



An Analytical Study of Socio-Economic Status of Beneficiaries of Public Distribution System

- **With Special Reference to Mysore Taluk of Mysuru District**

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Abstract

Food security refers to a situation when ‘all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life’. The paper has try to analysed the significance of Public Distribution System in rural area. Similarly, this study describe the social and economic status of PDS beneficiaries.

Keywords: PDS, Ration cards, Percentage, Food Security.

Introduction

The Public Distribution System (PDS) of India plays a crucial role in reducing food insecurity by acting as a safety net by distributing essentials at a subsidised rate. While the PDS forms a cornerstone of government food and nutrition policy, India continues to be home to a large population of hungry and malnourished people. This review seeks to explore the functioning and efficiency of the PDS in achieving food and nutritional security in India. The Government of Karnataka has distributed 1.6 Crore ration cards while the total number of families in the state itself are 1.2 Crore which means there are nearly 40 lakh ghost and ineligible cards.

Literature Review

NeetuAbey George and Fiona H. McKay(2019),explained in their article of “The Public Distribution System and Food Security in India”, review seeks to explore the functioning and efficiency of the PDS in achieving food and nutritional security in India. This review draws attention to the lack of published literature in areas of PDS and food security in India. The



findings of the review emphasise the role of PDS in tackling hunger and malnutrition while highlighting its limited role in improving food security and childhood mortality due to operational inefficiencies. The PDS has the potential to act as a solution to food insecurity in India if the operational inefficiencies and environmental footprints are addressed by adequate policy reforms.

ReetikaKhera(2011), in his paper titled “India's Public Distribution System: Utilisation and Impact” explained thatthe effectiveness of India's Public Distribution System (PDS) as a food security intervention, using field survey data collected by the author in Rajasthan. Utilisation is low, and many households purchase wheat from the market at higher prices before exhausting PDS quotas. This ‘puzzle of under-purchase’ is analysed by extending the dual-pricing model to account for supply-side (for example, diversion) and demand-side (for example, transaction costs) constraints. Primary and secondary data as well as field observations suggest that under-purchase is mainly due to supply constraints.

AnjanaThampi(2017), in his article “The Impact of the Public Distribution System in India”, described that the PDS has had a significant impact on the longer-term nutritional indicator in three of the four functioning states and on the short-term indicator in two reviving states. This indicates that the revival has begun to translate into nutritional gains and catch-up growth of children in some states. Two sets of indicators were used to understand the mechanisms through which these gains were attained. One considered the dependence on the calories provided by PDS commodities; this showed a high dependence on PDS for sufficient intake of calories in functioning states and increasing dependence in certain reviving states. The second indicator was an index of dietary variety. This followed a pattern of higher dietary diversity in beneficiary households in most of the functioning and reviving states. These are encouraging results which offer scope for further reforms.

NeetuAbey George and Fiona H Mckay(2019), in their article titled “The Public Distribution System and Food Security in India” explained The Public Distribution System (PDS) of India plays a crucial role in reducing food insecurity by acting as a safety net by distributing essentials at a subsidised rate. While the PDS forms a cornerstone of government food and nutrition policy,



India continues to be home to a large population of hungry and malnourished people. This review seeks to explore the functioning and efficiency of the PDS in achieving food and nutritional security in India. A comprehensive and systematic search using the key terms “food insecurity” OR “food security” AND “Public Distribution System” OR “PDS” OR “TPDS” AND “India” identified 23 articles which met the inclusion criteria. This review draws attention to the lack of published literature in areas of PDS and food security in India. The findings of the review emphasise the role of PDS in tackling hunger and malnutrition while highlighting its limited role in improving food security and childhood mortality due to operational inefficiencies. The PDS has the potential to act as a solution to food insecurity in India if the operational inefficiencies and environmental footprints are addressed by adequate policy reforms.

