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KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT'S FIVE GUARANTEES: EVALUATING THEIR ECONOMIC IMPACT AND REVENUE GENERATION POTENTIAL FOR THE STATE - AN EXPLORATORY STUDY

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ABSTRACT

The Five Guarantees of the Karnataka Government are a revolutionary policy framework designed to grant the state's residents their fundamental rights and socioeconomic entitlements. This study aims to analyse these assurances' potential for economic growth and revenue production in order to determine how well they promote inclusive growth and equitable resource allocation. This study intends to illuminate the financial and economic aspects of the Five Guarantees through a thorough assessment of pertinent literature and a mix of quantitative and qualitative data analysis. The study's approach includes examining variables including spending on healthcare and education, the costs and advantages of housing and food security programs, and the effect of job development programs on the state's income sources.

This study will provide important new information about the applicability and potential improvements of this ground-breaking policy framework. The research aims to promote evidence-driven policy decisions by providing evidence-based suggestions, eventually improving the quality of life for Karnataka residents and serving as a role model for other areas pursuing inclusive and sustainable development.

Keywords: Financial inclusion, sustainability, freebies, economic reforms, programs.

INTRODUCTION

The challenges offered by quickly changing socioeconomic environments and the tremendous disruptions brought on by international events have been on the minds of governments everywhere in recent years. As a result of these adjustments, decision-makers are increasingly relying on cutting-edge tactics to meet the urgent requirements of their constituents and promote sustainable growth. One such paradigm-shifting move was the adoption of the "Five Guarantees" by the state government of the Indian state of Karnataka.

The Five Guarantees are an innovative framework for policy that strives to offer the people of Karnataka (All 5 Guarantees Promised by Congress Govt in Karnataka to Be Implemented This Financial Year, 2023), a full range of assurances encompassing essential facets of their well-being and means of subsistence. These guarantees, which cover fundamental rights and socio economic rights, cover possibilities for work, education, healthcare, and food security. Launched with the goal of guaranteeing inclusive growth and equitable resource allocation, the implementation of these guarantees has attracted a great deal of interest among politicians, academics, and people. The costs and advantages of investing in housing and food security, the influence of job creation programs on the state's income sources, and the economic ramifications of investing in education and healthcare are just a few of the topics we will cover during this research. By conducting a thorough examination of the fiscal and economic components of the Five Guarantees, we want to discuss important insights into the long-term viability and potential improvements of this ground-breaking policy framework.

METHODOLOGY

The methods used in this study will be exploratory research in order to accomplish the aforementioned goals. The theoretical underpinnings of socio-economic assurances and how they are used in various situations will first be thoroughly reviewed in the literature. The conceptual framework for assessing the Five Guarantees of the Karnataka Government will be established with the aid of this literature review.

Additionally, existing literature was studied thoroughly to gather data from other sources, such as official statistics, government publications, expert interviews, and public surveys. While the qualitative data will give important insights into the lived experiences and viewpoints of beneficiaries and stakeholders.

LITERATURE REVIEW:

(Chow, 2004) found that Economic reforms were instrumental in driving China's remarkable economic growth. The "Open Door Policy, introduced in 1978, encouraged foreign investment and trade liberalization. Marketization and private sector development were fostered by economic reforms. Increased global integration and foreign direct investment played a vital role in China's industrialization and export competitiveness.

(Financial Inclusion and Development: A Cross Country Analysis / Publication / FinDev Gateway, n.d.2008) found that this comprehensive paper evaluates India's financial inclusion initiatives led by the Reserve Bank of India and other institutions. It emphasizes the significant impact of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) in enhancing financial inclusion by ensuring access to bank accounts for every household in India.

(Halvorson-Quevedo & Mirabile, 2004) found that a guarantee in the survey promises compensation for asset default or non-performance, and developmental guarantees are essential

for mobilizing private resources, with 40% allocated to support banking and financial services, benefiting small businesses and various organizations.

