



Public Distribution System in the context of social security and poverty alleviation in Mysore District, Karnataka

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ABSTRACT:- According to definition emerging out of World Food Summit, 'Food Security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. Household food security is the application of this concept to the family level with individuals Within households as the focus of concern'? Food security, as internationally understood, involves physical, economic and social access to a balanced diet, safe drinking water, environmental hygiene and primary health care. The Government has prepared the National Food Security Bill. The coverage of cardholders is concerned, Mysore district covers 783541 cards average cards covered by a FPS in Mysore district is 741. In this study it was also found that average cards per fair price shop are high. The present paper reveals that the To Study the various obstacles of Public Distribution System like poor quality of goods supplied, weight cutting, leakage of Public Distribution System articles to open market, non-availability of commodities etc., To study examines the extent to which the Public Distribution System has succeeded in providing the essential commodities to all the people. To suggestions to overall the present system of Public Distribution System. On the selected perception based responses, a satisfaction level was calculated to assess the performance of PDS in Mysore district. This revealed that few people are satisfied with the current public distribution system.

Keywords:- PDS, FPS, Items, weight

I. INTRODUCTION

As long as starvation and deprivation exist, the slogan raised by the World Food Conference as above looms large over humanity. When every nation attains food security for its people, there begins the journey towards prosperity. Food security for a country means sufficient quantity of essential commodities produced, stored properly and made available to all of the people, especially the under privileged sections

According to definition emerging out of World Food Summit, 'Food Security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. Household food security is the application of this concept to the family level with individuals Within households as the focus of concern'?

In India, Food Security mainly focused on supply of food grains and the medium was Public Distribution System. Public Distribution System is a rationing mechanism that entitles households to specified quantities of selected commodities at subsidized prices. In other words, it is an instrument for ensuring availability of certain essential commodities for consumption at subsidized rates to the people, particularly the poor. The commodities distributed under PDS include rice, Wheat, sugar, edible oil and kerosene. The Government of India, through the Food Corporation of India (FCI) established in 1965, procures and stocks food grains and releases every month for distribution through the PDS network across the country.

The Government is contemplating to introduce food coupons for providing the poor with food security. The system of food coupons would end dual pricing of food grain. The new system may lead to more efficient private grain handling as beneficiaries would be allowed to directly buy grain of their choice from retail shops against food coupon.

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The department of Public Distribution is charged with the prime responsibility of the management of the food economy of the country. The twin objectives of the Department are to ensure proper remuneration to our farmers and the supply of food grains at reasonable prices to the consumers through the public distribution system. The Department is concerned with the formulation of policies concerning the food grains sector - procurement, storage, movement and distribution. The department implements the scheme of minimum support price to the producers of wheat, paddy and coarse grains and the distribution of food grains from the central pool. A close watch is kept on the stock and price levels of food grains and efforts are made to ensure their adequate availability at reasonable prices in different parts of the country. The Public Distribution System (PDS) has existed in India since the Second World War and was established for ensuring food security. This is done by not only ensuring adequacy in supply of food grains, but also by distributing them at affordable prices. This study aims to assess the functioning of the PDS by taking a cross-sectional view of food security, whereby the functioning of this system is examined from the viewpoint of the poorest sections of the society.

The main proclaimed task of the PDS is to provide food security to poor households, but there is a widespread consensus across researchers that corruption, inefficiencies, and limited scope are preventing the system from reaching its goal. The existing literature, though, has so far only provided a descriptive characterization of the program, analyzing the programs coverage of the Indian population across different socioeconomic groups and geographical areas, and providing estimates of the implicit subsidies offered by the system.

More than 400,000 Fair Price Shops (FPS), the Public Distribution System (PDS) in India is perhaps the largest distribution machinery of its type in the world. PDS is said to distribute each year commodities worth more than Rs 15,000 crore to about 16 crore families. This huge network can play a more meaningful role if only the system is able to translate into micro level a macro level self-sufficiency by ensuring availability of food grains for the poor households.

The objectives of the PDS have been, Maintaining price stability, Raising the welfare of the poor (by providing access to basic foods at reasonable prices to the poor people, Rationing during situations of scarcity, and Keeping a check on private trade. Public Distribution System was widely criticized for its failure to serve the population below the poverty line, its urban bias, negligible coverage in the States with the highest concentration of the rural poor and lack of transport and accountable arrangements for delivery. This study examines the extent to which the PDS has succeeded in providing the essential commodities to all the people.