Pallavi Pathak, TapanGope, Nadine Bader(2020) in their article “Effect of COVID-19 on public distribution system in India”, explained that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused the whole world to face an economic crisis and hence putting people even more at risk of food insecurity; supply chain setup has been disrupted severely due to numerous transport restrictions. There is a need for various components of government machinery to work in complete synergy for aligning services, making provision for supplies and arranging means of delivery to the citizens. This review gives an understanding about the food security situation in India, problem faced by the citizens, in particular the poor and vulnerable population, small and marginal farmers during the COVID-19 pandemic. It also analyses the steps taken by the government of India to address the food security challenges during COVID-19. We have discussed the importance of macrolevel thinking and various measures that can be taken to strengthen public distribution system in India. We have also discussed policies to support the small and marginal farmers, wage laborers, and migrant workers.

Objectives

1. To understand the concept and importance of Public Distribution System in general.
2. To analyse the socio-economic condition of beneficiaries of Public Distribution System in particular.



Methodology of Study

The study is based on both primary and secondary information. The primary information has collected through questionnaire. In this study 30 respondents are selected in case study area. The case study area is Mysuru taluk of Mysuru district, Karnataka, India. The variables like gender, age, category, education, employment and income are chosen. Similarly, the secondary data has derived by thesis, reputed journal, government reports and internet sources. The percentage method has been used for discussion and nature of study in descriptive nature.

Concept and importance of PDS

Public distribution system is a government-sponsored chain of shops entrusted with the work of distributing basic food and non-food commodities to the needy sections of the society at very cheap prices. Wheat, rice, kerosene, sugar, etc. It is an instrument for ensuring availability of certain essential commodities at easily affordable prices especially for the poor. The Government via the Food Corporation of India (FCI) procures and stocks food grains which are released every month for distribution through the **Public Distribution System (PDS)**.

The following are the advantages of the public distribution system:

1. It has helped in stabilising food prices and making food available to consumers at affordable prices.
2. It has helped in avoiding hunger and famine by supplying food from surplus regions of the country to deficient regions.
3. The system of minimum support price and procurement has contributed to increase in foodgrain production.

A Case Study of Mysore Taluk of Mysuru District

Mysuru city is the headquarters and spread across various taluks, namely Mysuru, TirumakudaluNarasipura, Nanjangud, HeggadaDevanaKote, Hunsur, Piriapatna, Krishna Raja Nagara, Saragur and Saligrama. 8,06,966 ration card are distributed in Mysuru district. Mysore taluk consist of 5 hoblies and 155 villages.



