

PMC EDUCATIONAL WELFARE PROGRAMS AS A TOOL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN URBAN AREA

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Abstract: - Welfare is the wellbeing of the people and society which states that there is a economic development of country hence to achieve sustainable development there is need to study the welfare which is initiated by the government local bodies, stakeholders and various institutions like Pune Municipal Corporation. This local governance work for urban area of pune city and run various welfare programs for the society especially slum area. There is vital role of PMC to focus on the era that would be concerned to poverty removal program, empowerment of women, helping to SHG and child education as well as nutrition. The study mainly analyse that the welfare schemes run by the PMC are incredible to the sustainable development of the urban area. It mainly concern to the children welfare schemes through which children are enrolled for education and promotes the higher education and this leads to the development of urban area which turns to development of country.

Keywords: - welfare, Education, Programs, sustainable development, empowerment etc. 1.

Introduction: - Higher education is vital part of education system for the children through which society is economically and socially developed. This education mainly improve the various skill of individuals like personality, professional, knowledge, critical thinking and personal growth. In terms of social perspective it is used to acquire social awareness, values, ethics, behaviour towards the people and society. Educated people participate in the various programmes run by the governance and organizations that are related to community development and democratic process.

Higher education involves new idea generation through innovation and research that are carried out in universities. This innovation mainly generate new technology, various scientific discoveries, and patents that all improves business practices. These research useful to create new jobs, industrial growth, development of urban area, local and global market competency has also increased

Role of Urban Local Governments in Supporting Education: - Urban Local Governments that are municipal corporations and city councils, contributing the growth and development of urban area by promoting various schemes and boosting education system by providing basic educational requirements, quality education, access to education in economically weaker sections. Their primary role is to establish and management of municipal schools in which the students who are coming from low income family background and given them education in affordable fee or free. With this municipal bodies take care various facilities like school buildings, drinking water and learning instruments.

PMC Welfare Program for Students: - Pune Municipal Corporation is one of the prominent urban bodies of Pune city which implements various welfare schemes for the children as well as women. The main intension of the programme are to promoting education and financial

assistance programs which include scholarship, text books, uniforms, mid-day-meals and other facilities. These programme are useful for reducing burden of finance and improve enrolment of students in schools. PMC also perform role of providing quality of education with help of state government, educational institutions, NGO's and stakeholders.

2. Objectives of the study:- Research study has following objectives

- To assess the educational welfare programs implemented by Pune Municipal Corporation for students in urban areas.
- To analyse the impact of PMC welfare programme on students to access education
- To find out how educational welfare programs contribute to sustainable social and economic development in urban areas.

3. Research Questions: - Following are the questions for the research topic “PMC Educational Welfare Programs as a Tool for Sustainable Development in Urban Areas”

1. What are the major educational welfare programme implemented by Pune Municipal Corporation for students in urban areas?
2. In what way PMC educational welfare programme support students from economically weaker sections?
3. What impact do these welfare schemes have on access to higher education and student development?

4. Hypothesis:- Research study includes following hypothesis

H₀ (Null Hypothesis): Educational welfare programme implemented by Pune Municipal Corporation do **not have a significant impact** on sustainable educational and social development in urban areas.

H₁ (Alternative Hypothesis): Educational welfare programme implemented by Pune Municipal Corporation **significantly contribute** to sustainable educational and social development in urban areas.

5. Scope of the Study: - The scope of this study focuses on assessing the educational welfare programmes implemented by Pune Municipal Corporation and their role in keeping the constant development in urban communities. The research mainly examines programmes such as scholarships, free educational materials, and other student support initiatives provided to economically weaker sections.

6. Literature Review:- Various studies are carried out related to higher education & social development , government welfare schemes for education and sustainable development and education but there is a research gap that urban area are developed specifically with local urban bodies promoting the higher education with the help of welfare programmes.

