CHAPTER-IV

IMPLEMENTATION OF VARIOUS RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IN THE SAMPLE VILLAGES-RURAL HOUSING, OLD AGE PENSION AND ANGANWADIS
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The present chapter aims at evaluating the extent, to which the rural development schemes viz.,

1. Rural Housing
2. Old Age Pension, and
3. Anganwadis

have been successfully implemented in the sample villages. The investigator’s assumption is that the above schemes have not been successfully implemented in the sample villages, due to inadequate planning and execution.

1. Rural Housing:

Housing is an integral part of Rural Development. Shelter being one of the basic needs of man, the history of human habitations is intimately bound up with the social and economic history of mankind. Provision of good housing exercises a profound influence on the health efficiency and social well-being of people. The need for an adequate number of dwelling which satisfy reasonable standards of comforts and hygiene and contain the essential utilities, services and amenities of community life cannot, therefore, be over-emphasized (Vagale, 1968).

The problem of rural housing in India is diverse in nature and enormous in magnitude. It has grown over the years due to rapid increase in the population on the one hand and low rate of new housing construction on the other.
Rural dwellings are usually small, insanitary, often dilapidated. The houses are made of locally available building materials that are usually non-durable and requires frequent repairs.

**Environmental Inadequacies:**

In many respects, environmental conditions in the villages are unsatisfactory. Even today a majority of the houses in most villages lack adequate protected drinking water facility. There are no facilities for latrines.

Rural housing programme must obviously form part of an overall rural development programme based on progressive increase in agricultural production and in local employment opportunities, and should be devised in such a way as to enable it to take on the shape of a steadily developing effort in which local resources and local initiative play an ever increasing role.

**Rural Housing and Five Year Plans:**

Rural housing, though recognized as a social need, did not receive adequate attention in the first three plans. The Estimates Committee (1972-73) of the Lok Sabha highlighted that 73 per cent of the rural population in the country was residing in unsatisfactory Kachcha Houses. In the Fifth Plan, rural housing component was included in Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) to give priority to attention to this sector and thereby house-sites and construction assistance to the landless labour households were provided. Another scheme of providing housing units free of cost to the weaker sections is known as Indira Awas Yojana (IAW) has been introduced since 1985 by the Central Government. Besides the centrally
sponsored schemes, many states are implementing their own rural housing schemes for the poor and weaker sections of the society.

The main thrust of the programme was directed towards ameliorating the conditions of the backward sections of the society, especially those in the rural areas. The construction activity in the rural areas was proposed to be promoted on the basis of:

1. Aided self-help,
2. Propagating the use of local building materials suited to the economic conditions of the villages,
3. Providing house-sites to landless labourers in rural areas,
4. Sponsoring rural housing building cooperatives, if feasible,
5. Augmenting the programmes of State Housing Boards for construction in rural areas,
6. Expanding the objectives of the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) by gearing it to meet the expanding demand, and
7. Vigorous implementation of the village Housing Scheme (Mongia, 1987; Dutt, 2002).

**Minimum Needs Programme (MNP):**

A Minimum Needs Programme was introduced during the Fifth Five Year Plan to establish throughout the country a network of certain essential services on a coordinated and integrated basis. The programme envisaged achievement of the above stated basic objectives by providing a minimum level of social consumption, including providing house sites for landless labourers in rural areas, supply of drinking water to problem villages, providing rural roads, ensuring rural electrification and facilities for elementary health and education.
Housing Schemes:

There are three major housing schemes at present:

1. House-site-cum-construction assistance scheme (HSCCA) for the landless workers.
2. Housing scheme for SC/ST population also called Indira Awas Yojana, and
3. Housing Scheme of the Ministry of Rural Development, which is implemented under Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP).

In the following pages only two schemes viz., House-site-cum-construction assistance scheme for the landless workers and Indira Awas Yojana are considered for assessment, as the last scheme viz., Housing Scheme under RLEGP is not implemented in the four sample villages.

