

The Role of National Food Security Act-2013 Turning India to No Man Hungry

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Abstract: India is world largest Democratic Country and the second position in population. Most of the population working under primary sector like agriculture, 63% of the population is directly or indirectly involved in agriculture, but still India can't feed nutritious food for all the citizens of the country. Since the Independence of India trying to eradicate hungry, started many program and schemes. In 2013 the government of India introduces an act National food security Act-2013(Right to Food Act). The main aim of this act supply food and nutrition's to all the citizens of the country. The government chooses the PDS system to make success full of this act. Under the act state government of Karnataka announce a program Anna Bhagya in 10/07/2013. This is the benefits of 1.9 crore families and the government expense more than 2500 crore per year. The result of this program was good there is no leakage because the government takes some of advanced technology like ekyc, mobile OTP. Through the Government fair price shops (PDS) distributes Rice and Ragi free of cost and supplying other commodities like Sugar, Salt, Dal, Wheat, Soaps, and Edible oil in offering ability cost. This is directly helps people to eat good nutritious food, and this program became model in the country. This article aims at to assess the role of National food Security Act to turning India into a no Man Hungry.

The methodology used to this article is Historical and Empirical. Secondary data had been gathered from Government Websites and Articles appeared in the reputed Journals. And the Primary data collected through conducting survey to the area which is covered under the scheme. The data analysed by using pie chart and Column.

Keywords: Food Security Act, Public Distribution System, Anna Bhagya Scheme, Poverty, Nutrition

Introduction

Hungry is common phenomena of the human society. It has been rapidly increased in the contemporary world in general and Third world Countries in particular. Many of the countries have been strived hard to overcome the problem of hungry. India is also trying a lot to meet the problem by passing some Legislation. 60% of the population are depends on agriculture and producing considerable amount of food products, even then en number of world population in general and India in particular are suffering from hungry. Perhaps the results of LPG, all over the world governments are given fully concentration on Industrialization and Urbanization. The adverse effect of LPG is creating Climate changing and Deforest. Hence the LPG policies did not concentrate on agriculture and climate change. As a result production of food commodities is not up to the satisfactory level. Perhaps this has been causing hungry around the world. And also there are 821 million people suffering from Malnutrition.

India is the second largest populated country in the world, agriculture is the main occupation. Nearly 63% of the population are involved in agriculture. But as per the 2019 Global Hunger Index, India Ranks 102 out of 117. This is the actual state of the Indian agricultural model. This was because the majority of the farmers are not following the instructions of experts properly, which resulted failed to get good production, the lack of production causes lack of offered ability. This is one of the main reason for raising malnutrition and hungry in the Nation. The government of India is taking many serious actions to reduce hungry level. The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers welfare, introduce plenty of schemes to support farmers like Agricultural marketing, Agricultural census, Credit, Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Digital Agriculture etc... It shows the governments have been consistently

trying to increasing agricultural products to achieve no man hungry in the country which is undeclared motto of the every government.

Poverty is one of the major reasons for the hungry; the government of India introduces a program in 1960 called Public Distribution System (PDS) to eradicate the poverty. Main slogan of 10th five year plan was also eradication of poverty in the country. However even after 74 years of independence 33% of the population of India is under below poverty line. PDS is one of the instruments in India's development process. The aims of the PDS are price supporting and providing nutritious food for farmers and consumers. Till 1992, PDS was a general entitlement scheme for all consumers without any specific target. But in 1992, PDS became RPDS (Revamped Public Distributive System) focusing the poor families, especially in the far-flung, hilly, remote and inaccessible areas. In 1997 RPDS became TPDS (Targeted Public Distributive System) which established Fair Price Shops for the distribution of food grains at subsidized rates.

