

**The Role of Public Distribution System in Ensuring Food Security-A Study
on Indira Canteen in Bangalore City**

Nirmala M.M.,

Department of Economics,
School of Humanities and Social Sciences,
Jain University, Bengaluru – 560001.

Dr. K.K. Seethamma

Retired Professor,
Department of Economics,
Bangalore University,
Bangalore – 560056.

Abstract:

Food security has been a cause of concern for the most of the developing and under developed nations. Providing nutrition to the poor people still remains a major challenge to the government. In India the rationing system which was introduced by British has overcome with the new outlook as PDS (Public Distribution System). Public Distribution System is one of the basic essential components of food security as it makes an easy availability and accessibility of food at grass root level. The economic and social policies by India supported public distribution of food grains for steady planned economic development. Public Distribution System is operated under the joint responsibility of the central and the state governments; the central government through FCI has assumed the responsibility for procurement, storage, transportation and bulk allocation of food grains to the state. At the state level it varies from one state to the other, with reference to Karnataka, Food and Civil Supplies Corporation and Taluk Agriculture Produce Cooperative Marketing Society are involved in fulfilling the requirements.

In compliance with the National Food Security Act Government of Karnataka designed the Anna Bhagya Scheme provides food security for Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Anthodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families, Mid-day Meal Scheme, Integrated Child Development Services. In this regard Government of Karnataka started a new initiative “Indira Canteen” to ensure food security to the migrant labours, unskilled workers, rickshaw drivers in limits of Bangalore city. The present study focuses on the Role of PDS in ensuring food security with the context of Indira Canteen. The research study is based on the primary and secondary data. The results will be analyzed using appropriate statistical methods for in-depth inquiry of food security and Indira Canteen.

Keywords:Anthodaya Anna Yojana, Below Poverty Line, Indira Canteen, Migrants, Public Distribution System

Introduction

The rationing system which was introduced by British in India with a new outlook as PDS (Public Distribution System) the government of India has played a dominating role and has made considerable efforts to improve food production and to distribute equally to the masses. Public Distribution System has been functioning for more than six decades and has helped the government to alleviate the poverty to large extent. This system serves the triple objective of protecting the poor, enhancing the nutritional status and generating a moderate influence on the market prices.

Karnataka government have taken positive initiative towards Public Distribution System in ensuring food security among the vulnerable segment of the population, many new ventures have been adopted to make Public Distribution System effective, such as unit system for the distribution of food grains to the card holders, under this system the family member above the age of 10 years is treated as one unit and is eligible for 4 kg of food grains, the maximum food grains entitled for a family is 25 kg per month. The second major noticeable move is computerization of the whole public distribution system through introducing Biometric ration cards to identify and eliminate 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 FPS, NEMMADI Kendra's are responsible for the entire process of generating biometric details of the card holders. Apart from that state government undertaken certain initiatives such as Temporary card scheme for BPL, Commission of retailers, License to

the Retail distributors, Viability of FPSs, Wholesale Distribution, Transportation, Vigilance Committees, Identification of BPL beneficiaries etc. Indira canteen is the one such initiative in the similar lines to ensure food security.

Review of Literature

Kavitha (2014) "Evaluation of Public Distribution system in India" the paper discussed the current scenario of public distribution system across the states in, it emphasis on the working of P.D.S and some policy measured for effective functioning. Five states like west Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil nadu, Uttar Pradesh & Maharashtra account for all most half of the total P.D.S off take. Only nine states the share in total off take is lower than the share in the total population. Finally the study highlighted that the Effective administration of P.D.S minimizes the defects of existing P.D.S in India. Shaw and Telidevara (2014) in their study they found that the study were BPL card holders cereal consumption is high than the non-cereals food items without affecting the overall calorie consumption. Thus PDS in India induces household to consume more cereals and less of non-cereals without significantly changing the overall calorie consumption. Tanksale and Jha (2015) "Implementing National Food Security Act in India issues and challenges" This paper identify the various aspects of National Food Security Act about effort of Indian government to protect the right of the people for food and fight against hunger with special focus for women empowerment, Life cycle approach, consideration of vulnerable sections of society and the proposed reforms in Public Distribution System and also identified issues and challenges for its implementation.

