

Public Distribution System during COVID-19 Pandemic: An Analysis

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Abstract

Food security is a condition in which all people regularly have physical and financial admission to adequate and nutritious food that satisfies their nutritional needs and a food propensity for a good and working life. Family unit assets, discretionary cash flow and financial status are firmly identified with food security. In addition, it is emphatically linked to various issues, such as food prices, global climate change, water, energy, and horticultural production.

Public Distribution System is a part of food security policy of Government of India. The Public Distribution System is part of the government of India's food security strategy. The Public Distribution System (PDS) is an Indian food protection system set up under the Ministry of Food, Public Distribution and Consumer Affairs. Increased access to The Public Distribution System is part of the government of India's food security strategy. The Public Distribution System (PDS) is an Indian food protection system set up under the Ministry of Food, Public Distribution and Consumer Affairs. This system was also influenced by the pandemic as the number of viewers grew because of the pandemic and we concentrated on PDS governance at the time of the pandemic. The migration crisis that has unfolded in the country remains unparalleled as the COVID-19 pandemic rages around the world.

Keywords: *Food Security, Public, Targeted Audience, Distribution System, Necessity, Poverty, Constitution, Pandemic.*

Introduction

In the modern era, where things are almost everything within the reach of our fingers, there are a lot of people in India who even fail to get even one meal a day. Over the years, corruption and exploitation has clutched the poverty line people and the sufferers struggle in the “so called Democratic Society” to get the necessities. Keeping an eye to these issues the Public Distribution System has evolved from the Food and Public Distribution Department of the Government of India. The Public Distribution System is a government-sponsored chain of stores charged with the task of supplying, at very low rates, basic food, and non-food items to the needy parts of society. Then what are the products being distributed under this system? This system focuses on distributing rice, wheat, sugar, kerosene etc. which are recognized as major commodities. This system is managed by the Food Corporation of India. Department of Food and Public Distribution describes this system as a system of management of scarcity through distribution of food grains at affordable prices.

As we recognize the basic essence of the Public Distribution System, we must understand that the efforts are not only taken by the Union Government. The State Government plays a pivotal role in this complete administration. The PDS stock or the bulk of essential commodities to be distributed, is lifted with the coordination between the State & the Central government.

Food security is a developing worldwide worry that will impact the lives of several millions, especially in Asia. Food uncertainty is a situation of limited admission to sheltered and sound food, whereas food security refers to a situation where 'all people have physical, social and financial admission to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary requirements and food inclinations' for a working and solid life 'on a regular basis.

Review of Literature

This chapter delves into the available literature on PDS. Several state-based studies have been enumerated below. This helps in explaining the existing situation of PDS in different states. A few studies relating to the causes and consequences of PDS has also been included.

Sawant et al. (2013) investigated the effect of PDS with regards to social security and poverty alleviation in Maharashtra, India. They found that PDS failed in reaching the poor and needy population and it was later converted to Targeted PDS with the intention of providing food security to the most vulnerable sections of the society. Dutta et al. (2011) compared the public distribution of food in two states, namely Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, based on 50th round of National Sample Survey, Household Consumption

Survey data. The article concludes that there is a problem in utilization of commodities, targeting of population, magnitude of income transfers and cost effectiveness of food subsidies.

Research Objective

The main objective of the Paper is to discuss the “Public Distribution System during COVID-19”. It strives to discuss about the conditions of the poor population by Ensuring the availability of certain minimum quantities of food grains at lower prices as per the demand for the situation. The paper seeks to investigate how the Government of India introduced the system of public distribution during the time of Pandemic.

Targeted Public Distribution System and Public Distributed System

Targeted Public Distribution System was started in June 1997. The focus was on the poor. Under this system the Public Distribution System was implemented which was supposed to focus to formulate Identification of the needy to supply food grains for distribution.

The scheme was intended to benefit about 6 crore poor families for whom 72 lakh tons of food grains were set annually. At the time of TPDS implementation, the issuance of food grains to the States / Union Territories was conducted based on average consumption in the past 10 years.

The quantity of food grains was given to the State as 'fleeing allocation' in excess of the requirement of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families for which a quantum of 103 lakh of huge loads of food grains was reserved annually. In addition, additional allocation to States was made far beyond the TPDS allocation.

