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A Selective Study Of Public Policies By Government Of West Bengal

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Abstract

Public policy is the basic guideline for the steps taken by various government agencies in various matters of the country. Public policy is formulated to solve the problems of citizens and to improve the overall condition of the country. If these policies are well incorporated into the functioning of the government, it makes the governance of a city, state or country easy and effective. Therefore, public policy has become very important in the modern world. The initiative taken by the state for the welfare of people from all walks of life is called public policy in a nutshell. Public policy is formulated for overall development in the interest of the public from the district to the national level. The responsibility of implementing public policy also lies with the central and state governments. Currently, technology is gradually improving. In the digital age, the complexity of socio-economic development has increased. There are problems of education, health, housing, jobs of the people. Along with this, there are various problems like climate change, digital security. To solve all of them quickly, appropriate policy formulation is required. Skilled policy makers and analysts are needed to manage that work. Again, various ideas about social inequality work among the socially conscious youth community. Many people dream of social change. If they want to play the role of administrators, then they need to have sufficient knowledge of this public policy. The demand for courses related to public policy has increased in the last few years. In this, paper I want to discuss some selective policies which are initiated by Government of West Bengal.

Key-Words: Government of West Bengal, Policy, Development, Initiatives and Welfare etc.

Introduction: The Government of West Bengal has implemented numerous public policies and welfare schemes, particularly focused on rural development, women empowerment, education, and social security. Many of these are flagship programs aimed at direct beneficiary support, often delivered through doorstep outreach initiatives. Some selective policies are discussed given below:

Sabujshree:

This scheme works under the Department of Forest, Government of West Bengal. Through this project every child is given a valuable plant after the birth of a child. The plant will be named as the name of the child and the seedlings will grow with the growth of the baby. The child's family will feed both the plant and the child carefully. When the child becomes older, if he at any time faces financial crisis then he can sell it to meet the need. Along with the future financial support of the child, the tree will also help much to the biosphere for so many years. The present Chief Minister Smt. Mamata Banerjee started the project on 19th December, 2016. Beneficiaries of the project are directly related to each and every stranger in the state and indirectly every statesman. This is a versatile plan. Green Bengal is being developed through this project. On the other hand, attempts to create such an inseparable relationship and feeling between nature and human beings are undoubtedly fancy.

Khadyasathi:

This project comes under the Department of Food and Supply, Government of West Bengal. The purpose of this project is to provide food and nutrient protection and to ensure the supply of certain quantities of foods at affordable prices. This project was started with the special initiative and inspiration made by the current Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, and 8 crore 66 lakh (90.6) people of West Bengal came under food security. The state government through National Food Security Act and State Food Security Yojana successful providing foodstuffs @ Rs 2 per kg to families those who are included in the list of Anthordoya Yojana, other privileged families, special privileged families and the families under the state food security schemes.

In order to ensure food security, under the inspiration of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, additional (extra) food grains are being supplied for normal distribution through special packages for more than 4 million people. Families affected by Jungle Mahal and Ayala, all the families of tea gardens, the primitive tribe of Totopara, the hillside of Darjeeling, Singur's reluctant peasant family are also included in this special package. Under this scheme through the introduction of special coupons Government of West Bengal is facilitating the children's, mothers and their families, nutritious foods like 5 kg rice and 2.5 kg wheat, 1 kg lentils pulses, 1 kg Chhola Dal and free of cost treatment and rehabilitation centers jointly with Health and Family Welfare Department is being given poor's. Successful application of digital ration card and overall computer management has been done in the past five years to make the public distribution transparent and dynamic. For the said purposes one can contact with the block development officer of each block and Food Inspector in the case of municipality, office of the sub-divisional Food Inspector.

