

Abstract

Income support programs have always been an initiative or policy matter for the western world whereby unemployment allowance is offered to individuals that are not in regular employment. This study would evaluate the project from pre and post Perspectives, to understand its relative impact on the livelihood of beneficiaries. Therefore, focus of this study is based on the assessment of the impacts of Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) on the overall livelihood and living standards of the beneficiaries. Qualitative methodology is used to perform interviews, and the justification is twofold as one sample population was not so well trained to complete interview surveys, and the other provides stronger insights. In addition, this was much more convenient and the results were real in practice, as the rural population typically takes the form of filling as taboo. Total 30 number of respondents are interviewed to get desired data. This study shows that, relations positive but small effect on the overall livelihood and living standards of the beneficiaries household's food expenditures because of very small amount of BISP provided to people. BISP may not be the 'perfect solution' needed to eradicate poverty, but our results indicate that some measure of relief has been given to recipient households as far as food and health spending is concerned. In justification of the scheme, the reasoning behind the initiative was to provide support to the 'poorest of the poor' in the face of increasing food and fuel prices and not to eliminate poverty. This study demonstrates that while not all vulnerable households are protected by the programme, such as those who have unsuccessfully tried to seek BISP assistance, those who do receive assistance are mostly poor (with a few exceptions where the set criteria were not met, indicating leakages to richer households). However, this capacity to reach the vulnerable is not met by the program's capacity to enable households to overcome poverty. The original BISP concept, with its unconditional cash transfers, does not require households to look for opportunities to invest in their human or physical resources that would otherwise enable them to overcome poverty.