



DAYA REHABILITATION TRUST (THANAL)
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**IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL INVESTMENT ON CARE
ECONOMY IN REDUCING SOCIAL INJUSTICE**



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ABOUT US

THANAL - DAYA REHABILITATION TRUST (DRT): The world is filled with individuals who face insurmountable challenges in their daily lives. For the most vulnerable population, access to basic necessities such as healthcare, education, and welfare can be extremely limited. This is where Thanal's unique approach of Holistic Rehabilitation for All steps in to make a difference.

Thanal is a non-governmental organization that is committed to working towards health, education, welfare, and development of the most vulnerable population. Thanal believes that rehabilitation should not just be physical, but it should also be emotional, social, and spiritual. Hence, Thanal aims to provide a holistic approach to rehabilitation that focuses on the overall well-being of the individuals.

In terms of health, our approach of holistic rehabilitation for all has set up health clinics in the areas where the most vulnerable populations reside. The clinics provide paraplegia, psychiatry, disability, renal care and socio-psycho support to those who cannot afford it. The organization also has a multidisciplinary team of medical professionals who provide bio-socio-psychological support to those who have suffered trauma or are experiencing mental health issues. DRT works towards the development of the communities in which it operates.

In the area of education, the NGO has set up micro learning centers to provide education to children who would not otherwise have access to it. The learning centers are designed to provide a safe and stimulating environment for children, where they can learn, play, and grow. The organization also runs vocational training programs for adults, which equip them with the necessary skills to find employment and become self-sufficient.

"Welfare" is an integral part of the organization's work. Thanal provides support to families who are struggling to make ends meet. This support includes food, shelter, and clothing, and is designed to help families get back on their feet. Additionally, the NGO provides micro-financing opportunities to those who are looking to start their own businesses.

Thanal and its approach of holistic rehabilitation is dedicated to making a real difference in the lives of the most vulnerable populations. By providing a holistic approach in rehabilitation, the organization is able to help individuals regain their health, education, welfare, and dignity. The young blood of Thanal work towards creating a more just and equitable world.

About the Author: Anju Mathew, Research and Documentation Officer, Daya rehabilitation Trust. Mathew is a graduate in Economics and has completed her post-graduation in Public Policy and Governance. With a strong background in economics, Mathew has developed a deep interest in social investments and public care economy.

Through this paper, Mathew aims to highlight the significance of investing in social care, particularly in the current times when social care is increasingly becoming a pressing concern for policymakers around the world.

Author brings her experience in policy analysis, having worked as a policy Research Assistant with reputed policy think tanks and academic institutions in India. During this time, she has analyzed several policy areas, including healthcare, education, and social welfare, and has gained a deep understanding of the interplay between social investments and economic growth.

With a keen interest in economics and public policy, Mathew is committed to driving positive change in society through research and policy advocacy.

ABSTRACT

The care economy is highly dependent on social investment for its smooth functioning. Social investment in the care economy involves the allocation of resources, funding, and other forms of support to ensure that individuals and communities have access to high-quality care services. Social investment is necessary to ensure that individuals and communities have access to care services that meet their needs. This includes funding for healthcare facilities, staffing, and medical equipment, as well as investments in research and development to improve the quality and effectiveness of care. It is also critical for developing and retaining a skilled workforce. This includes investments in education and training programs, as well as compensation and benefits that attract and retain qualified care professionals. It is also important for addressing social disparities and promoting more equitable access to care services. This can include investments in programs that address social determinants of health, such as poverty and housing, and that ensure that care services are accessible to underserved and marginalized populations.

Note: The findings presented in this research are solely based on secondary readings and data collection and do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the organization.

INTRODUCTION: The concept of public care economy has gained significant attention in the context of the Indian economy, particularly in the state of Kerala. In recent years, Kerala has emerged as a leading state in terms of social welfare policies and public investment in social infrastructure. According to the latest available data from the National Family Health Survey, Kerala has the highest life expectancy in India, with an average of 74.9 years. This is attributed to the state's strong focus on investing in social services, such as healthcare and education, which has led to a higher standard of living and better health outcomes for its population.

In addition, Kerala's emphasis on social investments has had a positive impact on holistic rehabilitation for individuals who require care and support. For instance, the state has implemented various initiatives to provide support and rehabilitation services to people with disabilities, such as the distribution of assistive devices and the establishment of rehabilitation centers. This has led to improved access to care and support for vulnerable populations, resulting in better outcomes for their health and wellbeing.

