

# Review analysis of Public Distribution System of Rural Chhattisgarh with Special Reference to Raipur District

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**Abstract** - Food security implies access to food by all people at all times to sufficient quantities to lead an active and healthy life. Government of India has relied on the following three food-based safety nets (a) Public distribution system (PDS), (b) Integrated child development services (ICDS) and (c) Mid-day meals programme (MDM). PDS is the most important medium through which government ensures food security at micro-level. Public Distribution System (PDS) in India provide essential consumer goods at cheap and subsidized prices to the consumers so as to insulate them from the impact of rising prices of these commodities and maintain the minimum nutritional status of our population. In this article some grass-root level realities of Raipur district are scrutinized and it is tried to observe whether its outcomes are in tune with its so proclaimed stature of highly sophisticated public distribution system or not.

**Keywords** : Food security, public distribution system, Mid-day meals programme, subsidized prices, minimum nutritional level, food subsidies, below poverty level.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The objective of the Government of India's Food Security policy is to ensure availability of food grains to the public at an affordable price. The objectives are thus (i) ensuring adequacy or sufficiency in supply of food grains, and (ii) distributing food grains at an affordable price.

The Public Distribution System (PDS) was institutionalized in the country in the 60s to achieve multiple objectives including ensuring stability of prices, rationing of essential commodities in case of deficit in supplies, ensuring availability of basic commodities to the poor and needy and to check the practice of hoarding and black marketing. In its original form, the system was universal in nature and did not distinguish between different income-groups in the society. The most important medium, through which government ensures food security at micro level is Public Distribution System (PDS).

In India, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution is responsible for equitable spread of essential edible commodities at fair monetary values. This ministry is divided into parts – Department of Consumer Affairs and Department of Food and Public Distribution. The Department of Consumer Affairs regulates essential commodity prices, monitors availability of commodities in the commercial market and also oversees the Consumer Movement in the Republic of India. The Department of Food and Public Distribution performs the task of managing the food distribution system in India. The prime objective of the Department includes a fair commodity pricing system for the farmers. It also administers the Public Distribution System or PDS. The Public Distribution

System includes essential commodities like rice, wheat, kerosene and sugar. These commodities are distributed through nation-wide network of Fair Price Shops (FPSs).

The Public Distribution System (PDS) has remained a major instrument to execute the Government of India's economic policy to protect the poor. Public intervention in the foodgrains market "aim at procurement of foodgrains for public distribution and maintenance of buffer stocks to give not only short-term but also long-term stability of prices of essential commodities and safeguard the interest of the consumers. Procurement of food grains also ensures remunerative returns to the farmers and provide them with incentives to invest more on agriculture to raise its productivity and to ensure that in the event of any glut or due to any other reason, the market prices do not fall below the support price".

## II. NEED OF THE STUDY

Social welfare and food security are the essential needs, not only for the persons or community, but also for the development of our country. The focus on social welfare programs is increasing during last few decades. This shows that, in present time more attention is paid for welfare. The prime need for social welfare is for the BPL section of the society, because the poverty is the root cause of low standard of living and therefore the imbalance in the socio-economic development occurs. There are number of social welfare programs working in India but the rate of upliftment of the BPL section of the society is very low.

## Objectives of the study

In order to study Public Distribution System and its impact on Food Security in Rural Area of Raipur district of Chhattisgarh State, following objectives for the study are observed. Researcher intends to study the extent to which PDS has failed or succeeded in providing essential commodities to the population living below the poverty line (BPL) during the survey period. The specific objectives of the study are as follows :

- To study the effectiveness of Public Distribution System .
- To know whether PDS has failed or succeeded among the poorer section of the rural Raipur .
- To find out the nature of misappropriation between consumers and Public Distribution System (PDS)

## III. RESEARCH DESIGN OF THE STUDY

The present study was based on primary as well as secondary data. Raipur district was selected through Purposive Sampling method because Raipur district is one of the highly populated districts of the Chhattisgarh state. Raipur district is bi-furcated into four Blocks and all the four blocks, namely Abhanpur, Aarang, Tilda and Dharsiwa were taken as samples through Purposive Sampling because my purpose was to get full and better information of the Raipur district and since there is concentration of BPL and APL families through out the district and also because PDS scheme has been implemented in all the four blocks of Raipur district. Then, five villages from each blocks were selected randomly by Lottery Method.

To study the public distribution system (PDS) in Chhattisgarh, researcher has chosen Raipur district, which is the capital city of the state. It is relatively developed district of the Chhattisgarh state. Raipur district has four blocks, out of which all the four blocks are chosen for the study that is 100.0 percent of the blocks are chosen as a sample. The district of Raipur has total of 545 Revenue Villages, of which researcher has selected only 20 villages Randomly by Lottery Method and which is approximately 3.67 percent of the total revenue villages of the district. In each village, 50 households are selected by Systematic Sampling method. Therefore in 20 villages, total of 1000

households are covered as beneficiaries in Raipur district, of which around 60.0 percent of the households come from the BPL category. In each village, one Fair Price Shop (FPS) is also studied so a total of 20 FPSs were studied.

