



IMPACT OF PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM FOR FOOD SECURITY IN JHARKHAND

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Food is basic and necessary need of human being, without which the overall development of a person is impossible. Article-21 of Indian constitution which gives 'right to life', emphasises on the importance of food security as it is necessary to ensure food security to the population for their quality life. This paper is an effort to analyse the efficiency of Public Distribution System (PDS) in the distribution of food which is a crucial determinant of food security i.e. this paper is analysing the impact of PDS for food security in Jharkhand.

Key Words: Food Security, PDS

INTRODUCTION

Food security is not just a matter of the availability of food, but even more of the access of households and individuals to sufficient nutritious food. The absorption of food as nutrition in the body is further mediated by access to safe drinking water, and hygienic sanitation facilities. Consequently, food security is analyzed along the axis of availability, access and absorption. The importance of entitlements in food security is further underlined by the Supreme Court's judgments validating the Right to Food.

What constitutes food security has gone through two phases of understanding or definition. In the 1970s, food security was understood as the 'availability at all times of adequate world food supply of basic foodstuffs...' (FAO, 1975). But the 1981 publication of Amartya Sen's *Poverty and Famines: An Essay on Entitlement and Deprivation* brought forward a new understanding of the problem of hunger or food security. Rather than just the 'availability' of food, Sen emphasized 'access' to food through what he called 'entitlements' - a combination of what one can produce, exchange in the market plus state or other socially provided supplies. What Sen posited is that availability or supply of food does not itself create entitlements for food.

What an individual or household can consume or access depends on the individual's or household's entitlements. Entitlements draw attention to the conditions under which people access food, whether from production, market exchange and social security measures. Entitlements also draw attention to the rules that govern intra-household allocation, as a result of which women and girls may face hunger or deprivation even though they are part of households whose general entitlements are sufficient.

Food, of course, is not an end itself. Food is consumed for nutrition. Instead of focusing attention on the commodity, one can look at the objective for which food is consumed, that is providing nutrition for the body. The purpose of nutrition itself is not just to survive, but to lead a healthy and meaningful life - to be in the state one wants (well-being) and to do various things one wants to do.

There are different views and approaches to the problem of food security. However, the broadly accepted definition of food security has been given by World Food Summit (WFS) in November 1996. According to WFS:

"Food Security exists when all people, at all time, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life."

Till the 1970's, the problem of food security in whole was basically studied as one of supply and therefore the main focus of the concept of food security was guaranteeing the availability of food as well as attempting to ensure price stability both at national and international level by increasing food production. But the concept of food security is not only related to availability of food but it talks about the multidimensional aspect of human nutritional conditions.

Finally the definition of food security which has been given by WFS in 1996 includes another component of food security i.e. the actual quality and type of food supplied and a requirement that it should not merely satisfy protein energy needs but provide the nutritional balance necessary for a healthy and active life.

FOOD SECURITY IN INDIA

India is the world's seventh largest country by area holds world's second largest population after China and is the second fastest growing economy after China in Asia. The growth rate of real GDP is 3.95% per year per head from 1980 to 2005, and is 5.4% per year from 2000 to 2005. After all, rice and wheat are one of the most important food products and hence the Indian government maintains very heavy stock of these two cereals to counter future fluctuations. India has enough food grains in its stock but despite having sufficient food grains in stocks, around 60 million children are underweight and malnourished in India according to International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) 2011.

India has shown tremendous growth in past two decades. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has increased 4.5 times and Per Capita Income has increased 3 times. Similarly, the production of food grains has doubled. However, in spite of a very good industrial and economic growth, while India is producing enough food grains to feed its population, the accessibility of its population to adequate and nutritious food is still miserable, especially in the weakest section (socioeconomically) of population. Unfortunately, 194.6 million people in India stay hungry everything and about 15.2% of the total population is suffering from malnutrition. Despite being agricultural dominating country, India ranked at 97 out of 118 countries by the Global Hunger Index 2016 and is the shelter of 25% of all under-nourished population in the world.

