

From Policy to Practice: Investigating National Social Assistance Schemes in Arunachal Pradesh

Dr. Bijay Das¹, Mr. Pema Dorjee Sharjo² and Mrs. Jinu Phukan³

¹Assistant Professor, Department of Management Studies, Arunodaya University, Arunachal Pradesh, INDIA.

²Assistant Professor, Department of Management Studies, Arunodaya University, Arunachal Pradesh, INDIA.

³HoD, Department of Management Studies, Arunodaya University, Arunachal Pradesh, INDIA.

¹Corresponding Author: bdas271994@gmail.com

ORCID

<https://orcid.org/0009-0007-0455-6435>



www.sjmars.com || Vol. 4 No. 3 (2025): June Issue

Date of Submission: 03-06-2025

Date of Acceptance: 13-06-2025

Date of Publication: 20-06-2025

ABSTRACT

Even though India has made great strides in lowering its poverty rates, a sizable portion of the population still lives in poverty. The poverty rate has declined over time, and in a growing nation like India, the crucial role that social assistance programs and policies play in eradicating poverty is evident. To establish a national policy for social assistance for the needy and eradicating the poverty, the Indian government introduced the National Social Assistance Program (NSAP) on August 15, 1995. The present study mainly focusing on the financial advancement of the IGNOAPS, IGWPS and IGNDPS in the Arunachal Pradesh. The sources of data used in this study is secondary in nature and collected from the Economics and Statistics department of Arunachal Pradesh. The descriptive statistics has been employed to carry out this study and the results depict that in Arunachal Pradesh under NSAP, some districts have very few beneficiaries. Both central and state government must standfast for providing financial support and assistance to the actual beneficiaries, which can lead to inclusive growth and support social security in the underserved sections of the society.

Keywords- NSAP, IGNOAPS, IGWPS, IGNDPS, Arunachal Pradesh, India.

I. INTRODUCTION

Social Assistance refers to the support from the government in the form of schemes or programmes which helps to minimise the poverty of the economically backward section of the society. Social assistance is also used alternatively with “Social Insurance”, “Social Security” or “Social Protection”. Social Assistance is concerned with reducing risk and uncertainties in the society by unfamiliar interferences which can exist in a country’s economy. Social Assistance possibly affects all the levels such as personal level, cluster level and national level economies of a country.

The National Social Assistance Scheme in India has significantly contributed to the protection and assistance of economically disadvantaged persons, thereby directly influencing the nation's progress. National Social Assistance Program (NSAP) was launched by Government of India in 15th August, 1995 to lay the foundation for a National Policy for Social Assistance for the poor. NSAP has been functioning in all the rural and urban areas of India.

NSAP, by focusing on every single section of the society aims at providing a minimum level of income to the aged people, widows and physically challenged people. It has specific schemes which aims at providing social security and safety to the bereaved families who have lost their bread-earners. NSAP aims at making poor people as financially stable

and independent which improves their living standards. With the use of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) facility, which reduces engagement of middleman ensuring maximum implementation and transparency. It also aims towards the Sustainable Development Goals by reducing poverty, food security benefits and promoting a healthy living standard.

In the course of time, the scope and coverage of NSAP has been enlarged, currently with many sub- schemes such as the Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS), Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS), Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), and the National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS). These schemes are designed to provide minimum guaranteed income as a support to the marginalised people of our country. NSAP schemes aims at participation of the maximum number of people of the country in the development process by providing them a source of income and quality life.

In India, even if there is significant progress in reducing poverty rates, a very large number of people are still living in poverty. According to the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2024, India with poverty rate of 16.4%, 234 million people are living in poverty out of the 112 countries surveyed. Poverty rate has been decreased over the years and we can see the vital role played by poverty eradication policies and social assistance schemes in a developing country like India. Government of India have implemented several interventions to safeguard the people in the form of National Social Assistance Programmes (NSAP). These programmes focus on providing financial assistance to the widows, persons with disabilities, elderly, and to the families who are suffering from the loss of a loved one.