Sufal Bangla:

This scheme comes under the Department of Agricultural Marketing, Government of West Bengal. This project was launched on September 29, 2014. Farmers' products are collected directly from farmers, at a cost-effective price. All the men have to reach at the permanent marketing centre for purchasing the agricultural products at a reasonable price fixed by the state government. This Sufal Bangla is being constructed under one roof and the consumer items like vegetables, fruits, meat, milk, pulse all type of perfumed rice are also to be available. So far 40 shops have been opened till date. Singur Tapsi Malik Krishak Bazar is the main centre of this project. Farmer's individual and team of farmers to register for sale of Agricultural products and register farmers can apply for the management of the marketing system. The project management unit of the Agricultural marketing office operates this project. Head Office: Ulthodanga, Uttarapan or District and sub- divisional marketing Department, Website: www.sufalbangla. In

Gitanjali:

This project has been running under the Housing Department, Government of West Bengal. The main objectives of the Projects are to arrange asylum for everyone. One of the conditions for healthy living is to own a house of its own. It's a dream to every human being. Many people cannot fulfill this dream of their own efforts and capability. Some one or the family could see the dream for the generations but that all goes in vein.

Today, the dreams of these basic needs are being fulfilled through various government projects. Gitanjali is also a dream making project. The state government stands besides the financially weak people through this project. People in villages and urban areas who do not have a specific house, the housing department is making arrangements over their heads. Just have to own land and there is no legal complexity in it.

These amounts are disbursed to the beneficiaries through two installments and through the office of the district magistrate; First installment 70% and Second installment 30%.

A person who is homeless but has a land where monthly income is less than 6000 rupees or less he/she can apply. The project is meant for the every poor people, especially those home have been destructed through the flood or river erosion is to be covered. One can contact to the SDO at the sub-divisional level and the Block Development officer at the block level. The District Magistrate with an Additional District Magistrate supervises the entire project.

Sabala:

The Women and Child Development and Social Welfare Department works over this project. The main objectives of this project are: Increasing this power by improving the health and employment of adolescents is being done through this project. Supplementary nutrition is being provided by the self-help groups by providing food to the youths through Anganwadi centres for eliminating malnutrition as well as increasing awareness about health and cleanliness, adolescent reproduction and health, family and child protection and other cases among the teenager. This project is in progress in coordination with the Kanyashree project in seven districts of the state Coochbehar, Jalpaiguri, Nadia, Purulia, Kolkata, Malda and Alipurduar.

In a addition to increasing their expertise in domestic activities and different field of life, work towards providing vocational training and education for drop- out children is going on. They are given a card called their “Kishori Card” where they will be given all the information related to their health. Unmarried teen girls from 11 to 18 years old can apply for this. And she can contact the village Angarwadi centers and the CDPI of the block.

Muktir Allo (Release Light):

Women, Child and Social Welfare Department have been working this scheme. The main objectives of the Project are: For many reasons, many young girls have their place in sex or red light area. In many cases they are trafficked in other state or other country. Despite the most unfortunate recovery, they do not find place in their family or society. This is for the first time government of West Bengal has taken initiative and full financial support is being provided by voluntary organizations through training of various sex workers and rehabilitating them financially. During the training, the government has arranged monthly allowances with their food and lodging counseling. After finishing these trainings, financial assistance is provided for self-reliance. On 4th September 2015, Hon’ble Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee inaugurated this project,.

Training on the book printing and spice grinding are given under the scheme of Muktir Allo project and training are also given on cafeteria management and recycling of tire- tubes etc. Voluntary organizations with experience on working in the red-light areas those are interested can provide this service. Anyone can contact the Women and Child Development and Social Welfare Department, West Bengal, Women Development Corporation, Construction Building, Saltlake, Kolkata-91.

Sikshashree:

The Backward Classes and Welfare Department, Government of West Bengal has works on this project. The main objective of this project are: to provide annual scholarship for the education of students belong to the backward families the who are in class five to class eight. The state government has stood beside every poor man. On the one hand the government is arranging the meals and on the other side arranging their study. As a result, Sikshashree scheme brings freedom for the SC and ST families in the state today. This is the key factor for a backward class people by providing them governmental aid for their children in their study brings them to the main-stream of society.

