



## PERFORMANCE OF PDS IN KARAIKAL DISTRICT – A MICRO ANALYSIS

### KEYWORDS

SHG, PDS, CORRUPTION.

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### ABSTRACT

This article discuss about the performance of public distribution system. Corruption means the state of being bad and dishonest, especially in matters concerning money. It creates a very impact to the country's education, occupation, living style and mostly the humanity. This study has been conducted through Self Help Groups in Karaikal District, Union Territory of Puducherry. The Researcher has undergone this study by adopting research techniques. This article main purpose is to study about the functioning of the Public Distribution System, economic status of the respondents' and quality offered through the PDS. This article outlines about the corruption took place in PDS and how it may spoil the standard of living of the people. This article also provides suggestions to improve the PDS in India.

### INTRODUCTION:

PDS also has become a cornerstone of government development policy and is tried to implementation of most rural development programs. PDS is also a key driver of public sentiment and is an important and very visible metric of government performance. One of the main problems with this system is the inefficiency in the targeting of beneficiaries and the resulting leakage of subsidies. Several opportunities to manipulate the system exist with widespread collusion across the supply chain.

Corruption means the state of being bad and dishonest, especially in matters concerning money. It creates a very impact to the country's education, occupation, living style and mostly the humanity.

Corruption is a cause of serious concern for the people of India. Since, it is adversely affecting the aspects of their life- social, spiritual, political, economical, educational, and moral. It is spreading like tumour in all systems and administrations. Hence, it is a responsibility on every citizen of India to make our country free of corruption.

### CHALLENGES TO PDS

There are many systemic challenges that plague the PDS system today:

**1) PDS Leverages-** The PDS currently suffers from a number of issues that make it difficult for it to meet its objective of ensuring that the allotted quota of specified food articles reaches the intended underprivileged/ needy segments of society:

A large number of families living below the poverty line have not been enrolled and therefore do not have access to ration cards.

A number of bogus ration cards which do not correspond to real families, exist in the BPL & AAY categories. Food drawn on the basis of these bogus cards is a significant leakage from the system, as it does not reach the intended beneficiaries. Additionally, these extra cards inflate the number of BPL and AAY cards in circulation and further reduce the amount of food available to every rightful beneficiary family.

A number of instances where benefits are being availed in the names of rightfully entitled families without their knowledge. This shadow ownership is possible due to inefficiencies in ration card issuance and distribution.

Errors in categorization of families that lead to BPL families getting APL cards and vice versa.

**2) Scale and Quality of issue-** The scale of issue and the quality of food grains delivered to the quality of food grains delivered to the beneficiary is rarely in conformity with the policy. Many FPS are open only for a few days in a month and beneficiaries who do not visit the FPS on these days are denied their right. The FPS also use multiple excuses to both charge higher rates and deliver reduced quantity of food grains.

There are also significant differences in the manner in which the Centre and States arrive at higher numbers of BPL families. This mismatch usually means lower allotments for each family as sates arrive at higher numbers of BPL families.

**3) System Transparency and Accountability-** The most serious flaw plaguing the system at present is the lack of transparency and accountability in its functioning. The system lacks transparency and accountability at all levels making monitoring the system extremely difficult.

**4) Grievance Redressal Mechanisms-** There is numerous entities like Vigilance Committee, Anti-Hoarding Cells constituted to ensure smooth functioning of the PDS system. Their impact is virtually non-existent on the ground and as a result, malpractices abound to the great discomfiture of the common man.

Apart from the challenges described, transportation of food grains and appointment of dealers of Fair Price Shops have also become difficult issues. Viability of the FPS is already a major concern and this would get amplified once PDS leakages are brought under control.

### SELF-HELP GROUPS:

Self-help groups are generally facilitated by NGOs, and increasingly advise and train members in a variety of on- and

off-farm income-generating activities. Indeed, in a number of recent projects, NGOs were substituted by trained facilitators and animators drawn from self-help groups. Through promoting self-help group, IFAD-funded projects have contributed to improving the overall status of women in terms of income, empowerment, welfare, etc.

