



# PALANHAR YOJANA IN RAJASTHAN

A Field Study of the Cash Transfer Scheme to the vulnerable children

By  
CULP – Centre for Unfolding Learning Potentials

Supported by



2022-23

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Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS)

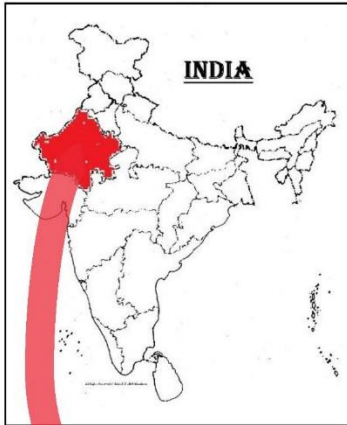
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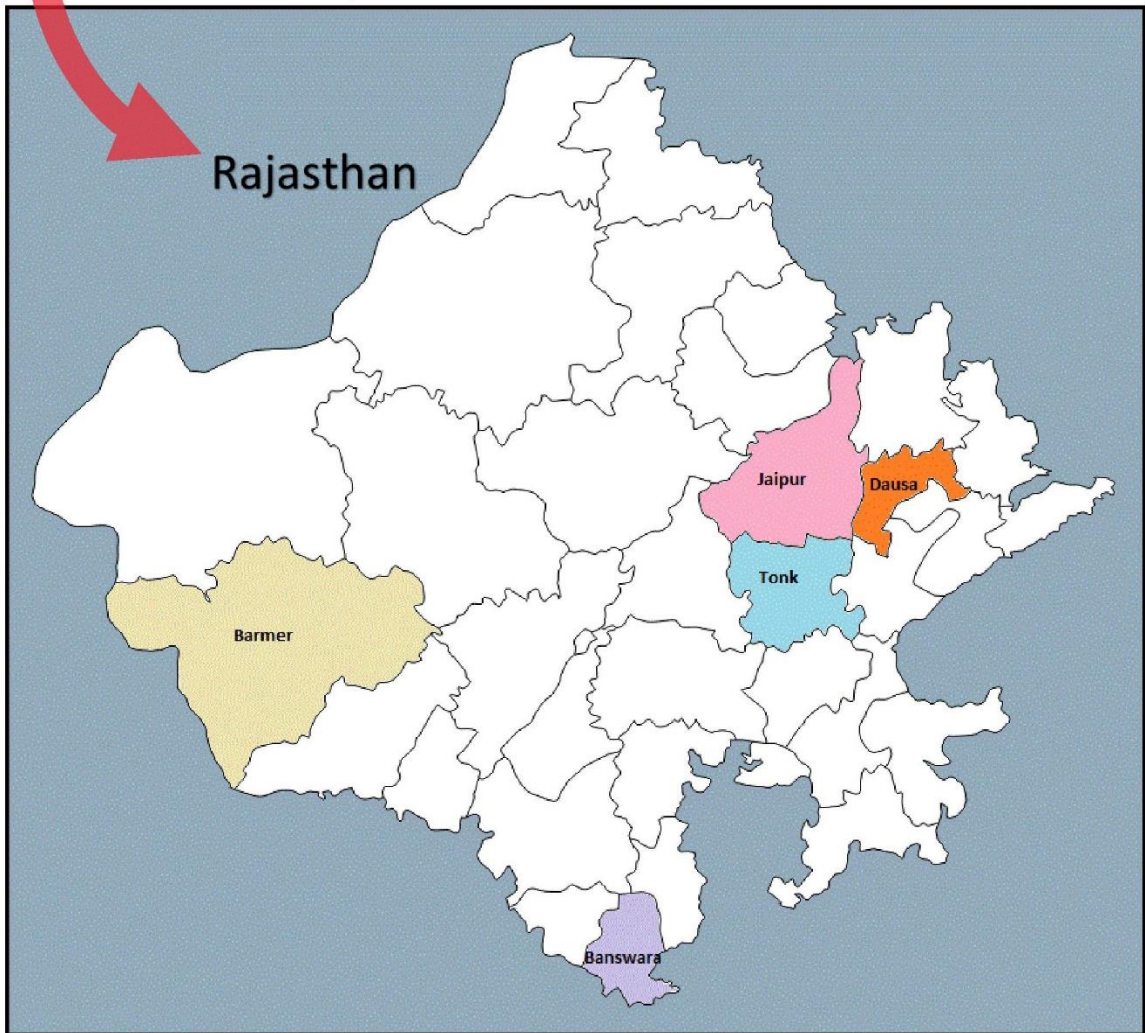
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2. Dharmesh Bhardwaj, Banswara;
3. Hemant Kumar Sharma, Dausa;
4. Mukesh Kumar Sharma, Tonk



**Geographical Coverage of the Field Study  
on Palanhar Yojana in Rajasthan**



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**Dr. O. P. Kulhari**

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## ABBREVIATIONS, ACRONYMS AND VERNACULAR TERMS

<b>Aadhar Card</b>	: A Certificate containing 12-digit unique identity number that can be obtained voluntarily by the citizens of India and resident foreign nationals who have spent over 182 days in twelve months immediately preceding the date of application for enrolment, based on their biometric and demographic data.
<b>AD</b>	: Assistant Director
<b>APF</b>	: Azim Premji Foundation
<b>AWC(s)</b>	: Anganwadi Centre(s) at village level where six services namely Supplementary Nutrition, Health & Nutrition, Pre-school Education, Immunization, Referral Services and Health Check-up are provided to children aged 0-6 years and Pregnant Women & Lactating Mothers under ICDS
<b>Anganwadi Worker(s)</b>	: Women Volunteer Worker(s) responsible for running AWC and whose mandate is to provide pre-school education for children under six, and nutritional support and healthcare for children and pregnant or lactating mothers, to reduce mortality, morbidity, and malnutrition.
<b>Asha Sahyogini(s)</b>	: Asha Sahyogini(s) are multipurpose Women health workers who mostly work at the primary health centres, and vaccinate children, and do check-ups for pregnant women. They further report to the government headquarters.
<b>ANM</b>	: Auxiliary Nursing Midwife, mostly works at sub-health centre, primarily responsible for child and women health care, and vaccination of children, and does check-ups for pregnant women.
<b>Bhamashah Card</b>	: The Bhamashah scheme aims to make women financially independent and provides the benefits of multiple other schemes through the Bhamashah Yojana. The Bhamashah card given under this Yojana is linked to a bank account in the name of the woman of the house.
<b>BSY</b>	: The <i>Bal Sangopan Yojana</i> , a scheme being implemented by the Government of Maharashtra to help orphan, homeless and other vulnerable children in the age group of 0 to 18 years. Under this scheme, the state government provides financial assistance to the students of economically weaker sections for their education.
<b>Caregiver(s)</b>	: Both biological parents (mother and father) and Non-biological close relatives of the child.
<b>Case Study(ies)</b>	: A process or record of research in which detailed consideration is given to the development of a particular person, group, or situation over a period of time
<b>CBO(s)</b>	: Community-based Organization(s)
<b>CDPO</b>	: Child Development Project Officer



<b>Cess</b>	: Special tax imposed by the Government for collecting money to provide assistance to the people who are in need.
<b>Child line</b>	: CHILDLINE 1098 is a phone number that spells hope for millions of children across India. It is a 24-hour a day, 365 days a year, free, emergency phone service for children in need of aid and assistance.
<b>Covid Lockdown</b>	: The government banned the movement of the general public and restricted them to stay at home for stopping the spread of the Corona Virus (Covid-19).
<b>CPC(s)</b>	: Child Protection Committee(s)
<b>CSG</b>	: Child Support Grant
<b>CSO(s)</b>	: Civil Society Organization(s)
<b>CSRs</b>	: Corporate Social responsibility(ies)
<b>CSSP</b>	: Child-Sensitive Social Protection
<b>CULP</b>	: Centre for Unfolding Learning Potentials
<b>CWC(s)</b>	: Child Welfare Committee(s)
<b>DSJE</b>	: Department of Social Justice and Empowerment , responsible for implementation of Palanhar scheme
<b>E-Mitra</b>	: An E-governance initiative of Government of Rajasthan which is being implemented in all 33 Districts of the state using Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model for convenience and transparency to citizens in availing various services of the Government and Private Sectors under a single roof at their door steps using an e- platform
<b>FCG</b>	: Foster Child Grant
<b>FY</b>	: Financial Year (from April to March in India)
<b>GNB Network</b>	: Girls Not Brides, a Global Alliance for ending child marriage
<b>GP</b>	: Gram Panchayat, a 'Village Council 'is a basic village-governing and political institute, acting as cabinet of the village. It is a democratic structure at the grass-roots level in India.
<b>Gram Sabha</b>	: A General Body of the Gram Panchayat. <i>Gram Sabha</i> consists of every adult member of village while Gram Panchayat is the executive committee consists of elected members of <i>Gram Sabha</i> to work for the village development.
<b>Gram Sevak</b>	: <i>Gram Sevak</i> is also known as GP Secretary / <i>Sachiv</i> . She / he is appointed at GP level by the government to assist the Sarpanch in her / his daily functioning.
<b>HIV / AIDS</b>	: Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) that attacks the body's immune system and leads to Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) if it is not treated..
<b>ICDS</b>	: Integrated Child Development Scheme
<b>IEC</b>	: Information Education and Communication
<b>ICPS</b>	: Integrated Child protection Scheme
<b>INGO(s)</b>	: international Non-Governmental Organization(s)



<b>IRD</b>	: Integrated Rural Development Program
<b>IVRS</b>	: Interactive Voice Response System
<b>Jan Aadhar Card</b>	: An official document in Rajasthan, which contains data on every resident of Rajasthan. On December 18, 2019, the Rajasthan government announced the introduction of the Jan Aadhar Card. This card will succeed the previous government's Bhamashah card.
<b>JJB</b>	: Juvenile Justice Board
<b>KISS</b>	: Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences
<b>LEAP</b>	: Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty
<b>M&amp;E</b>	: Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>MIS</b>	: Management Information System
<b>Mukhyamantri Corona Bal Kalyan Yojana</b>	: A Relief Package for Covid-19 orphans and widows announced by the Chief Minister of Rajasthan on June 13, 2021.
<b>Mukhyamantri Hunar Vikas Yojana</b>	: A State Government Scheme for supporting <a href="#">Training for skill development, further studies to vulnerable children and beneficiaries of Palanhar Yojana.</a>
<b>Nata / Nata Pratha</b>	: Nata Pratha, a centuries-old custom in Rajasthan, allows men to live with women they are not married to. Women who follow the regressive practice leave their children behind when they go to live with another man.
<b>NCRB</b>	: National Crime Record Bureau
<b>NGO(s)</b>	: Non-Governmental Organization(s)
<b>OBC</b>	: other Backward Castes
<b>Palanhar</b>	: Caregiver to the child
<b>Palanhar Beneficiaries</b>	: Vulnerable children (0 to 18 years) get benefit from the Palanhar Yojana
<b>Palanhar Graduates</b>	: Beneficiary(ies) of the scheme achieved the maximum age (18+ years) and now no more eligible to continue the benefit of the scheme
<b>Palanhar Mitra</b>	: Person supports the eligible children by facilitating the process of accessing the benefit of the scheme.
<b>Palanhar Portal</b>	: Online platform for getting registered by eligible children for the benefit of the scheme.
<b>Palanhar Plus</b>	: An innovative program of Save the Children was implemented for Strengthening a Cash Transfer Programme (Palanhar) of the State government for Orphans and other Vulnerable Children in <i>Dungarpur, Rajasthan.</i>
<b>Palanhar Yojana</b>	: A Cash Transfer Scheme of the Government of Rajasthan for Care and Development of Vulnerable children in non-institutional setting.
<b>Palanhar 2.0</b>	: Second version of Palanhar scheme named as 'Palanhar 2.0' is being planned by the state government, which will focus on care, protection and all-round development of children.

<b>Pandit</b>	: A Priest of the temple, performs religious activities at worship place.
<b>Parents</b>	: Biological Caregivers (Mother and Father) of a child who needs care and development in the family setting.
<b>PM Awas Yojana (PMAY)</b>	: <i>Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana</i> is an initiative by the Government of India in which affordable housing are provided to the poor
<b>Prashasan Gaon Ke Sangh Abhiyan</b>	: A flagship scheme of the Government of Rajasthan, under which a wide range of people's grievances are resolved on the spot.
<b>PRIs</b>	: Panchayat Raj Institutions
<b>Pujari</b>	: A person performs religious and cultural rituals on special social occasions in the family
<b>RSCPCR</b>	: Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights
<b>RSLDC</b>	: Rajasthan Skill and Livelihood Development Corporation
<b>RtE Act</b>	: Right to Education Act 2009 was passed by the Parliament of India for ensuring Free and Compulsory Education to all children (6 to 14 years) in 2009 and being implemented since April 2010 across the country.
<b>Sarpanch</b>	: Chairperson of Village Council (GP), elected by <i>Gram Sabha</i>
<b>SC</b>	: Schedule Castes
<b>SDG(s)</b>	: Sustainable Development Goal(s)
<b>SDMC(s)</b>	: School Development and Management Committee(s)
<b>Shala Darpan</b>	: A database management portal, where information about all government schools and education offices is kept online and updated as a continuous process. In this portal, "live data" is compiled in connection with primary and secondary education students, schools and academic and non-academic staff.
<b>SMC(s)</b>	: School Management Committee(s)
<b>SPS(s)</b>	: Social Protection Scheme(s)
<b>SSSR</b>	: Shiv Shiksha Samiti Ranoli, an NGO in Tonk district
<b>ST</b>	: Scheduled Tribes
<b>SURE</b>	: Society to Uplift Rural Economy
<b>TC</b>	: Transfer Certificate, issued by school to its student who wants to seek admission in other school
<b>ToRs</b>	: Terms of Reference
<b>UN Agency(ies)</b>	: United Nation's Organization(s) such as UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP etc.
<b>UNCRC</b>	: United Nation's Convention on Rights of the Child
<b>UTRC</b>	: Under-Trial Review Committee
<b>Ward Panch(es)</b>	: The <i>Gram Panchayat</i> is divided into wards, and each ward is represented by a Ward Member or a Panch, who is directly elected by the villagers.
<b>WCD</b>	: Women and Child development
<b>Zila Parishad</b>	: Zila Parishad is a District Development Council of the Panchayati Raj system

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Child-Sensitive Social Protection secures basic incomes and reduces risks for children in extreme poverty and/or without family care, and takes into account the voices and views of children and their caregivers. Social protection policies and programs are an essential element of realizing child rights and breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty. Policies designed and implemented with children in mind can significantly increase benefits for children including: educational attainment, health care access, adequate nutrition and reduction in risk of abuse, exploitation and neglect.

Several Social Protection Schemes (SPSs) have been launched by both Central Government and State government during last three decades to reduce the vulnerability of marginalized population in the state of Rajasthan. The Palanhar Yojana is one of them as caregiver scheme to the children in need of care and development which has been launched on February 2005 by the state government as a cash transfer program. Initially, this initiative was launched for scheduled caste orphans. After undergoing several amendments, the benefits of Palanhar Yojana have been extended to 10 categories of children implemented by the Social Justice & Empowerment Department, aiming to reducing the vulnerability of children with limited parental care.

Since the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, needed an action plan based on an in-depth study through field survey which includes the consultations with all key stakeholders and discussions with the parents and children as beneficiaries. On the basis of the findings the department was to prepare an action plan for Palanhar2.0. The present study is an out-come of the need and collaborative effort of UNICEF, Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences and Centre for Unfolding Learning Potentials (CULP). The study becomes relevant since it reflects on the ground reality of the implementation of the scheme through the qualitative documentation and identifying the areas of its further improvement.

The specific objectives of the study are as:

- To provide field level insights in the larger body of work through documentation of the journey, progress, and growth pattern of the Palanhar Scheme.
- To understand the impact on the lives of beneficiaries in holistic by Palanhar 1.0.
- To identify the challenges in the process for scheme to be more beneficiary oriented and recommendation for improving the business process
- To share recommendations for improving the scheme and linking Palanhar scheme with other social benefit schemes including non- cash benefits, provided to the family and children.

To achieve the above objectives a multi-stakeholders participatory approach was adopted in the design of the qualitative Study of the *Palanhar* Scheme. A robust analysis framework followed the result- based data management and reviewed through consultative workshops at state and district levels for which an Assessment matrix was used which included the objective-wise key information areas, source and method. The proposed methods mainly focused on collection of mostly qualitative data.

The following key methods were used for both secondary (Documents procured from the government

departments, academia, UNICEF, INGOs, Professional Institutions etc.) and primary data collection (State and District level Consultative workshops, Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) with Palanhar Graduated Beneficiaries (18+) and Caregivers (both biological and non-biological) and Interviews with individual key stakeholders. The data collection tools / questionnaires were developed by the research team members and finalized after three consultations with the experts of the partner organizations, viz. KISS and UNICEF.

The following Study sample was selected for the primary data:

- Four districts viz. Banswara, Barmer, Dausa and Tonk located in different four administrative divisions (Udaipur, Jodhpur, Jaipur and Ajmer) set-up by the state government which represented socio-geographical diversity of the state of Rajasthan.
- Six blocks, two blocks in rural regions and two to three habitations in peri-urban or urban regions of each of four districts;
- 32 FGDs were organized against the 24 proposed FGDs, 3 to 4 FGDs in each of 8 blocks and urban regions of in in four districts.
- Average 50 graduated beneficiaries (18+) and 50 caregivers were participated in the FGDs organized in the four districts.
- Conducted Individual interviews with 127 representatives of 5 categories of key stakeholders in four sampled districts.
- One State level & four district level Consultative workshops with key stakeholders, one in Banswara district; second in Barmer, third in Dausa and fourth in Tonk district. In all five consultative workshops, 192 representatives of five categories of key stakeholders participated.
- 31 case studies of the eligible beneficiaries (18+), caregivers (both biological and non-biological parents) and denial cases were documented to support the quantitative data of the respondents.

The data (both quantitative and qualitative) of the respondents were consolidated and analyzed focusing on the on the following key components / issues:

- Mechanisms and dynamics of the Palanhar Scheme.
- Enabling Environment for vulnerable children and their *Palanhars*.
- Impact of Covid-19 on implementation of the scheme and lives of the beneficiaries;
- Special focus on adolescent children, girls and socially excluded and economically most vulnerable children.

The data (both primary and secondary) have been analyzed in chapter 3 and 4 respectively of this report which has been summarized as:

The key elements and the progressive trend of the Palanhar Scheme across last 17 years which was consolidated in the light of the available documents viz. recently organized comprehensive documentation and Desk Review, one state level and four district level consultative workshops, and three presentations made by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DSJE), Government of

Rajasthan, UNICEF Rajasthan, Save the Children and others.

The **Desk review reports** the approaches for Child Protection like improving of Systems, and Family environment, non-institutional alternative care, Protective factors, public health and analyses in detail about the Non-institutional Alternative Care and its various models.

After analysing the documents, the report says “the scheme and its implementation mechanism have evolved in terms of processes to identify, link, renew and transfer online cash assistance to the beneficiaries. Palanhar is currently one of the country's most prominent models of family-based kinship care’. It also refers to the categories of eligible beneficiary children and the common eligibility criterion to become Palanhar as set by the government.

The report mentions major milestones since inception of the scheme in February 2005 till 2022. It shows the changes made during the course of implementation. It also mentioned the application process and the renewal process for Palanhar and mandatory aid provided in the scheme in various categories.

The study also provides quick review of good practices in non-institutional and family care approach, globally and in-country, claims that while Palanhar is itself unique as the largest cash transfer program. The year-wise expenditure of the Palanhar scheme has also presented in the report to show the upward progress in terms of financial disbursement.

The study also mentioned that there should be a convergence of the Palanhar scheme with wider social security and skill development programmes of the state government, especially the *Mukhyamantri Hunar Vikas Yojana* is expected to further build a path to integration for children who are expected to graduate from Palanhar upon attaining adulthood and become more employable and productive for themselves, their families and the state.

**Consultations with Key Stakeholders:** Five consultative workshops were held with the key stakeholders, a one-day state level workshop at Jaipur (49 participants) and four district level workshops (143 participants) in study sampled districts in the month of December 2022. The major objective of the consultative workshops was to assess the perspective of the government. Progressive trend of the Palanhar scheme and ground reality of the implementation and monitoring of the scheme by understanding the perceptions of the frontline workers and representatives of other key stakeholders.

The Desk Review and Consultations suggested three key areas of the improvement in the Palanhar 2.0:

- Technical Up-gradation Issues – Capacities, Participation, Data, and needs to be strengthened especially the beneficiary interface.
- Systems integration– Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), Documentation, Impact analysis (how beneficiaries / caregivers used the amount; and need of case study documentation);
- Convergence vectors– Social Security, Skills Development, and Vocational & Higher Education.

The following key issues emerged from reports of the DSJE, UNICEF and ‘Palanhar Plus’ by Save the Children in Dungarpur district and consultations which need to be tackled during future interventions and expansion of the scheme:

- About seven lakh children are getting benefitted by the scheme. Despite a substantial budget for the scheme there exist no budgetary provision for administration of the scheme.

- Given the size of the scheme and the fact that the schemes seeks to benefit the most vulnerable children a strong need is felt to establish robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track the progress of children that are receiving benefits under this scheme
- Although, there is no provision of deploying workers at grassroots level under the scheme, even though the grassroots workers of the other line departments lack the required resources and trainings to support the implementation of the scheme.
- Very few awareness / IEC and training material is available for generating awareness about the scheme; and capacity building of SJED staff and other stakeholders about Palanhar. There is no specific plan implemented to orient the caregivers, field level / frontline workers on non-institutional alternative care approach.
- The application process is quite complicated and expensive exercise in terms of both time and money for the eligible vulnerable population to complete the process of registration in the scheme. There should be made a provision of availability of E-Mitra Centre within the jurisdiction of every Gram Panchayat.
- In context of current inflation rate, the amount being given to the beneficiaries of the Yojana is meagre and doesn't suffice to meet the children's basic needs.
- It emerges from some of the case studies and observations/ perceptions of the community people, the rights of children are either violated or ignored or beneficiary children are discriminated in some of non-biological caregivers' homes, and received amount is solely not utilized on their care / protection and development. This requires a strong M&E systems and mechanisms in place.
- There is a need to look at a model to support the children graduating/ exiting this scheme after 18 years of age. This can be by way of skill development for employment/ self-employment, hostel facilities, access to credit/ subsidy, etc.

The qualitative **primary data** were gathered from the beneficiaries, caregivers, implementers and representatives of Community leaders and PRIs (Sarpanches and members). The data were collected with the active support of the concerned officials of Departments of SJE, Child Rights, WCD and Panchayat Raj, Education, and local NGOs by involving the trained local investigators. The primary data elicited through the field surveys have been consolidated and analyzed / discussed in chapter 4 of the report. Based on this exercise, the key findings of the study have been prepared.

The **interactive meetings** were organized by the Field Investigation team members with the general mass of the community at diverse locations in the sampled blocks of four district. The major objective of organizing the community interaction was to establish the rapport / contact points, understanding the awareness level of the general mass, and deprivation of the eligible children from the benefit of the scheme and reasons.

The **FGDs** were organized with two types of primary stakeholders namely Palanhar graduated beneficiaries (18+) and caregivers (of both graduated beneficiaries and currently availing the benefits) in the eight blocks of four sampled districts. The separate FGD sessions were held with both types of the stakeholders. Total 205 beneficiaries and 194 caregivers participated in these FGDs.

The following key issues were considered for eliciting perceptions of the target group:

1. Source of Information and support to the beneficiaries.
2. Challenges / difficulties for accessing the benefits of the scheme.
3. Duration of benefits which beneficiary accessed.
4. Cash transfer to the beneficiary.
5. Career Guidance & Skill trainings to graduated beneficiaries (18+)
6. Suggestions for improvement by beneficiaries.

**Personal Interviews** of beneficiaries (18+) and stakeholders were conducted through structured interview questions to capture and assess the voices of Palanhar graduates, parents or guardians and other stakeholders like government officials, NGO representatives and PRIs on the scheme were conducted in eight blocks of all the sampled districts viz. Dausa, Tonk, Banswara and Barmer.

The issue-based key findings emerged from both primary and secondary data have been summarized along with recommendations which are as follows:

#### **KEY FINDINGS**

**1. Big Gender Gap in beneficiary data:** About seven lakh children are getting benefitted under the scheme. It has been clearly emerged that only 22 percent of female beneficiary children got registered on the portal till date whereas male beneficiaries are 78 percent.

**2. Lack of Mass Awareness about the Scheme:** Very few awareness / IEC and training material is available to government frontline workers, implementers and CBOs to utilize mass awareness and education.

**3. Promoting beneficiary children to enroll or retain in government schools:** Around 70% beneficiary children study in private schools as reflected from discussion with key stakeholders (including government field level officials during the district level consultations in Banswara and Tonk districts, so a large amount of the assistance goes to these schools.

**4. Delay in updation of the beneficiary data on portal:** The beneficiary or caregiver is not able to update her information on the portal.

**5. Review and Feedback System:** No Effective Channel for Communication between beneficiary / caregivers and the concerned government body at local level (block and district) since no budgetary provisions are available under the scheme for the same.

**6. Grievance Redressal Mechanism:** Not aware where / which government department or official to lodge the grievance.

**7. Ineffective Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Mechanism:** There is no evidences of robust M&E System in place.

**8. GO – NGO Collaboration:** It has been realized during discussions with the key stakeholders that the GO – NGO collaboration will help the effective implementation and monitoring of the scheme at grassroots level.

**9. Interdepartmental Convergence:** There is a need for better inter-departmental coordination covering SJED, DWCD, Education, Panchayat Raj and other concerned line departments / programs at different levels from state to district, block, GP / Ward. etc.



**10. Dropping out of the Beneficiaries from scheme:** 46 percent (N=94) of the beneficiaries dropped out before the maximum upper age and grade level, of which 40% were female dropped outs.

**11. Complexity of the Registration and Renewal Process:** The application process is quite complicated and expensive exercise in terms of both time and money for the eligible vulnerable population to complete the process of registration in the scheme. Most of the beneficiaries were not aware how much facilitation fee is legally allowed to pay to the E-Mitra for getting registered on online portal. E-Mira Centre was used to charge an amount of Rs.100 to 300/- per case.

**12. Delay in disbursement of the monthly Instalment amount:** Mostly the delay in cash transfer happened during the shifting from manual / offline to its digitization (on-line) by a centralized system. The delay also happened due to delay in submission of verification certificates, non-availability of funds for a particular district for certain time, or change of the information of the caregivers for bank transaction.

**13. Inadequate Amount under Scheme:** In recent years, amount significantly increased for the category of orphaned children while for other categories the amount is same for last several years. In context of current inflation rate, the amount being given to the beneficiaries, especially studying at secondary level is meagre and doesn't suffice to meet the children's basic needs.

**14. Parenting issue:** It emerges from some of the case studies and observations/ perceptions of the community people, the rights of children are either violated or ignored or beneficiary children are discriminated in some of non-biological caregivers' homes, and received amount is solely not utilized on their care / protection and development.

**15. Counselling and Capacity Building Training for Career Development of graduating beneficiaries:** Apart from the cash support, no career counselling and skill training sessions were organized with the beneficiaries.

**16. Need for redefining the eligibility criteria:** The maximum income of the Caregiver family has been capped with Rs.1.20 lakhs per annum which was decided in the initial year of launching the scheme.

**17. Inclusion of new categories of vulnerable children:** There is certain categories of vulnerable children have not yet been covered under the purview of the Palanhar Yojana. The vulnerable children of some new categories have not been covered under the *Palanhar* scheme need to be included under the scheme They are: (i) Children rescued from labour and early marriage especially girls who have got their marriage annulled end up suffering from social boycott, etc.; (ii) Children lost mother, and father is alive but either he is not able to take care of his children. (iii) Demented children; (iv) Under-aged dropped-out children registered with open school system.(v) Children of UTRC inmates: Rajasthan currently has the highest undertrial period as per NCRB (around 8-9 years). During this time the children of the under trials are left without any aid / support by the state when the mother / father is in the prison awaiting judgment. (vi) In tribal districts like *Banswara* and *Dungapur*, when the mother dies the father remarries or abandons the children (*Nata Pratha*). This group of children forms one of the most vulnerable groups as they are left without care and protection but are still outside the purview of the scheme.

