

A STUDY ON EFFECTIVENESS OF PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO KUMBakonam TOWN

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Introduction

Public distribution system (PDS) is a poverty alleviation programme and contributes towards the the social welfare of the people. Essential commodities like rice, wheat, sugar, kerosene and like are supplied to the people under PDS at reasonable prices in India both the central and state government attach utmost importance to ensure the availability of essential commodities, especially to the poor and downtrodden at affordable prices under the PDS. From time immemorial man hadwaged constant was to secure food.

Even today majority of the people especially in the developing countries spendmajor part of their livelihood to secure food. Consumption pattern of people in general include food grains, fruits, vegetables, fish, egg and other non-vegetarian items. Whenever there is scarcity of food or food is inaccessible to people there will be chaos and turmoil in the society. Such a situation demands fulfillment of two important goals. One is related to the production of sufficient quantity of food grains and another, making it available for the people.

The policy of food distribution consist of three dimensions first, the food is viewed as nutritional commodity second it is an economic commodity and the tthird is that it is a political commodity. Those whose access to foodies insufficient or insecure or vulnerable are the objects of control and domination exercised by those who control food. For those in command of food it is powerful resource that can be used to influence, manipulate or enforce one's will on others.

Evaluation of PDS in Tamilnadu

Tamilnadu has been one of the progressive states in India since the inception of FIVE YEAR plan and depends on agriculture however, this state's agriculture and its fortunes are dedicated largely by the vagaries of monsoon and its failure often makes life measurable for the landless poor, marginal and poor farmers. These section of population always remind as vulnerable sections of the society.

Handloom weavers, fisherman, porters, tribal, and other traditional cottage industries the had a set back in the liberalization era starting in 1990's. the problems like unemployment, underemployment, displacement, and migration, as consequences of the above reasons have been a big challenge.

Under this circumstances, Tamilnadu needs a well developed social infrastructure that form the basis of sustained economic growth. The health care program mes, enlarged pension schemes covering fresh areas, free education , free cycle to school children, women welfare schemes midday meal schemes and many other anti-poverty program mes, notably, the PDS are some of the important social welfare schemes being implemented in Tamilnadu. Ensuring food security to the poor became to priority item in the social security measures and the Tamilnadu Government took earnest effort in this direction.

Development of PDS in Tamilnadu

The state of Tamilnadu has inherited a system of policy and procedural guidelines and a networking system for implementation right from the British administration during the pre independence era. Tamilnadu was one of few states in India which took active interest in the development of PDS along with the policy laid down by the central Government. By supplying specific quantities of food grains at prices below the open market rate under PDS, the food policy of the state Government seeks to ensure minimum food consumption for the low-income groups of the society.

In order to meet the objectives of growth with social justice to provide a social safety net to the poor and the under privileged, the Government of Tamilnadu had bestowed special attention to improve the PDS in a successful way.

Review of Literature

The concept of food security and public distribution has attracted considerable research attention in recent past. The research studies conducted by the Government of India, State Government and the individual researchers have covered various dimensions of the Nature and operations of PDS.

Number of studies have been done on PDS in India. Important studies are presented data.

Madhura Swaminathan (2000)

- ✧ Universal or near-universal provision of good grains.
- ✧ An adequate quantity of food grains.
- ✧ Affordable prices of commodities supplied by PDS reasonable for the poor.
- ✧ Strong and effective system of procurement maintained.
- ✧ Major improvement in the administration of PDS.

Programmes of employment to PDS and expansion in order to provide purchasing power NIRD'S. Study on leakages in PDS (2003) found that not drawing and partial drawing of quota was substantially contributed for leakages.

Though number of studies has been conducted on PDS, the effectiveness of PDS has not been studied and measured quantitatively present study will remove this gap and will show how for the rural population have been benefited in PDS..

Colin Gonsalves (2004)

DS Critical of the plea of food subsidy cut. He asserted that the classification of BPL and APL was seriously flawed, the author observed that PDS was sabotaged in five ways viz.,

- i. By targeting.
- ii. By increasing the APL and BPL prices.
- iii. By relaxing fair average quality norms.
- iv. By rendering the FPS uneconomical and,
- v. By reducing the APL price but not communicating.

