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A STUDY ON IMPACT OF UNIVERSAL PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IN TAMIL NADU, INDIA

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Abstract

PDS is considered as principal institutions in the hands of State Governments for providing safety net to the poor against the spiralling food prices of essential commodities. In this regard Tamil Nadu sets a model in the PDS as universal system. The involvement of the Cooperative Societies, and other distribution networks to make ensures safety net, transparency, accessibility and all reduced the less transaction cost. This study found that problems like leakages, poor quality, under weightiest, non-availability of controlled as well as non-controlled articles during certain times, non-availability of ration cards, bogus cards and its affect the impact of the universal system. This study covered Multi-stage random sampling and pre-test analysis was done. To this study showed that universal PDS will help to provide safety net to the poor. The study suggested that new implications of universal PDS in the state.

Key words: Universal PDS, Impact, Poor, Benefits, Problems, Tamil Nadu.

Introduction

Public Distribution System (PDS) is a poverty alleviation programme and contributes towards the social welfare of the people. Essential commodities like rice, wheat, sugar, kerosene and the like are supplied to the people under the PDS at reasonable prices. PDS is a back boon to the people living below the poverty line (Ahluwalia, 1993). PDS is the primary social welfare and antipoverty programme of the Government of India (Balakrishnan and Bharat, 1997).

In Tamil Nadu Government sets a model of the PDS as universal system for the (Food for All and Poor Friendly) cause of eradicating poverty and improving standard of living in below the poverty line families (Jean and Sen, 1989).

The Tamil Nadu Co-operative Societies procures essential commodities on behalf of the state. Consumer co-operatives and marketing cooperatives procure the essential commodities like in rice, wheat, sugar, palm oil, and other products from the civil supplies corporation and deliver to the Fair Price Shops (FPSs). The procurement and delivery of essential commodities is performed in every taluk by the lead by the societies. In TNCSC and Cooperative Societies

and other delivery departments are actively involved and participated in ensuring food security in the state.

Universal PDS is an important scheme (Madhura, 1996) whether the scheme has reached all poor beneficiaries and the implementation of this scheme is done as per the lay down, whether they continue or discontinue the universal system of PDS. To discover all the malpractices, which exist in this scheme, is the main objective of the present study.

Review of Literature

Numbers of studies have been done on PDS in India. Important studies are presented here.

P.S. George (1996) has attempted to analyze public distribution of food grains and their income distribution effects in Kerala. He has tried to estimate the possible impact of rationing on incomes of the consumers using the relationship. The results for Kerala suggest that the system is economically viable. Further, according to this study, ration rice accounted for a major share of rice consumption of consumers belonging to low income groups. The criteria of identifying target groups differed across studies. This study suggested that the beneficiaries of the distribution system could be arrived at by deducting from the total

population one is the number of income-tax assesses, and two is cultivators households multiplied by five which is the average size of the family.

A detailed study was published on "Food security and Targeted PDS in U.P". The study was undertaken by **Ravi Srivastaava** and was published in March 2000. The study was carried among 2250 households across 120 villages found that multiplicities of agencies, poor coordination and low administrative accountability have combined to cripple the delivery machinery.

The **Tata Economic Consultancy Service** conducted a study in 2000 to know how much PDS supplies were diverted from the system. At the national level it was found that there was the diversion of 36 per cent of wheat supplies, 31 per cent of rice and 23 per cent of sugar. In the case of rice in Bihar and Assam the extent of diversion was as high as 65 per cent. In the case of wheat the diversion was estimated to 10 per cent in Nagaland and 69 per cent in Punjab. The report found no correlation between the frequencies of the use of Enforcement Acts and extent of diversion. In Northern Region U.P has more diversion of rice and sugar despite a higher number of raids and convictions.

Madhavi Cherian 2012. This research paper examines the TPDS for subsidized food grains in India to evaluate the efficacy of welfare policies under a means tested regime. The research ability the welfare good, and consequently the deco modification potential is lowered in states that have restricted the program to the poorest. The ability to access the subsidised goods is affected through the following channels: how poverty is defined, how the poor are identified and lastly, at the Fair Price Shop when trying to procure the food. The mechanisms are reflective of the inequality contained in the social relations between the policy makers and implementers, on the one hand and the potential beneficiaries of the program, on the other hand. As a result recently proposed National Food Security Bill that attempts to make the program means tested in the entire country and also promotes cash transfers will not be successful in its aim of providing a safety net to India's poorest, as it does not address the problems that makes the Targeted PDS ineffective.

