

Issues of Research at State Level

Status of social security schemes under right to food¹:

Entitlements are created as safeguards for the poor from various insecurities. State is bound to provide food security related entitlements and rights poor particularly in the view of the SC orders. It is observed that the entitlement is not reaching to the needy (like only 40% of the *Antodya* schemes are reaching to needy, SGSRY money is not spend appropriately) due to operational issues and corruption.

Many of the person who fall under the criteria is still not getting the benefits (rights) due to negligence of government or lack of information / awareness.

As a result of malnutrition, women especially in the age group of 15-26 years of age are suffering from acute anemia while lacks of social security coverage are also causing hunger deaths.

As per Supreme Court orders there are a total of 8 schemes, which need to be implemented to combat hunger and starvation deaths. SC has appointed observers / commissioners to monitor the food rights related 8 schemes. But in want of ground situation data / information it is difficult to inform SC regarding status of implementation.

Research (like status and functioning of schemes from PDS) can play a curial role in removing gaps of social security schemes related to food security. Mapping of hunger, its analysis, and lodging complaint regarding discrepancy found during survey status of social security schemes under right to food would be a critical initiative for the issue.

Migration and girl trafficking:²

Most of the poor are agricultural laborers or landless. Lower wage with combination of other factors increasing migration of the youth and the physically fit from the villages in search of income sources is a typical feature of the villages in the state. This situation is also creating new type of social problems particularly for old age people and women.

¹ This issue is emerged during deliberation at various forums

² Many project areas are reporting increase in such incidents

The survival of the tribal people are centered towards the locally available natural resources but due to deforestation tribal community has left with no option for survival but to migrate from villages. During the migration villagers are exposed to all sort of exploitation like less wages, inhuman conditions and restricted mobility. As they remain away for the families for long duration they are also prone to attract towards high-risk behavior (for AIDS).

There is alarming number of cases reported in media and by CSOs regarding girl trafficking and child marriages. Despite government policy system is unable to stop this criminal and social evil.

Issue of migration and girl trafficking is attached to local & state economy, social / family fabric, law & order and human rights. For taking up the issue at policy advocacy level and to understand various dimensions a study / research is required.

CSO networks under PACS programme:

Networking is the key strategy of *Jharkhand* PACS programme, 15 out of 20 projects are network project. The promotion of the networks was done due to two reasons one, for administrative purpose (where administrative work is done with one lead CSO and PACS, reducing time and complexities), two capacity building of the small CSOs whose managerial capacity and fund absorption capacity is less but they have potential to produce good work at ground.

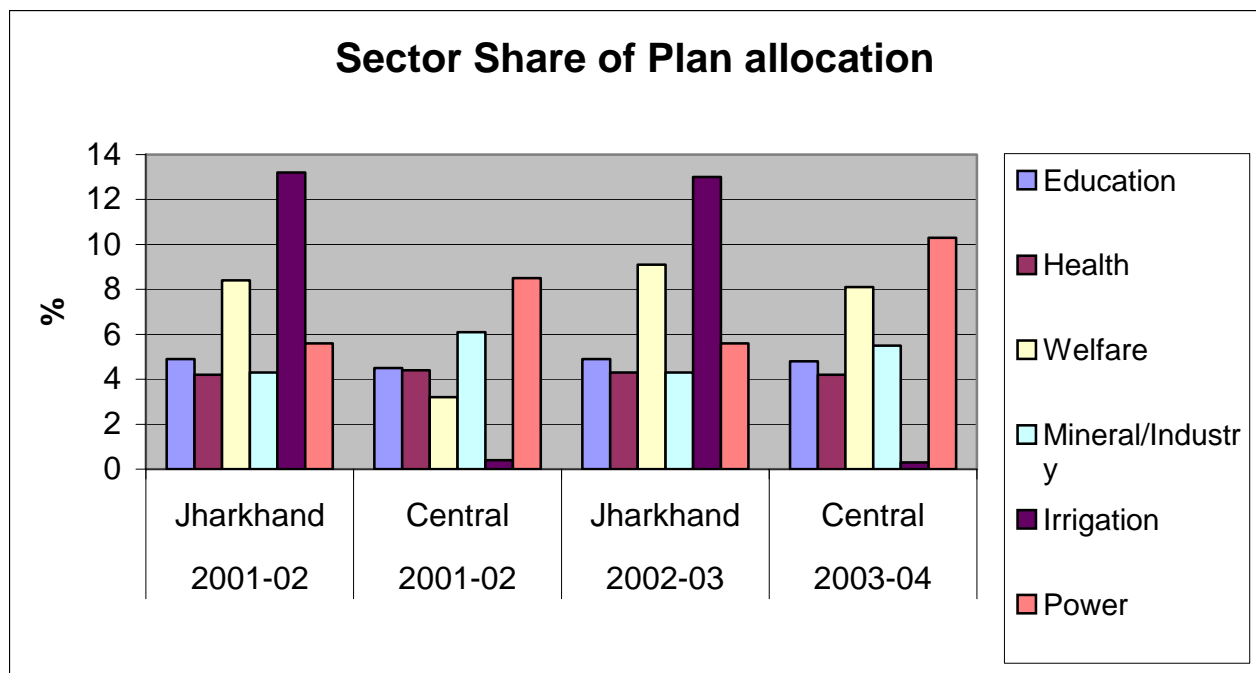
The strategy seems working in the state as most out of 87 CSOs, are small and getting opportunity to transfer their ideas and express their feelings for community. Because of this strategy only, program has reached in to this many villages.

Over the period of time some operational issues are also emerged which are barrier in leveraging the initiatives like transfer of learnings, Communication gap between partners, Coordination of large project areas, Lead agency tend to hide problems, Sharing of resources etc.

Network effectiveness will act as base for beyond PACS and advocacy initiatives at state level. Issue and factors for successful and long lasting network should be understood in local context so that efforts can be focused for strengthening networks

Government financial planning and Fund allocation for development:

38.1 % of the population belongs to SC and ST. State and central allocation for fund is incensing for last 4 years but it is reported in newspapers that funds in many crucial heads could not be spent. This is very tragic situation for the state where approx 50% population is below poverty line and livelihood is a biggest problem. This is also related to governance and propriety of the decision makers.



Study of financial planning of the state, particularly for development can throw light on the process of budget making and priority. Understanding and information on the issue will help to address the issue by policy advocacy. It will also provide idea to CSOs about the resources available at block / district level under various schemes.

As per Supreme Court's orders there is likelihood of PRI elections in the state, if the study is extended to cover local resource allocation and protocol, it will help to provide support to elected functionaries of PRIs.

Livelihood & Marketing Opportunities³:

The crisis of opportunities and resources in the villages, due to lack of proper development plan and implementation by the government is affecting the people's survival in *Jharkhand*. Such crisis at the village level encourages the rural youths to join the *Naxalite* groups.

Under such situation a good network of 87 CSOs under PACS programme have taken initiative for development of women. There are more than 2000 SHGs are preparing themselves by way of capacity building.

Understanding fact that the livelihood options are limited in the villages PACS projects are providing women skills related to income generation activities, It is observed that CSO are successful in mobilizing support for backward linkages in some cases but when it comes to marketing (forward linkages) in most of the cases results are disappointing.

Limited perceptive of CSO on IGP, and lack of information on IGP options are major reasons. Study on potential livelihood options at cluster / district level and marketing opportunities will provide a major support to CSOs and CBOs.

³ Based on CSO feedback and project synthesis report