

**RESEARCH ARTICLE :**

# Problems faced by Anna bhagya beneficiaries and the suggestion given by them for improvement of Anna bhagya scheme

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**SUMMARY :** Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. The Public Distribution System is one of the poverty alleviation programmes in India. The basic aim of PDS is to provide essential commodities like rice, wheat, sugar, edible oil and kerosene at subsidized prices throughout the country. In our investigation we studied the problems faced by Anna bhagya scheme beneficiaries in Karnataka state. The study was carried out during 2018-19 in seven districts of Northern Karnataka namely Dharwad, Uttara Kannada, Bagalkot, Vijayapura, Haveri, Belagavi and Gadag. From each district 20 beneficiaries were selected making the sample size of 140. Simple random sampling technique was used to select the respondents. Pre-tested interview schedule was used to collect the data and suitable statistical tools like frequency and percentages were used for analysis of the data. It was noticed from the study that, cent per cent of the beneficiaries never faced problems like that they should pay for some items and compulsory purchase of some items. It was also clear from the study that, 84.29 per cent of the beneficiaries never mentioned about the leakages of food grains and the weight of the food items.

**KEY WORDS:**

Anna bhagya yojana, Food security, Public distribution system (PDS)

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## **BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES**

The rationing system which was introduced by British in India with a new outlook as Public Distribution System (PDS) the government of India has played a dominating role and has made considerable efforts to improve food production and to distribute equally to the masses. Public distribution system has been functioning for

more than six decades and has helped the government to alleviate the poverty to a large extent. This system serves the triple objective of protecting the poor, enhancing the nutritional status and generating a moderate influence on the market prices.

The deprivation of basic need represented by food insecurity and starvation are undesirable in their own right and also are

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possible precursors to nutritional, health and developmental cornerstone for the assessment and eradication of food insecurity in India. While the government of India passes the National Food Security Bill, the government of Karnataka has implemented a revised food distribution system, known as the Anna Bhagya Yojana from July 2013. Under this ambitious programme, the government is supplying food grains free of cost to priority and non-priority households across the State. Hence, this study was conducted to know the impact of the scheme. This study was conducted and this paper presents the problems faced by Anna bhagya beneficiaries and the suggestion given by them for improvement of Anna bhagya scheme.

## RESOURCES AND METHODS

This study was conducted in seven district of University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad jurisdiction

namely Dharwad, Uttar Kannada, Bagalkot, Vijayapura, Haveri, Belagavi and Gadag. From each districts 20 beneficiaries were selected making the sample size of 140. Simple random sampling technique was used to select the respondents. Pre-tested interview schedule was used to collect the data and suitable statistical tools like frequency and percentages were used for analysis of the data.

## OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The results of socio-personal characteristics is presented in Table 1.

### Age:

The data presented in the Table 3, revealed that, 56.43 per cent of the respondents belonged to middle age group, 26.43 per cent of the respondents belonged to old age group and 17.14 per cent belonged to young

Sr. No.	Characteristics	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Age	Young (18-35yrs.)	24	17.14
		Middle (36-50 yrs.)	79	56.43
		Old (>50yrs)	37	26.43
2.	Education	Illiterate	13	9.29
		Primary	18	12.86
		Middle school	20	14.29
		High school	49	35.00
		PUC	22	15.71
		Degree	18	12.86
3.	Marital status	Married	130	92.86
		Widow	9	6.43
		Divorce	1	0.71
4.	Occupation	Agriculture	136	97.14
		Business	1	0.71
		Labour	3	2.15
5.	Type of family	Nuclear	64	45.71
		Joint	76	54.29
6.	Size of the family	Small (1-3)	23	16.42
		Medium (3-5)	35	25.00
		Large (>5)	82	58.58
7.	Land holding	Landless	51	36.43
		Marginal	16	11.43
		Small	31	22.14
		Medium	42	30.00
		Large	0	0.00

age group. The probable reason might be that, middle age group people of every house is the one who has to look after all family members. The results are in line with the findings of Channal (2016).

### Education:

The education level according to Table 3 revealed that majority of the respondents had education upto primary school level. Parental bias in giving education to girl child might be the strong reason for majority of the respondents being educated upto primary school and middle school. Other contributing reasons could be the rural social environment where in women's education was not considered so important as she could be married and sent off to her husband's house. At such times parents hesitate to send their daughters to the other villages or towns for education. As people were still traditional in their mind set, they expect their daughters to take care of their younger siblings and to assist in household activities. All these factors might have contributed to the findings of majority to the respondents having education upto primary levels only. The results are in line with the studies conducted by Namratha *et al.* (2002); Swetha *et al.* (2006) and Patil (2015).

