

Building Peace And Prosperity Through Prime Minister Care Scheme For The Covid-19 Orphaned Children In India

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ABSTRACT

In recent times in over the world there is a peculiar unknown problem of managing human health encountering various challenges and risks in overcoming global – 19 disaster ruins all over the countries and the smooth functioning of day to day life. India witnessed a full successive lockdowns to combat the difficulties which halt all the activities. Covid-19 and its pandemic resulted an unforeseen disaster in the lives of bottom to top sections. India also witnessed unknown social distancing and other exposures. Many establishments, transport and all other eateries were completely closed to arrest the Covid pandemic. This is unforeseen situations which have not been met earlier in any parts of the world. One cannot predict the future happenings but at the same time there may be drastical changes in all fields. Many people were thrown out of their jobs and the migrant labourers are forced to return to their native places to save their life. Under the peculiar situation many people were no more because of the spread of contagious diseases. Each and everyone in our country have lost their dear ones and near ones. In these situations lot of children have lost their parents and prime care takers and became orphaned during pandemic period. It is very difficult to imagine in the case of uncared poor in their childhood and lost their memorable experiences living along with their parents before their death. The authors' strides an attempt to focus the methods and means followed in the prosperity of Covid-19 orphaned children in an extensive manner in this paper.

Keywords: PM Cares Scheme, Orphaned Children, Benefits, Coverages, Related Issues.

INTRODUCTION

The Government of India launched a separate programme known as PM Cares Children Scheme to look after these orphaned children and their educational opportunities. It was started on 29th May 2021. The noble aim of the scheme is not only to protect the livelihood but also to promote the habit of social inclusiveness along with many programmes.

As the COVID-19 epidemic spreads across India and the world, one thing is certain: the present outbreak will have a significant influence not just on society's health and economic well-being, but also on its emotional well-being. Different population groupings will

be affected in different ways. Children, in particular, will confront significant difficulty in understanding, absorbing, and dealing with the changes that COVID-19 will bring to our environment. Children's access to socializing, play, and even physical touch, which are crucial for their mental welfare and development, is limited in the current setting of lockdown and movement restrictions. School closures deny students access to education and limit their contacts with their peers. It is possible that children will Feeling befuddled and bewildered by the current circumstances can lead to irritation and worry, which will only worsen as a result of excessive exposure to mass and social media, particularly among teens. There are some adults who may resist explaining and describing the

present condition to kids in a way that is understandable to this age group, which will add to their irritation and anxiety.

ORIGIN AND THEORETICAL FOUNDATION

The corona virus outbreak was a national calamity that affected people from all walks of life, though to varying degrees. Citizens of this country, particularly the impoverished, were in desperate need of rapid assistance, which they expected from the government. The Prime Minister National Relief Fund (PMNRF), established by then-Prime Minister Nehru in 1948, is widely acknowledged as the country's national disaster relief fund. People expected the Prime Minister's office to provide urgent relief from the PMNRF, which has an unspent balance of Rs 3,800 crore as of December 2019.

Prime Minister Modi, in a bold step panned by many, announced the creation of a new relief fund dubbed the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Fund. on March 28th, or the PM CARES Fund. The fund was established as a disaster relief fund to assist individuals who are most in need and vulnerable as a result of the pandemic. According to the Centre, celebrities, ordinary residents, corporations, foreign entities, and anybody else were encouraged to give generously to the fund. The centre also helped to create a favorable legal environment for donors by exempting all gifts to the fund from all taxes.

NEED FOR THE STUDY

COVID-19 is putting additional strain on parents and caregivers. This can make it difficult for them to offer care and stay involved with their children. Children, being great observers of people and settings, will notice, absorb, and react to the stress experienced by their caregivers and community members, which will inevitably impair their well-being. And this is just the beginning. Stress levels among vulnerable households will be tenfold higher. The situation will be particularly difficult for children who are deprived of parental care in Child Care Institutions or Alternative Care, children living on the streets, or children who are migrants and on the road, for example. Prior

public health emergency experiences have shown that there is a substantial risk of an upsurge in violence. Gender-based violence, domestic violence, and corporal punishment of children and women are all examples. Due to present movement restrictions, girls and boys who have been victims of violence will have difficulty seeking treatment and accessing support systems.

FORMULATION OF RESEARCH PROBLEM AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE

COVID -19 has restricted the majority of us to our houses. This period will go down in history as a moment of unprecedented separation and turmoil, as well as enormous courage, learning, and partnership. Each of us must examine and reassess how we work and how we live. As we've seen around the world in a variety of crisis scenarios, children are often the most vulnerable and suffer the most. To combat Covid19, the country has been placed on lockdown to prevent the pandemic from spreading. While the medical and economic consequences of COVID-19 are well-known, 1098's work with children serves as a reminder that the significance of psychological and emotional well-being in fighting this disease will determine how successful we are.