Nakkiran .S (2004)

Conducted a study on effectiveness of PDS in Tamilnadu and suggested that the present system

of universal PDS should be continued as it has control over the market prices of essential commodities.

Objectives

- To study the evolution of public Distribution System.
- To study the problem relating to the implementation of the public DistributionSystem.
- To study the benefits dived out of public Distribution system.
- To study the effectiveness of public Distribution System in Kumbakonam Taluk.

Methodology

The study has made use of normative and descriptive methods of analysis and relied on the documentary analysis of materials available form primary and secondary sources. Basically the government documents were collected from the government departments, agencies and other related websites.

For example governments orders, official circulars, short notes of the office of the registrar of co-operative societies and TNCSE ltd., policy notes on co-operative department, policy notes on food and consumer protection department of government of tamilnadu, annual report and other publications of the ministry of consumer affairs & public distribution, government of India, publications of planning commission, Government of India.

The primary data collected from users of fair price shop in kumbakonam through questionnaire by using convenience sampling method.

Limitations of the Study

The present study is not far from limitations, since the beginning, PDS has attracted the attention of the policy makers and hence, several measures were introduced during plan period to strengthen the system.

- ❖ Due to time and cost constraint the study is confined only to 100 samples.
- ❖ The questionnaire was collected in kumbakonam taluk only.
- ❖ The result may not be bias.

An Analysis of Effectiveness of Public Distribution System with Special Reference to Kumbakonam Taluk

Analysis and interpretation are closely related interpretation is not possible without analysis is widely used to refer both analysis and interpretation.

The study uses both primary as well as secondary data, primary data was collected through the questionnaire. Collecting the data were tabulated systematically in an orderly form.

Percentage Analysis

Percentage analysis is refers to special kind of ratio percentage are used in making comparison between two are more series of data used to describe the ratio. Since the percentage reduced everything to a common based and there by allows meaningful comparison to be made.

Table No.1

Classification on the Basis of Gender

S.No	Gender	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Male	36	72
2.	Female	14	28
	Total	50	100

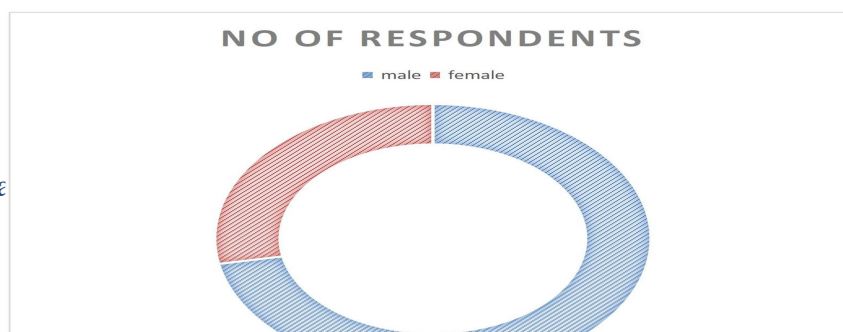
Source: primary data

Interpretation

The above table shows that 72% of respondents are male and remaining 28% of respondents are female.

DIAGRAM NO.1 CLASSIFICATION ON THE BASIS OF GENDER

Table No. 2



Classification on the Basis of Cylinder Having

S.No	No. of Cylinder	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	no	10	20
2.	one	10	20
3.	two	30	60
	total	50	100

Source: primary data

Interpretation

Above table shows that 60% of respondents are having two cylinders, 20% of the respondents are having one cylinder and remaining 20% of the respondents having no cylinder.

