

UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
BAHADUR SHAH ZAFAR MARG
NEW DELHI - 110 002

FINAL REPORT OF THE WORK DONE ON THE PROJECT

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| 3. UGC APPROVAL NO. AND DATE | File No: 23-2831/11(WRO) dated
25/01/2012 |
| 4. DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION | 01/04/ 2012 |
| 5. TENURE OF THE PROJECT | April 2012 to August 2013 |
| 6. TOTAL GRANT ALLOCATED | 65,000 |
| 7. TOTAL GRANT RECEIVED | 47,500 |
| 8. FINAL EXPENDITURE | 67,789 |
| 9. TITLE OF THE PROJECT | “An Empirical study of Public Distribution System and problems of FPS owners in Gondia District (2007-2012)” |

10. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

- 1) To study the working and benefits derived out of PDS
- 2) To study the socio-economic conditions of rural population brought under PDS
- 3) To study the problems in running Fair Price Shops in Gondia District
- 4) To study the relative gains from PDS in Gondia District
- 5) To study the problems relating to the implementations of the PDS
- 6) To study the urban-rural differences in the working of the PDS.
- 7) To study the tribal and non-tribal differences in the working of PDS

11. WHETHER OBJECTIVES WERE ACHIEVED (GIVE DETAILS)

Details of objectives are as given below.

1. Working of PDS in the research is satisfactory. Beneficiaries are getting the
http://nmdcgondia.org/mrpfile/Dr._samit_Mahore.pdf

subsidized food from the fair price shop. Those people are from rural poor areas are more benefited

2. Gondia is not more developed district compare to other district in Maharashtra as well as Vidarbha. More than 70% of the district population is living in rural area. Most of the people are working in agriculture and related sector. So they are regularly purchasing food items from the FPS.
3. FPS owners are facing the problem in the district. Their implementation cost is increasing. They are getting very less amount as commission. So it is very difficult to fulfil the needs of the family within the income received from FPS.
4. Overall gains received from the PDS are more in respect of the no. of cardholders in the district. No. of cardholders are increased in the district compare to subsequent years.
5. Similarly FPS owners implementation cost is also increased for the district. From the given data it is cleared that cost of running FPS has increased in last six-seven years.
6. Rural urban differences are found in the working of PDS in the district. PDS is more effective in rural areas compare to urban areas of the district.
7. Gondia district is known as tribal area. But while working on the PDS it not found major difference regarding PDS in the district. Tribal beneficiaries are also equally benefited.

12. ACHIEVEMENTS FROM THE PROJECT

Main objective of the study is to find out the working of PDS in Gondia District. It is found that for poor people, who are working on daily wages, it is very difficult to purchase food items from open market. They are unable to fulfil basic need of their family. PDS is benefited to this class of the people. At the end of the study it is found that that PDS is benefiting most of the peoples who are living below poverty line. But those people who are not actually coming in baskets of PDS but getting similar benefits from the PDS. There is a need to undertake the property of the people while issuing the PDS card. Income should not be only one criterion to issue a card.

13. SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS

Present study is restricted to Gondia district only. Total 390 samples of beneficiaries from the different areas of the district are collected through pre-structured scheduled. On the basis of the collected primary data Some important findings are given below

There is a gap between average requirement of food-grains of households and distributed food-grain items from FPS in the district. All the households have higher requirement, per month for all items i.e. rice, wheat, sugar and kerosene. Requirement of the households were doubled in the district. The present research work has clearly indicated that the off-take of sugar from the FPS has completely

stopped. All the respondents have showed different interest in purchasing items from FPS. Only Rice, wheat and kerosene have been purchased regularly but as per the respondents requirement sugar is not supplied to them.

There are many reasons for non-regular purchase of rice and wheat. Some of them are - i) non- distribution or irregular distribution, ii) poor quality of items, iii) non-availability of information, iv) lack of purchasing power at a point of time, v) shop remain closed, vi) non-allotment of PDS items to APL households etc. These reasons showed poor functioning of PDS network for wheat and rice in the district.

Wrong distribution of PDS cards is also found a major problem in the district. Many income poor families have not been distributed cards. Some Below Poverty Line families have yellow cards, which are meant for Above Poverty Line families. Non-poor families have white cards, which are meant for those people who are not able to get any subsidies food from FPS.

Households in the sample were not aware of PDS working. The households even in the urban areas have not confirmed the actual price of rice and wheat.

It is also found that most of the households are not aware about this information. Most of the FPS owners have displayed only one board in the Fair Price Shop mentioning name and registration number.

Most of the households have expressed satisfaction for FPS owners. Some of the respondents told that the FPS owners follow scheduled time only in operating the shops rather than distributing the food-grains and other commodities. Most of the FPS owners have expressed satisfaction with the cardholders. There are minor differences relating to satisfaction about the working of FPSs according to time period.

Some of the FPS owners agreed that they have been allotted less quotas. Hence, it is very difficult for them to distribute full quota to the cardholders. FPS owners are getting less commission from the distribution of limited quotas. So it is very difficult for them to manage direct and indirect costs of operating the Fair Price Shop.

Most of the PDS cardholders are from Labour class. It is very difficult for them to purchase ration from PDS. Therefore, there is a need to universalize the entire PDS system. So the cardholder be allowed to purchase their PDS quota from Fair Price Shop as per their convenient time.

14. CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOCIETY

Public Distribution System can be regarded a one of the most important stable elements of India's food policy since independence. Started with the objective of assuring the supply side in periods of wars related shortage, it graduated into a welfare concept in 1970s and presently it works with the triple objective of welfare of vulnerable groups, despite its universal application, price stabilization and ensuring partial Food Security. Effectiveness of any Public Distribution System will depend on the size/volume of supplies which could be made available for the poor and needy people. Present study gives the details of working of PDS in the district. This study shows the relative gains from PDS to the beneficiaries and FPS owners in the district. It also gives the suggestions for the improvement and proper implementation of the PDS in the district.

Rather than above achievement of the PDS here are some draw backs also. All the BPL beneficiaries are not coming in the below poverty line as per the government norms. But they want to be below the poverty line to avail the benefits given by the Government. So it is discourage to the working condition of the labour class.

15. WHETHER ANY PH.D. ENROLLED/PRODUCED OUT OF THE PROJECT :

No.

16. NO. OF PUBLICATIONS OUT OF THE PROJECT: **Not yet.**



(Dr. Samit L. Mahore)
Signature of the Principal Investigator



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