

## **Welfare Policies: A Rationale behind the rise of Biju Janata Dal**

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*The winning spree of BJD since 2000 does matter to determine the several welfare schemes and good governance have led to reaching the BJD at this stage. A core factor that contributes to BJD's victory has focused on Patnaik's personal popularity and as a populist leader generally. Particularly lots of socio- economic welfare pro-poor schemes for rural Odisha are prompted the state's electorate to once again buck the anti-incumbency factor and re-elect the ruling party with an expanded majority though the state government and the BJD has been criticized for corruption, crime against women and the quality of public service delivery.*

**Key words:- Populist Leader, populism, capabilities approach, regional leader and governance, politics of manifesto, welfare schemes, development discourses.**

More than one factor is articulated here for the BJD hegemony in Odisha Party politics since the 2000s. One of those imperative devotes as the welfare policies for the people. It is necessary to critically evaluate the cost- benefit analysis of some flagship policies of Naveen-led BJD government. Do the welfare policies become the rationale behind the expansible rise of BJD in the political lance of Odisha? Secondly, how and why then, the state government has been facing the primordial challenges and issues related to the welfares policies? In order to analyze all the questions, we should go with some specific policies which are exclusively funded, monitored and managed by the state government including in the categories of Agriculture, Health, Poverty and Human Development and the Infrastructure Building. Apart from this, exclusively policies guaranteed for the empowerment of Women would also be analyzed. At the same time, it is necessary to investigate, what could be the contemporary situation of the BJD in Odisha party politics? What are the vital challenges mugged by the party in the political domain

and does the BJD under the leadership of Naveen Pattanaik will retain power in the next general election of 2024?

The theoretical interpretation of Naveen leadership may be determined from the state's populist schemes, populism and beyond the traditional leadership of his father i.e. Biju Patnaik. On the other hand leaders, like Chandrababu Naidu, Mamata Banerjee, Jayalalitha and Akhilesh Yadav have emerged in regional discourses but they are not in simultaneous power politics or in ruling party while in case of Naveen Patnaik without any regional discourses, he has been serving as chief minister of Odisha since 2000 and his popularity as a leader has increased but how much he has created space in national political discourse of leadership with federal bargaining. How much the state of Odisha has improved in social development genesis under his leadership? Naveen as a strategy maker always endeavors to weaken the opposition and opposition leaders<sup>1</sup>. Despite, chit fund scam, mines scandals and corruptions at the grass root level, higher women sexual harassment and crime in Odisha, his popularity has yet to diminish as a leader<sup>2</sup>. Here there is a dilemma that Naveen seems like a popular leader or populist leader, traditional leader or charismatic leader, national leader or a regional leader.

In Agriculture Odisha distinguishes as the agro-based cultivated state of India but it has been severely affected in poverty, malnutrition and hunger death prior to 2000s. the contemporary circumstances has changed in a great extent i.e. Odisha become the third state in exporting the rice after Punjab and Haryana in 2016. Before 2006 it was an import state in rice and since 2006 it has been exporting the rice to the other states. Moreover, the productive capacity of the state has reached at more than 120 lakh MT<sup>3</sup> in agriculture at the end of March 2016.

The BJD government has kicked off a number of steps for the growth of agriculture and allied sectors. For enhancing the financial support to the farmer, the government also has granted

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<sup>1</sup> Ruben banerjee, *Naveen Patnaik, in ch. iv, "Why Naveen Wins"*, Jaggaruet books, 2018, p. 123.

<sup>2</sup> Biswajit Mohanty in introduction, *chasing his Father's Dream: inside story of Odisha's longest serving Chief Minister*, Paranjoy Publication, 2017, p.5-7.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid pp.32*

special prominence in the allocation of funds to these sectors, in form of separate Agriculture Budget started from the financial year 2013-14 with the budgetary expenditure of 13181.89 crores for this sector<sup>4</sup>. During 2016-17, it has further been proposed to enhance to 14930 crores.

