Chapter 2

Literature Review

2.0 Introduction

Related literatures are reviewed and are arranged in a chronological order under the broad headings- studies carried out abroad and studies carried out in India.

2.1 Studies carried out abroad

Chowdhury (1987) conducted a survey on the income distributional impact of urban rationing in Dhaka and Khulna of Bangladesh covering 116 households selected from Dhaka and 40 households from Khulna. The study highlighted that the poorest households from the areas under study were essentially cut out from the orbit of Statutory Rationing in which lack of awareness on such programmes was found to be major issue common to all the respondents.

Osteria (1987) did a study on implications of health programmes by examining recent trends in urbanization in four selected ASEAN countries- Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand. Findings of the study highlighted that urban dwellers, especially the poor were particularly susceptible to occupational injuries due to low standards of job safety. Although trained medical manpower and health programmes were highly concentrated in urban areas, access to these facilities was limited due to the cost of medical attention, lack of proper information services, etc.

A study by Pelletier and Shrimpton (1994) on the role of information in the planning, management and evaluation of community nutrition programmes revealed that proper information services was very important in sustaining such programmes.
Marcella and Baxter (2000) conducted a study on citizenship information needs in the United Kingdom where 898 members of the public were interacted through personal interview. It was found that most of the respondents had encountered problems in relation to employment, education, housing or welfare benefits due to lack of access to information. Many were poorly informed about legal rights, welfare benefits and local politics. The respondents preferred public libraries as a source of government information and were seen as appropriate locations for a range of other types of citizenship information.

Turner, Holmes and Hodgson (2000) conducted a study on intelligent urban development a participatory approach. The author stated that the information and communication technologies (ICTs) could play in improving accessed to information and services, the deprivation of which was often seen as a characteristic of being socially excluded. Whilst there were clear practical benefits, in terms of efficiency and economy that were afforded by the applications of the new ICTs in urban governance it was likely to be the combination of these with the emergent social and political factors that would determine the directions of urban development programmes.

According to a study done on coverage and targeting in the Indonesian social safety net programmes, Suryahadi, Suharso and Sumarto (2001) stated that the Government of Indonesia established a series of new expanded programmes in early 1998 to mitigate the adverse social impact of the economic crisis which began in mid-1997. These programmes were called Jaring Pengaman Social programmes. It was also known as the Social Safety Net programmes. The programmes were intended to help protect both the traditional poor and those who became the newly poor due to economic crisis. The objectives of the programmes included: ensuring the availability of food at affordable
prices, supplementing purchasing power through employment creation and preserving access to critical social services particularly health and education. The findings indicated that in many cases the programmes had not reached the specified target groups due to low coverage and lack of proper information services.

Kenny (2002) did a study on information and communication technologies for direct poverty alleviation. The study showed that ICTs were powerful tools for empowerment and income generation in developing countries. The cost-effectiveness of different ICTs did vary between developed and less developed countries. However, at least until technological advanced had made Internet accessed less expensive and more straightforward for the illiterate and minority language-speaker to use— and until education became more widespread— the used of traditional computers hooked up to the Internet as a tool for poverty alleviation should probably not involved programmes for universal accessed. As it was seen, such programmes were likely to be complex and very expensive, and quite possibly of limited benefit. Instead the Internet should be used as an indirect supporting tool in efforts to improved information and communication flows that would benefit poor people.

Ogwumike (2002) in his study on appraisal of poverty reduction strategies in Nigeria discussed that poverty reduction programmes and projects should not be supply driven, effort should be made to integrate the views of the poor into developmental efforts in order to address the actual needs of the poor and thus make development planning and management sensitive to their needs. This calls for bottom up approach to development especially with respect to project choice. This required that the households or communities unsatisfied needs be identified in conjunction with them. This approach had the potent of mobilizing the general public through appropriate information services to
give adequate support to priority development programmes and project that affect their welfare.

Benigeri and Pluye (2003) conducted a study on shortcomings of health information on the Internet. They stated that communication of health and medical information on the Internet could improve knowledge transfer from health professionals to the populace if health information package was designed according to the needs, requirements and capacities of the community being served.

Hjorth (2003) carried out a study on knowledge development and management for urban poverty alleviation. He found that encouragement of knowledge sharing and adequate, coherent, information flows was one of the key elements of successful poverty alleviation efforts.

Magadi, Zulu and Brockerhoff (2003) did a study on the disadvantage in child health of the poor people living in urban areas in African cities. This study used Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) data from 23 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. It covered the course of reproduction from conception, through pregnancy, to childbirth. The results showed that the biasness in the allocation of health services in Africa did not benefit the poor as much as the non-poor living in urban areas. Among others, lack of proper information services and absence of proper guidance on how to get access to health services were some prominent drawbacks found in the study.

