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## Understanding the Effectiveness of Social Policies Through Public Perception

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### Abstract

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The effectiveness of social policies has traditionally been evaluated through measurable outcomes; however, increasing attention is being given to public perception as a critical determinant of policy success. Understanding how citizens perceive policies provides deeper insights into their acceptance and overall impact. This study employed a quantitative cross-sectional design using a structured questionnaire administered to 80 respondents. Data were collected through an online survey and analyzed using descriptive statistics, correlation, and regression techniques. Key variables included awareness, trust, transparency, communication, and perceived policy effectiveness. The findings revealed that respondents exhibited moderate levels of awareness, trust, and perceived effectiveness of social policies. Transparency showed a moderate positive relationship with citizen satisfaction, while trust and awareness demonstrated negligible associations with perceived effectiveness. Inferential analysis indicated no significant demographic differences in perception. The results suggest that transparency and effective communication play a more prominent role in shaping public perception than trust or awareness alone. Public perception is influenced by multiple contextual factors, highlighting the need for a multidimensional approach to policy evaluation. Integrating public perception into policy evaluation frameworks can enhance the design, implementation, and acceptance of social policies. A citizen-centered approach is essential for improving governance outcomes.

**Keywords:** Social policy, Public perception, Transparency, Policy effectiveness, Governance

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## **1. Introduction**

Social policies refer to designed interventions by governments concerning major issues in the society like inequality, access to healthcare and sustainability of the environment. These are basic policies of social welfare promotion and equitable development. Objective indicators that have traditionally been used to measure policy effectiveness are economic performance, efficiency of service delivery and decreases in poverty levels. Nevertheless, recent studies indicate that these assessments cannot be complete without looking at the perceptions of these policies by the citizens as they are actually being implemented.

The social opinion has proved to be a key element in policy success. People tend to evaluate policies according to their own subjective needs, such as fairness, inclusiveness and social relevance. There is an indication that individuals perceive the results of policies based on personal and cultural grounds instead of basing on the quantifiable outcomes (Dieckmann et al., 2021). This highlights the importance of incorporating perception-based assessment in policy analysis.

The communication also plays a great role in reception of policies by the people. Research has shown that the manner in which governments package policy outcomes may influence the people to support or oppose the government. Even good policies will not be accepted in case the benefits are not well communicated in a clear and transparent way (Reynolds et al., 2020). Therefore, effective communication and transparency are the key elements of successful governance.

The interaction between the general opinion and the result of the policies is well-documented. As well as the satisfaction with policies, the attitude of the population may affect the changes and adjustments in the policies and develops the mutual relationship between the government and society expectations (Wlezien, 2017). Alongside, theoretical frameworks also underline that the policymaking process is a complicated process and has several stakeholders in it, and the opinions of citizens can play a critical role in affecting legitimacy and implementation (Cairney, 2019).

Perhaps the significance of perception is best seen in areas like welfare, healthcare and environmental governance. The effectiveness of social policies may influence the perception of political efficacy of people, whether it is boosted or strengthens the sense of marginalization based on their experience (Shore, 2020). The participatory methods have demonstrated that engaging citizens in the implementation of policies enhances the beliefs of its effectiveness and legitimacy among them (Herman et al., 2025). In addition, trust is a crucial factor because the more people trust government institutions, the more policies they accept and comply with, particularly in the context of the public health (Chen et al., 2024).

Although the role of the public perception is becoming more accepted, there is still a wide gap between policy formulation and citizen review. Technically sound and evidence-based policies still can be viewed as ineffective and unfair. Such disconnection is usually caused by a lack of exposure to the people, a lack of transparency, and inefficient communication plans.

The other problem is the lack of use of the popular opinion within the system of evaluation of the policies. Even though the citizen feedback is becoming more accessible via surveys and online tools, it is not always integrated into decision-making. According to research, the policy responsiveness and administrative efficiency can be improved with the help of systematic use of survey data (Trautendorfer et al., 2023). Nevertheless, this potential is not exploited to the full.

Additionally, with digital governance, a new facet has appeared to the minds of the people. Citizen satisfaction and trust in e-government services largely depend on the perceived quality of the services, and user experience can determine the quality of policy evaluation (Pham et al., 2023). The policy also becomes complicated by structural reforms that include decentralization, which affects the way policies are executed and experienced in various regions (Xu et al., 2026). These concerns indicate that they should have a more detailed assessment system that includes the social perception and standard performance indicators.

The present study has both theoretical and practical implications. Theoretically, it adds to the research topic of public administration and policy studies by highlighting the importance of the perception of the people as a potential determinant of the effectiveness of policy. It takes the conventional methods of evaluation to a new level that includes citizen-based views thus providing a more comprehensive view of policy outcomes.

Practically, the study will be of great help to policymakers who would wish to devise more inclusive and efficient social policies. Knowing the perception of the citizens on the policies allows the governments to enhance their communication strategies, increase transparency, and generate confidence in the institutions of the government. In its turn, it can result in the increased levels of the policy acceptance and compliance. The paper further stresses the necessity of incorporating societal reactions into the policy formulation and assessment, so that the policies could be more in touch with the social demands and expectations. The primary objective of this study is to examine how public perception influences the effectiveness of social policies.

### **Research Objectives**

Analyze the role of public perception in evaluating policy effectiveness

Explore the influence of trust, transparency, and communication on citizen attitudes

Investigate the relationship between policy awareness and perceived effectiveness

## **2. METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 Research Design**

This research follows the quantitative research design based on cross-sectional survey design to investigate social policy effectiveness in the eyes of the populace. The design will facilitate the collection of data at one time, which will permit examining the existing attitudes and opinions. It is a mixture of descriptive and analytical methods, in which descriptive methods will summarize the characteristics of the respondents and the perceptions of the respondents whereas analytical methods will examine the associations between the important variables that determine the perceived policy effectiveness.

### **2.2 Population and Sample**

The study target population is the general citizens, which are the individuals who have been affected by different social policies. A total of 80 respondents were included as the sample size, which is appropriate for preliminary quantitative analysis. The research employs a convenience sampling method, with the respondents being chosen with the help of accessibility and readiness to participate. This approach can restrict the generalizability but it is appropriate to use in exploratory research that aims at perception-based analysis.

