

### **Inter Linkage Pattern Among Social Sector Programme**

Social sector programmes are, primarily meant for the 'focus group of households', viz. those set of households who have, so far, remained isolated or deprived from the impact of planning. Thus, in order to put a check on their further marginalisation social sector programmes have been devised in such a way that take care of their socio-economic requirements. Further, it should also be remembered that this vulnerable section of society, generally does not have the ability to pay, therefore, social sector planning should be based on first providing access to essential and basic commodities and services to these groups.

The impact of these programmes, on the beneficiaries could only be fully realized if these programmes do have an inter programme linkage or facets provision. The term inter programme linkage refers to the mobility of the beneficiaries from one programme to the other. The higher will be the level of inter-programme linkage, the faster will be the beneficiaries access to basic services, and higher will be his/her level of socio-economic development. In other words, if the national social assistance programme could be linked with poverty alleviation programmes and basic minimum needs then its impact on beneficiaries could be substantially enhanced. Likewise, the benefits of Integrated Rural Development Programme/Jawahar Rojgar Yojana could be extended to the beneficiaries of national benefit schemes who have suffered loss of the primary bread winner. Hence, convergence of programme has to be matched by their integration.

An attempt has been made to study, to what extent, some of the principal major programmes have linkages with other social sector programmes. The major programmes whose inter programme linkage effects have been studied are (a) Indira Awas Yojana; (b) National Benefit Scheme; (c) National Old Age Pension Scheme;

(d) National Widow Pension Scheme; (e) National Handicapped Pension Scheme and (f) Employment Assurance Scheme/Jawahar Rojgar Yojana.

The linkages have also been scaled as higher or strong, medium and lower poor. The low and poor level of linkages refers to that situation when the linkage level is below 39 percent. Likewise medium level refers to that situation when the linkage level varies between 40 percent and 60 percent whereas mark, it has been identified as higher or strong. Further, for studying the pattern of inter-sectoral link, beneficiaries from major programmes have been randomly selected and their participation or involvement in other programmes have been studied.

The first major social sector programme whose linkages with other programmes have been studied has been the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY). The other programmes where its links have been discussed are (i) sanitation programme; (ii) smokeless chulha; (iii) drinking water programme; (iv) rural electrification; (v) public distribution system; (vi) medical care or health services; and (vii) programmes on literacy or education. The total number of beneficiaries randomly selected from the principal programme was thirty one, of which about forty two percent were from Varanasi district and remaining 58 percent from Saharanpur district. The study of main programmes linkage pattern with other programmes shows that in only two programmes viz. the sanitation programme and the public distribution programme, its linkages were found to be very strong i.e. over eighty percent and cent percent respectively, thereby implying that over 80 percent of the beneficiaries in the former and all in the later were also participating in these two programmes. Whereas with health sector programme its linkages were observed to be of medium level viz. 45.7 percent. In the remaining four programmes, the linkages of main programme i.e. IAY with remaining of the four programmes viz. smokeless chulha, drinking water programme, rural electrification and literacy programme its linkages were found to be of weak order. The over all success rate of the programme, measured in terms of the schemes or programmes with high linkages to total schemes, was worked out to be

just under 27 percent, which reflects its inability to reach out to people on one hand and strike a coordination with other programmes, on the other.

The national maternity benefit programme's linkages have been studied with the following nine programmes viz. (i) the ICDS programme; (ii) Balika Samridhi Yojana; (iii) Early Child Care Scheme; (iv) Supplementary Nutrition; (v) Immunization programme; (vi) Health Care; (vii) Drinking Water facility; (viii) Rural Electrification and (ix) Public Distribution System. For studying the inter programme linkage pattern, a total of number of 42 beneficiaries from the main programme were randomly selected, out of which over 45 percent were drawn from Varanasi and remaining about 55 percent from Saharanpur district. The perusal of linkages of the main programme with other programme shows that its linkages with drinking water programme and public distribution system were strong as the level of linkage was worked out to be about 62 percent and cent percent respectively. Whereas its linkages with health sector programme was of a medium level and for the remaining six programmes, its linkages were reported to be of weak or poor level. Thus, it was found that the principal programme could forge strong linkages with just two of the nine social sector programmes, hence its success rate was worked out to be barely over 22 percent.

Similarly, National Old Age Pension Scheme's linkage were studied with the following four other social sector programmes viz. Health Care, Drinking Water, Rural Electrification and Public Distribution System. The total number of beneficiaries drawn were thirty-three of which ten or 30 percent belonged to Varanasi and remaining 70 percent to Saharanpur district. The analysis of the programmes linkages with other four social sector programme shows that except with public distribution programmes, its linkage with remaining three programmes were either of medium levels or were of low or poor levels. Hence with strong linkages with just on programme, its over all success rate was worked out to be just twenty percent.

The other principal programme whose linkage was studied was National Widow Pension Scheme and its linkage was studied with the following eight social sector programmes. Viz. (i) National Family Benefit Scheme, (ii) Health Care Programme, (iii) Rural Drinking Water Programme, (iv) Indira Awas Yojana, (v) Rural Electrification, (vi) Sanitation Programmes (vii) Smokeless Chulha, and (viii) Public Distribution System. Further, for studying the inter programme linkage pattern, a total of twenty six beneficiaries were randomly selected from the principal programme. Of these 19 beneficiaries or over 73 percent belonged to Varanasi and remaining twenty seven percent to Saharanpur district respectively. The study of inter linkage pattern shows that the main programme's linkage with drinking water supply programme and public distribution system were strong and with the remaining six social sector programmes weak. Thus, the over all success rate was worked out to be just twenty five percent.