For Fair price shops information also a schedules were prepared for FPS dealers to know problems in operating the shop, duration of holding the dealership of FPS, availability and distribution of allotted quota of items and their quality, coordination among panchayats, supply department and block staff , pressure of number of households on FPS dealer and his commission. For Beneficiaries (families) information schedules were prepared to know about socio, economic and educational status, availability and distance of FPS, per month requirement of the household of the items distributed, satisfaction of beneficiaries in terms of quantity, quality and price of the PDS items, rates of item distributed through FPS and open market.

## Hypothesis of the study

1. There is positive relation between Public Distribution System (PDS ) and people of below poverty line .
2. There is significant relation between PDS and increase in the income of people of Below Poverty Line (BPL).

## Limitations of the Study

This study has limitations in the form of time, resources and area as it focuses only on capital city Raipur and researcher was time bound to complete her work during the given time-period

## Table No. 1

### Status of Regularity in Purchasing Items from Fair Price Shops:-

In totality, over all the Blocks, the percentage of BPL and APL households as regular buyers of items are calculated taking total number of households in the respective categories in the denominator. There are slight inter – regional (Block-wise) variations in terms of regularity of items purchased by households, and BPL and APL separately in a particular Block. There are intra- block variations also found in the survey. This is represented in the table given below :

Block	Categories	Food grain		Sugar		Kerosene		Total
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Abhanpur	BPL	143(88.8)	38(42.7)	39(48.8)	142(83.5)	176(75.9)	05927.8)	181(72.4)
	APL	18(11.2)	51(57.3)	41(51.3)	28(16.5)	56(24.1)	13(72.2)	69(27.6)
	Total	161(64.4)	89(35.6)	80 (32)	170(68)	232(92.8)	18 (7.2)	250 (100)
Aarang	BPL	141(92.2)	52(53.6)	53(57.6)	140(88.6)	191(77.3)	02(66.7)	193(77.2)

	APL	12(7.8)	45(46.4)	39(42.4)	18(11.4)	56(22.7)	01(33.3)	57(22.8)
	Total	153(61.2)	97(38.8)	92 (36.8)	158(63.2)	247(98.8)	03 (1.2)	250 (100)
Tilda	BPL	142(92.8)	48(49.5)	52(53.1)	138(90.8)	187(77.6)	03(33.3)	190(76)
	APL	11(7.2)	49(50.5)	46(46.9)	14(9.2)	54(22.4)	06(66.7)	60(24)
	Total	153(61.2)	97(38.8)	98(39.2)	152(60.8)	241(96.4)	09(3.6)	250(100)
Dharsiwa	BPL	150(93.8)	45(50)	51(53.1)	144(93.5)	193(79.1)	02(33.3)	195(78)
	APL	10(6.2)	45(50)	45(46.9)	10(6.5)	51(20.9)	04(66.7)	55(22)
	Total	160(64)	90 (36)	96 (38.4)	154(61.6)	244(97.6)	06 (2.4)	250 (100)
Total	BPL	576(75.9)	183(24.1)	195(25.6)	564(74.4)	747(98.4)	12 (1.6)	759 (100)
	APL	51 (21.2)	190(78.8)	171(70.5)	70 (29.5)	217(90.0)	24(10.0)	241 (100)
	Total	627(62.7)	373(37.3)	366(36.6)	634(63.4)	964(96.4)	36 (3.6)	1000(100)

Table No. 1

Status of Regularity in purchasing items from Fair Price Shops in Sample Areas.

Source : Field Survey 2013

Note : Figures in parenthesis shows percentage of total households.

#### IV. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

It is very significant to know whether people purchase items regularly or not from Fair Price Shops (FPSs) because it is an indicator that represents success or failure of this system. As this system is regulated for the benefit of the people and if they are ignorant or were unable to take advantage of this system then the authenticity of the existence of this public distribution system is questionable.

In the field survey, it was observed that in Abhanpur Block, 64.4 percent households regularly purchased food grains regularly from FPSs and 35.4 percent households did not purchased food grains regularly from FPSs. Out of total(161), who purchased food grains regularly, 88.9 percent belonged to BPL and 11.2 percent belonged to APL category. Out of total(89), non-regular household, 42.7 percent belong to BPL and 57.3 percent to APL category. Similarly, for Sugar, only 32 percent households were found to be regular in purchasing from FPSs and as high as 68 percent were found to be non –regular. Out of total(80), 48.8 percent BPL and 51.2 percent APL were found to be regular in purchasing sugar from FPSs. And out of total(170) households who were non-regular in purchasing sugar from FPSs, 83.5 percent BPL households and 16.5 percent APL households were found. Lastly for Kerosene, as high as 92.8 percent households were found to be regular in purchasing from FPSs and 7.2 percent were non-regular in purchasing kerosene from FPSs. In regular, 75.9 percent belonged to BPL category and 24.1 percent belonged to APL category.

