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SOCIAL POLICIES AND ADMINISTRATION

B.P.A.E.- 144

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**Sample Preview
of the
Solved
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QUESTION PAPER

June – 2024

(Solved)

SOCIAL POLICIES AND ADMINISTRATION

B.P.A.E.-144

Time: 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 100

Note : Answer any **five** questions by selecting at least **two** questions from each section. All questions carry equal marks.

SECTION-I

Q. 1. Explain the concept of social policy, its characteristics, objectives, goals, models and scope.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 1, 'Concept of Social Policy', Page No. 2, 'Characteristics', Page No. 3, 'Objectives' and Page No. 4, 'Models of Social Policy, Scope'.

Q. 2. Write a note on the ways laid down to combat poverty in India.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 29, 'Combating Poverty: A Way Forward'.

Q. 3. Make an appraisal of the public distribution system in India.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-4, Page No. 42, 'Appraisal'.

Q. 4. Discuss the provisions of National Education Policy, 2020 and a few selected educational institutions.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Page No. 60, Q. No. 4, Page No. 54, 'India's Educational Initiatives: Select Examples'.

SECTION-II

Q. 5. "India has undertaken various health initiatives". Elaborate with selected examples.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 68, 'India's Health Initiatives; Select Examples'.

Q. 6. Discuss the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana along with its sub-schemes.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 37, 'Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission'.

Also add: Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana:

National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) is the flagship program of the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) aimed at poverty reduction by building strong institutions for the rural poor, especially women, and enabling them to access various financial services and livelihoods. DAY-NRLM takes a demand-driven approach, allowing States to design their own poverty reduction plans. The mission is implemented in intensive blocks and districts through State Rural Livelihood Missions (SRLMs), partner institutions, or NGOs, while the remaining areas are categorized as non-intensive. NRLM, which restructured the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY), was renamed DAY-NRLM in March 2016.

The mission seeks to cover 7 crore rural poor households across 600 districts, 6000 blocks, 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats, and 6 lakh villages over 8-10 years. The focus is on organizing the poor into self-managed Self Help Groups (SHGs) and federated institutions, providing them with livelihoods support, improved access to rights and services, and enhancing their social empowerment. By harnessing the skills and capabilities of the poor and enhancing their access to information, skills, tools, and finance, NRLM aims to integrate them into the country's growing economy. The mission's goal is to reduce poverty by enabling poor households to access self-employment and skilled wage employment,

leading to sustainable improvements in livelihoods through strong grassroots institutions. Key benefits include bringing one member from each rural poor household (preferably a woman) into the SHG network and linking SHGs with banks. SHGs are federated at the village and higher levels to provide resources and reduce dependence on external agencies.

DAY-NRLM has four main components: social mobilization and capacity building, financial inclusion, livelihood promotion, and convergence. A participatory social assessment identifies vulnerable households, including the poorest, women-headed households, and migrant laborers, for special focus. The mission provides training in institutional management, credit absorption, and capacity building. It supports skill development, rural youth employment through Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs), and innovation, infrastructure, and market support. Revolving Funds strengthen SHG financial capacity, and Community Investment Support Funds (CIF) provide loans and

collective activities in intensive blocks. The scheme promotes financial inclusion, interest subvention on SHG loans, and convergence with various ministries for poverty reduction. States have the flexibility to develop decentralized poverty reduction action plans, with linkages at the district level to District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) and Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs).

Q. 7. Explain the various divisions that work with the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 90, 'Department of Social Justice and Empowerment'.

Q. 8. Define social entrepreneurship and its dimensions and also the characteristics of social entrepreneurs.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-13, Page No. 148, 'Defining Social Entrepreneurship', 'Characteristics of Social Entrepreneurs' and Page No. 149, 'Dimensions of Social Entrepreneurship'.

