

Food security and its impact on hunger eradication: A study of Tehsil Bisalpur district Pilibhit

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Abstract

Food security is one of the major socio-economic challenges in our country. The paper has attempted to understand the condition of hunger because there are many people who are suffering from hunger and who do need food security. While analysing the condition of hunger and food security the paper, on the basis of primary survey, concludes that the programmes under food security umbrella are very helpful in mitigating the incidence of hunger for a large section of our population. However, the distribution linkages are heavy linkage- prone and require urgent and massive correction.

Keywords: Hunger; Food Availability; Food Entitlement; Purchasing Power; Food Distribution

1. Introduction

Food security has emerged as a basic challenge along with health, education, right to work and hunger alleviation. Food security is the term, when all people, at all times, have physical and economic entitlement to sufficient food, good health and right to work (L. Reddeppa, 2011) ^[1].

Hunger is the main problem in India. Due to hunger, many crimes are increases such as, theft, rape and murder. There is nothing more degrading than hunger which is the main reason of social destruction and economic decline. Almost one third of the people are suffered from hunger and one half children from malnutrition.

The increase of hunger in recent years is not because of the problems of food production, but as a result of high domestic food prices lower income and increasing unemployment due to the global economic crisis. The problem of hunger and malnutrition is a more serious problem among school going children. There is the need to increase agricultural investment to boost the production of food grains especially in places where the poor and hunger live.

The government of India has been implementing hunger alleviation programmes. In order to ensure food security the subsidized food reaches those who are really in need a targeted public distribution system has been introduced.

So, in the study the problem of hunger and malnutrition will be defined and find out the condition of food distribution and food availability. The legal provisions related to food security will analyse in the study and the impact of food security on hunger eradication will be also defined.

2. Objectives of the research study

The objectives of the study are given below:

To study the problem of hunger and malnutrition.

To find out objective condition of food availability and distribution.

To analyze the legal provisions related to food security Act 2013.

3. Review of literature

According to Reddeppa (2011) ^[1] all economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs

and food preferences for an active and healthy life. The food security for a household is “access by all members at all times to enough food for an active and healthy life.

According to Banerjee (2004) ^[2], food is a human right. This was first mentioned more than fifty years ago in the universal declaration of human rights. The importance of the human rights approach for designing policies and interventions that promote food and nutrition security has received increased recognition during the last decade of the twentieth century, which is initial rile given to human rights at the 1996 world food summit from this perspective food security and nutrition should be seen as a fundamental issue in economic development in any country or region and north eastern India is no exception.

According to Rajkumar Prabhakar (2008) ^[3], food security is one of the major components of social security. It ensuring that “food is available at all times that all persons have mean of and access to it, that it is nutritionally adequate in terms of quantity quality and variety and it is acceptable within the given culture.

According to Rajamani R.C. (2012) ^[4], even if one individual were to go without food, then let the whole universe be annihilated, thundered, revolutionary poet Subramaniam Barite, said more than a hundred years ago, wonder among the basic human needs to all is a much broader concept than the proposed national food security act of providing 25 kilograms of food grains at Rs.3 many things have to be included in order to have genuine right to food.

According to Sharma Mahendra Dev (2010) ^[5], food availability is a necessary condition for food security. India is more or less self-sufficient in seeds but there is defect in consumption patterns, demand for fruits, vegetables dairy meat and price has been increasing. There is need to increase crop diversification and improve allied activities. Access to food can be increased through employment due to growth in labour intensive sectors protection programmes.

4. Research Methodology

The survey was conducted under the sampling of hundred people. 100 families were surveyed in Tehsil-Bisalpur in District- Pilibhit, was the area of the study. The survey was

conducted in villages and local area of Bisalpur. The survey was conducted for both APL and BPL card holders. The real condition of ration card holders had to be noted during the survey. The survey was based on primary data collected from the beneficiary households (APL, BPL, AAY) cardholders buying PDS items from PDS shops.

5. Data collection and Interpretation

The paper is based on primary data and the following data collected by primary survey of Tehsil Bisalpur in District Pilibhit.

5.1 The description of the condition of food security

The table shows the condition of hunger and the working condition of food security in Bisalpur.

Table 1: PDS system and Hunger Eradication Description of the condition of food security and its impact on hunger eradication in Tehsil Bisalpur.