### Marital status:

Regarding the marital status of respondents, most of them (92.86%) were married, 6.43 per cent were unmarried and only 0.71 per cent were widows. Marriage was a traditional social institution and Indian villages being traditional, this was an expected trend. In rural areas girls were also married off at a young age. All these could be reasons for the presence of high per cent of married respondents. The results were in the line with the results of Rayangoudar (2009); Patil (2015) and Channal (2016) who found that majority of the respondents were married.

### Family occupation:

Most (97.14%) of the respondents main occupation was agriculture, 2.15 per cent of them were labours and only 0.71 per cent of them were engaged in business.

### Type of family:

The data pertaining to family type revealed that, more than half of the respondents (54.29%) belonged to joint families, remaining were from nuclear families. The elderly members of the family might not have allowed the younger generations (children and grand children) to

**Table 2: Source of information of Anna bhagya beneficiaries**

(n=140)

Sr. No.	Source	Frequency of getting information							
		Most often		Often		Sometimes		Never	
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1.	Family members	135	96.43	5	6.43	-	-	-	-
2.	Neighbors	4	2.86	46	32.86	90	64.29	-	-
3.	Friends and relatives	14	10.00	85	60.71	41	29.29	-	-
4.	Fellow beneficiaries	9	6.43	58	41.43	70	50.00	3	2.14

**Table 3: Institutional linkage**

Sr. No.	Institutions	Frequency	Percentage	Purpose
1.	Bank	139	99.29	Withdrawal Passbook entry Deposit
2.	Panchayat	134	95.71	To give application Signature
3.	Dept. of Agriculture	14	10.00	To get information related to subsidies, seeds, fertilizers
4.	Dept. of Horticulture	16	11.43	To get information related to horticulture crops Drip irrigation for orchards
5.	Dept. of Animal Husbandry	30	21.43	Treatment for animals Insurance
6.	Dept. of Forestry	-	-	-

live separately because they believed that unity as strength. However, some families had broken up with their siblings and have set up their own nuclear families. In general, joint family system was the norm in those villages.

The results were in confirmation with the findings of Rayangoudar (2009) and Patil (2015) who found that majority of the respondents of farming families belonged to joint families.

#### Size of the family:

The information about the size of the family revealed in Table 1 that, 58.58 per cent of the respondents had more than 5 members in their family, about 25.00 per cent of the respondents had family size of 3-5 members and 16.42.00 per cent had 1-3 members in the family. The probable reason for finding medium to large families could be that the small family norm was not yet accepted to a large extent by rural people. The existence of greater number of joint families in the study area might also been one of the reasons for finding middle to large families. Other contributing reasons might be that the families had more number of children, which in turn could be due to lack of education, less exposure to mass media and their beliefs like children are “Gift of God” and termination or prevention of pregnancy was an unforgivable sin. The results were in confirmation with the findings of Rayangoudar (2009) and Patil (2015).

#### Land holding:

India is said to be a land of small land holders with nearly 80 per cent of agriculture families holding less than 5 acres of land. In the present study nearly 70 per cent respondents possessed less than 5 acres of land and thirty per cent had medium land holding. This was keeping with the trend where in India 78 per cent of the country's farmers own less than 2.0 hectares of farm

land. The results were in line with the results of Swetha *et al.* (2006) and Patil (2015) who reported in her study that majority of the respondents belonged to small land holding category (2.5-5.00 acre).

#### Information consultancy pattern of beneficiaries:

It was clear from the Table 2 that, 96.43 per cent of the respondents most often used to get the information from family members, 60.71 per cent the respondents often used to get the information from friends and relatives, 64.29 per cent of the respondents and 50 per cent of them sometimes used to get information from their neighbors and fellow beneficiaries. The results are in line with the findings of Channal (2016).

#### Institutional linkage of the Anna bhagya beneficiaries :

Data presented in Table 3 shows the institutional linkage of the Anna bhagya beneficiaries. It was noticed in the table that, almost cent per cent (99.29%) of the respondents visit to bank for withdrawal or deposit of money and for passbook entry. Ninety five per cent of the beneficiaries visit Panchayat to apply for any schemes. Around 20 per cent of the respondents go to animal husbandry department for treatment of animals.

