

**Dr.Shabi Raza (June 2013). Effectiveness of Antyodaya Anna Yojna (AAY): in insuring food security in rural area of UTTAR PRADESH**

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**Effectiveness of Antyodaya Anna Yojna (AAY): in insuring food security in rural area of UTTAR PRADESH**

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**ABSTRACT**

Antyodaya Anna yojana, one of India's Public Distribution System projects, has been in effect since the year 2000. This project aims to increase "food security" in rural and urban areas by reforming and enhancing the Public Distribution System, which serves the poorest citizens. According to various estimates, around 5% of Americans are unable to eat two meals a day, every day of the year. Those in need were given free grains and discounted prices on other basics as part of this scheme.. A variety of monitoring systems and other vigilance committees have helped to enhance the scheme's performance over time. Although several civil society organizations and news publications have criticized the execution of the program by different states, there are still many concerns with the identification of recipients and the distribution of monies. We undertook this research to learn more about AAY's effect on food insecurity for the most vulnerable people in order to better understand the implementation status, the distribution agencies' capabilities, and any challenges that they or their beneficiaries may experience. The study was carried out in Uttar Pradesh, a state in India. In this article, the scheme's operational realities are discussed.

**Keywords:** Antyodaya Anna Yojana, Public Distribution System, Purchasing Power, BPL price, Civil Society Organizations, Food Security.

**Introduction**

On December 25, 2000, the Antyodaya Anna Yojana was launched. Food security, a hunger-free India, reforming and improving the Public Distribution System to serve the poorest of the poor in both rural and urban regions is illustrated through this program. As many as 5% of the population is likely to have difficulty eating two meals each day on a regular basis. Even at BPL prices, their buying power is so low that they cannot buy food grains year-round.

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It is this 5% of the population that Antyodaya Anna Yojana hopes to reach with its message (5 crores of persons or 1 crore families). With an aim of 2.5 million households, the program has been expanded three times since its inception. States will be responsible for identifying 2.5 million BPL households and providing them with 35 kg of food per month in the form of food grains. The price of wheat and rice in India must be '2/- and '3/- per kilogram, respectively. The Government of India recommends that the State Government keep the final retail price of wheat at 2/- per kg and rice at 3/- per kg because of the acute poverty of this group of beneficiaries. There are a number of difficulties that have been raised by different civil society organizations and news publications about the execution of the system by various governments. Accordingly, a research was done to discover hitherto uncovered subjects, such as the implementation status of the AAY program, the capabilities of distribution agencies, and the obstacles that implementing agencies and recipients confront. The study was conducted in Uttar Pradesh, a state in India..

#### Literature Review

Dr. Elayaraja K. (2012) says that The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is a component of India's anti-poverty strategy. (TPDS). In 1997, this method was implemented. Food and other necessities for low- and moderate-income families are made readily accessible to those in the BPL, APL, and AAY income categories via the Public Distribution System (PDS). TPDS performance in Karnataka and food security were studied to help support the ambitious new Annabhagya program The plan provides a short overview of how the Annabhagya Program will be run on an ongoing basis. As a result, there are both advantages and disadvantages to participating in these programs depending on where you reside. Several difficulties and policy solutions for enhancing Karnataka's performance are highlighted in this report.

DR S. MAYILVAGANAN (2012) Food shortages and cheap pricing were initially the goal of the public distribution system (PDS). A key component of the government's food plan has evolved throughout the years. In many cases, PDS is a supplement, not a substitute, for the complete requirements of an individual family or the government sector. All food grain procurement, storage, transportation, and bulk allocation has been taken over by FCI. It is up to the State Government to determine who is eligible for the FPS, who is eligible for Ration Cards, and how many Ration Cards each family receives each month.

Ismail Mohamed Ajwad Amir Mohamed Ihsan (2007) All main social protection initiatives in Uttar Pradesh are evaluated by Ajwad on the basis of their potential impact on household well-being. The study is heavily reliant on numerical data. The inquiry yielded five important

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discoveries. Many of Uttar Pradesh's social safety net programs have low coverage rates, indicating that exclusionary practices are pervasive. Non-poor families are also helped by the program, despite the fact that the majority of participants are from impoverished homes. There are more SC/ST households in the program's recipient pool than all other castes combined. To add to the confusion, the quality of service delivery differs substantially by location in the country. Finally, many of the initiatives have just a marginal effect on the well-being of low-income families.

