



# A Study on Existing Social Protection Programs to Alleviate Poverty in West Bengal

## KASTURI BERA,

Research Scholar (Registration No.- 241119063)

Department Of Political Science, Shri J.J.T. University,

(E-mail [kasturibera499@gmail.com](mailto:kasturibera499@gmail.com))

**Dr. DR. PRATIMA PAREEK,**

Assistant Professor

Department Of Political Science, Shri J.J.T. University,

VidyaNagari, Churu-Jhunjhunu Road, Chudela, Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan, 3333010

**Abstract:** To alleviate poverty and help the most vulnerable members of society, social protection laws and programs are put in place. Increasing people's resilience to dangers, interruptions, and losses of income, and fostering more efficient labor marketplaces. The "Government at your doorstep" campaign, also known as the "Duare Sarkar" program, is the state government of West Bengal's most extensive public relations effort. to bring 12 of the state's most popular and significant government programs directly to the attention of the general public throughout the state. The program was begun throughout the state on the 1st of December 2020, and it was planned that initially there would be over 25,000 public outreach camps organized in four rounds because of the overwhelming reaction that was received from the general populace. It was agreed that there would be the fifth round of camps held in order to accommodate those residents who had missed past opportunities to take part. This paper discusses current social protection programs in West Bengal.

**Keywords:** Social Protection Programs, Duare Sarkar, Paray Samadhan

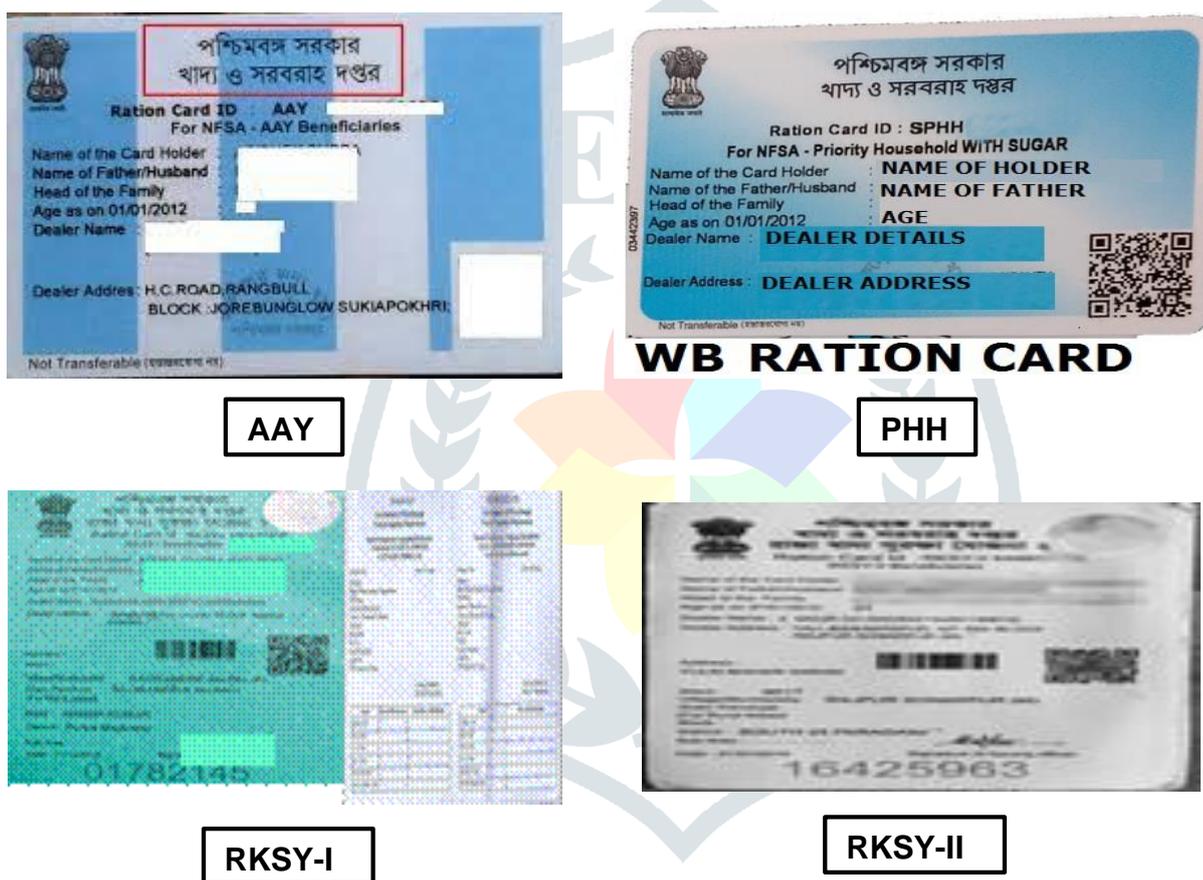
**Introduction:** Needs, resources, institutions, and the political economics of changes all play a role in the wide variety of strategies used by different state when it comes to social protection. After an intervention or combination of interventions has been decided upon, certain programs must pay attention to fundamentals like coverage. Sustainability, effective governance, and prioritizing those most in need of protection are all discussed in this paper [1]. The countless applications and petitions necessitated the creation of the community-based initiative known as Paray Samadhan, which is a component of the Duare Sarkar campaign. It is obtained from residents who are looking for answers to minor local issues that are caused by gaps in infrastructure, supply and services, as well as staff in public organizations. The purpose of Paray Samadhan is for the government to meet the needs of the neighborhood via the use of minor interventions and the engagement of the community. attempting to find local solutions to problems at the community level [2].