Food security in India

The explanations for food frailty and appetite in India are unpredictable. Some examination demonstrates that high paces of movement from provincial to metropolitan territories may assume a part, as confirmed by the centralization of monetary increases in metropolitan regions, and the tremendous enhancements to the horticulture region's commitment to GDP. In addition, the antagonistic impacts of environmental change are an emerging supporter of food frailty, with lopsided climate designs and dry spells expanding to blame for lopsided growth and food stock formation. The latest Global Hunger Index (GHI) India ranks at the high end of the 'genuine' ranking, as 'India. Keeps on performing inadequately in tending to

appetite and ailing health; as of now one out of three Indian kids is hindered speaking to 33% of the world's hindered populace, and one out of five is squandered.

Food Security and the Challenges

Food security has a few measurements including not simply accessibility and admittance to nourishment for sustenance and development yet additionally its utilization and dependability after some time. The same number of debacle research researchers have contended, while a catastrophe may appear to be an 'equalizer' regarding who it influences, in all actuality, it will in general effect various gatherings in various ways.

In the Indian setting, the underpinnings for food security of individuals can be found in the Constitution, however there is no express arrangement on right to food. The crucial The Supreme Court has deciphered the right to life enshrined in Article 21 of the Constitution and National Human Rights Commission to incorporate option to live with human respect, which incorporates the privilege to food and other essential necessities. Under Directive Principles of State Policy, it is given under Article 47 specifies that the State shall respect, among its basic responsibilities, the raising of the standard of nourishment and the way of life of its relatives and the development of the general welfare.

Frenzy return of the transient labours from the urban areas to their towns has uncovered a portion of the issues in the Indian Food Security System usually known as PDS. As a part of one country one proportion card, the administration has dispatched versatility apportion can be brought from any shop for over a year in most of the states. Nonetheless, this couldn't prevent transients from going back to their towns in dread of employment misfortune and starvation. Because of avoidance blunders and wrong estimations of the state-wise inclusion (administration of India demands utilizing the 2011 statistics figures), there are a huge number of needy individuals in India who are not enlisted under PDS plot and thus, they can't profit financed proportion from FPS (Agarwal, 2020).¹³ For some PDS entitled individuals who are at present away from their territory of home, the lockdown has made an obstacle in taking their entitled food grains from their FPS. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, biometric validation framework for food grain dispersion has been suspended. This will prompt an expansion in spillages in PDS.

PDS during the time of Covid

With the COVID-19 pandemic raging around the world, there remain a remarkable passenger emergency in the country. Despite what this has intended for India's arrangement with respect

to catastrophe and well-being, the board, the transient emergency has revealed insight into India's extremely insufficient government assistance conveyance framework.

At lockdown in India, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced on 26th March 2020 free food grain and money supply to ladies, helpless senior citizens, and ranchers. It has also accounted for 2.42 lakh metric heartbeat shipments to various countries / association domains from 5 May 2020 and that 5,21 family unit recipients have also been disseminated. As part of the assistance package, two months of food supplies for transients who were not covered under the National Food Security Act, or who did not have a distribution card, had also been announced by the administration.

Regardless of the since quite a while ago slew of feature getting alleviation bundles, be that as it may, the expanded proportion provisioning and different qualifications, as guaranteed by the administration, are yet to arrive at the recipients. Furthermore, during such a critical time when states are under time limit and food weakness is the thing to get done, returning travelers are battling just to get apportion cards.

This is to a great extent owing to the way the Public Distribution System (PDS) did not reflect various issues. a portable traveler populace, it keeps on putting together its grain distribution with respect to an obsolete populace gauge, and it has stayed uninformed of ground real factors with regards to the Problem of Aadhaar cards and distribution cards. These escape clauses have delivered an effectively weak segment of the public much more powerless to the perils that go with a pandemic and a seriously influenced economy.

Public Distribution System in Bihar

From the earliest starting point the State of Bihar has been confronting difficulties of neediness, lack of healthy sustenance, and hunger and known for uncontrolled failures in the PDS.