### **Study Objectives**

Assessing AAY in view of the increasing number of BPL cardholders is necessary..

The goal of this research is to examine the overall effect of AAY on rural poor people's food security.

To discover successful variables that can be used to improve programme delivery.

### **Study Hypothesis**

***The initiative is sensitive to the lowest of the poor's food security.***

Because the statistics revealed that AAY helps to cover more than 75% of the food demands of the recipients, the hypothesis was shown to be correct.

### **Issues for the Study**

These issues were examined in this research: Dispersion and impact of implementation Identifying challenges with supply, time, and location, as well as other aspects of socioeconomic distribution. Due to the growth of BPL cardholders, the program is affected. Attempts to identify bottlenecks in the distribution system caused by intermediaries and the black market. Beneficiaries' opinions on the program's execution and delivery, as well as ideas for improvement Verification of the BPL status of the beneficiaries. Inclusion and exclusion errors in the selection of beneficiaries are discovered. The capacity of the recipient to buy even at subsidized prices. Throughout this era, there were periods of both food security and instability.

### **Methodology and Sampling**

The study was conducted in three states of Uttar Pradesh. Targeted sampling was used to identify the study districts and lower-level study units. Uttar Pradesh has one district and two blocks picked at random from each district. AAY distribution centers in each block were selected to undertake an in-depth investigation of the impact of the program. Using a systematic random sampling process, we were able to choose between 10% and 100% of the participants. PDS distribution centers created a list of AAY recipients, and up to 100 respondents were randomly selected from that list, based on the number of beneficiaries at

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each location. Only those with a BPL card from Antiyodhaya were included in the research.

In order to conduct the research, an interview schedule that addressed all of the following issues was created. Special emphasis was placed on gathering the data required to achieve the study's goals while putting the tool together. Data was also acquired from program implementers, NGOs, and community-based organizations, to name a few sources. Focus groups and observational methods were also used. Asked questions regarding the programs, people's replies to those questions. People who were eligible for BPL cards and benefits but were unable to apply for them were also asked for their thoughts on the difficulties they encountered.

### **Major findings**

Beneficiaries Budget, personal characteristics and financial information are all included in this report. Most of the participants in this research are men (79.6%). There are a large number of males in each of the three states that responded. AAY focused on the elderly, widows, and single-parent homes, therefore most respondents were in their forties and fifties. There are 80% Hindus and 20% Muslims among the participants in this research. More over half of those who responded were Hindu. Nearly three-quarters of the population is either married or engaged. The illiteracy rate is particularly high in the locations under consideration. According to their employment status, 83 of them are agricultural casual laborers.. There is no other time of year when they can earn enough money to support themselves except for the growing season. 33.6 percent of families in the study region had yearly incomes of between Rs. 12000 and Rs. 15000, while the remainder have annual incomes of less than Rs. 12000..

### ***Perceptions of Beneficiaries on functioning of PDS***

83 percent of respondents agreed to pay revenue department staff for ration cards in return for payment. Only 20% of respondents must go to a neighboring major village to get PDS services; the other 80% have access to a distribution center inside their own houses.. Each and every one of those polled makes a monthly purchase from PDS of wheat and rice. Beneficiaries get subsidised kerosene, cooking oil, and sugar under the PDS at a rate of 83%, 77%, and 84%, respectively. Approximately 36% of those polled said they were in favor of the affluent oppressing the poor because of gender bias, while the other 64% said they were against it.

### ***Quantity, Quality and adequacy of the Materials under PDS***

The vast majority of respondents felt that the amount offered is inadequate for family use. About 77.3% of recipients who reported to be insufficient acquire other requirements on the open market, whereas about 23% survive only on the food grains given by the PDS. A bigger proportion of those polled (49.3 percent) stated they were always worried about food security

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because of their lower incomes and the increased number of children in their households. In the following months of October to December, 34.6% of people experience food insecurity, followed by 13% in January to March. There is a 56 percent majority that believes the quality of PDS materials is excellent while 22 percent are happy with the materials and 22 percent consider the materials are of bad quality.

It seems that the product is of high quality based on the overall feedback. Ration cards and PDS supply register entries aren't validated or cross-checked by 73% of persons, whereas just 27% have done so and discovered discrepancies. Investigators have also verified the mismatches in several instances in all three states via personal verification.