**18. Sensitization of Grassroots level key stakeholders / service providers:** The key stakeholders, viz. frontline workers, E-Mitra operators and PRIs & CBOS are not either aware or sensitized enough to support the target beneficiaries to access the Palanhar scheme.

**19. Utilization of received amount:** It has also been reflected from both primary and secondary data that some of the beneficiary families use the money received on paying family debt, rebuilding the house, paying electricity bills and investment in family business, leaving little for children's use and realizes.

## **KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following action points as key recommendations emerged from the key findings have been categorized:

### **1. Beneficiary (Palanhar) Children**

1.1. As observed from the gender gap in both secondary data of the beneficiaries and field observations, large number of eligible girls are still deprived of accessing the benefits of the scheme for which the special attention is required through mobilization and sensitization of the community and increased participation of women in planning, implementation and monitoring of the scheme and special provisions like increased amount exclusively for girls.

1.2. The remedial measures should be taken immediately to bring back to the dropped-out beneficiaries by providing some additional support to them.

1.3. Career counselling support should be provided to the beneficiaries from the age when they need to decide about which subjects to opt for and then continue throughout the cycle of school and college education. The graduated beneficiaries (18+) who are continuing their studies should be given information well in advance about other schemes from they can get benefit for continuing their higher studies or professional courses.

### **2. Caregivers (Palanhar)**

2.1. The caregivers need proper orientation / articulation for their parenting and sensitization.

2.2. An additional support should be provided to the parents of Special Categories who have differently-abled children and caregivers of orphaned children.

2.3. In light of new vulnerable categories (as stated in key findings no.17), a government position can be granted the power to declare "Special Categories" when required. As per the local practices, social norms and other categories these "Special Categories" can help in recognizing the existing eligibility gaps and address those which may arise in future.

### **3. Administration and Implementers (duty bearers)**

3.1. The problem of delay in updation of beneficiary data can be resolved at local level by involving Gram Panchayat or School. Updated information should be shared with the caregiver through phone calls since most of the caregivers are illiterate. Bulk SMS to beneficiaries phone numbers mapped with the scheme portal, display on information board of concerned institutions (E-Mitra, Anganwadi centre/ School, Panchayat), sharing of information during Gram Sabha, etc. can be explored.

3.2. The grievance Redressal mechanism may be owned by SJE to redress the issue related to Palanhar and other social protection schemes meant for children (0 to 18 years).

3.3. There should be a proper mechanism / strategy in place to reach out these deprived children. A person may be designated by the local authority of SJE or Child Rights department to deal with the identified cases of deprivation

3.4. The disbursement process should be regularized / completed on time by over-coming the prevailing challenges / barriers / reasons so that the beneficiary's care and development should not be hampered.

3.5. Counsellors should be appointed at district / block / Panchayat level to support / guide the beneficiaries for their career development. This should be done by SJED for Palanhar children or rather there should be link established with education department where Palanhar children also get benefited from such service.

3.6. Coping with the inflation, this should be reconsidered to increase the upper income cap as per the current cost of the commodities / services in the market. There should be no cap on number of beneficiaries in the family for all categories

#### **4. Linkages with other agencies and services**

4.1. The quality of education in neighborhood government schools needs to be improved for encouraging the beneficiary children and their parents to join the government schools.

4.2. NGO can play pivotal role in educating the masses, sensitizing the actors and community leaders, and supporting the government field functionaries in implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the program.

4.3. There is a need to develop effective inter-departmental convergence / coordination so that the eligible graduated beneficiaries are not found deprived of the other social protection schemes.

4.4. There should be made a provision of availability of E-Mitra Centre within the jurisdiction of every Gram Panchayat. The concerned officials need to become more vigilant to ban the illegal practices owned by E-Mitra operators for charging extra money from the beneficiary. The E-Mitra operators must be oriented and sensitized towards the vulnerable children. Annual renewal issues should be reflected on Palanhar Portal. On the basis of updation of information at *Shala Darpan* portal, the verification of Palanhar beneficiary should be done.

4.5. Since, the wellbeing of children is a social responsibility, government may consider / design the resource mobilization / fundraising strategy by imposing Cess. CSRs should also be roped in for the trainings and absorption in the industries as skilled man-power.

4.6. There is a need to plan and organize 'Awareness and Sensitization Campaign' for frontline workers, E-Mitra operators and PRIs & CBOS by involving NGOs working in the field.

#### **5. Monitoring and Follow-up System**

5.1. Adequate and relevant IEC material need to be developed and made available for mass awareness campaign and capacity building of the frontline workers. Major amendments in the scheme or policy should be published in local news-papers for mass dissemination of the information.

5.2. The periodic (may be quarterly) review and feedback meetings could be organized with active participation of representatives of the key stakeholders. There is a need to have the budgetary provisions for regular interaction with the Palanhar families that could be possible through the decentralized system at block and *Panchayat Samiti* level. Further, a IVRS-based system of feedback can also be explored / suggested for the beneficiaries

5.3. There is a need to invest adequate resources in Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and Capacity development.

**Conclusion:**

The data of registered beneficiaries and field observations prove the scheme undoubtedly useful to address the vulnerability of the children of most marginalized communities in the state. It has got appreciations nationally and globally, and has potential to expand to cover all vulnerable children for their proper care and development. It emerges from the field survey and stakeholders' consultations that the Scheme has reached to the point from where it has to re-look at the strategy reformation, system revamping, beneficiary connect and many more to fill the gaps identified in the present study and in order to make it more effective and useful to the target population. Though the scheme officials are working to tighten the loose ends of the scheme but a lot to be done to expand the beneficiary base, robust monitoring and review mechanism, possible linkages with other government schemes and ways and means of introducing non-cash components to meet contingent requirements through this convergence in the light of present study which examines almost every aspect of the Yojana implementation and beneficiary experiences across the districts.

The study also put important and relevant findings along with the recommendations for the implementers and decision makers to work upon them through categorizing the issues like Technical up-gradation which includes capacity building, community participation, data capturing and utilization; System integration with components of monitoring, documenting and analyzing through evaluation and case studies; and importantly the convergence of different social security schemes and departments and emphasis on non-cash transfer benefits to the present and upcoming beneficiaries by expanding its horizon beyond children 18 years of age.

## CHAPTER 1

### CONTEXT AND RATIONALE OF THE STUDY

Children from poor section of the society are more prone to vulnerability in their early life, receive poor healthcare, suffer inadequate nutrition, achieve lower educational results and consequently lower future earnings in the labour market. They are likely to grow up into poorer adults, thus continuing the intergenerational transmission of poverty. Child-Sensitive Social Protection (CSSP) secures basic incomes and reduces risks for children in extreme poverty and/or without family care, and takes into account the voices and views of children and their caregivers. Social protection policies and programs are an essential element of realizing child rights and breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty. Policies designed and implemented with children in mind can significantly increase benefits for children including: educational attainment, health care access, adequate nutrition and reduction in risk of abuse, exploitation and neglect. CSSP comprises policies, programs and systems that address the specific patterns of children's poverty and vulnerability and recognize the long-term developmental benefits of investing in children as well as the obligation to fulfill their rights. The child-focused or family-based programs that directly or indirectly address children's needs and rights and improve child development. Several CSOs, INGOs also ensure that social protection programs of the government are child-sensitive, by maximizing impacts and minimizing harms for both girls and boys of all ages. CSSP often means providing cash transfers, in-kind transfers or a combination, often in humanitarian crisis situations. It could also be providing access, among very poor families with children, to social insurance such as unemployment benefits, health insurance, pensions and maternity care. The aim is to reach the most vulnerable and deprived families with young children, mothers with newborns, children in institutional and family-based care and poor students in need of support to continue schooling.

Several Social Protection Schemes (SPSs) have been launched by both Central Government and State government during last three decades to reduce the vulnerability of marginalized population in the state of Rajasthan. The *Palanhar Yojana* is one of them as caregiver scheme to the children in need of care and development which has been launched on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2005 by the state government as a cash transfer program. Initially, this initiative was launched for schedule caste orphans. After undergoing several amendments, the benefits of *Palanhar Yojana* have been extended to 6 more category of children<sup>1</sup> implemented by the Social Justice & Empowerment Department, aiming to reducing the vulnerability of

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<sup>1</sup> <https://sjmsnew.rajasthan.gov.in/palanhaar>

children with limited parental care. It is a longstanding state government scheme, underway for more than seventeen years, for children in need of alternative care and protection.

The State Government has also announced the implementation of "*Mukhyamantri Corono Bal Kalyan Yojana*" which includes one- time ex-gratia relief of Rupees One lakh and a monthly stipend for Rs. 2500 to the orphaned children. After attaining the age of 18 years the Covid orphaned children will get Rs. Five lakhs and also the state government in its budget announcement for the Financial Year 2023-24. These beneficiaries will also get the government job after attaining the 18 years age. This scheme was also expected to be implemented using the existing mechanisms under the state-run *Palanhar Scheme*.

All the children falling under the *Palanhar Yojana* must be sent to the Anganwadi centers (if they're under 6) and to schools (if they're under 18). Also, the government provides worth Rs.500 to the children up to the age of 5. After getting enrolled in a government school, government grants are provided at the rate of Rs.1000 until the recipient turns 18 years old. Apart from this, the government also provides annual grants at the rate of Rs.2000 per year for clothing, shoes, sweater and other necessary work<sup>2</sup>. The state government in its budget announcement for the current financial year 2022-23, the cash assistance increased to Rs. 1500 for and Rs. 2500 to the orphaned children of age group 0 to 6 years and 6 to 18 years respectively. One time annual support is Rs. 1500 and 2500 to the children of both age groups respectively.

This Palanhar Yojana has been much appreciated by all kind of stakeholders including direct beneficiaries, service providers, social activists and media. Recently, the rules of the implementation of the scheme have further been revised on 28th June 2022 by the Department of SJE). As stated earlier, initially, the scheme was announced for supporting scheduled caste orphans, subsequently extended for nine categories of children were identified provide support to them under the scheme. Now, under the revised rules, children of ten categories are target beneficiaries. There are separate provisions for cash transfer to the child caregivers (called '*Palanhar*') for the children in categories of 0 to 3 years registered in *Anganwadi centre* and 3 to 6 years enrolled with Anganwadi Centres for pre-primary education, and children in 6 to 18 years enrolled with school or college. There are certain eligibility criteria, have been defined for the beneficiaries.

*Palanhar* is among the largest cash transfer schemes globally for vulnerable children – orphan and destitute and is being claimed the largest one in India for the most vulnerable children of poor communities. Now, this scheme has become the flagship program of the state government of Rajasthan.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://sjmsnew.rajasthan.gov.in/palanhaar>

Although, this scheme has been appreciated by some of other state governments, professional organizations, UN Agencies, INGOs, philanthropic and civil society organizations and they also supported the scheme for its effective implementation and linking the eligible population with it.

An 'Impact assessment of Palanhar Plus on Children's Social-Emotional Learning and Caregivers Parenting. Outcomes in *Dungarpur* district (*Rajasthan*)' was done by *Save the Children*, presents the results from a quasi-experimental evaluation of a parenting program implemented with beneficiaries of the government *Palanhar Yojana* in *Rajasthan*. The focus of the study was to understand whether the parenting program resulted in changing parental behavior and whether there was an impact on children's social and emotional development.<sup>3</sup> From the field observations of the key stakeholders felt the concerns to the scheme in their reports, pointed out some of the issues related to the implementation and monitoring of the scheme during several dialogues with both policy planners and implementers.

From the field observations of the key stakeholders felt the concerns to the scheme in their reports, pointed out some of the issues related to the implementation and monitoring of the scheme during several dialogues with both policy planners and implementers. That is why it has relevance to assess the Palanhar scheme through the Qualitative Documentation and identifying the areas of its further improvement so that its effective implementation and monitoring could be ensured.

The Secretary of the DSJE said that an action plan would be prepared by the department after consultation with all the stakeholders. The *Palanhar* Scheme would be studied and analyzed in collaboration with UNICEF and *Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences*. He further mentioned that "during the study discussions would be held with the parents and children and on the basis of the findings, department will prepare an action plan for ***Palanhar2.0***"<sup>4</sup> That is why it has relevance to assess the *Palanhar* scheme through the Qualitative Documentation and identifying the areas of its further improvement so that its effective implementation and monitoring could be ensured.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/document/the-impact-of-palanhar-plus-on-childrens-social-emotional-learning-and-caregivers-parenting-outcomes-in-dungarpur/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/jaipur/palanhar-2-0-to-focus-on-all-round-growth-safety-of-children/articleshow/92966154.cms>



## CHAPTER 2

### STUDY OBJECTIVES, DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

This realizes that there is a need to conduct an assessment of the Palanhar Yojana with the active participation of the key stakeholders, viz. direct beneficiary graduated children (18+ year), their caregivers (both biological parents and kins), government officials (state, district, block level and frontline workers), people's representatives, members of statutory bodies concerned to children's rights and protection (Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Board, School Management Committees, Child Protection Committees), Child line, UN Agencies, INGOs, NGOs, academia etc. This could be done through systematic documentation of the processes, status of engagement of beneficiaries for their development, and perceptions of the key stakeholders from grassroots to the state level.

The study was conceptualized jointly by Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), UNICEF and CULP (Centre for Unfolding Learning Potentials) and visualized the specific objectives of the study which are given below.

#### The Study Objectives

- To document the journey, progress, and growth pattern through Comprehensive business process documentation of the Palanhar Scheme.
- To assess the impact on the lives of beneficiaries in holistic by Palanhar 1.0.
- To identify the challenges in the process for scheme to be more beneficiary oriented and recommendation for improving the business process
- To share recommendations for improving the scheme and linking Palanhar scheme with other social benefit schemes including non- cash benefits, provided to the family and children.

**Duration of the Study:** Three months

The study was expected to begin in mid-November 2022 but actual it was started in the first week of December 2022 and the draft report was submitted by end of February 2023.

**Research Approach and Methodology:** A multi-stakeholders participatory approach was adopted in the design of the Assessment Study of the Palanhar Scheme. A robust analysis framework followed the result- based data management and reviewed through consultative workshops at state and district levels for which an Assessment matrix was used which included the objective-wise key information areas, source and method. The assessment matrix as proposed in the Terms of Reference (ToRs) was used for adopting the research methods and developing the tools for data collection (Ref. *Annexure-4*)

**Research Design and Methods:** The study methods mainly focused for collection of qualitative data. The following key methods were used for both secondary and primary data collection:

#### A. Secondary Data

## 1. Desk Reviewed of:

- Documents procured from the government departments, academia, UNICEF, INGOs, Professional Institutions etc.
- Research Reports and government data on the Internet and Palanhar portal.

## B. Primary Data: Five research methods used for primary data collection were:

2. One State and four District level Consultative workshops were organized by CULP in collaboration with representatives of key stakeholders. The state level consultation was collaborated with the Social Justice and Empowerment department, UNICEF and KISS; and the district consultations were also collaborated with the government line departments and local NGOs as GNB Network partners.
3. Community Interactive Meetings for establishing rapport with the contact point person(s) and understanding the ground reality of the accessibility of the scheme by the people in general
4. Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) with Palanhar Graduated Beneficiaries (18+) and 200 Caregivers (both biological and non-biological) by using semi-structured and open-ended questions.
5. Interviews with individual key stakeholders, mainly beneficiaries, Caregivers, Government officials (block, district and state level officials of the line departments (SJE, Education' Child Rights, WCD, Women Empowerment), social workers, people representatives, etc.
6. Documentation of 5 to 7 case studies of eligible beneficiaries and caregiver families in each of 4 sampled districts.

**Data Collection Tools:** The data collection tools / questionnaires were developed by the research team members and finalized after three consultations with the experts of the partner organizations, viz. KISS and UNICEF. After finalization of the draft tools, they were translated in Hindi for field trial by the Field Survey team members with the mentoring support of the principal researcher in one district. After field trial at five locations in one block of Barmer district, the tools were finalized and shared with the partner organizations for any more suggestions for the improvement.

The following tools / questionnaires specific to the research methods were developed and used for collection of the primary data:

1. Guiding questions (5 to 10) for speakers of different categories of key stakeholders participated in the state and district level consultative workshops.
2. Format for collecting the background information of the target population (beneficiaries 18+ and caregivers participated) in FGDs.
3. Separate Questionnaires for each of two categories (beneficiaries 18+ and caregivers participated) in FGDs.
4. Separate Questionnaires for interviews with representatives of each of five categories of key stakeholders (beneficiaries, caregivers, Government Officials, NGOs and People's representatives, and Academia.
5. Guidelines for documenting Case Studies.

The survey tools were tried out by the field team members with the mentoring support of the senior researcher and based on the experience of field trial and feedback from the investigators, the tools were further amended and finalized for final administration by the field team members for data collection (**Ref. Annexure -1**).

**Study Sample:** The following research components were taken care of while selection of the study sample:

- The sample size should provide estimate at state level for overall Palanhar scheme implementation. Gender, social category-wise disaggregation could provide with higher margin of error.
- The ratios across social categories, age group of beneficiaries or the categories of beneficiaries was based on small sample and as per the observation.

The purposive technique was used for selection of the study sample. The qualitative documentation was done by collecting both primary data through field work by adopting the above stated methods in participatory manner and secondary data by reviewing the official documents procured from the concerned departments, professional organizations and internet.

The following Study sample was selected for the primary data:

1. Four districts viz. Banswara, Barmer, Dausa and Tonk located in different four administrative divisions (Udaipur, Jodhpur, Jaipur and Ajmer) set-up by the state government which represented socio-geographical diversity of the state of Rajasthan.
2. Six blocks, two blocks in rural regions and two to three habitations in peri-urban or urban regions of each of four districts;
3. 32 FGDs were organized against the 24 proposed FGDs, 3 to 4 FGDs in each of 8 blocks and urban regions of in in four districts.
4. Average 50 graduated beneficiaries (18+) and 50 caregivers were participated in the FGDs organized in each of four districts.
5. Conducted Individual interviews with 127 representatives of 5 categories of key stakeholders in four sampled districts.
6. One State level & four district level Consultative workshops with key stakeholders, one in Banswara district; second in Barmer, third in Dausa and fourth in Tonk district. In all five consultative workshops, 192 representatives of five categories of key stakeholders participated (**Annexure – 3**).
7. 31 case studies of the eligible beneficiaries (18+), caregivers (both biological and non-biological parents) and denial cases (deprived for getting benefit due to lack of relevant documents) were documented to support the quantitative data of the respondents

**Data Analysis:** The data (both quantitative and qualitative) of the respondents were consolidated and analyzed focusing on the on the following key components / issues:

- Mechanisms and dynamics of the Palanhar Scheme.

- Enabling Environment for vulnerable children and their Palanharas.
- Impact of Covid-19 on implementation of the scheme and lives of the beneficiaries;
- Special focus on adolescent children, girls and socially excluded and economically most vulnerable children.

**Research Team:** The research team consisted of

- (i) Two research experts: One senior researcher as a principal investigator) and one researcher as a co-investigator;
- (ii) Four Field Research Supervisors: one in each of four districts, engaged for 20 to 30 days for monitoring the field survey work and consolidation of the data.
- (iii) 19 field investigators from local level, 4 to 6 persons for collecting the primary data through surveys in each of four districts.
- (iv) 7 local NGOs (network partners of CULP ) were also involved in the district level planning for field work, identification of the local investigators and organizing district level consultative events and also using their local resources (office computers and internet facilities for communication), and office premises for planning meetings, orientation of the field team members and consultative workshops (**Annexure – 2**).

The field research team members (**Ref. Annexure – 1**) were imparted a training of 3 to 4 hours in-person in each of four districts for conducting the field work by using the prescribed tools / formats / questionnaires for data collection.

**Study Report Preparation and Submission:** A Comprehensive study report has been prepared and submitted in the mutually agreed format and time framework.

#### **Study Limitations**

There was too much variability in the qualitative data elicited from different stakeholders located in diverse socio-geographies of the sampled districts by using different methods and questionnaires containing semi-structured and open-ended question. The analysis of such data took too much time which was not expected during the conceptualization of the study proposal.

Seldom research studies on various aspects of the Yojana are available. This limited the effort of context building based on previous researches.

## CHAPTER 3

### STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PALANHAR SCHEME

The chapter reviews and describes the key elements and the progressive trend of the Palanhar Scheme across last 17 years which has been consolidated in light of the available documents viz. recently organized Comprehensive documentation and Desk Review, one state level and five consultative workshops, and three presentations made by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DSJE), Government of Rajasthan, UNICEF Rajasthan, Save the Children and others.

#### 1. Desk Review

A Desk Review of the Palanhar Scheme in Rajasthan was conducted by KISS and UNICEF (2022) for understanding the status of implementation of the scheme which provides a comprehensive documentation, progressive trend of beneficiaries and how national and global best practices can better inform the revamped Palanhar 2.0. The Review report was further shared with the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment of the state government of Rajasthan.

Desk review also examines other policies / laws and schemes / programs for child protection in India and other countries, some global instruments for the welfare of children such as United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) mentioning the various laws present in India for child protection.

It briefly mentions of 'The *Bal Sangopan Yojana (BSY)*' of Maharashtra, UP-Sponsorship rules, The Chhattisgarh state Sponsorship Guideline 2022. The Chhattisgarh, Delhi and Jharkhand rules also outline the role of NGOs in shortlisting the eligible children, preparation of care-plans, child study report and home study report, counselling for the child, parents and extended families as required, preparation of the IEC material, and regular follow-up visits to children. The Jharkhand sponsorship rules have made provisions for approval for private sponsorship.

It also mentions some of the similar kind of global initiatives for orphan and vulnerable children like; Ghana's Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty (LEAP) programme, Rwanda's Vision 2020, Umurenge Programme (VUP), South Africa's Child Support Grant (CSG) and South Foster Child Grant (FCG). Analyzing these programs, it also shares the key findings from the documentation of best practices in Africa and Latin America as "Cash Transfer Programs for Destitute and Orphan children" are a direct attack on child poverty (under the rubric of SDG 1.2). These programs support care-providers for the better quality of care, improving both children's material and their non-material well-being. These schemes can also help to prevent loss of parental care and support family reunification.

**Palanhar** is one of the most significant cash transfer schemes for non-institutional (both family and non-family) child protection. The *Palanhar* Scheme is a state-funded family-based kinship care scheme of the Government of Rajasthan having the following key objectives:

1. To arrange for non-institutional child protection, care and upbringing within the family by the closest relative / familiar person/adult brother or sister.
2. To provide financial support to the child to ensure socio-economic and educational development.
3. To ensure the holistic development of a child by providing a familial atmosphere.

The scheme and its implementation mechanism have evolved in terms of processes to identify, link, renew and transfer online cash assistance to the beneficiaries. Palanhar is currently one of the country's most prominent models of family-based kinship care. The latest data of Palanhar beneficiaries (on January 27, 2023)<sup>5</sup> on the scheme portal that 22 lakh children have been registered on the scheme, of which 78% are boys and 22% are girls. Total amount dispersed by the state government is Rs. 672.88 crores.

Exhibit 3.1. Current Status of the Scheme  
**(Palanhar portal data on January 27, 2023)**

Total Palanhar registered children	22 lakhs
Total registered boys	1701666 (78%)
Total registered girls	522697 (22%)
Amount dispersed to the beneficiaries	Rs. 672.88 crores

The Desk review reports the approaches for Child Protection like improving of Systems, and Family environment, non-institutional alternative care, Protective factors, public health and analyses in detail about the Non-institutional Alternative Care and its various models.

After analysing the documents, the report says “the scheme and its implementation mechanism have evolved in terms of processes to identify, link, renew and transfer online cash assistance to the beneficiaries. Palanhar is currently one of the country's most prominent models of family-based kinship care’.

It also refers to the categories of eligible beneficiary children and the common eligibility criterion to become Palanhar as set by the government. The vulnerable children belonging to four major categories and 11 sub-categories are eligible to access the benefits of the Palanhar Scheme. These are mentioned in the following exhibit 3.2.

**Exhibit 3.2. Palanhar categories and sub-categories**

Palanhar Category	Sub-categories
1. Children lost both parents	1.1. Orphans; 1.2. Orphaned due to Covid-19
2. Abandoned Children, without parents	2.1. Both parents jailed with life imprisonment or one of the parents imprisoned and other die; 2.2. Widow mother married and children abandoned by her; 2.3. Widow mother staying with other man (engaged in <i>Nata</i> ) and abandoned children.
3. Children of destitute mother	3.1. Widow mother receiving widow pension. 3.2. Divorced woman or a woman separated from husband for more than 5 years.
4. Children of incapacitated parents / others	4.1. HIV / AIDS parents. 4.2. Parents suffering from Leprosy. 4.3. Differently-abled parents. 4.4. Parents suffering from silicosis

<sup>5</sup> <https://simsnew.rajasthan.gov.in/palanhaar/>

**Basic eligibility Criteria** are as follows:

1. The annual income of the Palanhar family should not be more than Rs. 1.2 Lakh per annum.  
Although, this cap was decided almost 17 years ago at the time of the beginning of the scheme which is too low looking after the current market cost of the living.
2. The age of the Palanhar beneficiary should not be more than 18 years. 0 to 6 year old child must be registered with the Anganwadi Centre, 3 to 6 years enrolled for pre-primary education and 6 to 18 years child must be enrolled in school.

If a child completes 18 years of age and is yet to complete class 12<sup>th</sup>, then the benefits of the scheme may get extended by one more year until the child attains 19 years of age or completes class XII.

3. The beneficiary should either be a native of Rajasthan state or residing in the state for at least three years at the time of application.

There are still several nomadic communities or migrated wage labourers are staying in the state for last more than five years but they don't have any valid documents. For identification of such children or families, the district administration must proactively work to facilitate the process to provide them the valid documents so that these children could also get benefits and join the mainstream of education and development.

All children belong to nine sub-categories are eligible for the scheme except children of two sub-categories namely (i) Widow mother eligible for widow pension; and (ii) Widow mother staying with other man (engaged in *Nata*) and abandoned children, only three children are eligible to access the benefit of the scheme.

Other terms and conditions and provisions for financial assistance for eligible children of each category are well-defined on the portal of the *Palanhar* Scheme.

**Major Milestones:** The report mentions major milestones since inception of the scheme in February 2005 till 2018. The exhibit 3.3 shows the changes made during the course of implementation. It also mentioned the application process and the renewal process for Palanhar and mandatory aid provided in the scheme in various categories.

**Exhibit 3.3. Major Amendments in the *Palanhar* Scheme since its inception**

Date/Year	Major Changes in the scheme
<b>8 February 2005</b>	<i>Palanhar</i> scheme started for the orphan children of Schedule caste community
<b>23 August 2005</b>	Extended to orphan children of all communities
<b>25 April 2007</b>	One child of vulnerable widow mother included in <i>Palanhar</i>
<b>27 January 2010</b>	Inclusion of children of a mother who married second time based on the marriage registration certificate
<b>3 March 2011</b>	Inclusion of one child of women opting for <i>Nata</i> ritual Provision for <i>Palanhar</i> benefits till a child reaches 18 years
<b>1 April 2013</b>	<i>Palanhar</i> benefit of Rs. 1000 in place of Rs. 675.00
<b>1 May 2013</b>	Inclusion of children of destitute and divorced women
<b>29 May 2013</b>	Inclusion of 3 children of widow and women who belongs to <i>Nata</i> ritual (Existing – 1 child)
<b>1 April 2014</b>	<i>Palanhar</i> scheme was made online on the state portal through SSDG



<b>2 June 2015</b>	<i>Palanhar</i> scheme was transferred from the Child directorate to Social Justice and Empowerment department
<b>2018</b>	<i>Palanhar</i> scheme implementation and monitoring was entitled to Block office under Block Social Protection Officer
<b>2018</b>	<i>Palanhar</i> portal was linked with the education department to access registration certificates of students studying in government and private schools
<b>2018</b>	<i>Palanhar</i> portal was linked with other portals such as:- pension, PDS etc
<b>2018</b>	MIS facility till GP level was available at <i>Palanhar</i> portal.
<b>28 June 2022</b>	Increased the cash assistance to orphaned children from Rs. 500 to 1500 for age group 0 to 5 years and Rs. 1000 to Rs. 2500 for age group of 6 to 18 years. In addition to this Rs. 2500 as one time annual assistance. Provision for children of the parents suffering from silicosis.

**Mukhyamantri Corona Sahayata Yojana:** Mukhyamantri Corona Sahayata Yojana<sup>7</sup> has been announced to provide economic, social and educational support to orphaned children, widowed women and their children in the state due to Covid-19 pandemic. From June 25, 2021, the scheme is operational in the entire state.