The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in India was depended on a significant function in giving food grains to the poor at financed costs. Be that as it may, it has not been exceptionally fruitful in achieving its target in numerous states. To make the dispersion of oats more compelling, Bihar supplanted the proportion card with another instrument of conveyance in 2008 with a 12-page booklet of coupons to be offered every year to recipients. The advancement prompted wanted outcomes.

The appropriation of food grains to address the difficulties of destitution and yearning has gone under genuine investigation after the food value emergency in 2008. India accomplished independence of food grains and a few other food products notwithstanding, giving and

supporting food security at the family level keeps on being a significant test as India is yet having 33% of the world's undernourished kids with around 33% of Indian ladies are underweight. In September 2013, the Government of India approved the National Food Security Act to tackle this problem more deeply and convincingly because the viability of the National Food Security Act requires a better functioning framework. (PDS).

The PDS turned into a public approach. It is the largest and most longed-for arranged food transport framework of the World following the Great Bengal Famine in the mid-1940s. Although the framework also provides the helpless crops with subsidized sugar, cooking oil and fuel (lamp oil), PDS is regarded as one of the main government programmes for circulating funded food grains in India to ensure family unit food protection.

Bihar is one of the states driving this upheaval in administration of the PDS after beating the helpless administration and enormous scope debasement. There has been a gigantic turnaround in the working of PDS in Bihar, which has brought about the extension and effort of the PDS to its kin.

Bihar is as yet the second most destitution-stricken territory of India (after Odisha) and the test of guaranteeing food security in Bihar is very intricate because of social and financial complexities. Further, destitute individuals of Bihar are yet experiencing appetite and unhealthiness, with half of its kids being underweight, one fourth of the populace incapable to meet 75% of their calorie necessity, and the pervasiveness of serious micro-nutrient and nutrient insufficiencies.

As at the public level there is a decline in consumption of food products both in metropolitan and rustic regions of Bihar in the share of food for the use of provincial and metropolitan family units in Bihar. However, in comparison to metropolitan regions food intake remained higher in provincial areas. Bihar's pattern is consistent with the pattern in public. As for products, the patterns in utilization of various nourishments in Bihar uncover a slow dietary broadening in the state. The per capita yearly utilization of oats declined while the utilization of high-esteem food, for example, organic products, milk, and non-vegetarian things expanded impressively during this period.

In 1973, under the aegis of the Department of Food and Consumer Protection, Bihar State Food and Civil Supplies Corporation Limited (BSFC), gracefully deals with the State's PDS Chain through an organisation of over 45,000 FOPS (Feat Stores Significant Valuables), with population of around 76 million in 2015. Since then, the company has built a cutting-edge framework covering the whole PDS network in Bihar (38 District Manager workplaces, 57

Food Corporation of India (FCI) stops, and 534 PDS stockrooms) for more noteworthy straightforwardness and responsibility.

The PDS has been reprimanded on a few checks. One of the significant reactions of the PDS is its inability to convey advantages to the proposed recipients, particularly the socially burdened gatherings like booked ranks and clans and other in reverse classes. The utilization of PDS grains among more vulnerable segments has expanded more than that for different standings.

The ongoing results show that PDS operates strongly unilaterally against the vulnerable segments and thus drives against its social well-being network.

Significant and optimistic improvements to the activity of PDS can be due to an emotional decrease in the transmission of PDS food grains and the common distinction between food grain costs and PDS costs. The Government of Bihar has also increased from 6.5 million to 12.3 million the number of families eligible for PDS.

Following a long hole in the administration, the ordinary director of Panchayati Raj race has also enhanced PDS work in Bihar by embodying a sense of duty at grassroots level. In addition, the disparity of the State structure in 2005 and the new organisation's trend towards fair administration led to the restoration of the systems that were in any case degenerate, inefficient and almost old.

PDS has increased its dedication to guaranteeing food security, with a stamped 2011–2012 progress visible. In addition, the impact on calorie intake in rustic pockets has been substantially higher than in metropolitan areas with increased admission to PDS in Provincial zones. The focusing on has been fruitful by and large in Bihar. The family units with more youthful and better instructed heads were bound to get themselves selected the legislature supported government assistance program.

Bihar is in restoration mode and is filling its need in battling food uncertainty. Contrasted with the period 2004–2005 when just about 2% of family units were covered through PDS, the ongoing figures shows about 43% effort.

