

SOCIAL POLICIES AND ADMINISTRATION



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Unit	Block/ Unit Title
BLOCK 1	SOCIAL POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION: AN INTRODUCTION
Unit 1	Social Policy: Concept, Characteristics, Objectives, Scope, Functions, Principles, and Models
Unit 2	Social Policy and Administration
BLOCK 2	SOCIAL POLICIES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN SOCIAL SECTOR
Unit 3	Poverty Alleviation
Unit 4	Food Security
Unit 5	Education
Unit 6	Health
Unit 7	Employment
BLOCK 3	ROLES OF VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS
Unit 8	Role of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Unit 9	Role of various Commissions: National Commission for Scheduled Castes and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
Unit 10	Role of various Institutes: National Institute of Social Defence
Unit 11	Role of Central Social Welfare Board
Unit 12	Role of Civil Society: Case Studies
BLOCK 4	SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP
Unit 13	Social Entrepreneurship

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COURSE INTRODUCTION

In this Course, we will discuss the entities of the government who are involved in the making and execution of the social policies in the country. There are a total of 4 Blocks that include 13 Units in total.

The first Block '**Social Policy and Administration: An Introduction**' has two Units. The first unit, namely, 'Social Policy: Concept, Characteristics, Objectives, Scope, Functions, Principles, and Models of Social Policy. The second unit, 'Social Policy and Administration' discusses about the administrative agencies responsible for the formulation of social policies.

The second Block entitled '**Social Policies and Sustainable Development Goals in Social Sector**' this Block has five Units, namely, Poverty Alleviation, Food Security, Education, Health and Employment.

The third Block discusses the '**Role of Various Institutions**' in five Units, like Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, National Commission for Scheduled Castes and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, National Institute of Social Defence, Central Social Welfare Board, and Civil Society.

The fourth Block namely '**Social Entrepreneurship**' defines Social Entrepreneurship, Characteristics of Social Entrepreneurs, its Dimensions, and its links with the SDGs.



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BLOCK 1

SOCIAL POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION: AN INTRODUCTION

**BLOCK 1 SOCIAL POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION:
AN INTRODUCTION**

Unit 1 Social Policy: Concept, Characteristics,
Objectives, Scope, Functions, Principles, and
Models

Unit 2 Social Policy and Administration

UNIT 1 SOCIAL POLICY: CONCEPT, CHARACTERISTICS, OBJECTIVES, SCOPE, FUNCTIONS, PRINCIPLES AND MODELS

Structure

- 1.0 Objectives
- 1.1 Introduction
- 1.2 Concept of Social Policy
- 1.3 Characteristics
- 1.4 Objectives
- 1.5 Goals
- 1.6 Principles of Social Policy
- 1.7 Models of Social Policy
- 1.8 Scope
- 1.9 Conclusion
- 1.10 References

1.0 OBJECTIVES

After studying this Unit, you should be able to:

- Explain the concept and characteristics of social policy;
- Describe the objectives, goals, and principles of social policy;
- State the different models of social policy; and
- Explore the scope of social policy.

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Modern government is grounded on the social contract between citizens and the State wherein the terms and conditions have been mutually decided for the well-being of the nation. This conscious effort has been done between the two entities, that is, the State and citizens' for two reasons: firstly, citizens agree to support the State either to pay taxes and remittances or adhering to government order or subscribing to the higher ideals like equality, equity, fraternity etc. Secondly, the State in reciprocation secures legitimacy to govern the country by protecting people's rights and evolving appropriate social policies for the common good. Modern governments especially in the developing countries have been giving adequate importance to social policies to overcome social problems, such as, illiteracy, alcohol and drug abuse, ill-health, elderly abuse, and social injustice to the deprived communities. According to the Russian Nobel laureate Aleksandr

Solzhenitsyn, “If state and social policy will not be based on morality, then mankind has no future to speak of....” This statement reinforces that any policy must be evolved for sustained human development and effective social policies could lead to two consequences: legitimisation of State and citizen well-being and development.

With increasing number of social policies, the domain of social policy, as an academic discipline started widening its boundaries by taking insights from other social science disciplines like sociology, economics, politics, history, law etc.

In this Unit, we shall discuss about the concept of social policy, characteristics, goals, scope, functions, principles, and models.