1. **House-Site-Cum-Construction Assistance Scheme for the Landless Workers:**

   The Minimum Needs Programme introduced in the Fifth Five Year Plan placed a high priority on the provision of free house sites and assistance for the landless workers in rural areas. The scheme for rural house-site-cum-house construction for landless workers’ was introduced by the Ministry of Works & Housing in October 1971, under which, hundred percent grant/assistance to the State Government, was given for acquisition of land and its development for allotment of house sites for landless workers in rural areas. The house sites are provided at free of cost to landless workers who do not own a house/hut thereon with their own

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resources. Since April 1974 the scheme has been transferred to the State Sector.

4.1 **Awareness of House-Site-Cum Construction Assistance Scheme (HSCCA):**

Awareness of housing schemes on the part of beneficiaries is an important point to be studied. Beneficiaries can aspire for housing only when they are aware of the schemes available. Lack of awareness blocks one's motivation for action. Therefore, it was decided to study the degree of awareness on the part of the beneficiaries.

**Table-4.1**

**Awareness of HSCCA Scheme**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awareness</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>32.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>68.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>200</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data presented in Table-4.1 clearly indicate that an overwhelming majority of the respondents (68%) were not aware of the scheme. It was only 32 per cent of the respondents were knowing about the scheme viz., Rural House-cum-Construction. A discussion with the respondents revealed that development schemes are not brought to the notice of the eligible beneficiaries. Powerful beneficiaries act as agents of vested interest. A few respondents said that mediators extract Rs. 500/- for identified as eligible member and also getting the assistance (financial) sanctioned by the authorities concerned. It was also observed that the
landless labourers did not have any concept of housing. Some beneficiaries felt that they could not afford to build a house on a site provided freely by the government. It appeared that the said scheme was not working according to the ground realities.

4.2 Application for Sites:

Beneficiaries in the four sample villages were informed about allotment of sites by Panchayat Secretary and Members. The beneficiaries were also informed to file application for sites. But it was not informed about the actual number of sites acquired and meant for the beneficiaries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table-4.2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Applications for sites</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applied</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>60.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not applied</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>40.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>200</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It could be seen from Table-4.2 that only 60 per cent applied for free sites. The remaining 40 per cent could not apply. It was observed that those beneficiaries who were educated and had contact with officials and Panchayat Members knew about the number of sites and the officers in charge of the scheme.
4.3 Allotment of Sites to Applicants:

This section deals with the dynamics of allotment of sites to applicants. That is, what forces influence the process and procedure of allotting sites to the beneficiaries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allotted</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>67.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not allotted</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>33.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>120</strong>*</td>
<td><strong>100.00</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Out of 200 respondents, there were 120 applicants.

It could be seen from Table-4.3 that of the 120 applicants 67 per cent of them were allotted sites while 33 per cent were not. A discussion with those who were allotted sites revealed that they had to pressurize the allotting authorities through influential big shots.

Those who could not be allotted sites were poor, illiterate and ignorant. It means that IRDP benefits were being cornered by powerful among the poorer sections. It means the target group approach, far from helping the poor, is creating further disparities among the poor. It was also observed that the beneficiaries who were allotted sites could not construct houses for various reasons: The beneficiaries felt that it was not possible to construct houses even with the assistance of the government, while some said that government assistance could not come in time. A few beneficiaries who got first installment, spent the amount for domestic purpose. On the whole, the scheme could not succeed as the beneficiaries
did not feel the necessity of house. It was also observed that the
government staff and contractors did not plan well the construction of
houses. For example, often sites were allotted or the housing colony was
constructed far away from the main villages where the beneficiaries had
socioeconomic links. In short, the scheme of rural housing has not helped
the real poor.

2. **Indira Awas Yojana (IAY):**

The Indira Awas Yojana is being operated by the Ministry of Rural
Development. The scheme is fully subsidized and aims at providing houses
to SCs/STs and freed bonded labourers. It now forms a part of Jawahar
Rozgar Yojana (JRY).