<p>A rapid survey (September 2021)<sup>6</sup> was conducted by CULP in two districts viz. Dausa and Tonk during the pandemic situation towards providing humanitarian assistance to the families who were badly affected by the disease and borne the loss of livelihood or their dear ones. The situation becomes more grieved when only earning member of the family passes away leaving behind grieve- stricken family and helpless children that too in a bad economic condition. CULP's team of 'Community Facilitators' present in almost 58 <i>Gram Panchayats</i> in Tonk and Dausa districts. They surveyed during September, 2021 in about 200 villages for identifying families who needed immediate relief. In this process the team came across the affected children whose families were badly affected by the pandemic. The purpose of the identification was to help them in getting the benefits of the <i>Mukhyamantri Corona Sahayata Yojana</i> and other government scheme like <i>Palanhar</i> so that these children could be benefited. Out of 1306 families surveyed they found 468 children who lost either job earning members or both the parents or one of the parents. Out of these children 15% children lost their parents whereas 41% lost one of the parents. These were only from the surveyed population. The number of such children could be much more if extensive survey is done. But due to lack of information and will of the authorities only few cases are reported and get the benefit of government schemes.</p>	Exhibit 3.4. Affected Children in Beneficiary families affected by COVID Pandemic				
	<b>Families affected by loss of</b>		<b>Districts</b>		
		Dausa	Tonk	Total	%
	<b>Job / earning member(s)</b>	97	80	177	38%
	<b>Both parents</b>	63	5	68	15%
	<b>One of both parents</b>	151	72	223	48%
	<b>Total</b>	311	157	468	
<b>Children of 29% of total beneficiary families affected by COVID pandemic</b>					

Under the scheme, a lump sum assistance of Rs.1.00 lakh is given as immediate assistance to each orphan children, Rs.2500/- per month till the age of 18 years and Rs.2000/- annually. On completion of 18 years of age, an amount of Rs.5.00 lakh is payable as assistance. Along with this, these children will be given free education up to class 12 under educational/other assistance through government residential

<sup>6</sup> Survey by CULP in two districts, viz. Dausa and Tonk during Pandemic times (Sept. 2021)

<sup>7</sup> <https://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in/scheme/detail/916>

school/hostel/school, priority admission to the hostels run by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment to the girl students studying in the college, those studying in the college.

Similarly, under the scheme, along with immediate assistance of Rs.1.00 lakh, a pension of Rs.1500/- per month is payable to the widowed woman, as well as Rs.1000/- per month and Rs.2000/- annually for the widow's children till the age of 18 years.

**Progressive Trend of the Scheme (Year-wise):** Since inception of the scheme in 2005, with a budget of

INR 330,000 covering 368 beneficiaries, it has grown in coverage of intended beneficiaries and budget. Today, it is one of the country's longest running cash transfer social security scheme, reaching out now to more than half a million vulnerable children from nearly 0.3 million Palanhar families. The year-wise expenditure incurred from 2005 to 2021-22 has also been provided for the progress in terms of financial provisions under the scheme like; 30 lakhs in 2005 to 456 lakhs in 2021-22. As mentioned the data earlier (Exhibit 3.1), 22 lakh children have been registered on the Palanhar scheme, of which 78% are boys and 22% are girls.

The study also provides quick review of good practices in non-institutional and family care approach, globally and in-country, claims that while Palanhar is itself unique as the largest cash transfer program.

The year-wise expenditure of the Palanhar scheme is given in Exhibit 3.5.

Financial Year	Expd. (Rs. in crores)	Beneficiaries
2021-22	456.06	524189
2020-21	568.37	486051
2019-20	361.47	388353
2018-19	259.88	313220
2017-18	228.00	228238
2016-17	200.00	204990
2015-16	161.45	127769
2014-15	140.30	140595
2013-14	74.99	97935
2012-13	61.70	73360
2011-12	43.15	65927
2010-11	26.00	50391
2009-10	22.12	31006
2008-09	15.41	24692
2007-08	7.92	18014
2006-07	2.15	2973
2005-06	0.77	1413
2004-05	0.03	368

**Convergence with Skill Training:** The study also mentioned that there should be a convergence of the Palanhar scheme with wider social security and skill development programs of the state government, especially the *Mukhyamantri Hunar Vikas Yojana* is expected to further build a path to integration for children who are expected to graduate from Palanhar upon attaining adulthood and become more employable and productive for themselves, their families and the state. Those beneficiary children of the Palanhar scheme who have attained the age of 15 are eligible for this scheme. The fee receipt produced by the eligible students is reimbursed under this scheme.

It has been observed during the field survey that most of the graduated beneficiaries are not aware about the scheme how to access the benefit of the scheme. There should be a proper mechanism to orienting the beneficiaries by organizing counseling's sessions with them before they are graduated from the Palanhar scheme.

## 2. Consultations with Key Stakeholders

Five consultative workshops were held with the key stakeholders, a one-day state level workshop at Jaipur and four district level workshops in study sampled districts in the month of December 2022 (Ref. Summary Reports in Annexure – 4). The major objective of the consultative workshops was to assess the perspective of the government. Progressive trend of the Palanhar scheme and ground reality of the implementation and monitoring of the scheme by understanding the perceptions of the frontline workers and representatives of other key stakeholders.

The two exhibits 3.6 and 3.7 show the participation of the representatives of the key stakeholders' viz., graduated beneficiaries (18+) caregivers (biological parents and non-biological), the government, academic, (UNICEF, INGOs, and Professionals), CSOs, community, and members of PRIs in consultative workshops:

Stakeholders Category	F	M	Total	
			No.	%
<b>Beneficiaries (Palanhar graduates 18+) and Parents / Guardians)</b>	3	1	4	8
<b>State level Government Officials (state level = 3; district level = 1)</b>	0	4	4	8
<b>Child Welfare Committees – Chairperson / member(s)</b>	1	2	3	6
<b>Child-line</b>	3	1	4	8
<b>Academia</b>	2	15	17	35
<b>NGOs / CSOs / Social Activists (working on SPSs)</b>	4	13	17	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>%</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>73.5</b>	<b>100</b>	

Total 49 representatives from six categories of the key stakeholders The maximum participation was from two categories, 35% from each of Academia and NGOs (including social activists working to support social protection schemes) and 8 percent members were from each of three categories viz. graduated beneficiaries (18+), caregivers and district child-lines while six percent members participated Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) from three sampled districts (Banswara, Tonk and Dausa) in the state consultation. There was significant difference between the participation level of female and male representatives of the key stakeholders which was 26.5% and 73.50% respectively.

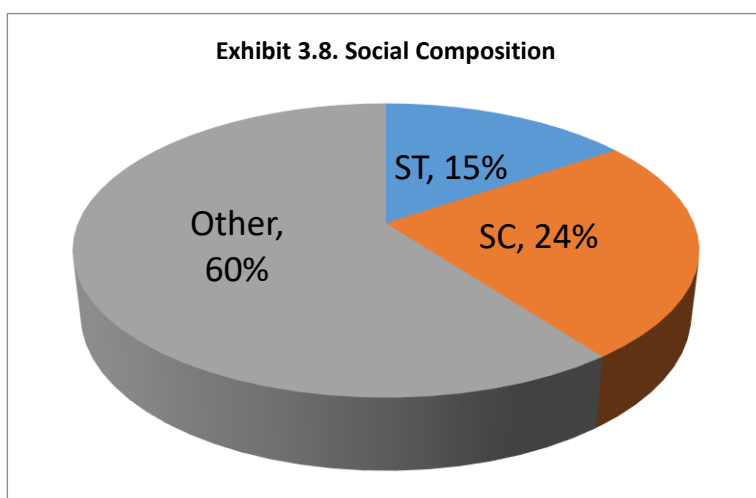
The exhibit 3.2 reflects the gender category-wise participation of the six categories of key stakeholders in each of four district level consultative workshops. Total 143 members participated, out of which the maximum 39 members (27%) and minimum 31 members (22%) participated in Banswara and Barmer workshops respectively. While in other districts (Dausa and Tonk) 25% and 26% members participated.

Stakeholders category	Exhibit 3.7. District-wise number of Participants (Gender-category-wise)											
	Barmer		Banswara		Tonk		Dausa		Total			
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	T	%
<b>Beneficiaries (18+) and caregivers</b>	0	3	1	3	2	2	2	3	5	11	16	11

People's Representatives and Community Leaders	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	5	0	11	11	8
District Govt Officials	0	4	2	5	1	4	1	3	4	16	20	14
Statutory bodies chairpersons / members,	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	2	6	7	13	9
Child-line	0	1	1	3	2	2	0	1	3	7	10	7
Academia	0	1	0	1	1	2	0	1	1	5	6	4
NGOs / CSOs	1	17	1	14	3	13	9	9	14	53	67	47
Sub-total of Female and male)	2	29	8	31	10	26	13	24	33	110	143	100
TOTAL	31		39		36		37		143			
Percentage (%)	6	94	21	79	28	72	35	65	23	77	100	

The maximum participation was from NGOs / CSOs / Social Activists (working on SPSs) which was 47 percent of total participants since the members are working with the community / eligible population for social protection schemes at grassroots level in the districts and feel concern about the issues / challenges the target population face during the process of accessing the benefits of the schemes. While 14 percent participants were from the government line departments, 11 percent were beneficiaries and caregivers, and 9 percent, 8 percent and 7 percent were from the district level statutory bodies, viz. CWCs and JJBs and Child-lines respectively. Only 4 percent participants were from academia in the district level events.

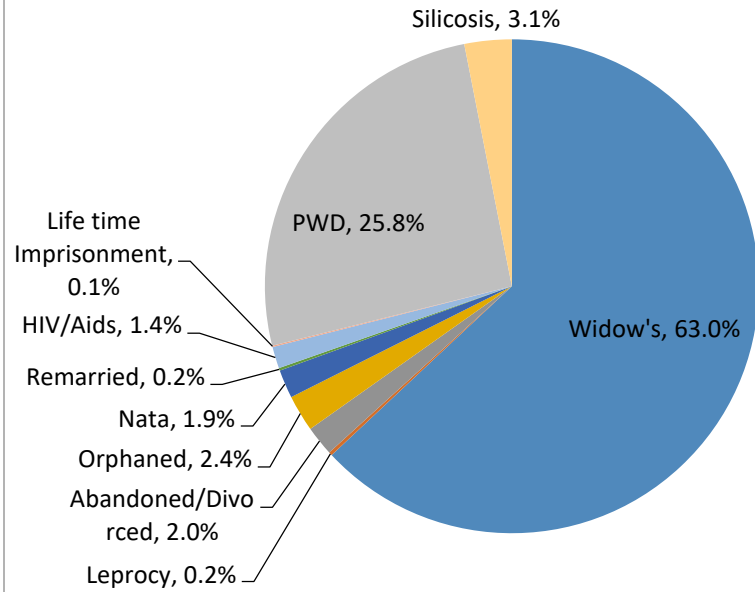
The progressive trend reflected from the presentation (PPT) of the Palanhar Scheme by the DSJE in the state level consultation (7 December 2022) and some of the key data of the same have been presented in the following exhibits:



**Social Composition of the Beneficiaries:** The data in the exhibit 3.8 shows that the percentage of the beneficiaries in all SC, ST and others (including OBC and General Categories) in the proportion of the population of these categories in the Census Report 2011.

**Palanhar Category-wise distribution of the Beneficiaries:** The beneficiary data reveal (Exhibit 3.9.) that the highest number of the beneficiaries belong to the category of children of

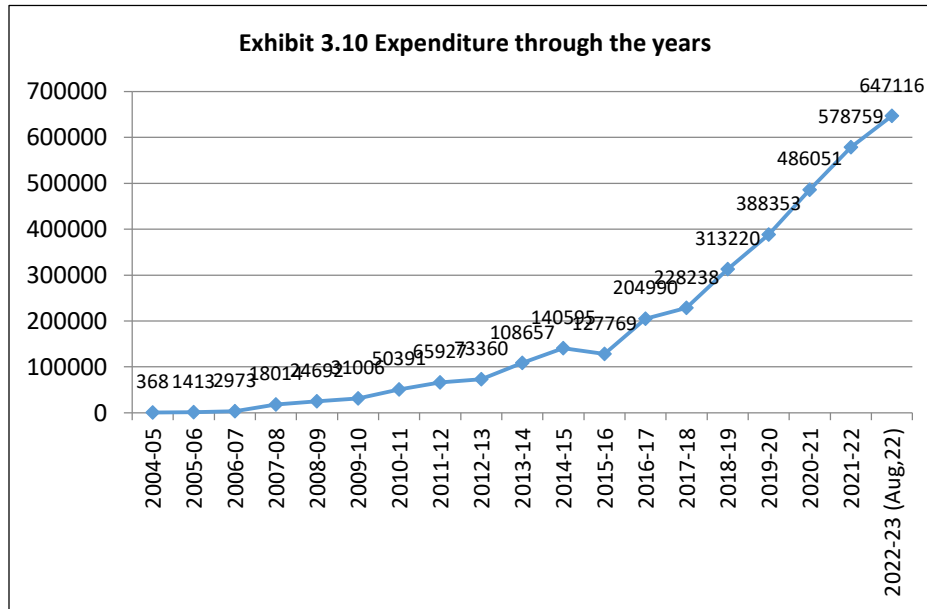
**Exhibit 3.9. Category-wise distribution**



Widow Mother which represents 63% of the total beneficiaries. This is followed by the beneficiaries of differently-abled parents which are 25%. The number of beneficiaries belong to three categories, namely children of the parents suffering from Silicosis, orphaned

children and children of divorced mother are quite significant which represent 3.1%, 2.4% and 2.0% respectively.

**Year-wise Distribution of the Beneficiaries:** In the inception year of the scheme only 368 orphaned children of the SC category were benefitted. In the subsequent years, the more categories of the vulnerable children



were included in the eligible population for the scheme. Though trend of increasing the number of beneficiaries shows that it was gradual increase till the year 2014-15 and reached the beneficiary number to 140595 but in the next year (2015-16), the number of the beneficiaries declined to 127769 ( by 9 percent), perhaps this was happened due digitization of the data

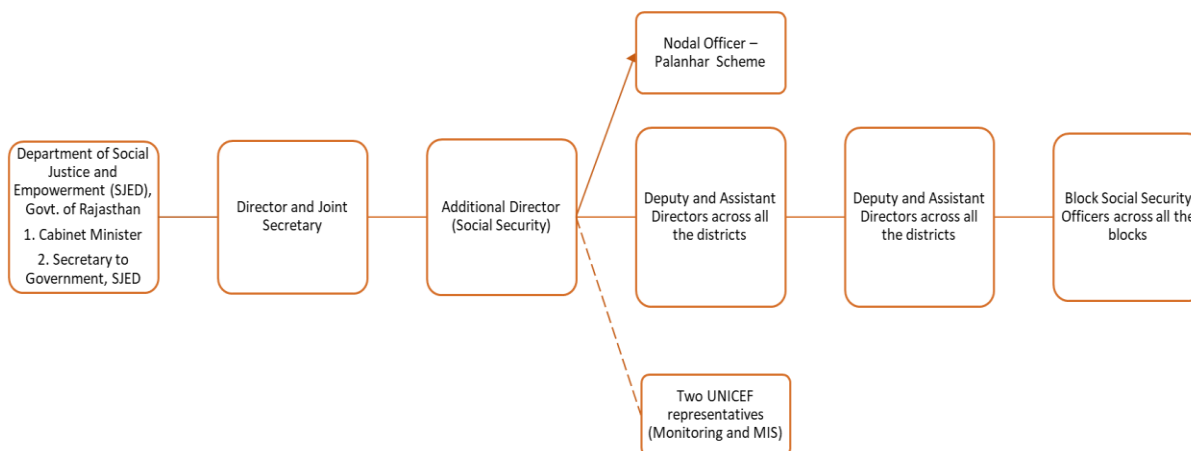
system of the scheme. After that the graph shows the yearly exponential growth in the number of the beneficiaries, now it has reached 6.48 lakhs by August 2022 and it is expected to reach the number more than seven lakhs by the end of the current financial year 2022-23, as perceived from discussions with the concerned government officials.

As revealed from the figures given in the exhibits 3.10 & 3.11, the total budget allocated for *Palanhar* scheme was Rs. 258777.7 lakhs in last six financial years from 2017-18 to till November 2022-23. Out of this more than 97 percent of the budget has been utilized. During four financial years almost 100% of the funds have been utilized while in the current FY till November 2022, 96% of the funds have been utilized. The lowest budget utilization was 90% in the FY 2019-20, perhaps due to the Covid lockdown the disbursement of the assistance amount to the beneficiaries had been delayed. The beneficiaries' number has reached to more than three times of that of six years age (i.e. FY 2017-18) and budget has also increased two and half times.

<b>Exhibit 3.11: Physical and Financial Progress of the Palanhar Scheme</b>				
<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Budget Provisions (Rs. In lakhs)</b>	<b>Expenditure (Rs. In lakhs)</b>	<b>%age of utilization of the budget</b>	<b>Beneficiaries</b>
2017-18	22800	22800	100%	22838
2018-19	26000	25988.21	99.95%	313220
2019-20	40129.45	36147.15	90%	388352
2020-21	56848.27	56837.27	100%	486051
2021-22	55000	54975.49	100%	578759
2022-23 (upto November 2022)	58000	55598.23	95.86%	673890
<b>Total</b>	<b>258777.7</b>	<b>252346.4</b>	<b>97.50%</b>	

**Key Stakeholders and their roles:** Section 7 of the notification issued by DSJE in June 2022 outlines the roles and responsibilities of the Palanhar, and it also says that there is also a need to outline the roles and responsibilities of other stakeholders of Palanhar at state/district and grassroots levels. The exhibit 3.12 shows the *Functional Organogram of the Scheme*.

**Exhibit 3.12. Functional Organogram**



During these consultation workshops the participants from the government officials shared the data of district-wise Palanahar beneficiaries, and challenges or problems they faced related to registration, validation, and renewal process, monitoring and evaluation. The findings of the workshops elicited from the reports have been summarized below.

**Areas of Improvement in Palanhar 2.0:** The Desk Review and Consultations suggested three key areas of the improvement in the Palanhar 2.0 which are as follows:

- Technical Up-gradation Issues – Capacities, Participation, Data, and needs to be strengthened especially the beneficiary interface.
- Systems integration– Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), Documentation, Impact analysis (how beneficiaries / caregivers used the amount; and need of case study documentation);
- Convergence vectors– Social Security, Skills Development, and Vocational & Higher Education.

**Emergent Key issues:** The following key issues emerged from reports of the DSJE, UNICEF and ‘Palanhar Plus’ by Save the Children in Dungarpur district<sup>8</sup> and discussions need to be tackled during future interventions and expansion of the scheme:

- About seven lakh children are getting benefitted by the scheme. However, there are no effective Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) mechanisms for tracking the beneficiaries, identify potential beneficiaries to enter the foster care program, counsel parents and review the processes. There is a lack of Database Management and Community base Tracking System (MIS). There is a need to invest adequate resources in M&E and Capacity development.
- Grassroots government workers lack the necessary resources or training to implement and sustain provisions.
- Very few awareness / IEC and training material is available to government frontline workers and implementers to utilize mass awareness and education. Many stakeholders, even PRI members are not aware about several social protection schemes related to children, especially the Palanhar Yojana.
- There is some cumbersome and expensive exercise (in terms of both time and money) for the eligible population to complete the process of registration in the scheme which deters or alienates many potential eligible children; and it was also observed that it was always difficult to reach out all eligible children.
- In context of current inflation rate, the amount being given to the beneficiaries of the Yojana is meagre and doesn’t suffice to meet the children's basic needs.
- Child’s rights are still not a focus under *Palanhar Yojana* and the children are often treated unequally in homes and received amount is solely not utilized on their care / protection and development. Palanhar children have difficulty in coping with caregiver’s family. Therefore, the caregiver needs proper counselling and sensitization since Caregivers lack necessary capacity to respond to the specific needs of Palanhar children.
- There is no specific plan implemented to orient the caregivers, field level / frontline workers on non-institutional alternative care approach and lack of well-defined roles and responsibilities of different key stakeholders (including GP, Block and District level officials) at all levels, and lack of,

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<sup>8</sup> Power Point Presentation by Save the Children on ‘Palanhar Plus: A Beyond Cash Transfer Programme’ in State Consultation on 7 December 2022.

interdepartmental coordination / convergence among District to Block, ward and Panchayat level committees / structures.

- There is a requirement for career development for the graduating beneficiaries exiting the scheme after attaining the age of 18 years. The consultation deliberated upon the three key issues which need to be tackled.

**The summarized key findings and suggestions / action points** emerged from the discussions have been classified under different sub-heads are:

### **1. Eligibility Criteria**

- 1.1.** One of the eligibility criteria for the target children is the maximum income of the Caregiver for Rs. 1.20 lakhs per annum which was decided in the initial year of launching the scheme about 17 years ago. Now coping with the inflation, this should be reconsidered to increase the upper income cap as per the current cost of the commodities / services in the market.
- 1.2.** There should be no cap for the number of beneficiary children of all categories in a family.

### **2. Systemic Changes**

- 2.1.** Decentralization of the Cash Transfer System would be more appropriate as there might be some issues with the e-transfer and the beneficiary will have to travel from a long distance to get it resolved.
- 2.2.** Annual renewal issues should be reflected on Palanhar Portal. On the basis of updation of information at Shala Darpan portal, the verification of Palanhar beneficiary should be done. The responsibility of annual physical verification of the beneficiaries should be of Anganwadi workers or school HM / Principal since all beneficiaries are enrolled in these institutions, otherwise the process delays which dropped of the beneficiaries.

*An orphaned girl completed her school education and joined college for continuation of her higher education but she has not completed the maximum age of 18 years. Both the beneficiary and her caregiver (paternal uncle) were not aware whether the beneficiary is still entitled to continue the benefit from the scheme for which she has to submit the letter issued from the college. So she could not procure the verification certificate from the college authority, and became deprived of the benefits for last nine months.*

*Such cases should be dealt by the concerned authority / school to extend the support to the beneficiary for completion of the verification process without any delay.*

- 2.3.** Profile of beneficiary children should be prepared and updated online.
- 2.4.** There should be an option to change the phone number of beneficiary on Palanhar portal
- 2.5.** There should be seats reserved for admission of foster children in ITI and children's homes.
- 2.6.** Counsellors should be appointed at district level, block level and *Panchayat* level.
- 2.7.** The department should have tools to connect post matric children with foster parents.

### **3. Need for Beneficiary Friendly Registration Process**

- 3.1.** There is need to organize training for E-Mitra operators in enhance their sensitivity towards the *Palanhar* beneficiaries and caregivers and in campaign mode the services of *E-Mitra* should be made available to the eligible population at their door-step / within their reach. The process of the



registration on the portal should be completed in one go which will reduce the vulnerability of both beneficiary children and their caregivers by reducing consumption of their money and time. There should be a check on the overcharging on services by E-Mitra. One Palanhar Mitra should be appointed in 10 Gram Panchayats.

*Master Deva Lal Gurjar (Sarpanch, Lalwadi, Niwai, and Tonk) expresses his views, '(i) Multiple attempts are required for physical verification; (ii) Some of the beneficiaries do not have relevant documents, in case, they are being deprived from the benefits. The government should make such provisions that every eligible child can take the benefits of the scheme.*

#### **4. Convergence with other schemes and Programs**

**4.1.** There should be a better convergence between the concerned major schemes of various line departments related to development of human resources through a common platform.

#### **5. GO – NGO Collaboration**

**5.1.** Government and NGO collaboration will accelerate to reach-out the unreached. The NGO can help both the government and beneficiary population through awareness campaigns, facilitating the potential beneficiaries for completion of mandatory documentation and effective liaison between the target population and the concerned government officials and helping the beneficiaries to resolve the problems. The NGO can also help the government in monitoring and evaluation of the program. The government can develop a strategy for selection of the NGOs through mapping exercise with the support of professional organization / individual expert.

#### **6. Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism**

**6.1.** Monitoring and Evaluation can be handed over to third party organization.

**6.2.** Support System to the beneficiaries and potential eligible children needs to be developed at Anganwadi and School Level.

**6.3.** There is a need for Development of Joint Monitoring mechanism by active engagement of PRIs, CBOs, NGOs, and Anganwadi and School for effective linkage of the eligible beneficiaries and periodic assessment of the scheme.

**6.4.** There should be designated officers for implementation and monitoring of the scheme at district and block level

**6.5.** Survey work should be done every year to see whether the eligible person has been linked to the scheme or not and whether the linked person is getting continuous benefits or not.

#### **7. Resource Mobilization**

**7.1.** Since, the wellbeing of children is a social responsibility, government may consider imposing Cess for fund mobilization.

**7.2.** CSRs should be roped in for the trainings and absorption in the industries as skilled man-power.

#### **8. Community Mobilization**

**8.1.** Awareness campaign among masses about Palanhar or other Social Protection Scheme is required and there is need to develop appropriate IEC and Training material.

**8.2.** It has been observed that around 70% beneficiary children study in private schools so a large amount of the assistance goes to these schools. The beneficiary children and their parents should be encouraged to join the neighbourhood government schools otherwise they are deprived of

other facilities for free education such as no fee in the school, free textbooks, mid-day meal, uniform available in the government school.

## **9. Additional Support to the Caregivers of Special Categories**

**9.1.** There is a need emerged from the FGDs and interviews with the beneficiaries and caregivers, an additional support should be provided to the parents who have differently-abled children and caregivers of orphaned children.

**9.2.** There should a provision of providing money for clothes, shoes and others should be applied for children of all categories.

## **10. Inclusion of new categories**

**10.1** There is a need to make provisions under the scheme for: (i) Children rescued from Child labor; (ii) Children of migrant workers, and children migrated from other states; (iii) Children lost mother and father is alive but either is not able to take care of his children due to some indifferent circumstances or he has got re-married with other woman and now he becomes either negligent towards the children of earlier wife and these children become abandoned, and need care and protection for their survival.

**10.2** Children struggling with law should also get the benefit of foster and there should be follow up of such children.

**10.3** Demented children should also be linked to the foster scheme.

**10.4** There should be provisions for eligible children who dropped out from schools 3 or more years in early grades, become over-aged but not attained maximum age of 18 years, and they want to re-join the education by registering them with the Open School system.

## **11. Setting-up Accountability of PRIs, CBOs and Service providers**

**11.1.** The members of CBOs (SMCs / SDMCs, Child Protection Committees), and PRIs made aware and should be sensitized towards the target population and should support them; and frontline workers (teachers, Anganwadi Workers, Ashas) should be engaged actively or made accountable them to reach out to all eligible children and ensure that all eligible children are registered / get benefits of the scheme in their respective operational area. Cluster / Gram Panchayat and Block level officials should be made responsible for monitoring of data of the beneficiaries.

## **12. Counselling and Capacity Building of graduating beneficiaries**

**12.1.** There should be a plan for Socio-emotional development and capacity building of the *Palanhar* graduating beneficiaries in the final year (just after grade 11 or 17 year age) through counselling sessions with them, vocational training for enhancing their employability / entrepreneurship skills. The graduated beneficiaries (18+) who are continuing their studies should be given information well in advance about other schemes from they can get benefit for continuing their higher studies or professional courses. The message in this regard should be sent on their mobile phones.

**12.2** *Palanhar* beneficiaries should have vocational training for 14 to 18 years and further guidelines should be clear.

## CHAPTER 4

### CONSOLIDATION AND ANALYSIS OF PRIMARY DATA

The qualitative primary data were gathered from the beneficiaries, caregivers, implementers and representatives of Community leaders and PRIs (Sarpanches and members) by using four types of data collecting tools / formats such Community Interactions, Focused Group Discussions with beneficiaries (18+) and Caregivers, Interviews with representatives of key stakeholders, and Case Study Documentation.

The data were collected with the active support of the concerned officials of Departments of SJE, Child Rights, WCD and Panchayat Raj, Education, and local NGOs by involving the trained local investigators. The primary data elicited through the field surveys have been consolidated and analyzed / discussed in this chapter. Based on this exercise, the key findings of the study have been prepared. The gathered data have been presented as per the research methods and tools (questionnaires / formats) used.