DIAGRAM NO. 2

CLASSIFICATION ON THE BASIS OF CYLINDER HAVING

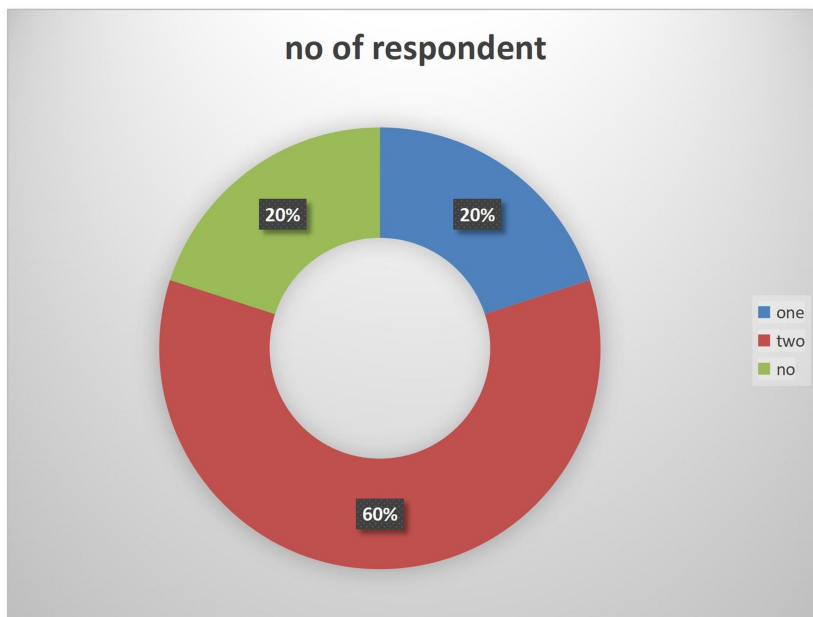


Table No. 3

Opinion About Location of Fair Price Shop

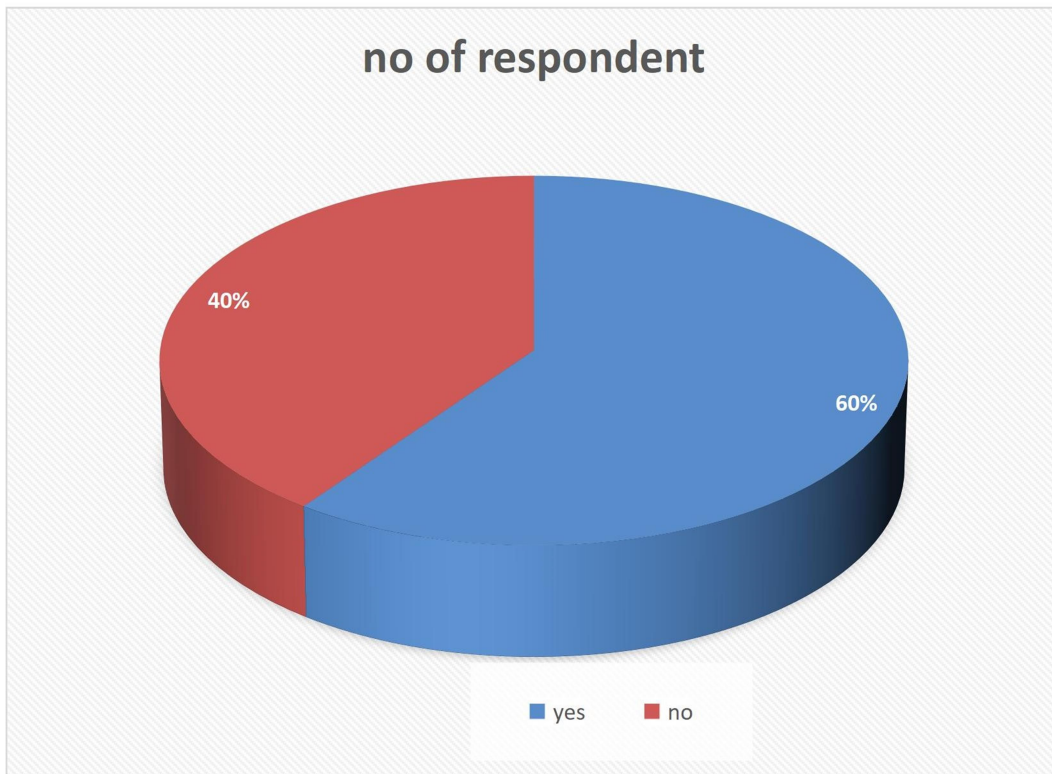
S.No	Opinion	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Yes	20	60
2.	No	30	40
	Total	50	100

Source: primary data

Inference

The above table shows, 60% of the respondents are feel that fair price shop is located near their residency and remaining 40% of the respondents feel that fair price shop is not located near their residency.