In spite of its utmost importance and impact on development of the people and our economy, it has been observed that its implementation and functioning is not in a good condition at the states. This scheme needs a wider control and evaluation for its successful continuation and contribution. This study focuses on to analyse the current position of social assistance scheme in Arunachal Pradesh. This study will help us to know if the government policies are practiced in real by the state governments by investigating the NSAP and community equity in Arunachal Pradesh. This study will give an access towards the physical and financial advancement of some of the selected NSAP's in Arunachal Pradesh with the help of various data being collected from the state's statics department.

II. NATIONAL SOCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEMES

The Ministry of Rural Development is responsible and administrated the social welfare program in India called National Social Assistance Programme introduced in the year 1995. Under this program, NSAP taking various significant steps and number of welfare measures for the citizen of rural as well as urban areas of India which included activities like improvement of living standard, improving public health, livelihood, proving free and compulsory education to each child etc.

The Ministry of Rural Development controls NSAP and based on the allocation of fund it releases to the eligible beneficiaries. Concerned departments of the States/ UTs, such as Directorate of Social Welfare, Directorate of Social Justice and empowerment, etc., execute the schemes together with their own state pension schemes.

Presently the NSAP comprises of the five schemes namely Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS), Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS), National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and Annapurna scheme.

Table 1: Component of National Social Assistance Program (NSAP)

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	Year	Description
1.	IGNOAPS	11 th November 2007	BPL persons 60-79 years will get pension of Rs. 200 per month and 80 years of age and above will get pension of Rs. 500 per month.
2.	IGNWPS	February 2009	BPL widows 40-59 years will get pension of Rs. 200 per month.
3.	IGNDPS	February 2009	BPL persons 18-59 years with severe and multiple disabilities will get pension of Rs. 200 per month.
4.	NFBS	August, 1995	An amount of Rs. 5,000 provided in case of natural death and Rs. 10,000 provided in case of accidental death of the primary wage earner, the household will get benefit of this scheme.
5.	Annapurna Scheme	1st April, 2000	10 kgs of food grains per month provided free of cost to those senior citizens who are not getting the benefits of NOAPS.

Note: Compiled work of the researchers.

As of now in India under NSAP, a total of 2,21,30,687 number of pensioners/ beneficiaries are getting pensions under IGNOAPS, 67,83,469 number of pensioners/ beneficiaries are getting pensions under IGNWPS and 8,33,751 number of pensioners/ beneficiaries are getting pensions under IGNDPS.

Arunachal Pradesh is one of the North- Eastern State which plays a very important role in the development of the country's economy. State, with its dense forest, under-developed villages and routes needs greater attention towards social assistance schemes. The Government of Arunachal Pradesh is taking initiatives in implementing a lot of social assistance

schemes for the upgradation of its people. It has implemented social welfare schemes such as Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme, National Family Benefit Scheme, Kishori Shakti Yojna, Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme, etc. in the state.

According to a report of Controller and Auditor General of India (2023), it has been found that NSAP are not running smoothly in the state of Arunachal Pradesh. It has been observed that the state is not able to give its maximum contribution towards NSAP Schemes. NFBS (National Family Benefit Scheme), was implemented only for 2 years (2017-18 and 2018-2019) in only 12 Districts of the state. Various other lacunas such as obstruction in the submission of proposal leading to delay in disbursement of 2nd instalment, improper use of fund, unavailability of BPL list, surrendering of the fund allocated because of non-utilization, gap in digitization of beneficiaries and many more. It has been found from the report that since 2018-19, 1.44 Cr. fund is lying idle in the state. From 2017-21, state has used the fund on inadmissible items which has been given for administrative expenses only. This shows there is lack of budgetary restraint and breach of NSAP regulation by the state. Towards the monitoring and evaluation of the NSAP schemes, no audit observation has been conducted by the state level committee.

Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)

In 1995, the Central Government of India introduced its one of the flagship social assistance schemes named National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) provided pensions to the old aged BPL households whose have less than earning of Rs. 6,000 p.a. In the year 2007, 11th November the scheme was renamed as Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme.

Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS)

In February 2009, the Central Government of India added another pension scheme to its national social assistance schemes bucket named as Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS). Under this scheme in the age group of 40-64 years with Below Poverty Line (BPL) widows will get Rs. 200 per month per beneficiary.

Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension scheme (IGNDPS)

The Central Government of India again launched another pension scheme under national social assistance scheme in February 2009 and named it as Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme where in the age group of 18-64 years persons are Below Poverty Line (BPL) with severe or multiple disabilities will get Rs. 200 per month per beneficiary.

III. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Ribar (2014) the social assistance programs are intend to improve the people wellbeing but due to various factor many eligible individuals fail to take benefits from that program. This includes lack of time, difficulty in application, long procedures or bewildering rules, social and psychological factors. It is necessary to simplify the rules and streamline the eligibility for programs to reduce compliance cost for potential participants as well as for administrators.

Kabeer & Waddington (2015) conducted a systematic literature review to study the economic impact of conditional cash transfer (CCT) programmes. The paper concludes that the CCT scheme has reduced the involvement of child labor by 7% on average, even though there is little impact on girl child labor. The paper also reveals that there is no significant impact on adult labor. The CCT scheme has a positive effect on total consumption expenditure as it increases the disposable income of the very poor household.

Sharma et al. (2016) The paper was focused on analyzing the social protection programme of MGNREGA, Indira Gandhi Awas Yojana (IAY), and National Social Assistance programme (NSAP) by using a Social Accounting Matrix (SAM). The study found that government investment in these schemes in 2011-12 had a strong multiplier effect on output, income, employment, and revenue at a macro level. Such a program produces roughly 2.8 times more output and 1.77 times more in household income.

Bastagli et al. (2019) the systematic review of the impact of cash transfer programs reveals that such programmes help to monetary poverty, health and nutrition, saving, investment, and production. It also reveals that it helps to reduce physical abuse by the male partner and improves decision-making.

Shahidi (2019) suggests that one of the best ways for societies to reduce the problems caused by poverty and inequality is by providing social assistance. Such assistance in supplement provision helps the public to avoid harmful exposures and adopt practices that are helpful for their health.

Norton et al. (2020) social assistance includes employment scheme where the government provide opportunities to work to those vulnerable or marginalized people, such as to build infrastructure. Where's it also includes cash and in-kind transfers, where the government assists those people by giving a specific amount of money or in-kind resources such as food.

Vincent (2020) examines how the Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) has benefited widows in India. It is a comparative study focused on household data from IHDS I (2004-05) and IHDS II (2011-12). According to the study, women who receive this pension were able to spend more on necessities such as food and other household requirements. However, the impact is found more on IHDS I than the IHDS II. Mainly due to inflation and the inability to

change as per the changes happening in society. The paper suggests increasing the policy amount to meet the daily expenses of the beneficiaries.

Das & Mishra (2021) the social assistance Scheme, including cash transfer, plays a vital role in protecting individuals and families from economic shock and helps to prevent them from any negative impact from such shock. The study is carried out to find the result of such a social assistance scheme provided to the urban informal sector during the COVID-19 pandemic. The data revealed that only 75% have benefited from such a scheme, whereas others didn't receive any benefit due to a lack of awareness and a lack of identification documents. The data also reveal that such a scheme has contributed to reducing the ineptness of the respondent by nearly 12.24% during that period.

Khumancha (2023) The social security programs help to ensure to sustain the sustainability of its entire citizen, it helps to improve conditions through various mechanisms. In India, this scheme covers disability benefits, food security, gratuity, health insurance, medical benefits, and job assurance through various schemes. This paper is focused on such a program provided for elderly citizens, normally those who are above 60 years of age.