The applicants whose annual income of the family will be 2.5 lakhs or less, either Boys or girls must belong to SC/ST and have to study in recognized schools. He /she should apply to the Headmaster or Head mistress of that school. Students must have their own accounts in the bank to receive the amount. They have to submit their annual income certificate along with the application form from the competent authority like MP, MLA, Member of Zila Parishad or Savapati, Panchayat Pradhan, Chairman of Municipalities or the Government Officer etc.

The school authorities will send the information to the district project officer in the district through the block/ sub-divisional office to allocate funds and collected all the information of the students. The scholarship amounts of Sikshashree schemes are send directly to students own bank accounts.

Subajsathi:

This scheme has undergone through the Department of Backward Classes Welfare, Government of West Bengal. The main objective of Subajsathi is the distribution of bicycle by the Government of West Bengal to students studying in class 9-12. In 2015-16 financial years, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced that the state government schools, government sponsored, government approved schools and Madrashes will be given bicycles for distribution to the students studying classes 9 to 12. This is a dream project of the current chief minister of the state with the ambition for the students that they can gain the ability to stand on their own feet in the future. A Logo also has been attached in front of the bicycle. In September 2015, the Chief Minister started distributing the bicycle through a project from the West Midnapore stage ceremony. Steering committee comprising senior secretaries and officers in various offices monitor and manage the cycle collection and distribution of this project.

Nodal officer have been given the responsibility of implementing this project. BDO, SDO and municipal executive officer are associated with implementing this project on time based basis. The Inter-departmental tender committee has been formed for this purpose. Three famous bicycle company Hero cycles Limited, TI cycles Limited and Avon cycles Limited have been selected to provide bicycle. Project implementation is being done through E- governance. A website has been launched in collaboration with

NIC to know the information about each stage of this project and deliver the necessary information to all involved with this huge project.

Yuvashree: The Labour Department, Government of West Bengal is undertaking this project. The main objectives of this project is that with the help of Yuvashree project, the youth belonging to the age group of 18 to 45 years of age earmarked by the employment bank under the ministry of Labour, received a monthly allowance of Rs.1,500 per month. The numbers of subscribers of this project is 2.2 lakhs. This financial assistance is given for the purpose of dedicated young people to increase their skills through training or to continue their education. Beneficiaries under this project have to give information regarding their training every six months and he/she has to submit a self- declaration regarding their capabilities of the project. Those who get jobs or self-help with the assistance of this project will not get this financial support. Instead, new job applicants will get benefits from this project periodically. Who are eligible for application? Unemployed young people living in the state who have been enrolled in the state employment bank as employment seekers, get the opportunity. The minimum eligibility is he / she must be passed in class eight and must be between 18 to 45 years of age from 1st April the concerned year. Youths who have received any kinds of financial help or loans under the state or central government and any other self employment project can not apply. Only one member of a family can get financial support from this project. The applicant names must be registered on the employment bank through the local employment exchange.

Gatidhara:

This project is running under the Labour Department, Government of West Bengal. The state government has launched the self-employment schemes that stand for self-employment young people. Those applicants must have to be enrolled in the employment bank, especially for those who want to be self-reliant in the transport sector, today is a great opportunity for them. State government is providing a financial help to buy commercial vehicles. Under this project, the purchase of cars is preferred to get the permit through the transport office. The main objective is to make self dependence of the unemployment young people by expanding the transport department in the rural and urban areas of the state. In West Bengal, the Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation (WBTIDC) is working and it's an effective agency for this project. Physically retarded youths will also get the benefits from this project.

The government is giving 30% in case of purchase of any commercial vehicle or a maximum of Rs. 1 lakh will be donated or subsidized and this money will not be refunded.

