

# Policy/Practice/Project Impact Statement for

## Ageing, Poverty and Neoliberalism in Urban South India

### ***1. What are likely to be the key policy, practice and/or product development implications of your project?***

The key policy and practice impact will be to extend the conceptualisation of what is an 'ageing issue' in local, national and international arenas and to provide tangible strategies for improving older people's capacity to be self-supporting or to access support from their families and the state.

This is a key time for mainstreaming 'age' as a number of new policies are currently being framed which will impact on the lives of the older urban poor and their families. These include:

- i) a means-tested, cash-limited old age pension (US \$0.15-30 per day in a country in which the minimum wage is \$2.00 per day),
- ii) an urban renewal programme (JNNURM) which will emphasise infrastructural provision, particularly roads, forcing low-income settlements outside the city as well as threatening informal sector livelihoods (eg street hawking and street markets).
- iii) new 11<sup>th</sup> 5 year plan which is emphasising public/private partnerships for the delivery of services previously provided by the State, including health care delivery and financing.
- iv) marketisation of infrastructural provision (eg water metering)

The project will also work towards ensuring that existing welfare provisions and rights conferred on individuals through the Indian constitution and jurisprudence as well as international law are implemented/institutionalised in such a way as to benefit older people.

### ***2. Who are the main non-academic user groups that you will be targeting?***

In India: local communities, NGOs and activist groups, local and national officials and key politicians and other interested parties (such as the Supreme Court's Commissioners on Food Security).

Internationally: INGOs, activist groups, officials and key politicians (in developing countries, key donor countries, such as DfID, and international agencies and coalitions supporting MIPAA, including the UN Commission for Social Development, the UN Economic Commissions, the UN Department of Social Affairs and other focal points within the UN system such as the ILO and UNDP).

### ***3. What non-standard outputs are you planning?***

i periodic public meetings including, whenever possible, public hearings, workshops and a conference specifically on ageing to which local communities, NGOs and activist groups, academics and officials, and other interested individuals, including media representatives and professional bodies (eg, Association of Social Workers, Indian Medical Association etc) will be invited.

ii participation in public hearings, workshops and conferences that are not specifically on ageing in order to raise awareness of the need to mainstream the particular needs of older people into all policy, practice and research.

iii circulation of periodic research reports/briefings locally and internationally to key individuals, institutions and the media and on relevant websites (including the project's websites in India and in Britain, the ESRC website and on HelpAge International's website).

iv periodic meetings with key local policy makers, NGOs, activist groups, academics, officials and political party members and media. .

v wherever the findings are of the type which can be legally articulated as issues of entitlements and rights, to explore legal avenues for action including in PIL's (Public Interest Litigations).

**4. How will older people and other users be involved in your research?**

i see 3i, 3ii and iv above – these events will be 2-way exchanges in which the project will periodically disseminate its findings, will broaden its user group and will collaborate with them to identify nuanced lines of enquiry.

ii older people will be involved in all stages of the research as informants and as participants in elaborating the key issues that need to be addressed in a rapidly changing policy context – particularly in relation to the implementation (or lack of implementation) of policies at the local level and the potential impacts of recently announced policies (eg see 1 above).

**5. What assistance can the NDA Programme provide to enhance the impact of your research in these three areas?**

The project's collaborator institution in India, the Centre for Law, Policy and Human Rights Studies, Chennai, has good contacts with users at local and national level including with representatives of international (UN and INGO) organisations based in Chennai and New Delhi.

Similarly the project's partner organisation, HelpAge International has good national and regional contacts.

The project would appreciate assistance with dissemination of findings to potential users in Britain (eg DfID and the Houses of Parliament's International Development Committee), Europe, North America and international agencies and coalitions supporting MIPAA, including the UN Commission for Social Development, the UN Economic Commissions, the UN Department of Social Affairs and other focal points within the UN system such as the ILO and UNDP.

Penny Vera-Sanso