Sudhir and Rohit, (2015) "Structural mapping of public distribution system using multi-agent systems" This paper intended to develop a framework for mapping the Public Distribution System in India using Multi-agent System(MAS) The entire supply chain of PDS from purchase to distribution is mapped in detail by integrating stages of PDS supply chain. The implications highlighted by the study are that will interest the policy makers to understand the shortcomings of Public Distribution System and suggested a method to model the supply chain of PDS. Elayaraju (2016) "Performance of Targeted Public Distribution System in India". The author in his study made an attempt to highlight the effectiveness of Annabhagya scheme implemented by the Karnataka government under Targeted Public Distribution system. The study suggested the policy makers that as people in Karnataka dependent on the agriculture for the livelihood and due to lower real income they receive from agriculture should make Public Distribution System efficient and effective so the majority will be ensured food security. Bohtanet. al., (2017) "Supply Chain of the Indian Public Distribution system –a new paradigm" in their case study authors made an attempt to study the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats in the supply chain of existing Public Distribution System in India and analyzed with a view to recommend strategies for making the supply chain of PDS more effective and efficient. The results indicated that the use of ICT solutions as part of Digital India is important to ensure supply chain of PDS to be effective and efficient. Shekaret. al., (2017) "Empowering People to Power the PDS- a Process Mapping Analysis of Six Indian States" in their study highlighted the failure of Indian Public Distribution System in Ensuring food security. The results indicates that every state in India should be very positive in implementing decentralizing procurement, decentralization of administration, Handing over the Monitoring and vigilance to the local bodies, use the scientific methods. Geetha Pandey - "Indian Indira Canteen: The best meal you can buy for 13 cents" Indira Canteen aims at providing food at subsidized rate to daily wage labourers, drivers, security guards, beggars, and vegetable & fruits venders. Manoj Rajan official in charge of the project stated that the Indira canteen aims to provide food for migrant population, cab drivers, students & working couples.

PTI, 2017, Karnataka :- "Two drivers arrested for putting cockroach in food at Indira canteen" The Indian Express, October 24, 2017 reported that Two Auto rickshaw drivers, Hemanth & devaraj along the two others arrested for allegedly dropping a cockroach in the food served an Indira canteen & urged the people not to eat there & also threatened the canteen staff. Police said the footages of C.C.T.V installed inside the

canteen shown of Hemanth getting cockroach with him and putting it the food served in the Indira canteen. According to the Police these attempts was done for the publicity & were not affiliated with any political party. Ipsita Basu, Naveen Menezee, Smita Balram, Divya Shekhar 2017, The Economic Times, October 13, 2017. "Indira canteen: The inside story of Siddaramaiah pet project." The authors reported that there were more skeptics than believers when Siddaramaiah started 198 Indira Canteen with the cost of 1,00 crore, For the smooth functioning of the process stocks are replenished every three days, Vegetables are chopped night before & stored, menu is carefully made & time is managed in a way that the delivery truck reaches the forest canteen. Nodal officer appointed by the BBMP for every canteen, he weigh the food before it is dispatched from the kitchen & when it arrives at the canteen. C.C.T.V cameras have also been installed in the kitchens & canteens. K.V Aditya Bharadwaj (2017) "Karnataka launches" Indira canteen in Bangalore. The Hindu, August 16, 2017 Bangalore edition. The article highlighted about the Inauguration of Indira Canteen by Rahul Gandhi Vice President congress in Bangalore. Indira Canteen aims at serving food for poor at subsidized rates in the cities. According to Siddaramaiah Indira Canteen is the new initiative of the Karnataka government in continuation of Anna Bhagya Scheme. The Chief Minister said the people who oppose this programme are Anti - Poor & Anti - downtrodden". K.C Deepika, 2011 "Most popular Indira Canteen serves up over 3,000 meals every day". November 11 2011, Bangalore edition, this canteen rank beet in terms of demand the food served in this canteen is estimated as 1200 plates of breakfast & lunch & 1000 plates of dinner on an average every day. The number will drop to 600 during holidays still considered as better than the average number of plates in other Indira Canteen. MS. Poornima the Supervisor of the canteen said that many times they had to call police department to manage the crowd & they ask the security guard to shut the gate to control the people if the food gate over & also for the time they need for the preparation to serve dinner.