(Kumar, 2018) proved that the income level has a positive impact on both credit and deposit penetrations. The finding validates the importance of regional economic conditions on the betterment of financial inclusion. Further, the factory proportion and employee base are coming out to be significant variables indicating that income and employment generating schemes lead the public to be more active, aware, interested with regard to banking activities, which contributes towards financial inclusion.

(Mankiw et al., 2021) presents empirical evidence that variations in economic growth rates between countries are linked to differences in human capital and physical capital levels. The study emphasizes the significance of investing in education and infrastructure as crucial drivers of economic growth, stressing the importance of policies that promote human capital accumulation and capital formation for fostering long-term economic development.

(Oumarou & Celestin, 2021) in the literature, financial inclusion is the opposite of financial exclusion and is influenced by socioeconomic status, with higher income and education facilitating access to formal financial services. Physical banking infrastructure, including bank branches and ATMs, also plays a vital role, with regions having better infrastructure showing higher levels of financial inclusion in WAEMU countries.

(Potla, 2022) found that a Free and fair elections express the will of the people by allowing them to freely choose their representatives without intimidation or influence from freebies. Voters should make their decisions based on policies, not offered benefits, as only the people can bring about real change through their votes.

(Sarma & Pais, 2008) found that a cross-country analysis on "Financial Inclusion and Development" shows that financial inclusion is positively correlated with economic growth, poverty reduction, and decreased income inequality. Nations with higher financial inclusion experience stronger economic development as access to formal financial services enables investment, savings, and credit access. Policymakers are urged to promote accessible and inclusive financial services to achieve these benefits for overall development and financial stability.

(Park & Mercado, 2016) found that the Central Bank of West African States (CBWAS) has prioritized financial inclusion through a regional strategy, but there is a lack of sufficient work on this topic in the region. One crucial aspect that needs to be addressed is the measurement of financial inclusion. To better monitor and compare financial inclusion levels, there is a need for a comprehensive and accurate measure. Currently, WAEMU countries lack a holistic view of their financial inclusion levels, relying on evaluation indicators from the regional financial inclusion strategy, with data sourced exclusively from CBS, including the number of accounts, service points, volume of deposits, and loans from banks and IMFs.

(Sharma & Sharma, 2017) found that microfinance empowers underserved communities, especially in rural areas, by providing small loans and financial services, leading to poverty reduction and inclusive economic growth. Its success in India highlights its potential as a powerful tool for achieving financial inclusion and improving livelihoods.

(Tlakula, 2007) proved that, democratic elections are widely practised globally, serving as a fundamental mechanism for selecting leaders and shaping governance. However, their implementation and impact differ across nations, with some experiencing high voter participation, reflecting citizen engagement, while others struggle with low turnout due to political apathy or disenfranchisement. Promoting voter education and awareness is vital to empower citizens, making informed choices, and actively participating in the electoral process.

(Sekher, 2012) proved that the eligibility criteria, conditionalities and registration procedures need to be simplified. Despite the pumping in of huge financial resources, there is no field-level monitoring to study the impact of such schemes nor is there a grievance redressal mechanism. An in-depth analysis would help in assessing whether in the long run conditional cash transfers could lead to a significant change in the parental attitude towards daughters.

(Selvaraj & Karan, 2012) found that early evidence on publicly-financed health insurance schemes in India, including Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojna and state-based interventions, demonstrates that poorer households in intervention districts experienced increased healthcare expenditure and catastrophic headcount, indicating a failure in providing adequate financial risk protection. These schemes may be ineffective due to limited coverage, potential healthcare provider restrictions, and budget constraints.

(Sharma & Sharma, 2017) found that, traditionally, people saved and borrowed from individuals and self-help groups to start businesses or farming ventures, but many poor individuals remain excluded from financial services. Microfinance is a program aimed at supporting rural communities, helping them pay debts, and improve their social and economic status. Inclusive finance, especially for disadvantaged groups like women, households, youth, and rural communities, has gained prominence worldwide to uplift the lives of the poor.

