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Exploring the Problems in Implementations of NFSA: Evidence from State of Haryana

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Abstract: The purpose of the article is to explore the problems in implementations of National Food Security Act. Therefore, we collected data from 32 Fair Price Shop dealers selected from the sample district of Hisar, Karnal, Panchkula, and Charkhi Dadri. We follow the quota and snow-ball sampling methods to draw equal number of respondents from each targeted district for the study. In this article, we collected the responses of 32 FPSs dealers. Our results provide that FPSs supplier does not face the poor internet connectivity especially in rural areas, errors in scanning the finger prints, and interrupted power supply. In addition, FPSs supplier provide that quality of devices such as POS, UPS, and biometric machine is good to manage the public distribution system. On other hand, FPSs supplier opinion that government should improve grievance redressal system for beneficiaries. Therefore, the findings of this study help to improve the better implementations of National Food Security Act 2013.

Keywords: PDS, NFSA 2013.

I. INTRODUCTION

Food security is a broad term with many facets. Food security has been described in a variety of ways by different groups at different times. Food security is defined as ensuring that all people, at all times, have access to the fundamental foods they need to live an active and healthy life. It is characterized by food availability, access, usage and stability. Despite incredible technological, economic, socio-cultural and agricultural progress, physical and economic access to basic food for the world's estimated seven billion people (US Census Bureau) remains a major concern in the twenty-first century. Food security is a problem in many developing and impoverished countries, including India.

Since independence, India has attained self-sufficiency in the production of main agricultural crops, increased yield and area under irrigation and more, thanks to massive efforts to improve the agriculture sector and the "Green revolution". India now has one-sixth of the world's wheat and rice stock; yet, India's performance, as measured by the Global Hunger Index (GHI), is poor. According to Global Hunger Index (GHI, 2017), "In India, more than 20 per cent and 38.4 per cent of children are suffering from wasting and stunting." This figure is extremely alarming. The government's planning and policy has remained centered on ensuring food security.

Food security refers to the availability of enough food grains to meet domestic demand as well as individual access to sufficient quantities of food at reasonable rates. One of the country's major achievements has been achieving self-sufficiency in food grain production at the national level. The government is implementing the Targeted Public Distribution System, which provides subsidized food grains to eligible households in order to address the issue of food security at the household level. Therefore, this article explores the problems in implementations of National Food Security Act (NFSA). 2013. This article is

organized as follows. Section 2 provides the research methodology. Section 3 analyze the data with suitable statistical software. In Section 4, we conclude the findings.

II. METHODOLOGY

As aim of this study is to explore the problems in implementation of NFSA, we gathered data from the fair price shops dealers. Furthermore, our respondents live in radius of Hisar, Karnal, Panchkula, and Charkhi Dadri. We constructed a structured questionnaire to obtain the relevant data, which includes statements on exploring the problems in implementations of NFSA. The questionnaires were filled up by visiting the fair price shops in targeted districts of Haryana. We followed the quota and snow-ball sampling methods to draw equal number of respondents from each targeted district for the study. In this article, we collected the responses of 32 FPSs dealers. We used the IBM SPSS V24 to analyze the data.

III. DATA ANALYSIS

3.1. Characteristics of Respondents

Table 1: District of respondents

	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Hisar	8	25.0
Karnal	8	25.0
Panchkula	8	25.0
Charkhi Dadri	8	25.0
Total	32	100.0

Source: The field survey.

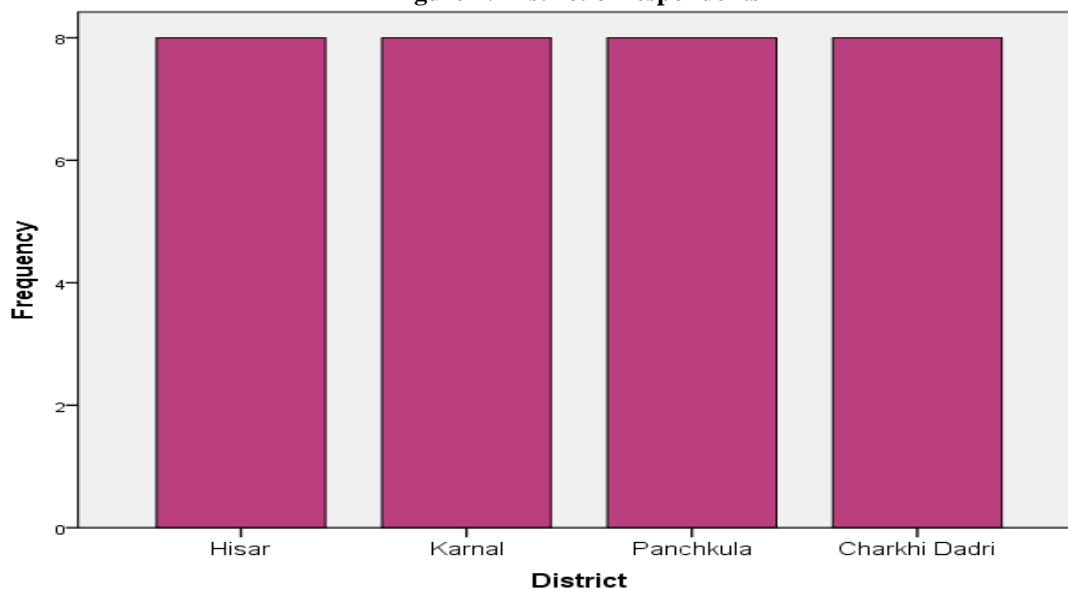**Figure 1: District of respondents**

Table 1 and Figure 1 show the district- wise distribution of respondents. The results show that equal number of respondents i.e. n=8 (25 per cent) from each of the districts and in total 32 respondents have been taken from all the four selected districts i.e. Hisar, Karnal, Panchkula and Charkhi Dadri.