PDS in Mysuru District

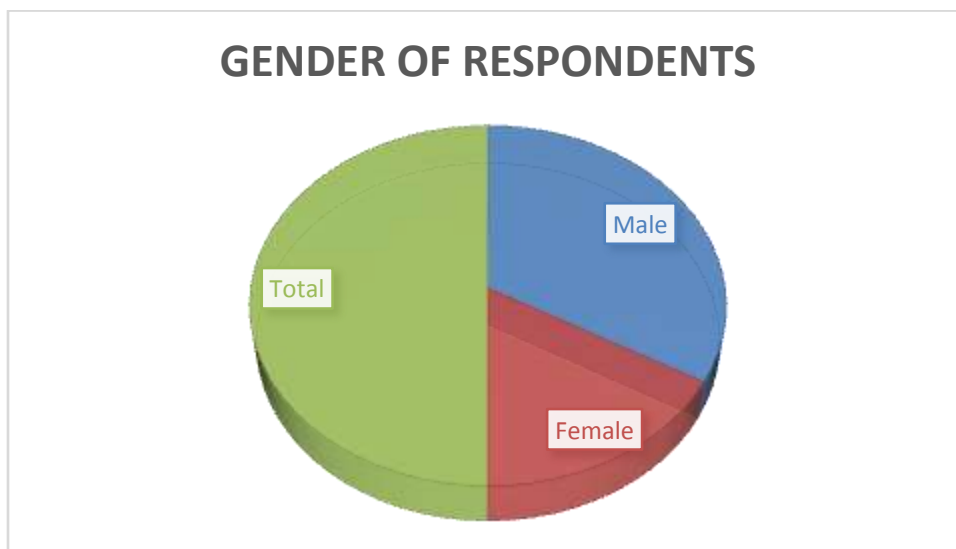
Taluk Name	AAV RCs	AAV Beneficiaries	STATE NPHH RCs	STATE NPHH Beneficiaries	PHH RCs	PHH Beneficiaries	TOTAL RCs	TOTAL Beneficiaries	AAV NFSA RCs	AAV NFSA Beneficiaries	PHH NFSA RCs	PHH NFSA Beneficiaries	AAV STATE RCs	AAV STATE Beneficiaries	PHH STATE RCs	PHH STATE Beneficiaries
<u>HEGGADADEVANKOTE</u>	7631	34276	2641	7226	70204	206832	80476	248334	7631	34276	67192	193435	0	0	3012	13397
<u>HUNSUR</u>	6392	29276	11281	38536	70267	212950	87940	280762	6392	29276	66997	196939	0	0	3270	16011
<u>KRISHNARAJANAGARA</u>	6304	28872	8545	30471	63480	182877	78329	242220	6304	28872	60246	168705	0	0	3234	14172
<u>MYSURU</u>	8571	39351	66584	243263	212276	714802	287431	997416	8571	39351	201465	659766	0	0	10811	55036
<u>NANJANGUD</u>	5834	27372	4454	12475	104012	306005	114300	345852	5834	27372	100183	285173	0	0	3829	20832
<u>PIRIYAPATNA</u>	8828	34196	4238	10703	58635	170420	71701	215319	8828	34196	55808	158089	0	0	2827	12331
<u>TIRUMAKUDALA-NARSIPUR</u>	6319	29086	3369	9000	77131	235175	86819	273261	6319	29086	73934	218480	0	0	3197	16695
TOTAL	49879	222429	101112	351674	656005	2029061	806996	2603164	49879	222429	625825	1880587	0	0	30180	148474

Source: Department of Food and Civil, GOK

A Discussion on Socio-Economic Status of Beneficiaries of PDS in Mysuru Taluk

Gender of Respondents

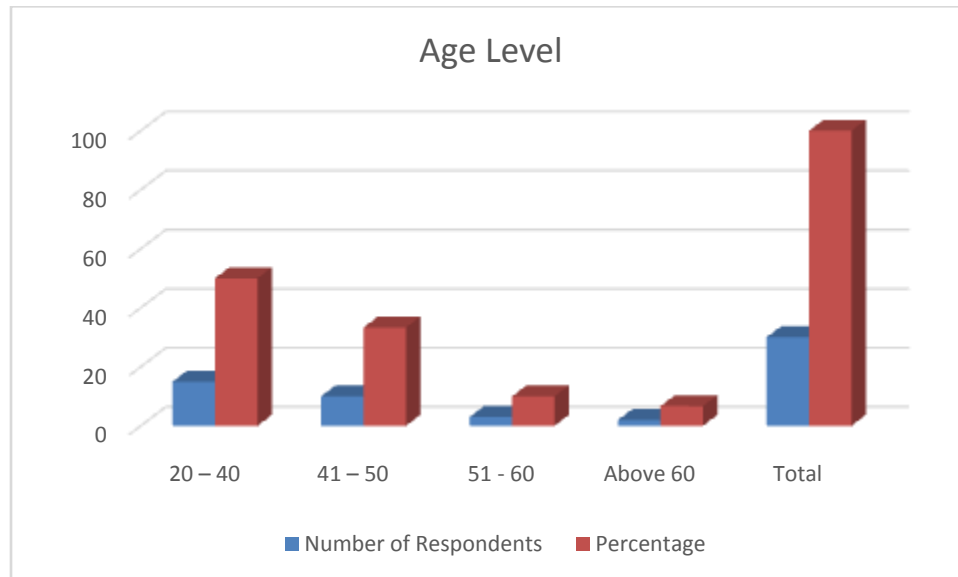
Gender	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Male	20	66
Female	10	34
Total	30	100



The above table and diagram states that the gender of respondents. Out of total respondents, the 66 percent of respondent are male category and remaining 34 percent of respondents are female.