(Srinivas & Panini, 1984) found that the study highlights the complex interplay between politics and society in Karnataka, where caste dynamics, regionalism, and economic development significantly influence political trends. Long-standing social inequalities continue to shape societal patterns. Regionalism has emerged as a potent force, with parties like the Janata Dal (Secular) gaining considerable support in certain areas, particularly in southern Karnataka. This has resulted in coalition governments, reflecting the importance of diverse caste and community representation.

Introducing the Five Guarantees of the Karnataka Government: Empowering Lives and Building Futures

The Government of Karnataka has established five revolutionary assurances under its visionary policies in a unique endeavour meant to improve the lives of its residents. These programmes, known as the "Five Guarantees," are carefully planned to solve the many issues faced by diverse societal groups while promoting economic development and social welfare throughout the state. These assurances aim to make a meaningful and long-lasting difference in the lives of millions of people in Karnataka, with an emphasis on strengthening low-income households, women entrepreneurs, and jobless youth. The Five Guarantees show the government's dedication to creating a more inclusive, successful, and resilient future for the people of Karnataka by offering free energy and cooking gas, as well as assisting small companies and assuring access to inexpensive food. *(Chief Minister -*

Guarantee-Schemes-Guaranteed, 2023) The Karnataka government's five guarantees are the Griha Jyothi, Griha Lakshmi, Annabhagya, Shakti, and Yuvanidhi programmes.

1. *Griha Jyothi* (Household Light): offers homes that use up to 30 units of power monthly free electricity. This programme is intended to assist low-income households who are unable to purchase power. In Karnataka, the number of eligible families is thought to be about 10 million.
2. *Griha Lakshmi* (Household Fortune): offers women who run their own businesses with financial support. With the help of this programme, women who own microbusinesses or small businesses receive a monthly stipend of Rs. 2,000. The programme aims to support women's business and help them become more financially independent.
3. *Annabhagya* (Food Fortune): gives households living in poverty access to subsidised grains. Each qualifying family is given a monthly allotment of 10 kg of rice under this programme. The program's goal is to give low-income families access to inexpensive food and to help them become more nutrient-dense.
4. *Shakti* (Power): This scheme offers households living below the poverty level free cooking gas. Every qualified family is given a free LPG connection under this programme. The programme aims to assist low-income households in saving money on cooking fuel and enhancing their health.
5. *Yuvanidhi* (Youth Wealth): It gives young people who are jobless or underemployed cash aid. Youth between the ages of 18 and 25 are given a stipend of Rs. 3,000 per month under this programme. The programme aims to increase youths' financial independence and assist them in finding work.

Analysis of Potential Schemes Implemented by Different State:

List of schemes Implemented by Jayalalitha in Tamil Nadu:

(Rajarshi, 2021), argued that Jayalalithaa, the chief minister of Tamil Nadu, is well recognised for her populist policies. Most of them were either completely free or very poor. In her two-decade rule, millions of people, particularly women, have profited from this.

As of September 2021, J. Jayalalithaa's multiple schemes have both positive and negative effects on Tamil Nadu's economy. It is important to remember that calculating the whole economic impact of these plans may be challenging and multifaceted since effects may vary depending on how they are implemented, how they are funded, who the intended beneficiaries are, and the general economic climate. Here are some general perspectives on how these proposals could affect the economy.

Positive Impact of the Scheme:

Social Welfare: Jayalalithaa's programmes, such as Amma Unavagam (Amma Canteens) and Amma Kudineer Thittam (Amma Drinking Water Scheme), focused on giving the underprivileged and economically disadvantaged access to basic amenities like inexpensive meals and clean drinking water (Rajarshi, 2021). These programmes might have improved the general health and nutrition of the population's most disadvantaged groups.

Healthcare: Programs like Amma Pharmacy and the Kalaingar Health Insurance Scheme, subsequently known as the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme, attempted to offer accessible and cheap healthcare services. The productivity of the workforce can grow and the financial load on the government for healthcare can decrease as population health improves.

Education: Programmes like the Amma Laptop Scheme and the Amma Two-Wheeler Scheme were created to assist working women and students, respectively. Human capital and labour engagement may be improved through access to education and transportation, two factors that are crucial for economic growth.

