

# Geographical Dimensions of Welfare Reform in Different Indian States

**Sandeep Godara**

Auction Recorder

Haryana Agriculture Board,

Hisar, Haryana, India

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## **Abstract**

The concept of nation is defined by the geographical distribution undoubtedly, but the efficiency of the state is significantly justified by the condition of the literacy rate, the well-being of the people, employment rate, and other growth indications. The Indian subcontinent is recognized as one of the most mystical countries all over the world. The growth initiatives by the government were purposeful throughout the years. The purpose of this study is to analyse the geographical dimension of the welfare schemes of the country. The article has been developed based on *secondary data* to provide suitable analysis. It has explored the different welfare schemes taken by the central government of India, by the states, or by the collaboration of the central, and state government. Discussion of this study denotes the subsidy by

the government in its welfare programs in different fiscal years.

**Keywords:** food subsidies, welfare programs, development programs, political history, state-wise distribution.

### **Introduction**

The central government of India is considered as the huge single employer within the country compared with the state government which carries the major responsibility to look after the well-being of the citizens of the country. The welfare ministry does the prime task of this significant management. Whether it is the centrally allocated or state-allocated welfare schemes all the schemes get the living condition centrally. The condition of the pre-independence and the post-independence numerous welfare initiatives have been taken for the growth and development of the country. This article examines those welfare schemes which are launched throughout the years. The Principal aim of this study is to analyze the state-wise allocation of the welfare schemes. This study has given a brief illustration about the geographical distribution of the significant welfare programs assuming the efficiencies of the Indian government.

### **The political history of the welfare system in India after independence**

During colonial rule, in the early phase of the 19th century to the time of independence, 1947, the Indian welfare arena had gone through several social movements where the

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major aim was to reduce the racial, religious or caste differences in India. *Brahma Samaj (1816)*, *Arya Samaj (1875)*, *Theosophical society (1893)*, *Anjuman-himayat-i-Islam (1898)*, *Ramakrishna Mission (1897)* are several names who worked for social welfare (Chakraborty *et al.* 2017). Abolition of the Sati system, widow remarriage is notable works in this contrast. With the arrival of Mahatma Gandhi (1920), the political mass movement gained another wide dimension, and all the welfare turned into removing disabilities which was imposed on the depressed classes of the country. After independence, the welfare system has turned to shape India as a unitary federal state. New laws were implemented around 1950 centered on social, and labor welfare. “*Industrial Disputes Act*”, and “*Coal Mines labor Welfare fund Act, 1947*”, “*factory’s Act*”, “*Dock Workers act, 1948*” were issued addressing the work hours, leisure time, health and safety, and work conditions (Saini *et al.* 2017).

### **State Wise distribution of welfare reform**

The Indian government announces multiple welfare schemes at all levels from time to time for cross sections in different states. The scheme is either central specific, or state-specific, or it is implemented with the joint collaboration of the central and the states.

### **Arunachal Pradesh**

Government of India has implemented *the "Employees' State Insurance (ESI)"* scheme in Arunachal Pradesh for the first time with its effect on 1st November 2020 which declares that all the factories having 10 or more employees in the papum pare district are eligible to get the coverage under the ESI Act of 1948 (Main.mohfw.gov.in., 2021). The employees who earn up to 21000 rupees/month are eligible to apply for this scheme. It includes cashless medical service, maternity benefits, sickness benefits, workplace injury benefits etc.

### **Jammu and Kashmir**

*"Central sector Scheme"* is initiated for industrial development in J& K. The government allocated Rs. 28,400 crore under this scheme for the period 2020-21 up to 2037 (Main.mohfw.gov.in. 2021). Furthermore, *"market intervention schemes" (MIS)* are initiated for the development of the local markets indicating the internal business growth (Choudhury *et al.* 2019). The UC (Union cabinet) has implemented a special package of Rs. 520 crore in FY 2023-14 to ensure the *"Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana"*. It was launched during 2011 in the paradigm of rural poverty.

### **Tamil Nadu**

The government of TN is providing more opportunities by the director of the industries, and the commerce. The

minimum cost for this project Rs. 10 lakh, and the maximum cost consists Rs. 500 lakhs.

### **Andhra Pradesh**

The important welfare schemes in Andhra Pradesh include "*JagannaChodu Scheme*", "*jagannaVasathi Deevena Scheme*", "*Jagannath VidaDeana*". The government of A.P has launched multiple projects for the educational and industrial development of the states. Most of the schemes are borne by the state government (Sharma *et al.* 2019).

### **Assam**

*"Abhinandan Education loan subsidy Scheme"*, *"Arundhati Gold Yojana"*, *ARBAS (Anundoram Borooh Laptop Award Scheme)*, *"Assam Affordable Nutrition & Nourishment Assistance Yojana (Anna Scheme)"* are several welfare schemes which are implemented in Assam. The majority of the welfare schemes in Assam target the growth and development of education (Main.mohfw.gov.in. 2021).