Who can apply: Applicants must be more than twenty years old but below 45 years of age. However, the schedule caste and schedule tribes will receive five years and three years of exemption. Monthly family income will not exceed Rs.25 thousands. The state government has decided to extend the speed project to

all marginalized people of the state. Local recommendation needed with the application. One contact with the district or regional transport officer's office and for state level permits. The transport authority will have to contact the regional office (Kolkata, Siliguri, Durgapur) or all the necessary requirements.

Lokprosar:

The Department of Information and Culture, deals with this scheme. The main objective of the scheme are: to provide proper dignity and financial assistance to the people of the diverse and colourful folk culture of West Bengal as well as to preserve, revive, develop, prosper and improve the lives of folk artists. Apart from this, the use of powerful methods of folk culture to promote public awareness and developmental work is also an important aspect of this project. Attempting to nurture the own culture of Bengal through respect and dignity of art and Artists of different streams has been taken. It has been associated with the mainstream culture of folk culture.

Through this project, the identity cards and allowances of artists are being provided. Artists are being used to promote developmental government projects. The monthly pension is also being arranged for the poor and elderly folk artists.

Swasthyasathi:

The scheme is providing advanced modern health services to the door of every marginal people with transparency and modernity as well as using the latest E-technology by providing E-Health card. As smile keeps men mentally fit and relaxation of all tensions therefore by lunching this scheme government gives smile to every poor family and government workers under this project. Like A few million ICDS Employees, ASHA employees, Civic volunteers, Self- help groups, Home-guards, Green police, Disaster management employees, all the member of the three- tier panchayats, College and Universities part-time teachers and educators and contract workers with the permission of the Finance department.

Like other smart cards, this card will have to go to 700 more private hospitals, including all government hospitals. Every Cardholder family will get up to 1.5 laks as cashless medical service. In the case of special complex diseases, treatment can be done up to 3.5 lakhs under insurance coverage.

The government has been providing medical treatment for 1900 diseases under this health insurance. All medical tests, medicines including foods are available free of cost/charge while staying in the hospital. Besides, the patient will get travelling fare Rs. 200 from one day before admission and medicines will be given free of cost for next five days after releasing from the hospital.

Shishusathi:

The Health and Family Welfare Department, Government of West Bengal deals this project. The main objective of this project are : as per the directions of the current chief minister the children suffering under major cardiac problems may come to the major government hospitals situated at Kolkata and other private nursing homes and the financial liabilities are to be borne by the state government itself. The treatments are to be provided up to the age of 18 with free of cost.

Muktidhara:

This scheme functions under the Self-Help and Self-Employment Department, Government of West Bengal. The main objectives of this scheme are: It has changed the marginal life of Bengal, releasing them from poverty, dreaming to survive on the wings of development.

The Muktidhara scheme of the state government with NABARD's financial assistance has started training for the first time in the district of Purulia. At present, the state government has been completely implemented the project. The development work is going on in a multi-purpose plan by forming a self-reliant group through this project. Efforts have been made to develop long term livelihoods in the traditional village of rural Bengal by training the members of Self-help groups.

Who can apply: This project is going on the districts where the poor people of these districts can form self-help groups and apply for the project. Members of self-help groups who have not received any governmental training can apply under this project. Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Self-Help governmental offices of the district and Block Self-Help Groups Supervisor can help in this regard.

Somobyathi:

This project dealt under the Department of Municipal and Urban Development and Panchayat and Rural Development Department, Government of West Bengal. The main objectives of this programme are: (i) To provide a one-time assistance for performance of the rites and rituals and to meet incidental expenses related to cremation/burial, to the next of kin/ nearest family members of the deceased person, who are in extreme financial necessity to perform such rites and rituals.(ii) This assistance will be of Rs. 2,000/-, which will include cremation/ burial charge, purchase of necessary articles required to perform the rites and rituals at the time of cremation/ burial and charges to carry the dead body at the Cremation/ Burial ground, and other incidental expenses, if any.