Furthermore, Kerala's investments in the public care economy have also contributed to its economic growth. According to a report by the Centre for Development Studies, Kerala's investment in social services has resulted in a high rate of human development, which in turn has contributed to the state's economic growth. The report further highlights that investing in social infrastructure, such as healthcare and education, can lead to higher productivity, increased human capital, and a more prosperous society.

In conclusion, the importance of social investments in the public care economy cannot be overstated, particularly in the context of the Indian economy and the state of Kerala. By investing in social infrastructure and services, Kerala has demonstrated the positive impact on holistic rehabilitation and economic growth, making a compelling case for other states to follow suit.

I. WHAT IS THE CARE ECONOMY?

The care economy is an important part of Kerala's economy, particularly as it relates to healthcare and social welfare. Kerala has a strong tradition of investing in social welfare programs such as healthcare, education, and social security, which has helped to reduce poverty and improve the overall well-being of its citizens.

In Kerala, the care economy includes a variety of paid and unpaid care work, such as healthcare, education, childcare, and domestic work. The state has a well-developed healthcare system, with a high number of public and private hospitals and clinics, as well as a large number of trained healthcare professionals.

Kerala has also implemented a number of social welfare programs aimed at supporting vulnerable populations, such as the elderly, disabled, and low-income families. For example, the state has a pension program for the elderly, a disability allowance for people with disabilities, and a social security program for low-income families.

Kerala has also implemented a number of policies aimed at improving the conditions and compensation of care workers, particularly in the healthcare sector. For example, the state has established a minimum wage for nurses and has implemented a number of training and support programs for healthcare workers.

Overall, the care economy is an important part of Kerala's economy and plays a critical role in supporting the well-being of its citizens.

II. WHAT IS SOCIAL INVESTMENT IN CARE ECONOMY?

Social investment in the care economy refers to the funding and resources that are directed towards improving the quality and accessibility of care services for individuals with healthcare needs. It encompasses a range of services including healthcare, social care, and other supportive services such as housing and employment opportunities.

Social investment in the care economy can take many forms, including public and private funding for healthcare and social care programs, as well as investment in research and development of new technologies, treatments, and interventions. It can also involve investing in the training and development of care workers, as well as the creation of new jobs in the care sector.

Social investment in the care economy is important for several reasons. First, it helps to ensure that individuals with healthcare needs have access to high-quality, affordable care services. Second, it can help to improve the overall quality of life for individuals receiving care, as well as their families and caregivers. Third, it can create jobs and stimulate economic growth by supporting the development of a skilled workforce in the care sector.

Overall, social investment in the care economy is an important strategy for promoting the well-being and dignity of individuals with healthcare needs, and for building more inclusive and equitable societies that recognize the value of all individuals.

III. HOW ARE SOCIAL INVESTMENTS IMPORTANT FOR ALLEVIATING SOCIAL INJUSTICE?

Social investments are an essential tool for alleviating social injustice, and numerous studies have shown the positive impact that social investments can have on reducing inequality and promoting more equitable and inclusive societies.

For example, a study by the World Bank found that investing in education and healthcare can lead to significant reductions in poverty and inequality. The study found that for every additional year of education, a person's income can increase by up to 10%. Additionally, providing access to healthcare services can help to reduce infant mortality rates and improve overall health outcomes, which can have a positive impact on economic growth and development (World Bank, 2018).

Another study by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) found that investing in social policies, such as healthcare, education, and social protection, can help reduce poverty and inequality, and promote economic growth. The study found that social investment can lead to a more skilled and productive workforce, which can in turn lead to higher economic growth rates (OECD, 2017).

Overall, these studies suggest that social investments can play a critical role in alleviating social injustice by providing access to basic needs, promoting education and training, and supporting research and development. By promoting more equitable and inclusive societies, social investments can help reduce poverty and inequality, and promote economic growth and development.

There are multiple sectors that are highly in need of increased social investments in the care economy. Social investment is important for homeless, disabled, psychiatric, and neuropsychiatric patients because it can help them gain access to the resources and support they need to live fulfilling lives and fully participate in society.

Social investment can help the poor gain access to basic necessities such as food, shelter, and healthcare. By investing in social programs that provide these services, we can help create more supportive and inclusive societies that recognize the dignity and value of all individuals.

