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AN OVERVIEW OF LIVELIHOOD STATUS OF BENEFICIARIES OF PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IN KARNATAKA

-With Special Reference to Mandya District

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ABSTRACT

The rationing system, which was introduced by the British in India with a new perspective as the Public Distribution System (PDS), India has played a dominant role and has made significant efforts to improve food production and distribute it evenly to the masses. The Public Distribution System has functioned for more than six decades and has helped the government to reduce poverty to a large extent. This system serves the triple aim of protecting the poor, enhancing their nutritional status and generating a moderate influence on market prices. This paper tries to explain the livelihood status of beneficiaries of Public Distribution System in Mandya district.

INTRODUCTION

The Karnataka government has taken positive initiative towards the Public Distribution System in ensuring food security among the vulnerable segment of the population. Many new ventures have been adopted to make the Public Distribution System effective. For example, a unit system for the distribution of food grains to the identified cardholders. Each family member over the age of ten years is considered as a separate unit and is entitled to 4 kg of food grains per month, with a limit of 25 kg per family. The second major noticeable move is computerization of the Public Distribution System through introducing online Biometric ration cards to recognize and remove the bogus cards issues, under this system the photograph name and other biometric related details of the family members are mentioned and these information's are stored in the database which are directly linked to the machine installed in the Fair Public Distribution, NEMMADI Kendra's are responsible for the entire process of generating biometric details of the card holders. Apart from that, the state government has undertaken certain initiatives such as Temporary card scheme for BPL, Commission of retailers, License to the Retail distributors, Viability of fair price shops FPSs, Wholesale Distribution, Transportation, Vigilance Committees, Identification of BPL beneficiaries etc.



Table 7 Taluk wise Monthly amount spending on food consumption

| Taluks of the Respondents and Monthly amount spending on food consumption | | Monthly amount spending on food consumption | | | | Total |
|---|--------------|---|--------------|--------------|------------|-------|
| | | Less than 1000 | 1001 to 2000 | 2001 to 4000 | Above 4000 | |
| Taluks of the Respondents | K.R.Pet | 30 | 10 | 8 | 2 | 50 |
| | Maddur | 28 | 12 | 7 | 3 | 50 |
| | Malavalli | 27 | 13 | 6 | 4 | 50 |
| | Mandya | 40 | 20 | 15 | 9 | 84 |
| | Nagamangala | 30 | 11 | 6 | 3 | 50 |
| | Pandavapura | 33 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 50 |
| | Srirangaptna | 32 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 50 |
| Total | | 220 | 83 | 57 | 24 | 384 |

Sources Primary Data

Above table shows, The taluk wise tabulation of the monthly income spending on food consumption of the respondents out of 50 respondents in KR Pet taluk, 30 respondent's are spending less than 1000 rupees on food consumption, 10 respondent's are between 1001 to 2000 rupee of amount spending on food consumption, 8 respondent's are between 2001 to 4000 rupees of spending on food consumption and 2 respondent's are spending above 4000 on food consumption.

Out of 50 respondents in Maddur taluk, 28 are spending less than 1000 rupee on food consumption, 12 respondent's are between 1001 to 2000 rupee of amount spending on food consumption, 7 respondent's are between 2001 to 4000 rupee of amount spending on food consumption and 3 respondents responding above 4000 on food consumption.

Out of 50 respondents in Malavalli taluk 27 are spending less than 1000 rupee on food consumption, 13 respondent's are between 1001 to 2000 rupee of amount spending on food consumption, 6 respondent's are between 2001 to 4000 rupee of amount on food consumption and 4 respondent's spending above 4000 on food consumption;

Out of 84 respondents in Mandya taluk, 40 are spending less than 1000 rupee on food consumption, 20 respondent's are between 1001 to 2000 rupee of amount spending on food consumption, 15 respondent's are between 2001 to 4000 rupee of amount spending on food consumption and 9 respondent's spending above 4000 on food consumption .

Out of 50 respondents in Nagamangala taluk, 30 respondent's are spending less than 1000 rupee on food consumption, 11 respondent's are between 1001 to 2000 rupee of amount spending on food consumption, 6 respondent's are between 2001 to 4000 rupee

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amount spending on food consumption and 3 respondent's spending above 4000 rupee on food consumption .

Out of 50 respondents in Pandavapura taluk , 33 respondent's are spending less than 1000 rupee on food consumption, 8 respondent's are between 1001 to 2000 rupee of amount spending on food consumption, 7 respondent's are between 2001 to 4000 rupee of amount spending on food consumption and 2 respondent's are spending above 4000 rupee on food consumption .

Out of 50 respondents in Srirangaptna taluk, 32 respondent's are spending less than 1000 rupee on food consumption, 9 respondent's are between 1001 to 2000 rupee of amount spending on food consumption, 8 respondent's are between 2001 to 4000 rupee of amount spending on food consumption and 1 respondent are spending above 4000 rupee on food consumption .

Table 8Monthly amounts spending on non-food consumption

| Spending on non-food consumption | Frequency | Percent |
|----------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Less than 1000 | 248 | 64.6 |
| 1000 to 2000 | 77 | 20.1 |
| 2000 to 4000 | 40 | 10.4 |
| Above 4000 | 19 | 4.9 |
| Total | 384 | 100.0 |

Sources: Primary Data

Above the table 8 shows that, 64.6 percent of the respondent's have less than 1000 amount spending for non food consumption, 20.1 percent of the respondent's have 1000 to 2000 amount spending for non food consumption, 10.4 percent of the respondent's have 2000 to 4000 amount spending for non food consumption and 4.9 percent of the respondent's have above 4000 amount spending for food consumption in Mandya District.



Result

| | Value | Level of Significance |
|------------|---------|-----------------------|
| Chi Square | 12.8065 | 0.05 |

The Chi Square or P value is 12.8065. It is significant at 5 percent level. 95 percent shows that there is association between benefits of public distribution system and livelihood condition of beneficiaries of public distribution system. Therefore reject null hypotheses and accept alternative hypotheses.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Clear cut policies regarding ration cards are required awareness must be given to all card holders about their entitlements and rights.
2. Awareness has to be given through social media like radio and television to provide information about the benefits of PDS to the stakeholders.
3. There is urgent need to formulate separate Vigilance Commodities for the administrative and supervisory wing in relation to PDS at State, Taluk and Local level, and there is also need to reorganize the Food and Civil Supply Department with the intention of providing food to the needy section of the society on one hand and on other hand, to take several measures to avoid corruption and leakages. It is also required to take severe action on defaulters.

CONCLUSION

The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is one of the important poverty alleviation programmes in India. To sum up, this study on the effectiveness of PDS in Karnataka makes clear that most of the people in Karnataka are dependent on agriculture for their daily livelihood. They are not getting income for their hard work, so they have to depend on PDS. It can be concluded that it is one of the largest food entitlement programme in India introduced with the intention of providing food to the needy people.

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