3.2. Problems in Implementation of NFSA

Table 2: Poor internet connectivity especially in rural areas

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	5	15.6
Disagree	25	78.1
Agree	2	6.3
Total	32	100.0

Source: The field survey.

Table 2 shows that 78.1 per cent of the respondents are disagree and 15.6 per cent of respondents are strongly disagree with statement that there is poor internet connectivity in rural areas. In addition, 6.3 per cent of respondents are agree with the above statement.

Table 3: Technical glitches increase with the use of technology

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	3.1
Disagree	16	50.0
Neutral	13	40.6
Agree	2	6.3
Total	32	100.0

Source: The field survey.

Table 3 shows that 50 per cent of respondents are disagree with statement "technical glitches increase with the use of technology" while 40.6 per cent of respondents who are neutral with above statement. In addition, 6.3 per cent of respondents are agree and rest of 3.1 per cent of respondents are strongly disagree with statement "technical glitches increase with the use of technology".

Table 4: Errors in scanning the finger prints

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	6	18.8
Disagree	22	68.8
Neutral	4	12.5
Total	32	100.0

Source: The field survey.

Table 4 elaborates that 68.8 per cent of respondents are disagree and 18.8 per cent of respondents are strongly disagree with statement that there are errors in scanning the finger prints. In addition, 12.5 per cent of respondents are neutral with statement "errors in scanning the finger prints".

Table 5: Interrupted power supply

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	3	9.4
Disagree	27	84.4
Neutral	2	6.2
Total	32	100.0

Source: The field survey.

Table 5 shows that 84.4 per cent and 9.4 per cent of respondents who are disagree and strongly disagree respectively with that there is interrupted power supply in the rural areas. In addition, 6.2 per cent of respondents are neutral with the above statement.

Table 6: Quality of devices such as POS, UPS, and biometric machine

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	2	6.3
Disagree	28	87.5
Neutral	2	6.3
Total	32	100.0

Source: The field survey.

Table 6 demonstrates that 87.5 per cent of respondents are disagree and 6.3 per cent of respondents are strongly disagree with statement that quality of devices such as POS, UPS, and biometric machine is a problem. In addition, 6.3 per cent of respondents are neutral about the above statement.

Table 7: Lack of grievance redressal system for beneficiaries

	Frequency	Percentage
Disagree	3	9.4
Neutral	5	15.6
Agree	20	62.5
Strongly Agree	4	12.5
Total	32	100.0

Source: The field survey.

So far as the administrative problems are concerned, Table 7 shows that 62.5 per cent of respondents are agree and 12.5 per cent of respondents are strongly agree with statement that there is lack of grievance redressal system for beneficiaries. But 15.6 per cent of respondents are neutral to the statement. Rest of 9.4 per cent of respondents are disagree with statement that there is lack of grievance redressal system for beneficiaries.

Table 8: Errors in data seeding

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	2	6.3
Disagree	30	93.8
Total	32	100.0

Source: The field survey.

Table 8 shows that 93.8 per cent of respondents are disagree and 6.3 per cent of respondents are strongly disagree with statement that there errors in data seeding.

Table 9: Biometric failures to match the beneficiary's information

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	2	6.2
Disagree	26	81.3
Agree	4	12.5
Total	32	100.0

Source: The field survey.

Table 9 displays that 81.25 per cent of respondents are disagree and 6.25 per cent of respondents are strongly disagree with statement that there are biometric failures to match the beneficiary's information. While 12.5 per cent of respondents are agree with the above statement.

Table 10: Errors in stock availability in the system or incorrect quantities displayed by POS

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	2	6.2
Disagree	30	93.8
Total	32	100.0

Source: The field survey.

Table 10 depicts that 93.8 per cent of respondents are disagree and 6.3 per cent of respondents are strongly disagree with statement "errors in stock availability in the system or incorrect quantities displayed by POS".

IV. CONCLUSION

In nutshell, there are not much technological and administrative issues with the implementation of NFSA except a few like in case of old age single member family. FPSs supplier does not face the poor internet connectivity especially in rural areas, errors in scanning the finger prints, and interrupted power supply. In addition, FPS dealers accepted that quality of devices such as POS, UPS, and biometric machine is good to manage the public distribution system. On other hand, FPS dealers' opinion that government should improve grievance redressal system for beneficiaries. Therefore, the findings of this study will help in the better implementation of NFSA.

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Annexure: Questionnaire

Following are the problems in implementation of NFSA, how much do you agree with these problems based on your real-life experience? Please respond on a five-point scale from strongly agree to strongly disagree.

Strongly disagree=1; Disagree=2; Neutral=3; Agree=4; Strongly Agree=5

Code	Technological Problem	1	2	3	4	5
TP1	Poor internet connectivity especially in rural areas					
TP2	Technical glitches increase with the use of technology					
TP3	Errors in scanning the finger prints					
TP4	Interrupted power supply					
TP5	Quality of devices such as POS, biometric machine					
	Administrative Issues					
AI1	Lack of grievance redressal system for beneficiaries					
AI2	Errors in data seeding					
AI3	Biometric failures to match the beneficiary's information					
AI4	Errors in stock availability in the system or incorrect quantities displayed by POS					
AI5	Issuance of smart cards to the beneficiaries					