**1.Khadya Sathi Scheme:** On January 26, 2016, West Bengal government began implementing the Khadya Sathi program throughout the state. The government has begun implementing this program with the goal of assuring that all parts of the region have adequate access to food. Wheat and Rice distributed to those who benefit from the program at a cost of two rupees per kilogram of either grain. It encompasses close to ninety percent of the state's current population. This objective of this plan is to establish a framework for such orderly delivery of food rations to the residents of the state who have 'ration cards'. The policy offers protection for around 10 crore individuals throughout the Bengal. Those of us who are eligible for the plan are given a free ration beginning in June of 2020. The covid shutdown lasted until that month. It has been announced that this free ration would continue till June of 2021[3,4].

### 1.1 The Aims of the Program and Its Benefits:

- People who benefit of the program will get staple grains like rice and wheat at prices that have been reduced in order to fulfill the primary purpose of the program.
- Food grains are provided to almost all of the people at a discounted cost of Rs. 2 per kilogram. Underneath the terms of the plan, almost 50 lakhs of recipients get the rations for one-half the current market rate.
- It is likely to guarantee that everyone in the state has access to food.
- It doesn't matter what their financial situation is, the recipients who come from economically disadvantaged groups will still receive the food grains, that will allow them help put an end to current starvation problems.
- The plan provides coverage for around 10 crore individuals across the state.

Fig 1: Types of Ration Card



**2. Swasthya Sathi:** The program is applicable to each and every district in the state of West Bengal. The plan covers 50 lakh households, or 2.5 billion people. Families of Self-Help Group members, ICDS workers & helpers, ASHA workers, Civic Volunteer Force, Civil defence volunteers, and contractual employees are included [5].

### 2.1 The Aims of the Program and Its Benefits:

- Insurance covers secondary and tertiary care up to Rs 1.5 Lakh per year, while Assurance covers critical illness up to Rs 5 Lakh.
- No family size limit, both spouses' parents included. Unmarried daughter up to 21 and all physically disabled dependents covered.
- All pre-existing conditions are covered by the policy.

- Over than 400 local hospitals have enrolled for the program online. Grade-A, Grade-B, and Grade-C hospitals are categorized by their services. Digital hospital grading based on infrastructure and services.
- The Swasthya Sathi health scheme's monthly premium is paid for by the state government of West Bengal. The recipient is not responsible for any costs associated with receiving services.