India is on one side showing growth in GDP, industry and other sectors. But on another side of poverty and hunger are showing the mirror to the human welfare conditions in India. The paradoxical thing is that, people are sleeping hungry at one side and another side the Food Corporation of India (FCI) received an all time high stock of food grains for last many years. Despite this high stock of food grains with FCI, over 300 million people live without two times meal in a day, over 230 million people ensure about accessing their daily meal, 50% of children are suffering from malnutrition and stunted and about 68/1000 dying before the age of 1 year.

In 2018 GHI, India scored 31.1 and was placed at rank 103 out of 119 countries, i.e. a high end of "serious" category. India low ranking also influences South Asia's regional score as three quarters of South Asia's population reside in India. (Table-1)

Table-1: GHI Rankings of Selected Countries in 2018

| Country | GHI Ranking |
|----------------|--------------------|
| India | 103 |
| China | 25 |
| Nepal | 72 |
| Myanmar | 68 |
| Sri Lanka | 67 |
| Bangladesh | 86 |
| Iraq | 74 |
| Pakistan | 106 |
| Afghanistan | 111 |

Source: GHI, 2018

India's neighbors' (Nepal, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Sri-Lanka, and China) rankings are better than India, except Pakistan and Afghanistan. Even Iraq is better than India in hunger parameters and GHI rankings. More than 20% of Indian children under the age of five have lower weight in relation to their height and about 33% are too short in relation to their age. Despite India being world's second largest food producer it has second highest under-nourished population in the world. Therefore food security is no doubt a major and the most important concern and at the top priority for the Indian government today.

The concept of food security is not merely related to the production of food but it is the physical and economic access to safe nutritious food. The concept of food security is a complex issue of sustainable development linked to health through malnutrition and also linked with sustainable economic development, environment and trade. It is a big paradox that India has sufficient stock of food grains but its population is malnourished and hungry massively. This paradox exists because of lack of efficient distribution system.

The availability of food depends upon production of food grains and its distribution, further the production of food grains depends upon several factors such as: access to fertile land, availability of labor, appropriate seeds, tools and climatic conditions etc. Alternatively, food purchases are affected by income of households and their assets as well as food availability and price in local markets. In emerging circumstances, other factors may come into concern including physical security and mobility, market integrity and access to land.

FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMMES IN INDIA

India is one of the few country across the globe which is committed to provide food security and to ensure food security and eliminate hunger from its population, government of India has initiated various social protection programs and the 'Food Security' is one of them. Food Security Programs are important tools to fight hunger and malnutrition. Some of the food security programs adopted in India are-

Public Distribution System (PDS)

The PDS in India is the largest distribution system with a network of more than 5 lakhs Fair Price Shops claiming to annually distributed commodities worth more than Rs. 15000 crore to about 16 crore families. 35 kg of wheat and rice have been procured by the government and distributed through PDS to about 6.5 crore BPL families on Rs. 4.2/kg for wheat and Rs. 5.6/kg for rice. The poorest 2.5 crore families get 35 kg of food grains at a highly subsidized rate of Rs. 2/kg for wheat and Rs. 3/kg for rice.

Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS)

The Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) scheme was launched on 2nd October, 1975 to ensure child nutrition. It operates through centers in Villages which are called Anganwadi, where local workers provide nutrition and health services. The ICDS represents world's largest and unique programs for early childhood care and development. It is for the children and nourishing nursing mothers, as an answer of the challenge of providing pre-school non-formal education on one hand and breaking the vicious circle of malnutrition, morbidity, reduced learning capacity and mortality. The scheme covers children of age group 0-6 years, pregnant women, and lactating mothers. The objectives of the scheme are to improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age of 0-6 years, to lay the foundation of proper mental, physical, and social development of the child, to reduce the incidence of mortality, malnutrition and school dropout, to achieve effective co-ordination of policy and implementation among the various departments to promote child development, and to enhance the capability of the mother to look after the normal health & nutrition needs of the child through proper nutrition and health education.

Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS)

The MDMS was launched on August, 1995 which is a centrally sponsored scheme by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Education) with the objective of "Universalization of primary education by increasing enrollment, retention, and attendance and simultaneously impacting on nutrition of students in primary classes". The students of class 1 to 5 in government elementary schools, elementary schools aided by government and primary schools run by local bodies are covered under this scheme.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

There is massive literature of food security; however literature on PDS explains the different dimensions of the program.