There is restoration as far as family unit inclusion as well as concerning qualified families drawing upgraded profits by the plan that is reflected in the families' improved offer in grain utilization. The plan has had the option to stand the trial of comprehensiveness by carrying more prominent points of interest to the doorsteps of the more vulnerable areas, to be specific the planned positions and clans and other in reverse classes.

The Bihar Public Distribution System is in rapid recovery and the evidence of the positive improvements can be seen in a very short time span. All the while, the State government's propensity and activities graciously improved the administration and the transport portion.

Some family and network variables overly influence the framework 's adequacy to sustain food safety in the state, for example, education and attention, a decent age and smaller family size. Given that the achievement of the Act relies on the PDS's effective and efficient activity, improvements are critical in countries like Bihar and give the rest of India a spur to watch.

Simplicity, responsibility, attention to detail and a sense of social justice are important to the achievement of the PDS apart from the accessibility of food itself. Markets and clean management have a clear role to play in the success of PDS.

Additionally, systemic development is projected to enhance the management of food and sustenance-based mediation. PDS may be an acceptable option as an intercession, with increased development to deprived regions and improved administration, to take away families from the craving and lack of healthy support. There is a need to distinguish elective methods of upgrading the circulation framework as far as acquisition, stockpiling, and arrival of food grains that limit misfortunes and augment the scope to helpless family units in far off regions. At last, research is expected to focus on the families more readily as they become more confident, all together that they may acquire food from the open business sectors. There has been a checked improvement in grain utilization and the effort of PDS expanded to include a vital investment enhancement for the most disadvantaged segments of the population in the provincial and metropolitan areas. The stamped improvement in grain utilization and calorie gains across country and metropolitan zones, the effort of PDS extended with huge upgrade in cooperation by the more fragile areas of the public.

So far as the treatment of Covid 19 pandemic is worried, in the wake of the lockdown many recipients were left with no wellspring of occupation and the Hon'ble Chief Minister reported all card holders will be without food grains given and the equivalent has been adequately issued.

Civil supplies Department observe records of dark PDS ads and postponements for free distribution requested fixing of the 50 shops. The Bihar government requested the fixing of more than 50 public dispersion shops (PDS) for supposed wild dark promoting of food grains during the main period of lockdown forced to contain the novel Covid sickness (COVID-19) spread. A heading was given to all locale judges and directors of police to start lawful and departmental activity against the retailers.

All apportion card holders are being without given food grains, including five kilogram rice and one kg beats for the following three months taking into account the lockdown.

District Wise Public Distribution System in the State of Bihar:

District Name	Total
ARARIA	507779
ARWAL	239770
AURANGABAD	164129
BANKA	327394
BEGUSARAI	530429
BHAGALPUR	508222
BHOJPUR	358853
BUXAR	213827
DARBHANGA	763083
GAYA	247784
GOPALGANJ	318968
JAMUI	491127
JEHANABAD	274366
KAIMUR	177662
KATIHAR	553690
KHAGARIA	317190
KISHANGANJ	328458
LAKHISARAI	143000
MADHEPURA	373458
MADHUBANI	731369
MUNGER	196536
MUZAFFARPUR	773436
NALANDA	432371
NAWADA	315379
PASCHIM CHAMPARAN	600743
PATNA	854547
PURBI CHAMPARAN	764249
PURNIA	584785
ROHTAS	338371
SAHARSA	350932

SAMASTIPUR	758812
SARAN	474410
SHEIKHPURA	93346
SHEOHAR	136386
SITAMARHI	612234
SIWAN	461320
SUPAUL	408856
VAISHALI	516592
Total	16243863