#### NUMBER OF RATION SHOPS IN THE COUNTRY

The total number of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in the country as reported by States/Union Territories (UTs) upto 30.6.2011 are 5,05,879. The State wise number is as follows:

#### STATE-WISE NUMBER OF FAIR PRICE SHOPS (As on 30.06.2011)

S.No.	State/UT	Number of Fair Price Shops
1	Andhra Pradesh	43615
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1568
3	Assam	34053
4	Bihar	44480
5	Chhattisgarh	10400
6	Delhi	2508
7	Goa	501
8	Gujarat	16689
9	Haryana	9362
10	Himachal Pradesh	4404
11	Jammu & Kashmir	5492
12	Jharkhand	14395
13	Karnataka	20475
14	Kerala	14245
15	Madhya Pradesh	20688
16	Maharashtra	50555
17	Manipur	2551
18	Meghalaya	4110
19	Mizoram	1244
20	Nagaland	241
21	Orissa	28744
22	Punjab	14348
23	Rajasthan	22830
24	Sikkim	1414
25	Tamil Nadu	32265
26	Tripura	1586
27	Uttar Pradesh	73004
28	Uttarakhand	8697
29	West Bengal	20251
30	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	481
31	Chandigarh	22
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	77
33	Daman & Diu	51
34	Lakshadweep	35
35	Puducherry	498
	Total:	505879

#### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To study about the economic status of the self-help groups.

- To identify the problems faced by the respondents towards functioning of the PDS.
- To study about the quantity & quality of the goods provided by the government is sufficient to run the family.

#### RESEARCH DESIGN

Research Design is always considered as the "Blueprint" of research. The researcher has selected descriptive type of design for the research. The descriptive design would describe in detail about the functioning of FPS, quality and quantity is sufficient and corruption through selling in the black market.

#### UNIVERSE AND SAMPLING

The researcher has collected the information from the Municipal Office, Karaikal. The total universe of sampling is 750nos. The sampling technique adopted for the study is Census Method.

#### TOOLS OF DATA COLLECTION

The tool adopted for data collection is Interview Schedule. The reason is because most of the respondents are not well versed in their education. Thus, the researcher has undergone data collection through interview method.

#### Analysis of the Study:

**TABLE NO. 1**  
**TABLE SHOWING ABOUT THE AGE OF THE RESPONDENTS**

Sl.No	Age of the respondents	No. Of respondents	Percentage of the respondents
1.	18-30	10	10%
2.	31-40	50	50%
3.	43-53	32	32%
4.	Above 55	08	8%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table reveals about the age of the respondents. Nearly half of the respondents are in the age group of 31-40 years. 32% of them belong to the age group of 43-53 years. 10% of them stand in the age group of 18-30 years. Only 8% of the respondents are in the age group of above 55. It shows that majority of them are in the middle age group, they may participate and involve in the SHG activities with full involvement.

**TABLE NO. 2**  
**TABLE SHOWING ABOUT THE EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION OF THE RESPONDENTS**

Sl.No	Education qualification of the respondents	No. Of respondents	Percentage of the respondents
1.	Primary	66	66%
2.	Secondary	10	10%
3.	Higher secondary	-	-
4.	Graduation & above	04	04%
5.	Illiterate	20	20%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table clearly indicates that most {66%} of the respondents are at primary level of education. 20% of them are illiterate, 10% of them are studied upto secondary level and only 4% of them at graduation and above level. It reveals that nearly 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of them are educated at primary level. This shows that they are not sound in education.