1. Bjorn Hvinden, Schoyen and Merethe (2013):-In the book “Sustainable development and sustainable welfare: a changing international agenda” the author introduced the sustainable welfare approach to the eco-social-growth dilemma particularly influential for the ongoing academic discussion. He examines the interface between this intellectual development and the ongoing international political efforts to link the three classical dimensions of sustainability. He also explores how an emergent interdisciplinary field of sustainability research has interacted or even converged with an evolving international policy agenda related to sustainability.

2. Laura Ricci (2025):- Author in her article “Urban welfare and regeneration – Sustainability and social inclusion for achieving the SDGs” propose a reflection on the interconnections between urban welfare which is the right of settled communities to public cities as well as

achieving goal of SDGs. Author highlight the matter of complexity to trade off that urban regeneration strategies are called upon to govern in order to reconcile the environmental and socio-economic dimensions of change, requiring an interdisciplinary and multi-level approach.

7. Research Methodology: Research methodology explains the methods and procedures used to conduct the study. It includes the research design, data collection methods, sampling techniques, and data analysis.

7.1. Research Design:-The study follows a descriptive research design to assess the educational welfare programs implemented by Pune Municipal Corporation and their impact on sustainable development in urban areas.

7.2. Nature of Research:- The research is both qualitative and quantitative in nature as qualitative data helps to understand the experiences, inclinations, and perceptions of students regarding educational welfare Programmes where as quantitative data helps to measure the number of beneficiaries, awareness levels, and the effectiveness of welfare programs through statistical analysis.

7.3. Sources of Data:-Primary Data-Primary data collected directly from students who benefit from educational welfare schemes of Pune Municipal Corporation through the methods as follows:-

- **Questionnaires**
- **Interviews with students**
- **Observation**

Secondary Data: - Secondary data collected from existing sources such as:

- Government reports
- Pune Municipal corporation documents
- Research journals and articles
- Books and official website related to education and urban development

7.4 Sampling Method:-The study will use a simple random sampling method to select respondents. Students benefiting from educational schemes under Pune Municipal Corporation will be selected randomly to ensure fairness and unbiased results.

7.5 Sample Size:- The study will include **approximately 65 students** from municipal schools or colleges who are receiving benefits from PMC educational welfare programs from the urban area.

7.6 Data Analysis Method:-The collected data will be analysed using simple statistical techniques such as: Percentage method, Tables, Bar charts and pie charts. This analysis will help interpret the effectiveness of educational welfare programs and their role in sustainable development.

7.8 Limitations of the Study:-The study may face some limitations such as:

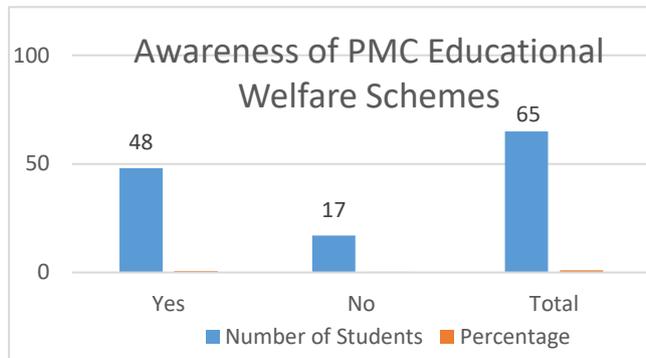
- Limited sample size of respondents
- Limited availability of official data
- Time constraints in collecting field data
- Responses depending on students' awareness of schemes

8 Data Analysis and Findings:- Data analysis is an building block of the research study as it helps in assessing and interpreting the information collected from respondents. In this research, the data was collected through a structured questionnaire from students who are beneficiaries of educational welfare schemes implemented by Pune Municipal Corporation. This data is used to

understand the level of awareness, accessibility, and impact of these welfare programs on students' educational development. For this study, a total of **65 students** were selected as respondents using a simple random sampling method. The collected data was organized into tables and analysed using the **percentage method** to make the results clear and easy to understand. Tables and charts were used to present the data in a systematic manner.