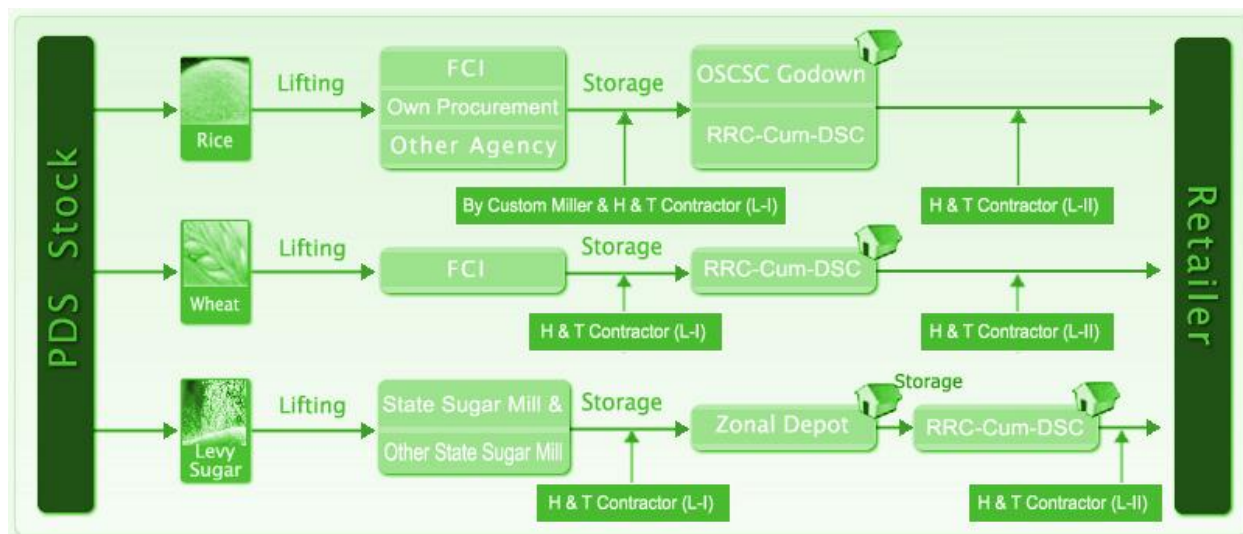
(Aadhar Enabled Public Distribution System-AePDS (last

Refreshed:07/11/2020)<http://epos.bihar.gov.in/>)

Public Distribution System in Odisha

OSCSC engages itself in the public distribution of Rice, Levy Sugar and APL Wheat. The Via its decentralised procurement operations it procures rice from various parts of the state. OSCSC Ltd has also bought rice from FCI and other institutions such as MARKFED, NAFED etc. The rice the Company obtains, is taken from the FCI, is stored in stocks held by OSCSC Ltd or purchased from other organisations. In Rice Receiving Centers (RRCs), rice obtained through a decentralised procurement process is processed. The OSCSC is lifting levy sugar from Orissa and other states in the country allocated by the central government.

Every month, nearly 8732,8 MT of levy sugar is allocated, 10 percent of that being of those are allotted from Odisha itself and 90% of those sugars are lifted from other states as per the data of the Government. The OSCSC has identified 5 zonal depots for the storage of these levy sugar and they are Maheswar, Balasore, Rayagada, Bargarh & Berhampur. OSCSC Ltd lifts FCI wheat in compliance with Central Govt allotments. The entire wheat lift procedure is performed by the company. The Rice Receiving Center-cum-Departmental Storage Center (RRC-cum-DSC) stores the rice, wheat and sugar and transfers it to retail points. It is determined by the competent authority of the blocks / ULBs how much is distributed per dealer. The distribution of rice, wheat & sugar is made by the Block / ULB of the district to the retail dealer.



[figure shown above is a snapshot of collection and delivery of rice, wheat and sugar by oscsc ltd.]

PDS monitoring and surveillance

There are many systems in the State to control and oversee the efficient operation of PDS at various levels. At the level of the state, a coalition of states is given the power to take coercive action, if appropriate. There is a district enforcement unit and DCSO on the level of districts to track and monitor operations. The consultation or vigilance board and the supply inspector are located at the block level. At the level of the GP finally, many operations are supervised by the Sarpanch and the Village level Consultative Committee. Several stakeholders from both demand and supply converge at Panchayat level. Although no complaints-addressable process exists at this stage, it is communicated to the next high authorities by the various parties. At this level.