### **2.3 Data Collection Method**

The structured questionnaire was used to collect primary data, which were created to measure the perceptions of the respondents about the effectiveness of the social policies. The questionnaire was conducted online, which is an efficient and accessible method of data collection. The questionnaire was divided into several parts such as demographics, social policy awareness, trust in government, perceived effectiveness, and satisfaction and compliance. The tool was designed in a manner that would make it easy to understand and provide consistent responses.

### **2.4 Measurement Scale**

The research adopted a 5-point Likert scale to evaluate the attitude and perceptions of the respondents (where 1 was Strongly Disagree and 5 Strongly Agree). This is a scale that can be used to quantify the subjective opinions and analyze the results statistically. It is generally acceptable in social science research to reflect the differences in perception and to assess attitudinal constructs.

### **2.5 Variables**

The research involves the independent and dependent variables to quantify the correlation between the perception of the population and the effectiveness of the policy. The independent variables include trust in government, transparency, awareness of policies and effectiveness of communication, which are important determinants of perception. The dependent variable is the perceived effectiveness of social policies, which will capture the general impression of respondents towards the effectiveness of policies in meeting the needs of the society.

**2.6 Data Analysis Techniques**

Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyze the data collected on 80 respondents. The frequency, percentage, mean, and standard deviation were selected as descriptive statistics to summarize demographic groups and other significant variables, where the general level of awareness, trust, transparency, and perceived policy effectiveness was moderate. To perform inferential analysis, independent samples t-test demonstrated no significant gender disparities in perceived policy effectiveness. Another test that showed no statistically significant difference between perception and demographic variables was the chi-square test. Analysis of correlation showed that transparency had a moderate positive relationship with satisfaction, and trust and awareness had negligible relationships with effectiveness. Moreover, the multiple regression analysis showed that the perceived policy effectiveness was not significantly predicted by trust, awareness, transparency, and communication, with low explanatory power.

**2.7 Ethical Considerations**

Ethical standards were maintained throughout the study. The process was voluntary and the respondents were notified of the purpose of the research prior to giving their responses. All the participants gave informed consent and all data remained anonymous, which guaranteed the confidentiality of the information. The information obtained was employed purely on academic grounds and privacy of respondents was taken care of in totality.

**3. RESULTS**

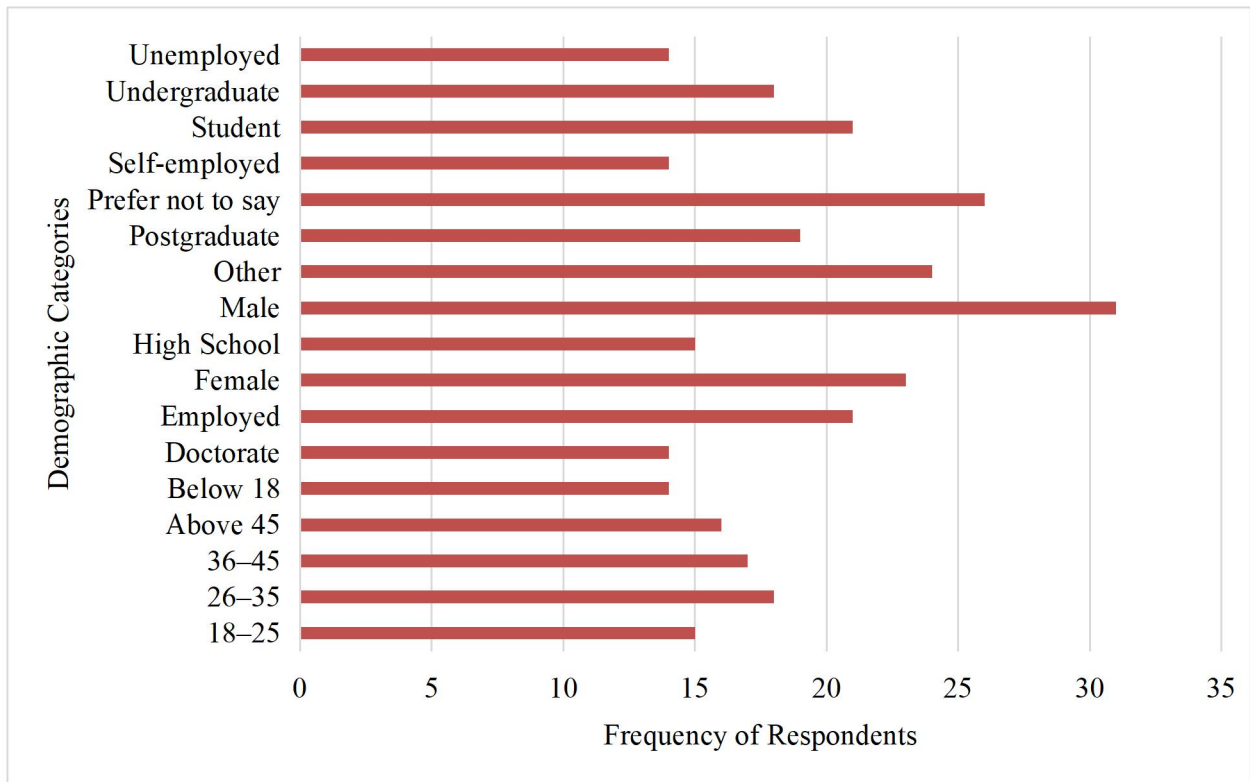
**3.1 Demographic Profile of Respondents**

In order to know the composition of the sample, frequency and percentage analysis was done on age, gender, education and occupation. Table 1 reveals that the respondents were well balanced in terms of age with majority falling in 26-35 years bracket. The largest gender group was made up of male respondents, and postgraduate and undergraduate respondents had a significant proportion in the sample. The most widespread categories were students and employed respondents in the occupational terms.

**Table 1.** Demographic Profile of Respondents (n = 80)

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Age	Below 18	14	17.5
	18-25	15	18.8
	26-35	18	22.5
	36-45	17	21.3
	Above 45	16	20.0
Gender	Male	31	38.8
	Female	23	28.8
	Prefer not to say	26	32.5
Education	High School	15	18.8
	Undergraduate	18	22.5
	Postgraduate	19	23.8
	Doctorate	14	17.5
Occupation	Other	14	17.5
	Student	21	26.3
	Employed	21	26.3
	Self-employed	14	17.5
	Unemployed	14	17.5
	Other	10	12.5

The socially mixed sample, as it is shown in Table 1, and it is convenient to investigate the perceptions of the population of various demographics. Figure 1 shows the number of respondents in each category i.e. age groups, education level, occupation, and gender. This figure can be used to learn about the structure of the study sample and the prevalent groups of respondents.