Diagram-1 represents the occupation of the respondents

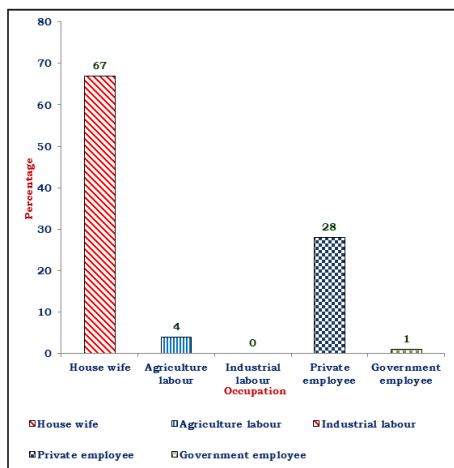


TABLE NO. 3  
TABLE SHOWING ABOUT THE FAMILY INCOME OF THE RESPONDENTS

Sl.No	Family income of the respondents	No. Of respondents	Percentage of the respondents
1.	Below - 6000	48	48%
2.	6001 – 12000	24	24%
3.	12001 – 18000	7	7%
4.	18000 & above	22	22%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table shows that 48% of the respondent's family income is below 6000. 24% of the respondent's income is 6001-12000. 22% of their family income is 18000&above and 7% are earning 12001-18000 per month. It reveals that financially the respondents are not so sound.

TABLE NO. 4  
TABLE SHOWING ABOUT THE PROBLEM'S FACING BY THE RESPONDENTS UNDER PDS

Sl.No	Problem facing by the respondents	No. Of respondents	Percentage of the respondents
1.	Poor quality	47	47%
2.	No customer service	27	27%
3.	Duplicate cards	5	5%
4.	Irregular supply	8	8%
5.	Insufficient quantity	13	13%
6.	Other reason	-	-
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

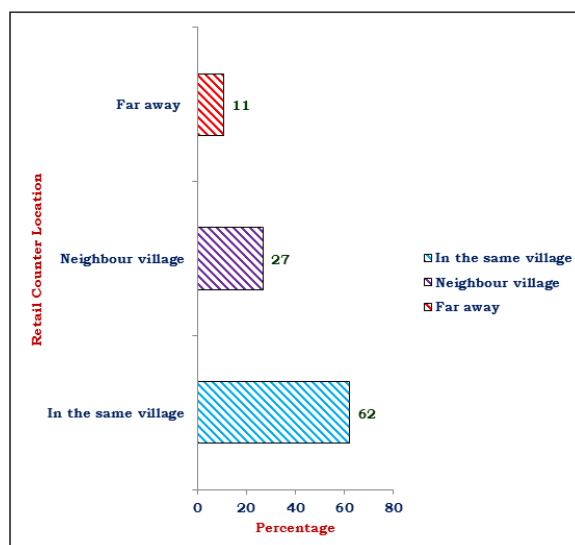
The above table enumerates that 47% of the respondents are facing problem in PDS for poor quality of goods. 27% are not happy with the customer service. 13% of the respondents are not satisfied with quantity of good. 8% are facing the problem because of irregular supply. And 5% are facing problem due to duplication of cards. It denotes that majority of the respondents are complained about poor quality of goods.

TABLE NO. 5  
TABLE SHOWING ABOUT THE ITEMS REQUIRED TO INCLUDE IN THE FPS

Sl.No	Items wants to be included in fps	No. Of respondents	Percentage of the respondents
1.	Dhal	37	37%
2.	Edible oil	11	11%
3.	Chilly	-	-
4.	All grocery items	52	52%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table shows that 52% of the respondents want to include all grocery items in FPS. 37% of them want dhal in their FPS list and 11% of the respondents want edible oil. It indicates that all the respondents want to include more items in FPS.

DIAGRAM-2  
BAR DIAGRAM SHOWING ABOUT THE RETAIL COUNTER LOCATION



The above diagram analyze about the location of FPS. 62% of the respondents responded that their retail counter in the same village. 27% of them told that it is located in their neighbor village and 11% of them opined that it is located in far away. This table reveals that 38% are having very difficult to buy the goods by going to outside of their village.