#### A. Community Interactive Meetings

The interactive meetings were organized by the Field Investigation team members with the general mass of the community at diverse locations in the sampled blocks of four district. The major objective of organizing the community interaction was to establish the rapport / contact points, understanding the awareness level of the general mass, and deprivation of the eligible children from the benefit of the scheme and reasons; and identification of the sampled beneficiaries and caregivers and preparing their profiles on the first day of the survey in the district. Some of observations, select illustrations of denial cases from the community dialogues have been summarized as follows:

**1. Sansion ki Basti** (peri-urban area of Barmer city): The survey team members interacted with the people assembled nearby a grocery shop and tea stall on the road. The team members found that most of the community members were found ignorant and unaware about the scheme. The team members also inquired whether there are children having eligible children for Palanhar scheme are available in the community.

Several persons came forwarded and mentioned several names having the eligibility for the scheme. Seven families were identified for eligibility of Palanhar. Members of Four families were contacted for further investigation, these were as follows:

**1.1. Shravan Kumar** (*Chohtan Road Barmer*) has responsibility of taking care of four children (orphans) of his two brothers and four children of his own. He earns meagre amount by mending shoes in the market. These children were not linked with the Palanhar Scheme since Shravan Kumar was not aware. When Shravan Kumar knew about the scheme and eligibility criteria for the orphan children, he found that the children's names differ in Aadhar Cards and school records. No one takes care of the orphan children so these children do not go in the school regularly.

**1.2. Younger brother of Shravan Kumar and his wife** also died some years ago, and one boy child of the demised parents' lives with his grand-mother. The grandmother (67) gets old age pension, and engaged in rag picking, which fetch meagre amount to take care of her grand -son. The child is not linked with the

Palanhar schemes due to lack of the awareness and non-availability of any support for completion of the documentation.

**1.3. Hanu Devi** (60 years) takes care of three grand children (two boys and one girls aged 8 to 10 years). Son died in Gujarat who went there for wage earning. Children's mother left the husband's house and abandoned the children with their grand-mother. Son's death certificate was not available. Hanu Devi gets old age pension and also engaged in rag picking which fetch meagre earning which is not enough to meet the needs of her grand-children. The children could not be registered for the scheme due to lack of the mandatory documentation.

**2. Lalwanion Ki Dhani, Barmer rural:** *Luni Devi* (32) having 4-member family includes one daughter (13 yrs, grade 8) and two sons (11 yrs, grade 6; 6 yrs, grade 1). Her husband died due to illness three years back. The children's grand-father (70) takes care of them. Children have not yet been linked with the Palanhar scheme since they were not aware about the same. Luni's brother helped to get registered for Widow Pension six months ago only but no other came forward to help them. She first time heard about the scheme from the field survey team. Now, she will make efforts to get her 3 children linked with the scheme.

### **3. Ram Nagar Barmer rural**

**3.1. Paraga Ram** (40) paternal uncle takes care of two orphan children whose father died two years ago due to illness and mother also died after six months of demise of the father. *Paraga Ram* is also shouldering responsibility of his four children, two orphan children of his demised brother and one old mother. He is a daily wage labourer and gets meagre income to meet the basic needs of all nine members of the family.

*Paraga Ram* is an illiterate person and was not aware about the Palanhar scheme. No one told him about the scheme so the benefit of the scheme could not be accessed. Now he will make efforts to link his brother's children with the scheme since he has all required documents.

**3.2. Rupi Devi** (34) having responsibility two male whose husband *Birma Ram* jailed for some years and from where he had escaped (*Farar*) ten years ago and abandoned his family. Due to the extreme poverty, both mother and children go for begging for their survival. Due to this grim situation and lack of any legal documents. Both children did not attend any school. They could not access the benefits from Palanhar scheme and other legal entitlements. *Rupi Devi* expects, "*someone from the government should come forward to help her for procuring the required documents for accessing the legal entitlements*".

**4. Ward no. 38, Barmer city: Seema** (26), a mother of two children, Both dropped out from school six months ago since their father died due to excess consumption of liquor. Before Covid-19, the children were studying in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class of a private school for which they could not pay school fee of Rs. 22000/- in the school during the Covid times due to excess expenditure on the treatment of her husband and lack of source of any income of the family. The school is not ready to issue the TCs of their children for getting admission in nearby government school. Hence her children are forced to drop out from the school. She has not able to procure the death certificate of her husband. Hence she is not able to get her children registered on the portal for the scheme. She urges, "*The government officials to get her children's admission in school*".

**5. Ramgarh, Dausa: Santara Devi** (65) lost her son 4 years ago due to illness and her daughter-in-law had gone to stay with her parents, and left all five children abandoned with Santra Devi. The family economic condition is grim, income source for Santa is to manufacture domestic utensils in the house, because her husband is handicapped. The children are very young and cannot help much.

Out of five, only one elder girl is associated with the Palanhar Yojana, but her Palanhar amount goes to her mother's bank account who does not give to Santra for the children. Due to the lack of relevant documents, the remaining four children are found deprived of the scheme, although they are eligible for the same.

**6. Gahnoli Mahuva, Dausa: Geeta Devi** lost her husband a long time back due to excessive intoxication and lives with 3 children. Originally, she belongs to Bihar, after her husband's death, her family members came to take her back to Bihar but she denied to go with them since they did not accept her children.

*She says, "The family economic condition became pathetic due to not getting support of husband's family members and the children were small, and they were denied to get registered for Palanhar since myself was treated as an outsider of the state, although I was eligible to get benefit of the scheme for my children since I have been staying in the present location for more than 15 years. Only then, with the help of Sarpanch and social workers, my son enrolled in school and two daughters in Anganwadi. Lastly, I succeeded to access the benefit by registering my three children with the scheme. As children started to join school and Anganwadi, I also got more time to work and started working hard. Due to the benefit of Palanhar Yojana and widow pension, hard labor and with everyone's cooperation, today boy is studying in BA part-I and girls in 11th and 10th class."*

## B. Focused Group Discussions (FGDs)

The FGDs were organized with two types of primary stakeholders namely Palanhar graduated beneficiaries (18+) and caregivers (of both graduated beneficiaries and currently availing the benefits) in the eight blocks of four sampled districts. The separate FGD sessions were held with both types of the stakeholders.

### 1. Profile of Beneficiaries (Palanhar graduates 18+)

**1.1. Social Composition of Beneficiaries (18+):** Total 205 graduated beneficiaries (18+) participated in FGDs organized in four districts. 27% of them were in each of two districts, viz. Barmer and Dausa while 24% and 22% beneficiaries were from Banswara and Tonk districts respectively.

Social category	District-wise distribution				Total	
	Barmer	Banswara	Tonk	Dausa	No.	%age
SC	11	2	6	13	32	16%
ST	0	47	5	2	54	26%
OBC	35	0	13	36	84	41%
General	9	0	22	4	35	17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>%age</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>100%</b>	

The social composition and gender segregated data of the beneficiaries have been mentioned in the exhibits 4.1 and 4.2. It is evident that 41% participating beneficiaries were from OBC category, whereas 26% were from ST, 17% from General and 16% from SC category. The maximum number of beneficiaries

belong to OBC category were from Dausa & Barmer districts. Same in the case of SC category. In case of ST beneficiaries we find Banswara with maximum number owing to tribal majority population. General category population beneficiaries remain in majority in Tonk district. In Banswara district no beneficiary from OBC and General participated.

If we look at the Gender category-wise distribution of beneficiaries (18+), male representation is 65% in all the districts. We can see a considerable gap in Barmer district where out of 55 participants only 12 female beneficiaries took part in FGDs. And if we the gender-wise distribution of caregivers the situation is just reverse. We can see that out of total 194 participants female participation is 77% caregivers are women

<b>Exhibit 4.2. Gender category-wise distribution of beneficiaries (18+)</b>				
District	F	M	T	%
Barmer	12	43	55	<b>27%</b>
Banswara	16	33	49	<b>24%</b>
Tonk	18	28	46	<b>22%</b>
Dausa	26	29	55	<b>27%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>%Age</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>100%</b>	

If we see the Gender & Beneficiary category-wise, participation of Palanhar Beneficiaries (18+) in the FGDs held in all the four sampled districts we find that 81% beneficiaries were the children of widow mothers, 8% were children of differently-abled parents / mother / father and 7% from orphaned children beneficiary category.

If we examine the number of beneficiaries graduated from the scheme and participated in the group discussions, we

find that 205 participating graduates have 580 members in their families and the number of family members benefited were 293 (51%). This percentage varies from district to district, e.g. in Dausa it comes 62% of the family members benefited whereas in Banswara only 41% members got the benefit of the scheme. This may be due to various reasons like document discrepancy, being overage, difficulty in getting re-verification etc.

<b>Exhibit 4.3. Graduated beneficiaries participated in FGD, total and benefitted members in family</b>				
District	Beneficiaries in FGD	Beneficiary family members	Family members benefitted	
			No.	%age
Barmer	55	133	72	<b>54%</b>
Banswara	49	198	81	<b>41%</b>
Tonk	46	93	44	<b>47%</b>
Dausa	55	156	96	<b>62%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>51%</b>
<b>%age</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>51%</b>	

There was no representation from the categories like; Children of remarried women, and Children whose Parents / mother / father suffering with HIV / AIDS, Leprosy and Silicosis. So only 6 category beneficiaries participated in FGDs. It shows that the unrepresented categories need to be associated with the Yojana as they seems to be neglected categories or they are not aware of the benefits of the Scheme for which category they belong to. As far as the male female representation is concerned we find that 35% female and 65% male beneficiaries participated in the discussions out of total 205 participants.

<b>Exhibit 4.4. Distribution of gender segregated population of the beneficiaries (18+)</b>												
Palanhar categories	Barmer		Banswara		Tonk		Dausa		Total			
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	T	%
Orphaned Children	4	5	0	1	2	6	0	0	6	12	18	<b>9</b>

Children whose Life Imprisoned parents or one of the parents imprisoned and other one died	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	4	2	4	6	3
Children of Widow mother	8	35	15	26	13	16	23	23	59	100	159	78
Children whose Father died and Mother went on Nata	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1
Children of Differently-abled parents / mother / father	0	3	1	4	2	5	2	2	5	14	19	9
Children of the divorced mother / parents who are not staying together for last five years	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>%age</b>									<b>35</b>	<b>65</b>		

If we see the percentage of orphan beneficiaries in different districts participated in FGDs, we find that out of total 205 graduated beneficiaries, 9 percent of them (N=18) were orphaned children, 50 percent were from Barmer district, 44% from Tonk district while only six percent were from Banswara. None was represented in FGD sample from the Dausa district. Participation of the female beneficiaries was 33 percent which is in proportion of the total female Palanhar beneficiary which is almost one-third of the total beneficiaries.

District	F	M	TOTAL	
			No.	%
Barmer	4	5	9	50
Banswara	0	1	1	6%
Tonk	2	6	8	44%
Dausa	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>100%</b>	

**1.2. Initiation of the benefit:** The data of the exhibit 4.6 reveal that out of total 205 beneficiaries (18+) , maximum 46 percent (N=94) accessed the benefit of the scheme from grade level 6 to 8 which was followed by 34% (N=69) beneficiaries from grade level 9 to 11. Only 16% (N=34) of the beneficiaries from pre-primary to grade 5 whereas only 4 percent (N=8) of the beneficiaries joined the benefit of the scheme in the end of the eligibility grade or age (i.e. Grade 12 or higher and 16 to 17 years). There was big gender gap between female and male beneficiaries (i.e. 35% and 65%) who joined the benefit of the scheme.

Grade category	Barmer		Banswara		Tonk		Dausa		Total			
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	Total	%
Pre-primary to Grade 5	7	6	3	2	3	7	3	3	16	18	34	16
Grade 6 to 8	4	32	7	13	13	11	7	7	31	63	94	46
Grade 9 to 11	1	5	6	16	2	10	13	16	22	47	69	34
Grade 12 to Higher	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	3	3	5	8	4
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>		<b>49</b>		<b>46</b>		<b>55</b>		<b>205</b>			
<b>%</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>100</b>	

**1.3. Completion of the benefit:** The data mentioned in the exhibit 4.7 reflect that 54% (N=111) of the eligible children availed the benefit of the scheme till their last eligibility grade (i.e. 12 or higher) and age (18 years). This was followed by 39% (N=80) children availed the benefit in grade level 9 to 11. Only 2% and 5% of the beneficiaries availed the benefit in Anganwadi to primary grades and upper primary grades (6 to 8) respectively.

Exhibit 4.7. Gender-wise beneficiaries continued to availed the benefits till the grade level												
Grade category	Barmer		Banswara		Tonk		Dausa		Total			
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	Total	%
Pre-primary to Grade 5	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	2
Grade 6 to 8	2	1	1	3	2	1	1	0	6	5	11	5
Grade 9 to 11	9	17	6	11	9	15	8	5	32	48	80	39
Grade 12 to Higher	1	23	9	18	7	12	17	24	34	77	111	54
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>		<b>49</b>		<b>46</b>		<b>55</b>		<b>205</b>			
<b>%</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>100</b>	

**1.4. Drop-out Beneficiaries:** The exhibit 4.8 shows the district and gender-wise dropped out beneficiaries before attaining the maximum educational attainment and age (18 year). Total 46 percent (N=94) of the beneficiaries dropped out before the maximum upper age and grade level, of which 40% were female dropped outs. This gender gap also matches with the data of the both genders linked with the scheme. The highest drop outs was observed in Barmer district which is 33% of total dropped outs in four sampled district which was followed by 29% dropped outs in Tonk district.

Exhibit 4.8. Gender-wise distribution of dropped-outs (before attaining age limit (18 years) & grade level 12 / higher)												
Grade category	Barmer		Banswara		Tonk		Dausa		Total			
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	Total	%
Pre-primary to Grade 5	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3
Grade 6 to 8	2	1	1	3	2	1	1	0	6	5	11	12
Grade 9 to 11	9	17	6	11	9	15	8	5	32	48	80	85
Sub-Total	11	20	7	15	11	16	9	5	38	56	94	46
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>		<b>22</b>		<b>27</b>		<b>14</b>		<b>94</b>			
<b>%</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>46</b>	
<b>% of total drop-outs</b>	<b>33</b>		<b>23</b>		<b>29</b>		<b>15</b>		<b>100</b>			

The data in exhibit 4.9 depict a comparative status of the beneficiaries who successfully availed the benefit till the maximum age (18 years) and education grade (12). 54% of the beneficiaries availed benefit till the last eligibility age and grade while 46% dropped out before that. The highest dropped out beneficiaries were from Barmer district which was 56% of total beneficiaries while the lowest dropped outs was observed 25% in Dausa district.

#### A widow's agony

**Tina Soni** (Rai Colony, Barmer city) a widow mother stays in a rented house; 3 children linked with scheme, currently, only one child avails the benefit. After availing the benefit for few years, Tina left the study in grade 9 at the age of 16 years due to worsening family's economic condition and started to support the family and two brothers' education. For last one year, one child has gone to her maternal uncle. One youngest child got admission in a private school under RtE Act where his tuition fee is



exempted but other costs on education such books, stationary, school uniform, food, transport etc is being paid by the family. Sometimes, these costs are unbearable for the family.

During the Covid times, the money was not received for almost one year which later on received. This amount was used to repay the loan taken during the Covid times. Tina suggests, “*There is a need to increase the amount of the assistance under the scheme as per the annual cost hike. Girls who are not able to continue their education, should be imparted vocational skills for better earnings*”.

**Exhibit 4.9. Graduated and Dropped beneficiaries at different grade levels**

Graduated / Dropped beneficiaries	Barmer		Banswara		Tonk		Dausa		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Graduated beneficiaries received benefits till age 18 yrs / grade 12	24	44	27	55	19	41	41	75	111	54
Dropped beneficiaries	31	56	22	45	27	59	14	25	94	46
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>100</b>

**Benefits helped in getting education**

**Ranveer Sen and Vandana** (21 and 19 years, Darda Turkey, Dausa): Earlier brother and sister were taken care by widow mother. After the death of their father, mother started working as a wage earner keeping children’s education continued. With the help of the Sarpanch the children linked in the Yojna and started receiving benefit. But due to weak economic condition, Ranveer left studies after class 10 and started earning to support Vandana for higher education (BA part II).

**2. Analysis of Perceptions / Responses of Beneficiaries (18+)**

An important tool in capturing and assessing the voices of Palanhar graduates and parents / caregivers on the scheme was to organize the FGD in eight blocks of the sampled districts. To conduct the FGDs issue-based questionnaire was developed which contained semi-structure and open-ended questions for inviting perceptions of the beneficiaries (18+) and then caregivers through these discussions. The following key issues were considered for eliciting perceptions of the target group:

7. Source of Information and support to the beneficiaries.
8. Challenges / difficulties for accessing the benefits of the scheme.
9. Duration of benefits which beneficiary accessed.
10. Cash transfer to the beneficiary.
11. Career Guidance & Skill trainings to graduated beneficiaries (18+)
12. Suggestions for improvement by beneficiaries.

The analysis of the responses received is given according to the issues.

**2.1. Information & Support:** The source of information about the scheme was remained common as School Headmaster and teachers, *Anganwadi Workers, Asha Sahyoginis, ANMs and Sarpanch*, ward members and friends or neighbour in all the four districts. In *Barmer, Banswara and Dausa* the source of information mainly has been family members, relatives and *e-Mitra*.

In Barmer district exclusively some other sources like vendors, temple priest, plumber and contractors were reported as the source. In Tonk district Child Line became the source of information for the some of the beneficiaries.

As far as the help extended by the persons to the beneficiaries in accessing the benefits of the scheme is concerned, the role of school headmaster and teachers seems to be prominent across all the districts. GP Sarpanch and Gram Sevak, Ward members were remained helpful in *Barmer, Banswara* and *Tonk* districts. Relatives both the paternal as well as the maternal and neighbours, and *Anganwadi* workers played vital role in helping the beneficiaries to access the benefits either contacting with the authorities or completion of the necessary documents especially in *Barmer* and *Dausa* districts. E-Mitra owner guided for completion of documents and registration in all four districts with the help of local NGO / CSO workers.

**2.2. Challenges in Accessing Benefits:** It has been a difficult time for some of the beneficiaries who faced challenges like;

- Lack of Information / knowledge awareness about the Palanhar Scheme and process of registration and required documents for registration was reported from Barmer, Tonk and Dausa.
- Too much time consumed for visiting to the concerned government officials and E-Mitra Centre for getting the required documents, making amendments and registration process completed. The Caregiver could not go for wage earning for several days which caused monetary loss to the beneficiary.
- The beneficiary / caregiver was forced to bear the travel expenses of himself / herself, beneficiary(ies) and accompanied person(s) for reaching out to distantly located E-Mitra and the concerned government departments which are located at district headquarters in Barmer and Banswara of desert and tribal regions of the state.
- Very rare, person(s) from the close relatives or neighbour were hardly ready to accompany to the female caregiver / beneficiary to escort her to get the required documents / process completed in Barmer city.
- Faced difficulties in making corrections in the documents, linking *Bhamashah* and *Jan Aadhar* Cards with the scheme. Problem faced in fingerprint of little children for adding their names in Jan Aadhar Cards, receiving certificate from school.
- Not received information of shortcomings in filling registration form at *E-Mitra* in time.
- Informants do not provide the complete information to the beneficiary.
- Most of the beneficiaries were not aware how much facilitation fee is legally allowed to pay to the E-Mitra for getting registered on online portal. E-Mira Centre was used to charge an amount of Rs. 100 to 300/- per case. It was big financial burden on the poor eligible beneficiary.

*It has also been reflected from other recent study (ISBM, SGVU Jaipur 2018) that the amount of money that respondents pay to conduct activities between knowing about a scheme up to receiving the benefits and actual cost taken to complete the process, this includes: cost of travel to awareness camps, travel to designated service providers, cost on food and beverages, bribery costs and loss of daily income. Cost comparison clearly indicates that cost incurred in completing process of Palanhar Yojana (466 INR) and widow pension (482 INR).*

**Mahendra Bairwa** (18, Jhilai, Tonk), an orphaned child, taken care by *Bhua* (Maternal Aunt). He has two elder brothers who are married and live separately. Earlier, he was connected with the scheme but presently not. *Mahendra* is a mentally retarded. Due to *Bhua's* old age and bad economic condition she is not able to support the child, although, Mahendra grazes goats which brings some income for him. Earlier, Bhua was getting some money from widow pension, wage and the Palanhar assistance for *Mahindra*. After attaining 18 years, *Palanhar* support has been stopped to Mahendra. No one helps him being mentally weak.

**2.3. Duration of Benefits:** In rural Barmer the duration ranging one year to 8 years whereas in urban it comes to average 2 to 7 years. In Banswara district the benefit were received for one to 9 years. In Tonk and Dausa districts it ranges from 1 year to 11 years.

The responses of the graduated beneficiaries about starting to get the benefits were almost identical in urban and rural respondents of Barmer as they started to receive the benefits from the grade 3 till grade 12 and from age 6 to 16. In Banswara starting from grade 2 till 12 and aged between 7 and 16. In Tonk district it comes from grade 6 to 10 with age ranges from 13 to 16. In Dausa district it was reported that they started to receive the benefits from grade 10 till 12 in the age bracket of 14 to 17. Based on these responses it seems difficult to draw any generalization.

**2.4. Cash Transfer to the beneficiaries:** 80% respondents said that they received 1000 rupees per month. Only one respondent accepted to received rupees 1500 per month. The regularity of the amount received has been an issue in all the four districts where 2 to 6 months delay in deposit has been reported. In 80% cases the amount has been received in mother's account.

In both the urban and rural areas of all the districts 90% respondents said that the amount received was spent to support domestic expenditure and to procure school uniform, cloths, shoes and stationery. Also, the Children going to Private schools used the amount for paying the cost of tuition fee, books, stationary, uniform, shoes and transport and food. In the government schools, the above items are provided to the beneficiaries free of cost. In *Banswara* district in the amount received was used in re-paying the loan amount, construction of house and recharging data in mobile phone has been reported. In Dausa district a case of utilization of the amount for the treatment of father suffering from silicosis came in to light.

On asking what would have happened in your life if you didn't receive the benefit? The responses were:

- Could have faced acute financial crisis in the family. Debt on family could be increased.
- Could have faced difficulty in treatment of ailing member.
- Forced to quit study before completion of school education and could go for wage earning as daily labourer in early age.
- Lacking quality education and inadequate facilities for over-all care and development.
- Adverse effect on education and development, physical and mental health of the child.
- Family could have migrated and faced spoiled life.
- Not able to join higher education.

**2.5. Career Guidance:** Do they think that other than cash transfer, there should be some assistance for career development if so, what assistance they need? The answers were like:

- Support must be extended to the beneficiary for higher / vocational education (courses of sewing, mobile repairing, vehicle repairing, beautician, etc);
- Scholarship support for higher education / diploma course even after attaining 18 years age or completion of school education.
- Financial assistance / loan for starting own business / self-employment / income-generating activity
- Coaching support for competitive examination.
- Palanhar beneficiary should be given preference in the government job or provision of loan for starting self-employment.

When asked whether they received any counselling or advice on receiving life skill training or if they find useful if offered? 100% respondents said that no counselling or life skill training received. Such trainings will be useful for them. They need proper career counselling before completion of school education (grade 12). This was reported in all the four districts. In Barmer and Dausa districts respondents desired that the counselling for employability skills or income generating activities or better job opportunities would be more useful.

**2.6. Follow-up and Feedback mechanism:** Except from the local government teacher no one associated from the Palanhar Yojana from block and district level visited them specially to enquire about their well-being or for asking for any difficulty they were facing in receiving the benefits. Only NGO persons and ward members sometimes meet them.

#### **Caregivers' dilemma**

**Dungra Ram** (Meghwalion ki Basti, Barmer rural) says, "my son died two years ago. Anganwadi Worker informed me that my grand-daughter is eligible to access benefit of the Palanhar scheme. She was linked with scheme and my daughter In-Law's (Manju) bank account linked with the scheme for money transaction. After one year of this, girl's mother remarried with other man and went in other village, but still the fund transaction is being done in Manju's bank account while we (grandparents) are as real caretakers. We're not aware how to update / change the current / real care-givers information on the portal, and we need support from someone who could help them to uptake the information on the online system / portal".

Mother has also not withdrawn the amount received in her bank account on the name of her daughter (Rani) and she asks her in-laws to link the name of Rani's Grand-mother as Caretaker online portal and bank account, then only Manju will transfer the entire amount received till date in her bank account. The concerned frontline workers or people's representatives must help this family to getting the required amendments in the system.

**Khemraj** (*Jatyon ka Baas*, Barmer city) is *Chacha* (paternal uncle) of two orphaned children (one girl & one boy) linked with the scheme but due to Covid situation the information was not renewed on the portal. Hence, the amount was not being received in the bank account. Caregiver expresses sadly, "I have lost my both brother and sister-in-law due to some illness and they left the responsibility of both children on me. I was not aware about the scheme. One day, my cousin visited us and informed that there is Palanhar Scheme under which financial support is provided by the government for care and development of the orphan children. He further helped us to prepare the required documents and got registered on online portal through e-mitra kiosk and started receiving the amount in his bank account".

There was a gap of almost two years when the amount was not received in his bank account due to lack of renewal process. After knowing the renewal process, he will get it completed soon.

Khemraj suggests, "Updated information should share with the caregiver through phone calls since we are not able to read the messages received in mobile phone".

**2.7. Suggestions for improvement:** The suggestions elicited from discussions are summarized as follows:

- Financial assistance / stipend should be continued till the beneficiary gets job.
- Amount should be provided in every month; on regular basis for meeting the needs of the beneficiary on time.
- Current amount should be doubled looking after the cost hike.
- Process / mechanism for procurement of the documents and getting corrections should be simple / user-friendly.
- Need to create awareness among the general mass which could be possible by running a campaign by school teachers and CSOs every year. Mass mobilization and dissemination of the information about the scheme for ensuring benefit to every eligible individual.
- Like orphan children, other children whose both parents are differently-abled should get more financial support.
- Scholarship support after class 12 for higher or professional education.
- There should be a convergence with other schemes where there are provisions of financial / scholarship available to support the skills trainings / vocational courses or coaching classes for competitive examinations to the beneficiary.
- Opening of E-Mitra Centre in the village which will save our time and money for completion of all formalities for registration and renewal / updating the documents on the portal. The facility of verification of the documents should be available at Gram Panchayat level by avoiding the long-distance travel.
- Vocational skills should be given to the beneficiary after 18 years; and there should be a provision of loan for self-employment of the beneficiary.
- Palanhar beneficiary should be given priority in the government job.

### 3. Profile of Parents / Caregivers

3.1. Participation: Total 194 representatives of the parents / caregivers (both biological and non-biological) of the beneficiary children (both graduated / 18+ and current beneficiaries / under 18 years) participated in FGDs organized in four districts. The district-wise gender segregated data are given in the exhibit 4.10 where 77 percent of the participants were women, it means the maximum number of caregivers are women.

Social category	District-wise distribution of Caregivers in different social categories				Total	
	Barmer	Banswara	Tonk	Dausa	No.	%
SC	23	0	10	12	45	23
ST	1	43	1	3	48	25
OBC	20	0	23	32	75	39
Gen	11	0	12	3	26	13
<b>T</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>%</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>100</b>	

District	F	M	T
Barmer	42	13	55
Banswara	33	10	43
Tonk	38	8	46
Dausa	36	14	50
Total	149	45	194
%	77	23	100

**3.2. Social Composition of Caregivers** (biological & non-biological caregivers) in FGDs has been depicted in the exhibit 4.11 which shows that out of participating caregivers 39% belong to OBC category. It is almost equal to the percentage of participating 18+ beneficiaries which is almost same in the case of ST category. The higher percentage of SC category again can be seen in Dausa and Barmer districts. OBC, General and SC categories are absent in Banswara district.

**3.3. Palanhar Category-wise Gender Segregation:** When we examine the Gender & Beneficiary category-wise data as reflected in the exhibit 4.14, we find that 67% caregivers were widowed mothers, 12.5% differently-abled parents / mother / father and 7.5% were caregivers caring orphaned children.

There was no representation from the categories like; Children of remarried women, Children whose Parents / mother / father suffering with HIV / AIDS , Children whose Parents / mother / father suffering with Leprosy and. So 7 category Palanhars participated in FGDs. It shows that the unrepresented categories need to be associated with the Yojana as they seems to be neglected categories or they are not aware of the benefits for which category they belong to. As far as the male female representation is concerned this time we find that 77% female and 23% male caregivers participated in the discussions. This is because of maximum number of widows participated in the FGDs.