Functioning of PDS system in Odisha

There are seven millers in the district from whom paddy is procured. The Odisha State Civil Supply Corporation procures paddy from farmers through cooperative societies or 55 LAMPS⁴ situated at different blocks by A/C payee checks paid to farmers. The State Government through the District Collector fixes up different miller agents to procure paddy from the LAMPS allocated to them. The Collector receives the rice through the civil supply department from the mills and the millers are usually paid 68 % of the rice against the paddy purchased. The blocks lift the rice from different government go downs and then it is sent to

different gram Panchayat to distribute it to several beneficiaries at subsidized rates of rupee one per kilogram of rice. BPL rice is allocated at twenty-five kilogram per card at the rate of rupee one per kilogram of rice and AAY card holders are given ten kilogram extra rice on their card which amounts to a total of thirty five kilogram of rice per card. APL card holders get wheat at the rate of rupee seven per kilogram and are allowed a maximum of ten kilogram per card. Wheat is lifted from the FCI godowns located at different blocks in an around the district. Kerosene is given to all card holders of APL, BPL and AAY at subsidized rates subjected to a maximum of four liters per card. All the items are supplied to the different retailer outlets available in different Gram Panchayat through Fair Price Shops. The FPS shop agents obtain their license from several licensing authorities and distribute stocks likewise to APL, BPL and AAY beneficiaries against the grain allocated to them in their cards. The miller agent also supplies rice to FCI as per State Government Norms keeping specified quality as acceptable by FCI authorities which is ultimately passed on to the hands of ultimate consumers. Kerosene is produced by different oil companies like HPCL, BPCL etc. It is procured by oil whole sellers as per Government allotment to them. The collector fixes up the whole seller in the district and the sub whole sellers present in different blocks.

Enforcement measures are also conducted by the concerned supply department to curb black marketing of several PDS items at regular intervals. As the Block data reveals Lathikata Block receives 2508 quintals of rice which is distributed at the rate of 25 kgs per card. There are 10,033 cards in the block as per records. For AAY rice there are 3141 cards in total and rice is given at 35 kgs per card. APL cards are 12,505 in number and they receive 10 kg of wheat per card, which amounts to a total of 1,250 quintals of wheat. Supervising officer is also deployed at each sale point to ensure free and fair distribution by Gram Panchayat and Women Self Help Groups engaged in distribution. It is a general complaint for all families not covered within BPL and APL categories even if they are eligible due to surveys being conducted a decade back. The Block still follows the 1991 Census as the basis of estimation. Lathikata block has 92 villages and 16 Gram Panchayat comprising of 90 Fair Price Shops.

Regulation for PDS

The Odisha Government published a notification on its Official Gazette dated 16th March, 2016 naming it The Order for the Control of the Odisha Public Distribution System, 2016. In compliance with Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, Section 9 of the 2015 Targeted public distribution system (control) order and Odisha Public Distribution System

(control) order, 2008, supersession of this order, the correspondence was issued. This was not a final decision.

Pandemic COVID 19 and PDS in Odisha

In the wake of the pandemic Covid 19, with that stat, Odisha sees its 14 Million people below poverty line. The Reserve Bank of India also verified it by reporting that the population of Odisha in the years 2011-2012 was 13,85 million below the poverty line, which is in the ranks of the state itself 2nd in the Poorest states in India.

With the enforcement of Lockdown, the situation has worsened further with many daily labourer having no work and having no payment during the entire lockdown period. As we all know, Odisha Government is one of the Governments who imposed lockdown in its state before the Nation-wide lockdown. While forcing its people to stay at home, the Odisha Government also gathered its resources in advancing effective public distribution system in Odisha. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha also made a huge announcement by including more left-out eligible beneficiaries under the Food Security Act. The Department of Food Supply also notified to give 5 kg of rice at Rs 1 a kg to 5 lakh poor and deprived people.

The COVID-19 pandemic triggered a financial emergency in the world and placed people in greater danger of food instability; due to many vehicles limits the flexible chain arrangement is severely disturbed. There is a necessity that numerous governmental segments cooperate entirely for administrative change, arrangements for provisions and methods of transport for residents, particular poor and poor people, kinds of brilliant apportion cards.

Food security in Chhattisgarh

Chhattisgarh government has instituted food security act in 2012. On 21 December 2012, the State Assembly passed the 'satisfactory sum of food and various good food supplies to the citizens of the State without any opposition to guaranteeing entry, at moderate costs, consistently to carry on with an existence of poise.