The Indira Awas Yojana was launched in 1985 as a Central Sector
Scheme. Under this scheme, the government aimed to provide built houses
to the rural poor including the SCs, STs and freed bonded labours below the
poverty line. Following are the basic guidelines of the Indira Awas Yojana:

a) Beneficiary selection should be done at the Gram Panchayat
level in an open forum,

b) Allotment of houses should be done in the name of female
members of the household,

c) Micro-habitat approach i.e., the provision of roads, drains,
drinking water, etc. is to be encouraged, and

d) Linking the JRY and IRDP in order to provide the income
generation and skills upgradation component (Gaur, 1996).

The objective of this scheme is to develop a viable micro-habitat,
provide housing and ensure a base for higher level of earning for the
beneficiaries. A sum of Rs. 12,700/- per unit for areas and Rs. 14,500/- per
unit for difficult hill areas is given grant under this scheme to the state
government for housing.

In 1985 under IAY a provision was made to supply housing units to
the weaker sections free of cost. Thus, there was a major shift in the rural
housing policy from 1956 to 1985. In other words, the housing schemes
from total loan-based scheme shifted to fully subsidized facility. In the
Seventh Plan also were was further increase in the allocation (Rs. 577.00
crores) and the Central Sector Schemes of provision of house-sites and
construction assistance and the IAY continued (Madhava Rao, 1998).

The Seventh Plan envisaged the following objectives for rural
housing:

a) Promotion and encouragement of self-help housing,
b) Provision of house-sites to the rural families identified of
dwelling for those rural families already provided with house-
sites,
c) Cost of housing units under the social housing schemes should be
such that they are within the paying capacity of the target groups,
like the economically weaker sections, low and middle income
group,
d) Providing stimulus and support for private housing especially for
the middle and lower income groups so as to channelize
increased savings into housing,
e) Securing reduction in construction costs not only by adopting
low-cost housing techniques and standards but also modifications
in building bye-laws and use central, minimum plot
requirements, etc.

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f) Harnessing science and technology efforts for improving building technology and development of cheap and local building material.

3. **Identification of Beneficiaries:**

The basis for identification of beneficiary households as the poverty criteria. The order of poverty for selection of beneficiaries is the free-bonded labourers. SC/ST households who are victims of atrocities, households below the poverty line headed by widows and unmarried women SC/ST households affected by floods, fire, earthquakes.

In this connection the following dimensions related to the scheme are examined below:

1. To know whether a survey of needs was undertaken by Government or NGO,
2. To know whether the beneficiaries were identified by the Panchayat in an open meeting,
3. To know whether allotment of houses/sites was done to the real beneficiaries, and
4. To know whether houses were constructed taking into account the feasibilities of basic needs – roads, water, electricity.

4.4 **Survey of Housing Needs:**

A scheme could be successfully implemented only when the needs and problems of a village(s) could be identified through a scientific and unbiased survey either by Government or NGO. With this view in point, it was attempted to study the reactions of the respondents.
Table-4.4
Do you think the government or NGO undertook a survey of the needs of housing of your village before implementing the scheme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>41.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not know</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>51.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When asked to indicate whether any survey of housing needs was undertaken by the government or NGO of the village before implementing the scheme. 51 per cent said that they did not know about any survey, while 41 per cent clearly stated 'No'. It means the problems of housing were not identified. However only 8 per cent said that, a survey was held by government staff when asked to explain in detail they said that a couple of government staff visited the village and had discussion with Panchayat Members and prepared the report. It was revealed that the survey team did not conduct any survey of the village. It was a “closed-room survey” an educated youth added.

4.5 Identification of Beneficiaries in Open Meeting by Panchayat:

As per rule, the identification of beneficiaries should be done by the Panchayat in an open meeting on the basis of poverty. The respondents were asked to explain whether the identification of beneficiaries was done by Panchayat in the open meeting, the responses are presented in the following table-4.5.
Table-4.5

Do you know that the Identification of Beneficiaries was done by the Panchayat in an Open Meeting?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meeting was held in the Panchayat Office</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beneficiaries were not identified in an open meeting by Panchayat</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not aware of any such meeting</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>33.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An examination of the data presented in Table-4.5 shows that 55 per cent of the respondents were not aware of any such meeting held by the Panchayat to identify the genuine beneficiaries. But 30 per cent of the beneficiaries were not identified in an open meeting by Panchayat. It was interesting to observe that in none of the villages, which belonged to the four different Panchayats, beneficiaries identified in an open meeting.