1.2 CONCEPT OF SOCIAL POLICY

The term ‘policy’ indicates the principles that govern action towards an intended outcome or a change. Policy can be succinctly said, as action-oriented and change-oriented. As part of political process, social policy can be perceived, as a vital State instrument. Regarding the usage of the terms ‘social policy’ and ‘social welfare policy’ in academic literature, Aravacik (2018) points out that in Continental Europe it has been referred to, as “social policy” whereas in the North American literature it has been referred as “social welfare policy”. However, social policy, as a field of study emerged and developed from the field of ‘social administration’. The focus of social administration was to prepare personnel in social services. According to Spicker (2014), the social services include the ‘big five’ services *vis-à-vis* social security, housing, health, social work, and education along with employment, prisons, legal services, community safety etc. As a discipline, social policy has become an extensive field encompassing protection of rights and entitlements of the deprived, and meeting their social needs, such as, life expectancy, safety and dignity in work spaces, constitutional safeguards, housing, participation in public spheres etc. Ever since the evolution of modern governments, there has been a corresponding development in welfare state and social policy.

British Economist Nicholas Barr observes that the welfare state is an outcome of diverse forces that has been actively involved in evolving social policy. For example, lack of equitable treatment for all people during pre-Independence phase in India enabled the founding fathers of our Constitution to set up a governance framework that could work for the welfare of all people irrespective of place of birth, religion, caste, disability, and occupation etc. In a way, any government service that intends to improve the quality of life of the deprived communities can be categorised under social policy. To illustrate, a person with disability may feel unsafe and low in self-esteem if s/he does not experience fair treatment in public and work spaces. In line with Constitutional values, the Government of India has enacted the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, to ensure all persons with disabilities to be treated equally with dignity and justice. Indeed, the Preamble to our Indian Constitution has placed the ideal of ‘justice,’ as the foremost ideal of modern government, as its pursuance leads to

sustenance of state legitimacy and citizen well-being. To put this ideal of 'justice' into action, the modern governments have chosen 'social policy,' as a vital tool.

One of the seminal essays in the field of social policy was written by Richard Titmuss in 1955 on 'Social Division of Welfare'. In this essay, Titmuss advocated for reviewing the impact of welfare policies in societal context. This means Titmuss put forth the idea that welfare policies would lead to failure if it does not take cognisance of social realities. Social realities like inadequate healthcare, illiteracy, gender and caste discrimination, elderly abuse etc. enables the government to come up with appropriate policies and schemes for people's well-being. For instance, one of the social realities is majority of transgender persons had been abandoned by their family members and have been leading a homeless life. Leading a homeless life makes transgender persons feel unsafe and intimidated. To overcome this, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in collaboration with the Lakshya Trust (a community-based organisation in Gujarat) has evolved the Garima Greh Scheme in 2020. This Scheme has been hailed by the transgender community. From the above example, we can construe that in social policy, government is not just the only actor, rather, the government collaborates and works in partnership with a number of other actors like community-based organisations, judiciary, non-government organisations, interested individuals, social media etc. Further, we can understand that the focus of social policy is people's well-being irrespective of gender, religion, caste, income, disability etc. People's well-being can be promoted by the government, when they tend to identify the core areas of social policy. Spicker (2014) identifies the core areas of social policy, as follows:

- health policy, social security, education, employment, community care, and housing;
- uncertain circumstances wherein people's welfare would be at stake, such as, disability, disaster, old age, illness, family breakdown;
- anti-social issues like crime and drug addiction;
- socially disadvantaged like transgender persons, poverty-stricken community etc. and;
- an array of collective social responses like provision of financial aids, voluntary efforts, government-community partnerships (like Garima Greh Scheme) to the above social problems.

From the above core areas of social policy, we can understand that the term 'social policy' refers to the social action and responses taken by policy makers to promote people's welfare. In the process, government collaborates with multiple actors to identify social realities and take appropriate action.

1.3 CHARACTERISTICS

Characteristics of a social policy are discussed, as below:

- **A positive instrument of change**

The focus of social policy is to foster change in terms of ‘changing situations, systems, practices, and behaviour’ (Titmuss, 1974). This means social policy intends to bring positive change in the lives of the underserved communities *vis-à-vis* education, housing, insurance, skill development, employment etc. For example, in India, with the commitment to finance and mobilise funds for the economically deprived Scheduled Castes (SC), the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSCFDC) was instituted in 1989. Being a government owned company, it facilitates the deprived communities to access resources without any hassles.

- **Invests in inclusiveness**

Social policy invests in inclusive development of the deprived and intends to bridge the gap between the affluent and the deprived (haves and have-nots). For example, ensuring equal access for persons with disability in public places is an important investment that makes cities inclusive. Sugamya Bharat App, a crowd sourcing mobile application was launched in 2021 by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (PwD). The objective is to enable people with disabilities as well as the elderly to virtually report-accessibility related issues in buildings, transport or in any infrastructure by uploading pictures on it. Notably, the application intends to address corona virus-related issues being faced by PwD.

- **Focuses on collective intervention**

Mkandawire (2001) defines social policy as collective intervention that directly affects changes in social welfare, social institutions, and social relations. While constructing social development, government provides platform for collective participation and intervention of civil society actors’ such as to higher education institutions, community-based organisations, charitable and philanthropic organisation, non-government organisations, media, interested participants etc. For example, Sight Savers is a NGO that works for the welfare of PwD launched an online petition to call the Government of India to make all public places equally accessible by 2025. In fact, 3,114 people participated in it.