Lakshmanasamy (2022) the Indira Gandhi Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) aims to improve the well-being of the elderly of the country, who are above the age of 60, by providing an unconditional cash transfer based on their age. The scheme provides financial assistance of Rs. 300 to individuals aged 60-79 and Rs. 500 for those aged 80 and above. The scheme is intended to increase consumption and welfare while also uplifting household poverty. Based on the study, IGNOAPS contributed to increasing the household monthly per capita consumption expenditure by about 8%. It also helps to reduce poverty, with below-poverty-line (BPL) households experiencing a 14% rise in consumption. And overall, it has helped to lift household welfare by about 8%.

Mohurle et al. (2022) social security is a term used for the upliftment of people in unfortunate social scenarios, creating a better society, and it is the duty of the government of a country to provide such assistance where this vulnerable section can depend upon. Such assistance is needed for women, where most of the women remain marginalized for various reasons. Various assistance is needed for elderly citizens, who are dealing with various biological restrictions. Health and education assistance are the two main aspects of social security that assist children.

Unnikrishnan (2022) This paper examines the impact of the social welfare program (Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme) on the consumption behavior of households in India. It uses the longitudinal household data of 2004-05 & 2011-12 published by the India Human Development Survey. The study reveals that such recipients shift their spending toward more nutritious food, such as vegetables, fruit, milk, and meat. It shows that positive impact leading to improvement in food quality. Such a scheme is beneficial to support gender equity and also lead to better household-level consumption, alleviation from poverty, and promote social protection for aging populations.

Simangunsong & Sihotang (2023) identified that that social assistance programs shows a significant reduction of poverty rates among the beneficiaries and confirm that such programs play important roles in alleviation of poverty. The paper also state that cash transfer form of social assistance programs more immediate impact compared to in-kind assistance programs.

IV. STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

The main aim of the National Social Assistance Program (NSAP) is to provide the financial support to the elder, widow and disabled person comes under Below Poverty Line (BPL) category so that they can live their life in a minimal way. However, Arunachal Pradesh is an integral state of India and majority of the population comes under the rural area so it is important to evaluate the progress and implementation of NSAP. This study basically seeks to evaluate and examine the various NSAP namely IGNOAPS, IGNWPS and IGNDPS in Arunachal Pradesh.

V. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the present study are

- i. To understand the concept of National Social Assistance Programs launched by the government of India.
- ii. To access the financial advancement of the selected National Social Assistance Programs (IGNOAPS, IGNWPS and IGNDPS) in Arunachal Pradesh of India.

VI. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- i. When and why the National Social Assistance Programs were launched in India?
- ii. What is the financial upgradation and status of the selected National Social Assistance Programs (IGNOAPS, IGNWPS and IGNDPS) in Arunachal Pradesh?

VII. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study is descriptive in nature and the data received under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS); Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) and Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension scheme (IGNDPS) uses the 2023 Statistical Abstract of Arunachal Pradesh. For the study all 25 districts of Arunachal Pradesh and 3 schemes under National Social Assistant Program (NSAP) namely IGNOAPS, IGNWPS and IGNDPS have taken into consideration for conducting the study. The data has been abstracted for the study in the year 2023.

VIII. DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Financial progress of IGNOAPS in Arunachal Pradesh

Table 2: District-by-district breakdown of the IGNOAPS Benefits Expenditure in 2022–2023 in Arunachal Pradesh