**3. Caste Certificate:** In addition to its function as a legal document, it also acts as evidence that a person is a member of a certain community. It helps determine whether or not a person is eligible to receive the security, advantage, or positive discrimination offered by the government. Examples of such advantages include financial aid in the form of scholarships and admittance to publicly supported educational facilities. There are relaxations of age and educational qualifications, in addition to the reserve of a specific number of seats, for applicants who belong to these groups who are interested in working in the public sector [6].

### 3.1 The Aims of the Program and Its Benefits:

- According to the guidelines set out by the government, holders of a Cast certificate are eligible for reserved places in schools and institutions.
- Scholarships and other contests provide preference to candidates with valid Cast certificates.
- Opportunities for employment in the public and commercial sectors are reserved for applicants from the SC/ST/OBC.

**4. Sikshashree:** By combining the Book Grant and Maintenance Grant programs, the 'Sikshashree' scheme was created to provide financial aid to SC day-school students in Grades 5 through 8. Any West Bengali day student enrolled in grades 5–8 (or equivalent) in either a state-run or privately run institution is eligible to apply [7].

### 4.1 The Aims of the Program and Its Benefits:

- Elementary, Middle School, and High School SC and ST students. The state will provide a scholarship for it every year.
- From fifth grade through seventh grade (Rs. 800) and from eighth grade forward Rs 800 (class VIII).
- For students to establish bank accounts as part of this program, government will make the necessary preparations.

**5. Kanyashree Prakalpa:** Development and Social Welfare (DWD&SW) is created the Kanyashree Prakalpa. It is a welfare program that aims to raise people's standard of living by offering them monetary incentives to achieve certain goals. To encourage all adolescent females in West Bengal to continue their education, primarily. Withholding their nuptials until they reach the age of majority in their state (West Bengal). The state of West Bengal funds the Kanyashree Prakalpa program. Each and every one of the State's jurisdictions must now adhere to it [8,9].

### 5.1 The Aims of the Program and Its Benefits:

- Facilitates the continuation of a female student's education over a more extended length of time.
- Promotes postponing the onset of marriage for girls.
- By encouraging more young women in West Bengal to pursue post-secondary education as well as vocational and sports training, the state hopes to reduce the prevalence of child marriage.
- 500 Indian Rupees Annual Scholarship
- 25,000 Indian Rupees (INR) One-Time Award

**6. Rupashree:** The program's ultimate goal is to make it easier for low-income families to meet the financial obligations associated with the weddings of their daughters. It often necessitates taking out loans at exorbitantly high interest rates. A one-time cash assistance in the amount of Rs. 25,000 is being made available to families that are struggling financially at the time their adult daughters are getting married [10].

## 6.1 The Aims of the Program and Its Benefits:

- The "Rupashree Prakalpa" award is intended to ease some of the burdens faced by low-income households.
- The applicant is now 18 years old and eligible for consideration.
- Her family does not bring in more than 1.5 lakh rupees per year in revenue.

**7. Aikyashree:** A program offering financial aid to students who are members of one of West Bengal's many underrepresented groups. The plan is an attempt to satisfy the rising educational aspirations of the state's racially and ethnically marginalized populations. Through the provision of financial assistance, we want to open up further doors for the socioeconomic and educational advancement of these individuals. It is an encouragement to the students who have shown excellence [11].

### 7.1 The Aims of the Program and Its Benefits:

- Scholarship awards start at 12000 Rs and go up to Rs 60000.
- Must have obtained a grade or mark that is equal to at least 50% of the total possible grades on the most recent final test.

**8. Krishak Bandhu:** It is a one-of-a-kind program that offers guaranteed cash aid to all agricultural households and farmers in the state of West Bengal. All of the state's farmers will be provided with a single, computerized identification card under the Krishak Bandhu program. Assistance in the amount of Rs. 5000 per year (Rabi & Kharif Season) is available to farmers who own land that is one acre or greater in size, with a least support amount of Rs. 2000 / year available on a rotation basis. Under the 'Life Support Scheme. There in situation of the passing of a person who was insured by the plan, rural households would be eligible to receive only one payment of Rs. 2 lakhs in the form of a lump amount [12,13].