1.4 OBJECTIVES

According to Titmuss (1974), there are three main objectives of social policy:

- **To be Beneficent**

Social policies are directed towards human welfare and meet human needs like education, health, housing, and social security.

- **Economic and non-economic objectives**

Social policy includes economic objectives like minimum wages and non-economic objectives like minimum essential standard of living. While minimum wages refers to the remuneration paid by the employers to the physical labour, as mandated by the law, minimum essential standard of living refers to the fundamental human needs (besides food, clothing, and shelter) like safety and survival, establishing connection and acceptance, self-esteem, identity, freedom, justice, and self-fulfilment getting fulfilled. Be it wages or fundamental human needs, it should be socially acceptable. A service offered by government or voluntary organisation becomes socially acceptable when majority people consider the service offered, as reasonable or satisfactory.

- **Transfer of resources from rich to poor**

Social policy involves certain measure of progressive redistribution when it comes to transfer of resources from rich to poor. For example, a successful transfer of resources from rich to poor happens, if the rich villagers contribute their money to establish a primary school in a village for the poor children.

1.5 GOALS

According to Aravacik (2018) there are four goals of a social policy *vis-à-vis* social justice, social balance, social peace, and social integration.

- **Social Justice**

All people will be treated fairly whether in terms of opportunities or participation in governance process. This is to eliminate the inequalities and deprivations caused by income levels.

- **Social Balance**

Social balance can be made possible if the differences and disparities can be eradicated. For example, underserved communities across India should be treated fairly, as this would promote balance and harmony in the society.

- **Social Peace**

Policies need to be framed for promotion of social peace. Policies that inhibit social peace of the society need to be eliminated. To illustrate, the domination of multi-national markets over local markets is not only unfair but it disturbs the balance of the society in the long-run. Hence, such things should not be allowed and should be rectified in favour of the local society.

- **Social Integration**

This refers to inclusion of vulnerable groups into the social structure. It is to equip them, as functional members of the society.

1.6 PRINCIPLES OF SOCIAL POLICY

Principle of Solidarity

Solidarity emerged during the 19th century labour movement when the workers mobilised themselves for collective action. Solidarity implies mutual contract among social groups, such as, family, clubs, federations, etc. with the aim to build mutual accountability and responsibility. Gradually, the principle of solidarity started finding its place in legislations and laws.

In social policy context, the principle of solidarity reinstates the need for providing support based on mutual cooperation, networking, and collective action. For example, National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) was launched in 2005 to provide accessible, affordable, and quality healthcare to the rural population, especially, the vulnerable groups. Characteristic example of application of the principle of solidarity in NRHM is the Village Health, Sanitation, and Nutrition Committee (VHSNC). In fact, the Committee serves, as a platform to take collective actions on village health issues, such as, improving health awareness and outreach activities. Madon (2020) while studying the status of NRHM in Karnataka observes that VHSNCs act, as vital social spaces in creating awareness about chronic diseases and epidemics amongst low-income communities. Notably, the study found inter-sectoral collaboration between VHSNC members and different line departments, NGOs, the gram panchayat and village households.

Principle of Equality

The principle of equality indicates that no member of the society be deprived of any opportunities or use one's own powers, as this would lead to a conflict with social justice (violation of constitutional rights). Based on this principle, the institutions of society (government or judiciary or civil society) can only intervene when an individual or group is/are inadequate (incapable) to meet their own needs. Only under circumstances of incapability the institutional intervention becomes meaningful.

For example, during 1990s, in Rajasthan, the villagers were legally deprived of understanding the existing laws related to right to minimum wage. They were not paid, as per the laws by the authorities. Seeing this social injustice, Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS), a NGO, created legal awareness among the people and mobilised them to demand open access to the records of expenditure for various programmes at the local level. In fact, the MKSS battled for three years to enable their demands to be met. As a result, People's Right to Information became a social movement by 1996, which demanded that all government bodies should maintain and preserve records for future reference. To give a statutory basis to the social movement and with continuous lobbying from National Campaign for the People's Right to Information (NCPRI), the Government of India enacted the Right to Information Act in 2005. Thus, the institutional intervention of MKSS legally empowered the people to stand for their rights to seek information and become informed citizenry.