**Figure 1.** Distribution of Respondents by Demographic Categories

As Figure 1 displays, the distribution of respondents through demographic categories is uneven, with some groups, including students, employed, and those who did not want to reveal their gender, being represented rather higher. The age groups seem to be quite evenly distributed, but some categories are somewhat more represented.

### 3.2 Awareness of Social Policies

The measure of awareness was done using questionnaire questions regarding knowledge of social policies as well as knowledge of their usefulness in everyday life. The descriptive data in Table 2 suggest that the awareness levels were rather moderate, and the mean scores were within the range of the middle of the scale. This implies that the respondents were not complete strangers to social policies but the level of awareness was not so strong.

**Table 2.** Descriptive Statistics for Awareness of Social Policies

Variable	Mean	Standard Deviation	Minimum	Maximum
Awareness	2.93	1.01	1.00	5.00

As shown in Table 2, the mean awareness score of 2.93 indicates a moderate level of knowledge about social policies among respondents.

### 3.3 Trust in Government and Institutions

Items dealing with confidence on government action, fairness, and institutional conduct were used to measure trust. Table 3 also indicated that the average score of trust was moderate and indicated that respondents did not place a lot of trust or distrust in the institutions of the people. This indicates an indifferent trend of trust in the population.

**Table 3.** Descriptive Statistics for Trust in Government and Institutions

Variable	Mean	Standard Deviation	Minimum	Maximum
Trust	2.97	0.89	1.00	5.00

According to Table 3, the average trust level was 2.97, showing that trust in government and institutions remained around the neutral point.

**3.4 Perception of Policy Effectiveness**

The effectiveness of social policies perceived by the respondents was measured using questions related to the policy outcomes, improvement of the quality of life and efficiency of implementation. Table 4 informs that the perceived effectiveness had an average score of 2.99 which is a moderate rating. The respondents therefore considered the policies as a little way effective but not strongly.

**Table 4.** Descriptive Statistics for Perceived Effectiveness of Social Policies

Variable	Mean	Standard Deviation	Minimum	Maximum
Perceived Effectiveness	2.99	0.87	1.33	5.00

As indicated in Table 4, the overall perception of policy effectiveness was moderate, which suggests a balanced but cautious public evaluation of government social policies.

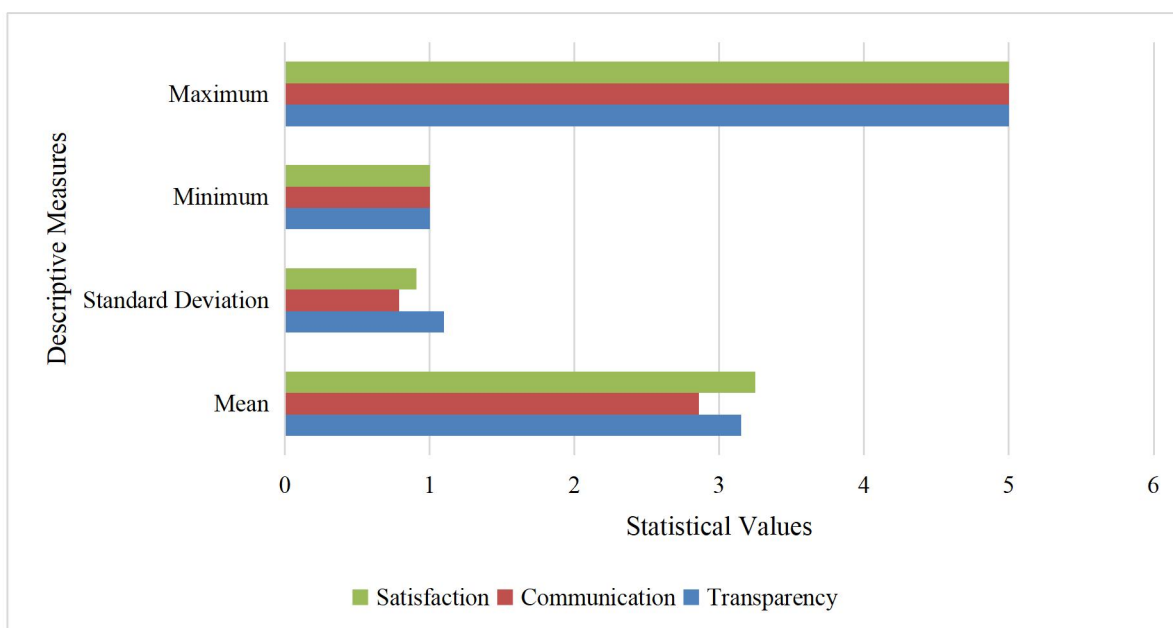
**3.5 Satisfaction and Transparency**

As both satisfaction and transparency are highly interconnected with the public perception, they were also studied in a descriptive manner. As Table 5 indicates, satisfaction was slightly higher in its mean than effectiveness and that transparency was also in the moderate range. This can be a pointer that the respondents felt that there was a certain openness in governance, though not in a very persuasive way.

**Table 5.** Descriptive Statistics for Transparency, Communication, and Satisfaction

Variable	Mean	Standard Deviation	Minimum	Maximum
Transparency	3.15	1.10	1.00	5.00
Communication	2.86	0.79	1.00	5.00
Satisfaction	3.25	0.91	1.00	5.00

According to Table 5, satisfaction had the most significant mean (3.25) and transparency next (3.15) and communication the lowest (2.86). Figure 2 below, graphically summarises the mean, standard deviation, minimum and maximum values of each variable.



**Figure 2.** Descriptive Statistics of Transparency, Communication, and Satisfaction

Figure 2 shows that the mean value of the satisfaction was the highest, it was preceded by transparency, and communication was relatively less. The values of the standard deviation denote an average amount of variability in the responses, and this indicates the existence of some differences in the individual perceptions. The lowest and highest values indicate that the range of respondents to the Likert scale was fully reflected in the responses, indicating the existence of different opinions.

