

**IMPACT OF
SOCIAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENT
IN WEST BENGAL**

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PREFACE

Many of our social problems are large and complex. All of us realise that the failure to solve our social problems may lead towards disaster. However, social research have failed in solving some of the large scale social problems like poverty problem. The main reason is that, social scientists have followed the path of scientific research where the whole problem being reduced to similar parts, molecules to atoms and atoms to smaller particles. They also study from their angle, like economists from income point of view, sociologists from social point of view and others like psychologists, politicians view it uni-dimensionally. However, poverty problem must be viewed as multidimensional as holistic problem of the society. In fact the components of poverty problem are non-separable, and can not be measured or evaluated as part of the system, because, its components are within such other system, such as, economic, cultural, social, political, psychological etc.

The planning and policy oriented social science research emerged in 1971 towards the solution of chronic social problems. Although the original conception of planning and policy science was laid out in 1951, the believe that the growing body of social science knowledge should be applied to the solution of chronic problem of our time like poverty.

The study developed the concept of extremely poor on the basis of hunger criterion and poor on the basis of lack of basic services and measured the number of poor persons. The level of living and Quality of Life (QOL) in the micro area is measured on the basis of Quality of Life value determined interms of deprivation in basic services like food, health, education, sanitation water supply etc.. The lower the value of QOL, the lower the incidence of poverty and vice versa.

It is hoped that, this study shall contribute towards a better understanding of Social Sector Development problem and placed policies and programmes towards combating the poverty problem in West Bengal.

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