Age Level

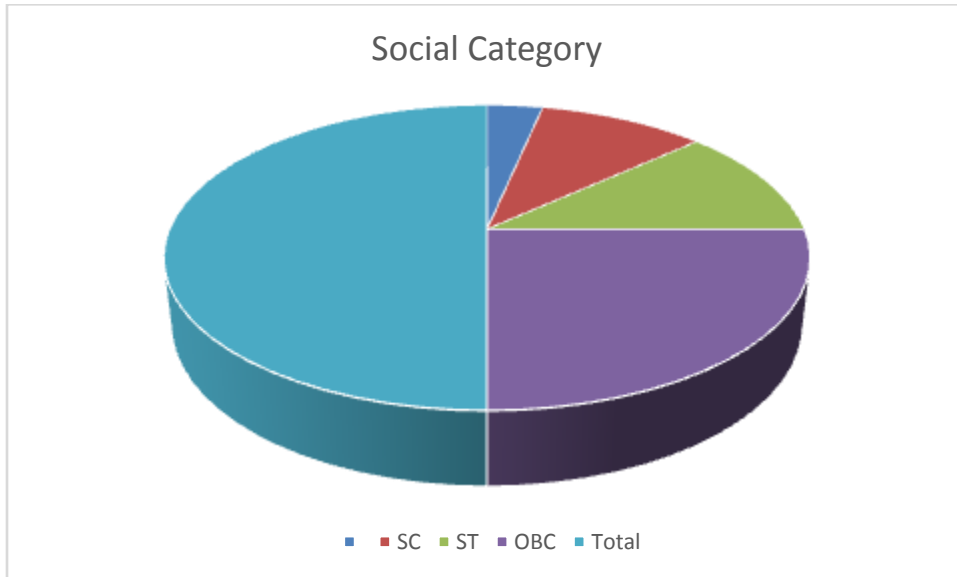
Age Level(Years)	Number of Respondents	Percentage
20 – 40	15	50
41 – 50	10	33.3
51 - 60	03	10
Above 60	02	6.7
Total	30	100



The table and pie chart explained that the 50 percent of total respondents are belongs to age group of 20 years to 40 years. The 33.3 percent of respondents are come from the age of between 41 years to 50 years. The 10 percent of people’s age is 51 years to 60 years. Only 6.2 percent of respondents are above the 60 years.

Social Category

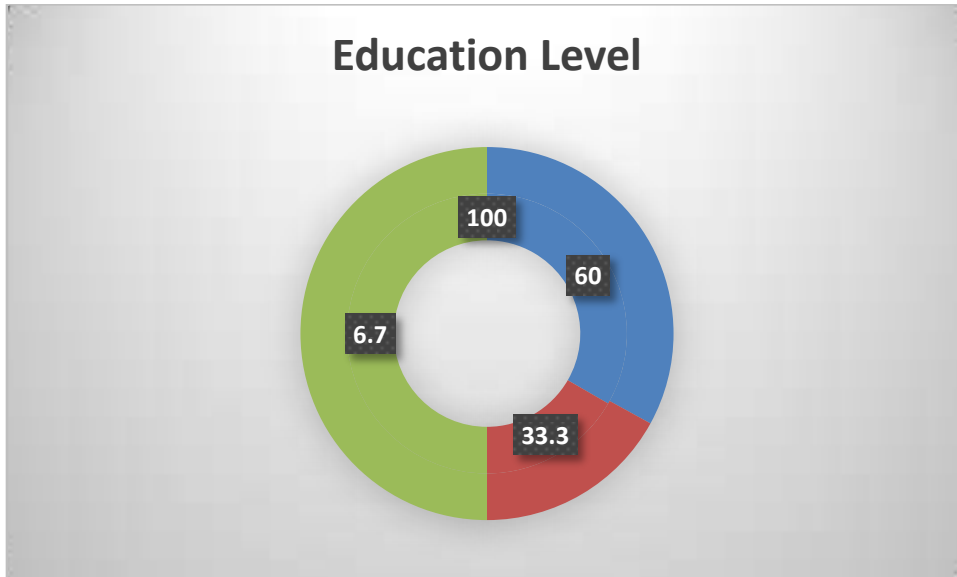
Category(Caste)	Number of Respondents	Percentage
General	02	6.6
SC	6	20
ST	07	23.4
OBC	15	50
Total	30	100