Data further show that 30 per cent of the respondents said that a meeting of Panchayat Members and government staff was held to decide the beneficiaries. A couple of educated youths said that government staff, Panchayat Members and a couple of leaders from OBC and SCs and STs held a meeting in Panchayat Office to decide and prepare the list of beneficiaries. The youth further said that beneficiaries list was prepared by the panchayat as per their plans.
4. Allotment of Houses/ Sites for Houses for Genuine Beneficiaries:

The success of any scheme depends to the extent the real beneficiaries are identified and provided the benefits. Studies have shown that invariably benefits are extended to those who are not target groups. It is attempted here to know whether the real beneficiaries are given the benefits of housing in four sample villages.

**Table-4.6**

Do you believe that the allotment of Houses/ Sites was done to the Real Beneficiaries of the Village?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very few beneficiaries</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>36.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 50% of the beneficiaries</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cent percent beneficiaries</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not know</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>43.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>200</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reactions to the respondents to the above question reveal that 43.5 per cent of the respondents did not know anything about whether houses or sites were allotted to the real beneficiaries. This section, which was illiterate and poor, was not exposed to the day-to-day changes taking place in the village. But 35.5 per cent of respondents said that very few i.e., 25 per cent of the genuine beneficiaries were allotted houses. They also said that rest of the houses/sites were allotted to the kith and kin of Panchayat Members and village. Caste, class and community affiliations appeared to be prominent in recommending names of beneficiaries for housing benefits.
House constructed under Ashraya Housing Scheme at Martur Village
4.7 **Housing with Infrastructure:**

Housing schemes can be successful if an integrated approach is adopted by the planners and implementers. To be specific, the construction of houses should not be too far away from the main village, and must possess all basic requirements such as roads, facilities for water, electricity, etc. Besides provisions must be made for employment.

An attempt was made to know from the respondents whether the government took into account the requirement of infrastructure.

**Table-4.7**

**In your opinion, if the government took into account the needs of infrastructure, while undertaking the construction of houses?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To a great extent</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To some extent</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>40.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not know</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>200</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The views of the respondents show that 50 per cent of the beneficiaries did know about new houses. When probed further most of them said that they were told about the new houses, but never bothered about. They appeared to be indifferent and least interested about the scheme. A few educated youth pointed out that the government never took village people into confidence about development schemes.
However, 40 per cent of the beneficiaries said that provision for the infrastructure was planned to some extent. For example, water and electricity were planned. About 10 per cent beneficiaries said that although an exhaustive planning for infrastructure was developed in advance, the government could not provide facilities beyond certain minimum needs such as water and electrification.

On the whole, rural housing was not well planned and implemented in the sample villages. In an informal discussion with the panchayat members, it was arranged, that since the proportion of beneficiaries was far more than the sanctioned quota, there was bound to be scrambling and discrimination for seizing the benefits.

Panchayat members also held opinion that of other backward communities and SCs and STs are not much interested in housing. These communities are more satisfied with their huts than with the well-furnished houses. It was also observed that a few beneficiaries from SCs and STs who were allotted houses did not want to shift to the new housing colony, as they could not dissociate from their kith and kin for fear of isolation. In short, rural housing schemes, initiated by the government have not yielded the expected results. Therefore, the innovation of IRDP, as an instrument, has not helped the target group.

It may be concluded that housing does not mean mere shelter. Any housing policy should take into account the community needs. The present schemes of housing, especially for the SCs and STs, cut-off them (SCs and STs) from the larger village population on whom they depend for their livelihood and social security.
2. OLD AGE PENSION SCHEME:

Old Age Pension Scheme (OAPS) forms an important part of any welfare State. A country’s status and prestige depend on how the old are looked after. According to Albert Epstein (1989) “the progress of a nation may be marked by the care which provides for the aged”. The constitution of India in Article 41 recognizes the state’s role in providing help to the aged along with other needy categories. It says, “The State shall within the limits of economic capacity and development, make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement and in other cases of undeserved wants”. It means social security for the aged is one of the basic goals of a welfare state.