Sl. No.	Name of the district	State Assistance				Central Assistance			
		60 to 79 years (Rs. 1300 Pension P.M)		80 Yrs and Above (Rs. 1500 Pension P.M)		60 to 79 years (Rs. 200 Pension P.M)		80 Yrs and Above (Rs. 500 Pension P.M)	
		No of Beneficiaries	Total Amount (in Rs)	No of Beneficiaries	Total Amount (in Rs)	No of Beneficiaries	Total Amount (in Rs)	No of Beneficiaries	Total Amount (in Rs)
1.	Tawang	2272	2,06,75,200	102	12,24,000	2272	4,54,400	102	51,000
2.	West Kameng	2296	2,08,93,600	71	8,52,000	2296	4,59,200	71	35,500
3.	East Kameng	1865	1,69,71,500	44	5,28,000	1865	3,73,000	44	22,000
4.	Pakke Kessang	614	55,87,400	8	96,000	614	1,22,800	8	4,000
5.	Papum Pare	3436	3,12,67,600	197	23,64,000	3436	6,87,200	197	98,500
6.	Lower Subansiri	2213	2,01,38,300	76	9,12,000	2213	4,42,600	76	38,000
7.	Kamle	1195	1,08,74,500	27	3,24,000	1195	2,39,000	27	13,500
8.	Kurung Kumey	2074	1,88,73,400	116	13,92,000	2074	4,14,800	116	58,000
9.	Kra Dadi	1843	1,67,71,300	93	11,16,000	1843	3,68,600	93	46,500
10.	Upper Subansiri	3184	2,89,74,400	3	36,000	3184	6,36,800	3	1,500
11.	West siang	3984	3,62,54,400	140	16,80,000	3984	7,96,800	140	70,000
12.	Leparada	952	86,63,200	57	6,84,000	952	1,90,400	57	28,500
13.	Shi-Yomi	783	71,25,300	73	8,76,000	783	1,56,600	73	36,500
14.	Siang	1026	93,36,600	57	6,84,000	1026	2,05,200	57	28,500
15.	Lower Siang	615	55,96,500	16	1,92,000	615	1,23,000	16	8,000
16.	Upper Siang	2491	2,26,68,100	35	4,20,000	2491	4,98,200	35	17,500
17.	East Siang	3115	2,83,46,500	104	12,48,000	3115	62,300	104	52,000
18.	Dibang Valley	254	23,11,400	4	48,000	254	50,800	4	2,000
19.	L/Dibang Valley	1410	1,28,31,000	160	19,20,000	1410	2,82,000	160	80,000
20.	Lohit	1265	1,15,11,500	83	9,96,000	1265	2,53,000	83	41,500
21.	Namsai	1110	1,01,01,000	43	5,16,000	1110	2,22,000	43	21,500
22.	Anjaw	1115	1,01,46,500	15	1,80,000	1115	2,23,000	15	7,500
23.	Tirap	3347	3,04,57,700	90	10,80,000	3347	6,69,400	90	45,000
24.	Longding	1440	1,31,04,000	183	21,96,000	1440	2,88,000	183	91,500
25.	Changlang	2801	2,54,89,100	225	27,00,000	2801	5,60,200	225	1,12,500
Total		46700	42,49,70,000	2022	2,42,64,000	46700	87,79,300	2022	10,11,000
Average (Mean)		1868	1,69,98,800	80.88	9,70,560	1868	3,51,172	80.88	40,440
Min		254	23,11,400	2	36,000	254	50,800	2	1,500
Max		3984	3,62,54,400	225	27,00,000	3984	7,96,800	225	1,12,500
Std. Deviation		1020.65	92,87,894.54	61.86	7,42,363.68	1020.65	2,06,375.96	61.86	30,931.82

Note: Data collected from Statistical abstract of Arunachal Pradesh–2023 and analysed thereafter.

Table 2 basically highlighted the district-by-district analysis of IGNOAPS disbursement in Arunachal Pradesh and which shows that there is a significant variation in both central and state assistance across the age group.

The beneficiaries whose age in between 60 to 79 years were got of Rs. 1,300 per month under state assistance and Rs. 200 per month under central assistance as a pension. On an average of number of beneficiaries per districts is 1,868 with average state assistance of Rs. 1.70 crore and central assistance of Rs. 3.51 lakh. The value of standard deviations Rs. 92.88 lakh with 1,020 beneficiaries in state assistance and standard deviation Rs. 2.06 lakh with 1,020 beneficiaries in central assistance indicate that there is a significant discrepancy across the districts which are mainly inclined by population density, administrative competence, and topographical challenges.