Anju Singh, Kalanand Singh and Asha Dubey (2011) in their study on "Management of Public Distribution System in India - An Arrangement for Food Security" observed that 70 percent of people living in villages and 40 percent of landless laborers, beside these 20 crores of the poor people are rural agricultural laborers. Food problems can be solved by the integration of the PDS with other anti-poverty programs like Antyodaya and other programs. The public distribution system is a vital program to ensure distributive justice to the weaker sections of the community. Lastly, it may be quote the line of Mother Theresa, "if we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other".

Bipin Kumar (2012) has examined food security and government initiative with the help of secondary data and has found that food security and socioeconomic development are closely related and the food security is strongly related to PDS that ensures distribution of food grains to the population.

H.C.L Das (2011) observed in the study of "Inevitability of Public Distribution System for Food Security in Bihar vis-à-vis India" that in India the need for a public distribution system as an effective instrument of price stabilization in the national economy was felt for the first time during the Second World War. The Food grains policy committee in 1943 recommended setting up of a procurement and rationing machinery by the government to meet the war time situation. With the current situation of price rise in food grains and general inflation accompanied by limited and low wage jobs, the role of the government for providing affordable food grains is extremely crucial. To be able to do so, food security needs to be maintained with efficient and universal public distribution of food grains. This requires adequate allocation of food grains for distribution under PDS economically and financially viable, programs to augment the purchasing power of the people.

Debes Mukhopadhyay (2011) in the study of "Public Distribution System - A Poor Delivery System" observed that right to food is a human right and denial of such right means denial of freedom. So this human right needs to be protected at any cost. Unfortunately, PDS/TPDS in India has jeopardized the food security to the target group not only in recent years but also in the early years of 2000 when the country had piled up colossal food stocks. The level of hunger and starvation is linked to this slapdash attempt of maintaining food security. The need of the hour is the universal PDS rather than TPDS. Livelihood security and right to food have to be the policy focus of any government in power.

Devendra Babu and Jayaramaiah (2007) in the joint study of "Food Security: Management of Public Distribution System in Karnataka" observed that there is strong case for PDS to be brought under the control of PRIs especially with the GPs. Presently its implementation and monitoring by the State Department leaves much to be desired. The district and Taluk administrators have their own limitations in devoting time to PDS. The problems afflicting the PDS are repetitive in nature. The families depending on PDS have lost faith in the bureaucratic administration. The public opinion as brought out elsewhere in this study favor Panchayats to take over the PDS administration.

Jha.N.C and Navendu Shekhar (2011) in the study entitled "Significance and Role of PDS in food security for downtrodden in Jharkhand" observed that in Jharkhand the PDS should have impressive coverage so that not a single poor if any category be left to get the proper benefit from different scheme which would be only possible if the PDS is efficient honest, up-to-date, modernize; poor friendly and free from all loop holes and corruption. If it were the reality we are not only sure but also confident that it would provide full food security to the BPL families of the state.

Kumari Sudama Yadav and Shabnam Parween (2010) in the joint study of "Management of Public Distribution System in Bihar: A Goal of Food Security" observed that the public distribution system is a vital program to ensure 'distributive justice' to the weaker sections of the

community. In actual practice through the micro analysis it is found to be less satisfactory. The defective procurement, unscientific management, consumer's dissatisfaction, vested interest and many other issues like wrong classification of cards, and malpractice has rendered the program less effective which is causing widening gap between promise and performance of a crucial public policy.

Mihika Chatterjee (2014) examined the performance of Public Distribution System and its impact on the concerning region in her paper "An Improved PDS in a 'Reviving' State: Food Security in Koraput, Udisha" using a sample of 793 households and highlighted three important points i.e. first distribution of food grains particularly rice, through the PDS has undergone vast improvements in the past five years, Second, households that are excluded from a fairly inclusive PDS are massively deprived, and third, the region where primary sources of livelihood are subsistence agriculture and casual labor, and where child under-nutrition is miserable, access to food grains is fundamentally important.

