

Role Of PDS On Food Security – A Case Study Of GODAVARRU And PUNADIPADU Villages In KRISHNA District

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ABSTRACT:

Public Distribution System in India has been one of the most crucial elements in food policy and food security system in the country. Public Distribution System in has close links with food security for the vulnerable segment of population. It is so because Public Distribution System is considered as a principal instrument in the hands of the government for providing safety net to the poor and the down trodden. Public Distribution System is the largest distribution network of its kind in the world. It emerged out as rationing measure in the backdrop of Bengal famine as well as a war-time measure during Second World War.

The Government of India in an effort to ensure fair supply of food items to all citizens of India instituted Fair Price Shops (FPS) under Public Distribution System (PDS). Essential commodities such as Rice, Wheat, Sugar, Kerosene, etc., are supplied to the targeted underprivileged sections as per the eligibility and at fixed by the Government of India. In spite of the best efforts by Government officials at various levels, there are a few bottlenecks and inconveniences to the targeted citizens in availing the services provided. Over the years, Public Distribution System has expanded enormously as poverty alleviation and food security measure to become a permanent feature of Indian Economy.

The Andhra Pradesh state incorporated various modifications from time to time to make its implementation more relevant for the masses and to increase its effectiveness. This paper analyzes that whether Public Distribution System is able to achieve the objective of providing food security to the people and its impact on poverty, in two villages namely Godavarru and Punadipadu in Krishna District. (Kankipadu Mandal) Further, an attempt has been made in this study to ascertain the problems prevailing in Public Distribution System.

Key words: *Public Distribution System (PDS), Fair Price Shops (FPS), Integrated child Development services (ICDS), Food security, Annapurna (AAP), Anthyodaya (AAY) etc.*

INTRODUCTION:

Andhra Pradesh is one of the states pursuing a vigorous Public Distribution policy. Among the states, Public Distribution Systems that have tried Public Distribution Systems to cover rural areas are Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Of these states, Kerala is always deficit, while Tamil Nadu is marginally deficit in years due a bad rainfall. While Andhra Pradesh on the other hand, is a surplus state, encompassing large surplus as well as deficit tracts within its area. It is the government's primary duty to look that all its people should live with maximum quality. The Public Distribution System initially visualizes in terms of checking inflation and protecting vulnerable section from the vagaries of the market mechanism. PDS is an organizational asset of considerable significance improving the nutritional status of poorer groups touching the one of the antipoverty programmes, PDS has a direct bearing on their success. The concept of minimum needs coupled with enlarging scope of PDS, serves to underline its dynamic character: As we move from the regions of primary poverty to a happier position, the system can be used to concretize the quest for "quality of life" as it may be defined from time to time in politico-administrative terms.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

¹Dr.K.K.Tripathy and K.C.Mishra (2011) estimated that though India is one of the largest producers of the food in the world, yet nearly 300 million people struggle for meeting two square meals a day and 21 percent of the national population (230 million) are malnourished. This indicates the issues of accessibility to adequate and nutritive food to the poor.

²According to Dev. (2007) poverty declined during pre-post reform period is due to effective distribution system function, while that of growth rate of staple food grain prices remain low and inflation is also low. These are the things attributed to reduction of poverty in Andhra Pradesh. On one hand some policy measures to improve agriculture growth, macro policy on industrial and rural non-farm sectors in the post period had adverse impact on poverty reduction. On the other hand, it is believed that, it is due to social welfare programmes, such as focus on providing food and nutritional security, PDS and ICDS which helped in poverty reduction.

³Sharma (2007) observed that the lower quality of PDS wheat is evidenced of inefficiencies in the operation of the public sector. The appearance of quality differential at the retail outlet is due to inefficiencies in the marketing chain, such as bad purchase decision, lack of care in storage and handling and indifferent service at the ration shops. Another disturbing feature of PDS in India is the ground reality that a large portion of the subsidized food grains and other essential commodities meant for distribution do not reach the beneficiaries and find their way to the market. The difference between the open market price and subsidized prices of these commodities under PDS determine the attraction of the leakages. If calculation is made between the figures of stocks lifted and actually sold to the consumers, there shall be a discrepancy, which could be said to be equal to leakages in the system. It is estimated that a

little over one-third of the food grains, supplied to PDS do not reach the actual users of the PDS- it leaks out of the programme. While some part of these may be genuine losses incurred in storage and transport, a major part is diverted to open market.

OBJECTIVES:

The following objectives for study are given below.

- To discuss the brief profiles of sample villages.
- To observe the impact of Public Distribution System on food security.
- To analyze the objective of food after the introduction of PDS.
- To examine the impact of PDS on Poverty.

METHODOLOGY:

This study has been conducted on the basis of both primary and secondary data. The secondary data has been compiled from the Planning Commission, various journals, books, internet sources and other published papers etc.