In spite of numerous barriers like irregularities in monsoon and bumpy distribution of rainfall, agricultural production has been increasing and reached at 118 lakh MT. The State could be able to produce higher food grains and the State was awarded the “Krishi Karman Award<sup>5</sup>” from the Center for the bumper production for the fourth times during 2010-11, 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15<sup>6</sup>.

*Biju krusaka kalian Yojana*, the Scheme has been implementing from 2013-14 to provide health and accident insurance coverage of 5 members of every farmer family including the farmer free of cost up to 1.00 lakh to safeguard against health hazards. The BKKY was grounded in November 2013 with the objective to enrolling all the farmers’ families in the State. During 2016-17, till date, around 57, 64, 359 farm families have been enrolled and an expenditure of 20.97 lakh has been acquired till to January 2017. Under this, 3.61 lakh beneficiaries have been treated and claims worth of 18042.99 lakh settled. During 2017-18, it is programmed to support all farm families in the State under health insurance cover free of cost and a sum of `8811.00 lakhs has been provisioned<sup>7</sup>.

Do the achievement and the productivity provide the satisfactory comprehensive development in the agricultural sectors or the huge changes in the life of farmers in Odisha? Are there any challenges or issues rendered to the BJD related to in this field? Naveen government has completely failed to bring the bill for the small and marginal farmer in their financial inclusion, insurance and sell of their production, for this the government had made this bill as a part of the manifesto of 2004s. The government also failed to construct the cold storage in the every Panchayats and blocks where the state government had decided to build 400 cold storage in the 2004 manifesto and the latest achievement has reached in only 100. The 35percent of the irrigation becomes the myth in the every block in Odisha till today.

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<sup>4</sup>see in ch.2, Agricultural sector, the Economy Survey of Odisha 2014-15, Government of Odisha, 2015, p.48-50

<sup>5</sup> Krishi Karman Award- the award is provided by the Union government to the state government for the record production of food grains in the several categories.

<sup>6</sup> *ibid*

<sup>7</sup> Annual report 2016-17, of department Of Agriculture And farmers’, Government of Odisha 2017, p.20-25.

The state government has provided several policies and programmes for enhancing the minimum quality of health care both in rural and urban areas. The state has also focused on the improvement of the human development in the field of the health, especially in the field of the Infant Mortality Rates (IMR)<sup>8</sup>, the government has reached at 40 in 2014 as below the national average of 41, which was 91 in 2001<sup>9</sup>. Odisha arrives at the first state in India during 2014-15 to rapid work and achievement in the tribal immunization programs, higher institutional delivery and the reduction in IMR<sup>10</sup>.

For the improvement of the health care, the BJD government has instigated the several schemes and also implemented the core schemes of the national government. Some of them are:- the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme(IDSP), Odisha is a decentralized disease control project came to effect from 2006-07<sup>11</sup>. It monitored and controlled the diseases like Diarrhea, Dysentery, Jaundice, Typhoid, Dengue, and Malaria etc. it is proved the improving several surveillance and weekly reportedly regularly, timely outbreak of response and others related public health actions.

*Niramaya* (the free Drug Distribution schemes) has been started since 1<sup>st</sup> may 2015 which has covered all districts headquarters (32), 4 tertiary hospitals, 27 sub-divisional hospitals and 377 community Health Centers with the total number of 489 typologies of drugs. More of 200 drugs are available in the all cited drugs centers. This scheme has been operated in the most of the health centre in the state till to may 2017<sup>12</sup>.

*Mamata* urges as conditional cash Transfer Maternity Benefit Scheme has been operating since September 2011 with the objective of wage comprehension for the pregnant and lactating mothers of the amount of rupees 5000/- by e-transfer to the beneficiaries in the four installments, before the delivery, secondly it increases the utilization of antenatal Care, postnatal

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<sup>8</sup> Annual report 2015-16, Health and Family welfare Department , Government of Odisha, p.12.

