

IMPACT OF PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM ON REDUCING POVERTY IN THE TRIBAL AREA OF TAMIL NADU

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Abstract

Poverty is about not having enough money to meet basic needs. Poverty is hunger, poverty is lack of shelter, poverty is not having access to school and not knowing how to read, poverty is not having a job. Public Distribution System (PDS) is a poverty alleviation programme and contributes towards the social welfare of the people. Essential commodities like rice, wheat, sugar, kerosene, and the like are supplied to the people under the PDS at reasonable prices. PDS is a boon to the people living below the poverty line. For poor people, PDS is considered as a major food security programme in India. Central Government and State Governments have been actively involved in steering the operations for the success of the PDS. Tamil Nadu state a model in implementing the PDS as universal system for the cause of eradicating poverty and improving standard of living of the people living below the poverty line. The Tamil Nadu Women Development Corporation and NGO's for their active support to the SHGs to run PDS.

Introduction

India is a largely rural based country highly dependent on agricultural sector. There is most concentration of poverty in the rural India as to the given statistics. Governments Plans and instructions have failed/success in many times. Poverty is about not having enough money to meet basic needs. Poverty is hunger, poverty is lack of shelter, poverty is not having access to school and not knowing how to read, poverty is not having a job.

Public Distribution System (PDS) is a poverty alleviation programme and contributes towards the social welfare of the people. Essential commodities like wheat, sugar, kerosene, are few commodities supplied to the people under the PDS at reasonable prices and rice at no price in Tamil Nadu. PDS is a boon to the people living below the poverty line. For poor people, PDS is considered as a big safety net programme in India and it is biggest in the world. Central Government and State Governments have been actively involved in steering the operations for the success of the

PDS. Tamil Nadu state a model in implementing the PDS as universal system for the cause of eradicating poverty and improving standard of living of the people living below the poverty line. The Tamil Nadu Women Development Corporation and NGO's for their active support to run PDS. The allocation of food grains to the States/UTs was made on the basis of average consumption in the past i.e. average annual off-take of food grains under the PDS.

Objectives of the study

- To study the impact of Poverty reduction programmes through PDS in the study area.

Research methodology

The main thrust of the present study is on the impact of Public Distribution System on reducing poverty of Agricultural Labourers in Sithur village with special reference to Uppiliapuram Panchayat. The village people were mono caste. Among them, 30 respondents had been chosen for the study. Both primary and secondary data were collected. A thorough review was

done on secondary data related to the PDS, Poverty, Agricultural labourers at national level. A completely household survey was

done to check the reality at the grass root level using interview schedule.

**Table.1 Classification of respondents Age and Opinion of the PDS function
Cross tabulation**

Age	Opinion of PDS function			Total
	Highly satisfied	Reasonably satisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	
Below 20	2	0	0	2
21-30	8	2	2	12
31-40	2	0	2	4
Above 41	8	4	0	12
Total	20	6	4	30

Source: Compiled from the Primary Data

The above table implies the Age and Functioning of the PDS in Uppiliapuram Panchayat. Among 30 respondents, 20 highly

satisfied and 6 reasonably satisfied and 4 is somewhat dissatisfied.

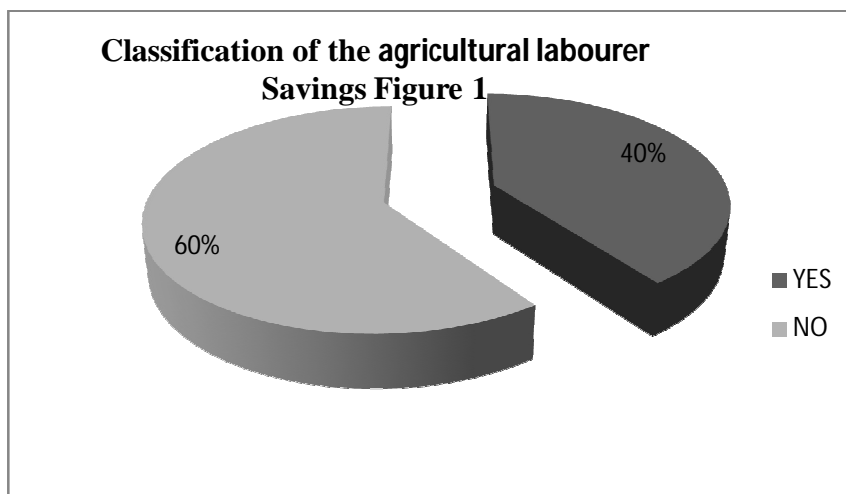
Table.2 Agricultural labourer utilization of PDS

Valid	Respondents	Percent
Food security	18	60.0
Familiarity with PDS	1	3.3
Feeding guests	5	16.7
Lower transaction costs	6	20.0
Total	30	100.0

Source: Compiled from the Primary Data

The above table shows the, 60 per cent of the respondents are feeling PDS commodities as food security, 3.3 per cent of the respondents are feeling it is familiarity with PDS, 16.7 per -

cent of the respondents are feeling it will use to feeding guests and 20 per cent of the respondents feels it as Lower transaction costs.



Source: Compiled from the Primary Data

The above table shows that, most of the respondents i.e. 60 per cent no savings and 40

percentage of the respondent have saving and also benefits from the PDS.

Chi-Square Test Table .3

Age wise views of function of PDS

Sl.no	Age	Function			Statistical inference
		Highly satisfied (n=20)	Reasonably satisfied (n=6)	Somewhat dissatisfied (n=4)	
1	Below 20	2	0	0	$X^2=8.83$ $Df=6$ $0.183<0.05$ Not significant
2	21-30	8	2	2	
3	31-40	2	0	2	
4	Above 41	8	4	0	

Source: Compiled from the Primary Data use in spss

The above table reveals that such (the calculated value greater than table value 0.183<0.05) there is no significant association between Age of the respondents with the Functioning of PDS outlet.

T-Test Table 4

Contribution from PDS to the Family Welfare.

Sl.no	Nature of family	Mean	S.D	Statistical inference
1	Nuclear Family (20)	1.20	.410	$T = -2.763$ $0.012>0.05$ Not significant
2	Joint Family(10)	1.80	.789	

$Df=28$

Source: Compiled from the Primary Data use SPSS

The above table reveals that since (the calculated value greater than table value 0.012>0.05) there is no significant difference between Nature of family and with the welfare of PDS.

Findings

- ★ The Age and Functioning of the PDS in Uppiliapuram Panchayat. Among 30 respondents, 20 highly satisfied and 6 reasonably satisfied and 4 is somewhat dissatisfied.
- ★ The 60 per cent of the respondents are feeling PDS commodities as food security, 3.3 per cent of the respondents

are feeling it is familiarity with PDS, 16.7 per cent of the respondents are feeling it will use to feeding guests and 20 per cent of the respondents feels it as Lower transaction costs.

- ★ A Chi-square test carried out to examine there is no significant association between Age of the respondents and their Functioning of the PDS outlet.
- ★ The T-Test has been used to test that there was no significant difference between Nature of family of the respondents and their importance of the PDS for family's welfare.

Conclusion and Suggestion

Poverty and agriculture are the two main economic variables on which the whole public distribution system is based. The poverty in the situation of India is improving at a slow pace primarily due to the growth rate of population. Though PDS is supplemental in nature, but now the enhanced allocation of food grains fulfills around 50% of the cereal requirement every month of an average BPL agricultural Labourers household. From the findings of the study area, the rural people are more benefited from PDS, but still 33 per cent of the respondents are not highly satisfied, So, the government necessary steps have to take to satisfaction all the peoples.

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