■ ■

Sample Preview of The Chapter

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SOCIAL POLICIES AND ADMINISTRATION

BLOCK 1 : SOCIAL POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION : AN INTRODUCTION

Social Policy: Concept, Characteristics, Objectives, Scope, Functions, Principles and Models



INTRODUCTION

The modern government today is so designed that it is based on the social contract between citizens and the State. The terms and the conditions have been mutually decided for the wellbeing of the nation. The effort is between the State and the citizens. The reasons are: The citizens agree to support the State either to pay taxes and remittances or adhering to government order or subscribing to the higher ideals like equality, equity, fraternity etc. The other reason is that the State in reciprocation secures legitimacy in order to govern the country by protecting the rights of the people and evolving appropriate social policies for the common good. The focus of the modern government, especially in the developing countries is on giving adequate importance to social policies to overcome social problems, such as illiteracy, alcohol and drug abuse, ill-health, elderly abuse, and social injustice to the deprived communities.

The Russian Nobel laureate Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn stated that “If state and social policy will not be based on morality, then mankind has no future to speak of...” According to this statement, any policy must be developed for sustained human development and effective social policies could lead to two consequences: legitimisation of State and citizen well-being and development. The increase in the number of social policies has increased the domain of social policy, as an academic discipline and the boundaries are widened by taking insights from other social science disciplines like sociology, economics, politics, history, law etc. This chapter deals with the concept of social policy, characteristics, goals, scope, functions, principles and models.

CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

CONCEPT OF SOCIAL POLICY

The term ‘policy’ refers to the principles that control the action which have an intended outcome or a change. The policy can be action-oriented and change-oriented. The social policy can be seen as a vital State instrument. Aravacik (2018) stated that the term social policy in Continental Europe has been referred to, as “social policy” whereas in the North American literature it has been referred as “social welfare policy”. The study of social policy has emerged from the field of ‘social administration’ which focused on preparing personnel in social services. Spicker (2014) stated that social services include the ‘big five’ services i.e., social security, housing, health, social work and education along with employment, prisons, legal services, community safety etc. The social policy is now an extensive field encompassing protection of rights and entitlements of the deprived, and meeting their social needs, such as, life expectancy, safety and dignity in work spaces, constitutional safeguards, housing, participation in public spheres etc. With the evolution of modern governments, there has been a corresponding development in welfare state and social policy.

The research conducted by British economist Nicholas Barr stated that the welfare state is an outcome of various forces that has been actively involved in evolving social policy. The lack of equitable treatment for all people during pre-Independence phase in India helped in setting of the Constitution to set up a governance framework that could work for the welfare of all people irrespective of place of birth, religion,

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caste, disability, and occupation etc. We can therefore say that any government service that aims at improving the quality of life of the deprived communities can be categorised under social policy. Let us consider an example wherein a person with disability may feel unsafe and low in self-esteem if s/he does not experience fair treatment in public and work spaces. For this, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 is enacted by the Government of India in order to ensure all persons with disabilities to be treated equally with dignity and justice. The Preamble to our Indian Constitution has placed the ideal of 'justice,' as the most important ideal of modern government, as its pursuance leads to sustenance of state legitimacy and citizen well-being. This ideal of 'justice' is put into action by selecting the 'social policy' as a vital tool.

Richard Titmuss in 1955 wrote an essay 'Social Division of Welfare' in which he advocated for reviewing the impact of welfare policies in societal context. Titmuss stated that the welfare policies would lead to failure if it does not take cognisance of social realities. Some of the social realities like inadequate healthcare, illiteracy, gender and caste discrimination, elderly abuse etc. helped the government to come up with appropriate policies and schemes for the well-being of people. Another example is the scheme introduced by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in collaboration with the Lakshya Trust (a community-based organisation in Gujarat) which has evolved the Garima Greh Scheme in 2020 for the transgender as they lead a homeless life that makes them feel unsafe and intimidated. Thus, we can say that in social policy, the government is not just the only actor, rather, the government collaborates and works in partnership with a number of other actors like community-based organisations, judiciary, non-government organisations, interested individuals, social media etc. The main focus of the development of the social policy is well-being of the people irrespective of gender, religion, caste, income, disability etc. The government can promote the well-being of people when they tend to identify the core areas of social policy. According to Spicker (2014), the core areas of social policy are as follows:

- Health policy, social security, education, employment, community care, and housing.
- Some uncertain circumstances like disability, disaster, old age, illness, family breakdown.
- Some anti-social issues like crime and drug addiction.

- The cases of the socially disadvantaged like transgender persons, poverty-stricken community etc. and
- An array of collective social responses like provision of financial aids, voluntary efforts, government-community partnerships (like Garima Greh Scheme) to the above social problems.