The table and diagram shows that the social category of respondents. The 50 percent of respondents are belonging to Other Backward Caste(OBC). The 23.4 percent of respondents are come under ST, 20 percent off people from ST category. The remaining 6.6 percent are General category.

Educational Level of Respondents

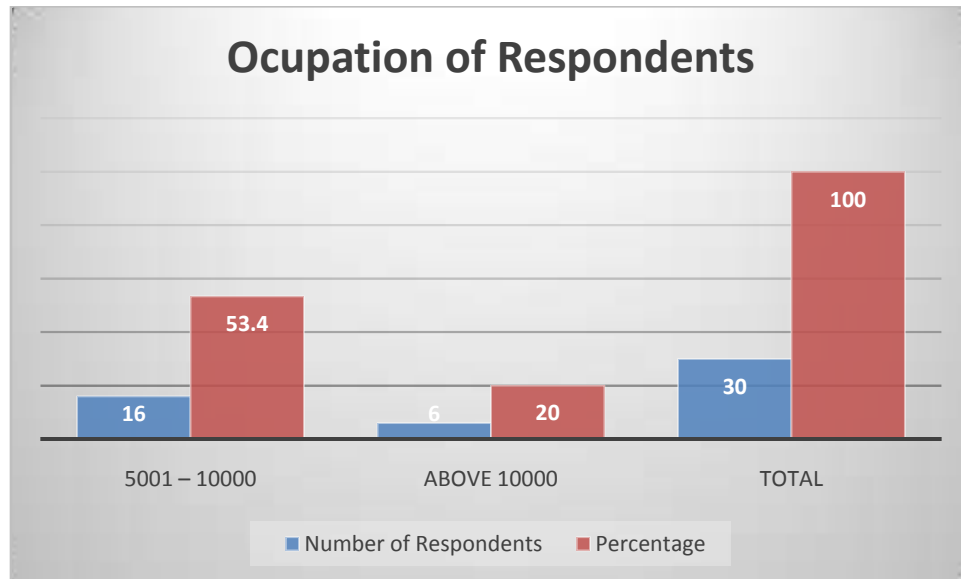
Educational Status	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Primary	18	60
High School	10	33.3
PUC	02	6.7
Total	30	100



The table shows that educational status of respondents. The 60 percent of respondents having only primary education. The 33 percent of respondents obtained education of high school. The remaining of 6.7 percent of people have PUC education.

