

# Targeted Intervention by Government and its positive externalities

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**Abstract:** In the long history of welfare measures and methods of governance which have been deployed since Indian Independence for the masses benefits, the targeted intervention deserves a special measure of progress and applicability. One needs to understand the application of statistics in its implementation, however, it started off with not that great buzz in India but brought to the limelight, the inevitability of quality of life in the marginalized upon its realization. One also needs to interpret the *raison d'etre* behind governments clarion call of intervention in the wake of poor capacity utilization. Several governments with different indicators of success and failure have enabled that sense of behavioral change with an introduction of targeted intervention.

**Keywords:** Sustainable Pathways, Implementation, Targeted Intervention, Measures of Governance, Social Audit, Capacity Utilization, Realization of Innate Potential

**Empirical Data and its effects on policymaking:** India, in its 2nd five year plan, observed for the first time the importance of data in policymaking as Indian scholar, P.C. Mahalanobis, came up with this novel idea in those troubling times in early years after independence. One can say it was a defining moment in our policymaking especially when we had seen under the British, the negative effects of lack of data in the policy making and its implementation.

The models initiated by the leaders of the country not only gave us a new and renewed vigor of confidence in Indian landscape of welfare measures, however, it did open the ways for targeted intervention in the coming years under other premiers. It is undeniable that Nehru's idealism was instrumental in advocating the government's active role in the basic policymaking for the welfare of masses and providing that extra sense of security for the most vulnerable.

Indian Constitution, indeed, was formed on the principles of 'welfare state' and it was in the Indian dynamism of diversity and different peoples from all walks of life that *One Size Fits All* approach couldn't be enough and wholesome. In the long history of welfare measures and methods of governance which have been deployed since Indian Independence for the masses benefits, the targeted intervention deserves a special measure of progress and applicability. One needs to understand the application of statistics in its implementation, however, it started off with not that great buzz in India but brought to the limelight, the inevitability of quality of life in the marginalized upon its realization. One also needs to interpret the *raison d'etre* behind governments clarion call of intervention in the wake of poor capacity utilization. Several governments with different indicators of success and failure have enabled that sense of behavioral change with an introduction of targeted intervention.

Even in the modern context of India in the new millennium, governments at the helm; centre and state; did not ever hide in making new policies for the masses or even sanctioning hefty amounts of money on governance. It's true that some of the opinions in our country do not go well with the aforesaid measures of welfare, however, we also need to remember the pledges taken by the fathers of nation. *Tryst with Destiny* deserves special programming and intervention by major stakeholders in the diverse aspects like education, healthcare, employment, poverty eradication and behavioral change.

**Realism around Targeted Intervention with examples:** As discussed above, several governments who have undertaken the responsibility of providing people with *liberty, justice, equality* and *ensuring fraternity*, most of them have made the wise use of reports, commissions, agendas, doctrines and panels, who after intensive research on the targeted group have delivered what they were asked for and enabled a great deal of government's attention towards that grim aspect.

Right from the Community Development Programs (CDP) and establishment of Block Development Officers (BDO) in local area in Nehru's government, the ideal of targeted intervention in reducing mass deprivation was very well received by the people of those times. The big targets around agriculture productivity and production did not basically targeted the very least inclusive masses, however, it did set the tone for future ballads of welfare measures and hefty government promises. Likewise, the second five year plan, also known as Mahalanobis Model initiated the great deal of change in the policy circles of the country, bringing with it the gem of *empirical policy*. Also, during the second decade after independence in the third five year plan, important targets were set and resources allocated had to be delivered in the sustainable capacity for the greater good. However, the geopolitical and domestic externalities brought failure with them and targeted intervention failed for the first time.

The second phase of the targeted intervention as we understand it contains different approach towards the welfare measures and it was difficult for the then policy makers to adapt immediately with that. The consciousness of realism that Gandhi bought with her not only gave people something to cheer again after debacles in the early 1960s, however, it was commendable in people again imposing trust and their time in government's responses towards their problems. The situation and circumstances which India had to bear in those times made the thing crystal clear of *self-sufficiency*.

Post the first half of 1960s, Gandhi, as we discussed, brought realism with her and India accelerated on the path of self-reliance, in turn, benefitting swathes of marginalized people with another milestone of targeted intervention and taking people out of the clutches of malnutrition and widespread poverty. The programs of irrigation development, population control, social justice, education empowerment, scientific development and along with it, digital temperament; all of them targeted the masses with great optimism and it was a sign of drastic change in the Indian policy making and thought process.

**A complex mix of Neo-liberalism and Socialism:** With millions of population under the poverty line and millions dying in the web of employment, interventionist measures in the hope of liberalism and new reforms of Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization, have to be adhered to, although with an increasing innovation after great use of new and emerging technologies of the ultra-modern age.

Quantum Computing, Big Data Analytics, Artificial Intelligence, Robotics; all of these new and emerging technologies can enable people to innovate and shrug off their problems of long standing nature. For the wider application of such technologies, continuous monitoring and effective regulation by the government officials and proper tabling of data is equally necessary for targeted intervention to succeed.

Schemes like MGNREGA, Bharat Nirman Program, National Food Security Act, Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Program, Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Smart City Mission, Pradhan Mantri Aadarsh Gram Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and Bharat Net Program etc.; all of these interventionist measures have been implemented with great use of data in finally making sure the impact of inclusion and exclusion of deserving people.

The enshrined motive in Indian Constitution, supreme law of the land, states that Indian state will bear in its mind the application of fundamental rights and also looking after the judicious use of Directive Principles of State Policy while drafting any measure for people's welfare.

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