PRESENT STATUS OF THE SCHEME

Children are India's future citizens. Children must be better nurtured and cared for, and establishing healthy habits among the general population is the only way to move our country forward. A unique system is needed to take after the youngsters on the eve of Covid-19 to protect the interests of orphaned children who have lost either their parents or caregivers. PM Cares, a specific programme, was created for this reason. The world learned about the novel CORONA Virus in the middle of November in the year 2019. COVID-19, a disease caused by the corona virus, was declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization on March 11, 2020. What began in the Chinese city of Wuhan It has now spread over the planet as of mid-November 2019. Because of the paucity of testing in many countries, it's difficult to have specific statistics on the number of people infected with the Corona virus is unknown, but it is growing rapidly. When we look at the statistics from throughout the

world, we can see that the persons who are most the elderly, those with existing health issues, and those with compromised immune systems are all at risk of dying from this disease. COVID-19 is a “novel” or new virus, and scientists, health workers, and government officials don’t know much about it right now or what to expect in the near future. We all know how quickly HIV spreads and how dangerous it is. It will be difficult to get everyone who could be affected tested, and a vaccine is still 12 to 18 months away. There are currently no medications available to slow the virus down. Only as the days and months pass will we learn more about the viruses and pandemics unknown characteristics.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Khan and Atkinson (1987) conducted a comparative study of managerial attitudes toward social responsibility in India and the United Kingdom, and found that the majority of Indian executives agreed that the responsibility of nurturing children and the elderly is relevant to business, and that business has responsibilities not only to shareholders and employees, but also to customers, suppliers, society, and the state.

Arora and Puranik (2004) looked at current CSR trends in India and concluded that the corporate sector in India is leading the way. He stated that while India’s corporate sector benefited much from the liberalization and privatization process, the country’s transformation from philanthropic to CSR mindsets has lagged behind its outstanding financial success.

In their work titled “A Study of Corporate Social Responsibility,” D.Y. Chacharkar and A. V. Shukla (2004). “Responsiveness” attempted to demonstrate the theoretical benefits of CSR using an “iceberg effect” diagram. The findings revealed that, like the tip of an iceberg, the majority of CSR actions for the firm are unseen in the form of publicity, image development, customer base expansion, and profit.

In his study piece “CSR Revisited,” Harish Kumar (2012) discusses four alternative approaches to CSR used by companies: Good

Governance, Ruinous CSR, Discretionary CSR, and Illusion CSR. He also attempted to counter-argument the CSR and the CSR driver with counter-arguments. In addition, the researcher discovered eight criteria that fuel CSR actions. Philanthropic attitudes, government actions, environmental concerns, ethical consumerism, crises and calamities, globalization and market forces, and social awareness are some of them.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

As a result, psycho-education of parents and caregivers is critical in order to support children through these trying times and help them develop resilience. This booklet intends to give parents and caregivers basic skills to help them do just that: connect emotionally with their children, understand their concerns, be aware of any circumstance that could escalate to violence or abuse, and so establish a normalized and cheerful atmosphere. Today, even the poorest of the impoverished have faith that they will benefit from government programmes. Mr.Modi informed the recipients via teleconference that no poor person should be left out of government schemes, which is his top goal. The project has been approved for a total of 4.439 children. Children with special needs the scheme is open to anyone who lost their parents or a primary caregiver between March 11, 2020, and February 28, 2022. The scheme provides a lump payout of `10 lakh when children reach the age of 23, as well as a monthly stipend from the age of 18 to 23. In the nearest government schools, school-aged children will receive free education, textbooks, and uniforms. Fee reimbursement is available to those who attend private schools. Loans for professional courses and higher education are also available to students. The researchers scribbled a thorough note on “BUILDING PEACE AND PROSPERITY THROUGH PRIME MINISTER CARE SCHEME FOR THE COVID-19 ORPHANED CHILDREN IN INDIA”.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The major goal of introducing this scheme is to not only care for orphaned children, but also to open up new opportunities for their future development. This paper mainly focuses the

method of creating peace and prosperity among the Covid orphaned children and what are the various provisions for covering the life of the uncared children by certain special packages stipend and other monetary benefits shown to them discussed in detail. It also explores further possible avenues of finding new progressive plans to establish in a good condition in future.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology used in this study is a combination of explanatory and descriptive analysis. The study covers a short span of post Covid-19 period. Data pertaining to the Covid-19 orphaned children was generated from the records of Govt. of India reports and Ministry of Social Welfare and Children Development. Census method was followed to execute the research problem.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

In India, paternal orphans accounted for 49.8% of children in this age range, while maternal orphans accounted for 15.2%. 17 percent of children aged 5-7 years old lost their father, and 4.2 percent lost their mother. 8.4 percent of children aged 0 to 4 years old lost their father, while 3.2 percent lost their mother. The research was published in the journal *The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health*.