**3.6 Comparative Analysis of Perceived Policy Effectiveness Across Demographic Groups**

In order to find out whether there was a difference in perceived policy effectiveness between male and female respondents, independent samples t-test was used. Table 6 revealed a slight difference between the mean score of males and females in terms of effectiveness but not statistically significant.

**Table 6.** Independent Samples t-Test for Gender Difference in Perceived Policy Effectiveness

Group	Mean	t-value	p-value
Male	3.00	0.525	0.602
Female	2.87		

As shown in Table 6, the p-value (0.602) is greater than 0.05, indicating that there was no significant gender difference in perceived policy effectiveness.

**3.7 Association Between Demographic Variables and Perceived Policy Effectiveness**

A chi-square test was used to assess whether age group was related to the level of perceived policy effectiveness. To this end, scores of effectiveness were classified as low, moderate and high. As it is reported in Table 7, the correlation between age and perceived effectiveness was not significant.

**Table 7.** Chi-Square Test for Association Between Age Group and Perceived Policy Effectiveness

Test	Chi-Square Value	df	p-value
Age × Perceived Effectiveness	6.059	8	0.641

As indicated in Table 7, the p-value (0.641) exceeds 0.05, showing that age group did not have a significant association with perceived policy effectiveness in this sample.

**3.8 Interrelationship Among Key Determinants of Public Perception**

Correlation analysis was done to test the association between the significant research variables. Consistent with your area of research, the links between trust and effectiveness, awareness and effectiveness, and transparency and satisfaction were explored. Transparency was found to have the highest correlation with satisfaction as depicted in Table 8 with the other two relationships being insignificant..

**Table 8.** Correlation Analysis of Key Study Variables

Variable Pair	Correlation Coefficient (r)	p-value	Interpretation
Trust and Effectiveness	-0.000	0.998	Negligible
Awareness and Effectiveness	0.009	0.938	Negligible
Transparency and Satisfaction	0.290	0.009	Moderate positive

As presented in Table 8, only the relationship between transparency and satisfaction was statistically significant ( $r = 0.290$ ,  $p = 0.009$ ), indicating that higher transparency was associated with greater citizen satisfaction.

**3.9 Predictors of Perceived Effectiveness of Social Policies**

To establish the extent to which perceived policy effectiveness was determined by trust, transparency, awareness, and communication, a multiple regression analysis was conducted. Table 9 results indicate that the overall regression model was not significant and also no single predictors were significant in terms of their contribution.

**Table 9.** Multiple Regression Analysis Predicting Perceived Policy Effectiveness

Predictor	B	Standard Error	t-value	p-value
Constant	2.749	0.656	4.194	0.000
Trust	0.002	0.114	0.015	0.988
Transparency	0.089	0.092	0.968	0.336

Awareness	0.000	0.100	0.002	0.998
Communication	-0.015	0.127	-0.119	0.906

Model Summary:  $R^2 = 0.013$ , Adjusted  $R^2 = -0.040$ ,  $F = 0.238$ ,  $p = 0.916$

The model, as indicated in Table 9, explained the perceived policy effectiveness by 1.3% and the entire result of the regression was not significant ( $p = 0.916$ ). This implies that predictors were not significantly useful in explaining differences in perceived effectiveness.

#### 4. DISCUSSION

The current research investigated the role played by the social perception in the effectiveness of the social policies, and the researchers paid attention to such aspects like the awareness, trust, transparency and communication. The results suggest that respondents were moderately aware, moderately trustful, and moderately effective in their opinion of the policy, which implies a well-balanced rather than overwhelming positive opinion by the population. This can be seen as an instance of refusing the policies completely or even firmly supporting them, pointing to the ambiguity of the general opinion about the policies. Among the main results of this research is that transparency exhibited a moderate positive correlation with citizen satisfaction with the trust and awareness having negligible correlations with perceived effectiveness. This implies that transparency and transparency in the governance process can be more directly related to the way citizens assess the policies than other aspects. This observation is consistent with the past studies that highlight the significance of transparency to build social confidence and enhance institutional integrity (Handayani, 2025). In cases where citizens feel that the government is acting in a transparent manner, there is a high probability that they will form favorable attitudes despite the fact that policy outcomes will not be optimal.

Conversely, the insignificant correlation between trust and perceived effectiveness that occurs in this study is contrary to certain literature. It has been determined that trust is a key factor of policy acceptance and compliance, especially in welfare and public service (Garritzmann et al., 2023). Nevertheless, the lack of a close correlation in the present results can suggest that the trust by itself is not enough to influence perceptions unless it is supported by any physical changes in the communication and delivery of services. This understanding can also be confirmed by the fact that research indicates that fragmented institutional experiences might undermine the relation between trust and policy outcomes (Schneider et al., 2025).

Equally, the fact that there is no significant correlation between awareness and perceived effectiveness indicates that the simple knowledge about policies does not necessarily translate into more positive judgements. This observation is in line with general studies that suggest that knowledge does not exclusively influence the formation of public opinion but that contextual factors influence the development of the same, including political ideology and narratives in society (Kulin et al., 2021). In other instances, people can have knowledge about the policies but they are not convinced because they feel that there are inefficiencies or other bias towards the implementation. The average general view of policy effectiveness in the current study is consistent with the previous studies that focus on the fluctuation of the view of the citizens on the policy fronts. As an example, climate and welfare policy research show that citizens tend to have ambivalent attitudes, weighing the perceived benefits against perceived unfairness and inefficiency (Fairbrother, 2022). This is an indication that the perception of the people is inherently multidimensional and conditioned by the objective and subjective interpretations.

Communication became another critical contextual variable, but direct statistical significance did not play a significant role in this study. Available literature emphasizes that a successful communication approach improves the public awareness and acceptance of the policies as it helps to explain their goals and anticipated results (Reynolds et al., 2020). Furthermore, recent research points to increased influence of media, including digital media, on perception of the policy and compliance behavior (Zhang et al., 2025). The generally moderate communication scores in this research show that things can be improved on the way the governments communicate with the citizens.

The results also imply overall structural and socio-economic factors on the attitude of the people. Political dynamics and economic uncertainty can influence the individual perception of policies, usually causing uncertainty or lack of trust with the political systems (Gozgor, 2022). Further, administrative problems and bureaucracies can influence the experience of policies by the citizens themselves, impacting their general

satisfaction and effectiveness (Masood and Nisar, 2021). This underscores the need to make administration processes easier in order to enhance citizen participation.