Employment: Some of the programmes, such as Amma Cement and Amma Salt, may have aided in the creation of jobs and income for individuals and communities through supporting regional industries and small enterprises.

Negative Impact of the Scheme:

Fiscal Burden: Although these programmes attempted to give citizens access to social payments and basic services, they also placed a pressure on the state's resources. Subsidising prices and paying various social programmes necessitate substantial government spending, which may have an influence on fiscal deficits and debt levels.

Economic Efficiency: According to some opponents, certain subsidy-based programmes may cause market pricing distortion and reduce economic efficiency by inhibiting private sector investment and competition in particular industries.

Sustainability: It is important to carefully evaluate both the long-term viability of these programmes and their effects on economic growth. Without a balanced approach to economic development, an over dependence on social programmes and subsidies might hinder the state's potential for economic progress.

Revenue Shortfall: The government's ability to support other crucial programmes and services may have been hampered by subsidies and lower prices for a variety of products and services. *Budgetary Restraints:* The government's capacity to spend in other crucial sectors, such as infrastructure, education, and healthcare, may have been constrained by the money allocated for the execution of these initiatives.

Social welfare programmes offer enormous humanitarian advantages, but their total economic impact must be carefully weighed against larger economic growth goals. Without sufficient attention on economic development techniques, an over concentration on subsidies and welfare spending might impede long-term economic growth. It's crucial to remember that, despite these unfavourable outcomes, many individuals in Tamil Nadu benefited from the programmes in terms of welfare and general well-being. In order to fully assess the plans' effects on the government and society as a whole, both positive and negative elements must be considered.

Schemes Implemented by Tamil Nadu Government is Boon or Bane:

The policies that Jayalalithaa's administration enacted in Tamil Nadu were a combination of benefits and drawbacks. The lives of those who were economically disadvantaged were favourably affected by programmes like Amma Unavagam, Amma Kudineer Thittam, and healthcare plans that delivered needed services to them. The government's finances and private companies faced difficulties as a result of the financial load and subsidies placed on products like Amma Cement and Amma Salt. The viability of some programmes and the possibility of market distortions were subjects of concern when promoting social welfare and healthcare. The entire effect of these programmes on the development of Tamil Nadu must be assessed thoroughly.

List of schemes Implemented by Arvind Kejriwal in New Delhi:

Some of the prominent schemes implemented by Arvind Kejriwal's government in Delhi up to that point (Jaffrelot, 2014) are;

Mohalla Clinics: These are neighbourhood health centres that provide basic healthcare services and medicines to residents free of cost.

Free Water Supply: The Delhi government provides free water supply up to a certain limit to households in the city.

Free Electricity Subsidy: The government offers subsidised electricity to households using up to a certain limit of power consumption.

Delhi Education Reforms: Various education reforms were introduced, such as improving school infrastructure, promoting skill development, and allocating funds for teacher training. *Entrepreneurship and Startup Support:* Initiatives were launched to support entrepreneurs and startups through financial aid and mentorship programs.

Home Delivery of Public Services: The government launched a scheme to deliver certain public services at people's doorsteps to reduce bureaucracy and improve accessibility.

Skill Development Initiatives: Skill development programs were initiated to provide training and employment opportunities to the youth.

Wi-Fi Hotspots: The government aimed to provide free Wi-Fi hotspots in various public areas across the city.

CCTV Camera Installation: The project involved installing CCTV cameras in strategic locations for enhanced security and surveillance.

Delhi Swachh Bharat Abhiyan: Efforts were made to improve cleanliness and waste management in the city.

Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yojana: This scheme provided free pilgrimage trips to senior citizens from Delhi.

Doorstep Delivery of Ration: The government planned to implement doorstep delivery of ration to eligible beneficiaries.

Positive Impact of the Scheme:

Schemes implemented by the Delhi government under the leadership of Arvind Kejriwal have had several positive impacts on the residents and the overall development of the city. Here are some of the notable positive impacts:

Improved Healthcare Access: Mohalla Clinics have significantly improved healthcare accessibility, especially for economically weaker sections of society. These neighbourhood health centres offer free basic medical services and medicines, reducing the burden on expensive private healthcare facilities.