Objectives of the Study:

The present study emphasizes the following objective;

1. To analyze the role of Indira canteen in ensuring food security under Public distribution system.
2. To focus the effectiveness of Indira canteen in ensuring food security.

Methodology of the study:

The research study is based on the primary and secondary data. The results have been analyzed using appropriate statistical methods for in-depth inquiry of food security through Indira Canteen. A total of 50 respondents were randomly selected, 10 each from Bangalore Central, South, North, East and West. A well-structured Interview schedule was used to collect the responses.

Results and Discussions:

To study the role of PDS in ensuring the food security with the context of Indira canteen few questions were raised and the data was collected through the interview schedule. An attempt has been made to understand the age group of the beneficiaries who are benefited by the canteen.

Table: 1- Age Group of the Beneficiaries

Age Group	Frequency	Percent
21-35	34	68
36-55	14	28
56-65	2	4
Total	50	100

The above table clearly points that majority of the beneficiaries belong to the age group of 21-35 which accounts 68% of the total respondents, 28% of the beneficiaries are between the age group of 36-55 and only 4% of the beneficiaries are between the age group of 56-65. The above figures confirms about the

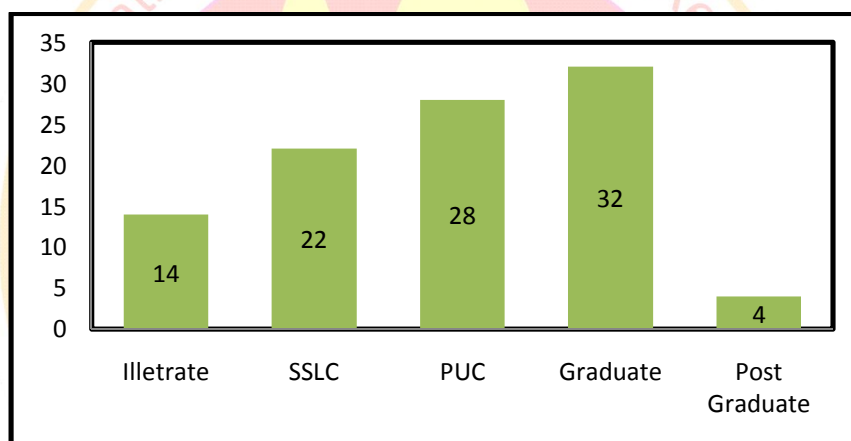
success of Indira canteen in achieving its primary objective of providing food at subsidized price to the students, drivers, construction workers, migrants etc.

The present study also made an attempt to know the Educational qualification of the beneficiaries to analyze the effectiveness of Indira canteen.

Table:2- Educational Qualification of the Beneficiaries

Educational Qualification	Frequency	Percentage
Illiterates	7	14
SSLC	11	22
PUC	14	28
Graduates	16	32
Post Graduates	2	4
Total	50	100

The above data shows that the 32% of the beneficiaries are the Graduates, 28% are the PUC holders, 22% are the SSLC holders, 4% are the Post Graduate and only 7 % of the beneficiaries are the Illiterates. State government took this initiative with an aim of providing subsidized food to the people who doesn't have time to cook to the vulnerable section of the society.