For disabled, psychiatric, and neuro patients, social investment can help provide access to high-quality care and support services, which may be necessary for the ongoing management of their conditions. By investing in these services, we can ensure that these populations have access to the resources they need to lead fulfilling lives and participate in their communities.

Social investment can also help promote inclusion and reduce stigma for these populations. By creating social programs and services that are inclusive and accessible, we can help to break down barriers to participation and create more supportive and understanding communities.

In addition, social investment can help create opportunities for education, training, and employment, which can be particularly important for people with disabilities and other vulnerable populations. By investing in programs that promote these opportunities, we can help create more equitable and inclusive societies that recognize the value of all individuals.

In conclusion, social investment is important for destitute, disabled, psychiatric, and neuropsychiatric patients because it can provide them with the resources and support they require to live fulfilling lives and fully participate in society. By working together to promote these strategies, we can create more inclusive and equitable societies that recognize the dignity and value of all individuals.

IV. IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL INVESTMENT IN CARE ECONOMY TO ENSURE HOLISTIC REHABILITATION

The care economy and rehabilitation are related to each other in that they both involve the provision of support and services to vulnerable populations. Rehabilitation is a key component of the care economy, as it involves the provision of medical, social, and psychological services to individuals who have suffered an injury, illness, or disability.

According to a study by the International Labour Organization (ILO, 2008), rehabilitation is an important aspect of the care economy, as it can help to improve the health and well-being of individuals and reduce the burden on caregivers. The study notes that rehabilitation services can help individuals with disabilities to participate fully in their communities and can reduce the need for long-term care and support.

In addition to rehabilitation services, the care economy also includes a range of other services that support vulnerable populations. These services may include healthcare, education, childcare, eldercare, and social security programs.

V. THE INVESTMENTS MADE ON CARE ECONOMY BY SOCIAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OF KERALA

The Social Justice Department of Kerala has made significant investments in the care economy to support the well-being of vulnerable populations in the state. Some of the key investments made by the department include:

1. **Social Welfare Schemes:** The department has implemented a number of social welfare schemes aimed at providing support and assistance to vulnerable populations, such as the elderly, disabled, and low-income families. These schemes include pensions for the elderly, disability allowances, and social security programs for low-income families.
2. **Child Protection Services:** The department has established a number of child protection services aimed at ensuring the safety and well-being of children in the state. These services include child helplines, counseling services, and shelter homes for children in need.
3. **Healthcare Services:** The department has invested in healthcare services to support the well-being of vulnerable populations. It has established a number of public healthcare facilities, such as hospitals and clinics, and has implemented a number of healthcare programs, such as immunization drives and health awareness campaigns.
4. **Education and Training Programs:** The department has implemented a number of education and training programs to support vulnerable populations, such as the disabled and the elderly. These programs include vocational training, adult literacy programs, and skill development programs.

VI. CARE ECONOMY INVESTMENT OF GOVERNMENT OF KERALA IN REHABILITATION

The government of Kerala has made significant investments in rehabilitation under the care economy. The government has implemented a range of programs and initiatives to support the rehabilitation of individuals with disabilities, injuries, and illnesses.

According to the Economic Review 2019, published by the Government of Kerala, the state government has implemented a range of rehabilitation programs to support individuals with disabilities. For example, the government provides financial assistance for the purchase of assistive devices and medical equipment, as well as subsidies for the construction of accessible housing. The government also provides training and employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities through its Vocational Rehabilitation Centers and other initiatives.

In addition to these programs, the government of Kerala has established a number of public healthcare facilities, such as hospitals and clinics, that provide rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities and injuries. According to the same Economic Review, the state government has increased its spending on healthcare from Rs. 552.16 crores in 2000-01 to Rs. 9,951.60 crores in 2016-17, a nearly 18-fold increase. This investment has helped to improve access to healthcare and rehabilitation services for individuals across the state.

There are concerns that individuals from low-income households or rural areas may face barriers to accessing rehabilitation services, such as transportation or lack of healthcare facilities in their locality.

According to a study by the Kerala State Planning Board, there are significant disparities in healthcare access and utilization across the state. The study notes that while Kerala has a relatively high level of healthcare infrastructure and a strong public healthcare system, there are still gaps in access to care, particularly in rural areas. The study suggests that the government of Kerala should focus on improving healthcare access and reducing disparities in healthcare utilization in order to improve the overall well-being of the state's population.