We can therefore conclude from the discussion above that the term 'social policy' refers to the social action and responses taken by policy makers in order to promote the welfare of the people. The government collaborates with multiple actors to identify social realities and take appropriate action in order to develop the social policies.

CHARACTERISTICS

Some of the characteristics of a social policy are as follows:

A positive instrument of change

The main objective of the social policy is foster change in terms of 'changing situations, systems, practices, and behaviour' (Titmuss, 1974). This helps in bringing the positive change in the lives of the underserved communities i.e., education, housing, insurance, skill development, employment etc. The National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSCFDC) was developed in India with the commitment to finance and mobilise funds for the economically deprived Scheduled Castes (SC). The objective is to facilitate the deprived communities in order to access resources without any hassles.

Invests in inclusiveness

Another important characteristic of the social policy is that it invests in inclusive development of the deprived and intends to bridge the gap between the affluent and the deprived (haves and have-nots). Sugamya Bharat App, a crowd sourcing mobile application was launched in 2021 by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (PwD) for ensuring equal access for persons with disability in public places. The aim was to enable the people with disabilities as well as the elderly to virtually report-accessibility related issues in buildings, transport or in any infrastructure by uploading pictures on it.

Focuses on collective intervention

According to the definition given by Mkandawire (2001), the social policy is a collective intervention that directly affects changes in social welfare, social institutions, and social relations. In the process of constructing social development, the government

SOCIAL POLICY: CONCEPT, CHARACTERISTICS, OBJECTIVES..... / 3

provides platform for collective participation and intervention of civil society actors' such as to higher education institutions, community-based organisations, charitable and philanthropic organisation, non-government organisations, media, interested participants etc. The Sight Savers is a NGO that works for the welfare of PwD launched an online petition to call the Government of India to make all public places equally accessible by 2025.

OBJECTIVES

Titmuss (1974) stated the three main objectives of social policy which are:

To be beneficent

The main objective of the social policies is on the benefit of the human beings and to meet human needs like education, health, housing, and social security.

Economic and non-economic objectives

The economic objectives of the social policy are minimum wages and the non-economic objectives are minimum essential standard of living. Here, the minimum wages refer to the remuneration paid by the employers to the physical labour, as mentioned by the law and the minimum standard of living refers to the fundamental human needs (besides food, clothing, and shelter) like safety and survival, establishing connection and acceptance, self-esteem, identity, freedom, justice and self-fulfilment.

Transfer of resources from rich to poor

The measures of progressive redistribution are included in the social policy when it comes to transfer of resources from rich to poor. Let us consider an example of a successful transfer of resources from rich to poor happens, if the rich villagers contribute their money to establish a primary school in a village for the poor children.

GOALS

The four goals of a social policy as stated by Aravacik (2018) are:

Social Justice

The people are given fair and equal treatment whether in terms of opportunities or participation in governance process. The objective is to eliminate the inequalities and deprivations caused by income levels.

Social Balance

When the differences and disparities can be eradicated, the social balance can be created. Let us consider an example of underserved communities across India which should be treated fairly, as this would promote balance and harmony in the society.

Social Peace

The objective of forming the social policies should be the promotion of social peace and the policies that inhibit social peace of the society need to be eliminated. The example is, the domination of multinational markets over local markets is not only unfair but it disturbs the balance of the society in the long-run. Therefore, such things should not be permitted and should be rectified in favour of the local society.

Social Integration

The social integration is the inclusion of vulnerable groups into the social structure in order to equip them as important and functional members of the society.

PRINCIPLES OF SOCIAL POLICY

Principle of Solidarity

Solidarity refers to a mutual contract among social groups such as, family, clubs, federations, etc. The objective is to build mutual accountability and responsibility. The concept came into existence during the 19th century labour movement when the workers mobilised themselves for collective action. Over years, the principle of solidarity started finding its place in legislations and laws. The principle of solidarity focuses on the need for providing the support based on mutual cooperation, networking and collective action. The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) was launched in 2005 with the objective of providing accessible, affordable, and quality healthcare to the rural population. The committee acts as a platform to take collective actions on village health issues like improving health awareness and outreach activities.