Who can apply: The family of the deceased must be a resident of West Bengal and financially weak or destitute. The funeral of a deceased person, i.e. cremation or grave, must be done in West Bengal. The family member or close neighbour of the deceased must submit all documents of death proof. Neighbours

can apply it if there is no relative. This assistance is being given through the office of the municipality in the municipal office and panchayat office in the panchayat area.

Samayersathi:

This scheme is working under the Consumer Affairs Development, Government of West Bengal. The main objectives of this scheme are: the state government can provide any public service within the stipulated time. Not only this the government has tied up with the rule of the West Bengal right to public service act 2013, but also to enable workers to speed up the work and provide their services at specific times. As a result, the right to get time to work time in this state has been established.

The services which are available under this act are: (i) To apply for new ration card, ration card number, address change or new additions in the list and applications are addressed to the Block Level Inspector at sub-inspector office. Within 30days of the appeal, you will receive new or changed cards. (ii) If you need duplicate mark sheet, certificate or admit card, apply to the West Bengal Secondary Education Board Deputy secretary and within 15 days it will be reached to the applicants. (iii) For the requirement of caste certificate (SC or ST) one need to apply the district superintendent or district welfare officer. (iv) For a water connection in the municipality area the executive officer of the concerned municipality you will have to apply and it will be available within 10 days. (v) For Vehicle registration, it will take 5 days only. It will take seven days for all types of tests and biometric examinations to get a driving license. At the same time, apply to the motor vehicles section ARTO.

Paschimbanga Rajya Sishu Siksha Mission (PBRSSM):

This project was formed in 1999. The objective of this project is to provide institutional education to all children by setting up educational centres in the unaided backward areas. Under the leadership of mission Director, many officers and employees of this organization play an essential role in helping all the children's education centres and secondary education centres across the state.

Features of Sishu Siksha Centre:

1. Child education centres have been set up for elementary education of children in areas where there is no primary school within one kilometre.
2. Child education centres have been set up in the initiative and management of local people.
3. The curriculum of the primary education Board is followed and the books published in the Board are taught here.
4. Each class has taken up to 40 students.
5. There are four classes of education in the education centre.

Features of Madhya Siksha Programme:

1. A secondary education center is set up for children's high primary education(class five to eight) in areas where there is no high school within three kilometers.
2. This center was developed in the initiative and management of local people.
3. Each class has taken up to 40 students.
4. The curriculum of the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education is followed and books published in the Board are taught here.

Source of funding for the development of Sishu Sikha Kendra and Madhyamik Siksha Kendra infrastructure:

1. Sarbasiksha mission.
2. Own fund of gram panchayat.
3. Backward area development fund.
4. Central financial commission fund'
5. State financial commission fund.
6. Area development fund of elected members of State Legislative Assembly and Loksabha.

Kanayashree:

KanayashreePrakalpa is an initiative taken by the Government of West Bengal to improve the life and status of the girls by helping economically backward families with cash so that families do not arrange the marriage of their girl child before eighteen years because of economic problem. The purpose of this initiative is to uplift those girls who are from poor families and thus can't purpose higher studies due to touch economic conditions. It has been given international recognition by the United Kingdom's Departmental of International Development and the UNICEF.

The scheme has two components:

- i). Annual Scholarship of Rs. 750.00 and ii) One time grant of Rs. 25.000.

The annual scholarship is for unmarried girls aged 13-18 years enrolled in class vii-xii in government recognized regular or equivalent open school or vocational technical training courses.

Concluding Remarks:

All the above schemes are undergone through strict policies and the concerned departments of the government of West Bengal are always trying their best to provide good governance through the adoption of e-governance with a smart culture. To provide the above welfare projects and for implementing these policies the current chief minister is also working strenuously with administrative review meetings with a regular interval district-wise.

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