Ramesh Sharan (2013) has examined the food and hunger in Jharkhand on the basis of secondary data and has found that poverty and hunger are in alarming level in Jharkhand. Especially in remote tribal areas where the tribes are living in poverty and sleeping hungry. This situation shows the poor accessibility of food security in Jharkhand. He also found that 12 dist. Out of 22 dist., more than 50% of the population is estimated to be BPL and this percentage is higher in SCs population.

Ranjana Roy (2014) has examined the implications of nutritional security with the help of secondary data and has found that any improvement in nutritional status is not uniform across states. The status of nutritional status depends upon the performance of PDS. Better the performance of PDS, better will be the status of nutritional security.

Ranjana Singh (2010) in his paper on "Impact of the Public Distribution System on Poverty and Food Security" opined that there is a need to shift from the existing expensive inefficient and corruption ridden institutional arrangements to those that will ensure cheap delivery of requisite quality grains in a transparent manner and are self-targeting.

Ratan Lal Basu (2011) in the study of "Public Distribution System in India and Food Security" observed that the basic causes of food security in India lie not in supply failure but in declining income and employment in the unorganized sector and failure of the TPDS that excludes a large segment of the poor because of definitions and methods of implementation. So far as policy of introducing the TPDS is concerned, it may be said that the policy as such is not unsound but the real problem lies in the way it is implemented.

Shantanu Sahu (2012) has analyzed poverty, food security and state entitlements in Jharkhand with the help of primary data and has found that a specific section of the population called Savar has the high level of food insecurity. 68.98% households have the availability of two square meals a day throughout the year.

Swaminathan (2000) considered biological absorption of food in the body to recognize food security along with availability and access. In his views, availability is a function of production while access is conditioned by purchasing power and biological absorption is determined by the

availability of safe drinking water, Primary health care and environmental hygiene. Thus according to him non- food factors are as important for food security as food factors.

The objective of this paper is to analyze the impact of Public Distribution System (PDS) in food security in Jharkhand

FOOD SECURITY IN JHARKHAND

In Jharkhand Food Security Bill was mooted in 2013 and it came into force in the year 2015. Today Government has failed to combat food insecurity due to their inability to implement the 2013 Food Security Act among the PVTGs, which has become a threat to their mere existence. Most of the families belonged to PVTGs community actually doesn't have any type of ration cards which is necessary to have subsidized food grains.

The miserable condition of food security in Jharkhand can be seen on the basis of the Food Security Index (FSI) which says that Dhanbad is the only district which is food secure in the state. Furthermore, Chatra, Giridih and East-Singhbhum are severely food insecure in which Chatra and Giridih are suffering from all types of food insecurity while East-Singhbhum is severely insecure in food availability and extremely insecure in access to food indices despite this highly urbanized district is secure in outcome and moderately secure in food absorption.

Bokaro is another highly urbanized district but it is also food secure in terms of outcome but is insecure in all other indicators of food insecurity.

There are strong evidences that the state is one of the most food insecure states in the country. The malnutrition figures indicate affirms of nutritional emergency in the state. The reports of hunger deaths keep on appearing regularly in the newspapers. The important estimates have been made from NSS data, NFHS data and HUNGAMA (2011) report. As per the estimates by IFPRI, Jharkhand is classified as one of the states with very high levels of Hunger in terms of Hunger Index. The nutritional status of people in general and women and children in particular are very low in Jharkhand. Infant Mortality Rate has decreased from 54 (NFHS III, 2005-06) to 46 (NFHS IV) in rural tribal areas and when it comes exclusively for the nine PVTGs residing in Jharkhand, picture became a horrifying tale; diminished population is the evidence of this. The high infant mortality rate, less life expectancy, high prevalence of anemia is showing that the health status is not so good among the PVTGs. According to the report of NFHS IV, 88% of children belonged to PVTGs community are underweight in the state. 71.5 % children 6-59 months, 63.7% pregnant women, 67.5% all women of age 15-49 years are anemic (NFHS IV).