Alleviating Financial Burdens: The provision of free water supply and subsidized electricity has provided relief to many households, particularly low-income families. It has helped in reducing the financial burden of essential utilities and improved the living standards of the residents.

Enhanced Education Facilities: Delhi's education reforms have led to the improvement of school infrastructure and the quality of education. By promoting skill development and teacher training, students are better equipped for future opportunities.

Boosting Entrepreneurship: Initiatives to support entrepreneurs and startups have encouraged innovation and economic growth in the city. This has created job opportunities and contributed to the development of the startup ecosystem in Delhi.

Convenience and Transparency: The doorstep delivery of public services has made it easier for citizens to access government services without the need to visit multiple offices. This has reduced bureaucratic hurdles and improved transparency in service delivery.

Enhanced Security and Surveillance: The installation of CCTV cameras has contributed to improved security and crime prevention in public areas. It helps in monitoring and deterring criminal activities, making the city safer for residents.

Cleaner Environment: The Delhi Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and other cleanliness initiatives have contributed to a cleaner environment by promoting waste management and proper disposal practices.

Empowerment of Senior Citizens: The Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yojana has allowed senior citizens to undertake pilgrimage trips they might not have been able to afford otherwise, providing them with opportunities for spiritual fulfilment and social engagement.

Digital Connectivity: The provision of free Wi-Fi hotspots has enhanced digital connectivity and internet access for the public, enabling them to stay connected and access online resources more easily.

Ease of Ration Access: The proposed doorstep delivery of ration would ensure that eligible beneficiaries receive their entitled food supplies conveniently at their homes, saving them time and effort.

Negative Impact of the Scheme:

While the schemes implemented by the Delhi government under the leadership of Arvind Kejriwal have had several positive impacts, they have also faced criticism, and some negative impacts have been identified. It's important to note that different stakeholders may have varying perspectives on these schemes. Here are some of the potential negative impacts:

Financial Burden on Government: The provision of free water supply, subsidized electricity, and other welfare schemes might have put a strain on the government's finances. Ensuring the sustainability of these programs and managing the budget effectively can be a challenge.

Healthcare Infrastructure: While Mohalla Clinics have improved healthcare access, there might be concerns about the capacity and quality of these facilities. Ensuring that they are adequately staffed and equipped to handle the growing patient load is essential.

Quality of Education: Despite education reforms, concerns might arise about the overall quality of education in government schools. Ensuring that reforms lead to a substantial improvement in learning outcomes can be a continuous challenge.

Sustainability of Startup Support: While promoting entrepreneurship is positive, ensuring the long-term success and sustainability of startups supported by government initiatives can be challenging, as many startups face significant hurdles in their early stages.

Privacy and Surveillance: The installation of CCTV cameras for enhanced security might raise concerns about privacy and data security if not appropriately regulated and monitored.

Execution of Doorstep Delivery: The doorstep delivery of public services might face implementation challenges, including logistic issues and potential instances of corruption or mismanagement in the delivery process.

Waste Management: Despite efforts in the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, proper waste management and disposal might remain a persistent issue, especially in densely populated areas of Delhi. *Misuse of Subsidies:* There might be instances of misuse or fraudulent claims related to subsidies provided for water, electricity, or other services.

Scope and Reach: Some critics argue that some of the schemes might not be reaching the intended beneficiaries effectively, leaving certain vulnerable sections of the population underserved. *Political Opposition:* Like any government policy, these schemes have faced criticism from political opponents, which can lead to challenges in implementation and public perception.

It's important to acknowledge that while these negative impacts exist, many of these schemes have also undergone revisions and improvements over time based on feedback and evaluation. Governments often face complex challenges in implementing policies that cater to the diverse needs of a vast urban population like Delhi's. Continuous evaluation, transparency, and citizen engagement are crucial aspects to address these challenges effectively.