TABLE NO. 6  
TABLE SHOWING ABOUT THE SHG'S ROLE IN PDS

Sl.No	SHG'S part in PDS	No. Of respondents	Percentage of the respondents
1.	Customer	52	52%
2.	Inform other members about material available	32	32%
3.	Monitoring the activities of FPS	26	26%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

By analyzing the table, 52% of SHG members are acting as customer in FPS, 32% are informing others about the material available in FPS and 26% are monitoring the FPS. By analyzing overall, the SHG members are playing a crucial role towards the activities of FPS.

**TABLE NO. 7**  
**TABLE SHOWING ABOUT THE SUGGESTIONS TO IMPROVE PDS**

Sl.No	Suggestion to improve PDS	No. Of respondents	Percentage of the respondents
1.	Duplication of cards should be avoided	25	25%
2.	Black market should be eliminated	41	41%
3.	Materials supplied in time	34	34%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table clearly indicates that 41% of the respondents want to improve PDS by eliminating the materials sold in black market, 34% are suggested to supply goods in time and 25% are wants to avoid duplication of cards. The table denotes that nearly 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of the materials are not supplied to the beneficiaries, due to sell in black market and duplication of cards.

**TABLE NO. 8**  
**TABLE SHOWING ABOUT THE OPINION OF FPS ACTIVITIES**

Sl. No	Opinion of FPS activities	No. Of respondents	Percentage of the respondents
1.	Highly satisfied	-	-
2.	Dissatisfied	49	49%
3.	Satisfied	46	46%
4.	No comment	5	5%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

By analyzing the above table 49% of the respondents are dissatisfied with FPS activities, 46% are satisfied and 5% of the respondent are not interested to give any opinion about the FPS activities. It shows more than 50% of the respondents are totally dissatisfied with the activities of FPS.

**TABLE NO. 9**  
**TABLE SHOWING ABOUT THE REASON FOR DISSATISFACTION**

Sl. No.	Reason for dissatisfaction	No. Of respondents	Percentage of the respondents
1.	Poor quality	20	20%
2.	Measurement is wrong	18	18%
3.	Timely not provided	11	11%
4.	No opinion	51	51%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>

By analyzing the above table, 20% of the respondents expressed that supplied good is very poor, 18% of the respondents told that measurement is wrong for the goods supplied in FPS and 11% of them told that it is not provided in time.

**TABLE NO. 10**  
**TABLE SHOWING ABOUT THE SUGGESTION TO IMPROVE FPS**

Sl.No	Suggestion to improve FPS	No. Of respondents	Percentage of the respondents
1.	Electronic weight machine	46	46%
2.	SMS alert	54	54%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table reveals that 54% of the respondents want to send SMS about the material available in the shop and 46% are suggested to place electronic weigh machine.

### SUGGESTIONS

The researcher has put forth certain recommendations to improve the Public Distribution system without corruption. The recommendations are:

- Delivery of Stocks to FPSs should be on actual weigh measurement to the public.
- Retail price at FPSs should be uniform throughout the state/area after weight-averaging the transport cost for the FPS.
- Regular supply of good quality grains has to be ensured.
- To find out the right family for BPL Card holders and improvement in its design and durability.
- FPS doorstep delivery of PDS commodities.
- Enlarging the basket of PDS commodities to enhance its utility as also to improve economic viability of FPSs.
- Introduction of a more effective Management Information System.
- A number of new FPS to be opened so that physical access of beneficiaries is improved;

### CONCLUSION

Respondents gave positive feedback about the functioning of the Fair Price Shops in terms of timing and opening but were largely dissatisfied with the attitude of the distributors. Another problem was the deficiency of cash at the time of purchase. Everybody was interested in buying the commodities from Fair Price Shops but lacked the means. Another complaint that persisted within both the groups was about the quality of grains that was provided to them. It was unanimously agreed that the quality of the product ranged from poor to average and was a major reason for switching over to open markets. This call for attention from the stakeholders at different levels to ensure that the quality of the product is maintained as it is has been found to directly relate to the utilization of commodities.

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