	Questions	Yes	No
1	Do you Know about PDS?	93	7
2	Do you have a ration card?	100	0
3	Which type of ration card do you have?	50APL	50BPL
4	Do you get food grains at the lower prices?	99	1
5	Do you know the prices of grains which are decided by government under PDS?	85	15
6	Do you know how much quantity is provided under BPL cards and APL cards?	85	15
7	Is the quantity of food grains enough which is provided to you under PDS?	54	46
8	Is the quality of food grains is good which is provided under PDS?	80	20
9	Do you get food grain every month regularly?	85	15
10	Do you face any type of difficulty in getting food grains?	99	1
11	Is 35 kg food grains quantity helpful to you in eradicating your poverty?	96	4
12	Is it helpful in completely eradicating your hunger?	98	2
13	Do you benefited by Aaganwadi under which the government has also provided notorious food to lactating women pregnant women and children below six years of age?	40	60
14	Have you got benefit of any of these schemes?	AAY Y N 99 1	ICDS Y N 40 60
15	Is there any need to improve this system?	100	0

Source: Primary Survey

5.2 Analysis of the table

General Questions

- 93% people know about PDS. They have the knowledge about PDS system and 7% people do not know about PDS because of the lack of knowledge.
- 100% people have ration cards and nobody is without ration card. It means every person is aware about this and benefited by PDS.
- 50% people have APL ration cards and 50% people have BPL ration cards. It means, the number of APL and BPL card holders is equal.
- 99% people get food grains at lower prices which are declared by the government and only 1% people do have the knowledge about the lower prices because of the lack of knowledge.
- 85% people know about the prices of food grains which are decided by the government and 15% people do not know about the prices because of the lack of knowledge and Information.
- 85% know that how much quantity of food grains is provided under PDS because they have the knowledge of it and 15% people do not know about it because of the lack of information.
- 99% people say that they face different type of difficulties during the time of getting food grains specially old people and young children face a lot and only 1% people has denied for it.
- 99% people get benefit from Antyodaya Yojana and only 1% people do not benefited from it and 40% people get benefit from ICDS and 60% people don't get benefit from

it and 40% children get benefit from MDM and 60% children has denied for it.

- All 100% people want that the PDS system should be improved because many shortcomings have found in PDS. According to the people the PDS should be stretched, the PDS shops should be opened every month regularly, the quality of food grains should be better and the quantity of food grains should also be increased because some have big families and it is not enough for them. They say that during the time of getting ration they face many types of difficulties. So the government should also solve this problem. It has proved by survey that there is a need for improvement in PDS.

5.3 Impact of PDS on Sustainability

- 54% people say that the quantity of food grains is enough for them which is provided under PDS and 46% people say that the quantity is not enough because they have the big families.

5.4 Impact of Food Security on hunger eradication

- 96% people say that the 35kg food grains is beneficial for them and eradicate their hunger for a great extent and 4% people say that their hunger is not removed.
- 98% people say that food grains which they get from PDS, is helpful in eradicate their hunger and 2% people say that the food grains is not helpful in eradicate their hunger because of the big families.
- 40% women and children get benefit from Aaganwadi by taking notorious food which has provided for them and

60% women and children don't get benefit from it because of many causes.

4. 80% people regards that the quality of food grains is good and nutritious and 20% people say that the quality is not good for them.
5. 85% people say that they get food grains every month regularly and 15% people do not get food grains every month regularly because the PDS shops are not opened every month regularly.

6. Findings

The research is based on the survey of hundred people who come under the food security and benefited from PDS. There are so many shortcomings and benefits have been found after completing the research.

7. Shortcomings

1. 15% people have told that they do not get ration every month regularly because the shopkeeper does not open the shop every month at time.
2. It is found that mostly 99% people face different type of difficulties in taking food grains.
3. 20% people told that the quality of food grains is not good which they get from PDS shops.
4. 46% people they say that the quantity which they get is not enough and is not helpful in eradicating their hunger.
5. It is found that only 40% women and children have benefited from ICDS and other 60% don't get it.
6. The no. Of school going children who get notorious food from MDM is not good. Only 40% children have covered from MDM.

8. Benefits

Many benefits have also find out during the survey.

1. The poor people do not have enough money to buy necessary goods and food grains. But from PDS they get food grains at the lower prices easily and they can fulfil their needs.
2. The people who are poor and comes under below poverty line, by Antyodaya Yojana, they get 35kg food grains and has reduced their hunger.
3. 98% poor people are satisfied that they can get enough food daily and for a great extant their hunger has been reduced.

9. Recommendation

Sustainable end to hunger and provision of food security can be achieved by taking different steps.

1. First PDS system should be strengthened because an effective PDS can be the backbone of food availability and food security.
2. The most important thing is this that all the needy and poor should be benefited by PDS system, so that the hunger of the people can be finished.
3. The quantity of the food grains should be increased because most of the people have big families and it is not enough for them.
4. The standard of knowledge and education should also be increased and improved so that innocent needy poor people can get food items regularly and in this way they will not be made fool by the shopkeepers.

5. The quality of food grains should be improved because many people are not satisfied with this quality.
6. The condition of Aaganwadi should be improved because mostly the women and children are not benefited from it due to the lack of knowledge and rude mentality.
7. Mid-Day Meal programme should also be improved for better health and education of children because in the survey the no. Of MDM benefited children is only 40%. The government should take some necessary steps for providing food security to all the poor card holders. So in this way the plan of food security will be successful.

10. Conclusion

Although the people are agree with this point that the food grains which they get from PDS shops is eradicating their hunger and poverty but not completely because there are some shortcomings in this system which are noted during research. So there is the need to improve the system, yet the impact of food security on hunger eradication is positive in the area under study for a great extent as evidenced by the data.

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