Kozma (2005) in his study on national policies that connect ICT-based education reform to economic and social development stated that information and communication technology (ICT) was a principal driver of economic development and social change, worldwide. Measures of both the implementation process and the outcome should be
used to continuously monitor the progress of programs toward goals and provide information to policymakers that could be used to refine policies and programs and adjust trajectories. The poor would benefit from research and new knowledge and they would be able to access information and addressed their needs.

Elijah and Ogunlade (2006) in their study analysis of the uses of information and communication technology for gender empowerment and sustainable poverty alleviation in Nigeria stated that sustainable poverty reduction would therefore required not only the proper identification of the poor (including their characteristics and survival strategies), but the used of ICTs which offered unprecedented opportunity for decentralizing information accessed and creation. ICTs became essential tools in alleviating poverty through the enhancement of social capital and economic of livelihood of the poor in that, it helped to remove information distortion which often made it difficult to monitor the rate of cheating of eligible families excluded from poverty alleviation programme in the past.

Pachanee and Wibulpolprasert (2006) conducted a study on health insurance and health services system in Thailand. This paper attempted to review the situation and project the trend of possible implications on health programmes. Thai government had tried to gradually increase the coverage of health insurance, aiming at more health care equity and the reduction of disastrous illnesses. There had been relatively inadequate regulations and strategies to reduce any harmful effect. There was thus an urgent need to revise these policies and to establish effective strategies and measures to ensure equitable access in utilisation of health programmes. Such measures might include providing of proper information communication of essential health programmes to the urban poor and rural population.
Bowen (2008) conducted a study on analysis of citizen participation in anti-poverty programmes. He stated that ordinary citizens needed to get appropriate training and support so that they could become more knowledgeable and competent as community development partners and decision-makers.

Yigitcanlar and Velibeyoglu (2008) conducted a study on knowledge-based urban development: local economic development path of Brisbane, Australia. The study found that knowledge-based development strategies played an important role in supporting local economic development of cities in the knowledge era. In this regard information rich community flourished better in this knowledge era.

Nikiema, Beninguisse and Haggerty (2009) did a study on pregnancy complications on Sub-Saharan Africa. The study showed that due to lack of proper information services on the warning signs of complications during pregnancy, parturition and postpartum hampered women’s ability to partake fully in safe motherhood initiatives.

Ugoh and Ukpere (2009) carried out a study on appraising the trend of policy on poverty alleviation programmes in Nigeria with emphasis on a National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP). The study found that the programme had failed to produce the desired results because of the inactivity of strengthening the programme and lack of identifiable efforts at empowering the beneficiaries with information. The paper had attempted to examine the impact of policy and its sustenance to poverty alleviation in the country.

Abubakar (2012) conducted a study on poverty alleviation through strategic public library services in Nigeria in the 21st century. The author highlighted that the government should equip the various public libraries with modern ICT facilities, and also staff
training in the use of ICTs should be further enhanced. This would help them in enabling them to provide adequate information services related to poverty alleviation programmes.

Hove, Ngwerume and Muchemwa (2013) conducted a study on the urban Crisis in Sub-Saharan Africa. They stated that the recent democratisation and improved information communication capabilities have presented most African governments with a fresh opportunity to tackle these challenges in partnership with civil society.

Sliwa and Wiig (2016) conducted a study on the role of Colombian free urban housing projects in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) return to the countryside. The study revealed that better coordination and information communication services was needed between the reparation programs, to ensure that benefits were delivered fairly, in an efficient and organized way.

2.2 Studies carried out in India

The importance of education in today’s world is widely acknowledged reiterated (Parikh, 1996). The author also reiterated that female literacy was found to be critical for reducing both infant mortality and for total fertility in which proper information communication in creating the awareness of the people should be given strong emphasis.

Loughhead, Mittal and Wood (2001) conducted a study on urban poverty and vulnerability in India. They found that the urbanisation of poverty is likely to increase, alongside the rise of urban populations. Unless urban managers and governance systems have the skills, resources and incentives to improve urban planning and take into account the needs and interests of all residents and poor people should be aware and informed to participate. So that they get the benefits that urban development programmes had to offer.
De Wit (2002) carried out a study on urban poverty alleviation in Bangalore. He stated that empowerment, participation and enabling frameworks were fashionable concepts of the present-day development discourse, especially in relation to poverty alleviation. He also said that if the poor, illiterate, and socially excluded men and women were aware and informed of the opportunities they would be able to organise themselves and to be ready to challenge opposition.