8.1. Awareness of PMC Educational Welfare Schemes

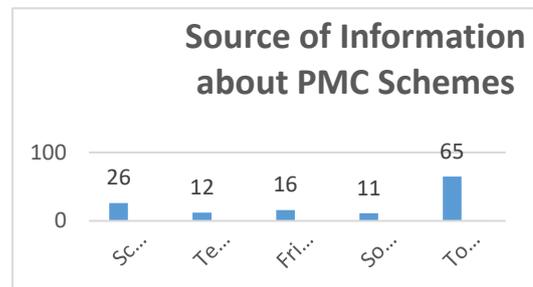
Responses	Number of Students	Percentage
Yes	48	73.84%
No	17	26.15%
Total	65	100%



Interpretation: The table shows that 73.84 % of students are aware of educational welfare schemes provided by Pune Municipal Corporation, while 26.15% are not aware. This indicates that although many students know about these programs, awareness still needs improvement.

8.2. Source of Information about PMC Schemes

Source	Students	Percentage
School/College	26	40.00%
Teachers	12	18.46%
Friends/Family	16	24.61%
Social Media	11	16.92%
Total	65	100%

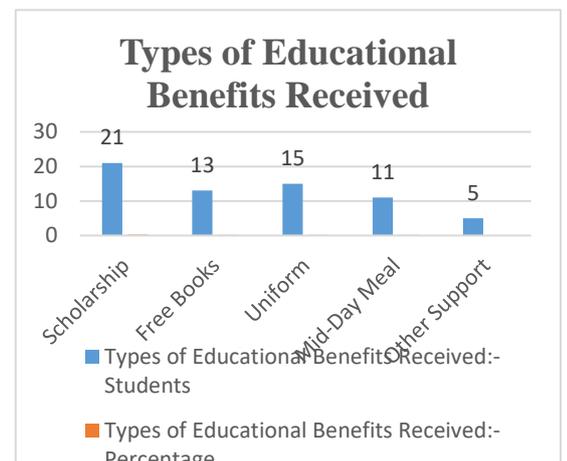


Interpretation:

Most students learn about PMC educational schemes through schools and colleges. This shows that educational institutions play a key role in spreading awareness about welfare programs.

8.3. Types of Educational Benefits Received:-

Benefit	Students	Percentage
Scholarship	21	32.30%
Free Books	13	20.00 %
Uniform	15	23.07%
Mid-Day Meal	11	16.92%
Other Support	5	7.69%
Total	65	100 %

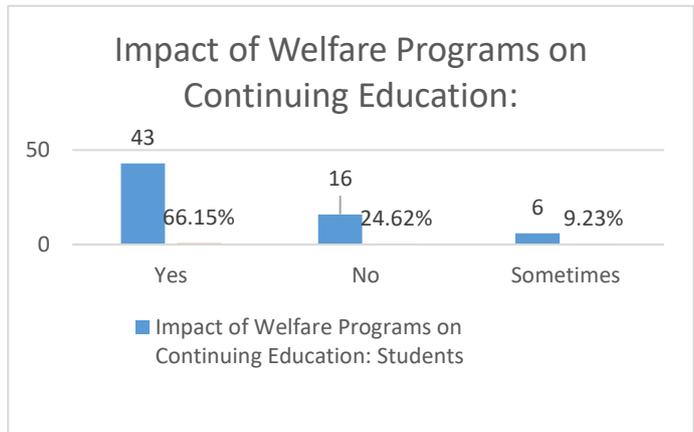


Interpretation: -Scholarships are the most commonly Received benefit among students. These financial supports Help to reduce educational expenses and encourage

Students to continue their studies.