Though number of studies has been conducted on PDS and Targeted, the impact of Universal PDS has not been studied and measured quantitatively. It based on primary day house to house collected. Present study will remove this gap and will show how for the rural and urban population have been benefited in the system of Universal PDS.

Objectives of the Study

The Objectives of the present study are (1) To Study the socio-economic conditions of entire population brought under Universal PDS, (2) To Study the benefits and

problems in implementations of the Universal PDS and (3) To study suggested that improvement of the working of Universal PDS.

Hypothesis to be tested

The Hypotheses to be tested in the present study are: (1) Gender and Satisfaction of ration products, (2) Gender and low price of ration products, (3) Gender and Good and healthy of ration products and (4) Gender and Quality and reliability of ration products.

Tools for Data Collection

A pre-tested interview schedule covering all aspects of Universal PDS was administered among the respondents to elicit the needed information.

Methodology and Sampling

Present study is empirical in nature and have been studied using primary data. The following Methodology and Sampling were followed. Survey method was followed for this study. By following multi-stage random sampling three districts viz., one backward, one moderate, and one developed were selected (Theni, Dindigul, and Madurai). In the second stage one block from each district were selected for this study. In the third stage two villages from each block were selected. From each village 100 respondents were selected using simple random sampling. The sampling frame is as follows: Total Number of Districts: 3, Total Number of Blocks: $3 \times 1 = 3$, Total number of villages: $3 \times 2 = 6$, Total sample respondents: $6 \times 100 = 600$.

Major Variables

The study related to important dependent variables used for the impact of Universal PDS. Impact denotes the fruitfulness of this scheme –weather the benefits of Universal PDS have reached the right and entire people without any hurdles.

The other independent variables used in this study are sex, age, educational status, corruption, quality and quantity, prices, good and healthy, occupation, social and economic organizations, caste, alternative and tradition food, need more food products, etc., covered in this study based on house to house respondents.

Universal Public Distribution System in Tamil Nadu: An Analysis

Socio-Economic Profile of Tamil Nadu

According to 2011 census, Tamil Nadu State is divided into 33 Districts, 215 Taluks and 385 blocks. There are 15,979 Villages in the State, 148 municipalities, 10 municipal corporations out of which 917 are uninhabited. Tamil Nadu is the seventh most populous state in India having about 7th rank of the country's population. The total population is 7, 21, 38,958 crores in the state, rural population is 3,71 89,229 crores and urban population is 3,49,49,729 crores.

The sex ratio is 995 females per 1000 males. The density of population is 555 per square kilometre, and literacy rate total 80.33 percent male is 86.81 percent, and female is 73.86 percent rates (Government of Tamil Nadu, 2012).

In the case of rural areas, though the share of rural population has come down over the years from 73.31 in 1961 to 56.14 per cent in 2000-01, the size of rural population is at 3.49 crores out of the state population 6.21 crores in 2000-01, and current rural areas 5.96 crores in 2010-2011 (Government of India). As the spatial temporal distribution of rainfall was not good during past several years the performance of agriculture was tardy. In addition to this, the storage position in major reservoir was not good and Cauvery water dispute added fuel to this fire. This resulted in many socio-economic problems like unemployment and poverty, lack of social and economic infrastructure and asymmetry in the distribution of resources. With this background the functioning of UPDS is discussed in this research paper.

PDS in Tamil Nadu

The Government of Tamil Nadu is implementing PDS since the year 1964. The scheme Village Shop Programme was introduced by the State with the intention to have one shop for one village in order to feed essential articles to rural public. Subsequently the scheme was converted into UPDS with the intention of providing essential commodities to the public both in rural and urban areas at concession rate. Since the introduction of TPDS from 1.6.1997 (Subba Rao *et al.*, 1997) the universal PDS is in operation in Tamil Nadu with the *Antyodaya Anna Yojana* and the expanded (AAY) schemes. Under the universal PDS there is no discrimination of families on APL and BPL lines based on income.