The findings in policy terms underline the importance of a more comprehensive policy making and assessment process. Perception-based indicators should be used to supplement traditional outcome-based assessment to understand the full implication of policies. Studies indicate that the policies that focus on the wider social determinants as opposed to service provision are more likely to be accepted by the population (Burchardt, 2025). In addition, improving communication policies and making policymaking evidence-based may help to improve the confidence of the population and enhance the perceived effectiveness (Cattaneo & Mazzoleni, 2026). The significance of citizen involvement is also imperative. Research has demonstrated that communities can enhance preparedness and acceptance when they are engaged in policy making, especially when applied in health and social service settings (Talana et al., 2024). The long-term studies of the peoples opinion also suggest that the attitudes of citizens changes with the time, which is a sign of the transformation of social and political conditions (Eick et al., 2022). This means that constant interaction and feedback systems are the keys to policy relevance.

This study has various limitations in spite of its contributions. First, the sample of 80 respondents is rather small and this could restrict the generalization of the results. Secondly, convenience sampling can result in bias because the sample might not be representative of the larger group of people. Third, the cross-sectional design will only capture perceptions at one time and fails to consider any change in attitudes with time. Also, the use of self-reported data can be prone to response bias. Future studies ought to overcome these shortcomings through the use of larger and more heterogeneous samples, and longitudinal designs to investigate the dynamic of the public perception. The comparative research of various regions and policy areas would also give more insight into the variables that determine policy effectiveness.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

This paper has discussed the performance of social policies based on the perception of the people with major consideration on the aspects of awareness, trust, transparency and communication. The results indicated that the social policy perceptions of the populace are moderate which implies that the policies are viewed as effective to an extent, but they are not up to the expectations of the citizens. Transparency became the most influential among the factors analyzed, and it was found to have a significant relationship with the satisfaction of citizens, with little direct effect of trust and awareness. These findings indicate that effectiveness of policies is not only based on the objective outcomes but it is greatly influenced by the way policies are communicated, implemented and perceived by the citizens. Lack of robust relationships among certain variables indicates that the perception of the people is multifaceted and depends on a number of contextual and structural factors. The paper underlines the need to adopt citizen-focused approach when designing and evaluating policies. Defining the issue of transparency, refining the communication approach, and establishing meaningful contact with the population can contribute greatly to the acceptance and efficiency of the policy. On the whole, including the social perception in the policy appraisal systems may result in more inclusive, responsive and sustainable social policies more appropriate to the needs of society.

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### **1.1 Research Objectives**

1. To examine the impact of social policy interventions on community development
2. To analyse key policy measures contributing to social upliftment
3. To evaluate the effectiveness of social policies in reducing poverty and inequality

## **2. Methodology**

### **2.1 Research Design**

The current study will use a quantitative research design in order to conduct a systematic investigation into the impact of social policy interventions on the improvement of community development. It takes a descriptive and correlational approach to studying patterns, relationship and trends between variables. The research is cross-sectional based in that the information is gathered at one time to reflect the perception, experience and awareness of the respondents towards the different social policy measures. The design is deemed suitable because it allows the researcher to examine the present implications of policies on community development without the need to observe the effects in the long term.

### **2.2 Study Area**

The study is carried out in a chosen urban or semi-urban community where a variety of social policy interventions, including welfare schemes, healthcare, and educational programs are being carried out. The research area will be selected due to its socio-economic heterogeneity, used to provide a wholesome evaluation of the way the various groups of people in the area are affected and benefited by the policy interventions. This diversity will make sure that the findings represent a wider comprehension of community development in the context of different social and economic statuses.

### **2.3 Sample Size and Sampling Technique**

The study will utilize the entire sample size of 80 participants, representing different socio-demographic and economic statuses. The simple random sampling technique will be employed to draw the participants for the study, whereby all individuals in the population have an equal chance of being selected. This technique will be beneficial in eliminating any form of selection bias. The sample size will include different age groups, economic and occupational levels and thus different opinions regarding the effects of the social policies.

### **2.4 Data Collection Methods**

The main source of information for this research will be the primary data which will be gathered using a survey that will be conducted for the purpose of the research. The survey will comprise a number of questions which will have closed-ended and Likert scale options. This will allow respondents to indicate their

degree of agreement or disagreement on certain aspects related to social policy and community development. Some of the areas where respondents' views will be sought include knowledge about government policies, provision of services, perception of improvement in quality of life, and social integration.

**2.5 Variables of the Study**

In this research, the relationship between social policy interventions and community development has been analyzed, hence the definition of major variables. Social policy interventions, which comprise of education interventions, health care interventions, housing interventions and welfare interventions, constitute the independent variable. On the other hand, community development is the dependent variable, whose values will be measured through measures such as income level, essential services, social integration and standard of living.

**2.6 Data Analysis Techniques**

The collected data is analyzed by applying the descriptive and inferential approaches to the statistics. Descriptive statistics, frequency, percentage, and mean are applied to provide an overview of the features of respondents and general trends from the data. The approach such as the correlation test will be applied to evaluate the relationship between variables. These statistical tests may help in identifying the nature and level of the relationship between social policies and community development. The analysis is conducted using Microsoft Excel, which ensures accuracy and systematic interpretation of the data.

**2.5 Ethical Considerations**

The ethical considerations of the research are always ensured so that the study would be considered as an honest and credible one. The objectives of the research would be clarified with the participants beforehand, and their consent would be obtained prior to the data gathering process. The confidentiality of the participants is always ensured, and all the collected data would be used for academic purposes only. Participation in the study is strictly voluntary, and the respondents can withdraw from the study anytime without any repercussions.

