Strategies towards Effective Public Distribution System in Tamil Nadu
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Abstract

PDS is considered as principal instrument in the hands of State Governments for providing safety net to the poor against the spiraling rise in prices of essential commodities. In this regard Tamil Nadu sets a model in implementing the PDS as universal system. Apart from the central government subsidy, the state has incurred huge costs in this regard because of the universal system. In order to find the solution to cut down the cost incurred by this system, this paper examines the error of inclusion under this system and also made an attempt to find the pitfalls in this system. This paper analyses the role of universal PDS in improving access to food for the poor and food insecure; it analyses the empirical data of two previous studies on the issue of targeting the PDS; finally it suggests policy interventions for strengthening the PDS. It was found that there is wrong diversion of subsidy because of income criteria followed to find the BPL families and there is also lack of people’s role for the effective functioning of PDS in Tamilnadu. So, There is a need for more consistent set of policies designed to cater to the specific needs of the State. These would range from strategies that promote the growth of the agricultural sector to a more community oriented Public Distribution System involving all major actors in the distribution channel.