For Aarang Block, 61.2 percent households regularly purchased food grains regularly from FPSs and 38.8 percent households did not purchased food grains regularly from

FPSs. Out of total(153), who purchased food grains regularly, 92.2 percent belonged to BPL and 7.8 percent belonged to APL category. Out of total(97), non-regular household, 53.6 percent belong to BPL and 46.4 percent to APL category. Similarly, for Sugar, only 36.8 percent households were found to be regular in purchasing from FPSs and as high as 63.2 percent were found to be non –regular. Out of total(92), 57.6 percent BPL and 42.4 percent APL were found to be regular in purchasing sugar from FPSs. And out of total(158) households who were non-regular in purchasing sugar from FPSs, 88.6 percent BPL households and 11.4 percent APL households were found. Lastly for Kerosene, as high as 98.8 percent households were found to be regular in purchasing from FPSs and 1.2 percent were non-regular in purchasing kerosene from FPSs. In regular, 77.3 percent belonged to BPL category and 22.7 percent belonged to APL category.

For Tilda Block, 61.2 percent households regularly purchased food grains regularly from FPSs and 38.8 percent households did not purchased food grains regularly from FPSs. Out of total(153), who purchased food grains regularly, 92.8 percent belonged to BPL and 7.2 percent belonged to APL category. Out of total(97), non-regular household, 49.5 percent belong to BPL and 50.5 percent to APL category. Similarly, for Sugar, only 39.2 percent households were found to be regular in purchasing from FPSs and as high as 60.8 percent were found to be non –regular. Out of total(98), 53.1 percent BPL and 46.9 percent APL were found to be regular in purchasing sugar from FPSs. And out of total(152) households who were non-regular in purchasing sugar from FPSs, 90.8percent BPL households and 9.2 percent APL households were found. Lastly for Kerosene, as high as 96.4 percent households were found to be regular in purchasing from FPSs and 3.6



percent were non-regular in purchasing kerosene from FPSs. In regular, 77.6 percent belonged to BPL category and 22.4 percent belonged to APL category.

For Dharsiwa Block, 64 percent households regularly purchased food grains regularly from FPSs and 36 percent households did not purchased food grains regularly from FPSs. Out of total(160), who purchased food grains regularly, 93.8 percent belonged to BPL and 6.2 percent belonged to APL category. Out of total(36), non-regular household, 50 percent belong to BPL and 50 percent to APL category. Similarly, for Sugar, only 38.4 percent households were found to be regular in purchasing from FPSs and as high as 61.6 percent were found to be non – regular. Out of total (96), 53.1 percent BPL and 46.9 percent APL were found to be regular in purchasing sugar from FPSs. And out of total(154) households who were non-regular in purchasing sugar from FPSs, 93.5percent BPL households and 6.5 percent APL households were found. Lastly for Kerosene, as high as 97.6 percent households were found to be regular in purchasing from FPSs and 2.4 percent were non-regular in purchasing kerosene from FPSs. In regular, 79.1 percent belonged to BPL category and 20.9 percent belonged to APL category.

More importantly, some Inter-Block variations were also observed in the study. Dharsiwa block observed the highest 93.8 percent regularity in purchasing food grains and Abhanpur block observed minimum by purchasing 88.8 percent of food grains. For regular purchase of sugar, Aarang block was observed to have maximum of 57.6 percent and Abhanpur observed minimum with 48.8 percent. There is a different trend found to be existing for the purchase of kerosene. For kerosene, the inter – Block variations in non – regular purchase do not carry much operational meaning since nearly cent percent of households in all the Blocks regularly purchase kerosene. Thus, only kerosene as an essential item satisfies the objective of regular purchase by households, independent of the price per unit of kerosene. And Dharsiwa block reported to have maximum households purchasing kerosene from FPSs i.e. 79.1 percent and Abhanpur had minimum with 75.9 percent.

Henceforth, it is observed that there is positive relationship between Public Distribution System and people belonging to Below Poverty Line as their percentage of grains and other items purchased from Fair Price Shops is very significantly high. And it was also observed that as the income of people increase, they chose items of good quality.

## V. SUGGESTIONS OF THE STUDY

- It was unanimously agreed that quality of items should improve.
- There should be regular distribution of items throughout the month.
- There should be provision of installment for the poor (BPL) households to get the items from the Fair Price Shops.
- Quantity of rice and wheat per households should be increased.
- Quantity of sugar and kerosene per households should increase.
- Price of kerosene per liter should be reduced.

## VI. CONCLUSION

Henceforth, after the survey study in rural areas of Raipur district of Chhattisgarh state, it can be concluded that there is no doubt that Chhattisgarh's Public Distribution System Model is the best in the whole country but still there are few areas where improvement is needed such as quality related problem, irregular supply, server problem, regular inspection of operating system etc. should be taken care for betterment of PDS and upliftment of the poor section of the society.

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