DIAGRAM NO.3



OPINION ABOUT LOCATION OF FAIR PRICE SHOP

Table No. 4

Opinion about Commodities Distributed at Right Time

S.No	Opinion	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Yes	45	90
2.	No	5	10
	Total	50	100

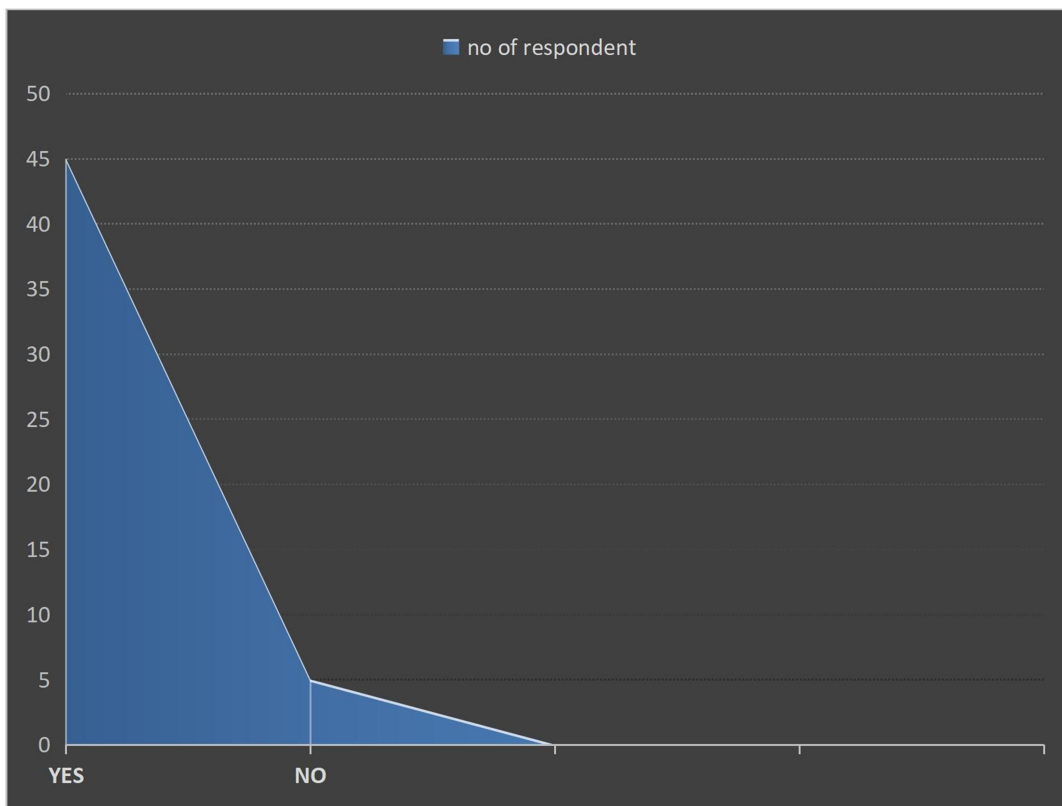
Source: primary data

Inference

The above table shows that 90% of the respondents are agree with the commodities are distributed by fair price shop at the right time and 10% of the respondents disagree with commodities

are distributed by fair price shop at the right time.