Exhibit 4.12. District and Palanhar category-wise Gender segregated of Beneficiaries										Responses		
Palanhar categories	Barmer		Banswara		Tonk		Dausa		Total			%
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	T	
Orphaned Children	0	7	0	3	1	1	2	0	3	11	14	7
Children whose Life Imprisoned parents or one of them imprisoned and other died	0	0	3	0	0	0	5	1	8	1	9	5
Children of Widow mother	41	0	29	0	33	0	27	0	130	0	130	67
Children whose Father died and Mother went on Nata	0	0	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	6	6	3
Children of differently-abled parents	2	1	1	5	4	2	1	8	8	16	24	12
Children of the divorced mother / parents who are not staying together for last five years	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Children whose Parents / mother / father suffering with Silicosis	0	4	0	0	0	0	1	5	1	9	10	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>100</b>
	<b>55</b>		<b>43</b>		<b>46</b>		<b>50</b>		<b>194</b>			

**From the Field Diaries of the Investigators:** The number of eligible children as reported in Barmer and Banswara were between 1 to 5 including 2 families with silicosis, but only 3 children were linked as per the norm from the scheme. In Tonk and Dausa districts, Families having 1 to 3 children, almost all children linked with the scheme except in few cases but those having more than three children, only three children have been linked.

One parent having two children told that only one child has been linked but second child could not be linked. The caregiver doesn't know the exact reason for not linking the child with the scheme.

One widow mother informed that she has five children, but only three children are getting benefit of the scheme. One caregiver informed that she has three children but only one child got linked with the benefit but she could not explain the exact reason of not getting benefit to other two children.

**3.4. Orphaned Children’s Caregivers:** Caregivers of 14 orphaned children constitutes about 7 percent of total caregivers participated in the study sample (Exhibit 4.13). The maximum participation (50%) was from Barmer district which was followed by 21% in Banswara and 14% from each of remaining two sampled districts, viz. Dausa and Tonk.

District	F	M	TOTAL	
			No.	%
Barmer	0	7	7	50
Banswara	0	3	3	21
Tonk	1	1	2	14
3.Dausa	2	0	2	14
TOTAL	3	11	14	100
%	21	79	100	

**3.5. Relationship of Caregivers with Beneficiaries (18+):** As far as the relationship with the beneficiaries participated in the FGDs is concerned we find from data of the exhibit 4.14 that 81% were biological mothers, whereas 5% were fathers who are the caregivers of the beneficiary children. If we see the relationship of the beneficiaries with their non-biological caregivers if find that 5% were paternal uncles and 4% were Grandfathers and whereas paternal Grandmothers and uncles were 2 percent.

District	Biological parents		Non-biological caregivers					Total
	Mother	Father	Grand Father	Paternal uncle	Paternal aunt	Brother	Maternal Grand Mother / Uncle	
Barmer	43	3	3	5	0	0	1	55
Banswara	42	4	2	0	1	0	0	49
Tonk	35	0	3	4	0	1	3	46
Dausa	47	4	0	2	2	0	0	55
Total	167	11	8	11	3	1	4	205
%	81	5	4	5	2	1	2	100

#### 4. Analysis of Responses / Perceptions of Caregivers

**4.1. Source of information and Support:** The following responses were received from discussion on the question ‘How did you know about the scheme?’

- School teachers and Anganwadi workers.
- *Ward Panch* and *Sarpanch*; *Panchayat Sahayak* and camp at village level.
- Friends, neighbour, relatives
- CSO/NGO volunteers, Childline workers
- Government officials during the process of procuring Card for Silicosis patient.
- Others (vendors such as Temple *Pandit / Pujari*, Plumber, Contractor)
- Some of the caregivers visited to the SJE Department offices at block and district levels for inquiring about the pension matter, they could know the eligibility of their children for Palanhar scheme.

**4.1. Support helped to Access Benefit:** In all the four districts Teacher helped in completion of documents, Neighbour accompanied the caregivers and beneficiary child / children to E-Mitra Centre for getting registered for Palanhar, E-Mitra and Childline worker guided for the process of the registration, how to complete the required documents, Local CSO / NGO worker / Volunteer facilitated the process for completion of the documents and connecting the beneficiary with E-Mitra for getting the registration done.

#### **Disabled parents able to educate their children**

**Rupa Devi and Ram Niwas Bairwa** (35 and 40, Bidoli Niwai, Tonk) are disabled parents of 3 children. Rupa says, "After our marriage, the family members did not even ask us how we were living alone. Due to unstable of employment, poor economic condition, he was used to graze sheep and goats or sometimes worked as laborers. Initially, none of our children were linked with the scheme for a long time. 5 - 6 years ago, we could know about the scheme and someone helped us to get registered our children in the scheme. Presently, my two children are studying in Grades 8 and 10 and being benefitted by the scheme while third one attained the age 18 years is out of the scheme. The elder boy has now dropped out and is working at a shop. I feel that if I had not been getting the benefit of the scheme, my family would not have been able to survive in these times of inflation". Rupa urges, "The government should increase the amount so that we can provide better education to our children".

In Banswara and Barmer districts GP Sarpanch, Ward Panch and secretary helped beneficiaries apart from family members and relatives. Also, Anganwadi Worker guided the Caregiver for approaching to E-Mitra (its location) with the required documents for getting the registration in the districts Banswara, Barmer and Tonk. The awareness campaigns were also organized by two NGOs working with the children in Banswara district and helped the eligible population to link with the scheme.

#### **Anganwadi centre's help saved the abandoned child**

**Kapudi (Meghwalion ki Basti, Barmer rural): A grand-mother as caregiver of abandoned** male child by mother who lost her son one year ago, then child was two years old. Mother of the child got remarried just after six months of death of his husband. The Anganwadi worker informed the grand-parents for eligibility of the child for Palanhar Scheme and advised them to get enrolled the child with the Anganwadi Centre for pre-primary education and school head teacher also helped the grand-parents to prepare all required documents for Palanhar registration. The child has been registered and gets benefits of the scheme as cash transfer in the grand-mother's bank account. The grand-mother feels highly obelized by those who helped her to get this benefit for the child. She urges the government to increase the assistance amount.

#### **Vocational Training post 18 years will help**

**Raman Lal (Rohaniya, Banswara)** beneficiary father shares, "we both (husband and wife) are differently-abled, having two sons and vulnerability of family, needs hardly meet with the disability pensions of both of us. We were not aware about the Palanhar scheme, our both sons were grown up and joined school. The NGO worker made us aware about the scheme and helped us to prepare all required documents and getting registered our both children under the scheme (2014-15) and we got benefit for 3 to 4 years. This helped to improve the economic condition of our family and our both children. My both sons have now become 18 years old and have completed grade 12. Due to no other source of income in the family both sons were forced to leave their further education (higher / technical) and migrated to Gujarat as daily wage earners to meet the family needs. If the Palanhar assistance to could have been continued till age of 25 years, my both children would have been got some kind of vocational trainings for achieving better employability skills / permanent source of income for his family"

**4.3. Cash Transfer to Beneficiaries:** The amount of Rs. 1000/- per child for 6 to 18 years and Rs. 500/- per child for 0 to 6 years has been received by the caregivers.

#### **Yojana helped stop migration**

**Kamala Devi (Moti Tibee, Banswara)**, a widow mother living with one son and one daughter. Boy has left study; Girl is studying in BA part II. Both children benefitted from Palanhar, now they have graduated from it. Kamala's husband expired (2014) due to prolonged illness, and then having no permanent source of income, gradually other family members become non-cooperative. Mother was used to migrate to Gujarat for earning livelihood for the family and repaying the loan which adversely affected the children's study. In 2015, NGO worker contacted in family, who supported Kamala to link mother with Widow Pension and both children with Palanhar scheme which helped the family to repay debt and support the education of both children.



Now, family's economic condition improved and Kamala stopped to migrate to Gujarat and started to pay more attention on children's care, development and education.

Son and daughter after becoming 18 years old, the assistance of Palanhar stopped which forced son to discontinue his higher education and started to earn wage to support his family and study of his sister who is continuing her education in BA part II. Kamala expresses, "*Palanhar scheme is very good which helped us a lot. The benefit of the scheme should also be linked with higher education which could have helped my son also to continue his study*".

When asked whether the amount received enough to meet the needs of their children, they said that this amount is very small looking at inflation. One caregiver informed that he spends Rs. 1000 for transport of the child to send him to distantly located school. They also talked about their needs for which they demand increased amount for: (i) Procuring cloths, school uniforms and food items for the child, study material and stationery, transport cost, tuition fee for the children studying in private schools, coaching expenses for additional academic support; (ii) Medical treatment of child; and (iii) Paying room rent for students in higher education or a family live in a rented house in urban area.

If they do not get the amount on time how they manage the expenses incurred on child. They said that the amount often gets delayed by 3 to 5 months meanwhile they borrow from neighbour / relatives or loan is taken to fulfil the needs of the child. Additional time spent for wage earning and selling of grain available also reported. *When the instalment not received on time, then one differently-abled father discontinued his son's education in class X and engaged the child in wage labour.*

During this year (January to December, 2022) how many instalments they received. The answers varied from 1 to 8 instalments. Only few reported to having received all the 11 instalments till November in Dausa and Barmer districts. Some say, "*We don't know since we have not counted the instalments in the bank statement or messages received from bank in this regard*". On an average 4 to 5 instalments have been received for a duration of 11 months. Some of them cited reason behind it, the incomplete annual renewal process.

#### **Support needed for further studies**

**Pinki Devi** (44, Jaupada, Dausa) resides with 3 children. Her husband died 6 years ago. Family's financial condition is grim, difficult to repay the loan taken during treatment of the husband; no permanent income. Due to the illness, the doctor has refrained her from working. The money of the yojna also comes intermittently. Children will have to be sent to wage earning after class XII.

The Palanhar Yojana has given my children a chance to study so far. The Sarpanch got us connected with the Yojna. Money was sufficient for studies in government school, but now support is needed for further studies.

The scheme support has been discontinued to elder sister since she attained the maximum age. Now, she can't continue her study. She further explains, "*I want that apart from the scheme, I should get more money so that I can help with my expenses and medicines. If I didn't get the money from the Yojana, I would not be able to give education to the children, may be the children would have been deprived of education only after class VIII*".

**4.4. Assistance for Career Development:** Do they think that other than cash transfer, there should be some assistance for career development if so, what assistance their children need? The common responses came from the caregivers were:

- Continuous Support is required even beyond school education or 18+ years for higher education or for getting vocational trainings / diploma course.
- For coaching and additional tuition support.
- Scholarship support after class XII so that the beneficiary could continue her higher education.
- They don't have the knowledge of other government schemes for which their children are eligible. There should be a system in place for sharing the relevant information.

- Those mothers and differently-abled parents who have no source of income, should be provided support or training for income generating activities.

**4.5. Mechanism for Information Flow / Updates:** Most of the caregivers expressed that they are illiterate or little literate and not able to read printed information received in mobile phone or any form. Some of them said that there is no system or mechanism through which the beneficiary families get information of the schemes while some of the participants said that they get information from E-Mitra, teachers, newspapers, Anganwadi workers, Mobile phone SMS. Other source of information and upgrades were Anganwadi workers, school teachers and Sarpanches. A few of them go to SJE Office to inquire about the instalment when not received in time or delayed too much. They too have some suggestions to improve the communication system which are:

- Government should establish a mechanism for sharing information on regular basis through front-line workers of the government departments, PRIs, NGOs and local print media. The relevant information should be disseminated to the beneficiaries at their door-step through a systematic communication channel.
- One person should be appointed who can guide the beneficiaries about new schemes and offers on time, and periodic Review Meetings / workshops / camps with the beneficiaries / eligible population should be organized at GP level.
- Major amendments in the scheme or policy should be published in local news-papers for mass dissemination of the information. Caregivers should be properly oriented / articulated for fulfilling the responsibility of care and development of the beneficiary child / children.

**Increased amount can help in providing better care**

**Neni Devi** (Jation ka Baas, Barmer city) Widow Mother as Caregiver, 4-member family, three children (Pooja, 15 years; two boys: Vikram 14 years; Vijay 11 years)) linked with Palanhar scheme. Husband died 4 years ago. The assistance does not receive on time in the bank account and it was also delayed or stopped due to non-compliance of renewal process on annual basis since Neni Devi was not aware for this renewal process. Some helped them to complete the renewal process in October 2022. Still the amount is awaited in the account.

Neni Devi has heavy debt on her since a lot of expenses was incurred on the treatment of her husband and also for construction of house which is still incomplete due to sudden demise of her husband. Now, she is thinking to sale out the house to repay the debt since it's increasing day by day due to heavy interest charged on the debt amount. Neni Devi appreciates the assistance, *"it helps me to manage the domestic affairs, but I feel this amount is not enough to meet the needs of three children and it should be increased so that all my children could continue their study. I wish to get quality education for my children, so they could go for higher education"*.

**4.6. Challenges faced:** There were several challenges faced by the caregivers during the application process, accessing the benefits and documentation and renewal. The common issue faced was the completion of the uncompleted documents, most difficult part was getting corrected the name and age in the documents, especially in *Jan Aadhar* and had to made several visits to E-Mitra and government offices for the same. Other reported issues were:

- Lack of adequate information / knowledge about the scheme, difficult for almost all caregivers to get the required documents procured or corrected in already available documents and E-Mitra owner charges illegal fee ranging from Rs. 100 to 300 per case and asks to visit several times to get the formalities completed on the portal which also costs too high for the caregiver and beneficiary (*Barmer*).
- Several days were spent for procuring and corrections in relevant / required documents which caused additional financial burden & wage loss to the beneficiary families / caregivers (*Tonk*).
- Non-availability of the concerned officer(s) in SJE office even visiting the office several times, providing finger prints of small children (*Dausa*).

- Problem in updating new mobile phone number and registering the child on the portal.

**4.7. Grievance Redressal Mechanism:** Most of the members were not aware where / which government department or official to lodge the grievance.

- If grievance becomes too important, then this is shared with the Anganwadi workers or approach to the Gram Panchayat for the same. But we normally find that GP representative or urban ward member (Parshad) is not keen to listen them or take the issue forwarded f (Barmer & Banswara).
- If they don't get money on time / or in case of delayed receipt of money, few of them inquired from SJE Department office at district level. Some of them contacted to community leaders who are aware about the scheme and a few of them also share the grievance with friends and relatives for seeking help (Tonk & Dausa).
- Few participants also complained to the office of SJE Department at District level (Banswara).

**4.8. Suggestions for Improvement:** The common suggestions emerged were the demand of increasing the amount for all categories, minimum Rs. 2000/- per month should be given under the scheme looking at the inflation and ensuring the amount transferred in the account on time (monthly basis); sharing information by organizing camp at village level. Some more suggestions were:

- The beneficiary should be provided the financial support for higher education even beyond school education and age 18+ or till the beneficiary gets a job.
- Awareness Campaign for ensuring the linking of eligible population (Banswara, Dausa)
- Palanhar graduates should be imparted such vocational training so that they could become financial independent / self-reliant (Tonk, Banswara).
- Making the process of registration and further updating should be simple (Banswara).
- Coaching support for preparation for employment, Palanhar beneficiary graduates who join higher (college / university) education, should be exempted from the tuition fee (Barmer).
- Support from the local NGOs and CSOs should be taken for awareness campaign and the survey should be conducted to identify eligible children who are not been linked with the scheme due to lack of awareness and incompleteness of the documentation for which help could also be taken from CBOs and CSOs working in the area (Dausa).

## **B. Interviews with Key Stakeholders**

The interviews were conducted with the key stakeholders during the field survey for the data collection and district consultations. Some of the INGOs and UN agency representatives were interviewed through questionnaires sent to them through mail or WhatsApp number. Total number of stakeholders interviewed were 149 and amongst them the maximum number were from caregivers of beneficiaries (34%) and Palanhar graduate beneficiaries (22%). Representatives of government officials associated with the Yojana were 17% and NGO persons were 12%. The percentage of peoples' representatives and academia was 9% and 6% respectively. The male and female representatives were interviewed in equal number was equal (Exhibit 4.15).

Respondents categories	Jaipur		Barmer		Banswar a		Tonk		Dausa		TOTAL			%
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	T	
Palanhar graduates	0	0	2	2	4	2	9	6	5	3	20	13	33	22
Caregivers	0	0	6	1	4	2	23	3	8	3	41	9	50	34
Govt. Officials	0	0	0	2	2	7	0	6	4	4	6	19	25	17
NGOs	0	0	0	3	0	6	0	6	1	2	1	17	18	12
People's Representatives	0	0	1	2	1	4	0	1	0	5	2	12	14	9
Academia	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	4	9	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>100</b>
%											50	50	100	

## 1. Interviews with Beneficiaries (18+)

Personal Interviews of beneficiaries and stakeholders were conducted through structured interview questions to capture and assess the voices of Palanhar graduates, parents or guardians and other stakeholders like government officials, NGO representatives and PRIs on the scheme were conducted in eight blocks of all the sampled districts viz. Dausa, Tonk, Banswara and Barmer. The following key issues were considered to develop questions for eliciting perceptions of the target group.

- Source of Information and support to the beneficiaries.
- Challenges / difficulties for accessing the benefits of the scheme.
- Duration of benefits which beneficiary accessed.
- Cash transfer to the beneficiary.
- Career Guidance & Skill trainings to graduated beneficiaries (18+)
- Suggestions for improvement by beneficiaries.

**1.1. Source of Information and Support:** On the source of information total 39 responses were received from 18+ beneficiaries in which they mentioned their source of information on the scheme. The frequency

Source of Information	Responses	
	No.	%
Government frontline workers viz. Anganwadi Worker, School teacher / HM / Principal / Asha Sahyogini	7	18
PRI members (Sarpanch, Panch), Gram Sevak	11	28
Social Worker and E-Mitra	7	18
Family members / Relatives / Neighbours / Acquaintance	8	21
No one / Self-efforts	6	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>100</b>

the benefits of the scheme.

has been compiled to analyze the particular source of information. Some of the beneficiaries indicated more than one source also. As we can see Table 1, we find that PRI members (Sarpanch, Panch) secretary were the main source of information (28%) on the scheme, family members, relatives and neighbours (21%), social workers (18%) and government front line workers viz. Anganwadi workers, school teachers etc. (18%) also played important role of providing the information on

**1.2. Help Supported to Access Benefit:** The majority of support as indicated was received from PRI members (31%), Family members and relatives (20%), government frontline workers (13%) and Social workers and *E-Mitra* (10%). 26% beneficiaries explored about the *Yojana* on their own which is a large number.

Exhibit 4.17. Supported by to Access Benefit	Responses	
	No.	%
Government frontline workers viz. Anganwadi Worker, School teacher / HM / Principal / Asha Sahyogini	5	13
PRI members (Sarpanch, Panch), Secretary / Gram Sevak	12	31
Social Worker and E-Mitra	4	10
Family members / Relatives / Neighbours / Acquaintance	8	20
No one / Self-efforts	10	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>100</b>

**1.4. Cash assistance helped the Beneficiary**

Exhibit 4.18. Cash support received helps the beneficiary in	Responses	
	No.	%
Studies / paying school fee, purchasing uniform, stationary & other learning material	28	50
Health and nutrition (feeding and nurturing, ration)	6	11
Other household expenses eg. Purchasing clothes, shoes for other members of the family	22	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>100</b>

It was accepted by the majority of beneficiaries that the cash received under the scheme was spent on studies (50%) and to meet out the household expenditure of the family (39%). Though the beneficiaries reported other areas of expenditure but they are somewhat related to the expenses incurred on studies as a whole. It is interesting to know that some of the beneficiaries spent their school fee (for private schools). Expenses on health and nutrition etc. also mentioned in 11% responses.

**1.5. Situation of the beneficiary in lack of Palanhar Support:** Higher studies would have been hampered had they did not get the benefits of the Palanhar Yojana. 40% respondents said that it helped them getting the higher education. Other responses were related to meeting out the household expenditure (31%), had to indulge in wage earning activities in early age / child labour. (13%).

Exhibit 4.19. Situation of the beneficiary in lack of Palanhar Support	Responses	
	No.	%
Higher education could have been hampered	22	40
Not able to complete school education (up to class XII)	6	11
Could have faced difficulty to meet basic needs of the family like ration, clothes, treatment in case of illness	17	31
Burden of loan or debt with high interest rate on the family could have been increased	3	5
Found engaged in wage earning activities in early age / child labour	7	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100</b>

**Palanhar benefits could have changed lives**

**Reena Kumari** (Chilkari, Banswara): Widow mother's daughter was found deprived of Palanhar scheme & got married before legal age and her two younger brothers are studying, elder one was doing STC and younger one was studying in BA part I. Younger brother got benefit of the Palanhar scheme for six years but after attaining the maximum age (18+), benefit of the scheme is not available for him for his higher education.

Reena and his elder brother were also applied for the Palanhar benefits but they never got it. Reena being eldest one opted to discontinue her study and started earning to support the education of both younger brothers. Reena was used to migrate to Gujarat along with her cousin brother for wage earning during the lean period of the year (when no option of wage earning at local level) and she was also used to engage in MNREGA work during summers.

Reena came in contact with the NGO Volunteers and became aware about other social protection schemes. This enhance her confidence and information level. So she re-started her education as a private candidate and accessed the

benefits from other schemes such as construction of toilets and house under Indira Awaas Yojana, linked Mother with Widow Pension, got the labour card, etc.

Now, Reena stays in In-Laws house; and she says, “My mother is forced to take debt to support the younger brother’s higher education. If I and my brother had got the benefit of Palanhar Yojna, then the financial condition of the family would have been better. The benefit to one brother has discontinued. Benefit of the yojana should continue to those beneficiaries who aspire to go for higher and professional education or skill trainings”.

**1.6. Shortfall in getting Benefits and Reasons:** The exhibit 4.20 shows major shortfalls and their reasons in accessing the benefit of the scheme by the beneficiaries as shared by the caregivers. 32% responses

Exhibit 4.20. Reasons of shortfall	Responses	
	No.	%
Lack of timely information caused 3 months to 2 years delay in getting access of the scheme benefit	10	27
Getting the registration renewed / verified on portal which sometimes caused financial loss to beneficiary	3	8
Delayed receipt ( 3 to 12 months)	12	32
Inadequate assistance amount in current context	7	19
No response or no shortfall	5	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>100</b>

said that the instalments were not received on monthly basis and there was always delay in getting the amount. Often money received in one go which hampers admissions and repaying the loans etc. Lack of timely information was another issue with 27% respondents. 19% respondents said that the amount was not enough to meet out the expenses.

**Economic condition forced early age wage earning**

**Varsha Jangid** (Rai colony, Barmer city) stays in 5-member family. Three members linked with Palanhar Scheme. Currently one member is availing the benefit. When her father died 2 sisters and 2 brothers were studying in school and family occupation was tailoring. After his death, mother took the responsibility earning through tailoring job. Two sisters and one brother were linked with the Palanhar scheme.

The eldest sister left her study (class 8) due to grim economic condition and engaged in tailoring job. After 2 or 3 years, the eldest sister got married and Covid situation worsened the family economic condition, so Varsha also left her education in class 9 and engaged herself in tailoring business. Her one brother, next to Varsha also left school education and migrated to Gujarat for wage earning and works in a company there while her younger brother continues his in class 11. Both mother and sister want to support youngest child’s education till he desires to continue.

**1.7. Career Counselling and Vocational Training:** The caregivers report that their children did not receive any kind of career counselling or vocational skills apart from Cash Transfer, although expressed its importance for the graduated children.

**1.8. Difficulties / Challenges:** Documentation has been the major issue as indicated by 30% respondents. Lack of information (23%) and E-Mitra issues of not working properly or completing on time and distance of such centre was reported by 21% respondents. Other issues were raised are based on their personal experiences and cannot be generalized (Exhibit 4.21).

Exhibit 4.21. Difficulties / Challenges Faced by Beneficiaries	Responses	
	No.	%
Lack of information about the process of filling and submitting the application	9	23
Had to go round to remove the deficiency in the documents and get new documents	12	30
Had to made recommendations for the signature of senior officers	1	2
Difficulty in receiving information for completion of application through E-Mitra	4	10
Had to go around on E-Mitra	5	13
E-Mitra Centre distantly located (15 Km)	3	8
Took time to open bank account	1	2
No issues	3	8
Portal Does not function properly	1	2
Difficulty in getting cooperation of knowledgeable persons	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100</b>

**1.9. Suggestion for Improvement:** The three major suggestions emerged from the interview of the 18+ beneficiaries for improving the scheme were; there is need to increase the assistance amount (29%),

Exhibit 4.22. Suggestions to improve the scheme	Responses	
	No.	%
The amount is insufficient due to the inflation. The amount of the scheme should be increased.	16	29
Instalments should be regular	13	23
Even after 18 years, benefits should be given for courses/training for self-employment.	6	11
Should get the benefit or scholarship for education even after 18 years / 12 <sup>th</sup> class	10	18
Instalment should be given according to the class level and not according to the age.	1	2
The instalment amount should be more in higher classes.	2	4
Instalment amount should necessarily come in May and June.	1	2
Information about the reason for which the money has stopped should be made available on time.	1	2
More eligible children could join scheme If there is effective awareness and dissemination	4	7
Skill development courses should be conducted free of cost.	1	2

regular instalments (23%), benefit of assistance should be continued may be in form of scholarship even after the age of 18 years or passing out the 12 examination for higher studies or some technical courses (29%). Awareness on the program has been an important issue which need to be addressed.

**18 Plus beneficiaries demand extension of scheme benefits**

**Durga Ram (Meghwalion ki Basti, Barmer rural):** His mother continued to stay with the child till he becomes 18 years old and availed the benefit of Palanhar. Immediately after this benefit is over, mother left the beneficiary child and started to live with other man in other habitation. Child faced the challenge of continuing his higher education and earning livelihood since there was no other support available in the family and close relatives. So he started to earn through daily wage labour and applied for higher education in Kota Open University. The beneficiary wished to have continued support beyond his school education or after the age of 18 years till he gets some employability skills / vocational / diploma course for better career opportunities. He must have been provided some career guidance or skill trainings or linked with some other schemes for scholarship / financial support for the higher education.

**Durga Singh (Lalwanion ki Dhani, Barmer rural):** School teacher helped the mother to access Palanhar Scheme for her three children. Durga Singh is the youngest child who availed the benefit for six years while for other two elder brother, the benefit was accessed only for 3 and 4 years since the family was not aware about the scheme. Now, all three brothers have become 18+ years old and eldest one left his study before completion of school education and started earning as daily wage labour, second brother after completion of school joined service with an NGO for supporting the higher education of his youngest brother who is currently doing 2-year mechanical diploma course in a private institution for which he has deposited a fee of Rs. 40 thousand as course fee of one year. For this amount his family has taken debt at high interest rate which will create economic crisis in the family if the debt is not repaid in time. Durga Singh was not aware to get the financial support from other SPSs such as *Mukhyamantri Hunar Yojana*. Durga Singh urges to the government, *“Palanhar beneficiary should be linked with other social protection schemes even beyond 18 years age for higher or technical education”*.

## 2. Interviews with the Parents / Caregivers

Total 51 personal interviews with Caregivers were conducted and their views / perceptions elicited have been summarized as follows:

**2.1. Eligible children in the family and linked with the scheme:** Out of 46 responses number of eligible children in a family were found 1(22%) or 2 (35%). One response said that there were 2 eligible children but only one received the benefit. 6 responses (13%) told that out of 3 eligible children only 2 got the benefits. 2 responses said that out of their 3 eligible children only 1 received the benefit.

**2.2. Source of Information and support:** Out of 54 responses Sarpanch (24%), social worker (15%) and E-Mitra (13%) emerged as the prime source of information on the scheme and the support provided in getting the benefits out of 62 responses, were also *Sarpanches* (19%), E-Mitra (18%) and social workers / NGOs (16%). The others who supported the beneficiary family were *Gram Sevak* (13%), relatives (10%) and neighbours (8%). It seems that these emerged as prime source of information on the scheme in villages and also the supporters in helping the families to avail the benefits.

**NGO supported family to get the benefits**

**Nathu Valai** Age (26; Ram ka Munna, Banswara) is a physically challenged father of four children (2 sons and 2 daughters) is not able to earn. His wife earns for his family. Even after Economically deplorable situation, all 4 children were attending schools but these children were not linked with the Palanhar benefits.