**3. Results**

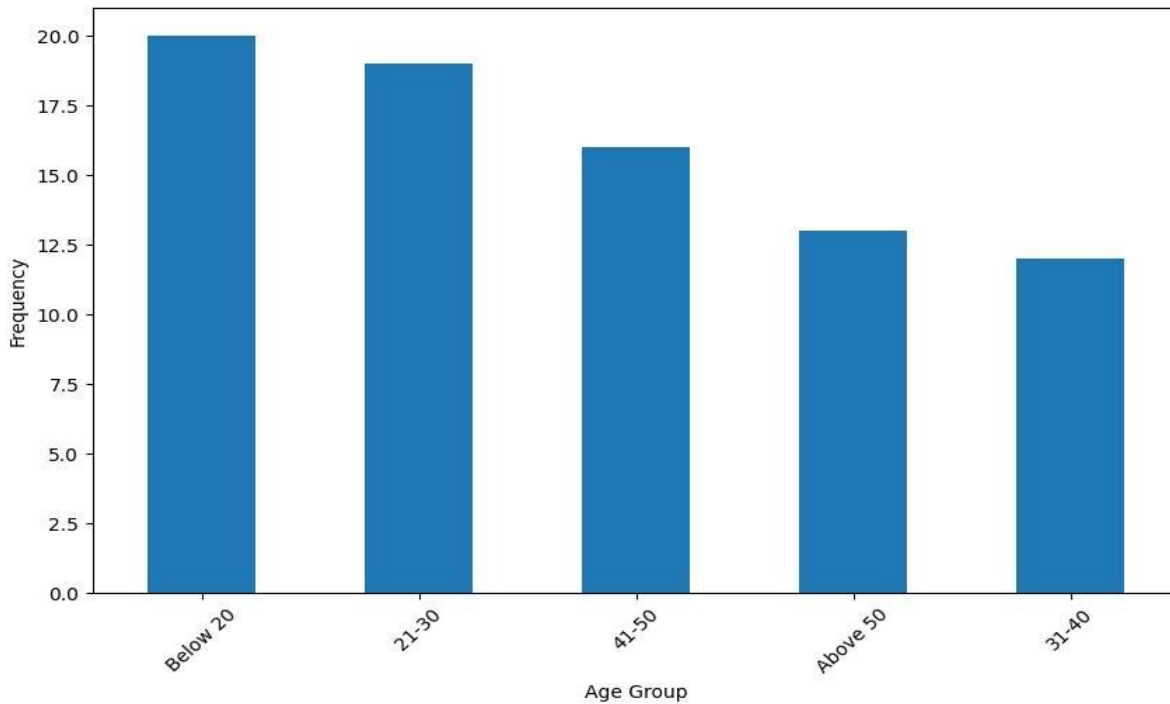
**3.1 Demographic Profile of Respondents**

This section gives the demographic profile of the respondents to give a background of the sample used in the research. The traits are age distribution, gender composition, educational background, occupation, income levels and area of residence. These variables should play a crucial role in explaining the understanding of the respondents on the social policy interventions and its impact in developing the community (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Demographic characteristics of respondents (n = 80)

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age	Below 20	20	25.0
	21–30	19	23.8
	31–40	12	15.0
	41–50	16	20.0
	Above 50	13	16.2
Gender	Male	35	43.8
	Female	28	35.0
	Other	17	21.2
Education	Primary	14	17.5
	Secondary	21	26.2
	Graduate	18	22.5
	Postgraduate	12	15.0
	Others	15	18.8
Occupation	Student	21	26.2
	Employed	12	15.0
	Self-employed	17	21.2
	Unemployed	12	15.0
	Others	18	22.5
Income	Below 10,000	19	23.8
	10,000–30,000	24	30.0
	30,001–50,000	22	27.5
	Above 50,000	15	18.8
Residence	Urban	28	35.0
	Semi-Urban	22	27.5
	Rural	30	37.5

The demographics analysis shows the sample is a representative of a heterogeneous population in terms of age, education, occupation, etc. The fact that there are both urban and rural respondents will provide a balanced view of the social policy interventions. The comparatively diverse socio-economic status of respondents enhances the validity of the research as they included a multitude of perspectives that concerned community development.



**Figure 1.** Distribution of Respondents by Age Group

The age group is a wide representation of the respondents at various stages in life (Figure 1). This variety will make the study more comprehensive because the respondents of different age groups can have different experiences and interpret the interventions of the social policies in a different way.

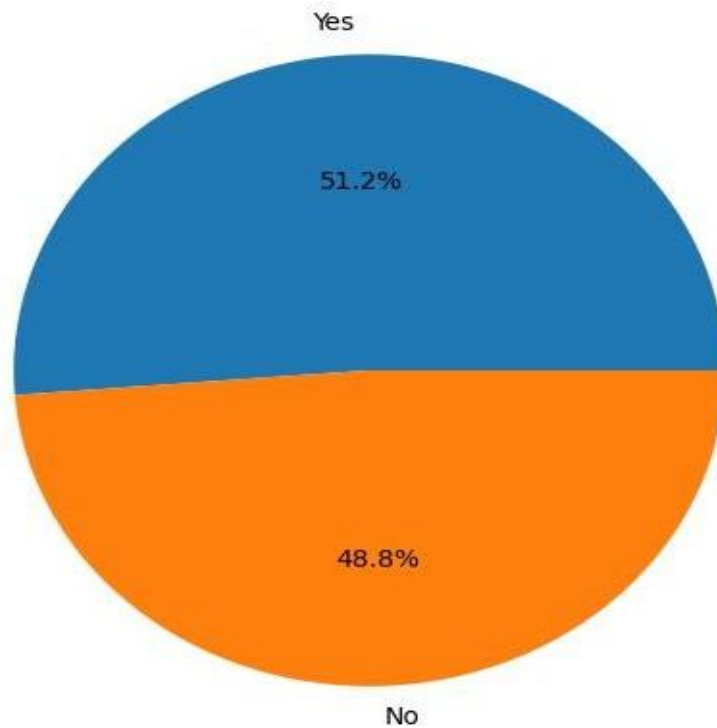
**3.2 Awareness, Benefits, and Access to Social Policy Interventions**

In this section, the author analyses the awareness level, access, and benefits of social policy interventions among the respondents (Table 2). These aspects are critical to understand how such policies can be effective and reach the community.

**Table 2.** Awareness and access to social policy interventions (n = 80)

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Awareness of policy programs	Yes	41	51.2
	No	39	48.8
Benefited from policy programs	Yes	42	52.5
	No	38	47.5
Access rating	Poor	11	13.8
	Average	21	26.2
	Good	23	28.7
	Excellent	25	31.2
Main policy area benefited from	Education	17	21.2
	Healthcare	20	25.0
	Housing	10	12.5
	Employment	14	17.5
	Others	19	23.8

The results indicate that the level of awareness of the respondents on social policy initiatives is moderate to high. A significant percentage of respondents claim to have access to and receive such programs. The findings also point at the fact that various policy sectors do impact on community development, which means that social policy interventions are multifaceted.