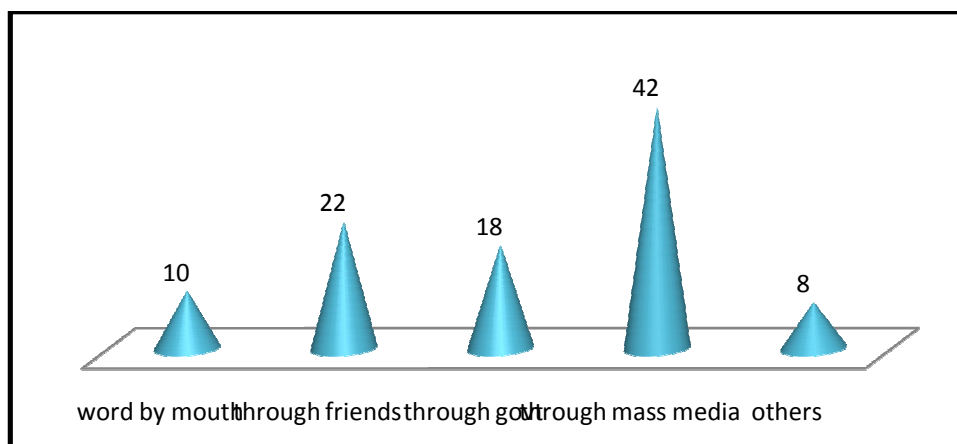
The study also aimed to understand how did the beneficiaries got to know about the Indira Canteen to know how popular the initiative among the people in Bangalore urban.

Table: 3- Get to know (Choose the right title)

Knowing about canteen	Frequency	Percentage
word by the mouth	5	10
Through the friends	11	22
through government agencies	9	18
through mass media	21	42
others	4	8
Total	50	100

The above table states that 42% of the total respondents got to know about the Indira Canteen through the mass media, 22% through the friends, 18% by the government agencies such as BBMP Notifications& announcements, 10% word by the mouth and 8% by the others. The print and mass media played very

important role in reaching the people about the location, Food availability and the subsidized prices of the Indira canteen and in fact this is the one factor contributed for the success of the Indira Canteen.

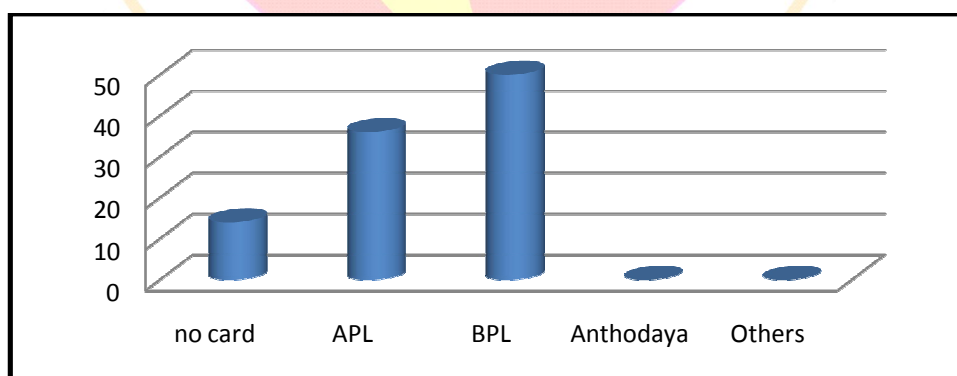


To study the effectiveness of Indira Canteen the data pertaining to the types of the cards hold by the beneficiaries are collected.

Table: 4- Type of the PDS Cards

Type of PDS Card	Frequency	Percentage
No card Holders	7	14
APL Holders	18	36
BPL Holders	25	50
Anthodaya Holders	0	0
Others	0	0
Total	50	100

The majority of the beneficiaries of the canteen were BPL card holders, 50% of the card holders hold the BPL cards which specify that the Indira canteen is an aid to the BPL families, 36% of the beneficiaries hold APL cards and 14% of the beneficiaries did not possess any cards.



The study made an attempt to understand the various parameters to analyze the role and effectiveness of Indira Canteen.

Table 5: Respondents Satisfaction on Indira Canteen.