The current provision may not adequately address the social determinants of health that contribute to disability and illness. For example, poverty, unemployment, and inadequate housing can all contribute to poor health outcomes, and may make it more difficult for individuals to fully participate in rehabilitation programs.

VII. SOCIAL INVESTMENT IN DISABILITY SECTOR REHABILITATION

According to the Economic Review 2021 published by the Government of Kerala, the state government has made significant investments in the disability sector rehabilitation. The government has implemented a range of programs and initiatives to support individuals with disabilities, injuries, and illnesses (Government of Kerala, 2021).

The review notes that the government of Kerala has increased its spending on the social security sector, which includes disability sector rehabilitation, from Rs. 1,704.67 crores in 2016-17 to Rs. 3,246.81 crores in 2019-20. The government has also implemented several schemes to provide financial assistance for the purchase of assistive devices and medical equipment, as well as subsidies for the construction of accessible housing. The government has established a network of vocational rehabilitation centers and other initiatives to provide training and employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

Although the government of Kerala has made significant investments in rehabilitation for individuals with disabilities, there are still some limitations to these efforts. One of the major limitations is the accessibility of rehabilitation services, particularly for individuals living in rural or remote areas.

According to a study published in the Indian Journal of Public Health Research and Development, there are significant disparities in healthcare access and utilization across the state of Kerala. The study notes that individuals from lower socio-economic backgrounds and those living in remote areas are less likely to have access to rehabilitation services. This can lead to a lack of early detection and prevention of disabilities, which in turn can lead to increased healthcare costs and reduced quality of life for affected individuals (Praveen et al., 2020).

Another limitation of the government's investment in rehabilitation is the limited scope of services provided. Some individuals may require more specialized rehabilitation services that may not be available in government-run facilities. Additionally, there may be a shortage of trained rehabilitation professionals, which can limit the availability and quality of services.

a. SOCIAL INVESTMENT IN DESTITUTES & REHABILITATION

The government of Kerala has implemented various schemes and initiatives to support the rehabilitation of destitute individuals, such as providing shelter homes, medical care, and rehabilitation services. However, there are still some limitations to these efforts.

One major limitation is the availability and accessibility of rehabilitation services for destitute individuals. The lack of capacity and resources of government-run facilities. Many rehabilitation centers may be understaffed or lack adequate resources, which can limit the availability and quality of services. Additionally, some destitute individuals may have complex needs or require specialized services that may not be available in government-run facilities.

Furthermore, the social stigma associated with destitution can also create barriers to rehabilitation. Many destitute individuals face discrimination and social isolation, which can affect their ability to access rehabilitation services and reintegrate into society.

b. SOCIAL INVESTMENT IN PSYCHIATRIC & REHABILITATION

The government of Kerala has taken various initiatives to support the rehabilitation of people with psychiatric issues. However, there are some limitations to these efforts.

One major limitation is the lack of adequate mental healthcare infrastructure and resources. According to a study by the Kerala State Mental Health Authority, there is a shortage of mental healthcare professionals, such as psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, and psychiatric social workers, in the state (Kerala State Mental Health Authority, 2016). This shortage can limit the availability and quality of mental healthcare services, which can affect the rehabilitation of people with psychiatric issues.

Another limitation is the lack of community-based rehabilitation services. Many people with psychiatric issues require ongoing support and rehabilitation to reintegrate into society, but community-based rehabilitation services are often lacking. This can make it more difficult for

people with psychiatric issues to access the support they need and can increase their risk of social isolation and marginalization.

Furthermore, social stigma associated with mental illness can create barriers to rehabilitation. Many people with psychiatric issues face discrimination and social exclusion, which can affect their ability to access rehabilitation services and reintegrate into society.

c. SOCIAL INVESTMENT IN NEURO REHABILITATION

The government of Kerala has taken various initiatives to support the rehabilitation of people with brain and spine injuries. However, there are some limitations to these efforts.

One major limitation is the shortage of rehabilitation professionals in the state. According to a study by the Indian Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, there is a shortage of trained rehabilitation professionals, such as physiotherapists and occupational therapists, in the state (Prabhu, 2016). This shortage can limit the availability and quality of rehabilitation services, which can affect the rehabilitation of people with brain and spine injuries.

Another limitation is the lack of specialized rehabilitation centers. There are few specialized rehabilitation centers in the state that offer advanced rehabilitation services to people with brain and spine injuries. This can limit the availability of specialized rehabilitation services and increase the cost of rehabilitation for patients.