In a study carried out by Paul (2006) on poverty alleviation programmes in Shillong: a note, the author stated that principal aim of poverty alleviation programmes is to improve the quality of life of the urban poor by giving them economic support so that the growing sense of hopelessness may be reduced to a considerable extent. The author also noted that while the government is making all-out efforts to improve the socio-economic condition of economically disadvantaged people by providing liberal financial assistance under various poverty alleviation schemes, it is felt that imparting basic minimum level of education to them by introducing various tailored educational programmes would make them informative and make them realized their rights and responsibilities as responsible citizens.

Yesudian (2007) in his study poverty alleviation programmes in India found that involvement of the community, especially the poor had led to better achievement of the goals of the programmes. Such endeavours not only reduced poverty but also empowered the poor with information to find their own solutions to their economic problems.

Sharma (2012) in his study changing profile of urban poverty stated that the urban poor suffer because they lack of access to services such as information, education, health care, etc. To escape urban poor from the multiple vulnerabilities of urban living and to benefit
them from the inclusive growth process, Central Government's intervention is therefore critical.

Mishra (2014) conducted a study on ageing in India for older persons (60+) with a special focus on demographic, psycho-socio and policy issues. The author stated that some serious challenges were regarding the maintenance of their physical, mental and social well-being. The author also stated that although the Government has taken initiatives to overcome these challenges by implementing various programmes but it was also found that most of the elderly persons were not aware of these programmes.

Powell-Jackson, Mazumdar and Mills (2015) in their study on financial incentives in health: new evidence from India’s Janani SurakshaYojana (JSY) stated women would only be incentivised by the JSY programme if they would know about the benefits but it takes time for such information to spread in the population.

Deshpande, Gadappa, Pagare, Dhaduti, and Andurkar (2016) did a study on awareness regarding Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK) among pregnant women of Marathwada, Maharashtra in India. It was a cross sectional study and questionnaire was used. The study was conducted in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Government Medical College and Hospital involving 1000 pregnant women attending antenatal clinic between September 2015 to March 2016. They found out that awareness level of JSSK entitlements in the pregnant women was low. They also stated that maximum awareness was for provision of free vaginal delivery whereas awareness for provisions like free caesarean section, free drop back facility, free provision of blood was very low. They concluded that efforts were needed to increase the overall awareness of various entitlements of JSSK among pregnant women to increase utilization of benefits of
the scheme and thus indirectly helping in reducing Maternal Mortal Ratio (MMR) and Infant Mortality Rate (IMR).

According to the study done by Prasanna (2016) on inclusive growth - poverty reduction programmes in India, it was found that there had been several programmes, introduced by Central Government, State Governments, and NGOs, for the benefits of rural and urban poor people. But they covered only a small proportion of poor this was due to lack of information services. The author also stated that there was a need to review and re-examined issues relating to Poverty and it was the primary responsibility of the governments in power to take up appropriate programmes and policies in the context of liberal economic reforms in order to reduce the poverty and achieve the inclusive growth in India.

Reddy, Kishore, Viswanathaan, Ranganathan and Shanmugapriya (2016) carried out a study to assess the knowledge and utilization of Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) among postnatal mothers attending the urban health centre of Bangalore medical college and research institute. They found out that out of 120 postnatal mothers 78.3% were aware of JSY. However, they stated that IEC activities (Information, Education and Communication) via various channels including print, electronic, traditional, personal communication should be strengthened to increase the awareness among antenatal mothers and to achieve safe motherhood and child health.

Srivastava (2016) in his study India’s social protection system: issues and challenges discussed that despite India’s range of social protection schemes, the overall impact had fallen short due to the method of beneficiary selection, poor delivery system of information and poor accountability.
Manjula, Ravish and Ranganathan (2017) conducted a study on the awareness and utilization of maternity benefit schemes (Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), Janani Sishu Suraaksha Karyakram (JSSK), Madilu yojana and Prasooti Araike) among the women receiving postnatal services in a tertiary care centre in Begaluru. They found that the awareness levels varied with maximum awareness for Madilu Yojana 86%, JSY 80%, JSSK 75% and least for Prasoothi Araike 32%. Whereas, for maximum utilization, JSSK was 98% Madilu Yojana 60%, JSY 56% and least for Prasoothi Araike 15%. They also stated that although there was improvement in the awareness of the schemes but the utilization remained low. Furthermore, they said that to improve the utilization of the maternity benefit scheme timely released of funds was important.

2.5 Summary of the literature review

From the above reviewed literature, the following conclusions can be drawn:

(i) Provision of relevant information is very crucial for successful implementation of the Urban Development Programmes.

(ii) Effective information communication services are necessary to enhance people’s awareness, understanding and participation in the effective implementation of the Urban Development Programmes.

(iii) Application of information and communication technologies (ICTs) can improved in accessing accurate and reliable information by the poor people.