

The NSAP came into effect from 15th August 1995 as a significant step towards the fulfilment of Directive Principles in Article 41 and 42 of the constitution through the enunciation of a National Policy for social assistance benefits to poor households living below the poverty line in case of old age, death of primary breadwinner and maternity. It is a centrally sponsored scheme with 100 per cent central assistance provided to states/UTs. The scheme is implemented in the states/UTs through Panchayats and Municipalities.

- A. National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS)
- B. National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)
- C. National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS)

All the three components of the NSAP had been separately evaluated on the basis of field survey.

A. NATIONAL OLD AGE PENSION SCHEME (NOAPS)

Under NOAPS old age pension of Rs. 75 per month was provided to persons of 65 years and above who were destitutes. The scheme could be linked to medical care and other benefits aimed at the aged beneficiaries. The efficiency of the scheme had been evaluated under the micro level study.

(a) Socio-economic condition of the beneficiaries

Out of 60 beneficiaries, 17(28.33%) were male and 43(71.66%) were female. Only 12(20.0%) beneficiaries were literate and 48(80.0%) were illiterate. Out of 12 beneficiaries, all of them i.e., 100% beneficiaries had the qualification of Primary level. No beneficiary was there in all the zones who had qualified either the matriculation or graduation level. Illiteracy level was higher in North Bihar (90.0%) followed by Central Bihar (85.0%). Out of 60 beneficiaries, only 4(6.66%) were small farmers, 3(5.0%) were marginal farmers.

All the beneficiaries of both the categories hailed from Central Bihar. 15(25.0%) were agricultural labourers and 05(8.33%) hailing only from Jharkhand were non-agricultural labourers, 18(30.0%) were non-agricultural self employed, Not a single one belonged to artisan group, but 15(25.0%) were others including housewives. Hence, it was clear that non-agricultural labourers had taken the maximum benefit of the scheme. Agricultural labourers and others maintained the equality. (Table 5A.1)

41.66% beneficiaries had the family size of 1-5 members, 53.33% had the size of 6-11 members and only 5.0% had the size of 12 or more. Jharkhand was lacking the size of 12 or more. 15(25.0%) beneficiaries belonged to scheduled caste, not a single beneficiary belonged to scheduled tribe group, 37(61.66%) belonged to OBCs. and only 8(13.33%) belonged to others groups including minority. And 3(5.0%) beneficiaries hailed from only Central Bihar were freed bonded labourers, not a single one was there the assignee of surplus land but remaining 57(95.0%) belonged to others category. (Table 5A.2)

Out of 60 beneficiaries, 8(13.33%) had income below Rs. 6401 only 5(8.33%) had income in between Rs. 6401-11000, 12(20.0%) in between Rs. 11001-16000, 13(21.66%) in between Rs. 16001-21000, 16(26.66%) beneficiaries had income in between Rs. 21001-32000. 6(10.0%) had income above Rs. 32000. Hence 22 (36.66%) beneficiaries had income above poverty line but they had managed to get the benefit of the scheme with their manipulating skill including payment of speed money (Table 5A.3).

(b) Economic structure and viability of the scheme :

Amount of Rs. 75 per month had been fixed for the scheme or but the mode of payment was not regular. 100% beneficiaries reported that there had been no fixed time frame for them to receive the

amount. Out of 60 beneficiaries only 21(35.0%) had received the amount in full whereas 39(65.0%) 137 beneficiaries had not received the amount in full. (Table 5A.4)

38(63.33%) beneficiaries had paid the speed money for inclusion in pensioners list. Only 22(36.66%) reported that they did not pay any speed money for the purpose. Out of 38 beneficiaries only 5(13.15%) had paid the amount below Rs. 51, 14(36.84%) had paid the amount in between Rs. 51-100, 6(15.78%) in between Rs. 101-150, 5(13.15%) in between Rs. 151-200, and 8(21.05%) had paid the amount above Rs. 200. Out of 38 beneficiaries, 16(42.10%) beneficiaries reported that the speed money had been appropriated by the concerned block authority, only a single (2.63%) beneficiary had reported that the speed money had been appropriated Panchayat authority and 21(55.26%) by the middleman. (Table 5A.5)

(c) General Observation and recommendation :

Out of 60, 25(41.66%) beneficiaries used the amount for own purpose but 35 (58.33%) beneficiaries had not used the amount for own purpose. Out of 35 beneficiaries, 31(88.57%) reported they used the amount for family, only 2(5.71%) hailed only from North Bihar used the amount for loan repayment and remaining 2(5.71%) only hailed from Central Bihar used the amount for other purposes. 40(66.66%) beneficiaries reported that the assistance amount had significance for them. But the remaining 20(33.33%) reported that the assistance amount had no significance for them.