<sup>9</sup>See the article , *the times of India* news paper, on dated 02/05/2017

<sup>10</sup> Annual report 2015-16, Health and Family welfare Department , Government of Odisha, p.5.

<sup>11</sup> see in ch.7, '*Human Development And Poverty*', the Economy Survey of Odisha 2014-15, Government of Odisha, 2015, p.427-432

<sup>12</sup> Annual report 2015-16, Health and Family welfare Department , Government of Odisha, p.36.

care, and immunization. This scheme helps to decline the IMR and MMR. The govt. has successfully provided 25 lakh of beneficiaries till up to December 2016<sup>13</sup>. This scheme would be quest for the union government to adopt all over India due to its provisions and success. Perhaps, this tripped to increase the institutional delivery in the state and become to maintain at the top all over in Indian in the year 2016.

Poverty in Odisha could be expressed in the multi- dimensional ways as in the criteria of Material deprivation, social deprivation, the deprivation of intellectual level including the capable risks and vulnerable and finally deprivation in heath care. The trends of poverty in Odisha have been gone down rapidly i.e. the incidence of poverty 66.18 in 1973-74 reached at 32.59 percent in 2011-12<sup>14</sup>.

Table No. 5 Incidence of the Poverty both in Odisha and India

| Year    | Poverty in Odisha | Poverty in India |
|---------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1973-74 | 66.18             | 54.88            |
| 1977-78 | 70.07             | 51.32            |
| 1983-84 | 65.29             | 44.48            |
| 1987-88 | 55.58             | 38.36            |
| 1993-94 | 48.56             | 35.97            |
| 2004-05 | 57.20             | 37.20            |
| 2009-10 | 37.00             | 29.80            |
| 2011-12 | 32.59             | 21.92            |

Data Source: (1) Economy Survey of Odisha 2014-15

(2) Economy Survey of India 2015-16

(3) Data articulated from the NITI Ayog of 2017

<sup>13</sup> Report of the Health and Family welfare Department , Government of Odisha, march 2017

<sup>14</sup> See in ch.7, '*Human Development And Poverty*', the Economy Survey of Odisha 2014-15, Government of Odisha, 2015, p.423-425.

Directly or indirectly the state government has taken some measures for the eradication of poverty. Some of the policies are as followings:

***Rs 1/- Rice and the PDS:***

The BJD government has played a key role in this ongoing discussion by the two vital decisions came in August 2008, viz-a-viz the “Rationalization and efficient in the PDS and progress the Procurement System”. The first target used to diminish the price of PDS rice for all BPL and Antyodaya families to Rupees 2 per kilogram per k.g.it has further abridged the price to 1 rupee per kilogram from February 2013<sup>15</sup>. Moreover, the extension of the scheme privileged to all the APL households in the KBK districts provides information on the consumption of rice as well as wheat, sugar, and kerosene of households in Odisha from the PDS in the year 2009-10 (July 2009 to June 2010). Under this scheme, the native dwellers of the KBK region used to get the 35 kg. Of rice (BPL) and the APL could avail the 25 k.g. per month for a family of five members<sup>16</sup>. The total number of 6652768 families has benefited under the scheme till to November 2014<sup>17</sup>.

Has there been a decrease in leakage from the PDS due to the decision to provide 2 Rupee rice and the political commitment that it has generated towards curbing pilferage in the system? In the last few years, some states have moved out for lower prices and larger coverage under the PDS which have exposed tremendous enhancement in making the system more effective and declining leakages. Both Odisha and Chhattisgarh have gone for lower prices with the least leakages. The states like Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, and Andhra Pradesh have not only condensed PDS prices too much below the market price but also the consumption from PDS was quite high signifying greater effectiveness of the system with minimum leakages. This flagship schemes resulted to the state to rapidly reduction the poverty rate between 2007 to 2012 and at the all India level, Odisha stands as the highest reduction of the

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<sup>15</sup> See guideline report on PDS, Food Supply and Consumer Welfare Department , Government of Odisha, 2016, p.1-6.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid*

poverty rate (25%) compare to other states. Perhaps these models of the subsidies PDS have become the part of the National food security act of 2013.