Based on this PDS system Government of India has notified the National Food Security Act, 2013(Right to Food Act) on 10th September, 2013 with the objective to provide for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to lead dignified life. The Act provides for coverage of up to 75% of the rural population and up to 50% of the urban population for receiving subsidized food grains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), thus covering about two-thirds of the population. The eligible persons are entitled to receive 5 Kgs of food grains per person per month at subsidized prices of Rs. 3/2/1 per Kg for rice/wheat/coarse grains. The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA 2013) converts into legal entitlements for existing food security program of the Government of India. It includes the Mid-day Meal Scheme, Integrated Child Development Service's scheme and the Public Distribution System. Pregnant women, lactating mothers, and certain categories of children are eligible for daily free cereals. (dfpd.gov.in)

Salient Features

Coverage and entitlement under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)

Up to 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population will be covered under TPDS, with uniform entitlement of 5 kg per person per month.

State-wise coverage

Corresponding to the all India coverage of 75% and 50% in the rural and urban areas, State-wise coverage will be determined by the Central Government. Planning Commission has determined the State-wise coverage by using the NSS, Household Consumption Survey data for 2011-12.

Subsidized prices under TPDS and their revision

Food grains under TPDS will be made available at subsidized prices of Rs. 3/2/1 per kg for rice, wheat and coarse grains for a period of three years from the date of commencement of the Act. Thereafter prices will be suitably linked to Minimum Support Price (MSP). In case, any State's allocation under the Act is lower than their current allocation, it will be protected up to the level of average off take under normal TPDS during last three years, at prices to be determined by the Central Government. Existing prices for APL households i.e. Rs. 6.10 per kg for wheat and Rs 8.30 per kg for rice has been determined as issue prices for the additional allocation to protect the average off take during last three years.

Identification of Households

Within the coverage under TPDS determined for each State, the work of identification of eligible households is to be done by States/UTs.

Nutritional Support to women and children

Pregnant women and lactating mothers and children in the age group of 6 months to 14 years will be entitled to meals as per prescribed nutritional norms under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Mid-Day Meal (MDM) schemes. Higher nutritional norms have been prescribed for malnourished children up to 6 years of age.

Cost of intra-State transportation & handling of food grains and FPS Dealers' margin

Central Government will provide assistance to States in meeting the expenditure incurred by them on transportation of food grains within the State, its handling and FPS dealers' margin as per norms to be devised for this purpose. (dfpd.gov.in)

Anna Bhagya Yojane (Scheme)

National Food Security Act, 2013(Right to Food Act) based on this the state government of Karnataka launched its much-awaited ambitious programme called Anna Bhagya Yojane (scheme) to supply Food Grains at free of cost to Priority Household (AAY+BPL) families across the State. Anna Bhagya Scheme in Association with Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department

Karnataka state is came into exist on year of 1956; K.C Reddy is the first Chief Minister of the state. Karnataka is one of the major states in south India, geographically it's in 7th place and also it has 6.11.30.704 population according to the 2011 census report. 20% of Karnataka populations are below the poverty line, more than 90 lakhs families have BPL cards, and 28 lakhs families have APL cards (above poverty line) and 11 lakhs families have Anthyodya Yojane. The government of Karnataka headed by Siddaramaiah is announcing a programme named as Anna Bhagya Yojane in order to eradication of poverty in state. Anna Bhagya was launched on July 10, 2013, with Rs 3046 crore budget to benefit 1.09 crore families. The budgeted amount was cut to Rs 2533 crore in 2014-15 though the government ended up spending Rs 4500 crore on 1.10 crore families. (News Karnataka.com)

The Anna Bhagya scheme was slightly increased the quantity of rice i.e. Single member family will get from 5kg to 7kg of rice while a 10 member family will get 70kg a month. The objective of the scheme is to provide subsidized rice to the targeted beneficiaries like families living below the poverty line. The price of food is increasing day by day and under such circumstance, the condition of the poor families has become even worse since they do not have enough money to purchase food grains at market rates. This is a very noble initiative taken by Karnataka government for helping poor.