According to the PM CARES Fund's official website, it is governed by a Board of Trustees that comprises the Prime Minister as Chairperson, as well as three other ministers: the Ministers of Defence, Home Affairs, and Finance. These three ministers would serve as ex-officio Trustees of the Fund, which means they would have no voting rights. The position of a trustee is determined by their position in the cabinet. They will also have the authority to appoint three trustees to the Board of Trustees, who will be distinguished individuals from the fields of research, health, science, social work, law, public administration, and philanthropy. All members of the Trustee Board, which currently consists of the three ministers in charge of the cabinet ministries of Defense, Home Affairs, and Finance, will serve pro bono.

India is now the world's sixth-highest country in terms of Covid-associated orphanhood. Italy had the highest number of paternal orphans, with 55.4 percent of children aged 10 to 17 becoming orphaned as a result of their father's death. According to the report, the number of children affected by Covid-related orphanhood and caregiver death virtually doubled in the last decade. Compared to the number following the first 14 months of the pandemic, six months from May 1, 2021 to October 31, 2021 (March 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021).

Furthermore, three out of every four children globally who lost a parent lost their fathers, confirming data that Covid deaths disproportionately affect men. Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, England and Wales, France, Germany, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Kenya, Malawi, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Poland, South Africa, Spain, the United States, and Zimbabwe are among the countries studied.

Scholarships were given to school-aged youngsters by the Prime Minister. Children were also given a PM CARES for Children passbook and a health card under the Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.

POLICY CONSIDERATION

This scheme is highly useful for the orphaned children who have lost their dear ones. The existing system of payment to the concerned children's account is good. However, they must also register a separate bank account in their names, which is time consuming.

To meet their day-to-day expenses an amount of ₹4000 stipend has been credited in their respective accounts. But the amount is not sufficient to meet their entire needs. So the Govt. must come forward to increase the stipend of ₹6000 or more which will be highly useful.

In the case of minor children the primary caretakers are initially interested to look after their children. Owing to their heavy burden of regular work an additional care is needed to look after the orphaned children. In this context the Govt. may come forward to set-up a separate care

homes exclusively for the orphaned 19 children alone.

Only after turn into 23 years these children are going to get `10lakh lump sum amount and monthly stipend from the age of 18 to 23 is illogical. At the beginning itself, it is better to deposit the amount in the bank and interest will be paid regularly to them is highly useful and appreciable tasks.

One more difficulty under this scheme is entitlements of Ayushman cards. It takes more time for the disbursement of the beneficiaries and they may face lot of health problems in the meantime.

In the case of school going minor children, special attention and counseling must be given under the Chairmanship of District Collector as a Convener and Professional Counselors must be appointed to handle the issue.

Similarly, the deadline fixed for availing the benefit of scheme is 11th March 2020 to 28th February 2022 is illogical. There were many more deaths were reported in a sporadic manner and even in nowadays Covid-19 deaths were occurred.

The benefits should be enjoyed anonymously by Covid-19 orphaned children, and the deadline system should be abolished.

Words are inadequate to express their grief and sorrow to face the problem of loneliness. It is very difficult to imagine their life without their parents. Steps must be taken to maintain social inclusion isolated from the neighbors.

Transforming these children to the newly bravery world where their dreams come to in future is our prayer to the God.

As a dutiful citizen of India each and every one of us must come forward to extend our moral, spiritual and financial support to the underprivileged uncared orphans and brings them to a new world to create individuality.

CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS

Life is milk and love is sugar. The orphaned children have not at all able to enjoy the spirit of love in their remaining life. So the attention of the policy makers and planners must concentrate on improving their socio-economic conditions as well as nurturing them as a dutiful citizen of India. Losing parents has left many children on the streets, and the kind of abuse they have been “What children who lose a parent go through, some even by their own relatives, is worse,” she continues, admitting that children who lose a parent go through “worse” caregiver are at an increased risk of poverty, exploitation, sexual violence or abuse, mental health challenges, and severe distress. Child Welfare Committees must keep a close eye on these children.

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