During a survey under Child Rights for Change project (2014-15), the NGO volunteer helped the family to prepare the required documents and upgraded the disability of the father in Bhamahsha card and facilitated the process to get registered the eligible father for disability pension and linked all four children with the Palanhar scheme. Nathu expresses, *"I was not aware about the scheme and disability pension due to inability to move outside. I'm feeling highly obliged and grateful to the NGO Volunteer who helped the family to get this financial support. This improved my family's economic condition much better. Now, my children are able to continue their study"*

**2.3. Use of Palanhar Money Received:** The responses received on this question were 83 from 42 caregivers. 100% caregivers said that they spend the money on educational expenses of child/children. 25% said that the amount is used to meet expenses on house-hold expenditure whereas 8% caregivers spend on food and other needs of children. Other responses were like spent on house building, medical and other necessities of the family.

It was also asked **whether the amount received sufficient to meet the needs of your child.** 96% responses said that the amount is insufficient to meet all the needs of child but it helps to some extent.

**2.4. Whether Money received on time and Consequences of Delay:** 87% responses confirmed that they did not receive the amount on regular basis, delay up to 6 months was normal feature. Due to the irregular money transfer affects the education of the beneficiary child as 42 % responses say that there was no regularity in school and 13% responses reflect that development of child hampers, difficulty in meeting house hold expenditure (9%). In other responses were like; the child would receive a dress, stationery, and other accessories late, had to borrow money etc.

**2.5. Whether Palanhar beneficiary received any Career Counselling and Vocational Skill training:** 100% responses to this question were 'NO' but its importance for the graduating beneficiary is essential required.

**2.6. Difficulties/challenges in the process of accessing the Scheme benefit:** Out of 50 responses 50% Faced difficulty due to lack of information about the scheme in the family, It took almost 3 months to get the work done through E-Mitra (18%), document preparation & updating like Bhamashah card, Aadhar card and school verification took time (16%).

**2.7. Other Suggestion for the Improvement:** The major suggestions out of 82 responses emerged were almost similar to that of the graduated beneficiaries which were as follows:

- Assistance amount should be increased (35%);



- For further studies, a new scheme should be implemented, those above 18 should get benefit/scholarship (24%);
- Timely release of instalment (13%);
- Publicize the plan through pamphlets and local print media (7%);
- There should be facility / assistance to continue studies even after Class XII (5%);
- Others (16%).

### 3. Interviews with the Concerned Government officials

25 government officials of the line departments (mostly from Social Justice; Child Rights, WCD / ICDS, Education, CWC) from four districts were interviewed to elicit their responses on specific questions related to different aspects of the scheme for understanding the perspective of the government for implementation and monitoring of the Palanhar scheme in the state. The responses received have been summarized as follows:

**3.1. Roles and Responsibility of Government Officials:** The officials interviewed consisted of the following roles and responsibilities to handle the *Yojana*.

- Sanctioning officer in Palanhar scheme responsible for timely payment of Palanhar scheme.
- Issuance of acceptance as Assistant Director.
- As Assistant Director Child Welfare Committee.
- Work of connecting eligible families with Palanhar Yojana at Panchayat level.
- As a Teacher- giving information to the guardian of the children according to the eligibility of the child / giving study certificate.
- Upgrading record for being in-charge of Shala Darpan.
- Connecting / helping people by selecting them.

**3.2. Progressive Trend in Beneficiary Data:** Out of 25 respondents 11 (44%) did not respond to the question. 48% said that the number of beneficiaries is increasing but did not specifically put any data to support their answer. A few said that the data can only be obtained from central administrative level.

**3.3. Beneficiaries received maximum and minimum benefits and Reasons:** Out of 25 respondents 14 (56%) did not respond to this question. 12% said that the maximum number of beneficiaries are the children of widowed mothers and least to the differently abled parents. 8% said that Maximum benefit is received by widow mother category and minimum benefit to orphan children category. 4% respondents said that the maximum benefit to silicosis category and lesser benefit to widow and differently-abled category. Other 4% said that the minimum benefit received by the silicosis category. So it seems that the lack of knowledge about the beneficiary categories who are taking maximum and minimum benefit of the scheme amongst the officials dealing with the different aspects of the scheme. What were the reasons of a specified categories taking the maximum or minimum benefits, only 5 responded to this question and out of which 2 (40%) respondents said that Due to lack of information, some people are not able to take advantage of the scheme. Other responses were: Lack of information and awareness about categories other than widows, orphans and disabled (20%); Due to lack of information in far-flung areas, they join the schemes late (20%); Due to lack of source of livelihood for the parents of orphan children and specially abled children (20%).

**Timely disbursal of amount is necessary**

**Manisha Jangid** (19, OBC, BA-part-I; Haripura, Dausa) has four sisters and one brother and elder sister (Shivani) as Caregiver. Her parents died sometimes back. Caregiver is studying in BA part-III and beneficiary in BA part-I, two younger brothers in class IX and VII respectively.

The family's financial condition is very poor, the elder sister earns Rs.1000. Palanhar amount does not come regularly. They have to take loans for family needs. Manisha expresses the need, *"We should get some more amount so that we can meet household basic needs, and otherwise it seems difficult to continue the studies of both sisters. Four sisters and brothers had benefited from the scheme and two are still getting it. The scheme has kept us connected with studies till now. The money for Palanhar Yojana should come on time so that household and education expenses can be met easy. We should also be connected with other SPSs, so that our basic needs could be fulfilled and our studies could be completed. We should get money for coaching and reading material for competitive exams. Life skill training should be given"*.

**3.4. Training programs for Palanhar Yojna implementation staff:** Out of 25 respondents 17 either did not responded properly or left the column blank. Those who responded (8 officials) only one said that for running campaigns and other training have been given to public representatives, officials of Women and Child Development Department and Education Department for association with the Palanhar Yojana. 6 (75%) respondents mentioned only that the government conducts publicity and training programs of the scheme through camps from time to time but unable to provide specific details on the training programs.

**3.5. CSOs / NGOs Support for Capacity Building:** The question was answered by 25 participants in 32 responses. 31% responses said that awareness/publicity work can be done through NGOs. 22% said that more eligible persons can be benefited through NGOs. Other responses 22% said that the NGOs can help in better implementation of the program.

**Need to support with other social schemes**

**Ganesh Lal Damor** (19, Baler Jhagod, Anandpuri, Banswara) shares that when he was in class IX, his father died (2012) after a long illness which resulted grim economic condition of family, debt amount increased, and forced elder brother and sister to quit their study and engage them in wage earning for fulfil the family needs and repaying the debt amount. After sometime, CSO volunteers contacted to the family during a household survey who explained about the Palanhar scheme. Subsequently they helped elder brother to prepare the required documents and facilitated the process for registration of widow mother with pension and Ganesh with Palanhar scheme. Ganesh expresses, *"this assistance helped me to continue my study till class XI. After getting my sister married and increased burden of debt on the family created disinterest in me towards study so I left the school and involved in wage earning activities to support the family"*. Lastly, Ganesh appreciates the scheme and he got benefits but unfortunately he good not get the full benefit due to economic grim situation of my family.

**3.6. Visualization of the Role of NGOs:** Out of 25 responses 72% officials accepted that the awareness, publicity, survey work, beneficiary identification and documentation can be helped through NGOs because of NGO's reach to the ground level. 20% said that NGOs can cooperate through awareness campaign with Nukkad Nataks and IEC material. They can communicate very well on the rules and regulations of the scheme. 8% said that they can help by imparting trainings to the stakeholders.

**3.7. Eligible children not able to avail the benefits and Reasons:** Out of 27 responses, 37% said that children, in whose family no one is educated, lack of information about this scheme is a big reason for not been able to avail the benefits of the scheme. 15% said that children whose father is alive and they do not nurture them are deprived of this scheme. 11% told the reason of incomplete or error in documents. 8% said that silicosis, leprosy category children are not benefited due to lack of information. 8% cited that

children of *Gadia Luhar* and nomadic castes as they do not have permanent residence. 8% responded that orphan and widow category children have been benefited by running camps. Due to non-availability of data of beneficiaries of life imprisonment and *Nata* category and non-identification of the target group, the beneficiaries have been reduced. 8% officials did not respond to the question.

**3.8. Monitoring and Feedback Mechanism:** The question was answered by 24 respondents and their responses were like;

- There is a Social Security Officer at the block level, currently working in 6 blocks due to the vacancy of the post. (4%)
- Persons are appointed to monitor the scheme at the block level and monitoring is done seldom (4%)
- For Scheme monitoring, work is done at the district level, block level and village level through GP, Sarpanch and school to connect and monitor foster care, and also through *Gram Sabhas*, public hearings (8%).
- Through the personnel working at the Gram Panchayat level of Education Department, Women and Child Development Department and Panchayat Raj Department, persons are connected by survey and annual physical verification is done (17%).
- At the school level, we monitor and follow up at our own level and discuss with the parents (21%)
- There is a need to increase the capacity of the village level child protection unit. It is necessary to do this work continuously and by establishing dialogue with the people's representative and personnel in the Gram Sabha and the general meetings in the block. The evaluation is done at the directorate level (16%).

**Assistance discontinued abruptly**

*Parveen, Sahib and) Mosin (20, 19 and 18 yrs old; Peeplu, Tonk), children of widow mother linked with Palanhar scheme. Father died in their early age when they were studying in school. Widow mother working as a housewife was not aware about the scheme and family economic condition gradually deteriorated due to his old age. However, grandfather could knew from some source about the scheme and he succeeded to register all three children. After two or three years, it was suddenly discontinued due to unknown reason.*

- At local level through Sarpanch, Ward Panch, school and Anganwadi centre. (4%)
- There is no module for monitoring at the school level (8%)
- The monitoring of the government is done only on paper, there should be proper supervision and monitoring, that is not happening even today. Organizations and NGOs can cooperate in this. So there will be more benefit (5%)
- It is possible with the cooperation of Sarpanch, Secretary, school teachers and eminent persons and guardians at all levels (8%)
- No answers (4%)

After the analysis of all the responses, it is clear that no robust monitoring system is available at any level. Responses in this regard are superficial and scattered. Had a strict monitoring system was available the responses would have been the same. Some of the officials accepted that the monitoring of the government is done only on paper. No official elaborated up on evaluation part of the question.

### 3.9. Assessment of the success of the scheme, its periodicity and accountability

- This is done by the percentage increase in the number of beneficiaries.
- They are evaluated and reviewed at the district level under public hearing, and during *Prashasan Gaon ke Sang* Campaign.
- Monthly meeting of Panchayat. Information at the school level is assessed from the progress reports of the Anganwadi.
- If the person gets benefit in minimum time, then it is considered successful.
- The success of the scheme is assessed by reaching out to the public.
- Assessment from the amount coming into the account of parents of eligible students
- Assessment is possible at the administrative level
- This can be assessed by maintaining data. Camps can be organized at GP level and this can be done by interacting with the people.

The officers of the concerned government departments, mainly SJE, Child Rights, Education and Women and Child Development and Panchayat Raj are responsible for implementation, monitoring through periodic assessment and documentation of the progress of the scheme, and it's updating on the portal but M&E exercise is not in practice at all.

It seems that the systematic assessment plan is absent and even the officials are unaware of that. The data of beneficiaries and the amount is only available at central level and they assess through the increase in number of beneficiaries and the increased amount disbursed. No study or assessment was reported. No one is willing to take accountability as well.

**3.10. Obstacles / Challenges** in implementation of the scheme shared by the officials from district, block and cluster level were as follows:

- Lack of staff and resources at the ground level is an obstacle in successful implementation.
- In the beginning the process was offline, then when it went online everyone was in trouble, no one had training.
- Implementation of Palanhar Yojana: Eligible families do not get information, due to which they do not get benefits on time.
- Mistakes in documents different names in *Jan Aadhar, Aadhar, Shala Darpan*, or not having any document are also the reasons.
- Negligence of *E-Mitra*
- The personnel engaged in the implementation of the scheme also harass beneficiaries. Work is not done on time.
- Repeated verification is a challenge.
- Lack of knowledge of scheme related rules.
- Officials working on the *Yojana* do not take interest.

The two major challenges highlighted by a majority of officials were lack of knowledge amongst the masses and the eligible beneficiaries and the ambiguity in documents or unavailability of desired documents.

**3.11. Coordination with the Line Departments:** The social security schemes' success depends on the coordination of line departments like; education, child empowerment, social welfare, skill development etc. It was important to

know how the coordination is done for the better implementation of the Yojana especially in the light of providing social security, skill development, vocational and higher education of the beneficiaries above 18 years of age.

Out of 25 respondents 9 did not answer the question. Out of 25 responses the stated responses are as:

- Giving information about scholarship and skill development scheme by contacting the beneficiaries above 18 years who have enrolled in higher education
- By promoting the schemes run by the Panchayat and the government, the work is done in coordination with all the departments.
- We give information for higher education to the children associated with this scheme studying in our school.
- Only the children studying till the age of 18 get the benefit of guardianship.

52% responses said that they contact beneficiaries above 18+ age on the skill development schemes and scholarships available for them by the Panchayat raj and other government departments. Rest could not give satisfactory responses or they suggested what could be done in regard to coordination with different departments etc.

**3.12. Suggestions/recommendations** for improvement were shared by the officials which are as follows:

- In private and government schools and at the Anganwadi level, there should be data collection of the category of Palanhar.
- After the admission at Anganwadi and schools, if they are in the category of Palanhar, then they should be benefited by linking them to the Palanhar portal. Only then, there will be no need to run repeated campaigns.
- Renewal can be done easily by doing annual renewal portal at school level.
- Staff and resources should be made available up to the block and gram Panchayat level.
- Publicity of the scheme should be done through government machinery and NGOs so that all eligible children get the benefit of the scheme.
- From the age of 18 to 21 years, children should get additional incentive amount so that their further studies can be continued.
- One Palanhar Mitra should be appointed on 10 Panchayats.
- The application process should be simplified.
- The benefit amount in the scheme should be given one month in advance.
- Seats should be earmarked for the children of Palanhar and children homes in ITIs.
- Skill development and entrepreneurship training should be specially conducted for the Palanhar children.
- There should be training for all level employees and E-Mitra etc. associated with the scheme so that they become sensitive and act responsibly.
- Children with mental retardation should necessarily be included in the scheme.
- Eligible families should get the benefit of the scheme on time. And the amount should be increased.
- The problem of finger print of children in Aadhar card should be resolved.

#### 4. Interviews with Social Organization (NGO) Representatives

20 representatives were interviewed and 7 questions were asked to register their responses on their roles, experiences and expectations on the *Palanhar Yojana*. Question-wise analysis has been given as:

**4.1. Nature of association of NGOs / CSOs with the Scheme:** The question consisted of 5 options from which the respondent could choose multiple options. The responses were further analysed based on the frequency of their chosen responses. Total 20 respondents filled the form.

Exhibit 4.23. Role of NGO for supporting the Scheme	Responses	
	No.	%
Awareness at community level about the scheme	18	33
Facilitation the process of completion of documents and adding eligible population to the scheme	15	27
Conducting assessment surveys / supporting Research studies	5	9
Monitoring and evaluation	8	15
Testing a new approach to strengthen the plan	5	9
Others-Bench-mark Survey, working with community for resolving the issues / problems either at local level or bringing with the district government authority, and working with partner organizations for dissemination of impact and learnings for improvement	4	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100</b>

It is evident that the 33% NGO representatives were associated with the scheme for creating awareness about the scheme whereas 27% working to add eligible population to the yojna.as far as the monitoring and evaluation is concerned of the yojna 15% said that they were indulged in this aspect of the scheme. 9% said that they are in to research studies related to evaluate various components of the scheme. Another 9% were testing a new approach to strengthen the yojna. The option of other kind of association were chose by the 3% participants who said that they had been associated with the yojna for bench-mark surveys and working with partner organizations for dissemination and 2% did not answer. So major association of the NGOs in organizing awareness campaigns, adding eligible population to the yojna. However, they mentioned about their association in monitoring and evaluation but further probing did not yield answer on this issue.

##### NGO played an important role in getting benefits

**Mani Lal** (Amarpur, Moti Tibbi, Banswara), Palanhar beneficiary graduate (18+), belongs to a 6-member poor tribal family. His father is differently-abled person, not earn to meet the family's economic needs. Mani Lal and his parents were not aware about the scheme. When Mani Lal was in class IX, he shares "the NGO volunteers approached to my father during a survey for SPSs, and letting him to know about my eligibility of accessing Palanhar scheme. My father was not having valid disability certificate. NGO Volunteer helped my father to get the certificate and other formalities completed which were required to get me registered for accessing the scheme. I got the financial support for three years till I completed class 12 and attained the age of 18 years".

Due to no other source of income for the family, Mani Lal was forced to quit his study and engaged himself to earn daily wage. He expresses his willingness to join the higher education or some kind of vocational / diploma course if the financial help could be made available for next two to three years so that he could able to better career opportunities.

**Ramesh** (Rohaniya, Banswara), discontinued study in class X. Initially, widow mother was caregiver, later on grand mother became caregiver when child's widow mother left the child when he was 13 years old with his grandparents after getting remarried. Ramesh could not be linked with the Palanhar scheme for about four years after his father

*expired and then he was too young since nobody knows about the scheme. When mother abandoned the child, responsibility of child care was on the shoulders of grandparents who are too old. Due to old age of grandparents they were not able to earn livelihood so he was forced to quit school in 10<sup>th</sup> grade and has taken the family responsibility and care of old age grandparents.*

*An NGO Volunteer approached to the grand-father of Ramesh and explained about the Palanhar scheme and helped my grand-father to prepare the required documents and facilitated the process to link me with the scheme and my family's economic condition little bit improved. When child's grand-father fell ill so the Ramesh was forced to leave the study in class X and started wage earning as a daily labourer. Now, grand-father insists Ramesh to continue to engage labour for earning money for the family needs. Ramesh suggests, "Children of my situation should be treated as separate category so that the child is not forced to leave the study".*

**4.2. Facilitation of Inclusion of Eligible Population and Suggestions** for improving the coverage were shared by respondents were as follows:

- The deprived and needy were linked with IRDP and benefited by linking them with the scheme. Provided relief from village level to district and state level from time to time.
- The organization is working on child care, under which beneficiaries are being linked with awareness on the scheme.
- We work in association with the Social Welfare Department, we create awareness about this scheme along with other schemes.
- In order to benefit the people from the scheme, survey was done and identified beneficiaries were connected to the scheme.
- Worked of verification from own laptop.
- Work of adding beneficiaries by opening customer service centre
- Gave feedback to the government from time to time
- Awareness programs are needed.
- Update information should be provided by putting up camps.
- The government should take feedback from time to time.
- An institution or government department should be decided at the *Panchayat* level to take the responsibility.

**4.3. NGOs directly working with the eligible population:** All the responses were affirmative as they have worked to associate eligible population to the scheme.

**4.4. Key learnings and Areas for Improvement** were shared by the respondents that they provide mentoring support to the target population and frontline workers for effective compliances of the provisions of various social protection schemes especially related to vulnerable children, girls, women, youth and people of social and economically weaker sections of the society. Their focus was to support the eligible children to link them with the scheme.

Out of 35 responses 50% responses were in favour of conducting awareness programs with the help of relevant IEC material. Other 50% consisted of like; increase in amount, timely disbursement of the funds, trainings to E-Mitra and other responsible officials, timely evaluation of the program, convergence with other departments and inclusion of vocational trainings in the program components etc..

**4.5. Documentation of the Success Stories:** Out of 25 responses 80% responses said that the success stories were not documented. 16% said that Children were linked to the scheme by publicizing on a large scale and by preparing documents but no documentation has been done. 4% responded that the scheme

benefited many people. Information can be taken from our organization and in the diary when needed. It seems that the organizations did superficial work just to make some population aware on the scheme that is why they do not have success stories to share.

**4.6. Major Suggestions / Action Points:** The major suggestions provided by the NGO representatives-

- Awareness work should be done on a large scale in the villages.
- Continuous review of the success of the scheme by district level officers
- The plan should be discussed in the *Gram Sabhas* and beneficiaries should be identified and linked in the *Gram Sabha* itself.
- The school and Anganwadi should be linked directly to the identification and enrolment of the eligible
- Should be linked to scholarship or any other scheme so that the child continues to study even after 12th pass or 18 years.
- The Implementation plan should be developed, evaluated / reviewed in consultation with CSOs / NGOs from time to time
- Social organizations should be trained at the district and state level.
- The application process should be simplified.

**4.7. Any other Cash Transfer Scheme(s) to the Beneficiaries in India or abroad:** Save the Children shared the experiences, learnings, challenges and recommendation of its project called Palanhar Plus<sup>9</sup> implemented in 100 villages of Dungarpur district in. No other NGOs shared about such schemes.

## 5. Interviews with People’s Representative

For this the interviews were done with Ward Panch, Ward Members, Sarpanch, Panchayat Samiti Members and Former Sarpanch etc. 8 questions were asked to have their views on the implementation of the Palanhar Scheme. 9 respondents provided their responses in all the sampled districts.

**5.1. Nature of association with Palanhar Yojna:** It is evident that the 37% public representatives were associated with the scheme for creating awareness about the scheme whereas 32% working to add eligible population to the yojna.as far as the monitoring and evaluation is concerned of the yojna 25% said that they were indulged in this aspect of the scheme. No one of them in to research studies related to evaluate various components of the scheme.

Exhibit 4.24. Roles / tasks performed by the government officials	Responses	
	No.	%
Create awareness about the scheme	13	37
Adding eligible beneficiaries to the scheme	11	32
Monitoring and evaluation	9	25
Others-Helped children in getting them signed in schools, getting documents made	2	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100</b>

The option of other kind of association were chose by the 6% participants who said that they helped children in getting them signed in schools, getting documents made and making them aware. So major

<sup>9</sup> <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/document/palanhar-plus-approach-strengthening-cash-transfer-programme-orphans-and-other-vulnerable/>



association of the public representatives in organizing awareness campaigns, adding eligible population to the yojna and monitoring.

**5.2. Programs to facilitate inclusion of Eligible Children:** The respondents shared their experience related to ground reality (achievements, challenges and learnings) of the scheme and provided specific suggestions for the improvement and expansion of the scheme. Out of 18 responses from 9 respondents said that they:

- Conducted community meetings from time to time at the ward level and also gave information about other schemes along with this scheme. (50%)
- Information was given to all the Ward Panches and people in the Gram Sabha and eligible people were added to this scheme. (33%)
- 17% did not responded on the question
- Government to ensure timely payment to the beneficiaries.
- The application process should be simplified.
- From time to time, at its own level and with NGOs support, people should be made more aware.

**5.3. Linking eligible children with the scheme:** Out of 15 responses from 9 respondents said that they No, haven't added it yet, but will definitely try in the future. (13%), yes, have helped in getting the benefits from the panchayat and the documents from the school. (67%), didn't do the work directly but told people about the scheme and asked them to visit E-Mitra. (20%)

**5.4. Main Areas of Strength and Improvement in the scheme:** Out of 25 responses the suggested prominent areas of improvement were:

- The scheme is good but the amount should be increased with time.
- Posters, pamphlets and meetings, plays should be organized from time to time.
- This scheme can be strengthened through non-governmental organizations and institutions.
- Anganwadi and school should be prepared for the scheme.
- Benefits should be given till the time they study after 12th.

**5.5. Action points/recommendations for betterment:** 22 responses received are summarized as follows-

- For correct and complete information, awareness and publicity campaigns should be conducted, NGOs should be included in this.
- Instalment amount should be increased according to inflation and it should be regularized.
- Age limit should be removed and provision should be made for education even after school.
- Eligible beneficiaries should also be given study material and uniform along with the amount.

## CHAPTER 5

### STUDY KEY FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

This chapter summarizes the key findings from the generalization of the field observations, discussions and analysis of both primary and secondary data, as given in previous two chapters (4 and 3) and proposes the key recommendations based on the enlisted key findings for improvement and expanding the scope of this *Palanhar* scheme as second version (*Palanhar 2.0*) in future. The chapter mentions the over-all result of the study and indicates the action points for forward planning.

#### KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The issue-based key findings emerged from both primary and secondary data have been summarized followed by proposed recommendations which are as follows:

**1. Big Gender Gap in beneficiary data:** About seven lakh children are getting benefitted by the scheme. It has been clearly emerged that only 22 percent of female beneficiary children got registered on the portal till date whereas male beneficiaries are 78 percent. This gap exists in almost in all *Palanhar* categories and is also supported by the primary data that 35% female beneficiaries participated in the study. This is perhaps due to the prevailing gender-based discrimination in the society and the eligible female children are ignored by both the community and the government system.

**Recommendation:** As this gender gap denotes that a large number of girls are left out of the system, which requires to explore alternative ways for registering more eligible girls under the scheme and need to monitor this most vulnerable sub-group more sensitively. This requires special efforts of the government to make the gender-sensitized system and bringing gender-parity by increasing the participation of women in planning, implementation and monitoring process of the scheme and special provisions like increased amount exclusively for girls can also be made. Girls who are not able to continue their education, should be imparted vocational skills for better earnings.

**2. Lack of Mass Awareness about the Scheme:** Although few sporadic camps were organized at limited number of GPs to provide E-Mitra facility at door-step of the eligible children for their registration at the online portal. Very few awareness / IEC and training material is available to government frontline workers, implementers and CBOs to utilize mass awareness and education. Many stakeholders, even PRI members are not aware about several social protection schemes related to children, especially the *Palanhar Yojana*. A significant number of eligible children of socially excluded and economically vulnerable communities are still deprived of the scheme benefits especially in remote and isolated habitations located in desert and tribal regions of the state.

**Recommendation:** Adequate and relevant IEC material need to be developed and made available for mass awareness campaign and capacity building of the frontline workers and representatives of CSOs, CBOs, potential beneficiaries and caregivers, social activists and people's representatives.

**3. Promoting beneficiary children to enroll or retain in government schools:** It has been observed that around 70% beneficiary children study in private schools (as reflected from district level consultations in *Banswara* and *Dausa*) so a large amount of the assistance goes to these schools.

**Recommendation:** The beneficiary children and their parents should be encouraged to join the neighborhood government schools otherwise they are deprived of other facilities for free education such as no fee in the school, free textbooks, mid-day meal, uniform available in the government school.

**4. Delay in updation of the beneficiary data on portal:** The beneficiary or caregiver is not able to update her information regarding change of the name of caregiver or her linked mobile number on the portal

**Recommendation:** There should be reasonable solution of the problem may be resolved at local level (Gram Panchayat or School) and without much delay; the changed data of beneficiary and caregiver should be updated at the earliest. There should be a well-defined procedure for removal of the existing Palanhar and replacement by new Palanhar. 12year child headed family may be considered: as Palanhar There is no established mechanism if anybody want to change Palanhar in mid of the services getting received. Under the scheme where the primary care- giver (*Palanhar*) falls to give quality services to child. In such cases, the removal of the previous care-giver, appointment of new care-giver can be done.

**5. Review and Feedback System:** No Effective Channel for Communication between beneficiary / caregivers and the concerned government body at local level (block and district). About 67% and 6% caregivers are widow mothers and grand-parents. Most of them do not have their own phone numbers which are registered at Palanhar portal, so message comes from bank or the department is not accessible to them.

**Recommendation 5.1:** The periodic (may be quarterly) review and feedback meetings could be organized with active participation of representatives of the key stakeholders (including beneficiaries, caregivers, CSOs, CBOs, PRIs and implementers) at GP / GO and Block level. During these meetings the concerned official immediately resolve the problems of the beneficiaries and complete the renewal or data updation on the spot.

**Recommendation 5.2:** Major amendments in the scheme or policy should be published in local newspapers for mass dissemination of the information.

**Recommendation 5.3:** Updated information should be shared with the caregiver through phone calls since most of the caregivers are either illiterate (in case of widow or grand-parents) are not able to read the messages received in mobile phone.

**6. Grievance Redressal Mechanism:** Most of the members were not aware where / which government department or official to lodge the grievance. If grievance becomes too important, then this is shared with the *Anganwadi* workers or approach to the Gram Panchayat for the same. But the beneficiaries normally find that GP representative or urban ward member (*Parshad*) are not keen to listen them or take the issue forwarded.

**Recommendation:** As there is a redressal mechanism to resolve the grievances related to the compliance of provisions under Right to Education Act (RtE) for which RSCPCR acts as an apex monitoring / regulatory body. First step of grievance redressal is at the SMC. If the issue is not resolved at the first stage, then it goes to GP, Block and District level. This mechanism may be owned by SJE to redress the issue related to Palanhar and other social protection schemes meant for children (0 to 18 years). A Helpline may be set up for post registration tracking or grievance redressal.