Principle of Subsidiary

According to the principle of subsidiary, the local people are the prime stakeholders in decision-making. When people are not empowered, the role of local government and civil society actors have been looked upon, as the one closest to the society where they will have their effect. For example, it was the role of MKSS that made the villagers empowered. Similarly, the role of local government in certain gram panchayats has led to people's well-being. To illustrate, in December 2018, Jakatwadi gram panchayat (Satara District) in Maharashtra made a landmark decision to provide financial assistance of Rs. 20,000 to widows who wish to remarry. After a detailed discussion with the people of the Panchayat including the village elders for nearly 6-7 months, the local people unanimously came forward to break the social taboo associated with women. The panchayat declared that the funds for meeting the expenditure would be given from gram panchayat's budget for women and child welfare. It has been reported that the village has also established a rehabilitation centre for youth affected by alcoholism. An opinion of a villager would reflect the psyche of the village: "We are not a wealthy village, but aspire to be a cultured one" (Deshpande, 2018). This example also reflects the principle of solidarity. Indeed, social policy is not about being wealthy rather it reinforces people's well-being, as its prime mission.

In this regard, the above examples would have given you an understanding about the various dimensions of well-being.

1.7 MODELS OF SOCIAL POLICY

The models of social policy (Titmuss, 1974) are contrast in nature and facilitate us to inquire into the facts and choices (of our economic and social life) in a clear and precise fashion.

The Residual Welfare Model of Social Policy

This model is based on the presumption that individual's needs could be adequately attained through two entities *vis-à-vis* private market and the family. It is only when both these entities do not work, social welfare institutions may temporarily intervene. According to this model, welfare provisions should not be provided for a long term because this theory assumes that people must learn to survive without the benefits from the social welfare institutions. Its theoretical basis can be traced in the English Poor Law¹.

The Industrial Achievement-Performance Model of Social Policy

This model is also known as the 'Handmaiden Model,' as it assists the economy. This model positions the significant role of social welfare institution and presumes that it has to function on the premise of economic and psychological

¹ It was a system of poor relief in England and Wales that prevailed during late-medieval.

theories related to incentives, effort, reward, formation of class, group loyalties, merit, work performance, and productivity.

The Institutional Redistributive Model of Social Policy

This model perceives social welfare, as an integral institution in the society that provides services based on the principle of need. Such social welfare institutions function outside the market. It is partly based on theories of multiple effects of social change and partly on the principle of equality. According to Titmuss (1974), this model incorporates systems of redistribution in command over resources through time.

1.8 SCOPE

The scope of the social policy is being discussed below:

- 1) **Social policy is about welfare:** The idea of welfare has been used in different contexts. Broadly, the term 'welfare' denotes well-being as well as range of services provided by the State. In social policy context, 'welfare' has been frequently relatable to serving the needy and poor (Spicker, 2014).
- 2) **Social policy is about policy:** Social policy is more concerned with understanding the realities. For example, social policy may not be directly concerned with 'food' but it is concerned with 'regulation and distribution of food.' When it comes to 'regulation and distribution of food', the focus is on the underserved communities and their capacity to access food (Spicker, 2014).
- 3) **Social policy is concerned with issues that are social** (Spicker, 2014): The word 'social' in social policy implies the need for collective response to social problems. Social policy is concerned with removing the obstacles of development at the grassroots level. For example, in 1950s, the Tamil Nadu government came up with the Mid-day Meal Scheme to ensure universal access to primary education. Under the Mid-day Meal Scheme, free lunch was provided to the poor, starving children in government schools so as to make them access education. Since this Scheme needed a huge budget, a fair amount of funds were mobilised by the public. In this example, mobilisation of funds by both government and the public is a collective response to the problem of low school enrolment.
- 4) **Social policy is an applied subject** (Spicker, 2014): It is multi-disciplinary and contextual in nature. Since social problems are complex, social policy extends across a broad spectrum of social science disciplines. Social policy believes that there is no one best way to tackle a social problem and tries to seek solution from multiple perspectives. It is practice-oriented discipline, in the sense, it identifies the social problem and thereafter find methods and approaches to fit the problem.

ACTIVITY

Let us know a model for social policy that can be a framework for social programmes.

1.9 CONCLUSION

Social policy is one of the academic disciplines in social sciences, yet, it is different from other social science disciplines, as it is firmly grounded empirically. It has certain principles that act, as a guiding force *vis-à-vis* solidarity, equality, and subsidiary. For example, the dignity of a person with disability can be measured in terms of equal treatment in public and work spaces. In this line of logic, various policies have been evolved to promote social peace and harmony. Based on the nature of social issues, governments and civil society actors have been working to overcome inequalities and discriminations. Especially, local level problems are fixed by the local actors, as they have an immediate effect over their lives. In sum, social policy aims to identify the problems confronted by the deprived communities and work towards finding ways to increase people's well-being.