Old Age Pension Scheme and Antyodaya Programme:

The Antyodaya Programme a Gandhian concept has come to be considered as the answer to tackle the problems of the weaker sections. For example, families having no economic assets and having persons uncapable of carrying out economic activity due to infirmity, disability of old age are provided financial assistance for self-employment and old age pension for the senior citizens.

Although, old age pension programme is a subsidiary of the Antyodaya programme, it has been taken up for a separate discussion, as the problem of old age has acquired a global importance.

Nadeem Mohsin (1985) in his thesis “Rural Development though Government programmes” has pointed out that “Apparently from the data it appears that there is not much of a problem from the demand side. People seem to have been, by and large, aware of this (old age) programmes”. There are, however, certain problems from the supply side. These are mostly related to the untimely and irregular supply of pension amount,
owing largely administrative problems, related to untimely release of funds formalities in processing of funds distribution, etc. (P. 90).

Old age Pension in Karnataka:

In pursuance of Directive Principles of State Policy, the old age pension schemes of state governments have been introduced through administrative orders only. The National Old Age Pension Scheme was introduced on 15 Aug. 1995 under the National Social Assistance Programme by the Government of India. The National Old Age Scheme assured a sum of Rs. 100 per month to the old destitutes. Destitutes were defined as those without any source of income and no relatives to support them.

Old age pension was first introduced in Uttar Pradesh to provide succor to the indigent elderly in 1957. Gradually the idea picked up and most of the States and Union Territories introduced the scheme.

The Government of Karnataka introduced the Old Age Pension Scheme in January 1965. A person is qualified for pension if he has no income, aged not less than 70 years and does not have children or grand children above 20 years in age. The age limit for physically handicapped person is 65 years. From April 1991 the monthly pension was raised to Rs.100/- (Gulbarga District Gazetteer, 2004).

There are three important complaints against the pension scheme in Karnataka:

1. The definition of ‘old age’ is too rigid and harsh to include the real needy in rural society.

In rural areas almost all aged above 70 years among poorer section are without income. But the requirement of 70 years is unpractical, as
people only. The second condition is that an aged above 70 years is bound to have children or grand children above 20 years as age at marriage is much lower in rural areas than in urban areas.

The third complaint is that the real beneficiaries are not identified as the pension is not regularly distributed.

The objectives of this chapter are:
1. To know the reactions of the respondents about the meaning and definition of ‘old age’ as defined by the Government of Karnataka,
2. To know whether identification of beneficiaries is done adequately,
3. To know whether old age pension is regularly distributed, and
4. To know whether the present amount of Rs. 100/- is sufficient.

1. **Need to Broaden the Definition of ‘Old Age’ for Pension:**

   **Table-4.8**

   Do you think the present definition of ‘Old Age’, as defined by the Government of Karnataka, is satisfactory to provide ‘Justice to Old People’?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not satisfactory</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>17.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very dissatisfactory</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   200 100.00
It can be seen from Table-4.8 that an overwhelming majority (76%) of the respondents said that the meaning of ‘old age’ as defined by the Government of Karnataka is very dissatisfactory. They said the minimum age for pension for pension should be 60 years.

Another 17 per cent said that the definition is not satisfactory. But only 7 per cent said that pension scheme is satisfactory. But they could not give valid reasons. On the whole, a majority of the respondents wanted a simple definition of ‘old age’ as any one who is above 60 years should be treated eligible for pension.

2. Identification of Beneficiaries:

In all schemes of IRDP, identification of beneficiaries has been a problem to be tackled with.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table-4.9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you think the Real Beneficiaries are Identified?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not believe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The respondents were asked to mention whether the real old and poor were identified as eligible for old age pension scheme. As high as 51 per cent of the respondents said that the real beneficiaries were not identified for old age pension. Panchayat members and government staff
identified aged people for pension under pressure from powerful and influential people.