**Figure 2.** Level of awareness of social policy interventions among respondents

The degree of knowledge regarding social policy interventions among the respondents was shown in Figure 2. It means that it is rather well-known in the community and shows the extent of governmental and institutional campaigns. Nonetheless, the existence of a segment with low awareness indicates that there should be a better communication and outreach campaign to make participation more inclusive.

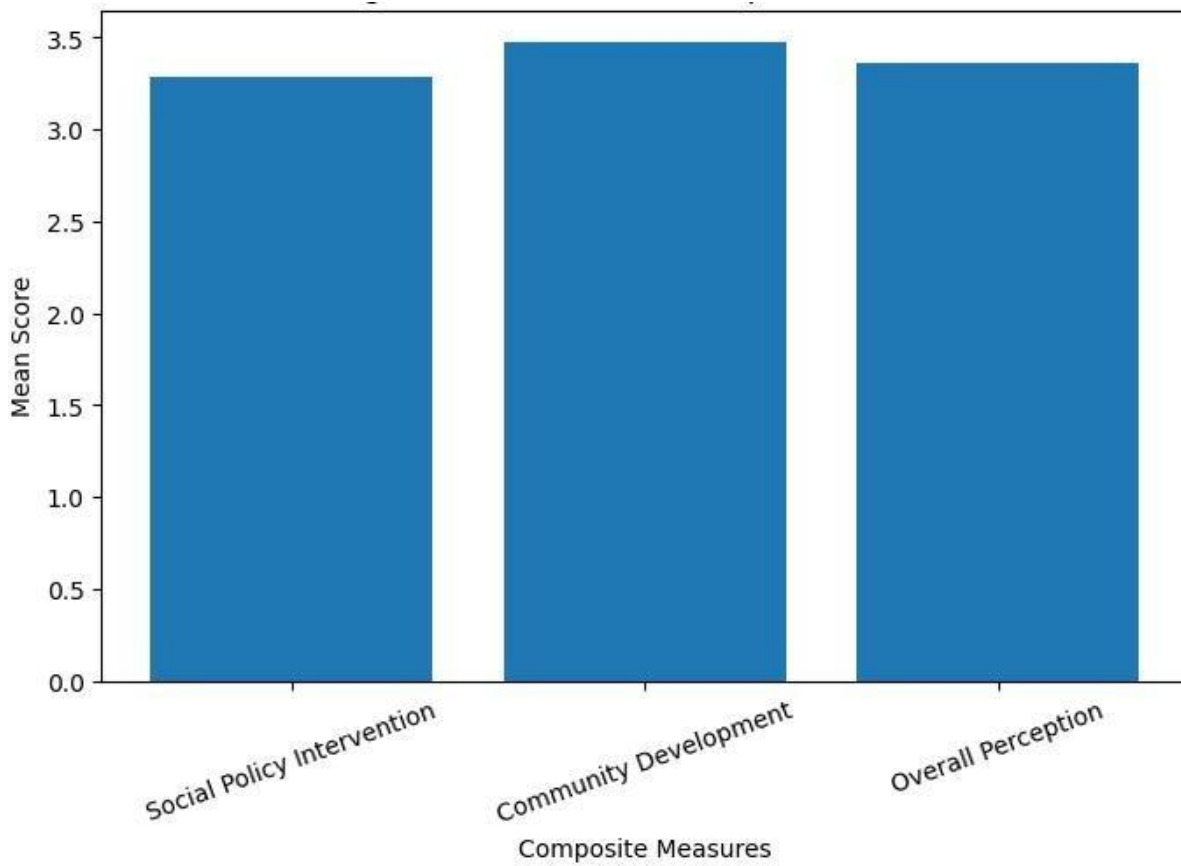
**3.3 Descriptive Statistics for Composite Indices**

This segment gives the analysis of composite indices that have been created to measure perceptions of social policy interventions by the respondents and their impact on the growth of the community. The indices give an overview of various aspects, such as the efficiency of policy responses, the positive changes in the well-being of the community, and the general understanding of social policy outcomes. The analysis will provide a more in-depth picture of the role of social policies in improving the development of the community by putting together individual indicators into broader measures (Table 3).

**Table 3.** Descriptive statistics and one-sample t-test for composite indices

Composite measure	Mean	SD	Minimum	Maximum	t (vs. midpoint = 3.0)	p-value
Social Policy Intervention Index	3.285	0.496	2.333	4.500	5.144	< .001
Community Development Index	3.475	0.579	2.000	4.750	7.342	< .001
Overall Perception Index	3.361	0.352	2.400	4.200	9.188	< .001

The findings show that the respondents have a generally positive attitude towards social policy interventions and their role in community development. The composite measures indicate that there is a steady trend of positive responses on various dimensions that indicate that the social policies are viewed to be effective in enhancing the overall well-being and social progress.



**Figure 3.** Mean scores of composite indices representing social policy intervention, community development, and overall perception

Figure 3 provided a comparative analysis of the composite indices concerning social policy intervention and community development and the perception in general. It shows that there is an overall positive trend in all the dimensions, which means that the respondents view the social policy interventions as having a positive contribution to community development. The similarity in indices indicates that policies have equal effects on various facets of community well-being.

### 3.4 Inferential Analysis

Inferential statistical methods were used to further test the relationship between the key variables. The objectives of these analyses are to identify the degree of the impact of social policy interventions on the outcomes of community development and the presence of significant relationships among the variables (Table 4).

**Table 4.** Correlation, chi-square, t-test, and regression results

Test	Variables	Statistic	P-value	Interpretation
Pearson correlation	Social Policy Intervention Index × Community Development Index	$r = -0.135$	.234	Weak, non-significant relationship
Chi-square test	Awareness × Benefited from policy	$\chi^2 (1) = 0.823$	.364	No significant association
Independent samples t-test	Community Development Index by benefit status	$t (75.90) = -1.537$	.129	No significant group difference
Multiple regression	Predicting Community Development Index from policy intervention, awareness, benefit status, and access	$F (4,75) = 1.032, R^2 = .052$	.397	Model not statistically significant

The inferential analysis gives information on the relationship between the variables studied. Although the descriptive results demonstrate a fairly positive view towards social policy interventions, the statistical tests

indicate that the strength and significance of the relationships are different. This means that, as much as social policies might be seen as beneficial, their quantifiable effects might be affected by other contextual variables like the effectiveness and availability of the implementation.