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UNIT 2 SOCIAL POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

Structure

- 2.0 Objectives
- 2.1 Introduction
- 2.2 Social Policy and Administration
- 2.3 Government Entities Involved in Social Policy and Administration
- 2.4 Case Example: Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan
- 2.5 Conclusion
- 2.6 References

2.0 OBJECTIVES

After studying this Unit, you should be able to:

- describe the Indian context of social administration;
- explore the various government entities involved in social policy and administration; and
- spell out the several Institutes/Corporations involved in administering the social policies.

2.1 INTRODUCTION

In Unit 1, you have studied that social policy is about 'welfare' and it is concerned with matters related to 'social justice', 'social balance', 'social peace', and 'social integration'. In this Unit, you will learn about the way social policies have been administered. With the establishment of modern states and the renewed commitment to cater to the underserved communities, there was a growing need for social policy. Concurrently, there was discussion about 'how to identify the needs of the underserved communities?' and 'how to deliver services to them?' Hence, there was a need to institute separate ministries/departments to administer the social welfare programmes. Indeed, 'Social Policy and Administration' refer to the institutions that administer the welfare programmes in an organised way. It includes leadership, management, decision-making, and institution-building. According to Hanlon (1978), "social administration is interrelated not only with the social sciences but also with the values, priorities, and resources of the larger social institutions..."

In this Unit, you will study the various government entities involved in administering the social policies of India.

2.2 SOCIAL POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION: INDIAN CONTEXT

With reference to social policy, the intention of administration is two-fold: One, to enable the beneficiaries access the available resources; and second, to deliver psychological support to the beneficiaries. In addition, the administration should strive to function for making a positive impact on the target beneficiaries. More than technicians and tacticians, social administrators need to be moral actors, who can build a just society. In this regard, the role of social administrators in evolving and maintaining 'just institutions' gathers significance in building a 'just society'.

A social policy may be well conceived by the policy makers but in the absence of sound administration it may lead to implementation failure. Therefore, factors that influence successful implementation of the social policy includes: clarity in the roles and responsibilities of social administrators, clear guidelines for complying with the rules, trained human resources, communication networks, monitoring and evaluation etc. Needless to say, programme monitoring and evaluation is an important constituent of social administration, as its function is to regularly keep track of the progress of various development activities. Secondly, depending on the progress of the development activity/programme, the monitoring and evaluation determines to what extent the project outcome has been achieved. Thirdly, it tries to spell out a plan of action for rectifying the inadequacies based on stakeholders' and beneficiaries' views. In fact, social policy and administration need to complement each other for meeting the intended outcomes of any development activity.

In India, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is the nodal ministry for the welfare of the target audience *vis-à-vis* Scheduled Castes, backward classes, senior citizens, victims of alcoholism and substance abuse, beggary, transgender, de-notified tribes/nomadic tribes/semi-nomadic tribes, and economically backward class. The prime role of the Ministry is to empower the target audience socially, educationally, and economically and build a 'just society'.

Let us begin our discussion with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment along with its entities.

2.3 GOVERNMENT ENTITIES INVOLVED IN SOCIAL POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

During the post-independence phase, the Ministry of Welfare was created initially to cater to the development needs of the population. During 1985-86, the Ministry was bifurcated into Department of Welfare and Department of Women and Child Development. In 1998, the Ministry of Welfare was renamed, as the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MSJ&E). Essentially, the MSJ&E is the nodal ministry to cater to the welfare needs of the target audience, such as,

scheduled castes, backward classes, senior citizens, victims of alcoholism and substance abuse, beggary, transgender, de-notified tribes/nomadic tribes/semi-nomadic tribes, and economically backward class. Basically, its purpose is to enable the target audience feel socially, economically, and educationally empowered.

As on 2022, the Ministry is headed by a Cabinet Minister and assisted by three Ministers of State. Under this Ministry, there are two Departments that are, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment; and Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. Each Department is administered by a Secretary along with Additional Secretary, Joint Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Director, and Deputy Director.

Let us briefly discuss the above mentioned Departments and their associated organisations in the ensuing sub sections. A detailed discussion about the Ministry has been separately dealt in Unit 11.

To begin with is a discussion on the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment.

2.3.1 Department of Social Justice and Empowerment

The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment caters to the needs of Nomadic and Migratory Tribes, Scheduled Castes, Socially and Educationally Backward Classes, Denotified Tribes, Economically Backward Classes; and Senior Citizens. In this regard, the Department implements sector-specific schemes for the educational, economic, and social empowerment of the target audience like scholarships, hostels, residential schools, skill training, concession loans, and subsidy for self-employment etc. It also administers schemes related to care and support of senior citizens, rehabilitation of manual scavengers, beggars, and victims and families of substance abuse.

The associated organisations under this Department include Commissions, National Institutes, Corporations, and Foundations.

