



## Research and Advocacy on the Impact of the New Economic Policies on Senior Citizens

Project Outline submitted by

**South Asian Network for Social & Agricultural Development  
(SANSAD)**

Submitted to

**HelpAge India**

## Justification of project

Senior Citizens are generally dependent on their fixed income coming from their savings and after introduction of new economic policies; their income from savings has reduced substantially due to reduction of interest rates by all banks. Due to rapid growth of IT and service sector, children's of many Senior Citizens has moved out of their homes, leaving their parent alone which created loneliness and fear in their minds. We all have seen in recent times many murders of Senior Citizens leaving alone and most of the times dependent on their servants which created fears in the minds of all Senior Citizens. Many productive minds and skills which Senior Citizens have acquired during their long careers are unutilized today, which can be converted into productive to teach and trained youths who are looking for such support system to grow and make their career more productive. That way Senior Citizens also feel safe and their loneliness will also disappear. Privatization of health services make them more vulnerable as cost of health services has increases many fold. Some Social security schemes which Government of India has launched for Senior citizens will also be studies and discussed with Senior citizens to understand how beneficial these schemes are and what kind of changes are required in these schemes to suits the current realities. This project will try to give logical answer to all above mentioned aspects related with Senior citizens. Anil K Singh, CEO of SANSAD as a founder national Convener and present Steering Group member of Wada Na Todo Abhiyan which is currently involved in Consultations process for the Twelfth Five Year People's Plan process, this project also help in that direction and open up opportunity for advocacy with the Planning Commission and other related ministries and departments.

## Description

This project is to know and understand situation of Senior Citizens in India especially after introduction of new economic policies known as Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) to promote the Advocacy with the Planning Commission and other resource agencies for this socially excluded group. The Planning Commission and other Governmental agencies will be engaged and involved for influencing them so that XII Plan process can take care of Senior Citizens and Governmental schemes can be made in favour of them. For knowing and understanding situation of Senior Citizens it is proposed to hire 5 Researchers to do small studies on various aspects mentioned below and based on these 5 studies, SANSAD will organised 10 workshops in and around Delhi in collaboration with SANSAD partners mentioned below. Two workshops one in Delhi and one around Delhi will be organised on each thematic area. Based on findings of 5 small researches papers and 10 workshops reports, a detailed Chartered of Demands will be prepared. This Chartered of Demands will be used as Advocacy tool for advocacy with policy makers and governmental departments.

The plan is to organise 10 workshops on 5 thematic topics mentioned below. Five workshops will be organised in Delhi and 5 outside Delhi but in the near by areas such as Rohtak in Haryana; Saharanpur and NOIDA in UP; Jaipur and Alwar in Rajasthan.

Research papers which will be produced on each thematic area will be used as learning material in the workshops.

The 5 thematic topic areas will be as follows:

- 1. Impact on Income aspect of senior citizens:** Most of the retired senior citizens living in cities and those who are non working rural people who are managing their living on savings that are attracting very low interest rates now. Thus incomes are falling as savings are used up. SANSAD and its partners will try to find out what kind of economic hardships Senior citizens are facing now specially after introduction of new economic policies and what could be done to overcome such hardships. Participatory methods will be used for research and advocacy.
- 2. Impact on health situation of senior citizens:** With the move to health insurance and the rapid privatisation of medical services the elderly are finding it increasingly difficult to obtain health services and cover at a reasonable cost. SANSAD and its partners will try to find out what kind of hardships Senior citizen are facing due to heavy privatization of health services and increase of cost of medical treatments and medicines so that based on these findings detailed chartered of demand can be prepared to do advocacy with policy makers for their remedial measures.
- 3. Social and physical security of senior citizens:** As mentioned above majority of senior citizens are leaving today on fear of life and looking for some or other kinds of support mechanism to overcome such fear. It is also a fact that Govt of India has launched many social security schemes for senior citizens but due to corruption and long procedures these schemes are not reaching to the persons to whom these schemes are made. SANSAD and its partners will try to find out what kind of support mechanism senior citizens are looking for and what benefits do elderly people enjoy and how many people can take advantage of these social security schemes?
- 4. Impact on Family norms:** There is a tendency for Indian families to move to the nuclear family model due to job opportunity younger people are getting in some IT centres and service sectors including moving abroad for better job prospects . What does this mean for senior citizens and what are the effects on senior citizens will be study by SANSAD and its partners from participatory methods. It will be also study that what could be the alternative system so that loneliness of these senior citizens can be reduced which is one of the biggest challenges today.
- 5. Senior citizens as useful productive citizens:** Senior citizens are a source of large and untapped resources, with huge amounts of knowledge and experience that can be assessed, shared and utilized effectively. As mentioned above that many productive minds and skills which Senior Citizens have acquired during their long career are unutilized today, which can be converted to teach and trained youths who are looking for such support system to grow and make their career more productive. That way Senior Citizens also feel safe and their loneliness will also disappear. This small participatory research helps us to know how this resource can be accessed so that, for instance, younger people such as students can make use of it.

## Methodologies to be applied:

As mentioned above that initially five young researchers will be hiring on consulting basis to do small research on above mentioned themes based on secondary data and information. They will also do interview of some academicians who has done research on these aspects and based on both research and interview they will prepare a 20-25 page research papers on each thematic area. These 5 research papers will be used as resource material for initiating debate in the workshops organized later on in different locations. In each workshop 40-50 participants will be mobilized for detailed discussions. After the workshops, all 5 research papers will be modified and based on findings of these research papers and workshop reports, a detailed Chartered of Demands would be made to do advocacy with the Planning Commission and related ministry and departments. Mass media will be also mobilized to highlight findings of our researches which will also put pressure on policy makers.

## Outcomes

From this project five research papers of 20-25 pages each on above mentioned themes will be generated along with 10 workshop reports and a detailed Chartered of Demand which will be used as tool for advocacy.

Also directly 400-500 participants would be involved in this process which helps them to think and do some thing for the betterment of the senior citizens of their area.

It is also expected that mass media will highlight findings of our research and impact of new economic policies on senior citizens in a big way.

Outcomes of this project will help in formulating policies and programmes for the betterment of the senior citizens.

## Partners to be Involved

SANSAD will manage and run this project in collaboration with below mentioned SANSAD's partners:

1. Gandhi Peace Foundation, New Delhi
2. Centre for Public Affairs, NOIDA, UP
3. Disha Social Organisation, Saharanpur, UP
4. Navyuvak Kala Kendra, Rohtak, Haryana

5. CECOEDECON, Jaipur, Rajasthan
6. Global Gandhi Forum, New Delhi
7. Wada Na Todo Abhiyan, New Delhi
8. Tarun Bharat Sangh, Alwar, Rajasthan