Parameters	Satisfied	Not Satisfied
Quality	66 %	34 %
Timings	56 %	44 %
Quantity	50 %	50 %
Cleanliness and Hygienic	86 %	14 %

One of the parameter in those lines was the satisfaction of food with respect to quality 66% of the beneficiaries were highly satisfied with the food provided in the canteen only 34% of the beneficiaries were not satisfied with the quality of the food provided. With regard to the timings 56% of the respondents were satisfied with the timings of food provided but 44% of the respondents shared their displeasure towards the timings and the long queues in the Indira canteen. About the quantity of food provided in the canteen the mixed opinions raised by the beneficiaries 50% of them were happy about the quantity provided and 50% were not satisfied by the quantity of food provided. Cleanliness of the Indira canteen was also one of the parameter to assess the effectiveness 86% of the beneficiaries were satisfied by the cleanliness and hygiene maintained in the canteen 14 % of the beneficiaries were not satisfied.

The study also identified that 58% of the beneficiaries visited the canteen only once a day that too for Breakfast, 38% visited twice a day and only 4% of the beneficiaries visit thrice a day. Near about 72% of the beneficiaries agreed that Indira Canteen is successful in ensuring the food security and 28% of the population disagreed.

Conclusion:

Indira canteen is one of the effective venture of Karnataka government in providing subsidized food for the construction workers, students, auto rickshaw drivers & unskilled labourers in ensuring food security. State government can take the necessary measures to overcome the defects and to reach the benefits of the canteen to right section of the society. By tackling the technical hitches it can contribute for the success of the canteen and can extended to the other districts of Karnataka.

References:

1. Ambekar, S., Kapoor, R., & Mehta, P. (2015). Structural mapping of public distribution system using multi-agent systems. *Business Process Management Journal*, 21(5), 1066-1090.
2. Bohtan, A., Vrat, P., & Vij, A. K. (2017). Supply chain of the Indian public distribution system: a new paradigm. *Journal of Advances in Management Research*, 14(1), 110-123.
3. Elayaraja, K., & Manjunath, T. R. (2016). Performance of Targeted Public Distribution System In Karnataka. *International Journal of Advanced Research in Management and Social Sciences*, 5(12), 111-118.
4. Geetha Pandey - "Indian Indira Canteen: The best meal you can buy for 13 cents" BBC, News November 2017.
5. Ipsita Basu, Naveen Menezee, Smita Balram, Divya Shekhar 2017, The Economic Times, October 13, 2017. "Indira canteen: The inside story of Siddaramaiah pet project."
6. K.C Deepika, 2017 "Most popular Indira Canteen serves up over 3,000 meals every day". November 11 2017, Bangalore edition,
7. K.V Aditya Bharadwaj (2017) "Karnataka launches" Indira canteen in Bangalore. The Hindu, August 16, 2017 Bangalore edition.
8. Kavitha. (2014). Evaluation of Public distribution system in India. *International Journal of advanced research in management & Social Sciences*, 3(4), 25-30.

9. PTI, 2017, Karnataka. "Two drivers arrested for putting cockroach in food at Indira canteen" The Indian Express, October 24, 2017
10. Sekher, M., Parasuraman, S., Pritchard, B., Kumar, S. S., & Rai, R. K. (2017). Empowering People to Power the Public Distribution System - A Process Mapping Analysis of Six Indian States. *Economic & Political Weekly*, LII(51), 97-107.
11. Shaw, T. S., & Telidevara, S. (2014). Does food subsidy affect household nutrition?: Some evidence from the Indian Public Distribution System. *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy*, 34(1/2), 107-132.
12. Tanksale, J., & Jha, J. (2015). Implementing National Food Security Act in India: issues and challenges. *British Food Journal*, 117(4), 1315-1335.

Reports Referred:

- GOI, (2015-2016). Annual Report - Department of food and public distribution, Ministry of Consumer affairs, food and public distribution, New Delhi.
- GOI, (2014--2015). Annual Report – Department of Consumer affairs, Ministry of Consumer affairs, food and public distribution, New Delhi.
- GOI, (2005). Performance evaluation of Targeted Public Distribution System, Programme evaluation organization planning commission, New Delhi.
- National Food Security Bill, (2013).
- Justice Wadhwa Committee report, (2009). Public Distribution System Karnataka.
- Economic Survey of Karnataka, Annual report (2015-2016).
- Food and Agriculture Organization, Report (2013).
- Global food security Index, Report (2014).