PDS Network

The unique feature of PDS in this State is Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation, Cooperatives and women SHGs govern the entire network. No private dealers are allowed to run FPS. Also, the Government guidelines show that no family cardholder have to travel more than 2 kms to reach FPS. Further, Cooperatives have been given an important role in the implementation in UPDS. For example, as on 31.3.2011, there were 1370 (Full time and Part time) FPS in TNCSC, and co-operatives 32535 (full time and part time including mobile shops) and women FPS is 581 (full and part time) and other 141 shops run in the people in remote hilly area functioning in the state (Government of Tamil Nadu, 2012). This shows that majority of the FPS are run by cooperatives. In the context of UPDS, cooperatives are classified as Lead societies and Link societies. The Lead societies are cooperative wholesale stores and cooperative marketing societies, who act as whole seller in procuring essential commodities from different sources and supply to Link societies that is PACBs and LAMPs.

Family Cards in circulation

Distribution of the essential commodities is regulated by the family card system. Irrespective of income status of the family, option based family cards have been issued in the year 1998 to all families. Separate family cards have been issued to those who opted to purchase rice and other essential commodities. Normally a full-time FPS shall have the minimum of 800 cards and maximum of 1000 cards in Municipal Corporation and Municipal areas. Full-time FPS in other areas shall have minimum of 500 cards and maximum of 800 cards. As on 31.03.2011 there were 1.97 lacks family cards in circulation in the State. The District-wise family cards in circulation showed that the high in Coimbatore district (8.46 per cent), which was followed by Chennai North (7.06 per cent) and Vellore (5.99 per cent). And last four districts the Nilgiris (2.17) Perambalur (2.99), Ariyalur (1.76) Karur (2.72).

Distribution System

The Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation procures and stocks the essential commodities in advance in a network of owned and hired buffer and operational god owns right up to taluk level. The shop personnel move the stocks from the taluk level operational god owns to the FPS as per allocation made to them by district level authorities every month. At FPS level, the entitlement of rice and sugar is linked to the number of members in each family and that of kerosene is based on the number of LPG cylinders and the nature of the areas in rural, urban and hilly. Besides, khaki color cards were issued to police personnel for drawing kerosene only. For example rice is supplied to the cardholders in one or two instalments every month. Based on the number of cards in circulation, entitlement and past off take, it is estimated that 2,00,000 MT of rice, 5,000 MT of wheat, 25,500 MT of sugar and 73,000 KL of kerosene are needed every month for distribution in this State through FPS. In addition, 25,000 M.T. rice per month is required for the welfare schemes.

Price

With regarding to Universal system of State Government intension is to control the prices of essential commodities of mass consumption. In this study it was found that price is the important factor, which attracts cardholders to purchase PDS articles. Government also to provide safety net to the poor and the downtrodden by subsidizing the price of the PDS articles at much lower than the market price.

Rice Free of Cost (as per Hon'ble Chief Minister's announcement welfare scheme 01.06.2011) 4 Kg per adult and 2 Kg per child (12 years of age and below) per month, subject to a minimum of 12 kg and maximum of 20 kg, per month per card except The Nilgiris District, for Nilgiris District, minimum of 16 Kgs and maximum of 24 Kgs per card, and Under AAY 35 Kg per family.

Sugar is Rs.13.50 per Kg 500 grams per head per month subject to a maximum of 2 kg per month. Additional 3 kg are supplied to sugar option card holders in lieu of rice.

Wheat Rs.7.50 10 Kg per card per month in Chennai City and District Headquarters and 5 Kg per card per month in other areas.

Kerosene Rs.13.60 to Rs. 14.20 per litre Ranges from 3-15 litres per card depending upon the location and possession of LPG cylinders (Commissioner of Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Department, Chennai, Tamil Nadu).

Fair Price Shops and Cardholders in Selected Study Areas

Madurai district total population is 3041038 (rural 1196829 (39.35%) and urban 1844209 (60.62%), literacy rate 82 % (Male 86.55 and Female 76.74%), as per census 2010-2011. Number of Blocks 10, Number of FPS is 1320 (Full time 1090 and Part time 230), Coverage of Cardholders 853528 lacks (Including rural and urban areas). LPG connections single 19, 00,116 and double 152466 lacks. Waiting with LPG single 1287 double 5566 as per 2010-2011.