Schemes implemented by New Delhi government is a boon or a bane:

The assessment of whether the schemes implemented by the New Delhi government are a boon or a bane depends on various factors and perspectives. Different stakeholders may view these schemes differently based on their experiences, needs, and expectations. Let's analyze both sides:

Boon:

Social Welfare: The schemes aimed at providing free water supply, subsidised electricity, and improved healthcare through Mohalla Clinics have been beneficial to low-income and

marginalised sections of society. These initiatives have helped alleviate financial burdens and improved access to essential services.

Education Reforms: Efforts to improve the quality of education and provide skill development opportunities have the potential to empower the youth and prepare them for better future prospects. **Startup Support:** Initiatives to support entrepreneurship and startups have the potential to foster innovation, create job opportunities, and contribute to economic growth.

Convenience and Transparency: Doorstep delivery of public services and other e-governance initiatives have increased convenience for citizens and reduced bureaucratic red tape, making government services more accessible and transparent.

Safety and Security: Installation of CCTV cameras and other security measures have contributed to enhanced safety and surveillance, which can lead to a more secure environment for residents.

Bane:

Financial Burden: Some critics argue that providing freebies and subsidies can strain the government's finances, potentially leading to an unsustainable fiscal burden.

Quality of Services: While the intention of various schemes is commendable, there might be concerns about the overall quality and sustainability of these services. Ensuring consistent and high-quality delivery can be a challenge.

Potential Misuse: There might be instances of misuse or fraud related to schemes, leading to inefficient use of resources and benefits not reaching the intended beneficiaries.

Implementation Challenges: Some schemes may face execution challenges, leading to delays or inadequate coverage, which can impact their effectiveness.

Political Controversy: Schemes can become a subject of political controversy, leading to polarization and challenges in policy making and implementation.

Ultimately, the success of these schemes depends on several factors, including effective governance, proper monitoring and evaluation, citizen awareness, and participation. It is crucial for governments to be responsive to feedback and make necessary adjustments to ensure that the schemes genuinely benefit the citizens and address their needs. Public policy is complex, and it often requires a careful balance between providing immediate relief and fostering sustainable development for the long term.

DISCUSSION

The study's main objective was to assess the Five Guarantees of the Karnataka Government in terms of their potential for economic effect and revenue generation. By providing these assurances, the state hopes to improve lives and secure the future. In order to make comparisons and comprehend the benefits and drawbacks of various state-level initiatives, including those in Tamil Nadu and New Delhi, the research also examined possible programmes.

The analysis of the Karnataka government's Five Guarantees initiative turned up a lot of possibilities for socioeconomic empowerment in the state. The government seeks to elevate underprivileged groups in society and encourage inclusive growth by putting a strong emphasis on ensuring access to jobs, healthcare, high-quality education, food security, and housing. The study discovered that these assurances have the potential to have a favourable economic impact on the state by encouraging the development of human capital, increasing productivity, and lowering inequality and poverty.

The efficiency of each state's governance style was shown via study of the programmes put into place, notably those started by Jayalalitha in Tamil Nadu and Arvind Kejriwal in New Delhi. The initiatives' beneficial effects were visible in the people's better access to social welfare benefits,

healthcare, and education. But several programmes had difficulties with execution and sustainability, raising questions about their long-term viability.

CONCLUSION:

The study's findings highlight the value of the Karnataka Government's Five Guarantees in promoting economic growth and improving population well-being in general. The government can build a more just and affluent society by concentrating on important sectors including employment, healthcare, education, food security, and housing.

Analysis of policies put in place by other governments, such as Tamil Nadu and New Delhi, offers insightful information on various forms of governance and their effects on the public. While these programmes have improved social development, several implementation and financial sustainability difficulties require careful study.

In conclusion, the Five Guarantees of the Karnataka Government show great potential for improving lives and securing a brighter future for its residents. The government can improve its policies to successfully attain the intended results by drawing on the knowledge gained from prior state-sponsored programmes. To maintain these assurances' long-term success and their contribution to Karnataka's growth and prosperity, policymakers should continue to assess their implementation and make any required modifications.

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