Another 44 per cent did not believe that the task of identification was done adequately. It was suggested that the task of identification should be done by NGOs.

3. Regular Disbursement of Pension:

An important drawback of the old age pension scheme in rural areas is its delayed payment. Often the pension is not paid for 3 to 4 months. Consequently, the aged people are subjected to difficulties.

Table-4.10

In your opinion, whether the Old Age Pension is disbursed regularly and in times?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is clear from the Table-4.10 that cent per cent of the respondents gave a negative reply. Every one said that pension is delayed for a long time. A pensioner said, “we have to wait for months together for the postman”. Thus, there is a need to speed up the process of disbursement of the pension regularly and intime.
4. **Enhancement in the Amount of Old Age Pension:**

The present amount of old age pension is too small to provide two meals a day.

**Table-4.11**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fully agree</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>85.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To some extent agree</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not agree</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The need to increase the present pension amount was wholeheartedly received by all respondents.

As shown in Table-4.11 that 85 per cent and 15 per cent of the respondents fully agreed and some extent aged, respectively. Most of them said that Rs. 100/- per month by the government is very low in view of the rising prices. It should be raised to Rs. 300/-. A similar opinion is expressed by demographers like Bose (1982\(^1\), 1995\(^2\)).

From the above analysis the following findings may be drawn:

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1. Majority of the respondents believed that the present definition of old age be redefined to suit the needs of the aged people.

2. Genuine ‘Old’ people are not identified as old.

3. ‘Old age’ pension is not regularly disbursed in time. As a result, the aged are subjected to difficulties.

3. Anganwadis:

Anganwadis have come to be organized to promote the development and welfare of small children and adult women in rural society. Anganwadis may be defined as actively centres for the children as well as women within the community itself. Children up to the age of 3-5 years are provided facilities for play and learning in the afternoon. Children are also served supplementary nutrition. Thus, from the very beginning the children in these vulnerable groups are able to develop and show interest in their further regular studies in the primary school onwards.

In the afternoon functional literacy programmes covering health and hygiene, food and nutrition, home management and child care, civic education and even vocational and occupational, are conducted for women in the age group of 16-45 years.

However, observations made on the working of Anganwadis reveal that Anganwadis are doing nominal work. They have not made any unique contribution for the development of children and women.

Profile of Anganwadis:

A discussion with Panchayat Members, Office Staff and Anganwadi Staff revealed that in all these were two Anganwadis in each village, one for the general public and another for SCs and STs. The required staff to
conduct routine duties was not enough. Anganwadis were housed in rented buildings. Facilities for children’s play and games were not satisfactory. Similarly, there were no rooms to hold adult education classes for women. In short, it was observed that Anganwadis on the sample villages were not sufficiently equipped with necessary infrastructure facilities. Kakar and Chopra (1992) in their article “Family Planning Through Better MCH – A Study of Anganwadis” have shown that 66.6 per cent of Anganwadis in villages had one room plus open space. Likewise 86.7 per cent of them were housed in rented buildings. According to Rajesh Jaiswal (1998) “though in most of the rural / tribal ICDS project areas accommodation for Anganwadis has been provided by the local community but it is not free of rent. In many places the accommodation provided by the community is not sufficient, conducive and hygienic for running the anganwadis efficiently”.

1. Pre-School Activities for Children in the Age Group of 3-5 Years:

One of the basic functions of Anganwadis is to provide pre-school activities for children in the age group of 3-5 years. The aim of this method is to prepare poorer children during infant age to adapt themselves when they are admitted to primary school. This method is expected to prevent dropout rates among the poorer sections. The reactions of the respondents are presented with the following table.
Data presented Table-4.12 clearly indicate that pre-school activities for children in age group of 3-5 years are not provided satisfactorily. For example, only 17 per cent said that preschool activities or nursery school activities for children in the age group of 3-5 years are provided to a great extent. They argued that anganwadis are found busy doing some work. But 50 per cent of the respondents said that anganwadis helped small children with preschool activities to some extent. They argued that there were no sufficient rooms and open space for children to engage in play, very few play items are provided.