II. PROFILE OF THE DISTRICT OF MYSORE : PDS

The coverage of cardholders is concerned, Mysore district covers 783541 cards average cards covered by a FPS in Mysore district is 741. In this study it was also found that average cards per fair price shop are high.

Table 1: Taluk wise Distribution of Fair Price Shops, and Ration card holders in Mysore District

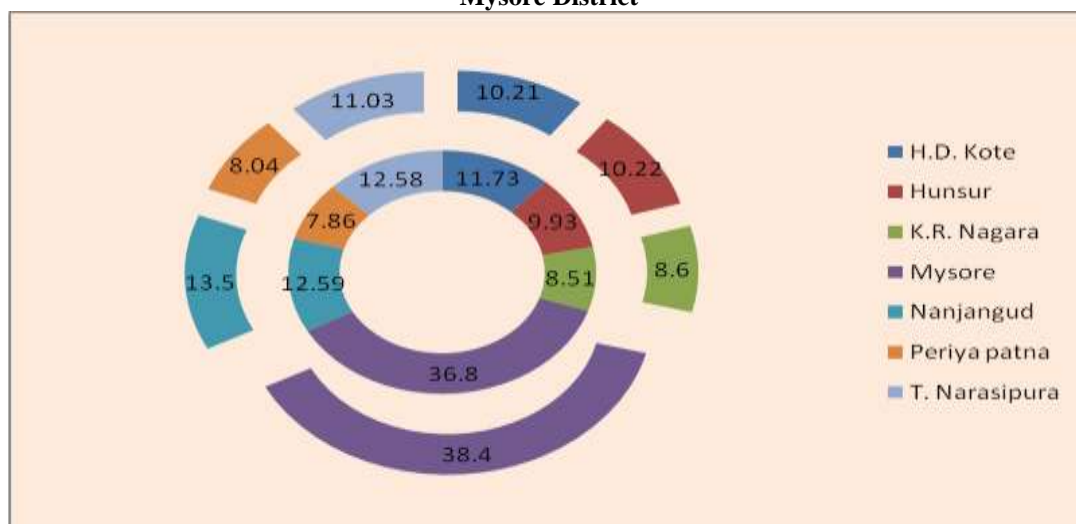
Taluks	No. Of Fair Price Shops	Ration card holders	Avg No. Of Ration Cards Per Shop
H.D. Kote	124 (11.73)	80044 (10.21)	645
Hunsur	105 (9.93)	80216 (10.22)	764
K.R. Nagara	90 (8.51)	67198 (8.60)	746
Mysore	389 (36.80)	300868 (38.40)	773
Nanjangud	133 (12.59)	105683 (13.50)	794
Periya patna	83 (7.86)	63055 (8.04)	760
T. Narasipura	133 (12.58)	86477 (11.03)	650
Total	1057 (100.00)	783541 (100.00)	741

Source: Mysore District at a Glance 2012-13.

Table 1, reveals that distribution of fair price shops and ration card holders in the District. It has observed the fair price shops in the district in the period of 2012-13, Mysore Taluk has highest number of 389 fair price shops and Periyapatna taluk had lowest number of 83 fair price shops in the district. it was observed

that the fair price shops are open as per their population and below poverty line in taluks. Mysore taluk had highest number of 300868 ration card holder and Periyapatna taluk had lowest of 63055 ration card holder. (Figure, 1).

Figure 1: Taluk wise Distribution of Fair Price Shops, and Ration card holders in Mysore District



III. OBJECTIVES

1. To Study the various obstacles of Public Distribution System like poor quality of goods supplied, weight cutting, leakage of Public Distribution System articles to open market, non-availability of commodities etc.,
2. To study examines the extent to which the Public Distribution System has succeeded in providing the essential commodities to all the people.
3. To suggestions to overall the present system of Public Distribution System

IV. METHODOLOGY

The following section consolidates the result obtained from 105 respondents across Mysore district of Karnataka. Present study is done using primary and secondary data. Using stratified random sampling method the researchers propose to select the sample of beneficiaries from the district and 15 respondents from each taluks. Data was collected using questionnaire schedules for different respondents and also by conducting individual interviews and focus group discussions.

V. DISCUSSIONS

a. Is the supply of food grains smooth at PDS? YES / NO

Table 2: Responses towards Supply of Food Grains

Taluks	Number of respondents says Yes	Percentage	Number of respondents says No	Percentage
H.D. Kote	8	53.33	7	46.67
Hunsur	11	73.33	4	26.67
K.R. Nagara	12	80.00	3	20.00
Mysore	9	60.00	6	40.00
Nanjangud	7	47.00	8	53.00
Periya patna	6	40.00	9	60.00
T. Narasipura	9	60.00	6	40.00
Total	62	59.05	43	40.95

Source: Field Survey 2014.