**9. 100 Days' Work (MGNREGS):** One of the most well-known programs in the state is the MGNREGS, better known as "Eksho Diner Kaaj." Each rural family is assured of at least 100 days of minimum-wage work every fiscal year. In order to counteract unemployment and a downward cycle of poverty caused by poor harvests [14].

**10. Lakshmi Bhandar Scheme:** There is a significant number of families who do not have access to essential income assistance. As a result, they are unable to afford the day-to-day costs that they have to pay. The state government of West Bengal has initiated the West Bengal Lakshmi Bhandar Scheme in order to assist all of these individuals. With the help of this program, the government intends to provide financial assistance to mothers who are the primary breadwinners in their households [15].

### 10.1 The Aims of the Program and Its Benefits:

- Female heads of households in the general category are eligible to get Rs 500 per month.
- The West Bengal Laxmi Bhandar School offers a monetary assistance program of Rs 1000 per month to the female heads of SC and ST families.
- Additionally, the Magistrate of the district have given the authorities the instruction to educate citizens about this scam. Those people who are qualified to gain from this plan are the ones who can do so.

**11. Conclusion:** Health insurance, pensions, scholarships, guaranteed income for farmers, and other such programs are just some of the benefits that are now being made available through a network of more than 30,000 community outreach camps. More than 13 million citizens have gotten the help they needed in the first 50 days of the government. Timely distribution of citizen-centric services, with a focus on the economically disadvantaged, via community-level outreach camps staffed by government officials bearing computer equipment. Priority enrollment will be given to older citizens, those with impairments, and women. Those on lower incomes, who have historically had the most trouble getting in. Paray Samadhan (PS) is a community-level sub-program that seeks to improve people's lives by addressing identified shortages in infrastructure, human resources, supplies, and services. It entails activities such as fixing roads, putting up street lights, ensuring that people have access to clean water, and hiring professionals such as doctors, teachers, and environmentalists.

**References:**

1. Jan P.M. Van Heeswijk (2003), Asian Development Bank <https://www.adb.org/sites/>
2. [https://excise.wb.gov.in/dws/Portal\\_New\\_Default.aspx](https://excise.wb.gov.in/dws/Portal_New_Default.aspx)
3. [https://ds.wb.gov.in/Know\\_Your\\_Scheme.aspx](https://ds.wb.gov.in/Know_Your_Scheme.aspx)
4. <https://food.wb.gov.in/>
5. <https://swasthyasathi.gov.in/>
6. <https://www.indiafilings.com/learn/west-bengal-caste-certificate/>
7. <https://www.wbgov.org/sikshashree/#:~:text=The%20scheme%20of%20providing%20scholarships,students%20studying%20in%20the%20school.>
8. [https://wbkanyashree.gov.in/kp\\_scheme.php](https://wbkanyashree.gov.in/kp_scheme.php)
9. <https://www.paisabazaar.com/saving-schemes/kanyashree-prakalpa-yojana/>
10. <https://vikaspedia.in/social-welfare/women-and-child-development/child>
11. <https://vikaspedia.in/social-welfare/minority-welfare-1/aikyashree-scheme-of-west-bengal>
12. [https://krishakbandhu.net/about\\_kb](https://krishakbandhu.net/about_kb)
13. <https://wbxpress.com/krishak-bandhu-assured-income-death-benefit-scheme/>
14. [https://mnregaweb2.nic.in/netnrega/homestciti.aspx?state\\_code=32&state\\_name=WEST%20BENGAL](https://mnregaweb2.nic.in/netnrega/homestciti.aspx?state_code=32&state_name=WEST%20BENGAL)
15. <https://pmmodyojana.in/lakshmi-bhandar-scheme/>