Occupation of Respondents

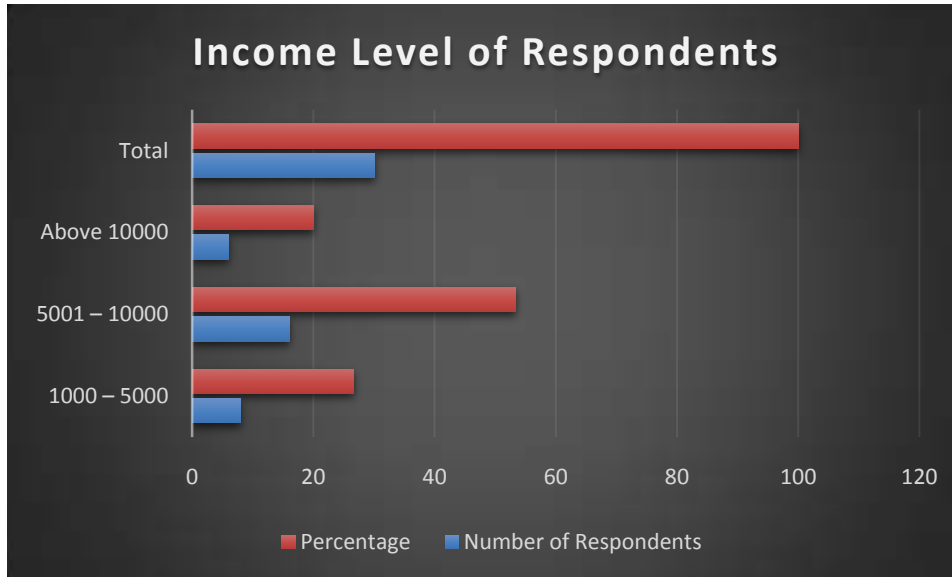
Job Nature	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Agriculture	25	83.3
Retail trading	05	16.7
Total	30	100



The table and chart described that out of total respondents 83.3 percent are involved in agriculture activity. The remaining people (16.7 percent) are engaged in retail trading.

Income of Respondents

Income Level(Monthly) (Rs.)	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1000 – 5000	08	26.6
5001 – 10000	16	53.4
Above 10000	06	20
Total	30	100



The above table and bar chart explained that the income of respondents. Out of total respondents the 53.3 percent of respondents are having income of Rs.5001 to 10000 monthly. The 26.6 percent of respondents have earned Rs.1000 to Rs.5000 every month.

Findings

1. Out of total respondents, the 66 percent of respondent are male category and remaining 34 percent of respondents are female.
2. The 50 percent of total respondents are belonging to age group of 20 years to 40 years. The 33.3 percent of respondents are come from the age of between 41 years to 50 years.
3. The 50 percent of respondents are belonging to Other Backward Caste(OBC). The 23.4 percent of respondents are come under ST, 20 percent off people from ST category.
4. The 60 percent of respondents having only primary education. The 33 percent of respondents obtained education of high school.
5. Out of total respondents 83.3 percent are involved in agriculture activity. The remaining people (16.7 percent) are engaged in retail trading.
6. Out of total respondents the 53.3 percent of respondents are having income of Rs.5001 to 10000 monthly. The 26.6 percent of respondents have earned Rs.1000 to Rs.5000 every month.



Suggestions

1. The 66 percent of respondent are male category and remaining 34 percent of respondents are female. It shows that male domination in the PDS system. The government distribute the more number of Ration cards to women. It helps to women empowerment.
2. More number ration cards holders are young aged, which shows that youth empowerment is going on.
3. More ration card holders are belonging to OBC. Government should concentrate more on SC and ST. Some SC and ST category people do not have ration cards still now in rural area.
4. Out of total, 60 percent of respondents are having primary education only. The Government should control drop out the education in rural area. Similarly, majority of female discontinued their education after primary school due to lack of support of their parents.
5. Out of total respondents 83.3 percent are involved in agriculture activity. More number of people engaged in agricultural activities in rural because of scarcity of alternative jobs in rural area. Government should create more alternative job opportunities in rural area.
6. More number of respondent's income is very less, because they are engaged in agricultural activities with low wages. Government should fix the minimum wages for labourers of agricultural field. Similarly, the respondents are select the other jobs for obtaining more wages, which helps to good standard of living

Conclusion

The PDS is a cornerstone of government policy responding to nutrition and food security. However, it is riddled with inefficiencies that decrease its capacity to effectively distribute food to those in need.



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