



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RESEARCH IN COMMERCE, ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT

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POLITICAL ECONOMY AND LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME IN TAMIL NADU

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ABSTRACT

Political economy originally was the term for studying production, buying and selling, and their relations with law, custom, and government. Political economy originated in moral philosophy. These papers give some related studies, statement of the problem, objectives, hypotheses, methodology, appropriate statistical tools and sample size. The study is largely based on primary data collection. In analysis and discussion it is evident that the government has a moral responsibility to take care of the welfare of the people. Ever since the political independence the objective of equitable development approach has been on the main agenda in Indian polity. The present exercise reveals that the MPLADS as an instrument to empower the local communities on the economic dynamism. Such useful, interventional mechanism needs to be addressed in the areas, where it is actually and desperately required.

KEYWORDS

Communities, economy, political, facilities and rural.

INTRODUCTION

Political economy originally was the term for studying production, buying and selling, and their relations with law, custom, and government. Political economy originated in moral philosophy. It developed in the 18th century as the study of the economies of states-policies and hence political economy.

During late 19th century, the term "political economy" was generally replaced by the term economics and used by those who seeking to place the study of economy upon mathematical and axiomatic bases, rather than the structural relationships of production and consumption (William Stanley Jevons, Alfred Marshall). Today, "political economy" refers to an interdisciplinary approach that applies economic methods to political theories or vice versa, and is available as an area of study in certain colleges and universities. The political economy influences the economic policies and welfare programmes. Ultimately these have direct influences over the people. Hence it is worth exploring in the board of economic development. Generally common people used to approach the Members of Parliament (MPs) for provision of certain basic facilities including community infrastructure in their areas. Government of India considered the need for a mechanism to respond to such requests and decided to have a scheme to meet the felt needs of the people. On 23rd December 1993 Prime Minister announced in the Parliament the MPLADS. Initially the MPLADS was under the control of the Ministry of Rural Development.

The objective of the scheme is to enable MPs to recommend works of developmental nature with emphasis on the creation of durable community assets based on the locally felt needs to be taken up in their Constituencies. Right from inception of the Scheme, durable assets of national priorities viz. drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation and roads, etc. are being created.

TABLE-1: ENTITLEMENT PER ANNUM

Year	in crore
1993-94	0.05
1994-95 till 1997-98	1.00
1998-99 onwards	2.00

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has been responsible for the policy formulation, release of funds and prescribing monitoring mechanism for implementation of the Scheme. A Department in the State or the Union Territory (UT) is designated as the Nodal Department with the overall responsibility of supervision, monitoring and coordination of the MPLADS implementation with the districts and other Line Departments. In some cases, the District authority engages reputed Non Government Organizations (NGOs) for execution of MPLADS works.

RELATED STUDIES

In general, it is observed that, the ruling parties want to gain the vote bank through the launching of people centered welfare programs. A Member of Parliament can potentially accumulate ₹.10 crore during five years of his or her tenure and spend that amount just before the next election (Pal and Das, 2010). This paper highlights the macro perspective of MPLADS in India. Nevertheless, a critic of this work states that his paper unwittingly over signifies the political side of the development embodied in the infrastructural works implemented under the MPLADS and lends politics an autonomous character only to create its negative side and ignore positive socio-economic impact of the works at base level, thereby presenting a distorted view of the scheme (Kumar, 2010).

The administrative reforms commission has also suggested abolishing the MPLADS and member of legislative assembly and local area development schemes. They have been repeatedly accused of corruption and there is no accountability built into the schemes (Anonym, 2007).

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

There has been a serious attempt from the state reduce poverty and to improve the socio-economic conditions of the communities. There are good amount of theoretical and empirical evidences on the many rural development welfare programmes in India. But many of them are compartmentalized and are not comprehensive.