Besides due to inadequate staff, children are not given personal attention. Interestingly, 33 per cent of the respondents said that the help given by anganwadis to develop small children is negligible. They said that anganwadis are more show pieces of government schemes. When contacted anganwadis staff they said they were helpless.

An important function of anganwadis is to serve supplementary food for children in the age group of 0-6 years. The objective behind the scheme is to provide nutritious food free of cost to infants of poorer families who consume a very poor.
Supplementary Food for Small Children

Table-4.13
Do you believe that Supplementary Food for Children (0-6 years of age) is Served Satisfactorily

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very satisfactory</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>13.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not satisfactory</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>52.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissatisfactory</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>35.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It could be observed from the data presented in Table-4.13 that 52 per cent respondents said that the supplementary food served to kids and urchins is not satisfactory. According to them, food is not served daily. Staff members put-forth one or the other excuse. The quality of the food is also of low level.

Data further show that 35 per cent of the respondents expressed their opinion as dissatisfactory. Their reasons are:

1. Food is if low quality-adulterated
2. Corruption by staff
3. Irregular supply of food
4. Indifference of Panchayat members.

It could be said that due to lack of people’s awareness about their rights and indifferent attitude most government schemes are implemented half-heartedly. Thus, such schemes do not reach the target groups.
However, it could be noticed from the data that only 13 per cent expressed a "very satisfactory" opinion about the implementation of the scheme. According to them the government is doing its best to help the poor.

On the whole, supplementary food for children of 0-6 years of age is not adequately served by anganwadis.

**Supplementary Food for Expectant and Nursing Mothers:**

Food consumed by people in India, especially in rural area is of low quality in terms of calories, carbohydrates, vitamins, etc. Although there may be several factors responsible for low quality of food consumed by people in India. Two factors appeared to be important viz.,

1. Low purchasing power, and
2. Lack of awareness about quality food among poor people.

Children among poor section are born weak as expectant and nursing mothers are not provided quality food. In order to help the expectant and nursing mothers, the integrated child development scheme (ICDS) has made provision for target groups in rural and urban areas.

**Table-4.14**

Do you believe that Supplementary Food for Expectant and Nursing Mothers is Served Satisfactory?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very satisfactory</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not satisfactory</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>26.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissatisfactory</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>79.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It appears that anganwadis in the sample village are not fulfilling their functions in an expected manner. For example, the views, as shown in Table-4.14 that, an overwhelming majority of the respondents (79%) expressed a negative opinion when asked to state whether supplementary food for expectant and nursing mothers to give reasons they offered the following views:

1. Food is not suitable for expectant and nursing mothers,
2. No trained personnel,
3. Expectant and nursing mothers do not visit anganwadis for fear of unhealthy food,
4. Anganwadis staff do not pay personal and attention to expectant and nursing mothers.

But only 18 per cent of the respondents said that serving of supplementary food for expectant and nursing mothers was not satisfactory. It means this section of the respondents was partially satisfied. Hardly 5 per cent respondents gave other opinion in favour of the issue.

From the above analysis, it could be said that anganwadis in the sample villages were not working to the level of expectation to help the poor in serving supplementary food to the expectant and nursing mothers.

**Health Education for Adult Women:**

The Integrated Child Development Scheme envisaged not only serving supplementary food for expectant and nursing mothers, but also educating adult women about health and nutritious food so as to change their attitudes and look-look.
Table-4.15

Do Anganwadis Educate Adult Women About Health and Nutrition?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regularly</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not regularly</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>85.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When asked to react to the question whether anganwadis educated adult women about health and nutrition values, as high as 85 per cent of the respondents said that anganwadis never held any classes to educate adult women about health and nutritional values. A few educated youth pointed out that anganwadi staff are not well trained to educate women about health and nutritional values. However, they also said that ANMS visit houses of pregnant and nursing women brief about diseases during pregnancy, food to be eaten before and after delivery.

In conclusion, it may be said that anganwadis perform relatively routine jobs like serving supplementary food to infants, pregnant and nursing women they are seldom centres of social transformation of human resource.