DIAGRAM NO. 4



OPINION ABOUT COMMODITIES DISTRIBUTED AT RIGHT TIME

Table No. 5

Opinion about Weight Measurement

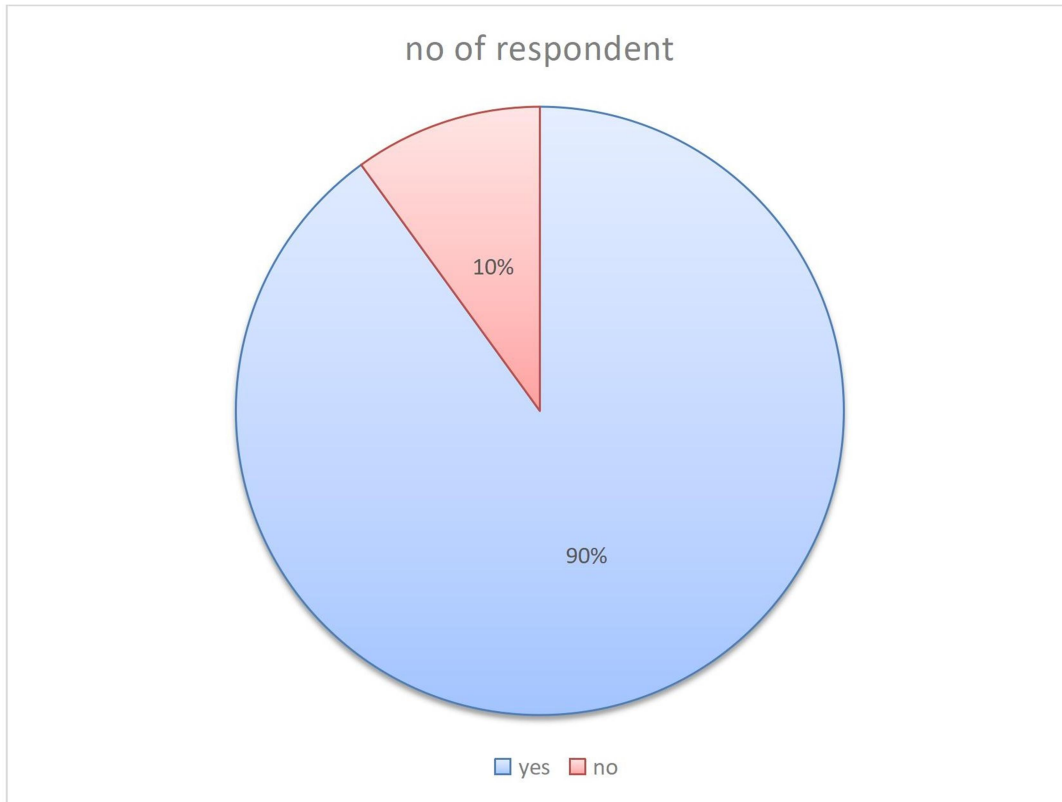
S.No	Opinion	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Yes	45	90
2.	No	5	10
	Total	50	100

Source: primary data

Inference

The above table shows that 90% of the respondents are agree to weightmeasurement is correct and 10% of respondents are not agree to weight measurement is correct.