From the review it is evident that a sizeable number of studies concentrated with only secondary data. Also a complete of studies dealt with the exclusively on the social implications. On the other hand a good amount of earlier studies highlighted the economic implication of welfare ensures like MPLADS. However, there is a need for blending macro level data and analysis with micro level information. The present study aims towards this direction.

OBJECTIVES

1. The following are broad objectives of the present study.
2. To study the pattern of resource allocation under local area development.
3. To study the extend of fund utilization under the MPLADS.
4. To analyze the MPLADS facilities at local level.

METHODOLOGY

Data include from both primary and secondary sources. Secondary data were collected from published sources, District Rural Development Agency, Government of India, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation's annual report of MPLADS 2006-2007, 2007-2008, 2008-2009, 2009-2010 and internet sources.

SELECTION OF SAMPLES SIZE AND VARIABLES

This study is largely based on primary data. The primary data was collected with the help of interview schedule and questionnaire method in five different blocks in Salem district. 130 samples have been randomly selected from where the facilities under MPLADS were provided. Three facilities, founded by MPLADS in Salem have been selected for field exploration. They include high school building (with maximum fund utilization of 25 percent), anganwadi building (with a modest allocation of 7 percent) and maternity building (with low allocation of 0.93 percent). Interview schedules were employed to elucidate micro data. Samples were collected from high school in two categories - parents and teachers, because; while parents indirectly utilize facilities a teachers directly utilize facilities. 50 samples of both parents and teachers have been collected in different backward areas. In anganwadi, samples were collected in two categories - parents and teachers, because while the parents indirectly utilize facility teachers directly utilize them 10 samples of both parents and teachers have been collected in different areas. Samples were collected from maternity building in two categories - patients and doctors. Both patients and doctors directly utilize facilities. 5 samples of both patients and are doctors have been collected.

SELECTION OF BLOCK AND VILLAGES

Salem district comprises of twenty blocks, nine taluks, and six hundred and twenty four villages. There are twenty panchayat unions, three hundred and eighty five village panchayats and thirty three special village panchayats. Randomly four blocks have been selected viz., Ayothiyappattinam, Kadayampatti, Omalur and Corporation. The main reasons for selecting Ayothiyappattinam is that it is a backward area at large and comprises of different villages, Sukkampatti, Minnampalli and Valasiyur. The people from the most backward class live in Kadayampatti and hence two village's viz., Dharapuram and Kanjanakkenpatti have been randomly selected. Omalur is a developing area. Two backward areas namely Thekkampatti (Anna Nagar) and Saminaickenpatti (AD Colony) have been randomly selected. Corporation block has been selected mainly because most of rich and middle class people live here. Hence three rich areas namely Pallapatti, Pallapatti East Street and Subramaniya Nagar have been randomly selected.

STATISTICAL TOOLS

Different statistical tools are used in this study for analysis. They are averages and two way ANOVA. Simple and manifold tabulation, pie diagram and chart are used.

TWO WAY ANOVA (ANALYSIS OF VARIANCE)

When it is believed that two independent factors might have an effect on the response variable of interest, it is possible to design the test so that an analysis of variance can be used to test for the effects of the two factors simultaneously. Such a test is called a two-factor analysis of variance. With the two factor analysis of variance, one can test two sets of hypothesis with the same data at the same time. In this study two way ANOVA is used to compare different variables in column and row. This method has been used in detail to analysis different variables like parents and patients (indirect) teachers and doctors (direct).