#### **4. Discussion**

The current research was expected to discuss the significance of policy interventions in improving the development of the community through the perception of the respondents, their awareness and general experiences regarding the implementation of the policy. The results of the research show that the respondents have an overall positive picture of the role of social policies in the development of the community. Descriptive results indicate that social policy interventions are believed to positively influence quality of life, social inclusion and overall well-being in communities. Nevertheless, the inferential analysis shows that the statistical correlations of variables are not very strong, which means that the perceived benefits of social policies do not necessarily convert into the measurable outcomes in the same way.

The good image that was witnessed in this study is in tandem with the larger theoretical views that underline the significance of social assistance and welfare programs in alleviating poverty and promoting development. It is a common understanding that social policies are critical in resource redistribution and the improvement of social protection mechanisms, which can consequently help in the inclusive growth and development of communities (Midgley, 2019). On the same note, international evaluations of inequality point out that properly structured social policy systems are vital in eliminating inequalities and enhancing access to opportunities, especially in fast-evolving socio-economic settings (Department of Economic, 2020). These views are supported by the findings of this study as they show that the respondents recognize the developmental impact of the intervention of the social policies, although differences in their implementation can influence their overall effectiveness.

Moreover, the findings indicate that the knowledge and access to social policy programs is medium-sufficient among the interviewees. This finding is in line with the past studies which have revealed that the success of social policies is strongly associated with their accessibility and publicity. Policy reviews have indicated that disparities in policy results are commonly brought about by the differences in implementation plans, budgetary channel, and impacted administration effectiveness (Vizard, 2021). The given study is not an exception, with respondents being aware of the benefits of the social policies and at the same time stating that there are challenges associated with the implementation. This implies that to amplify the effect of social policy interventions, it is necessary to improve governance mechanisms and enhance institutional capacity. Other significance of the study is the role of community participation and empowerment to attain sustainable development results. The community-based approach is becoming a widely used one in terms of developing local communities and making policy interventions to be relevant to the needs of the community. Community empowerment studies have shown that community support and involvement can go a long way to increase the effectiveness of development programs through ownership and accountability (Wani et al., 2024). This point is supported by the results of the current study because the positive attitudes of respondents can be attributed to their participation in policy programmes and their participation in community-based activities.

Moreover, the modern discourse of social policy lays stress on the necessity of the incorporation of the environmental and social aspects of development. The increased attention to environmental justice and sustainable development emphasizes the need to integrate social policy interventions with ecological aspects to provide community resiliency over the long term (Drolet et al., 2022). Likewise, social work transformative approaches promote adaptive and inclusive paradigms that can be responsive to crises and shifting societal demands (Dominelli, 2023). These views are applicable to the present study as the respondents recognize the extended role of social policies in resolving the complex social issues.

The other dimension that comes out as a result of the research is the contribution of education and knowledge systems towards community development. Recent research suggests the importance of critically analyzing the old-fashioned methods of community development and integrate different viewpoints that represent the local circumstances and experiences (Mayo, 2024). This concurs with the results of the current study, which indicate that community development can be not only informed by policy interventions but also the level to which the policy interventions are culturally and socially pertinent.

Although the overall findings are positive, the study also indicates some limitations that should be taken into account. The fact that the inferential tests are not very strong in terms of significance indicates that the correlation between social policy interventions and community development might be affected by other variables that are not included so far in the study. As an example, differences in policy implementation, regional differences, and social-cultural differences can be important factors that can influence results. Past

studies have also pointed out that, in some cases, community-based development projects can experience contradictions, meaning that the positive outcomes that are aimed at are not achieved completely because of structural and institutional issues (Poncin, 2024). This underscores the difficulty of determining the effectiveness of social policies and the necessity of more analytical frameworks.

The small sample size and the cross-sectional nature of data used in the study is also another weakness of the study since it limits the draw of a causal relationship. Also, self-reported information can lead to bias in responses since perceptions are not necessarily true with respect to actual outcomes. Previous research has also observed methodological difficulties in social policy research, especially in terms of how best to capture hidden/less visible elements of community processes (Vicario & Nadia, 2024). These constraints imply that subsequent research must be based on mixed-method designs and larger samples to learn more about the effects of social policy interventions.

This study has a number of implications on policy and practice. To begin with, the implementation mechanisms of social policies should be enhanced so that the benefits of social policy can be more equally spread throughout communities. Policy interventions can be made more effective by collaborative strategies that incorporate several stakeholders such as governments, non-governmental organizations and community members. The enhancement of health systems and facilitating the coordination of policy interventions has been seen as some of the most effective means of establishing resilient and inclusive communities (Vandenbroucke, 2024). Also, the new policy directions, including the focus on welfare programs and income support, show the prospect of the innovative strategies in enhancing social and economic outcomes (Berg et al., 2026).

Further, the research highlights the critical role of learning historical and modern experiences as far as community development is concerned. The current policy interventions can be developed to be more efficient and sustainable by understanding successful and challenging moments of the past (Lohman et al., 2023). Community practice frameworks with a focus on participation, empowerment, and social justice remain an essential component in the developmental outcomes (Todd and Drolet, 2020). These views demonstrate the necessity to adopt a comprehensive view of social policy that incorporates economic, social, and environmental aspects.

## **5. Conclusion**

The paper has discussed the significance of social policy interventions in making communities develop positively by using the perceptions and experiences of the participants. From the findings of the study, it is evident that these social policies are viewed as being successful in improving the quality of people's lives, fostering social integration, and increasing community well-being. It is clear that the optimistic attitude of the respondents towards the success of the policies is because of the intervention made by the government in addressing socio-economic challenges faced by communities. However, it is also important to note that other elements, such as efficiency and accessibility of the policies among others, play an integral part in improving the effectiveness of social policy interventions. In addition, the lack of any statistical correlations implies that community development is a multifaceted and complicated process, one whose success depends on many other determinants apart from the government interventions. On a general note, this essay emphasizes the importance of developing a participatory approach in the formulation and implementation of social policies. Social policies can benefit significantly from improved institutional settings and creation of awareness and participation among the target groups. The solution lies in formulating more comprehensive strategies for the development of communities.

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