Beneficiary's observations :

Beneficiaries of the scheme observed that the main weakness of the scheme was that there was no time frame for the payment of the amount. They suggested that the payment should be made regularly i.e., monthly basis through account transfer system of a bank or post office.

Investigators observations and recommendations :

On the basis of cross-survey the investigators confirmed that

- (i) a sizeable proportion of beneficiaries had income above poverty line.
- (ii) few beneficiaries had age much below 65 years.

Recommendations :

- (i) A definite age and income proof should be needed for beneficiaries selection.
- (ii) Payment should be made through account transfer on monthly basis at the nearest bank or post office.
- (iii) Harsh action should be taken in case of any genuine complain.

(d) Calculation of Poverty Indices :

Head-Count ratio :

$$H = \frac{q}{n} = \frac{37}{60} = 0.6166$$

Income-gap ratio :

$$I = \frac{g}{\pi \cdot q} = \frac{298200}{21000 \times 37} = 0.3837$$

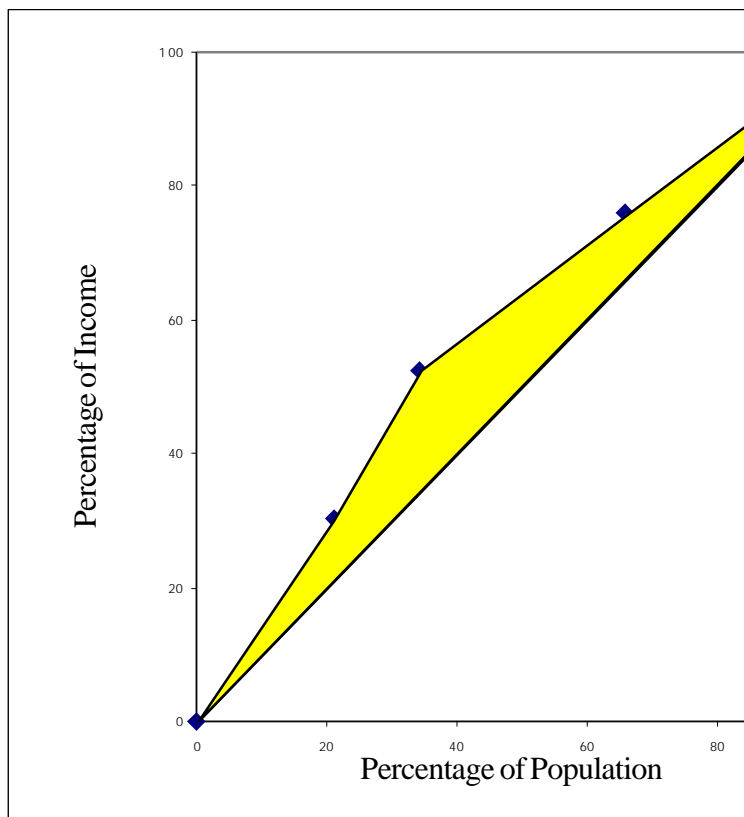
Ginni Co-efficient :

$$G = 0.15$$

Sen-Index (P)

$$\begin{aligned} P &= H \{I + (1-I) G\} \\ &= 0.62 [0.38 + (1-0.38) 0.09] \\ &= 0.62 [0.38 + 0.62 \times 0.09] \\ &= 0.62 [0.38 + 0.06] \\ &= 0.62 \times 0.44 \\ &= 0.27 \end{aligned}$$

Fig. 5A : Income inequality for NOAPS beneficiaries



Percentage of Population	Percentage of Income
0	0
21.05	30.48
34.21	52.38
65.78	76.19
100	100

An Analysis of Poverty Index for the Scheme

The Head-Count Ratio value for the scheme shows that approximately 62% of the beneficiaries were below poverty line. The Income-gap ratio viz 0.38 reveals that most of the beneficiaries were in the upper-income group below poverty line.

The calculated value of Gini co-efficient (G) is 0.09 which designates a very-very low degree of income disparity among the beneficiaries.

The value of Sen-index (0.27) shows that a very large number of beneficiaries were in the upper-income slab below poverty line. With a very low value of G, the Sen-index gives a large value. This is due to the fact that Head-Count Ratio and Income gap ratio are having larger valued.