Dindigul district total population is 2161367 (rural 135808 (6.28%) and urban 807559 (37.36%), literacy rate 77% (Male 84.91 and Female 68.82%) as per census 2010- 2011. Number of Blocks 8, Number of FPS is 995 (Full time 725 and Part time 270), Coverage of Cardholders 606864 (rural 119967, and urban 486897 lacks). LPG connections single 20, 000 lacks, and waiting NA as per 2010-2011.

Theni district total population is 1243684 (rural 574196 (46.16%) and urban 669488 (53.83%), literacy rate 78 % (Male 85.48 and Female 69.72%) as per census 2010-2011. Number of Blocks 5, Number of FPS is 431 (including full time and part time), Coverage of Cardholders 375011 (rural 144065, and urban 230946) lacks. LPG connections single 34268 and double 71731, and waiting with LPD single 946 and double 1259 lacks as per 2010-2011.

This is the numbers of shops run by TNCSC and Co-operatives and women SHGs is high in Madurai district. The credit goes to the Tamil Nadu Women Development Corporation and NGO's for their active support to the SHGs to run PDS. In this study also it was found that FPS run by SHGs are active compared to others in distributing the essential articles.

Impact of Public Distribution System in Tamil Nadu

This study focus on the impact of Universal PDS based on the responses given by the respondents of this study. The respondents of the study were categorized in selected districts. Apart from the personal interview Focus Group Discussions (FGD) were also conducted to substantiate the opinions of the respondents.

Gender wise Districts

The purpose of this analysis is to identify the relative role of male and female in purchasing the commodities from the FPS. The established fact is that female members largely influence the purchasing behaviour of the family. This is also true in the case of FPS. The present study found that more than 68.4 percent of the respondents were female (Table 1). In the FGD, they pointed that:

“Every day while returning to home after our work we use to go to PDS centre to purchase rice for supper. The daily wages are the source of our purchase. If no work no wage and no food”.

Family Occupation and Education Qualification

Occupation decides the income level of the individual and ultimately his purchasing behavior. In this study, attempts have been made to cover all aspect of agricultural labour, industrial labour, daily wages, government sectors and business persons. Most of the respondents (45.4%) were daily wages people. The present study covered all are educated respondents because they have given their opinions to current problems and benefits in Universal PDS. In the FGD, they said “We were named as rice bowl of Tamil Nadu, now our bowls look FPS for rice” (Table 2).

Table 4 shows the study covered by all caste based on rural and urban areas. Most of the respondents covered in 21.1 % of OBC, ST 18%, SC 12.1% and OC 4.8% in rural areas whereas, in urban areas SC 7.3%, ST 15%, OBC 16.8%, and OC 4.6%. The majority of people live in rural areas. Because the rural peoples need more than the urban and they are more attracted to this Universal PDS in Tamil Nadu.

Area wise purchasing behaviour are shown in the Table 5. In rural, buying all products are 29.6% and in urban is 21.6%. But people are not buying anything also there, because the reason given in the Table 11.

Table 6 shows that Tamil Nadu people with hungry because all respondents' consumption is 3 times a day in (61.9 and 66.1%), 2 times (34.8 and 31.4%) and at least one time consumption is 2.8% in per day, but they are very less and countable in number. This trend shows success of Universal PDS in Tamil Nadu; because, “FOOD FOR ALL” is one of the slogans of State Government of Tamil Nadu.

This study also shows that agricultural ownership (10.1%) also buying the ration products like sugar, oil, kerosene, and others (Table 7). It is valuable for landlords also and shows agreement with previous result (Geetha and Suryanarayana 1993).

Table 8 shows that people need of more products in FPS. Because the prices are low in ration shops customers are likes to purchase the products showing similarity with previous data (Siddappan 1992).

This analysis showed that need of nutritional food products for example traditional food like Ragi, Jowar, Millets (small

food grains) and this food are good for health, and they have increased nutritive value. Those food grains are most wanted by the respondents is 68.6 percent. These products will reduce the risk of Diabetes, Hypertension (Radhakrishna and Parikh 2002).

This is one of the main points The Govt offers extra products during festival time and other welfare schemes also available in Tamil Nadu. Most of the respondents says that 73.5 percent available. Remaining the 26.5 percent respondents will not reach the offers (Suryanarayana MH 1995). Because the problems measures given the Table 11.