*Cement Concrete Road (CC Road):* The State Government have decided to grant thrust to the scheme for construction of cement concrete roads in the villages in each and every galis, and corner in the State with special spotlight on SCs/STs/PVTG (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group) place. This scheme launched in 2010-11 and totally funded and governed by the State Government's budgetary allocation. The total amount of 21368.68 lakh expenditure has been spent on February which constitutes 8128 number of CC Roads (645.93Kms.) out of 9843 number of CC Roads yet to complete<sup>18</sup>. The total of 111523 CC Roads (1248.63Kms.) i.e. 61 percent were completed out of 18137 number of targeted CC Roads up to end of March 2017<sup>43</sup>. The state government again has got the 1<sup>st</sup> position in construction of rural road compare to the other state in India for the year 2016-17.

***Biju Gram Jyoti Yojana(BGJY):***

The government of Odisha has launched "Biju Gram Jyoti Yojana as a scheme in 2007 to electrify villages/habitation encompassing less than 100 population those are not covered under RGGVY. There was a target for electrification of 10,000 villages/ habitations during the end of 2012 and which have already been achieved<sup>19</sup>. The rest of working has been carrying on to complete the target i.e. electrified all the villages by the end of 2019<sup>20</sup>.

*Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana(BPGY)* , a scheme for the rural housing was launched in 2014 in order to convert all the Kucha home into the Pucca by the end of 2019 to the rural poor those who has no Pucca home of their own. Under the scheme, 3 percent of reservation has been made for the people with disability (PWD). The beneficiaries himself would construct his/ her home with the amount of the 1.30laks from the state budget. The BJD government has able to construct the 10 lakhs Pucca house in the rural areas till up to March 2017 under the scheme<sup>21</sup>. The state government has targeted to demolish all the kuchha house and construct the pucca roof house for

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<sup>18</sup> See the activity report on concrete road, Panchayati Raj Department, Government of Odisha, march 2017

<sup>19</sup> see in ch.6, 'Infrastructure', the Economy Survey of Odisha 2014-15, Government of Odisha, 2015, p.366

<sup>20</sup> Ibid p.368

<sup>21</sup> Report of the BPGY, march 2017, department of Panchayati raj and Drinking Water, Government of odisha , 2017

every house by the December 2019. The state government also retained the 1<sup>st</sup> position in highest rural housing construction both in the central and state schemes in the year 2016.

***Special schemes for Women:***

During 2001, the Government of Orissa had begun the scheme of Mission Shakti to amalgamate all Women Self Help Groups(WSHGs) to supply identical guidelines, training of personnel, training materials for economy empowering to such groups. The WSHGs are continued to be informal groups of women members with collective team work with the number between 10 to 20<sup>22</sup>.the number of the WSHGs has reached to 6 lakhs in nonmember 2016 with the 50 lakhs women has been benefitting after the state government had lowered the interest rate to 1 rupees of the credit. The Government would also offer the Rs15000/- cash prize for the best credit performer WSHGs.

Most of the SGHs are running the credit financing and investing in the several Public Distribution System at grass root level, dairy farming and fishing. .Their socio-economic participation directs to bring the change the patriarchy mindset in rural areas. But the challenges also essential to be analyzed as the sustainability of some groups not possible due to lack of understanding, distrust, and suspicion due to caste/ class differences among the various segments of the population.

*Biju kanya Ratna Yojana(BKRY )* has been launched in 2016-17 by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and also inaugurated 1,000 Anganwadi buildings. The scheme would be started in Ganjam, Dhenkanal and Anugul districts in the first phase for the reduce the gender gap, increase the girl sex ratio and check the infant mortality<sup>23</sup>.The Yojana intends at providing the girl's education, construction of girl toilet at the school, reduce the drop out the ratio of girl and aware and mobilize the masses against the gender discrimination by the budgetary allocation of Rs 3.5 crore by the end of March 2019<sup>24</sup>.