A BRIEF PROFILE OF SAMPLE VILLAGES:

A BRIEF PROFILE OF GODAVARRU: Godavarru is a large village located in Kankipadu Mandal of Krishna district, Andhra Pradesh with total 1008 families residing. The Godavarru village has population of 3,457 of which 1,671 are males while 1,786 are females as per population Census 2011.

In Godavarru village population of children with age 0 - 6 is 294 which make up 8.50 % of total population of village. Average Sex Ratio of Godavarru village is 1,069 which is higher than Andhra Pradesh state average of 993. Child Sex Ratio for the Godavarru as per census is 947, higher than Andhra Pradesh average of 939.

Godavarru village has higher literacy rate compared to Andhra Pradesh. In 2011, literacy rate of Godavarru village was 76.54 % compared to 67.02 % of Andhra Pradesh. In Godavarru Male literacy Stands at 80.07% while female literacy rate was 73.28%. As per constitution of India and Panchyati Raj Act, Godavarru village is administrated by Sarpanch (Head of Village) who is elected representative of village.

Table: 1 Particulars of Godavarru Village

SI. NO	Particulars	Total	Male	Female
1	Total No. of Houses	1,008	-	-
2	Population	3,457	1,671	1,786
3	Children (0-6)	294	151	143
4	Schedule Caste	1,382	649	733
5	Schedule Tribe	108	49	59
6	Literacy	76.54 %	80.07 %	73.28 %
7	Total Workers	1,789	1,063	726
8	Main Workers	1,292	-	-

9	Marginal Workers	497	160	337
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Source: www.census2011.co.in

Caste Factor: In Godavarru village, most of the villagers are from Schedule Caste (SC). Schedule Caste (SC) constitutes 39.98 % while Schedule Tribe (ST) were 3.12 % of total population in Godavarru village.

Work Profile: In Godavarru village out of total population, 1,789 were engaged in work activities. 72.22 % of workers describe their work as Main Work (Employment or Earning more than 6 Months) while 27.78 % were involved in Marginal activity providing livelihood for less than 6 months. Of 1,789 workers engaged in Main Work, 142 were cultivators (owner or co-owner) while 905 were Agricultural labourers.

A BRIEF PROFILE OF PUNADIPADU: Punadipadu is a large village located in Kankipadu Mandal of Krishna district, Andhra Pradesh with total 1,705 families residing. The Punadipadu village has population of 7,235 of which 3,670 are males while 3,565 are females as per population Census 2011.

In Punadipadu village population of children with age 0 - 6 is 691 which makes up 9.55 % of total population of village. Average Sex Ratio of Punadipadu village is 971 which is lower than Andhra Pradesh state average of 993. Child Sex Ratio for the Punadipadu as per census is 930, lower than Andhra Pradesh average of 939.

Punadipadu village has higher literacy rate compared to Andhra Pradesh. In 2011, literacy rate of Punadipadu village was 76.54 % compared to 67.02 % of Andhra Pradesh. In Punadipadu Male literacy stands at 82.61% while female literacy rate was 70.33%.

As per constitution of India and Panchyati Raj Act, Punadipadu village is administrated by Sarpanch (Head of Village) who is elected representative of village.

Table: 2 Particulars of Punadipadu Village

SI. NO	Particulars	Total	Male	Female
1	Total No. of Houses	1,705	-	-
2	Population	7,235	3,670	3,565
3	Children (0-6)	691	358	333
4	Schedule Caste	2,501	1,214	1,287
5	Schedule Tribe	186	92	94
6	Literacy	76.54 %	82.61 %	70.33 %
7	Total Workers	2,792	1,741	1,051
8	Main Workers	2,411	-	-
9	Marginal Workers	381	131	250

Source: www.census2011.co.in

Caste Factor: Punadipadu village of Krishna has substantial population of Schedule Caste. Schedule Caste (SC) constitutes 34.57 % while Schedule Tribe (ST) were 2.57 % of total population in Punadipadu village.

Work Profile: In Punadipadu village out of total population, 2,792 were engaged in work activities. 86.35 % of workers describe their work as Main Work (Employment or Earning more than 6 Months) while 13.65 % were involved in Marginal activity providing livelihood for less than 6 months. Of 2,792 workers engaged in Main Work, 103 were cultivators (owner or co-owner) while 1,553 were Agricultural labourers.