Universal PDS given more benefits and satisfaction in rural and urban peoples but at the same time it has some drawbacks and problems are existing in Universal PDS in Tamil Nadu. This is true, because the Government gives benefits to the betterment of poor people but it will not reach them due to the above reasons. It must be rectified and

notice to the Government concern to eradicate such problems and allow the system to be effective in future.

The objectives of Universal PDS are laudable. They explain the Governments interest in making the UPDS more user friendly and safety net for the poor against spiralling rise of market prices. However, foregoing analysis shows that there are certain weaknesses in the system, which needs urgent attention of all the stakeholders. In this regard the suggestions given by the sample respondents are given in Table 12.

This study shows that rice is important products in all selected districts. In Madurai district 46 percent rice is needed for customers. Wheat is 32 percent needed in Theni districts compare than Madurai and Dindigul. Because Theni districts covered by hill areas. Dindigul district is average of all products needed. Kerosene needed is very low because of the usage of LPG.

Table 1: Gender Districts Wise in Cross Tabulation

| Gender | Madurai | Dindigul | Theni | Total |
|--------|---------|----------|-------|-----------|
| Male | 50 | 93 | 46 | 189 |
| Female | 150 | 107 | 154 | 411(68.4) |
| Total | 200 | 200 | 200 | 600 |

Sources: Primary Data collection (May, 2103).

Table 2: Frequency Table of Family Occupations

| Valid | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative % |
|---------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------|
| Agricultural Labour | 9 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 |
| Industrial Labour | 210 | 34.9 | 35.0 | 36.5 |
| Daily Wages | 273 | 45.4 | 45.5 | 82.0 |
| Government Sectors | 106 | 17.6 | 17.7 | 99.7 |
| Business | 2 | .3 | .3 | 100.0 |
| Total | 600 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Sources: Primary Data Collection (May, 2013)

Table 3: Frequency Table of Educational Qualifications

| Valid | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|--------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| SSLC | 125 | 20.8 | 20.8 | 20.8 |
| HSc | 247 | 41.1 | 41.2 | 62.0 |
| Degree | 157 | 26.1 | 26.2 | 88.2 |
| PG | 70 | 11.6 | 11.7 | 99.8 |
| Others | 1 | .2 | .2 | 100.0 |
| Total | 600 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Sources: Primary Data Collection (May, 2013)

Table 4: Caste category* Area of Living Cross Tabulation

| Caste | Rural | Urban | Total |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| SC | 73 | 44 | 117 |
| ST | 108 | 90 | 198 |
| OBC | 127 | 101 | 228 |
| OC | 29 | 28 | 57 |
| Total | 311 | 289 | 600 |

Sources: Primary Data Collection (May, 2013)

Table: 5 Area of Living * Purchasing Behaviour Cross Tabulation

| | | Purchasing Behaviour | | | | Total |
|----------------|-------|----------------------|---------------|--------------|------------|-------|
| | | All Products | Half Products | 1/3 products | Not buying | |
| Area of Living | Rural | 175(29.6) | 82 | 43 | 11 | 311 |
| | Urban | 127(21.6) | 110 | 40 | 12 | 289 |
| Total | | 302 | 192 | 83 | 23 | 600 |

Sources: Primary Data Collection (May, 2013)

Table 6: Gender showing consumption per day in their family

| Count | | How many time eating in your family | | | | Total |
|--------|--------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|-------|
| | | 1 time | 2 time | 3 time | without food | |
| Gender | Male | 6 | 67(34.8) | 119(61.9) | 0 | 192 |
| | Female | 11 | 127(31.1) | 270(66.1) | 0 | 408 |
| Total | | 17 | 194 | 389 | 0 | 600 |

Sources Primary Data Collection (May, 2013).

Table 7: Gender having own Agricultural Land

| Count | | Any Agricultural Ownership | | Total |
|--------|--------|----------------------------|-----|-------|
| | | Yes | No | |
| Gender | Male | 26 | 163 | 189 |
| | Female | 35 | 376 | 411 |
| Total | | 61(10.1) | 539 | 600 |

Sources: Primary Data Collection (May, 2013).

Table 8: Frequency Table of Need of More Products

| Count | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Yes | 470 | 78.4 | 78.9 | 78.9 |
| No | 130 | 21.6 | 21.7 | 100.0 |
| Total | 600 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Sources: Primary Data Collection (May, 2013).