Again, the beneficiaries whose age is 80 years and above, were got of Rs. 1,500 per month under state assistance and Rs. 500 under central assistance as a pension. The average number of beneficiaries per district is 81 approximately with average state assistance Rs. 9.71 lakh and central assistance of Rs. 41 thousand approximately. The value of standard deviations Rs. 7.42 lakh with 62 beneficiaries approximately in state assistance and standard deviation Rs. 31 thousand with 62 beneficiaries approximately in central assistance indicate that there is a significant discrepancy across the districts.

Financial progress of IGNWPS in Arunachal Pradesh

Table 3: District-by-district breakdown of the IGNWPS Benefits Expenditure in 2022–2023 in Arunachal Pradesh

Sl. No.	Name of the district	No of Beneficiaries	40-79 years	
			State Assistance (Rs. 1700 Pension P.M)	Central Assistance (Rs. 300 Pension P.M)
			Total Amount (in Rs)	Total Amount (in Rs)
1.	Tawang	264	31,41,600	79,200
2.	West Kameng	450	53,55,000	1,35,000
3.	East Kameng	513	61,04,700	1,53,900
4.	Pakke Kessang	144	17,13,600	43,200
5.	Papum Pare	473	56,28,700	1,41,900
6.	Lower Subansiri	351	41,76,900	1,05,300
7.	Kamle	163	19,39,700	48,900
8.	Kurung Kumey	445	52,95,500	1,33,500
9.	Kra Dadi	218	25,94,200	65,400
10.	Upper Subansiri	760	90,44,000	2,28,000
11.	West siang	396	47,12,400	1,18,800
12.	Leparada	151	17,96,900	45,300
13.	Shi-Yomi	144	17,13,600	43,200
14.	Siang	164	19,51,600	49,200
15.	Lower Siang	89	10,59,100	26,700
16.	Upper Siang	124	14,75,600	37,200
17.	East Siang	349	41,53,100	1,04,700
18.	Dibang Valley	122	14,51,800	36,600
19.	L/ Dibang Valley	246	29,27,400	73,800
20.	Lohit	140	16,66,000	42,000
21.	Namsai	153	18,20,700	45,900
22.	Anjaw	196	23,32,400	58,800
23.	Tirap	366	43,55,400	1,09,800
24.	Longding	347	41,29,300	1,04,100
25.	Changlang	400	47,60,000	12,000
Total		7168	8,52,99,200	20,42,400
Average (Mean)		286.72	34,11,968	81,696
Min		89	10,59,100	12,000
Max		760	90,44,000	2,28,000
Std. Deviation		163.44	19,44,896.31	50,643.29

Note: Data collected from Statistical abstract of Arunachal Pradesh–2023 and analysed thereafter.

Table 3 basically highlighted all the 25 district-by-district analysis of IGWNPS disbursement in Arunachal Pradesh and which shows that there is a significant variation in financial disbursement across the coverage of beneficiaries. Beneficiaries will get under state assistance, Rs. 1,700 per month and central assistance Rs. 300 per month whose age in between 40 to 79 years. On an average, each district supports approximately 287 beneficiaries with mean state assistance of Rs. 34.12 lakh and central assistance of Rs. 82 thousand. However, the high rate of standard deviations for beneficiaries 163.44; for state assistance Rs. 19.45 lakh and for central assistance Rs. 50 thousand basically indicate that there is a significant gap in scheme implementation.