2.3.1.1 Commissions

i) National Commission for Scheduled Castes

To protect and promote the social, educational, economic, and cultural interests of the Scheduled Castes and Anglo Indian communities, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) has been instituted. In fact, Article 338 deals with NCSC. It comprises of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and two members. NCSC is committed to the implementation of the Acts like the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955. Additionally, NCSC seeks to ensure that the economic development schemes earmarked for Scheduled Castes (SC) population are implemented and reach the intended beneficiaries. It also seeks to ensure that reservation rules has been followed at every level. This topic will be discussed in detail in Unit 12.

ii) **National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)**

The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) was constituted by the Government of India according to the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993. It is a statutory organisation under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment that seeks to empower the socially and economically backward sections of Backward Classes. Till date, seven Commissions have been constituted. One of the mandates of NCBC is to scrutinise the inclusion and exclusion of castes from the Central List of Other Backward Castes (OBCs) and accordingly advice the government. NCBC is a quasi-judicial body as it has been vested with the powers of a civil court. The Commission comprises of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and three other Members in the rank and pay scale of Secretary to the Government of India.

iii) **National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)**

NCSK was established in the year 1993 in accordance to the provisions of the NCSK Act 1993. In the beginning, it was set up to 1997. Later, the validity of the Act was extended twice up to 2002 and 2004 respectively. With NCSK ceased to have existed with effect from 2004 the tenure of the NCSK has been periodically extended as a non-statutory body through resolutions. As on January, 2022, the Union Cabinet had passed a resolution to extend the tenure of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) for three years beyond 31st March 2022 (PIB, 2022). The Commission comprises of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and five members. One of the mandates of the Commission is to study and evaluate the existing welfare programmes for Safai Karamcharis and take up cases of specific grievances.

For perspective, manual scavenging is prohibited, as per the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013. NCSK has been assigned with the task of (i) monitoring the implementation of the Act (ii) advising the centre and state governments for its implementation, and (iii) enquiring into the grievances regarding non-implementation of the Act. The sole aim of NCSK is to eradicate the practice of manual scavenging and promote complete mechanisation of cleaning the sewer/septic tanks. As per the Government survey a total of 58098 manual scavengers have been identified up to December 2021. Ultimately, the mandate is to identify and rehabilitate the manual scavengers with a dignified livelihood.

iv) **National Commission for De-notified, Nomadic, and Semi-nomadic Tribes (DNT/NT/SNT)**

With the purpose to prepare a state-wise list of castes belonging to the de-notified, nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes, the Government of India constituted the National Commission for De-notified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (NCDNT) in February 2014. The Commission had submitted its report in 2018. According to the report, a total of 1262

communities have been identified, as De-notified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic communities in India. Some of the major recommendations of the Commission include:

- to set up a permanent commission at the centre for De-notified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Communities (DNT/NT/SNT);
- to set up a separate Department/Directorate at the state level for the (DNT/NT/SNT)communities;
- to conduct caste based census;
- to generate awareness among the communities for inclusion into mainstream development activities
- to focus on development schemes related to their health, education, housing, traditional art and expertise; and
- to sensitise government officials, implementing authorities, and local bodies to treat them alike and not to exclude them from any development programmes.

2.3.1.2 National Institute of Social Defence

National Institute of Social Defence (NISD) became an autonomous body since 2002 under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860. NISD is the nodal institute that specialises in human resource development training and research *vis-à-vis* substance abuse prevention, geriatric care, beggary prevention, transgender persons care etc. The Institute intends to sensitise, orient, and build human capacities at the state, regional, national, and international levels. The primary objective of NISD is to evolve policies in social defence domain *vis-à-vis* preventive, rehabilitative and curative (National Institute of Social Defence Website). The governing structure includes the Director at the apex and followed by four Deputy Directors. Further, there are two councils, such as, General Council (GC) and Executive Council (EC). The role of GC is to frame the broad policy parameters and the role of EC is to monitor and direct NISD's activities and programmes. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment reconstitutes both GC and EC for a period of two years. NISD has been dealt in detail in Unit 13.

2.3.1.3 Corporations

i) National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC)

It was set up by the Government of India in 1989 under the name National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSCSTFDC). As per the Section 8 of the Company (not for profit) Act, 2013, NSFDC has been incorporated, as a fully owned Government of India Company. With the bifurcation of NSCSTFDC into two separate corporations *vis-à-vis* Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST), currently, NSFDC caters to the needs of SCs. One of the mandates of the Corporation is to finance, facilitate, and mobilise funds for

the socio-economic development of SCs with an annual family income of up to Rs. 3 lakhs. It also provisions for financial assistance for income generating schemes through State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs) that are nominated by respective State Government / Union Territory administrations and other stakeholders (like public sector banks, cooperative banks, regional rural banks etc.) with whom NSFDC has signed memorandum of agreement for the same.