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The secondary data has been for a limited period only five years (2004-2009). The main limitation of the present study is that it follows only random sampling method. Primary data was collected only from Salem District. This study has restricted its analysis between direct and indirect users of the facilities under MPLAD scheme. The main focus is on social aspect. Another important limitation of this study is that the Member of Parliament was not contacted.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

TABLE – 2: EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF THE SAMPLES

Samples Educational Level	High School		Anganwadi		Maternity Building		Total
	Parents	Teachers	Parents	Teachers	Patients	Doctors	
Illiterate	7(14)	-	3(30)	-	-	-	10(7.70)
Primary	34(68)	-	6(60)	5(50)	-	-	45(34.61)
Secondary	9(18)	-	1(10)	5(50)	3(60)	-	18(13.84)
Higher Secondary	-	-	-	-	2(40)	-	2(1.54)
Graduate	-	50(100)	-	-	-	5(100)	55(42.31)
Total	50(100)	50(100)	10(100)	10(100)	5(100)	5(100)	130(100)

The above table shows that 30 percent of parents in anganwadi are illiterate. Minimum 14 percent parents are illiterate in high school. Majority of 68 percent of parents in high school are from primary level. Maximum 60 percent of patients in Maternity building are secondary and only 40 percent of patients in maternity building are studied up to higher secondary.

TABLE -3: SOCIAL STATUS OF THE SAMPLES

Social group	High School		Anganwadi		Maternity Building		Total
	Parents	Teachers	Parents	Teachers	Patients	Doctors	
BC	7(14)	11(22)	3(30)	3(30)	1(20)	1(20)	26(20)
MBC	22(44)	10(20)	3(30)	2(20)	2(40)	1(20)	40(30.77)
SC/ST	19(38)	16(32)	4(40)	4(40)	2(40)	2(40)	47(36.15)
Others	2(4)	13(26)	-	1(10)	-	1(20)	17(13.08)
Total	50(100)	50(100)	10(100)	10(100)	5(100)	5(100)	130(100)

Social status influences a lot among political parties. A high of 22 percent of teachers in high school fall in BC category. In anganwadi both parents and teachers are 30 percent in BC category and in maternity building both 20 percent patients and doctors are in BC categories. Mostly 44 percent of parents in high school are MBC categories. 40 percent of parents, teachers, patients and doctors are SC/ST categories in anganwadi and maternity building. 26 percent of school teachers are others categories.

TABLE - 4: TWO WAY ANOVA RESULT

Source of variation	Calculated Value	Table Value
Between Column (Samples)	6.14	2.90
Within row (Social groups)	0.94	3.28

The above table denotes two way ANOVA if between column (samples) $F_c = 6.14$ and the table value $F_{0.05} = 2.90$ therefore hypothesis is rejected. The main reason is mostly amount is spent on backward area. Infrastructure developments are very poor and involve filling vote bank or political gain motive. There is no direct relationship between fund allocation and utilization under the local area development scheme. Within different social groups calculated value $F_r = 0.94$, and the table value $F_{0.05} = 3.28$, if hypothesis is accepted on there is significant difference between public facilities and public satisfaction under the local area development scheme. The next table denotes types of family.

TABLE - 5: DISTRIBUTION OF INFLUENCING FACTORS

Influence factor	High school		Anganwadi		Maternity Building		Total
	Parents	Teachers	Parents	Teachers	Patients	Doctors	
Facilities	2(4)	-	-	-	-	-	2(1.54)
Efficiency teachers / Doctors	2(4)	7(14)	-	-	2(40)	-	11(8.46)
Access	17(34)	11(22)	10(100)	10(100)	-	-	48(36.92)
All of the above	29(58)	32(64)	-	-	3(60)	5(100)	69(53.08)
Total	50(100)	50(100)	10(100)	10(100)	5(100)	5(100)	130(100)

The table shows the distribution of influencing factors of the samples. In high school, 58 percent of parents felt that all the above factors are influenced, 4 percent says both facilities and efficiency teachers. 64 percent of teachers felt all the above factors only 14 percent felt efficiency of teachers. In anganwadi 100 percent of parents and teachers say it is access. In maternity building 60 percent of patients said all of the above factors and 100 percent of doctors said all of these.