DIAGRAM NO.5



OPINION ABOUT WEIGHT MEASUREMENT

Table No. 6

Message Received after Distribution of Commodities

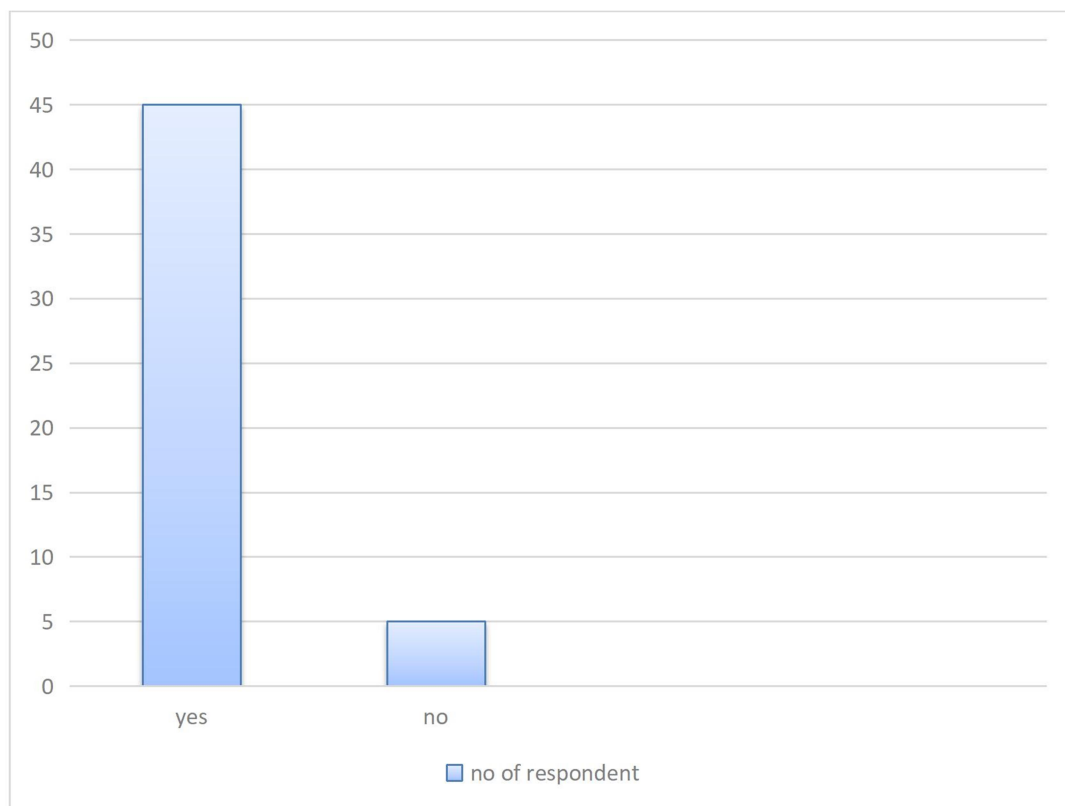
S.No	Opinion	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Yes	30	60
2.	No	20	40
	Total	50	100

Source: primary data

Inference

The above table shows that 60% of the respondents are receive message after distribution of commodities and remaining 40% of the respondents are not receive message after distribution of commodities.

DIAGRAM NO. 6



MESSAGE RECEIVED AFTER DISTRIBUTION OF COMMODITIES

Findings

- ◆ India’s public distribution system (PDS) is the largest distribution network.
- ◆ By the 1970’s PDS had evolved into a universal scheme for the distribution of subsidized food.
- ◆ In 1997, the government launched the targeted public distribution system (TPDS), with a focus on the poor.

- ◆ TPDS aims to provide subsidized food and fuel to the poor through a network of ration shops.
- ◆ Essential commodities act and PDS(control) order TPDS is administered under the public distribution system(control) order 200.
- ◆ Household below the poverty line or BPL; and household above the poverty or APL.
- ◆ 60% of the respondents are feel that fair price shop is located near their residency.
- ◆ 80% of the respondents are feel that fair price shop functioning in the morning hours and 20% of the respondents are feel hat fair price shop functioning in the evening hours.
- ◆ 80% of respondents feel that commodities are distributed by fair rice shop in mentioned time.
- ◆ 90% of the respondents are agree with the commodities are distributed by fair price at the right time.
- ◆ 90% of the respondents are agree to weight measurement is correct.

Suggestions

In all family cards the photo of family head is printed and the members are allowed to purchase the commodity under PDS by using this card & group photo of the family will be more useful for identification purpose. Godowns should be modernized and automated. So that packed materials could be supplied to the card holders through FPS.

A monthly block level meeting for the cardholders could be arranged. In this meeting the participation of ISO, CSR (PDS) officials from lead and link societies and TNSC must be ensured during such meeting the grievances of card holders could be addressed across the tables.

The system must be web-enabled from FPS and UP to the national level so transaction details will be readily available on the internet as this will make the entire operations transparent.

Conclusion

In India, PDS has grown from being a mere rationing system to a system of ensuring food security to all. The system in operating at present is TPDS. An analysis of the TPDS has highlighted certain remarkable achievements. They are, an integrated national level procurement and distribution system for essential commodities has been effectively put into operation, the progress made in procurement, storage, transportation and distribution had ensured that no starvation death of human beings are reported in independent India.



Right to food is implicit in the fundamental rights to life, as recognized by the supreme court of India. Government of tamilnadu recognizes this fact and tries to ensure that no family in the state goes hungry due to poverty or lack of access to foodgrains in the state.

References

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Dhawan, S.K (2006)- A handbook of Indian company.

Pathania kuloant singh- Public distribution system, Kanishka publisher New Delhi.