Public Distribution System in Jharkhand

Public Distribution System (PDS) ensures that the beneficiaries of food security schemes must enjoy easy access to food grains, sugar, salt, Kerosene Oil, etc. and that too at their doorsteps. PDS runs through PDS dealers who distribute food grains and other materials at their fair price shops to the beneficiaries as per the eligibility of their respective ration cards. Jharkhand has a very wide network of PDS dealers and fair price shops. There are 25,820 PDS dealers in the state which covers almost all the eligible beneficiaries in the state. Ranchi tops the list with 2,233 dealers and Lohardaga is the last with 406 dealers among the district-wise list of PDS dealers (Table-2).

Table-2: District wise No. of Distributors under PDS Scheme

| Serial Number | District | Number of Distributor |
|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | Bokaro | 1690 |
| 2 | Chatara | 911 |
| 3 | Devgarh | 1086 |
| 4 | Dhanbad | 1677 |
| 5 | Dumka | 1058 |
| 6 | East Singhbhum | 1524 |
| 7 | Garhwa | 979 |
| 8 | Giridih | 1916 |
| 9 | Godda | 1127 |
| 10 | Gumla | 822 |
| 11 | Hazaribag | 1457 |
| 12 | Jamtara | 681 |
| 13 | Koderma | 620 |
| 14 | Latehar | 597 |
| 15 | Lohardagga | 407 |
| 16 | Pakur | 750 |
| 17 | Palamu | 1677 |
| 18 | Ranchi | 2272 |
| 19 | Sahebganj | 1005 |
| 20 | Saraikela Kharsawan | 823 |
| 21 | Simdega | 512 |
| 22 | West Singhbhum | 1275 |
| 23 | khunti | 522 |
| 24 | Ramgarh | 670 |

Source: https://aahar.jharkhand.gov.in/district_reports/districtDealer

These numbers are quite consistent in contrast with the district-wise distribution the total number of card holders in the state where Lohardaga with 85,604 has the minimum number and Ranchi with 4, 51,031 has the maximum number of card holders. In Jharkhand, the total number of card holders is 56, 98,736 (Table-3)

Table-3: District wise Number of Ration Card holders in Jharkhand

| Serial Number | District | Number of Ration Card Holders |
|---------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Bokaro | 294352 |
| 2 | Chatara | 169370 |
| 3 | Devghar | 225164 |
| 4 | Dhanbad | 428266 |
| 5 | Dumka | 245855 |
| 6 | East Singhbhum | 342471 |
| 7 | Garhwa | 251633 |
| 8 | Giridih | 401621 |
| 9 | Godda | 233678 |
| 10 | Gumla | 163506 |
| 11 | Hazaribag | 311782 |
| 12 | Jamtara | 148399 |
| 13 | Koderma | 100646 |
| 14 | Latehar | 135427 |
| 15 | Lohardagga | 85604 |
| 16 | Pakur | 164477 |
| 17 | Palamu | 379722 |
| 18 | Ranchi | 51031 |
| 19 | Sahebganj | 196903 |
| 20 | Saraikela Kharsawan | 216199 |
| 21 | Simdega | 117935 |
| 22 | West Singhbhum | 342471 |
| 23 | khunti | 99350 |
| 24 | Ramgarh | 126586 |

Source: <https://aahar.jharkhand.gov.in>

Digitization of Ration Cards with UID seeding

To ensure the benefits of PDS to be reached the right person, in accurate quantity and at the right time, the state government is digitizing the ration cards with UID seeding and the distribution of digital weighing machines to the dealers. Out of 56,98,736 ration card holders which covers 2,62,45,579 members, 2,15,45,871 have been UID seeded and 1,92,03,941 have been UID verified.(Jharkhand Economic Survey-2018-19). During this process a total of 4,38,905 duplicate UID count has also been identified which is a significant achievement in sealing the leakages in PDS. The maximum number of duplicate UID count was found in Garhwa.