### **Bihar**

The state of Bihar is recognized as the backward Indian state in terms of education, and social advancement. In order to follow the growth in Bihar, these welfare schemes are launched by the state government and the central government. *"Arakshit Rozgar Mahila ka adhikar"* is targeted to empower women.

## **West Bengal**

The recent welfare scheme of the West Bengal government is “*Swasthya Sathi health Insurance Policy*” under which about 50 lakh families with a total population of 2.5 crore of the state are covered for free access to basic health treatment. This scheme was launched in December 2016 (Main.mohfw.gov.in. 2021). Secondary and tertiary health coverage’s up to 1.5 lakh/annum are the major target under this scheme.

## **Development and non-development of the welfare system in India**

In pre-independence India, and after independence, the ratio of the welfare schemes by the government of India was not processed in similar parity. In the early phase of the development, the major target was to reduce social discrimination whereas in the after days in major status in turns to development the employment. The overall growth target of these welfare schemes is to develop the level of education of the country, to reduce gender equality, poverty level, improvement of the health condition etc. in the rural and urban-centered states the allocation was done accordingly.

## **Methods**

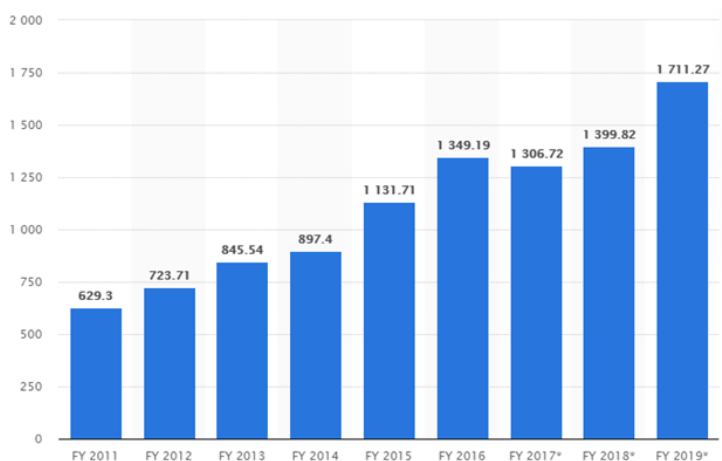
This article is developed based on **secondary data** (documents, newspaper articles, journals, and recognized websites). These previously published second-hand data has been helped to analyses the welfare schemes taken by the

Indian government throughout the years. The best benefits of the secondary data analysis are to follow the increase or decrease of the value of these welfare schemes throughout the years. The coherent usefulness of the analysis of this study illustrates the best efforts with the relevant collection of data in different stages.

### **Result and Discussion**

Arunachal is comparatively backward than the other parts of the Indian states in terms of employee well-being, especially for those under waged or linear waged employees in SMMEs. The implemented welfare scheme targets to develop the conditions of those employees along with the growth of the SMME industries of the state. Major purpose of the "*Central Sector Scheme* " in J & K is to develop the socio-economic picture of that part of India. Capital investment, capital interest incentives, GST linked incentives consist of the eligible value under this scheme (Statista, 2021). "*Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana*"- DAY-NRLM ("*National Rural Livelihood Mission*") is driven by the poverty rate in Ladakh and the adjacent areas of the country. The entire premium of the swasthasathi yojana in west Bengal is borne by the State government. For the last two decades, the health condition of WB has been in a turbulent position. The major target of launching welfare schemes is to upgrade the health condition of the states.

In the fiscal year 2019, the government of India has allocated 2.27 billion in Indian rupee for “*SwasthyaBima Yojana (RSBY)*” to offer health insurance coverage to the citizens of the Indian government.



**Figure 1: Food subsidies provided by the Indian government (FY 2011- FY 2019)**

(Source: Inspired by Statista, 2021)

Figure 1 depicts the total allocation for the food subsidies by the Indian government from the fiscal year 2011 to 2019 (Statista, 2021). In 2019 it amounted to about 1.7 trillion Indian rupees that was an average increase from the previous year. The food subsidized was provided by the FCI undertaking the procurement by the states. The allocation has gone through an average increase which reached 1.711.27 billion Indian rupees by the fiscal year 2019 (Statista, 2021).



## **Conclusion**

The unitary federal framework denotes the joint approach for the growth and development of the country. The political scenario, state of literacy rate, poverty rate, and the employment rate is different in the different states of India. Some states have good industrial or agricultural infrastructure whereas some states are devoid of such kinds of privileges. Several states are comparatively backwards in terms of education, health, and gender discrimination. The geographical dimension of the welfare programs in different states is capable of providing a concise view on these categories in different states which aims to help the readers for better understanding.

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