts of farmers by the end of the month of May (Kharif) and by the start of Rabi season. The government through this scheme is aiming to reduce the indebtedness of farmers.

Conclusion:

The Government is implementing and initiating numerous welfare schemes for the upliftment of the downtrodden people. But the Government should see to implement in a correct way to reach the benefits to the needy. Then the people belong to weaker section would be brought up into main stream.

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