Principle of Equality

According to the principle of equality, no member of the society should be deprived of any opportunities or make use of powers of oneself as this will result in a conflict with social justice (violation of constitutional rights). On the basis of this principle, the institutions of society (government or judiciary or civil society) can only interfere when an individual or group is/are not capable of meeting their own needs. When there are circumstances of incapability, the institutional intervention becomes meaningful.

The villagers in Rajasthan during 1990s were legally deprived of understanding the existing laws related to right to minimum wage and were not paid, according to the laws by the authorities. The Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS), a NGO, developed legal awareness among the people and mobilised them to demand open access to the records of expenditure for various programmes at the local level. The MKSS

battled for three years to meet their demands and the result was that the People's Right to Information became a social movement by 1996, which demanded that all government bodies should maintain and preserve records for future reference. The Government of India also enacted the Right to Information Act in 2005. The intervention of MKSS legally empowered the people to raise voice for their rights in order to gain the information and become informed citizenry.

Principle of Subsidiary

The principle of subsidiary states that the local people are the important stakeholders in decision-making. The local government and civil society actors play an important role. In example of MKSS, the NGO made the villagers empowered. The Gram Panchayats also play a vital role in some cases that has led to the well-being of people. One example in this regard is the Jakatwadi Gram Panchayat (Satara District) in Maharashtra which made a landmark decision to provide financial assistance of Rs. 20,000 to widows who wish to remarry. The local people unanimously came forward to break the social taboo connected with women. The panchayat announced that the funds for meeting the expenditure would be given from Gram Panchayat's budget for women and child welfare. The example tells us about the principle of solidarity. The social policy is not only aimed at being wealthy rather it reinforces well-being of the people.

MODELS OF SOCIAL POLICY

The models of social policy (Titmuss, 1974) help us to know about the facts and choices (of our economic and social life) in a clear and precise fashion.

The Residual Welfare Model of Social Policy

The model is on the presumption that the needs of the individual could be met properly with the help of private market and the family. When these entities do not work, then the social welfare institutions may temporarily intervene. The model states that the welfare provisions should not be provided for a long term because this theory assumes that people must learn to survive without the benefits from the social welfare institutions.

The Industrial Achievement-Performance Model of Social Policy

Another name of this model is 'Handmaiden Model,' as it assists the economy. An important role is played by this model as social welfare institution and assumes that it has to function on the premise of economic and psychological theories related to incentives, effort, reward, work performance etc.

The Institutional Redistributive Model of Social Policy

The model believes in the social welfare as an integral institution in the society that provides services based on the principle of need. These social welfare institutions work outside the market. It is based on theories of multiple effects of social change and on the principle of equality. Titmuss stated that the model incorporates systems of redistribution in command over resources through time.

SCOPE

The scope of the social policy is as follows:

1. Social policy is about welfare: The term 'welfare' refers to the well-being and also the range of services provided by the State. The term is used frequently in the social policy context and is relatable to serving the needy and poor (Spicker, 2014).

2. Social policy is about policy: The social policy is more related to the understanding the realities. Let us understand this with an example that social policy may not be directly related to 'food' but it is concerned with 'regulation and distribution of food.' The focus in this case is on the underserved communities and their capacity to access food (Spicker, 2014).

3. Social policy is concerned with issues that are social (Spicker, 2014): The word 'social' in social policy refers to the need for collective response to social problems. It is related to removing the hurdles of development at the grassroots level. For example, in 1950s, the Tamil Nadu government introduced the Mid-day Meal Scheme in order to ensure universal access to primary education. In this scheme, free lunch was provided to the poor, starving children in government schools so as to make them access education. A lot of money was needed in the Scheme and hence a fair amount of funds were mobilised by the public. Therefore, the mobilization of funds by both government and the public is a collective response to the problem of low school enrolment.

4. Social policy is an applied subject (Spicker, 2014): The idea of social policy is multi-disciplinary and contextual in nature. The social problems are complex in nature and the social policy extends across a broad spectrum of social science disciplines. The notion of the social policy is that there is no one best way to tackle a social problem and tries to look for the solution from different perspectives. The idea is practice-oriented and identify the social problem and thereafter find methods and approaches to fit the problem.