***Prevalence of Middlemen***

In all three states, 71 percent of respondents said that middlemen are heavily involved in the functioning of PDS. Traders in the open market also have a role in influencing the price of commodities on the open market because of political interference to benefit the family of PDS officials. According to the statistics, the PDS in all three states relies heavily on the services of intermediaries. In order to retain control over the PDS supply, which is one of the most essential parts of local influence in keeping people in their grip, local politicians have become involved. Local dealers disrupt civil supply in order to benefit from the illegal selling of PDS commodities because to the broad variety of commodity prices on the free market. 46.6 percent of respondents agreed that PDS commodities are sold on the underground market when asked whether they were subsidised. In spite of this, more than half of the respondents had no idea of the issue. To say that the majority of people are opposed to PDS items being sold on the open market is an exaggeration. According to respondents, PDS commodities are sold for up to Rs. 15 per kg of rice or wheat by local vendors, who are encouraged and incited by them to participate in black marketing. Approximately 36% of those polled said the products sell for between \$10 and \$15. Only 22% of those polled sell items like sugar, kerosene, and cooking oil; nevertheless, every single one of them consumes food grains themselves. Food, dhal, and salt may all be purchased with the help of these commodities.

Size class of land possessed (hectares)	Per 1000 no. of hhs possessing ration card of type					Average MPCE (Rs)
	AAY	BPL	Other	No ration card	All	
less than 0.01	27	218	245	510	1000	528.43
0.01 – 0.40	40	316	417	227	1000	535.65
0.41 – 1.00	30	275	555	139	1000	541.64
1.01 – 2.00	16	211	633	140	1000	569.30
2.01 – 4.00	11	176	657	156	1000	613.01
above 4.01	8	105	704	183	1000	741.25
all sizes	29	265	518	187	1000	558.78

Source: Gol (2007b)

Note: MPCE = monthly per capita consumer expenditure

### **Suggestions to Strengthen the PDS System in the Study Area**

Based on field results, the following recommendations have been made to improve the implementation of PDS: According to a majority of survey participants in the research areas, the transportation system should be monitored closely throughout the delivery of goods from the FCI godown to distribution centers. Eighty-eight percent of those polled felt that making the process more transparent by increasing consumer input and sharing monitoring results in the public domain would make it better. All of the respondents said that they wanted the PDS to include more food grains. Allowing you to acquire as much as feasible for your budget, about 47% of the supply should be in various spells. 60% of those who participated in a survey said that BPL status should be updated to minimize inclusion and exclusion mistakes. To find and punish offenders, all of the survey participants agreed that a task force committee comprised of local volunteers and civil society organizations should be established. Two-thirds of those polled said that high-quality storage facilities are needed to protect precious goods and maintain consumable supply. As part of the food subsidy scheme, additional goods should be included. Well-off families are drawn to PDS because of its sugar availability. Kerosene oil, a product allocated for the poor, is also distributed through PDS. On the other hand, the benefits meant for the less fortunate are being exploited by others due to rampant illicit smuggling of this commodity. Subsidised kerosene is used to tamper with diesel. A steady reduction in kerosene subsidies and the development of new marketing strategies should be pursued. There should be a TPDS and food subsidies only for people who are really in need of them. For those who have the means, providing a steady supply of grains at a fair price would be sufficient; food subsidies would be unnecessary.

Regardless of their schedules or budgets, beneficiaries should be able to acquire PDS materials at any point throughout the calendar month. Customer demand necessitates that PDS centers remain open longer hours, particularly in the evenings. As a consequence, it is doubtful that recipients would lose their one-day salary. An official declaration is required about the movement of commodities. To check stock, committees of citizens will be established. People must be instructed to double-check every transaction, and PDS personnel must keep correct records. Bureaucrats who break the rules in the distribution system must be penalized harshly. In order to ensure that the BPL status is accurate, a BPL survey must be conducted on a regular basis. It would be illegal to sell PDS goods on the open market without a proper license.

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**Conclusion**

Throughout the ages, the Public Distribution System (PDS) has been an important government policy tool for regulating free market pricing and ensuring household food security. The PDS entrusts the federal government with six vital commodities: wheat, rice, taxed sugar, imported edible oils, and kerosene. Over 400,000 Fair Price Shops (FPS) have been set up in India as part of the country's Public Distribution System (PDS). More than \$15 billion in goods are distributed annually to roughly 16 million homes via the Public Distribution System (PDS). Food must be made accessible to people in need in order for this network to have a bigger effect.

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