ii) **National Backward Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC)**

NBCFDC is a Government of India Undertaking that functions under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Its primary objective is to play a pioneering role in the economic upliftment of the Backward Classes (BC) by providing financial assistance through state governments/union territories and banks. The financial has been utilised by the beneficiaries for their skill development and self-employment ventures to the Economically Backward Classes (EBC), DNT/NT/SNT, senior citizens, beggars, and transgender. Additionally, it provides income generating activities in sectors like agriculture and allied activities, small business/artisan and traditional occupation, transport, and service sector etc.

iii) **National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC)**

NSKFDC is an apex corporation that was incorporated in 1997 under Section 25 of the Companies Act as 'Not for Profit' organisation. It was meant to up lift the socio economic status of safai karamcharis/scavengers. It is a government owned Undertaking that comes under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The primary commitment of NSKFDC is to eradicate manual scavenging and provide alternative livelihood for the workers through financial assistance *vis-à-vis* loans and skill development (like technical and entrepreneurial skills). Its mission is to enable the safai karamcharis and their families to lead a life of dignity, honour, and pride and to include them into the mainstream society.

2.3.1.4 Foundations

i) **Dr. Ambedkar Foundation**

Government of India had established Dr. Ambedkar Foundation (DAF) in 1992, as a registered society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. It comes under the MSJ&E. The Foundation entails to manage, administer, and carry out the development initiatives based on the ideologies of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. The Governing Body of this Foundation has the Chairperson (Minister of MSJ&E), Vice-Chairperson, Member (Ex-officio), Member Secretary, and five Members. Currently, DAF implements ten schemes related to the development of SC/STs. One of the schemes include establishment of Dr. Ambedkar Chair in Universities and Higher Education Institutions. The prime objective of the scheme is to undertake studies and research on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's ideals. Other schemes include provision

for scholarships for meritorious students, medical aid scheme, scheme for social integration through inter-caste marriages, and National Relief scheme for victims of atrocities etc.

ii) Babu Jagjivan Ram National Foundation

The Government of India had established Babu Jagjivan Ram National Foundation in 2008 under MSJ&E. It has been registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The Union Minister of MSJ&E is the President of the Foundation. The Foundation intends to carry forward the ideals of the late Babu Jagjivan Ram, philosophy of life, his mission and vision for creating a casteless and classless society. Besides, the Foundation entails to eradicate caste-based prejudices and thereby empower the SCs and underserved communities. The Governing Body includes the Minister of MSJ&E as President, followed by Vice-President, four ex-officio members, and three members.

2.3.2 Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities was established in 2012 under the MSJ&E. Its primary purpose is to facilitate empowerment and inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PwD). It also acts as the nodal agency for all the development schemes connected to PwD. According to the Department, “empowerment of persons with disabilities is an inter-disciplinary process that includes various aspects, such as, prevention, early detection, intervention, education, health, vocational training, rehabilitation and social integration.” The Department’s vision is to foster an inclusive society wherein equitable opportunities are provided for the holistic development of PwD. In line with the vision, the Department’s mission is to create an enabling environment where PwD feel safe, independent, and productive. The Department is headed by a Secretary and assisted by two Joint Secretaries and a Deputy Director General.

The Department comprises of three statutory bodies, namely, Rehabilitation Council of India, Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, and The National Trust. It also includes Central Public Sector Enterprises *vis-à-vis* Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India and National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation. Besides, it has nine National Institutes that work in the domain of disability rehabilitation.

The Department has set up nine National Institutes in disability domain to cater to the specific types of disabilities. Primarily, these Institutes have been developing the human resource capacities in the field of disability for conducting various courses, provisioning for rehabilitation, and promoting research and development in this domain. These nine institutes are:

- i) National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD)
- ii) Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech and Hearing Disabilities
- iii) National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities

- iv) National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD)
- v) Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya National Institute for Persons with Physical Disabilities
- vi) Swami Vivekanand National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research
- vii) National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities
- viii) Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC)
- ix) National Institute of Mental Health and Rehabilitation (NIMHR)

2.3.2.2 The National Trust

The National Trust is a statutory body under the MSJ&E. It is set up under the “National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities” Act (Act 44 of 1999). The Trust intends to provide opportunities for building capacities of PwD and their families to fulfil their rights and responsibilities. It seeks to ensure an inclusive environment by empowering PwD to lead an independent and dignified life. In this regard, the Trust offers support for registered organisations that stand for disability rights. The Trust provides various rehabilitation and empowerment schemes, such as, Early Intervention and School Readiness Scheme, Day Care, Respite Care (home for orphans, PwD, etc.), Health Insurance Scheme, Caregiver Training Scheme, educational support for the PwD, Aids and Assistive Devices etc. To illustrate, the Trust envisages establishing a resource centre in each city in India with a view to collate, collect, and provide data to the concerned stakeholders.