The Act isolates family units into four gatherings —

1. Antodaya,
2. Priority,
3. General and
4. Excluded families.

The need families will have month to month public appropriation framework (PDS) privilege of Funded 35 kg of flour, wheat meal, heart beats, gramme and iodized salt. The new show will make the iconic PDS more complete. Almost 90% of the arrangements fused in the Act were at that point covered under the PDS. Just about 10% of the state's populace comprising of the individuals who settle annual expense, families in non-planned regions that own multiple hectares of flooded land or 8 hectares of non-inundated land and family units in metropolitan zones that own a pukka house with a zone more than 1,000 sq.ft. (Tripathi) furthermore, are at risk to cover property charge are excluded from PDS. There are 11,000 PDS shops generally run without anyone else help bunches situated across 27 locales in the state.

The Act would profit here are 42 lakh households. It also covers families led by a desperate, a widow or a contrasting male. It will likewise deal with poor, kids living in inns/ashrams, pregnant ladies just as those hit by catastrophe. The choice to reclassify recipients of the state's food security plot is in the wake of the colossal weight on the exchequer given that 90% of the state's 2.5 crore populace is presently qualified for financed food. Likewise, PDS grain is getting redirected to the open market for a monstrous scope. As of now, near 1.6 million tons of rice and about a large portion of 1,000,000 tons of wheat are conveyed through PDS in the state every year.

Raghav Puri (2012) investigated the Reforms to the public conveyance framework in Chhattisgarh and proposed that broadening inclusion, improving conveyance and expanding straightforwardness are a portion of the significant proportion of restoration that will bring more prominent fulfillment among recipients. As per the examination led by Sivakkolundu and Loganathan (2013), around six crores' families the country is profited by the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Further Amutha and Rathi (2017) analysed the Public Distribution System's function and effectiveness in India. 'The study concluded that globally there is enough food for all but unequal distribution and access to foods is the main e main problem for food insecurity. Author suggests that technological upgradation,' policy reform, digitalization and application Banking and Information 'technologies will help a lot in bringing food security to all (Das).'

Legislations

"Each holder of the card issued by the government in December 2012 was entitled to receive 35 kilogrammes of food grains per kilogramme at a funding rate of Rs1." The Act covered

approximately 4.2 "millions of families in the state. There was an imperfection in the express Government: a card holder with seven members of the family was entitled to a similar 35 kg food grain nature as a card holder with five people was entitled. For the card holder to meet the needs of the family, he had to buy food from the market. The state government changed the protest and agreed to give the cardholder additional food grains with additional persons. "Although the demonstration was revised in February, 'the demonstration was not widely publicised and the beneficiaries were uninformed of additional arrangements," reported a representative of the state government adding that a mission had been dispatched to notify the beneficiaries of the new arrangements. The card holder with more than seven members in the family would be eligible as 'for the receipt of the protest, although the demonstration was revised in February.' 'We were not widely advertised, and the recipients were not informed of any additional arrangements,' said an official from the state government, saying that a task was sent to inform receivers of the new arrangement.' The eight would also have 40 kg of grain for food, while the nine would have the right to 45 kg of grain for food. Based on *Swaraj Abhiyan' versus 'Union of India And Ors'* on 13 May 2016, where it stated that every month every family should receive 5 kilograms of food grain, whether or not they belong to the need family classification, as specified in Section 2(14) NFS Act. It is appropriate to give food grains to all families. 'At Rs. 30 per month for every kg and one liter of testable oil per month at Rs. 25 for every litre via the Public Retail Scheme, each family unit impacted by the dry spell must be given 2 kg of DL (lentil).' Children affected by the dry season should receive 1 or 200 gms of milk for each day (6 days a week) under the mid-day meal regime. The Mid-Day Food Scheme should also be able to sustain a school excursion in the middle of the year with the 'goal that children shouldn't be denied meals, including eggs or milk (Darolia).