#### Mass media participation of Anna bhagya beneficiaries:

Mass media participation of Anna bhaya beneficiaries was found in Table 4. It was clear from the table that, almost all the respondents (99.29%) subscribe television and 90.71 per cent them regularly watch television. Ninety one per cent of the respondents owned mobile phone and only around 12 per cent of them were regularly using it.

Television these days is a household item owned by almost all the respondents. It is now a common sight to

**Table 4: Mass media participation**

Sr. No.	Mass media	Subscriber/ owner		Frequency of use					
		F	%	Regular		Occasional		Never	
				F	%	F	%	F	%
1.	Radio	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.	Television	139	99.29	127	90.71	12	8.57	-	-
3.	Newspaper	21	15	4	2.86	17	12.14	-	-
4.	Magazine	9	6.43	-	-	9	6.43	-	-
5.	Mobile	128	91.43	17	12.14	11	7.86	-	-

see women completing their household work and sit before the T.V. to watch serials. Cent per cent of them were using it for entertainment purpose only. They are probably unaware of the educated programmes aired on the T.V. Only few possessed newspaper and magazine (6.43%) probably because of illiteracy and the families watch major news highlights on the T.V. No one is having radio at their home. These days the mobiles are an all-in-one gadget. Even though women have radios on their mobile phones they were not able to make use of the radio because of lack of skill. The results were in the line with the results of Patil (2015).

### Problems faced by beneficiaries of Anna bhagya scheme:

Data presented in Table 5 represents the problems faced by beneficiaries of Anna bhagya scheme. It was noticed that, cent per cent of the beneficiaries never faced problems like that they should pay for some items, compulsory purchase of some items. The reason might be that, in this scheme the government is providing 7 kg of rice for free of cost and there is no compulsory for beneficiaries to buy the item. Around 84.29 per cent of the beneficiaries never mentioned about the leakages of food grains and the weight of the food items because the government is using a good quality of packing materials and the cleanliness maintained at the godowns. Ninety per cent of the beneficiaries mentioned that occasionally there is a problem of non-availability of

good a at a specified dates due to shortage of food grains and some financial problems in food and civil supplies office. Seventy per cent of them said that sometimes the quality of dal that they were providing was very poor. More than half of the respondents (54.29%) mentioned that there it takes more time to get the ration cards due to server problem and problems in Gram Panchayat.

### Suggestions given by Anna bhagya beneficiaries for effective management of the scheme:

Suggestions given by Anna bhagya beneficiaries for effective management of the scheme are presented in Table 6. It was noticed in the table that, cent per cent of the respondents mention that there is a need to increase the food grains. The probable reason might be that to increase the nutritional security and food security. Cent per cent of the respondents said that there is a need to introduce packed food grains to reduce the contamination. More than half of the respondents (57.14%) said that there is need for monitoring of goods in all the levels and 51.42 per cent of the beneficiaries mentioned that there is need to introduce token system because to reduce the wastage of time by standing in que.

### Conclusion:

Anna bhagya scheme has become successful in Karnataka to provide essential food grains to poor, but on the other hand, there is also criticism that due

**Table 5: Problems in public distribution system in Anna bhagya scheme**

Sr. No.	Particular	Regular		Occasional		Never	
		F	%	F	%	F	%
1.	Leakages	-		22	15.71	118	84.29
2.	Poor quality	2	1.43	99	70.71	39	27.86
3.	Weighment	5	3.57	17	12.14	118	84.29
4.	Non-availability of goods at specified date	1	0.71	127	90.71	13	9.29
5.	Non-availability of ration cards	10	7.14	76	54.29	54	38.57
6.	Charges for some items	-		-		140	100.00
7.	Compulsory purchase of certain items	-		-		140	100.00

**Table 6: Suggestions for effective management of Anna bhagya scheme**

Sr. No.	Statements	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Need to increase the food grains	140	100.00
2.	Need to introduce packed food grains	140	100.00
3.	Need to introduce token system	72	51.42
4.	Need monitoring/inspecting	80	57.14

to shortage in food grains and lack of financial resources, the Government of Karnataka is facing many of the problems to distribute food grains through Anna bhagya scheme. Further, few of the restrictions have also been imposed to distribute food grains such as limiting the food grains, compulsions of Aadhar cards and biometric identifications, etc. Government should focus on quality and quantity of food grains and other food grains to give on subsidiaries prices it is better to achieve undernourishment and universal food access.

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