2.3.2.3 Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities

The Office of the Chief Commissioner for PwD was set up in line with erstwhile Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act 1995 and under Section 74 of the Right of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. The function of the Chief Commissioner is to coordinate with State Commissioners on whether funds allocated for PwD has been utilised. Secondly, it works to safeguard their rights and access to resources. It scrutinises the complaints with reference to deprivation of rights for PwD, non-implementation of rules, regulation, guidelines etc. For this purpose, the Chief Commissioner for PwD has been entrusted with few powers of a civil court.

2.3.2.4 Rehabilitation Council of India

The RCI was registered as a society in 1986 and evolved into a statutory body in 1993. One of the mandates of RCI is to regulate and monitor services for PwD. Secondly, it has been entrusted with the authority to standardise the syllabus related to rehabilitation psychology. In this regard, they maintain a central rehabilitation database to register qualified professionals and rehabilitation personnel in Special Education. Besides, it has been empowered to undertake punitive action against unqualified personnel who engage in providing services to PwD. RCI is governed by General Council and Executive Committee.

2.3.2.5 National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation

National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) has been established in 1997. It is a government owned company that has been registered under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 as a not for profit company. The company is governed by Board of Directors who have been nominated by Government of India. NHFDC is the apex institution that has been entrusted the task of channelizing funds to PwD through State Channelising Agencies (SCA). SCAs are nominated by the state governments. One of the development schemes of NHFDC is Vishesh Microfinance Yojana (VMY) that intends to provide prompt and need based micro finance to PwD at a reasonable cost.

2.3.2.6 Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India

Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO) is a Central Public Sector unit that comes under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. It was incorporated in 1972. Since 1976, ALIMCO has been involved in manufacturing, supplying, and distribution of Assistive Devices for Persons with Disabilities. It is one of the largest company in the world for manufacture of cost effective devices for PwD. According to ALIMCO Website, 42 lakh assistive devices have been distributed to PwDs. It includes multiple categories of cost effective and quality assistive vis-a-vis aids & appliance for orthopedically, visually, hearing & mentally impaired persons. One of the mandates of ALIMCO is to promote, motivate, and develop the supply, availability, usage at a reasonable cost without compromising on the quality.

2.4 CASE EXAMPLE: NASHA MukT BHARAT ABHIYAAN

With drug addiction emerging as a daunting challenge, especially, among the youth, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has come up with a vision to have a ‘drug free’ India. As one of the characteristics of social policy is to bring about positive change in the society, Nasha MukT Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) was launched in August 15th, 2020, to confront the issue of substance abuse and bring about a positive impact among the victims of drug abuse. The Abhiyaan (movement) has been implemented through well-structured system wherein at the apex the Ministry monitors the progress through respective state coordinators of the Project Monitoring Unit. The Ministry coordinates, implements, and monitors various interventions, such as, drug prevention, assessment of the problem, treatment and rehabilitation, follow-up activities, public information dissemination, and public awareness generation (NMBA website).

Secondly, State Level Abhiyaan Committees have been constituted to monitor the activities of the selected vulnerable districts of the respective states. It also provides support and guidance to the district level committees. Thirdly, the District Level Nasha MukT Abhiyaan Committees have been constituted to prepare the action plan in the districts. It is chaired by the district collector with

stakeholders from departments, such as, health, education, women and child, police, field agencies who have been made to implement Abhiyaan activities in the district. Some of the functions of the Abhiyaan committee at the district level include: identifying volunteers in the community, spreading community awareness on the ill effects of drug abuse, formation of clubs in educational institutions, etc.

Thus, from central to district level to field agencies to local youth volunteers, all stakeholders need to collectively intervene for making the Abhiyaan, a successful activity.

ACTIVITY

Refer to the website of Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan and take the following pledge using the link: <http://nmba.dosje.gov.in/take-a-pledge.php>

“Our ancestors secured freedom for Mother India. Now it is our duty to serve India by making the country drug-free. I take this pledge that I will remain committed towards the cause and devote my time for this. I will neither take drugs nor let others take drugs. I will initiate the quest for Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan with myself, my family, my locality, and my workplace. I believe that the countries of world that appear free from this menace are so because their citizens don't indulge in drugs nor do they allow it to happen. With this firm belief, I will propagate the message of Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan in villages and towns. I will encourage 100 other persons to take this pledge which I am taking today. I pledge that I will take all my capability efforts to make my country drug-free. Jai Hind!”

2.5 CONCLUSION

In this Unit, you were able to understand the way social policies have been administered through various Institutes, Corporations, etc. It is well said that a social policy may be well conceived by the policy makers but in the absence of sound administration, it may lead to failure of implementation. Social administrators by way of effective organisation and coordination could be able to identify the needs of the underserved communities and deliver services in an efficient and effective way.

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