In the context of strengthening the women participation in the politics, the government of Odisha has decided to increase the reservation from 33 percent to 50 percent to women for the

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<sup>22</sup> Dr. Amrita M Patel, “*Women Self Help Groups in Orissa :Challenges and Opportunities*”, Odisha review, march 2011, p.50-54

<sup>23</sup> See the article in. the Hindu news paper dated 03/08/2016.

<sup>24</sup> *ibid*

political participation in panchayats and municipalities bodies under the Orissa Panchayat Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2011. This bill came to effect from the panchayats election of 2012. The Bill also gives light on the reservation of seats and offices of Chairpersons for two terms instead of a single term<sup>25</sup>. Mr. Patnaik has much accentuated in the schemes of the women in Odisha not only for their all round empowerment but also the Party has been receiving the major percentage of the vote sharing from women since 2000.

The social welfare policies and measures are not new in the realm of party politics in India for the several states like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Chhatisgarh and Madhya Pradesh are also doing the same. But in the panorama of Odisha, the BJD has the gigantic faith on its social welfare policies for retaining the vote bank as Unique Regional Party. Mr. Patnaik has proved himself as faster good Administrator and efficient policies mentor for last 17<sup>th</sup> years and the state under his chief ministership, the state has improved beyond the expectation in social development genesis. And he has bagged the award of the best Administrator for the year 2016-17 from the survey of Indian Today Magazine. Secondly, the state has been also received more than 15 awards in several schemes all over India for its top position in speed services delivery and efficient working mechanism from the central government during the year 2016-17. Though all the social measures could not be a holistic parameter for the BJD in Odisha, at the same time any scholars might not be denied that '*the social welfare policies with the BJD's manifesto*' as a major imperative for the BJD to making the vote bank in the every corner of Odisha. The BJD under Naveen regime has been returning to the power consecutively because of the pro-poor welfare policies and its good governance mechanism in service delivery which have converted to reach near to the benefices.

### **Conclusion:**

The relationship between populism and leadership makes a key role in the reconfiguration of political forms and players in the extensive, and not antagonism, shift from a democracy of political parties and ideologies to a democracy differentiate by the personalization of politics and many political leaders<sup>26</sup>. Political leadership has also reflected in performances and populism which depends upon electoral success through some populist scheme. In case of

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<sup>25</sup> See the article in the Indian express news paper on dated 09/04/2011.

<sup>26</sup> Lorenzo Viviani, "*A Political Sociology of Populism and Leadership*", Società mutamentopolitica, Firenze University Press, Vol. 8, N. 15, 2017. P. 279

Odisha, Naveen popularity has emerged with his personal and populist schemes. All leaders are not necessarily populist but 'Populism adores to the people', which isn't an ideology but a mode of political appearance that is employed selectively and strategically, targeting issues of mass appeal<sup>27</sup>.

The critical evaluation of the implementations and achievement of the several policies on Poverty eradication and health care would be the argumentative prospective of the capabilities approach and the 'deprived theory of development' of *Amartya Sen* (development as freedom,1999) . The BJD government has no doubt provided several pro-poor policies as the part of *Opportunity of the state*, but the state has incapable to enhancing the capability to access all these policies in certain leakages. And the state also partially fails to build the awareness of freedom in the arena of social development. On the other hand institutional system has to be broken if the populist appeal is to be effective. In a situation of complete institutional stability the only possible opposition to that system would emanate from a pure outside - that is, it would come from purely marginal and ineffectual strata. Certainly in case of Odisha, the populist policies have tremendously not only increased the vote bank and vote sharing of the BJD but the capacity of the policies have also enhanced the state in the social development of status in Odisha<sup>28</sup>.

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<sup>27</sup> Ernesto Lallau, *on Populist Reason*, Verso Publication, New York, 2005, p.7-10.

<sup>28</sup> Banerjee Ruben (2018) p, 112-114.

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