**7. Ineffective Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Mechanism:** There is no evidences of robust M&E System in place as it appeared from the interaction with the government officials both at state and district level. This lacks Beneficiary Tracking System (MIS) at local level. No administrative cost is assigned. Currently, Rs. 600 crores have been assigned under the scheme which does include any administrative cost.

**Recommendation:** There is a need to invest adequate resources in M&E and Capacity development in human resources for effective tracking of the target beneficiaries, identifying the differences between target beneficiaries and actual beneficiaries].

Support System to the beneficiaries and potential eligible children needs to be developed at Anganwadi and School Level. There should be designated officers for implementation and monitoring of the scheme at district and block level.

**8. GO – NGO Collaboration:** No serious efforts have been made by the government to visualize the role of NGOs / CSOs for implementation and monitoring of the scheme at grassroots level. The collaboration with NGO can help in reaching out the target population through mass mobilization and supporting the potential beneficiaries to access the benefit, since it works closely with the people / community for their development where the government reach seems difficult or the community is feeling difficulty to reach out the system for accessing their entitlements.

**Recommendation:** NGO could be an effective link between community and the government system to bridge this communication between both but not limited to it, NGO can play pivotal role in educating the masses, sensitizing the actors and community leaders, and supporting the government field functionaries in implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the program.

**9. No proper Convergence Strategy in place:** There are very few instances available where some inter-departmental convergence are claimed to be in place by the officials of departments like Skills Development and Higher Education but the Palanhar graduating / graduated beneficiaries are not able to link themselves with other schemes since there are no cautious efforts made by Palanhar implementing officials at block and district level. There is a lack of interdepartmental coordination among District to Block, ward and Panchayat level committees / structures.

**Recommendation:** There is a need to develop effective inter-departmental convergence / coordination so that the eligible graduated beneficiaries are not found deprived of the other social protection schemes for which are eligible which could also be a turning point for them in their self and career development.

**10. Dropping out of the Beneficiaries:** 46 percent (N=94) of the beneficiaries dropped out before the maximum upper age and grade level, of which 40% were female dropped outs. This gender gap also matches with the data of the both genders linked with the scheme. Due to the extreme poverty situation of the family one of two or more beneficiaries normally elder one or girl child becomes dropped out from schools in their adolescent age and engage herself to support the family and younger children, preferable male children. Some beneficiaries were also not known about the exact reason of discontinuation of the benefit. Some of them (mostly girls) subsequently dropped out from school at secondary level.

**Recommendation:** There is a need for in-depth investigation of the reasons of dropping out of the beneficiaries during the periodic review and feedback meetings by the field level functionaries at local level and remedial measures should be taken immediately to bring back to these eligible children by providing some additional support to them.

**11. Complexity of the Registration and Renewal Process:** The process of registration is being felt quite complex and expensive exercise (in terms of both time and money) for the eligible population to complete the process of registration in the scheme which deters or alienates many potential eligible children. A significant number of eligible children of most marginalized / socially excluded communities residing in difficult socio-geographies such as slums, road sides and remote isolated tribal habitations where people struggle for their survival, are found deprived of the benefit of the scheme, and they don't have adequate time and resources to approach the concerned authority for completion of documents and registration process. There is no established mechanism for instances where the primary care giver changes. In such cases, the removal of the previous care giver, appointment of new care giver remains unaddressed.

**Recommendation 11.1:** The current Registration and Renewal process must be refurbished under the scheme: Annual renewal issues should be reflected on Palanhar Portal. On the basis of updation of information at *Shala Darpan* portal, the verification of Palanhar beneficiary should be done. The responsibility of annual physical verification of the beneficiaries should be of Anganwadi workers or school HM / Principal since all beneficiaries are enrolled in these institutions, otherwise the process delays which results drop-out of the beneficiaries.

The number of documents required for registration can be reduced. A list of documents for each category must be made easily accessible for each eligible category of children. Currently, the application procedure heavily relies on the *E-Mitra Kendras*. As these centers need further discussion on incentivized for linking family with Palanhar, they fail to provide proper procedure or guidance to the applicants which results in more cases of Palanhar registration

**Recommendation 11.2:** There should be a proper mechanism / strategy in place to reach out these deprived children for supporting them to complete the documentation and registration process. A person may be designated by the local authority of SJE or Child Rights department to deal with the identified cases of deprivation.

**Recommendation 11.3.** The current scheme and procedures can be digitalized by developing an app to increase accessibility and removing the intermediaries like e-Mitra Kendras. The registration process of children who can benefit under the Palanhar Scheme must include other stakeholders to increase the ambit and reach of the Scheme. At grassroots level, stakeholders like teachers, and Anganwadi Workers can work as nodal agents to play an active role to register the children with the scheme.

**12. Delay in disbursement of the monthly Instalment amount:** Mostly the delay in cash transfer happened during the shifting from manual / offline to its digitization (on-line) by a centralized system. The delay also happened due to delay in submission of verification certificates, non-availability of funds for a particular district for certain time, or change of the information of the caregivers for bank transaction. The updation of the same on portal could took some time.

**Recommendation:** The disbursement process should be regularized / completed on time by over-coming the prevailing challenges / barriers / reasons so that the beneficiary's care and development should not be hampered.

**13. Inadequate Amount under Scheme:** In context of current inflation rate, the amount being given to the beneficiaries of the Yojana is meagre and doesn't suffice to meet the children's basic needs.

**Recommendation 13.1:** Since, the wellbeing of children is a social responsibility, government may consider / design the resource mobilization / fundraising strategy by imposing Cess. It may be considered

to hike the amount of the assistance to the beneficiary to meet her basic need of care and development. CSRs should also be roped in for the trainings and absorption in the industries as skilled man-power.

**Recommendation 13.2:** There is a need emerged from the FGDs and interviews with the beneficiaries and caregivers, an additional support should be provided to the parents of Special Categories who have differently-abled children and caregivers of orphaned children.

**14. Child's Rights still not a focus under Palanhar Yojana:** The children are often treated unequally in homes and received amount is solely not utilized on their care / protection and development. Palanhar children have difficulty in coping with caregiver's family.

**Recommendation:** The caregiver needs proper counselling and sensitization since they lack necessary capacity to respond to the specific needs of Palanhar children. There should be a specific plan to orient the caregivers / parenting of the beneficiary child, frontline workers on non-institutional alternative care approach and to develop understanding on well-defined roles and responsibilities of different key stakeholders (including GP, Block and District level officials) at all levels. Joint bank accounts can be opened when children turn 12 years.

**15. Counselling and Capacity Building Training for Career Development of graduating beneficiaries:** It clearly emerged from the beneficiary interactions that apart from the cash support, no career counselling and skill training sessions were organized with the beneficiaries.

**Recommendation 15.1:** There is a requirement for career development for the graduating beneficiaries exiting from the scheme after attaining the age of 18 years. There should be a plan for Socio-emotional development and capacity building of the Palanhar graduating beneficiaries in the final year (just after grade 11 or 17 year age) through counselling sessions with them, vocational training camps for enhancing their employability / entrepreneurship skills. The graduated beneficiaries (18+) who are continuing their studies should be given information well in advance about other schemes from they can get benefit for continuing their higher studies or professional courses. The message in this regard should be sent on their own mobile phones since now they have become adult (18+).

**Recommendation 15.2:** Counsellors should be appointed at district / block level / *Panchayat* level to support / guide the graduated beneficiaries for their career development.

**16. Need for redefining the eligibility criteria:** The maximum income of the Caregiver family has been capped with Rs.1.20 lakhs per annum which was decided in the initial year of launching the scheme.

**Recommendation:** Coping with the inflation, this should be reconsidered to increase the upper income cap as per the current cost of the commodities / services in the market. Similarly, there should be no cap for the number of beneficiary children of all categories in a family.

**17. Inclusion of new categories of vulnerable children:** There is certain categories of vulnerable children have not yet been covered under the purview of the Palanhar Yojana.

**Recommendation:** The vulnerable children of new categories have not been covered under the *Palanhar* scheme need to be included under the scheme They are: (i) Children rescued from labour and early marriage especially girls who have got their marriage annulled end up suffering from social boycott, etc.; (ii) Children lost mother, and father is alive but either he is not able to take care of his children. (iii) Demented children; (iv) Under-aged dropped-out children registered with open school system.(v) Children

of UTRC inmates: Rajasthan currently has the highest undertrial period as per NCRB (around 8-9 years). During this time the children of the under trials are left without any aid/support by the state when the mother/father is in the prison awaiting judgment. (vi) In tribal districts like *Banswara* and *Dungapur*, when the mother dies the father remarries or abandons the children (*Nata Pratha*). This group of children forms one of the most vulnerable groups as they are left without care and protection but are still outside the purview of the scheme.

In light of these categories, a government position can be granted the power to declare “Special Categories” when required. As per the local practices, social norms and other categories these “Special Categories” can help in recognizing the existing eligibility gaps and address those which may arise in future.

**18. Accountability of the frontline workers, and sensitivity of E-Mitra operators and PRIs & CBOS:** These key stakeholders don't feel accountable and sensitive towards the target group, as evident from the observations at different level.

**Recommendation:** There is need to have specific plan for setting-up accountability of frontline workers, Service providers and creating the sensitivity of the members of CBOs (SMCs / SDMCs, CPCs), and PRIs) towards the target population and should support them. The frontline workers (teachers, Anganwadi Workers, *Ashas*) should be engaged actively or made accountable them to reach out to all eligible children and ensure that all eligible children are registered / get benefits of the scheme in their respective operational area. Cluster / GP and Block level officials should be made responsible for monitoring of data of the beneficiaries.

**19. Cost paid by beneficiary / caregiver for completion of the registration process:** Most of the beneficiaries were not aware how much facilitation fee is legally allowed to pay to the E-Mitra for getting registered on online portal. E-Mira Centre was used to charge an amount of Rs.100 to 300/- per case. It is a big financial burden on the poor eligible beneficiary which the caregivers mostly other than biological parents are not ready to pay and hence the child becomes deprived from the benefit. It has also been reflected from other recent studies that the amount of money that respondents pay to conduct activities between knowing about a scheme up to receiving the benefits and actual cost taken to complete the process comes around Rs.500/-.

**Recommendation:** The concerned officials need to become more vigilant to ban the illegal practices owned by E-Mitra operators for charging extra money from the beneficiary. The *E-Mitra* operators must be oriented and sensitized towards the vulnerable children, and strictly they should be monitored / inspected by both local NGOs and the government authority.

**20. Utilization of received amount:** It has also been reflected from both primary and secondary data that the money received was spent on paying family debt, rebuilding the house, paying electricity bills and investment in family business, leaving little for children's use and realizes.

**Recommendation:** The caregivers need proper orientation / articulation for their parenting and sensitization.

## CONCLUSION

After examining the components and the implementation process both through stakeholder and beneficiary interaction and mining the secondary information available, the *Palanhar Yojana* which enjoys the status of being a longstanding Government of Rajasthan scheme for children in need for alternative care and protection is one of the well mean and hither to successful social protection schemes of the government. The importance and usefulness of the scheme is beyond doubt since it shows an upward progress in terms of increase in beneficiary number and coverage through including more vulnerable beneficiary categories. Despite the diversity in different socio-economic levels of communities and individuals it tried to give respite to the desired population through much needed cash transfer so that the children and their families who are almost on the brink of break down could be saved from imminent disaster.

The *Yojana* has reached to the point from where it has to re-look at the strategy reformation, system revamping, beneficiary connect and many more to fill the gaps identified in the present study and in order to make it more effective and useful to the target population. Though the scheme officials are working to tighten the loose ends of the scheme but a lot to be done to expand the beneficiary base, robust monitoring and review mechanism, possible linkages with other government schemes and ways and means of introducing non-cash components to meet contingent requirements through this convergence in the light of present study which examines almost every aspect of the *Yojana* implementation and beneficiary experiences across the districts.

The study also put important and relevant findings along with the recommendations for the implementers and decision makers to work upon them through categorizing the issues like Technical up-gradation which includes capacity building, community participation, data capturing and utilization; System integration with components of monitoring, documenting and analyzing through evaluation and case studies; and importantly the convergence of different social security schemes and departments and emphasis on non-cash transfer benefits to the present and upcoming beneficiaries by expanding its horizon beyond 18 years of age. The scheme is hoped to be providing the hassle free desired relief to the most vulnerable population by adopting suggested recommendations given in the study.



## FIELD RESEARCH TEAM

Administrative division	District	Block	Field Survey Team	Designation
Jodhpur	Barmer	Barmer	Anil K. Sharma	Field Research Supervisor
		Barmer and Barmer city	Mamoo Singh	Field Investigator
			Rekha Ram	Field Investigator
			Prakash Singh	Field Investigator
		Barmer rural	Hamid Khan	Field Investigator
			Firoz Khan	Field Investigator
			Kailash Nama	Field Investigator
Udaipur	Banwara	Banswara	Dharmesh Bhardwaj	Field Research Supervisor
		Banswara urban	Bitesh Bhardwaj	Field Investigator
		Gangadtalai	Surajmal Makwana	Field Investigator
			Kishandas	Field Investigator
		Annandpuri	Laxman Damor	Field Investigator
			Basu Lal	Field Investigator
Ajmer	Tonk	Niwai	Mukesh K. Sharma	Field Research Supervisor
			Vijay Laxmi Sharma	Field Investigator
			Mafiya Bano	Field Investigator
		Peeploo	Rahul Sharma	Field Investigator
			Nesar Khan	Field Investigator
Jaipur	Dausa	Dausa	Hemant K. Sharma	Field Research Supervisor
			Ramavatar Nakwal	Field Investigator
			Bharat Bairwa	Field Investigator
		Mahwa	Anchal Tiwadi	Field Investigator
			Neha Upadhyay	Field Investigator
<b>Total = 4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>23</b>	

## Persons (CULP extended faculty members) involved in Data Consolidation and Analysis

1. Ms. Archana Singh;
2. Mr. Ramdhan Barala;
3. Ms. Bimala Singh;
4. Mr. Raghvendra Singh Choudhary

### Network Partner NGOs and Government Officials Supported Field Work

<b>A. Network Partner NGOs</b>				
<b>District</b>	<b>NGO Name</b>	<b>Functionary Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Kind of the support extended</b>
Barmer	SURE	1. Ms. Lata Kachhawa	Chief Functionary	(i) Provided three volunteers as investigators for survey in one block; (ii) Venue and logistic arrangements for orientation of the district field research team members
		2. Mr. Hanumana Ram Choudhary	Senior Program Manager	
	Dhara Sanstha	Mr. Mahesh Panpalia	Secretary	(i) Used office assets, such as internet, computer, printing of documents; (ii) (i) Provided three volunteers as investigators for survey in one block; (iii) Supported communication with key stakeholders for district level consultation meet; (iv) Supported in rapport building with the officials of the line departments at district level.
	APF	Mr. Sandeep Choudhary	In-Charge District unit	Venue and logistic arrangement for district consultation
Banswara	Vaagdhara Sanstha	Mr. Jayesh Joshi	Secretary	Venue and logistic arrangements for orientation of the district field research team members.
		Mr. Majid Khan	Program Manager	
		Mr. Parmesh Patidar	Accounts Manager	Venue and logistic arrangement for district consultation
Tonk	SSSR	Mr. Shivji Ram Yadav	Secretary	Supported communication with key stakeholders and government officials Provided three investigators for conducting survey in one block (i.e. Peepalu)
		Mr. Nesar Ahmed	Childline Coordinator	
	APF	Mr. Devendra Joshi	District Program Manager	Venue and logistic arrangement for district consultation
		Mr. Paresh Kumar	District Unit In-Charge	
<b>B. Government Officials</b>				
<b>District</b>	<b>Department or organization</b>	<b>Name of the official</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Kind of the support extended</b>

Barmer	ICDS, WCD	Dr. Prahlad Singh Rajpurohit	Deputy Director	Chaired / moderated different sessions and shared the status of Palanhar and challenges in the district
	Child Rights and SJE	Mr. Pukhraj	Assistant Director	
	CWC	Mr. Chetan Ram Godara	Chairperson	
Banswara	SJE and Child Rights	Ms. Hemangi Ninama	Assistant Director	Shared the status report of Palanhar scheme in the district and provided the relevant data / information
	CWC	Mr. Dilip Rakadiya	Chairperson	Moderated / facilitated the discussions in the district consultation
Tonk	SJE and Child Rights	Mr. Nawal Khan	Assistant Director	Shared the status report of Palanhar scheme in the district and provided the relevant data / information
	CWC	Mr. Hemraj Choudhary	Chairperson	Moderated / facilitated the discussions in the district consultation
Dausa	SJE and Child Rights	Mr. Kartar Singh	Assistant Director	Shared the status report of Palanhar scheme in the district and provided the relevant data / information
	CWC	Ms. Geeta Meena	Chairperson	Moderated / facilitated the discussions in the district consultation
	ICDS, WCD	Dr. Dharmveer Singh	Deputy Director	Extended support of CDPOs and Anganwadi Workers to the field survey team
	Zila Parishad	Mr. Ram Kishore Meena	CEO	Provided venue for the district consultation workshop

## Summary Reports of Consultation Workshops

### Annexure -3.1

#### One-Day State Consultation Meet on Palanhar Yojana

At HCM RIPA Jaipur on 7 December, 2022

CULP (Centre for Unfolding Learning Potentials) in support of UNICEF Rajasthan and Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) organized a One-day State Consultation on 'Palanhar Yojana' on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at New Executive Hostel Conference Hall of HCM RIPA, Jaipur.



The Key objective of the State Consultation was to 'Assess on Palanhar Scheme 2.0' (One of the Social Protection Schemes of the State Government of Rajasthan for the most vulnerable children), to see progressive trends of the scheme on the lives of beneficiaries and to identify the gaps and sharing the recommendations.

The consultation was attended by a number of representatives of different civil society organizations, INGOs, yojana beneficiaries including Palanhar, NGOs and government officials who are directly dealing with the Palanhar Yojana (*list of participants-Annexure1*).

Welcoming the participants **Dr. O.P. Kulhari, Secretary, CULP** introduced the theme of the discussion to the gathering by throwing light on its origin, expansion and its importance. He also mentioned about the forthcoming study on the yojana which will be conducted by CULP. He also emphasized on the fruitful discussion in order to curl out some recommendations for the betterment of the yojana.

Convening the consultation, **Shafqat Hussain from UNICEF** set the pace of the discussion through putting some guiding points for the participants for deliberations like experiences of the yojana its shortcomings and suggestions to improve the same.

**Sanjay Nirala, Child Protection Specialist from UNICEF** was invited to set the context by sharing a presentation. His presentation revolved around the Palanhar 2.0 with a mention of the scheme's history implemented by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of Rajasthan. To make understand the quantum of expansion of the scheme he shared some data like; during the launch year 2004-05 the total children covered under the scheme were 368 and expenditure incurred in cash transfer was only rupees 3 lakhs with the expansion of the scheme came to rupees 37695 Lakhs on 505092 beneficiaries in the FY 2021-22.

He told that the SJE has around 400 schemes for the implementation till date and out of which 75 are only for children which consist of almost 50 cash transfer schemes. Palanhar yojana is one of these schemes. In this scheme 80% Palanhars are mothers and rest are other relatives. He laid emphasis on overall child protection needed under this scheme as there is some chance of abuse of the assistance in case of guardianship of distant relatives other than biological parents. Since there is an absence of clear-cut rule on guardianship, anyone who takes the responsibility becomes guardian to the targeted beneficiary/child in this situation the financial assistance might be misused. He also emphasized on the importance of the proposed Cash Plus components of the scheme and mentioned 6 core components of Cash Plus which go beyond the cash transfer as these children need support beyond 18 years of age like counselling, health care and education, constant contact through identification cards, proper coordination among other departments / agencies for better implementation and corporate sponsorship to meet financial requirements. Apart from it there is dire necessity to provide all round protection to the Palanhar family with a robust strategy of protecting the child till she becomes independent.

Reflecting on the steps taken by the government in this regard **S.L. Pahadia, Additional Director, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of Rajasthan** and Kapil Dev Sharma, Technical expert to the yojana talked about the progress of the yojana and the changes incurred during the course of time in it. He said that the yojana was started with 214 orphans in 2005 and as of now more than 7 lakh children under 10 categories are getting benefit of this largest cash transfer scheme. The highest beneficiaries are in Jaipur district and the lowest in Jaisalmer district. To ease the cash transfer the system is upgraded to online centralized one click transfer and it is expected to be completed by the next year. Responding to a query on objective of difference in the assistance amount across the categories and why it is not equal for the beneficiaries of all the categories, he said that looking at the size of the scheme a slight increase in the amount becomes a big amount. The increase in amount is under consideration and if the recommendations are accepted the yojana would cross 2000 crore mark.

Apart from 10 designated beneficiary categories, more children are out of this scheme as they don't fall under these categories. The commissioner has the power to give them the benefit by putting them in other categories.

As far as providing some vocational kind of training to the graduated beneficiary, government has provided the same at some places. Responding to the monitoring system of the scheme by officials at village level, he said that it was difficult for government officials to monitor minutely at the lowest level and this can be done with the support of NGOs and civil society. A proposal in this regard is under consideration and Save the Children has also proposed a monitoring plan in this regard.

There were also some questions and suggestions from the participants like;

- The upper income cap of 1.20 lakhs per annum should be reconsidered
- Decentralization of the transfer system would be more appropriate as there might be some issues with the e-transfer and the beneficiary will have to travel from a long distance to get it resolved.
- There should be a better convergence between the concerned major departments through a common platform.
- Since, the wellbeing of children is a social responsibility, government may consider imposing Cess for fund mobilization.

Sharing the findings of the Desk Review done by the **Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences, Tejinder Singh Sandhu and Dr. Suraj Kumar, Senior Advisor** threw some light on the **yojana** and its salient features of similar kind of schemes of India and other countries. Sharing some excerpts from the review, they said that the Palanhar is among the largest cash transfer schemes globally for vulnerable children – orphan and destitute. It has been under implementation since the past seventeen years, and has enjoyed considerable success, in terms of the spread (across Rajasthan’s diverse districts), scope, number of beneficiaries covered and sustenance. They also cited the other schemes implemented in the different states like Baal Sagopan Yojana of Maharashtra, Sponsorship program in UP and Children on street of Chhattisgarh and some international examples of countries like Ghana, Kenya and south Africa where child protection schemes are being implemented with some of the similar components.

***Some of the required interventions may be like***

- The convergence with wider social security and skill development programmes of the state government, especially the *Mukhyamantri Hunar Vikas Yojana* is expected to further build a path to integration for children who are expected to graduate from Palanhar upon attaining adulthood and become more employable and productive.
- Introduction of Health Insurance Scheme for the beneficiaries.
- Taking help of NGOs in monitoring as to be introduced by the Chhattisgarh, Delhi and Jharkhand governments. The question is, what would be the criterion of the identification and selection of willing NGOs.
- CSRs should be roped in for the trainings and absorption in the industries as skilled man power.
- Child’s rights are still not a focus. Palanhar yojana children are often treated unequally in homes and do not receive the benefits intended for their care and protection.
- The area of child protection needs to be wider for reducing their vulnerability to any harm and ensuring that no child falls out of the social safety net and that those who do, receive necessary care, protection and support.
- Very few training materials, IEC materials, or awareness materials are available to government workers to utilise in educating the public. Many stakeholders are unaware of the child protection context or the legal frameworks surrounding the Palanhar Yojana.

### **Perspective of Government Departments** *(Session Moderator: Dr. Shobhita Rajgopal, IDS, Jaipur)*

The perspective of functionaries and representatives from the concerned government departments like child rights, ICDS, ICPS and Child Welfare Committees shared their experiences of the implementation of the yojana.

Additional Director, SJE reflected on the issue of synergy between the line departments, he said that the elementary, higher education and ICDS departments are in sync and we are working for creating a common platform to bring other departments together for better integrated approach. Responding to the question of monitoring mechanism at the Gram Panchayat Level, he said that the same can be done through some government employee by attaching with public representatives at Panchayat Level.

Other government officials shared their concerns, experiences and suggestions like

#### **Concerns and suggestions:**

- It has been observed that around 70% beneficiary children study in private schools so a large amount of the assistance goes to these schools so the study in government schools should be made mandatory.
- The yojana should also support the parents who have disabled children.
- Children recovered from Child labour should also be included as beneficiaries.
- There should be no cap on the number of beneficiary children in one family.
- More emphasis is needed on campaigning of the yojana. Need to develop appropriate IEC material
- Brilliant Children should be identified and sent to the destitute children's homes as there are a number of vacancies lying vacant.
- A mechanism should be in place to associate public representatives in identifying such needy children in their area as they are well aware about the families living in their villages.
- Children migrated from other states should be given the benefit of this yojana. It has been seen that even change of district resulted in deprivation of the benefits of the yojana.
- Annual renewal issues should be reflected on Palanhar Portal
- The yojana should be expended to the urban children.
- On the basis of updation of information at Shala Darpan portal, the verification of Palanhaar beneficiary should be done.

Concluding the session shobhita said that the beneficiaries lack technological advantage as they rarely have mobile phones of their own, owing to that they are unable to access the information and the messages received on the deposit of the amount and other instructions. The payments are often delayed and lack of monitoring adding the confusion among the beneficiaries.

### **Sharing of Experiences by Palanhar beneficiaries** *(Session Moderator: Dr. Suraj Kumar, KISS)*

Two graduate Palanhar beneficiaries from Dausa district and two Palanhar mothers from Tonk district shared their experiences of the yojana and gave suggestions to improve it.

Sharing their experiences Dheeraj Bairwa and Kalpana Bairwa (both yojana graduates) told that they received 1000 rupees per month till the age of 18 years. The amount was not enough for meeting out their needs. There was always delay in receiving the amount on regular basis. Kalpana wants to enrol herself for Bed and also wants to prepare for police constable examination and asked whether government would help her in coaching. Responding to her Kapil Dev from SJE said that government has

empanelled around 100 coaching centres in the state under *Anukriti Coaching Yojana*, she can avail the benefit from this scheme.

Another graduated beneficiary of the scheme Girish who runs an NGO called Care Lever Inner Circle shared his experience that he could know about the scheme at a camp organized at his school and the process of applying for the benefit was lengthy. He studied at destitute children home where he groomed himself and gained confidence to cope with the situation. He said that it was difficult for villagers to apply online.

Looking at his confidence and communication skills, reflecting on how to inculcate this kind of skills in beneficiary youth, Dr. Suraj cited the example of Ghana and South Africa where such youths are engaged in volunteer activities and simultaneously trained in leadership skills. Such initiatives can also be taken for yojana graduated youths.

Both Palanhar Mothers *Ulfat Bano* and *Bismillah* (both widowed) while sharing their experiences said that sarpanch of their village introduced the yojana to them and now her three children receiving the grant where Bismillah receives grant for her daughter studying in class 12. They said that there is always delay in receiving the money however they spend the amount on their study needs.

#### ***Take away of the session***

- Organization of orientation of Palanhar parents on different aspects of the yojana
- After attaining the age of 18 years message should be sent to the beneficiaries regarding the options available for skill development, courses / jobs on their mobile phones.
- NGOs can be roped in for providing them the information on skill development and career growth options.
- Amount under widow pension scheme should be increased.
- It is necessary to integrate all the related schemes for development of human resources.

#### **Experience Sharing of UN Agencies, INGOs, Civil Societies and Academia**

*Session Moderator: Govind Beniwal, Consultant UNICEF & Om Prakash Arya, Save the Children*

The sharing began with a presentation by Satya Prakash from Save the Children. He said that Save the Children started its work for improving the access in Dungarpur in 2009 and We have facilitated the linkages of 25764 children to Palanhar scheme till date in Dungarpur and Banswara districts. 24 Panchayats declared fully saturated of Palanhar scheme. They also built the capacity of e-mitra and organised '*e-mitra aapke dwar*' to reach the unreached beneficiaries and linked more than 10000 beneficiaries within 3 months of time.

They faced challenges like

- Difficulty to reach out all eligible children.
- Operational challenges- Delay in payment, effective monitoring, interdepartmental coordination etc.
- Palanhar children have difficulty in coping with caregiver's family.
- Caregivers lack necessary capacity to respond to the specific needs of Palanhar children.