Table 9: Frequency Table showing Need of Traditional Food Products

| Count | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative% |
|-------|-----------|---------|---------------|-------------|
| Yes | 412 | 68.6 | 68.7 | 68.7 |
| No | 188 | 31.4 | 31.3 | 100.0 |
| Total | 600 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Sources: Primary Data Collection (May, 2013).

Table: 10 Extra products available during Festival time and Welfare Schemes

| Count | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative% |
|-------|-----------|---------|---------------|-------------|
| Yes | 441 | 73.5 | 73.5 | 73.5 |
| No | 159 | 26.5 | 26.5 | 100.0 |
| Total | 600 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Sources: Primary Data Collection (May, 2013).

Table 11: Frequency Table showing Negative Reason and Problems in Ration Shops

| Count Reason | Frequency | Percent | Valid % | Cumulative% |
|--------------------------------|-----------|---------|---------|-------------|
| Quality is Not Good | 171 | 28.5 | 28.5 | 28.5 |
| Products is Not Available | 138 | 23.0 | 23.0 | 51.5 |
| Employees Problem | 162 | 27.2 | 27.0 | 78.5 |
| No Ration Cards | 81 | 13.5 | 13.5 | 92.0 |
| Long Distance | 48 | 8.0 | 8.0 | 100.0 |
| Count Problems | | | | |
| Corruption | 128 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 |
| Leakages | 134 | 22.3 | 22.3 | 43.7 |
| Less Weightiest | 140 | 23.3 | 23.3 | 67.0 |
| Employee's not co-operative | 101 | 16.8 | 16.8 | 83.8 |
| Non-availability of Controlled | 59 | 9.8 | 9.8 | 93.7 |
| Increase Margin Salary | 38 | 6.5 | 6.3 | 100.0 |

Sources: Primary Data Collection (May, 2013).

Table 12: Frequency Table showing Suggestions to improve in UPDS

| Count | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative% |
|----------------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|-------------|
| Computerized Ration Shops | 187 | 31.1 | 31.2 | 31.2 |
| Need more Quality Products | 125 | 20.8 | 20.8 | 52.0 |
| Increased Vigilance Act | 116 | 19.3 | 19.3 | 71.3 |
| Information Notice Boards | 66 | 11.0 | 11.0 | 82.3 |
| More role in SHGs | 66 | 11.0 | 11.0 | 93.3 |
| Strong Law and Act | 40 | 6.8 | 6.7 | 100.0 |
| Total | 600 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Sources: Primary Data Collection (May, 2013).

Table 13: Districts* Most needed products in your family Cross Tabulation

| Count | | Most need of Products in your family | | | | | | Total |
|--------------------|----------|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|----------|----------|--------|-------|
| | | Rice | Wheat | Sugar | Palm oil | Kerosene | Others | |
| Selected Districts | Madurai | 92 | 51 | 29 | 22 | 6 | 0 | 200 |
| | Dindigul | 60 | 50 | 38 | 29 | 23 | 0 | 200 |
| | Theni | 69 | 64 | 35 | 20 | 12 | 0 | 200 |
| Total | | 221 | 164 | 102 | 71 | 41 | 0 | 600 |

Sources: Primary Data Collection 1st May 2013

Table 14: Gender * Are you Satisfied with Ration Products Cross Tabulation

| | | | Are you satisfaction in ration Products | | | | | Total |
|--------|--------|----------------|---|-----------------|-------|-------------------|----------------|-------|
| | | | Satisfaction | Dissatisfaction | Agree | Strongly Disagree | Strongly Agree | |
| Gender | Male | Count | 92 | 51 | 16 | 9 | 21 | 189 |
| | | Expected Count | 104.0 | 43.5 | 13.2 | 12.0 | 16.4 | 189.0 |
| | Female | Count | 238 | 87 | 26 | 29 | 31 | 411 |
| | | Expected Count | 226.1 | 94.5 | 28.8 | 26.0 | 35.6 | 411.0 |
| Total | | Count | 330 | 138 | 42 | 38 | 52 | 600 |
| | | Expected Count | 330.0 | 138.0 | 42.0 | 38.0 | 52.0 | 600.0 |

Chi-Square Tests (Table 14)

| | Value | df | Asymp. Sig. (2-sided) |
|------------------------------|--------------------|----|-----------------------|
| Pearson Chi-Square | 7.734 ^a | 4 | .102 |
| Likelihood Ratio | 7.677 | 4 | .104 |
| Linear-by-Linear Association | 2.403 | 1 | .121 |
| N of Valid Cases | 600 | | |

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 11.97. There was no significant relationship at 10% significance level between gender and satisfaction with ration products (*chi-square value*=7.734, *df*=4, *p*=.102).