Furthermore, the social stigma associated with disability can create barriers to rehabilitation. Many people with brain and spine injuries face discrimination and social exclusion, which can affect their ability to access rehabilitation services and reintegrate into society.

VIII. HOW PPP (PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP) MODEL AIDS SOCIAL INVESTMENTS IN REHABILITATION UNDER CARE ECONOMY

PPP model has the potential to enhance the success of social investments in rehabilitation under care economy in Kerala and India. PPP can leverage the strengths of both the public and private sectors to deliver efficient, effective, and sustainable rehabilitation services.

One key advantage of PPP is that it can increase the availability and quality of rehabilitation services. Private sector participation can help address the shortage of trained professionals and specialized rehabilitation centers. Private sector participation can also bring in new technologies and innovations that can improve the quality of rehabilitation services.

Another advantage of PPP is that it can improve the financial sustainability of rehabilitation services. Private sector participation can help mobilize additional financial resources to support the rehabilitation sector. In addition, PPP can encourage cost-sharing between the public and

private sectors, which can reduce the burden on the government and increase the efficiency of resource use.

Furthermore, PPP can help to ensure the accountability and transparency of rehabilitation services. Private sector participation can bring in expertise and experience in project management and accountability, which can help ensure that rehabilitation services are delivered efficiently and effectively.

However, there are also challenges associated with PPP in rehabilitation. One key challenge is ensuring that the PPP model is equitable and accessible to all, including the poor and marginalized. Another challenge is ensuring that the private sector is accountable and transparent in its operations.

Overall, PPP has the potential to enhance the success of social investments in rehabilitation under the care economy in Kerala and India. To achieve this, it is important to establish a supportive policy and regulatory framework that encourages private sector participation and ensures the equitable and efficient delivery of rehabilitation services.

IX. HOW IMPORTANT ARE SOCIAL INVESTMENTS IN THE CARE ECONOMY?

Community-based rehabilitation (CBR) and investments in the care economy are important for individuals with disabilities, neurorehabilitation patients, psychiatric patients, and destitutes because they can help to provide the necessary support and resources for these populations to live fulfilling lives and participate fully in society.

For individuals with disabilities, CBR can help to improve access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities. By empowering individuals with disabilities and their families to be active participants in their own rehabilitation, CBR can help to create more inclusive and supportive communities that recognize the contributions and rights of people with disabilities.

Investments in the care economy can help to provide access to high-quality care for individuals with neurorehabilitation needs and psychiatric patients, who may require ongoing support and assistance to manage their conditions. By investing in the care economy, we can ensure that these populations have access to the services and support they need to live fulfilling lives and participate in their communities.

For destitutes, CBR and investments in the care economy can be particularly important in providing access to basic needs such as food, shelter, and healthcare. By empowering communities to be active participants in the rehabilitation and care of destitute populations, we can help create more supportive and inclusive societies that recognize the dignity and value of all individuals.

In all cases, CBR and investments in the care economy are important strategies for promoting the rights and well-being of individuals with disabilities, neurorehabilitation patients, psychiatric patients, and destitutes. By working together to support these populations, we can help create a more equitable and inclusive society for all.

X. CONCLUSION: In conclusion, the evidence suggests that social investments in the public care economy are crucial for ensuring holistic rehabilitation and sustainable economic growth. While Kerala has emerged as a leading state in this regard, other states in India and countries around the world can learn from its example and adopt similar policies.

However, there are also criticisms around the implementation of these policies, particularly regarding their financial sustainability. Critics argue that investing in social infrastructure and services can lead to high public spending and fiscal deficits, which can be a burden on the economy in the long run.

To address these concerns, policymakers can consider adopting innovative financing mechanisms, such as social impact bonds, public-private partnerships, and results-based financing. These mechanisms can provide a way to mobilize private capital and leverage public funds to finance social investments in a sustainable and accountable manner.

Moreover, policymakers should also focus on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of social investments by adopting evidence-based policies and rigorous monitoring and evaluation frameworks. This can help ensure that public funds are allocated in the most effective and efficient manner, leading to better outcomes for vulnerable populations and sustainable economic growth.

Overall, social investments in the public care economy are critical for building inclusive and sustainable societies. By adopting evidence-based policies and innovative financing mechanisms, policymakers can address the criticisms around these policies and ensure that they are financially sustainable and effective in improving the lives of vulnerable populations.

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