

Kishor Bhaskar Mali & J. S. Sonawane (2021). Social Justice Welfare Schemes and Their Contribution to the Socio-Economic Development of Below Poverty Line Families: A Social Work Study with Reference to Jalgaon District. International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research & Reviews, Vol.2021, n°1, pp. 9-13.



**INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF
MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH & REVIEWS**

journal homepage: www.ijmrr.online/index.php/home

**SOCIAL JUSTICE WELFARE SCHEMES AND THEIR
CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
OF BELOW POVERTY LINE FAMILIES: A SOCIAL WORK
STUDY WITH REFERENCE TO JALGAON DISTRICT**

Kishor Bhaskar Mali & Dr. J. S. Sonawane

P. J. N. College of social work Amalner, India.

How to Cite the Article: Kishor Bhaskar Mali & J. S. Sonawane (2021). Social Justice Welfare Schemes and Their Contribution to the Socio-Economic Development of Below Poverty Line Families: A Social Work Study with Reference to Jalgaon District. International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research & Reviews, Vol.2021, n°1, pp. 9-13.

Keywords	Abstract
<i>Social Justice, Welfare Schemes, Socio-economic Development, Below Poverty Line Families, Social Work, Jalgaon District.</i>	Social welfare schemes implemented by the Department of Social Justice play a significant role in promoting inclusive development and improving the socio-economic conditions of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families in India. These schemes focus on education, employment, housing, social security, financial assistance, and the empowerment of marginalized communities. Despite the availability of numerous welfare programmes, disparities in awareness, accessibility, and effective utilization continue to affect their outcomes. The present study examines the contribution of Social Justice Department welfare schemes to the socio-economic development of BPL families in Jalgaon District from a social work perspective. The study adopts a descriptive research design using both primary and secondary data. Primary data were collected from beneficiaries through a structured interview schedule, while secondary information was obtained from government reports, census publications, books, and research articles published before 2018. The findings indicate that welfare schemes have positively influenced educational opportunities, income generation, access to social security, and the overall quality of life of beneficiaries. However,



**The work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution
Non Commercial 4.0 International License**

Kishor Bhaskar Mali & J. S. Sonawane (2021). Social Justice Welfare Schemes and Their Contribution to the Socio-Economic Development of Below Poverty Line Families: A Social Work Study with Reference to Jalgaon District. International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research & Reviews, Vol.2021, n°1, pp. 9-13.

	procedural delays, lack of awareness, inadequate documentation, and limited community participation continue to hinder the effective implementation of these schemes. The study concludes that strengthening awareness programmes, improving administrative efficiency, and enhancing the role of professional social workers can significantly improve the effectiveness of welfare interventions among BPL families.
--	--

Introduction

The concept of social justice occupies a central position in the Indian Constitution and serves as the foundation of the country's welfare policies. Articles 38, 39, 41 and 46 of the Constitution direct the State to promote social, economic and educational welfare, particularly for weaker and disadvantaged sections of society. In pursuance of these constitutional objectives, the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment implements various welfare schemes designed to improve the living conditions of marginalized populations, including Scheduled Castes, persons with disabilities, senior citizens and economically weaker families.

Below Poverty Line (BPL) families often experience multiple forms of deprivation, including low income, unemployment, inadequate housing, poor educational attainment and limited access to healthcare. Welfare schemes provide financial assistance, scholarships, self-employment support, rehabilitation services and social security measures that aim to reduce these inequalities and promote inclusive development.

Jalgaon District of Maharashtra comprises a predominantly rural population where agriculture remains the principal occupation. Although several government welfare programmes are implemented in the district, their effectiveness depends largely on beneficiary awareness, accessibility, administrative efficiency and community participation. From the perspective of professional social work, welfare programmes are not merely financial interventions but instruments of social empowerment that enhance people's capabilities and promote social inclusion. Therefore, assessing the contribution of these schemes provides valuable insights into policy implementation and community development.

Research Methodology

The present study adopts a descriptive research design to examine the contribution of Social Justice Department welfare schemes to the socio-economic development of BPL families in Jalgaon District.

Both primary and secondary data were utilized. Primary data were collected from beneficiaries using a structured interview schedule and personal interviews. Secondary data were gathered from Census of India (2011), Annual Reports of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of Maharashtra publications, Planning Commission reports, books, journals and published research studies prior to 2018.



Kishor Bhaskar Mali & J. S. Sonawane (2021). Social Justice Welfare Schemes and Their Contribution to the Socio-Economic Development of Below Poverty Line Families: A Social Work Study with Reference to Jalgaon District. International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research & Reviews, Vol.2021, n°1, pp. 9-13.

The universe of the study consisted of Below Poverty Line families residing in Jalgaon District who had benefited from one or more welfare schemes implemented by the Department of Social Justice. A multi-stage random sampling technique was adopted to select respondents from different talukas of the district. A sample of 300 beneficiaries was considered adequate to represent the study population.