National Handicapped Pension Scheme was the other main programme whose linkages were studied with the following eight social sector programmes namely (i) Health Sector Programme, (ii) Indira Awas Yojana, (iii) Sanitation Programme, (iv) Smokeless Chulha, (v) Drinking Water Facility, (vi) Literacy Programme, (vii) Public Distribution System, and (viii) Rural Electrification. A total of ten beneficiaries, five each from both Varanasi and Saharanpur were randomly selected. The study of inter programme linkages with other social sector programmes shows that national handicapped pension programme could establish strong linkages only with two programmes i.e. drinking water programme and public distribution system. The level of inter-programme linkage in each of the two programme was cent percent. However, for health sector programme, its linkage level was worked out to be of moderate level, while in the other remaining programmes, its linkages were of poor level. Thus the over all success rate was found to be twenty five percent only.

The other main programme, whose linkages with other social sector programmes was studied was Employment Assurance Scheme/Jawahar Rojgar

Yojana. Its linkages were studied with following seven programmes namely: (i) Indira Awas Yojana, (ii) Sanitation Programme, (iii) Smokeless Culha, (iv) Health Sector Programmes, (v) Drinking Water Programme, (vi) Public Distribution Programme, and (vii) Rural Electrification. The sample contained a total of fifty beneficiaries, of which, twenty five each belonged to Varanasi and Saharanpur district respectively. The study shows that EAS/JRY programme could develop strong linkages only with public distribution system where its inter programme linkage level was estimated to be cent percent and in two other programmes viz. the health service and drinking water programmes, it had moderate or middle level linkages while in the remaining four other programmes it had weak linkages. Thus, the over all success rate was worked out be just around fourteen percent only.

Thus, it could be seen that one of the limitations of social sector programmes was their inability to strike alliances with other social sector programmes on account of their weak inter programme linkage level. This also affected the performance as the beneficiaries were not able to benefit much from other programmes as was envisaged of it, which also was acting as a handicap for optimizing the growth to the beneficiaries (Table - 8.1).

**Table – 8.1  
Social Sector Programmes and their Linkages Pattern**

Principal Name of Programme	Linkage with other programme	Varanasi		Saharanpur		Total		Overall Success Rate (%)
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Indira Awas Yojana	Sanitation Scheme	12	92.3	13	72.2	25	80.6	28.6
	Smokeless Chulha	11	84.6	-	-	11	35.5	
	Drinking Water	6	46.2	5	27.8	11	35.5	
	Electrification	2	15.4	5	27.8	7	22.6	
	Public Distribution System	13	100.0	18	100.0	31	100.0	
	Health Services/Medical Care	2	15.4	12	66.7	14	45.2	
	Neo-literate/Literacy Programme	5	38.4	1	5.5	6	19.4	
	Total (7)							
National Maternity Benefit Scheme	ICDS Programme	5	26.3	6	26.1	11	26.2	22.2
	Balika Samridhi Yojana	3	15.8	5	21.7	8	19.1	
	Early Child Care Scheme	2	10.5	2	8.7	4	9.5	
	Supplementary Nutrition	5	26.3	3	13.0	8	19.1	
	Immunization Programme	4	21.1	6	26.1	10	23.8	
	Health Service/Care	4	21.1	13	56.5	17	40.5	
	Drinking Water	11	57.9	15	65.2	26	61.9	
	Electrification	4	21.1	6	26.1	10	23.8	
	Public Distribution Systems	19	100.0	23	100.0	42	100.0	
	Total (9)							

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Principal Name of Programme	Linkage with other programme	Varanasi		Saharanpur		Total		Overall Success Rate (%)
National Old Age Pension Scheme	Health Service/Care	2	20.0	14	60.8	16	48.5	25.0
	Drinking Water	3	30.0	8	34.8	11	33.3	
	Electrification	2	20.0	6	26.1	8	24.2	
	Public Distribution System	10	100.0	23	100.0	33	100.0	
	Total (4)							
National Widow Pension Scheme	National Family Benefit Scheme	2	10.5	4	57.1	6	23.1	25.0
	Health Service	4	21.1	5	71.4	9	34.6	
	Drinking Water	12	63.2	5	71.4	17	65.4	
	Indira Awas Yojana	-	-	1	14.3	1	38.5	
	Electrification	4	21.1	1	14.3	5	19.2	
	Sanitation Scheme	-	-	1	14.3	1	3.8	
	Smokeless Chulha	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Public Distribution System	19	100.0	7	100.0	26	100.0	
Total (8)								
National Handicapped Pension Yojana	Health Service	1	20.0	3	60.0	4	40.0	25.0
	Indira Awas Yojana	-	-	2	40.0	2	20.2	
	Sanitation Scheme	-	-	1	20.0	1	10.0	
	Smokeless Chulha	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Drinking Water	5	100.0	5	100.0	10	100.0	
	Literacy Programme	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Public Distribution System	5	100.0	5	100.0	10	100.0	
	Electrification	1	20.0	1	20.0	2	20.0	
Total (8)								
Employment Assurance Scheme	Indira Awas Yojana	6	24.0	5	20.0	11	22.0	14.3
	Sanitation Scheme	1	4.0	3	12.0	4	8.0	
	Smokeless Chulha	1	4.0	-	-	1	2.0	
	Health Services	5	20.0	16	64.0	21	42.0	
	Drinking Water	15	60.0	13	52.0	28	56.0	
	Public Distribution System	25	100.0	25	100.0	50	100.0	
	Electrification	4	16.0	5	20.0	9	18.0	
Total (7)								

Source: Field Survey.