In Jharkhand, the Jharkhand State Food and Civil Supplies Corporation (JSFC) takes food grains from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) depots of the state and then food grains are delivered under the door step-

delivery system from JSFC godowns to the PDS or Fair Price Shops, from where they are distributed among the beneficiaries

At present Jharkhand has a total of 255 fully functional depots (which are very crucial to food security as they help ensuring continuous supply of food grains among the beneficiaries) with a storage capacity of more than 2.18 lakhs metric tons of food grains. The maximum number of depots are in Ranchi (21) followed by West Singhbhum (18), Dhanbad and Hazaribagh (15) at the second and third place. Table-4 shows the number of depots in the state and the proportional composition of the stock of rice, wheat, salt and sugar in the different districts of Jharkhand and it is clear that the proportion of rice is the maximum in all the districts.

Table-4: District wise and Depot wise Stocks of Rice, Wheat, Salt and Sugar as of 24-12-2018

| Serial Number | District | Number of Depots | Rice (Kg) | Wheat (Kg) | Salt (Kg) | Sugar (Kg) |
|---------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
| 1 | Bokaro | 9 | 14788299 | 4734382 | 56629 | 153699 |
| 2 | Chatara | 13 | 6784063 | 2326122 | 310241 | 136809 |
| 3 | Devghar | 10 | 1142165 | 499497 | 226664 | 266531 |
| 4 | Dhanbad | 15 | 19935482 | 1014623 | 693370 | 948513 |
| 5 | Dumka | 14 | 14722655 | 4402126 | 125911 | 29082 |
| 6 | East Singhbhum | 13 | 20152203 | 6549328 | 272342 | 102342 |
| 7 | Garhwa | 11 | 2054328 | 429297 | 290525 | 455628 |
| 8 | Giridih | 14 | 7739162 | 1368587 | 219172 | 240892 |
| 9 | Godda | 9 | 2206856 | 318263 | 202819 | 79413 |
| 10 | Gumla | 13 | 8656828 | 598867 | 20500 | 141266 |
| 11 | Hazaribag | 15 | 7429244 | 573158 | 8273 | 7007 |
| 12 | Jamtara | 10 | 2430507 | 604031 | 51251 | 3112 |
| 13 | Koderma | 6 | 9382994 | 991835 | 307100 | 465285 |
| 14 | Latehar | 7 | 5611479 | 502470 | 5956 | 75006 |
| 15 | Lohardagga | 5 | 1540768 | 413079 | 187623 | 93551 |
| 16 | Pakur | 6 | 11564373 | 391140 | 60550 | 95072 |
| 17 | Palamu | 14 | 10508006 | 745272 | 546464 | 333633 |
| 18 | Ranchi | 21 | 6548042 | 666960 | 258957 | 392398 |
| 19 | Sahebganj | 9 | 16207998 | 102936 | 88217 | 97913 |
| 20 | Saraikela Kharsawan | 8 | 3817253 | 745371 | 210370 | 411459 |
| 21 | Simdega | 6 | 5432636 | 619759 | 142120 | 22750 |
| 22 | West Singhbhum | 18 | 2397945 | 502154 | 111052 | 70405 |
| 23 | khunti | 5 | 2924031 | 607613 | 58532 | 100484 |
| 24 | Ramgarh | 4 | 2248100 | 691267 | 144933 | 105346 |
| | Total | 255 | 186225417 | 30398137 | 4599571 | 4827594 |

Source: <https://aahar.jharkhand.gov.in>

As on December 2018, the depots in the state have a stock of more than 1,49,713.54 metric tons of rice, 23,843.30 metric tonsof wheat, 4,586.98metric tons of salt and 4,846.60 metric tonsof sugar to meet the requirements of various welfare schemes in the state. Thus more than 83.73% of the existing storage capacity is currently occupied by the current stocks.