8.4 Impact of Welfare Programs on Continuing Education:

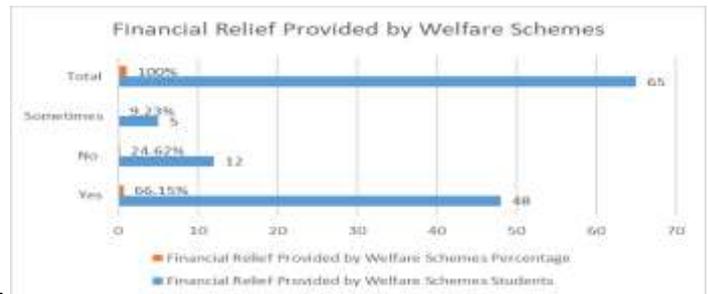
Response	Students	Percentage
Yes	43	66.15%
No	16	24.62 %
Sometimes	06	09.23%
Total	65	100 %



Interpretation: The majority of students (66.15%) believe that PMC welfare programs help them continue their education. This highlights the positive impact of municipal educational support.

8.5. Financial Relief Provided by Welfare Schemes

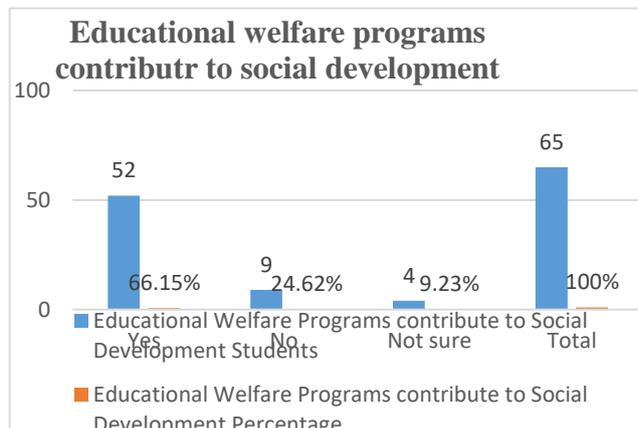
Response	Students	Percentage
Yes	48	66.15%
No	12	24.62 %
Sometimes	05	09.23%
Total	65	100 %



Interpretation: Most students reported that PMC educational welfare schemes reduce their financial burden, making education more affordable.

8.6 Educational Welfare Programs contribute to Social Development

Response	Students	Percentage
Yes	52	66.15%
No	09	24.62 %
Not sure	04	09.23%
Total	65	100 %



Interpretation: A large majority of students believe that educational welfare programs contribute to social development by improving access to education and opportunities.

8.7 Hypothesis Testing:-To test the hypothesis, **primary data** was collected from students benefiting from educational welfare schemes provided by the Pune Municipal Corporation. The responses were analysed using **percentage analysis and statistical interpretation**. The analysis shows that educational welfare programs implemented by the Pune Municipal Corporation positively influence access to education, student enrolment in schools. These programs reduce financial barriers and support disadvantaged students in urban areas as it is shown in table 8.4, 8.5 and 8.6 respectively.

Based on the analysis of primary data collected from respondents, the findings indicate that the educational welfare programs implemented by the Pune Municipal Corporation have a significant positive impact on students' educational opportunities and social development. Therefore, the **null hypothesis (H₀) is rejected**, and the **alternative hypothesis (H₁) is accepted**. This confirms that PMC educational welfare programs play an important role in promoting sustainable educational and social development in urban areas.

9. Suggestions:-

1. There is need to improve efficiency of welfare programmes.
2. Simplifying process of application form filling.
3. Exploring scholarship schemes.

10. Conclusion:- Higher education contributes to sustainable development by creating awareness about environmental protection, social justice, and responsible economic practices. Higher education is a key driver of both social progress and economic prosperity. By developing skilled professionals, promoting research and innovation, and fostering social awareness, higher education plays a vital role in shaping a sustainable and progressive society. These efforts aim to PMC by promoting various welfare programmes improve learning outcomes and make education more effective and accessible and carried out sustainable development.

11. References:-

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