CATEGORY WISE RATION CARDS STATUS IN SAMPLE VILLAGES: The following are the details of category wise ration card holders in sample villages for which allotment is issued in every month. The following table shows, in Godavarru village, beneficiaries having Annapurna (AAP) cards are 3 in number out of 4 units which accounts for (75%), Anthyodaya (AAY) cards are 70 out of 165 units which is (42.42%) and total white cards (WAP) are 1,011 out of 2,722 total white units which is (37.14%). Similarly, in Punadipadu village no one has Annapurna (AAP) card, beneficiaries having Anthyodaya (AAY) cards are 97 out of 223 units which accounts for (43.49%) and total white cards (WAP) are 1,287 out of 3,596 total white units, which accounts for (35.78%). Punadipadu village is having highest number of BPL cards i.e. 1,384 than Godavarru village which is 1,084. In both the villages, the total number of BPL cards was 2,468. From the given statistical data we can make an inference that, in Punadipadu village alone nearly 2,212 (2,722 – 1,084 = 2,212) beneficiaries are not having the accessibility towards the benefits of PDS than Godavarru village i.e 1,638. (3,596 – 1,384).

Table: 3

Ration Card holders Abstract in Sample Villages – Krishna District (Kankipadu Mandal)								
Sl. NO	Village Name	Annapurna(AAP)		Anthyodaya (AAY)		White Cards(WAP)		Total BPL Cards
		Cards	Units	Cards	Units	Total White Cards	Total White Units	
1	Godavarru	3	4	70	165	1,011	2,722	1,084
2	Punadipadu	0	0	97	223	1,287	3,596	1,384
Total		3	4	167	388	2,298	6,318	2,468

Source: Civil supplies Department- Gollapudi

FIELD SURVEY DETAILS: The survey sought to examine the following issues:

- To observe the impact of Public Distribution System on food security.
- To analyze the objective of food after the introduction of PDS.
- To examine the impact of PDS on Poverty.

A sample of 100 households randomly selected and the data was drawn from two villages namely Godavarru and Punadipadu in Krishna District, Kankipadu mandal. 50 samples are randomly selected from each village. Out of 100 households surveyed in both the villages regarding impact of PDS on food security 68% reported that the impact of PDS on food security is good. They opined that PDS is acting as an effective social safety net to many people in rural areas. Only 1% of the people viewed that PDS is failed in its attempt to ensure food security to the rural masses. Around 31% of the beneficiaries are genuinely satisfied with the working of PDS and they are accepted that PDS is fulfilling the objective of ensuring food security to the people.

Table: 4 Impact of PDS on Food Security

SLNO	Food Security	Godavarru Village	Punadipadu Village	Percentage
1	Good	35	33	68
2	Bad	---	1	1
3	Satisfied	15	16	31
4	Not Satisfied	---	---	---
Total		50	50	100

Source: Field Survey

In the context of food security after the introduction of PDS 52% of the beneficiaries expressed that food security is very good. Due to the remarkable initiatives taken by the government in TPDS, the actual beneficiary is receiving his/ her entitlements. 38% of the beneficiaries expressed that food security is improved when compared to the pre reform period to post reform period due to the role of aadhar. Around 7% of the people viewed that PDS did not bring much change in achieving the objective of food security to the people. Similarly, around 3% of the people they are under the impression that food security is just satisfied after the introduction of PDS but it is not much improved to the expected level.

Table: 5 Food Security after the introduction of PDS

SLNO	Food Security	Godavarru Village	Punadipadu Village	Percentage
1	Very Good	24	28	52
2	Improved	22	16	38
3	Not Bad	1	6	7
4	Satisfied	3	---	3
Total		50	50	100

Source: Field Survey

Regarding the benefits of PDS to family to over come the problem of poverty, 81% of the households viewed that, PDS helped them in satisfying their basic necessities of life to some extent. It means PDS is partially fulfilling their basic needs. They are urging the government to increase the entitlements of quota per family, so that every family may have to chance to get two square meals a day throughout the year. Similarly, 11% of the households expressed that they did not derived much benefits from PDS. They are complaining that PDS is meant for only relatively well people but not for poor people. Due exclusion errors the actual beneficiary is not able to enjoy the benefits to whom it is meant for. Further 8% of the people are viewed that, the benefits from PDS helped their families to great extent not only supporting their families in terms of basic necessities but also ration card is using for personal and family identification and other purposes.

Table: 6 Family Benefits of PDS to overcome the problem of Poverty

SLNO	Family Benefits of PDS	Godavarru Village	Punadipadu Village	Percentage
1	Great Extent	4	4	8
2	Some Extent	42	39	81
3	Not much Benefitted	4	7	11
Total		50	50	100

Source: Field Survey

CONCLUSION:

Government has been taking all efforts to make the system more effective and ensure the availability, affordability and accessibility of public distribution system articles to the poor to ensure food security on one hand and removal of poverty on the another hand. Much of the respondents felt happy regarding the working of existing Public Distribution System. But the responses of some sample respondents of this study showed different picture and unearthed that public distribution system is suffering from problems like leakages, poor quality and under weighment, non-availability of articles etc.

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