Subsidies to Public Distribution system (PDS)

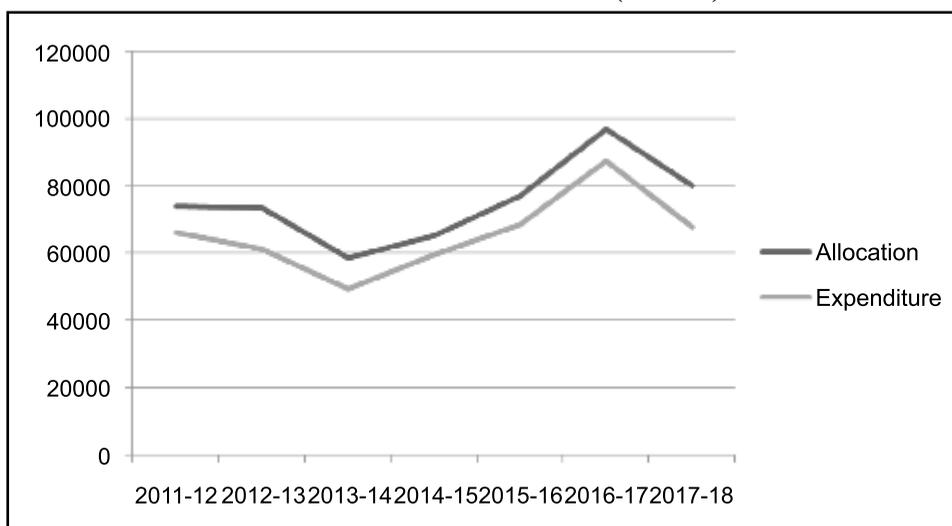
Ensuring food security by providing adequate nutritious food to the poor free of cost or at negligible price is not possible without government subsidies. To ensure food security in the state,the government of Jharkhand has made sure that funds will not be the problem in procuringadequate nutritious food to the poor. In Financial Year 2011-12, the total allocation was Rs. 737.44 crores which increased to 800.50 crores in Financial Year 2017-18 with an average rate of more than 8.5% per annum. An annual-trend-analysis of the allocation and expenditure of subsidies for PDS is given in Figure-1 and the Table-5 shows the utilization of funds has consistently remained at more than 80% which is quite appreciable.

Table-5: Detail of Subsidy for the Public Distribution System in Jharkhand

| Financial Year | Allocation (in lakhs) | Expenditure (in lakhs) | Utilization in % |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| 2011-12 | 73744.51 | 66102.81 | 89.64 |
| 2012-13 | 73410.02 | 61282.55 | 83.49 |
| 2013-14 | 58426.85 | 49398.68 | 84.55 |
| 2014-15 | 65057.88 | 59453.03 | 91.38 |
| 2015-16 | 76962.30 | 68641.90 | 89.19 |
| 2016-17 | 96885.00 | 87431.14 | 90.24 |
| 2017-18 | 80050.01 | 67823.10 | 84.73 |

Source: <https://aahar.jharkhand.gov.in>

Figure-1: Trends in the Allocation & Expenditure of Subsidies for PDS in Jharkhand (in lakhs)



source: As above (table-5)

National Food Security Act (NFSA)

NFSA is an act which ensures near universal foodgrain coverage for poor sections of the society and it has been operational in Jharkhand since October, 2015. The Act allows Jharkhand to insulate its 86.4 per cent population in the rural areas and 60.4 per cent in the urban areas from starvation. Initially, about 33 lakhs BPL/Antyodaya families and 16 lakhs more families from the lower strata of erstwhile APL category as priority category taking it to total 51.70 lakh families were covered under this scheme and this number is now more than 57 lakhs. Antyodaya families are getting 35 kg of grain while priority families get 5 kg of grain per head at the rate of Re 1 per kg.

STATUS OF SOME ACTIVE FOOD SECURITY SCHEMES IN JHARKHAND

There are some central sponsored, state sponsored and central & state sponsored schemes active in Jharkhand to reduce the food insecurity in the state by attacking the problem in a general as well as in surgical manner.

Priority Household Scheme (PHS): Every person belonging to priority households, will be entitled to receive 5 kg of food-grains per person per month at subsidized prices from the ration shops not exceeding 3 Rs per kg of rice, 2 Rs per kg of wheat and 1 Rs per kg for coarse grains..The scheme under the NFSA-2013 is running well in the state. A total number of 47.89 lakhs households is receiving benefits under this scheme. The monthly allocations of food grains to the state government for this scheme are 100085.145 metric tons of rice and 12776.300 MT of wheat respectively.

Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY): Under AAY, 35 kg rice/wheat per family per month is distributed to the Antyodaya families at the subsidized rate of Rs. 1.00 per kg. At present the total number of targeted antyodaya families stands at 9, 09, 341.

Annapurna Yojana (AY): The scheme is meant for those who are above 60 years of age and who are eligible for Indira Gandhi National old Age Pension Scheme but not getting the benefits. Under this scheme 10 Kg of rice per beneficiary every month is distributed free of cost to 54, 939 persons. This scheme is fully sponsored by the central government and the allotment of the required amount of rice for the first six months in FY 2018-19 has already been made to the state government.

Mukhyamantri Dal-BhatYojana:This scheme is launchedfor the BPL families.Under this scheme, BPL families get Dal, Bhat and Sabji at the rate of Rs 5 per plate at railway stations, bus stands, hospitals and public places.377 Dal-Bhat centers are running in the state and providing one meal at Rs. 5 only to the poor people. At present only 12 Dal-Bhat centers are running at night.

Pradhanmantri Ujjawala Yojana: This central scheme runs in coordination with the state government to provide free LPG connections to the families covered under Socio-Economic and Cast Census (SECC) data. In this scheme the state needs to provide the variable amount for gas stove and first gas refill per connection. From FY 2016-17 till date, a total number of 23.73 lakh connections have been distributed under this scheme in the state.

National Food Security Compliant Redressal: A proper mechanism needs to be evolved for the proper monitoring, supervision and redressal of the grievances under NFSA. For this purpose, Call Centers, Help Lines, DGRO, State Food Commission, etc. have been established.

Distribution of Digital Weighing Machine to PDS Dealers: There is a proposal to provide digital weighing machines to PDS shops to stop pilferage in the distribution of food grains and to ensure that the beneficiaries get a proper quantity of the same. In Financial Year 2017-18 the PDS shops of Ranchi District and Anubhajan of Dhanbad and Jamshedpur have been provided this machine on pilot-basis.

Skill Development Scheme: Training and Workshop for the officials for capacity building and efficiency-enhancement the successful implementation of NFSA are important. Consumer awareness which is presently very poor in the state seeks attention and several provisions have already made to enhance it. Funds have been allocated to educate and empower consumers about their rights and duties. Several media like print and electronic media, banners and hoardings, trade fares and exhibitions, seminars and workshops, etc. are to be used for this purpose.

PVTG Dakiya Scheme: It is an innovative scheme of the Jharkhand government, started from April 2017, aims at providing food grains to the Primitive Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) population. Under this scheme, a PVTG family is provided 35 Kg of food grains free of cost.

Subsidies to some of the Popular Food Security Schemes: In ensuring food security in the state, Schemes like Antyodaya Ann Yojna (AAY), Annapurna Yojana (AY), Primary Household Scheme (PHS), Salt Distribution scheme (SDS), etc. are playing a key role. Accordingly, these schemes have been awarded with sufficient funds in terms of subsidies in the state. Figure-1.7 shows the amount of subsidies allocated with their utilization percentage of AAY, PHS, AY and SDS from Financial Year 2011-12 to 2017-18. In case of AAY the utilization percentage has remained within 86% to 96%. The utilization-rate in PHS is currently 87% and in the last financial year it was more than 97%. Similarly, the utilization-rate for AY and SDS is 47% and 61% respectively in the current financial year.

CONCLUSION

In the present environment, the socio-economic development of a country/state is closely related to the food security provided/ensured to its population. It is a crucial tool for improving human development, rural health and women empowerment. PDS is playing a vital role for the better procurement of adequate nutritious food to the poor. The accessibility and availability aspects of food security strongly depend upon the efficiency of the PDS. No doubt the Public Distribution System in Jharkhand is improving from late 2000s onwards. The different central, state and central-state both sponsored schemes and programmes are helping PDS in improving its efficiency, the allocation for PDS is greater than its expenditure from 2011-12 in covering 26,263,172 families in the state with 2,62,45,579 people in the state of Jharkhand out of its total population in the state which depicts that there is an improvement in the efficiency and accessibility of PDS in Jharkhand.

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