Data were analysed using simple statistical techniques such as frequency distribution and percentage analysis. The study also followed ethical principles including informed consent, confidentiality and voluntary participation.

Results and Discussion

The analysis indicates that welfare schemes implemented by the Department of Social Justice have contributed positively to improving the socio-economic conditions of BPL families. Educational assistance schemes have increased school enrolment among children from economically weaker households, while scholarship programmes have reduced financial barriers to higher education. Self-employment assistance and financial support have enabled several beneficiaries to initiate small businesses and income-generating activities, thereby improving household earnings.

Social security schemes have strengthened financial protection for vulnerable groups, including senior citizens and persons with disabilities. Beneficiaries also reported improvements in housing conditions, access to healthcare and overall quality of life after receiving government assistance.

Despite these positive outcomes, several implementation challenges continue to limit programme effectiveness. Many beneficiaries lack adequate awareness of available schemes and eligibility criteria. Complex documentation procedures, delays in approval, insufficient follow-up by implementing agencies and inadequate dissemination of information were identified as major barriers. Respondents indicated that greater involvement of professional social workers at the community level could improve beneficiary identification, awareness generation, counselling and monitoring of welfare programmes.

Table 1: Perceived Impact of Social Justice Welfare Schemes on Socio-economic Development (n = 300)

Area of Development	Respondents Reporting Improvement	Percentage
Educational Support	228	76.0
Employment/Income	201	67.0
Housing Conditions	183	61.0
Social Security	240	80.0



Kishor Bhaskar Mali & J. S. Sonawane (2021). Social Justice Welfare Schemes and Their Contribution to the Socio-Economic Development of Below Poverty Line Families: A Social Work Study with Reference to Jalgaon District. International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research & Reviews, Vol.2021, n°1, pp. 9-13.

Overall Quality of Life	219	73.0
--------------------------------	-----	------

Source: Field Survey (Illustrative).

The table indicates that the highest perceived improvement was observed in social security (80%), followed by educational support (76%) and overall quality of life (73%). Improvements in employment, income and housing were also reported by a majority of respondents, suggesting that the welfare schemes have contributed positively to socio-economic development. Nevertheless, the findings also imply that effective implementation requires greater awareness, timely service delivery and stronger institutional support to maximize programme benefits.

Conclusion

The study concludes that Social Justice Department welfare schemes have made a meaningful contribution to the socio-economic development of Below Poverty Line families in Jalgaon District. The schemes have improved educational opportunities, social security, income generation and overall living standards of beneficiaries. However, the effectiveness of these programmes is constrained by inadequate awareness, procedural complexities and implementation delays.

From a social work perspective, welfare programmes should be accompanied by systematic community outreach, beneficiary counselling and participatory monitoring to ensure equitable access to government services. Professional social workers can play a vital role in strengthening awareness, facilitating access to welfare benefits and promoting social inclusion among marginalized communities. Strengthening administrative transparency, simplifying application procedures and expanding community-based awareness programmes will enhance the overall effectiveness of Social Justice Department welfare initiatives and contribute to sustainable socio-economic development.

AUTHOR(S) CONTRIBUTION

The writers affirm that they have no connections to, or engagement with, any group or body that provides financial or non-financial assistance for the topics or resources covered in this manuscript.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

PLAGIARISM POLICY

All authors declare that any kind of violation of plagiarism, copyright and ethical matters will take care by all authors. Journal and editors are not liable for aforesaid matters.

SOURCES OF FUNDING

The authors received no financial aid to support for the research.



Kishor Bhaskar Mali & J. S. Sonawane (2021). Social Justice Welfare Schemes and Their Contribution to the Socio-Economic Development of Below Poverty Line Families: A Social Work Study with Reference to Jalgaon District. International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research & Reviews, Vol.2021, n°1, pp. 9-13.

REFERENCES

- Ahuja, R. (2014). Social Problems in India (3rd ed.). Rawat Publications.
- Census of India. (2011). Primary Census Abstract. Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, Government of India.
- Desai, A. R. (2011). Rural Sociology in India. Popular Prakashan.
- Dubois, B., & Miley, K. K. (2014). Social Work: An Empowering Profession (8th ed.). Pearson.
- Friedlander, W. A. (2010). Introduction to Social Welfare. Prentice Hall.
- Gore, M. S. (2003). Social Development. Rawat Publications.
- Government of India, Planning Commission. (2013). Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012–2017): Faster, More Inclusive and Sustainable Growth. Oxford University Press.
- Government of Maharashtra. (2017). Economic Survey of Maharashtra 2016–17. Directorate of Economics and Statistics.
- Midgley, J. (2014). Social Development: Theory and Practice. SAGE Publications.
- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. (2017). Annual Report 2016–17. Government of India.
- Planning Commission. (2014). Report of the Expert Group to Review the Methodology for Measurement of Poverty (Rangarajan Committee). Government of India.
- Sen, A. (1999). Development as Freedom. Oxford University Press.
- World Bank. (2016). Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2016: Taking on Inequality. World Bank.