Table 15: Gender * Are you agree with Price are low Cross tabulation

| | | | Are you agree with Price are low | | | | | Total |
|--------|--------|----------------|----------------------------------|----------|-------------------|---------------------------|----------------|-------|
| | | | Agree | Disagree | Strongly disagree | Neither agree or Disagree | Strongly Agree | |
| Gender | Male | Count | 110 | 25 | 14 | 15 | 25 | 189 |
| | | Expected Count | 113.1 | 18.9 | 12.3 | 12.0 | 32.8 | 189.0 |
| | Female | Count | 249 | 35 | 25 | 23 | 79 | 411 |
| | | Expected Count | 245.9 | 41.1 | 26.7 | 26.0 | 71.2 | 411.0 |
| Total | | Count | 359 | 60 | 39 | 38 | 104 | 600 |
| | | Expected Count | 359.0 | 60.0 | 39.0 | 38.0 | 104.0 | 600.0 |

Chi-Square Tests (Table 15)

| | Value | df | Asymp. Sig. (2-sided) |
|------------------------------|--------------------|----|-----------------------|
| Pearson Chi-Square | 7.150 ^a | 4 | .128 |
| Likelihood Ratio | 7.101 | 4 | .131 |
| Linear-by-Linear Association | .483 | 1 | .487 |
| N of Valid Cases | 600 | | |

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 11.97. There was no significant relationship at 10% significance level between gender and satisfaction with ration products (*chi-square value*=7.734, *df*=4, *p*=.102)

Major Findings, Conclusions and Suggestions

This study presents the major findings, conclusions and suggestions to make the Universal PDS more effective.

Only the Government owned Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation, Cooperatives and women SHGs alone are involved in running FPS. More than 93 percent of FPS is run by cooperatives. While compared to Dindigul and Theni the coverage of cardholders and FPS was high in Madurai district.

The district and gender wise analysis showed that, the percentage of female respondents was high.

The study found that majority of the respondents in the entire districts the literates were found high in all rural areas. The main important sources purchasing behaviour was more in rural areas compared than urban areas.

Agricultural ownership people also buying the ration products because of low price.

Customers need more good and quality products, and also valuable traditional and nutritional food products.

Computerized Ration Shops, and Strong Law and Act should be strictly introduced.

Rice is important in all selected districts but wheat is more needed in Theni districts. Kerosene's need is very low because of the usage of in LPG.

Government should invest more on LPG and discontinue the supply of Kerosene.

It was found that all sections of people have used Universal PDS articles and the lower price was the motivating factor. Majority of the sample respondents in all districts felt that goods were not available in time in all FPS.

It the samples responded that dissatisfaction over the quality and quantity of goods only available in UPDS were high percents.

Too many black markets are available in the state related to free rice distribution in PDS.

Increasing the margin to the society and the salary to the employees, reducing the number of family cards to be handled by FPS, maintaining and updating notice boards, forming vigilance committees, providing more role of

SHGs in running FPS and above all, providing non-controlled articles were the major suggestions given by sample respondents to make the Universal PDS more ineffective.

Conclusion

Universal coverage is the hallmark of PDS in Tamil Nadu. State Government is making all efforts to make the PDS more effective by ensuring the availability, affordability and accessibility of PDS articles to the poor (Mahendran 2013). The network of PDS consists of 30432 FPS covering 1.97 lakh family cards. Here, Cooperatives have been given more roles in running FPS. The emerging role of SHGs in UPDS is widely appreciated. Moreover, they enjoy the participation and involvement of entire village in running FPS. In this context the best practices of some women SHGs may be emulated and the role of local bodies in running FPS may be strengthened (Group Discussion). All above the reasons in this study find out the universal PDS facing many problems and prosperous but should be not continued in the state to find the best alliterative ideas. It has control over the market prices of essential commodities.

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