TABLE-6: TWO WAY ANOVA RESULT

Source of variation	Calculated Value	Table Value
Between Column (Samples)	1.42	2.90
Within row (Influencing factor)	2.31	3.28

The Calculated value $F_c = 1.42$ is less than table value $F_{0.05} = 2.90$. The hypothesis is true there is direct relationship between fund allocation and utilization under local area development scheme. Within row calculated value $F_r = 2.31$ and table value $F_{0.05} = 3.28$ the hypothesis is accepted as there is significance difference between public facilities and public satisfaction under the local area development scheme. The next table denotes social groups in students / patients enrollment.

TABLE - 7: LEVEL OF SATISFACTION OF THE SAMPLES

Particulars	School-high		Anganwadi		Maternity Building		Total
	Parents	Teachers	Parents	Teachers	Patients	Doctors	
Satisfied	30(60)	32(62)	9(90)	6(60)	4(80)	2(40)	83(63.85)
Highly satisfied	3(6)	10(20)	-	-	-	-	13(10)
No opinion	11(22)	6(12)	1(10)	4(40)	1(20)	2(40)	25(19.23)
Dissatisfied	6(12)	-	-	-	-	1(20)	7(5.38)
Highly dissatisfied	-	2(4)	-	-	-	-	2(1.54)
Total	50(100)	50(100)	10(100)	10(100)	5(100)	5(100)	130(100)

The above table shows that level of satisfaction of the samples. In high school 60 percent of parents are satisfied with the facilities 12 percent are dissatisfied with the facilities. 64 percent of teachers are satisfied and only 4 percent are highly dissatisfied with the facilities. In anganwadi 90 percent of parents are satisfied and 60 percent of teachers are also satisfied. In Maternity Building 80 percent of patients are satisfied and 40 percent of doctors give both satisfied and both NO opinion regarding the facilities.

TABLE – 8: TWO WAY ANOVA RESULT

Source of variation	Calculated Value	Table Value
Between Column (Samples)	1.93	2.71
Within row (Particulars)	3.16	2.86

The calculated value between samples F_c is 1.93 and then table value $F_{0.05}$ is 2.71 if hypothesis is accepted there is direct relationship between fund allocation and utilization under the local area development scheme. The calculated value within particulars F_r is 3.16 then table value $F_{0.05}$ is 2.86 the hypothesis is rejected because in the field work many samples like parents, teachers, patients and doctors expressed bias opinion. This is its main reason for significant difference between public facilities and public satisfaction under the local area development scheme.

SUGGESTIONS

Provide adequate facilities in rural areas because most of the facilities are not properly utilized by the public. The MPLADS fund is not sufficient, so the government has to increase the fund as per the local need. The Governments has to concentrate MPLADS fund utilization in a transparent manner. Funds are being used but how far it reaches the public is unknown. More actions to be taken to appoint any special officer for fund utilization activities and monitoring. Locations of public facilities should be provided only at advantage area. Public facilities are provided and also try to provide related facilities in that area. The relationship between MPs and public is very poor. So MPs should try to increase public relationship. In other words fund allocation alone will not solve the problem. The representative has to keep the people informed.

CONCLUSION

From the above analysis and discussion it is evident that the government has a moral responsibility to take care of the welfare of the people. Ever since the political independence the objective of equitable development approach has been on the main agenda in Indian polity. Through political game the solving party wants to gain political mileage in the minds of vote bank. In the process the community derives at least some benefit from the welfare schemes. One such scheme is the MPLADS. Certainly it has potential and capability to transform the society to a large extent. The present study throws enough evidence on this issue. Nonetheless, there are some difficulties and problems for effective implementation of these are removed/reduced there is a light in the tunnel.

Obviously game theory states that in the game one would lose and other would win. However, in the political game, the political ideology with vote bank politics certainly has vested interests. In the process at least to some extent it has made dent on the society in the socio-economic front. The present exercise reveals that the MPLADS as an instrument to empower the local communities on the economic dynamism. Such useful, interventional mechanism needs to be addressed in the areas, where it is actually and desperately required.

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