Table-2, shows the responses towards supply of food grains at PDS is not very good. The satisfaction level in K.R. Nagara taluk is good i.e. 80 per cent. But overall in the district 59.05 per cent respondents say supply of food grains sold at PDS is going smooth.

b. Is the present quota adequate for your family? YES / NO

Table 3: Response towards food grain allotment

Taluks	No of respondents says present quota is adequate for their family	Percentage	No of respondents says present quota is not adequate for their family	Percentage
H.D. Kote	7	46.67	8	53.33
Hunsur	11	73.33	4	26.67
K.R. Nagara	9	60.00	6	40.00
Mysore	12	80.00	3	20.00
Nanjangud	12	80.00	3	20.00
Periya patna	10	66.67	5	33.33
T. Narasipura	11	73.33	4	26.67
Total	72	68.57	33	31.43

Source: Field Survey 2014.

Table 3, reveals that the Mysore and Nanjangud taluks had highest of 12 respondents, says present quota of allotment of food grains is adequate and allotted for their family in the taluk which constitute 80.00 per cent. Those who are satisfied are not purchasing the items from PDS regularly. It is found that only 68.57 per cent of the respondents are satisfied with the quota allotted for their family. 31.33 per cent of the respondents are not purchasing the items from ODS regularly.

c. How would you classify the quality of the commodities supplied by the shop?
Good / Bad

Table 4: Response towards Quality of Commodities

Taluks	No of respondents says quality of the commodities supplied by the shop is good	Percentage	No of respondents says quality of the commodities supplied by the shop is bad	Percentage
H.D. Kote	5	33.33	10	66.67
Hunsur	6	40.00	9	60.00
K.R. Nagara	8	53.33	7	46.67
Mysore	7	46.67	8	53.33
Nanjangud	8	53.33	7	46.67
Periya patna	4	26.67	11	73.33
T. Narasipura	7	46.67	8	36.67
Total	45	42.85	60	57.15

Source: Field Survey 2014.

Only 42.85 Percent of the respondents are says that the quality of the commodities supplied by the shop is good.

d. Faulty weights are a norm at the PDS. Agree / Not Agree

Table 5: Response towards Weight of Good

Taluks	No of respondents satisfied over the weightage of goods purchased at PDS	Percentage	No of respondents unsatisfied over the weightage of goods purchased at PDS	Percentage
H.D. Kote	6	40.00	9	60.00
Hunsur	7	46.67	9	53.33
K.R. Nagara	5	33.33	7	66.67
Mysore	6	40.00	9	60.00
Nanjangud	5	33.33	10	66.67
Periya patna	8	53.33	7	46.67
T. Narasipura	9	60.00	6	40.00
Total	46	43.81	57	56.18

Source: Field Survey 2014.

From the Table 5, it can be inferred that only 43.81 per cent of the respondents are satisfied over the weightage of goods purchased at PDS.

VI. SUGGESTIONS

1. PDS should be enlarged to accommodate more items.
2. Agro-based industries and food processing units should be encouraged.
3. Setting up of local level community food banks for easy availability of food grains in periods of scarcity.
4. The PDS should be linked with employment guarantee programmes. The move is certainly having advantages like self-targeting, direct benefits to the poor in terms of employment.
5. The tribal people are illiterate, the radio and television should be used for awareness them about the facilities available under the PDS.
6. There is no effective and systematic complaint redressal mechanism for the common people.
7. The Karnataka government must ensure timely supply of commodities with good quality to fair price shops and see that it reaches only to the needy section of the society through the public distribution system.
8. Quality of the items must be improved.
9. The FPS should be in accessible public building like community hall or Panchayat office as is the case with post offices.
10. Fix the number of households under the one FPS. (Not more than 150 to 200 households in rural area.)

VII. CONCLUSION

On the selected perception based responses, a satisfaction level was calculated to assess the performance of PDS in Mysore district. This revealed that less peoples are satisfied with the current public distribution system. The taluk showing below average performance was Mysore, Nanjangud and periyapatna. Most of the people are not purchasing anything from the FPS due to the bad quality of commodities supplied by the shop. In this era of modern technological, it is pathetic to see public lining up in long queues wasting their precious time. It is found that in the study that current public distribution system fails to ensure timely supply of commodities with good quality to fair price shops and it is found that it is not reaching to the needy section of the society. Average number of ration cards per shop is 741.

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