The state government procured 2.53 lakh MT of rice to be distributed across 21,000 fair price shops. Karnataka is using only 20% of rice grown here for the scheme, the rest of the food grains is procured form Chhattisgarh and the Food Corporation of India. The Central government is providing Rs29.64 and State government giving Rs3 per KG of rice, which means that 90% of the cost is borne by the central government. The Central government rice supply rate is around 20,000 tonnes and Chhattisgarh government supply is 25000 tones, the rate of every KG of rice is Rs32.64 including Transport charge also. This Anna Bhagya scheme Rice and Ragi is given free of cost, but other food commodities like Edible Oil, Salt, Dal, Sugar etc. items are providing low of cost for BPL families.(News Karnataka.com)

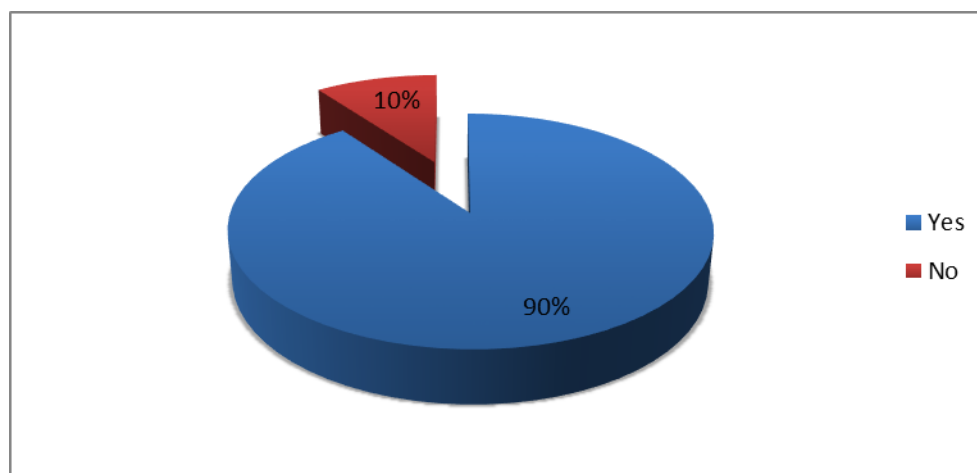


Figure. 1: Quality and Quantity of Groceries

The survey was conducted to 50 members in Tumkur Urban and Rural area by applying sampling method. The question was asked; whether you get the rice and other groceries at the right time? And are you satisfied with the quantity and quality? The respondents answered to this question, 90% of the people are responding yes and further their responded the scheme is really helping us a lot. And we are able to get ingredients at right time of every month more over we satisfied quality and quantity also. Remaining 10% of respondents were disagreeing, because there is misconception among some respondents about supply of groceries, quality and quantity

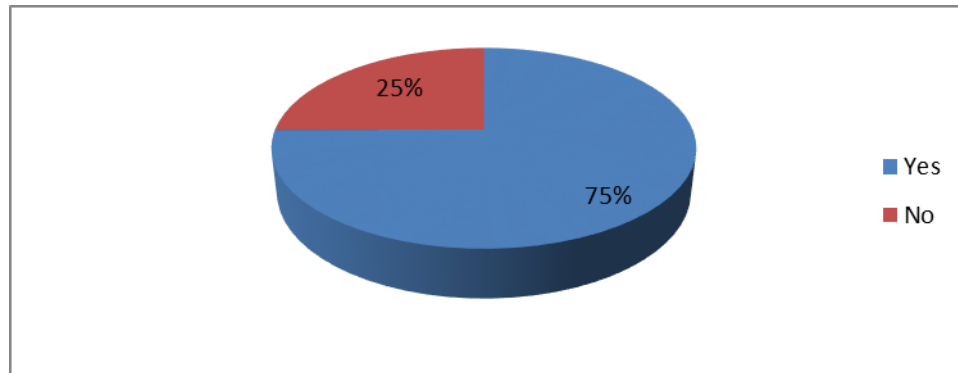
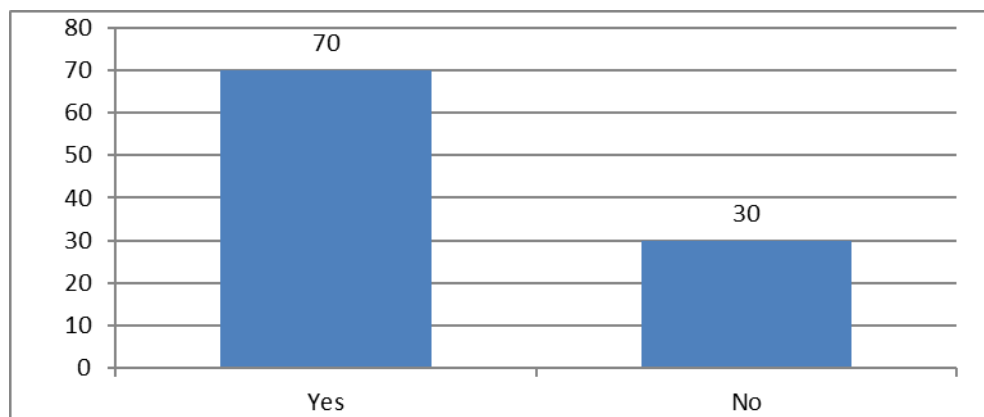