Financial progress of IGNDPS in Arunachal Pradesh

Table 4: District-by-district breakdown of the IGNDPS Benefits Expenditure in 2022–2023 in Arunachal Pradesh

Sl. No.	Name of the district	No of Beneficiaries	18-79 Years	
			State Assistance (Rs. 1700 Pension P.M)	Central Assistance (Rs. 300 Pension P.M)
			Total Amount (in Rs)	Total Amount (in Rs)
1.	Tawang	143	19,44,800	42,900
2.	West Kameng	137	18,63,200	41,100
3.	East Kameng	217	29,51,200	65,100
4.	Pakke Kessang	103	14,00,800	30,900
5.	Papum Pare	319	43,38,400	95,700
6.	Lower Subansiri	128	17,40,800	38,400
7.	Kamle	96	13,05,600	28,800
8.	Kurung Kumey	235	31,96,000	70,500
9.	Kra Dadi	120	16,32,000	36,000
10.	Upper Subansiri	262	35,63,200	78,600
11.	West siang	200	27,20,000	60,000
12.	Leparada	44	5,98,400	13,200
13.	Shi-Yomi	51	6,93,600	15,300
14.	Siang	71	9,65,600	21,300
15.	Lower Siang	32	4,35,200	9,600
16.	Upper Siang	95	12,92,000	28,500
17.	East Siang	221	30,05,600	66,300
18.	Dibang Valley	51	6,93,600	15,300
19.	L/ Dibang Valley	125	17,00,000	37,500
20.	Lohit	34	4,62,400	10,200
21.	Namsai	32	4,35,200	9,600
22.	Anjaw	112	15,23,200	33,600
23.	Tirap	200	27,20,000	60,000
24.	Longding	115	15,64,000	34,500
25.	Changlang	292	39,71,200	87,600
Total		3435	4,67,16,000	10,30,500
Average (Mean)		137.40	18,68,640	41,220
Min		32	4,35,200	9,600
Max		319	43,38,400	95,700
Std. Deviation		84.28	11,46,238.79	25,284.68

Note: Data collected from Statistical abstract of Arunachal Pradesh–2023 and analysed thereafter.

Table 4 basically highlighted all the 25 district-by-district analysis of IGNDPS disbursement in Arunachal Pradesh and which shows that there is a significant variation in financial disbursement across the coverage of beneficiaries. Under state assistance, beneficiaries will get Rs. 1,700 pension per month and under central assistance, beneficiaries will get Rs. 300 pension per month whose age in between 18 to 79 years.

Under IGNDPS, on an average of approximately 138 beneficiaries with mean state assistance of Rs. 18.68 lakh and mean central assistance of Rs. 41 thousand. The extensive standard deviation for beneficiaries 84.28; for state assistance Rs. 11.46 lakh and for central assistance Rs. 25 thousand basically indicate that there is a significant gap in scheme implementation and these differences basically replicate the demographic variety, administrative capacity of the district level and user-friendliness issues in the far-off region.

Table 5: Composite benefits expenditure of IGNOAPS, IGWPS and IGNDPS in 2022-23 in Arunachal Pradesh

IGNOAPS	60 to 79 years	No of Beneficiaries	46700	1st Highest
		Total Amount (in Rs) state assistance	42,49,70,000	
		Total Amount (in Rs) central assistance	87,79,300	
	80 years and above	No of Beneficiaries	2022	
		Total Amount (in Rs) state assistance	2,42,64,000	
		Total Amount (in Rs) central assistance	10,11,000	
IGNWPS	40 to 79 years	No of Beneficiaries	7168	2nd Highest
		Total Amount (in Rs) state assistance	8,52,99,200	
		Total Amount (in Rs) central assistance	20,42,400	
IGNDPS	18 to 79 years	No of Beneficiaries	3435	3rd Highest
		Total Amount (in Rs) state assistance	4,67,16,000	
		Total Amount (in Rs) central assistance	10,30,500	

Note: Compiled work of the researchers.

As per the composite disbursement report in table 5 of the IGNOAPS, IGWPS and IGNDPS in Arunachal Pradesh specify that among all the three schemes under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) has the highest number of beneficiaries and amount disbursement followed by Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) and Indira Gandhi National Disable Pension Scheme (IGNDPS).