Strivings during the COVID-19 Situation in Chhattisgarh

The One of the few countries that have taken a liberal testing approach is the government of Chhattisgarh. The Navaratna PSU company has announced it would advance INR 200 crore royalty payments to the Chhattisgarh government for assistance in its fight against COVID -19. Navaratna is a national mineral exploration corporation limited. The public distribution system at Chhattisgarh during the pandemic worked by the lock-out and how rural households dropped in the state. Out of the 4,000 PDS shops we surveyed, 99% were locked open and storage was extremely rare. Ration shops performed very well. In rural Raipur, 95% of the

more than 3.900 households we surveyed reported receiving feeds. But 20% of the households surveyed were worried that in the coming weeks they could run down or out of food. The State government has distributed food grains to 14.10 lakh ration card holders in Chhattisgarh, except as 51.50 lakh holding families listed under the national Food Security Act. The Chhattisgarh government released a notification that rice, and dal would be distributed to holders of ration cards, students, and others, in an effort to alleviate the poor in the light of a continuous coronavirus pandemic. During the holidays, school children will also collect their grain quotas according to the midday meal arrangement. "Under this scheme, 40 days dry dal and rice will be supplied to the children of the school. Each student of primary school will be given 4 kg of rice and 800 grams of dal and 6 kg of rice and 1,200 grams of dal will be distributed to each student of higher secondary schools (Darolia)."

Challenges

Chhattisgarh, government provides food through PDS system to the poor & tribals of the state. Even many of them have their own land but due to water shortage & weather conditions, they grow no crops in them. Because of this, they become less laborious & do not make their own effort to grow the crops and become totally dependent on food provided by the government, that in turn increases pressure on food production & in turn leads to food insecurity. If the conditions will remain same, then there is a great risk for future generations when they will have no food. Specially in Chhattisgarh, most of the tribal people & poor people became less laborious & more involved in alcoholism & drug addiction.

Conclusion

This short study helped in throwing light on the status of PDS. The objectives of this study were to evaluate the issues related to access, utilization, and perception of PDS among APL and BPL beneficiaries, to examine the process of procurement, storage, and distribution of commodities. For a low-income level family, the out-of-pocket expenditure takes a toll on their finances. APL candidates have owned ration card for a longer duration and their number of service users is also higher than BPL. As expected, they seem to be more privileged than the people living in poverty. However, APLs also agreed to have paid a bribe for acquiring ration card, but a higher number of BPL respondents had to pay a bribe for it. The issue of corruption within the system remains a major reason behind the dissatisfaction of the service users. Respondents gave positive feedback about the functioning of the Fair Price Shops in

terms of timing and opening but were largely dissatisfied with the attitude of the distributors. Another problem was the deficiency of cash at the time of purchase. Everybody was interested in buying the commodities from Fair Price Shops but lacked the means. Another complaint that persisted within both the groups was about the quality of grains that was provided to them. It was unanimously agreed that the quality of the product ranged from poor to average and was a major reason for switching over to open markets.

Large scale agriculture & crop production is very important to satisfy the food needs of every people including tribal. The factors like Globalisation, increased urbanization & industrialization are affecting whole food system. Growing competition for land, water, energy & overexploitation of fisheries are certain other factors effecting food production. So, Government needs to make a change in its food security system & should focus less on industrialization & more on crop production & to overcome the problem of food security, it is important to save the natural resources like land, water, forest, fresh air etc.

In the current circumstance of the COVID-19 pandemic, all people in general assets are focused on moderating the degree of harm. The administration should make strategies to help the little and peripheral ranchers, wage workers and traveler labourers. The legislature will need to ensure that the attainment cycle, just as the harvest cycle, props up as in the past so the food security is guaranteed under any conditions.

Recommendations

The current system takes into consideration the different categories of beneficiaries according to the older census which was held a decade long back. The need of the hour is to include beneficiaries who are eligible to be on the list. By this a huge number of exclusion and illegal inclusion errors can be corrected. There has been rampant supply of illegal cards to multiple family members of the same households this has to be corrected first so that the benefits of the PDS system can go to those for which it is intended to be. PDS is a mainly pro poor but there should be also more focus on the APL beneficiaries also. Regarding cash transfers it should be ensured that money is given into their accounts directly instead of direct cash so that corruption can be curbed.

There is a need presently to give food grains to any individual who goes to the apportion shops with or without a proportion card. For people group mindfulness about the new qualifications and COVID-19, social separating, hand disinfection, and so forth web-based media-based messages to the PDS retailers and to recipients can be given. Foot worked

disinfection stations can be introduced in the PDS places. There is a need to give some more unwinding to the horticulture area during the lockdown with the goal that ranchers can begin collecting right away.

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