Figure 2: Nutrition and Health condition of Beneficiaries

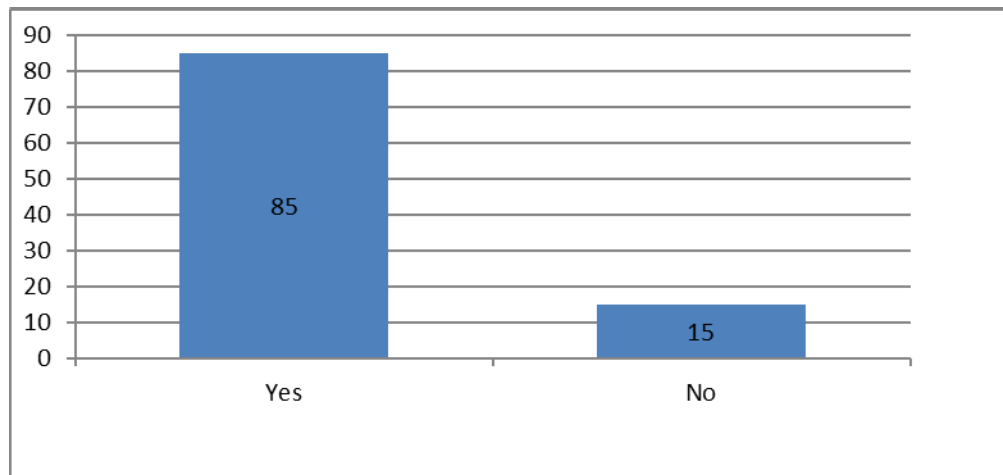
Do you think that the Anna Bhagya Scheme has been resolved malnutrition and improved yours family health? 75% of the people are responding yes and further their responded the scheme is really helping us a lot. And we are able to eat somewhat nutritious food. Remaining respondents tells the quality of rice and other groceries are not good hence the nutrition level also is very low.

Table 1: Economic conditions of Beneficiaries



Does Anna Bhagya Scheme improve the economy growth of your family or not? 70% of the people are responding yes and further their responded the scheme is really helping us a lot. We are leading somewhat better life. Whereas remaining 30% of respondents were disagree, because supplying rice free of cost will leads to laziness among the beneficiaries.

Table 2: Overall response of the Beneficiaries



Hence, there are 85% of respondents are positive and 15% of respondents are negative responses found in the survey. This shows that Anna Bhagya Scheme is really useful scheme in order to address the problem of hungry. Therefore, the governments have to improve the scheme by set right the issues prevailing with the Anna Bhagya scheme.

Conclusion

After the introduction of Anna Bhagya Scheme migration from rural to urban areas due to hunger, had also reduced. It is the same concern for the poor, which led the government to introduce 198 Indira Canteens in Bengaluru to help the urban poor get nutritious and quality food at nominal rates, this Indira canteens network is extended in State wise also. (The Hindu)

Anna Bhagya Scheme is becoming very successful; around 99.8% of the BPL families are getting rice in right quantity. The quality of food items is very low at starting time, but now it has been improving. The government has taken special concern about this program and introduced digitalized to control leakage and miss use. The response people were fair enough.

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