IX. CONCLUSION

In India as well as in Arunachal Pradesh, the National Social Assistance Program (NSAP) plays a vital in the development and supporting of the helpless populations in the rural and urban areas which mainly included old age persons, widows and disable persons. While we observed the situation of the NSAP in Arunachal Pradesh, some districts have enough beneficiaries and some districts shows very a smaller number of beneficiaries under all three of the schemes namely IGNOAPS, IGWPS and IGNDPS of NSAP. Both Central and state governments are committed towards their commitment for providing the financial assistance to the actual beneficiaries which would be essential to ensure and enhance the inclusive growth and provide social security to all particularly to the underserved regions of Arunachal Pradesh.

REFERENCES

- [1] Bastagli, F., Hagen-Zanker, J., Harman, L., Barca, V., Sturge, G., & Schmidt, T. (2019). The Impact of Cash Transfers: A Review of the Evidence from Low- and Middle-income Countries. *Journal of Social Policy*, 48(03), 569–594. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0047279418000715>
- [2] Comptroller and Auditor General of India. (2022). *Chapter 1: Indirect taxes administration and revenue trend* (Compliance Audit Report No. 5 of 2022–Goods and Services Tax, Union Government, Department of Revenue). https://cag.gov.in/uploads/download_audit_report/2023/5-Chapter-1-064d229f8419ed1.30966051.pdf
- [3] Das, S., & Mishra, A. (2021). *Adequacy of Social Assistance Schemes during the COVID-19 Lockdown*. 51.
- [4] Department of Economics & Statistics, Government of Arunachal Pradesh. (2023). *Statistical abstract of Arunachal Pradesh–2023*. Civil Secretariat, Itanagar.
- [5] India, Comptroller and Auditor General. (2023). *Performance audit of National Social Assistance Scheme*. Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.
- [6] Kabeer, N., & Waddington, H. (2015). Economic impacts of conditional cash transfer programmes: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Journal of Development Effectiveness*, 7(3), 290–303. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19439342.2015.1068833>
- [7] Khumancha, O. T. (2023). Social Security and Pensions Schemes for Elderly People: Situation in India. 13.
- [8] Lakshmanasamy, T. (n.d.). *Social Assistance and Welfare in India: Propensity Score Matching Estimation of The Impact of Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme on Household Consumption*.
- [9] Mohurle, D., & Gurbani, N. (2022). Social security schemes in India: Narrative review. *International Journal of Family & Community Medicine*, 6(3), 115–118. <https://doi.org/10.15406/ijfcm.2022.06.00275>
- [10] Nikku, B. (2015). Social Assistance. In M. Odekon, *The SAGE Encyclopedia of World Poverty* (pp. 1416-1419). Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications, Inc.
- [11] Norton, A., Seddon, N., Agrawal, A., Shakya, C., Kaur, N., & Porras, I. (2020). Harnessing employment-based social assistance programmes to scale up nature-based climate action. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal*

- Society B: Biological Sciences*, 375(1794), 20190127. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2019.0127>
- [12] Sharma, A. K., Saluja, M. R., & Sarma, A. (2016). *Macroeconomic Impact of Social Protection Programmes in India*. 24.
- [13] Sharma, A. K., & M. R. (2016). Macroeconomic impact of social protection. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 51(26–27), 126.
- [14] Unnikrishnan, V. (2022). The Welfare Effects of Social Assistance Programs for Women in India. *The Journal of Development Studies*, 58(6), 1211–1230. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00220388.2022.2043277>
- [15] Vincent, M. A. (2020). *Welfare Impact of Targeted Social Assistance Programs: A Study On*. 7(4).
- [16] Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. (2025, June 8). *About us. National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)*. Retrieved June 9, 2025, from <https://nsap.nic.in/circular.do?method=aboutus>
- [17] Next IAS Team. (2025, March 24). *National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP): About, features & more*. Next IAS. Retrieved June 9, 2025, from https://www.nextias.com/blog/national-social-assistance-programme-nsap/#Significance_of_the_National_Social_Assistance_Programme_NSAP