**Save the Children** conducted a series of assessments of the scheme which revealed that the programme was only partially achieving its objective as envisaged in Palanhar scheme. Therefore, they added parenting programme to amplify the impact. This was about helping caregivers change the way they care & deliver more for children beyond cash received through Palanhar Scheme.

The program was conducted with 450 selected caregivers benefiting 650 children. Pre and post intervention assessments were conducted to measure the impact of the Palanhar Plus program. Based on their interventions they recommended that the:

- Government and CSO/CBOs collaboration for reaching the unreached
- Development of Joint monitoring mechanism for effective linkage of the eligible beneficiaries
- Periodic assessment of the scheme on achievement of the objectives outlined for the scheme
- The Govt. should pilot the *Palanhar* Plus programme and see the feasibility of up-scaling across Rajasthan

**Sion from Action Aid** shared their experience of working in Barmer district during the COVID period. They received the data of 580 families from the district administration. They reached to each family and 1167 children got associated with the Palanhar yojana, several mothers were enrolled for widow pension, 50 families got the benefit of *PM Awas Yojana* and 150 children were enrolled with RSLDC run skill program. They could link the families with food security scheme of government, formed Child Protection Committees and conducted their trainings.

They suggested that:

- The engagement with School Management Committees should be increased and the help can be taken in the component of monitoring of Palanhar children.
- Child Protection Committees should be strengthened
- Block level officials should be made responsible for monitoring of sampled beneficiaries.
- Awareness campaign on the yojana is required.

#### ***Some suggestions from NGO representatives***

- Evaluation and monitoring can be handed over to third party organization.
- Support System is required at School Level
- Should be a check on the overcharging on services by E-Mitra.
- Should be some provisions for migrant workers
- Profile of beneficiary children should be prepared and updated online
- Should think of Socio-emotional development of the beneficiaries

#### **Concluding Remarks and way forward** (*Session moderators: Dr. Suraj Kumar & Shafqat Hussain*)

The consultation deliberated upon the three key issues which need to be tackled

1. **Technical Issue:** Needs to be strengthened especially the beneficiary interface
2. **System Issue:** Monitoring and evaluation (how they used the amount) and need of case study documentation

3. **Issue of convergence** of Palanhar Graduates: Their skill and social development, churning of the huge data available with the government for recommendations and the important aspect of IEC need to be taken care of.

It is necessary to understand the changes coming in the lives of the Palanhar children. Tejinder Sandhu in his concluding remark reflected on the journey of documenting the yojana and said how the work was started with discussions with associated persons and officials, reviewed the available documents, understood the international experiences of such interventions. We can say that this yojana can be compared with any such scheme in the world. This is a sustainable program and will go long.

#### **Key Recommendations / Action points emerged from the discussion**

- Need to have a robust database management and community base tracking system (MIS).
- A case study approach needs to be undertaken and special measures adopted to meet the needs of children being looked after by step parents / relatives and senior citizens.
- Should reduce the formalities to be completed before receipt of the benefits of Palanhar Yojana.
- The yojana should also support the parents who have disabled children.
- Children recovered from Child labour should also be included as beneficiaries.
- There should be no cap on the number of beneficiary children in one family.
- More emphasis is needed on campaigning of the yojana. Need to develop appropriate IEC material
- A mechanism should be in place to associate public representatives in identifying such needy children in their area as they are well aware about the families living in their villages.
- The convergence with wider social security and skill development programmes of the state government, especially the *Mukhyamantri Hunar Vikas Yojana* is expected to further build a path to integration for children who are expected to graduate from Palanhar upon attaining adulthood and become more employable and productive.
- After attaining the age of 18 years message should be sent to the beneficiaries regarding the options available for skill development, courses / jobs on their mobile phones.
- Introduction of Health Insurance Scheme for the beneficiaries.
- Periodic assessment of the scheme is needed for which third party can be roped in.
- Should take the help of NGOs in monitoring. Criterion of the identification and selection of willing NGOs should be worked out.
- CSRs should be roped in for the trainings and absorption in the industries as skilled man power.
- The area of child protection needs to be wider for reducing their vulnerability to any harm and ensuring that no child falls out of the social safety net and that those who do, receive necessary care, protection and support.
- The yojana should be expended to the urban children.
- Should be some provisions for migrant workers.
- Profile of beneficiary children should be prepared and updated online
- Should think of Socio-emotional development of the beneficiaries
- The engagement with School Management Committees should be increased and the help can be taken in the component of monitoring of Palanhar children.
- Child Protection Committees should be strengthened.

## District Consultations

### 1. Barmer (Azim Premji Foundation School Barmer on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022)

District level consultation workshop was organized for better implementation of Palanhar Yojana under the joint auspices of CULP, UNICEF and KISS, the workshop was organized at Azim Premji Foundation, Barmer.

The Key objective of the State Consultation was to 'Assess on Palanhar Scheme 2.0' (One of the Social Protection Schemes of the State Government of Rajasthan for the most vulnerable children).

The consultation was attended by the representatives of CULP, district level related departments of the state government, representatives of social/civic institutions and organizations, people's representatives and beneficiaries of the scheme. The sessions were facilitated by Mr. Mahesh Pampalia (Secretary Dhara Sanstha, Barmer)

The consultation was a part of the Palanhar study being done in four districts. The tools for the study were briefly shared with the participants by Dr. O.P. Kulhari, Secretary to CULP. A brief presentation was done on the scheme mainly consisted of the scheme and objectives, category of beneficiaries, eligibility criterion, process of application, yearly progress, and the expenditure incurred.

In the experience sharing session to beneficiaries and two Palanhar shared their experiences about the scheme. In this session, three types of participants from rural and urban areas shared their experiences.

1. Beneficiaries (18+) those have received the benefits of Palanhar Yojana. 2. Foster- Guardian of children who are beneficiaries of Palanhar Yojana, 3. *Vanchit* (deprived) - Those who are not getting benefits even after being eligible to get the benefits of Palanhar Yojana.

The major suggestions emerged during the experience sharing of the beneficiaries were like:

- There should be a provision for those who study continuously under the scheme. There should also be information about other schemes.
- Those children who do not come in the beneficiary criterion as they completed 18 years should be given assistance for their higher studies.
- Spread of information is needed at larger level to increase awareness on the yojana.

Presentation by State Departments - The workshop was attended by the representatives of three district level departments of the state government which are associated with this project and work for implementation and monitoring at the district level

*Shri Pukhraj Saran* AD. SJE provided the detailed information on *Palanhar* scheme of Barmer district. He said that the suggestions that comes out of this study will tried to be implemented by the department. In the context of monitoring, the department faces problems due to lack of man power, yet efforts are being made to do so. *Shri Prahlad Singh Rajpurohit* Deputy Director, ICDS. Suggested how the renewal system can be simplified in this scheme. Mr. Satyadev Soni, from Education Department said that the department should also have the responsibility of informing the beneficiaries at the school level.

Representatives of prominent social organizations working at the district level and peoples' representatives like; Sachin Patodia from Nehru Yuvak Kendra, Mahesh Panpaliya from Dhara Sansthan, Adil Khan from Mahila Mandal Barmer, Hanuman Ram Choudhary from Sure Sanstha, Barmer, Magra

Sarpanch Jogendra Kumar Saran, Ward Panch Jhujhar Singh and Imdad Khan from Yuvak Mandal Rohili participated in the discussion and shared their views and suggestions.

#### **Suggestions emerged from the workshop -**

- Slogan writing and wall writing should be done for the Palanhar scheme.
- The process of application and repeated renewal etc. of Palanhar Yojana should be simplified.
- The amount received under the scheme should be increased.
- Survey work should be done every year to see whether the eligible person has been linked to the scheme or not and whether the linked person is getting continuous benefits or not.
- Anganwadi and schools should be asked to renew their names on a regular basis every year and cooperate in filling the forms of eligible persons. It should be discussed in the Gram Sabha at the Panchayat level and with the help of Ward Panches, such characters should be linked to the scheme in the area and motivated to join the school and Anganwadi.
- Flexes should be installed on all Gram Panchayats, on which the information about the scheme is printed and it is even better if pamphlets can be distributed.
- Cooperation of non-governmental organizations and institutions should be taken for the promotion, monitoring and association etc. of the scheme.
- Economic resources should also be mobilized through CSR.
- There should be mutual coordination between departments and convergence with schemes so that benefits can be given in a better way.
- Members above 18 who are continuing their studies should be given information about counselling and other schemes so that they can continue their studies.
- Trustees should be motivated to co-operate with the donations that come through temples, especially where trust has been established and is related to the Devsthan department.
- It should also be monitored that the child is actually getting the benefit.

## **2. Banswara (Vaagdhara Banswara on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2022)**

A one-day district level consultation workshop on Palanhar scheme was organized by CULP under the joint auspices of CULP, UNICEF Rajasthan, Kalinga Institute of Social Science (KISS) and Vagdhara at Vagdhara Campus Kupda, Banswara on 18 December, 2022, represented by the officials from Social Justice Department, Child Right Welfare Committee, ICDS, Juvenile Justice Board, Education Department and social organizations, beneficiaries, public representatives and social workers. Total 34 delegates participated in the workshop.

Dr. Om Prakash Kulhari, Secretary to CULP outlined the research to be done in Banswara district on Palanhar scheme, objectives of the program, benefits of Palanhar scheme, challenges, monitoring and documentation.

Himangi Ninama, Assistant Director from the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, talked about the status of the district regarding various social security schemes and Palanhar schemes run by the government. Balaram Mewata, CDEO, Education Department explained about the issue of guardianship and the statistics of the benefited children linked by the Education Department.

Subhash Mehta from the Juvenile Justice Board gave his suggestions to connect the children in conflict with the law with foster parents. Vagdhara Secretary Jayesh Joshi said that the department should have tools to connect post matric children in Palanhar so that the deprived children can get their benefit. Dilip Kumar Rokadia from the District Child Welfare Committee suggested that there should be awareness through IEC material to include 18-year-old graduate children in this scheme.

The beneficiaries of *Palanhar, Mani Lal, Ramesh Chandra* and *Nathu Bhai* talked about the benefits, their experiences and challenges from Palanhar as they had to face financial difficulties for further studies after 18 years and their studies were interrupted.

#### **Suggestions on Palanhar Yojana:**

- Expertise of voluntary organizations working in the field of child protection should be fully utilized.
- Maximum publicity should be done in rural areas through developed IEC material.
- Seats should be reserved for admission of foster children in ITI and children's homes.
- Training should be given to the employees working in Palanhar.
- Separate officer for monitoring and basic facilities for the implementation of the plan.
- One Palanhar Mitra should be appointed in 10 Gram Panchayats.
- All the children of widowed mother should get the benefit of the scheme.
- There should be further follow up after the beneficiary graduated.
- Counsellors should be appointed at district level, block level and panchayat level.
- The department should have tools to connect post matric children with foster parents.
- Children struggling with law should also get the benefit of foster and there should be follow up of such children.
- After the age of 18 years, the foster parent should be given guidance, counselling and skill training at the school level and such children should be traced and followed up.
- There should be an increase in the amount in the Palanhar budget according to inflation.
- Palanhar should have vocational training for 14 to 18 years and further guidelines should be clear.
- Demented children should also be linked to the foster scheme.

### **3. Tonk (Azim Premji Foundation Tonk on 20 December 2022)**

A half day District Consultation on 'Palanhar Yojna' was organized by CULP, UNICEF and Kalinga Institute of Social Science (KISS) in collaboration with government departments (SJE, Child Rights, Education, Health, WCD, CWC) on 20th December 2022 at the office of Azim Premji Foundation in Tonk, Rajasthan. Total 35 participants included district program officials, beneficiaries, NGO representatives, people's representatives participated in the discussion.

The Key objective of the State Consultation was to 'Assess on Palanhar Scheme 2.0' (One of the Social Protection Schemes of the State Government of Rajasthan for the most vulnerable children).

The consultation was a part of the Palanhar study being done in four districts. The tools for the study were briefly shared with the participants. A brief presentation was done on the scheme mainly consisted of the

scheme and objectives, category of beneficiaries, eligibility criterion, process of application, yearly progress, and the expenditure incurred.

In the experience sharing session to beneficiaries and two Palanhar shared their experiences about the scheme. Their demands were like

Beneficiaries: Government should make such provisions that the benefits of the scheme should continue even after the age of 18 years for higher education.

Palanhar: Third child should be registered in the scheme and release of the pending funds for current beneficiary child

The perspective of the district government officials associated with the scheme was also shared by Mr. *Nawal Khan*, AD, Child Rights, *Tonk*, *Ms. Sangeeta*, CDPO- WCD, *Tonk*, *Ramesh Kumar*, SJE member, *Tonk*. Some of the key sharing by them:

- The status of Tonk district regarding Palanhar is better than other districts.
- At present, efforts are being made to register all the children who have been left out
- NGOs have played an important role in the implementation of the scheme in Tonk
- The eligible child is taken to the E-mitra and his registration process is completed by AWWs
- We will make more efforts to increase the rank of the district in Palanhar scheme.
- Peoples' representatives, *Anganwadi*, Schools and NGOs should be made responsible for Palanhar scheme and awareness.
- There should be an option to change the phone number of beneficiary on Palanhar portal

Master Deva lal Gurjar, Sarpanch, Lalwadi Panchayat, Niwai, Tonk had some suggestions like;

- Multiple attempts are required for physical verification
- Some of the beneficiaries do not have relevant documents, in case, they are being deprived from the benefits. The govt should make such provisions that every eligible child can take the benefits of the scheme

Challenges and suggestions that emerged from the discussion were:

- E-Mitra operators should be trained well.
- There should be a door-to-door survey to identify the eligible beneficiaries of Palanhar so that no one can be deprived from the benefits.
- IEC material of the scheme should be distributed at village level
- Orientation of school teachers and AWWs should be done at least once in a year so that they can be sensitized on the issue.
- Provision of providing money for clothes, shoes and others should be applied for all categories.
- The process of physical verification in every year should be stopped, due to which a lot of children are deprived from benefits.
- Govt should reduce/remove the need of number of documents needed for Palanhar registration.
- Community mobilization is necessary and NGOs should be roped in for the awareness and monitoring the scheme.
- There should be a proper training of village protection committees on Palanhar and they should be responsible for that.

- There should be provisions register Open school beneficiary students who are not studying in regular schools.

#### 4. Dausa (*Zila Parishad* Conference Hall *Dausa* on 23 December 2022)

A half day District Consultation on 'Palanhar Yojna' was organized by CULP, UNICEF and Kalinga Institute of Social Science (KISS) in collaboration with government departments (SJE, Child Rights, Education, Health, WCD, CWC) on 23rd December 2022 at Conference Hall, Zila Parishad, Dausa, Rajasthan.

The Key objective of the State Consultation was to 'Assess on *Palanhar* Scheme 2.0' (One of the Social Protection Schemes of the State Government of Rajasthan for the most vulnerable children).

The consultation was a part of the Palanhar study being done in four districts. The tools for the study were briefly shared with the participants. A brief presentation was done on the scheme mainly consisted of the scheme and objectives, category of beneficiaries, eligibility criterion, process of application, yearly progress, and the expenditure incurred.

In the experience sharing session to beneficiaries and two Palanhar shared their experiences about the scheme. Their demands were like

Beneficiaries:

- Government should make such provisions that the benefits of the scheme should continue even after the age of 18 years for higher education.
- A letter from the college so that it can be verified and she can continue her studies.

Caregivers

- The govt to make such provisions to provide similar benefits in all categories and also increase the age category so that his 18+ children can avail the benefits in higher studies.
- Impart some skills in girls through the scheme and she some financial help at the time of girls' marriage.

The perspective of the district government officials associated with the scheme was also shared by *Mr. Kartar Singh Meena*, AD, SJE, Dausa, *Mrs. Geeta Meena*, Chairperson, CWC, *Dausa*. They told that 35000 children were benefitted from the scheme last year in Dausa district. A total of 28077 children have applied this year in Dausa district out of them 26600 physical verifications have done till date. Only 1500 cases are pending this year for physical verification and we are trying to resolve the issues soon.

Some of the people's representatives presented in the discussion also shared their views on the scheme. Some of the key challenges and suggestions emerged from the discussion were like:

- Some of the *E-Mitra* operators are not trained well. Due to which beneficiaries have to get troubled many times. Govt should identify *such E-Mitra Kendras* and banned them.
- There should be a proper training of village protection committees on *Palanhar* and they should be responsible for that.
- There should be a door-to-door survey to identify the eligible beneficiaries of Palanhar so that no one can be deprived from the benefits.
- IEC material of the scheme should be distributed at village level

- Orientation of school teachers and AWWs should be done at least once in a year so that they can be sensitized on the issue.
- The process of physical verification in every year should be stopped, due to which a lot of children are deprived from benefits.
- There are a lot of cases who are being deprived due to lack of documents. Govt should reduce/remove the needs of such documents.
- There is a lack of awareness among people at village level so that many eligible children are out of benefits. Community mobilization is necessary thing and NGOs should have responsible for it.
- Open school beneficiaries are deprived from the scheme. There should be provisions to register such students who are not studying in regular schools.
- In some categories, there is not any provision to give funds of clothes, shoes and others. Govt should not do this type of discrimination. It should be applied for all categories.



### Research Tools (Formats / questionnaires)

#### A. Field Work Plan for Primary Data Collection from different stakeholders

1. Sample Districts for Survey: Barmer, Banswara, Dausa and Tonk, one in each of four divisions of Rajasthan
2. Two blocks in each district (to be decided with the field team of researchers / investigators and collaboration partners (from both Govt. and NGOs).
3. The concerned government officials, NGO partners will extend their support in fieldwork through identification and orientation of field investigators, facilitating the district-level Consultation Meets and mobilizing the beneficiaries for participation of different stakeholders in the activities planned for primary data collection.
4. District-wise and Field Activity-wise Field Work Plan along with Time-line and responsibility sharing by field team members and partners is proposed as follows:

District name	Field Research Supervisor	Field Investigators	Collaborating supporting organization			Field Work start & completion	District level Consultation	Field visit by the Senior Researcher & orientation of field team
			District Govt. officials	Child Welfare Committee	NGO Partner			
Barmer	Anil Kumar Sharma (CULP)	6 investigators, three from each of two NGO Partners	Mr. Pukhraj Saran, Assistant Director, SJE and Child Rights Depts.	Mr. Chetan Ram, Chairperson	Ms. Lata SURE & Mahesh, Dhara	10 to 21 Dec. 2022	14 Dec.	10 to 14 Dec.

Banswara	Dharmesh Bhardwaj (CULP)	CULP Volunteers: (1+4)	Ms. Hemangi Ninama, Assistant Director, ICPS	Dilip Rokadiya, Chairperson	Jayesh Joshi, Vaagdhara	15 to 28 Dec.	18 Dec.	16 to 18 Dec.
Tonk	Mukesh Kumar Sharma (CULP)	Three from CULP Field team and 3 from SSSR	Naval Khan AD, Dept. of Child Rights	Hemraj Choudhary, Chairperson	Shivji Ram Yadav, SSSR	16 to 30 Dec.	20 Dec	24 to 26 Dec
Dausa	Hemant K. Sharma	Culp Field Team (1+4)	Sunil Kumar Meena, AD, SJE Dept.; Dr. Dharmveer Singh, DD, ICDS	Geeta Meena, Chairperson	Dragpal Singh, GVSS	18 to 31 Dec.	23 Dec.	22 to 24 Dec.

**B. Primary Data Collection Tools / Survey Formats**

**1. Profiles of Palanhar Graduated Beneficiaries (aged 18+) participated in Focus Group Discussion**

**District:**

**Block:**

**Date of FGD:**

**Time:**

**Venue of FGD:**

Palanhar graduated beneficiary name	ST / SC / OBC / Min / Gen	Beneficiary category*	Gender (M / F)	Date of Birth / Age in completed years	Current Educ. Qualif.	Members in family	Members linked with Palanhar in the family	Caregiver name	Relationship with beneficiary	Years the benefit availed	From which grade linked with scheme	Till which grade availed benefit

\*Codes: 1. Orphaned children; 2. Children whose parents with life imprisonment / or imprisoned or other died; 3. Widow Mother married and children abandoned by her; 4. Widow Mother staying with other man (engaged in *Nata*) and abandoned children; 5. Children of Widow Mother receiving pension; 6. Divorced woman or a woman separated from husband for more than 5 years; 7. Children of HIV / AIDS parents; 8. Children of Parents suffering from Leprosy; 9. Children of Differently-abled parents; and 10. Parents suffering from silicosis

**Field Investigator's name:**  
Information Verified by: Field Research Supervisor

**Mobile number**  
**Mobile number**

**1. Profiles of Caregivers (both graduated and current) participated in Focus Group Discussion**

District:                      Block:                      Date of FGD:                      Time:                      Venue of FGD:

Caregiver name	ST / SC / OBC / Min / Gen	Beneficiary Code*	Gender (M / F)	Beneficiary Name	Relationship with beneficiary	Family Members availed / availing benefits	Male / Female	Age of beneficiary graduate	Current Educ. Of beneficiary	Years the benefit availed	From which grade beneficiary linked with Scheme	Till which grade availed benefit

\*Codes: 1. Orphaned children; 2. Children whose parents with life imprisonment / or imprisoned or other died; 3. Widow Mother married and children abandoned by her; 4. Widow Mother staying with other man (engaged in *Nata*) and abandoned children; 5. Children of Widow Mother receiving pension; 6. Divorced woman or a woman separated from husband for more than 5 years; 7. Children of HIV / AIDS parents; 8. Children of Parents suffering from Leprosy; 9. Children of Differently-abled parents; and 10. Parents suffering from silicosis

**Field Investigator's name:**  
Information Verified by: Field Research Supervisor

**Mobile number**  
**Mobile number**

## Questionnaire for FGD

### Mode of the FGD: Brainstorming session with Palanahar Beneficiaries.

Some of the guiding points for organizing the FGDs in the district

1. Separate sessions with Palanahar Beneficiary graduated (18+) and Palanhars (Parents / Guardians)
2. Participants in each session: 20 to 25 beneficiaries (separate sessions for children and parents/guardians / caregivers).
3. Time duration: About 2 hours per session
4. One session with each of two categories (viz. Palanahar graduates and Palanahar parents / guardians)
5. Sample blocks in each district, hence total four FGDs in each district, two in each block, one with Palanahar graduates and second with the caregivers.

### Questionnaire – 1. Palanahar Graduated Beneficiaries (18+):

#### A. Some guiding points for Investigator / Field Research Supervisor

1. The Field Research Supervisor is expected to coordinate/facilitate the FGD / discussion with the participants
2. The Field Research Supervisor will ask the Investigators to write the responses of the participants either in the diary or register provided for this purpose.
3. The investigators also record their statements / voices in the mobile phone.
4. The field investigators will identify the beneficiaries in the field and mobilize them to join the discussion at pre-decided place and time in the block
5. Before organizing the FGD, the investigator will prepare the profiles of all the participants / beneficiaries to be invited for FGD at particular place and time.
6. All logistic arrangements will be taken care of by Investigators
7. Expected number of participants in each session 20 – 25
8. Ensuring representation of beneficiaries from different categories, both females and males, social groups;
9. Brief Introduction of the participants
10. Brief background / context of the Palanahar Scheme.
11. Objective of the Assessment Study and FGD.

## **B. Step Parents / Relatives (of both graduated beneficiaries and current beneficiaries)**

Apart from the questions being asked from biological parents the specific questions can be for other caregivers (like grandparents, uncle, aunts etc) like:

- i. How did you know about the scheme?
- ii. Who helped you to access the benefit of the scheme for your child? What amount you received under this scheme per month?
- iii. Number of your own children apart from this child / these children for which you are receiving the cash assistance?
- iv. Till when you have planned to bear guardianship of that child / children?
- v. How did / do you utilize the money received?
- vi. Is the amount received enough to meet the needs of the child?
- vii. If not, what are the needs of child for your assistance?
- viii. Have you got the amount timely or not? If you didn't get the amount in time, how did you manage to support the child's needs?
- ix. During this year (January – December) how many installments have you received?
- x. Do you think that other than cash transfer, there should be some assistance for career development if so what assistance your child needs?
- xi. Has the child received any other support like career counselling, life skills and vocational skill trainings in addition to this cash benefit from the scheme?
- xii. How do you receive information about the scheme and its new offers - how can Palanhar improve its outreach with new information and advice?
- xiii. What were the difficulties / challenges faced during the process of accessing / applying?
  - i. If you have any grievance related to the scheme, whom do you approach?
  - ii. Any suggestion(s) for improving the scheme

## **Questionnaire for Individual Interviews with different Stakeholders**

### **1. Interviews with Palanhar Graduates (3 to 5 beneficiaries / 18+)**

Same questionnaire will be used for eliciting more in-depth / detailed information from the beneficiaries which is as follows:

- i. How did you know about the scheme?
- ii. Who helped you to access the benefit of the scheme?
- iii. What benefits did you get and from which grade and age you started to get the benefits?
- iv. How many years, you received the benefits?
- v. How this benefit of the scheme helped you?
- vi. What would have happened in your life if you didn't receive the benefits?
- vii. Whether there was any gap in receiving the benefits, what was the reason for the same?
- viii. Have you received any other support like career counselling and vocational skill trainings in addition to this cash benefit from the scheme?
- ix. What were the difficulties / challenges faced during the process of accessing / applying?
- x. What are the challenges that you face today as you are getting on with your life?
- xi. What could the government have done to equip you better?
- xii. Any suggestion(s) for improving the scheme.

### **2. Interviews with Palanhar parents / Caregivers (3 to 5 beneficiaries in each district)**

Same questionnaire will be used for eliciting more in-depth / detailed information from the **Palanhar parents / guardians** which is as follows:

- i. Which of the target category you belong?
- ii. How many children in your family were / are eligible for the benefits of the scheme?  
How many of them linked with the scheme?
- iii. How did you know about the scheme?
- iv. Who helped you to access the benefit of the scheme for your child?
- v. How did / do you utilize the money received for your child's care and education?
- vi. Is the amount received enough to meet the needs of your child?
- vii. Have you got the amount timely or not?
- viii. If not received in time, then what was the gap and for what reasons, this gap caused?
- ix. Have your child received any other support like career counselling and vocational skill trainings in addition to this cash benefit from the scheme?
- x. What were the difficulties / challenges faced during the process of accessing / applying?
- xi. Any suggestion(s) for improving the scheme.

### **3. Interviews with the Government officials**

- i. How have you been associated with the Palanhar Yojana (your roles and responsibility)
- ii. Year-wise and category-wise beneficiaries: What was the progressive trend in the data of the beneficiaries?
- iii. Which category beneficiaries availed the maximum and minimum benefits of the scheme? Can you specify the main reason of the same?
- iv. Which eligible person / children not able to access the benefits. What were the main reasons for the same?
- v. Are there any training programs for Palanhar implementing staff at various levels - can NGO support for the capacity building serve a purpose (question for government staff)
- vi. What other roles can NGOs play in strengthening your work - role in promoting the scheme through IEC) - question for government staff) What is the monitoring and feedback mechanism of the government at local level (GP and block level)?
- vii. How do you monitor the progress of Palanhar at your level - are there any evaluations that have been conducted (question for government staff)
- viii. How the success of the Scheme assessed and what is the periodicity of the assessment and which officer is accountable for the same?
- ix. What were the constraints / challenges observed?
- x. How do you converse Palanhar Scheme for social security, skills development, vocational & higher education of the Palanhar Graduated beneficiaries?
- xi. Suggestions for strengthening the scheme: Key recommendation(s).

### **4. Interviews with INGOs / NGOs / CSOs/ Academia**

- i. What is the nature of your association with Palanhar (1. Awareness Generation about the Scheme, 2. Linking eligible beneficiaries with the scheme, 3. Research/ Study, 4. Monitoring & Evaluation, 5. Pilot testing a new approach to strengthen the scheme, 6. Other (specify)
- ii. What programs you supported to facilitate the linkage of the eligible population to the scheme? What has been your experience and what recommendations would you like to offer to the government for improving the coverage under this scheme?
- iii. What are your key learnings and overall views about the scheme? In your experience what are the strengths and key areas of improvement in Palanhar
- iv. Is there any documentation / assessment conducted by your organization or have been part of other research study which shows impact of the scheme?
- v. Can you share some of the success stories?
- vi. Suggestion some key action points / recommendations for way forward?
- vii. Do you know of any similar schemes being implemented in India/ Global that can provide some viable lessons for Palanhar?