

CHAPTER VI

(Role of PDS on Household Food Security)

Introduction:

As we have mentioned earlier that Public distribution system (PDS) is the flagship programme of Government of India to provide social safety nets to the people of India. Government of India also took some important initiatives to provide food to each and every person of the state, particularly to the poor and marginalized people of the state. As a flagship programme, PDS has to play a significant role to cope up with the food insecurity problem and to provide various food items to the people of Assam, particularly to the people living below poverty line. In this aspect, it is quite relevant to assess the performance of PDS towards the food security status of the households, especially the BPL households. So the present study endeavours to assess the performance of PDS towards household food security. This chapter has been arranged in two sections.

Section I has been devoted to analyse some important facts about public distribution to the sample BPL households of Golaghat District. Section V has been devoted to assess the contribution of PDS towards food security status of the sample BPL households.

VI.1. (A) Distribution of Sample Households Based on Type of Ration Cards:

As mentioned earlier, four types of ration cards are available in the State of Assam. These are below poverty line card (BPL), Antodaya Anna Yojana card (AAY), Mukhiya Mantir Anna Suraksha Yojana (MMASY) card and Above Poverty Line card (APL). Out of these, BPL and AAY cards are issued to the BPL families. MMASY card is issued to the APL families who are very near to the poverty line and APL card is issued to the APL families. As our sample population are all BPL identified families, they are entitled to either BPL or AAY cards. But in reality a larger proportion of BPL identified families are not issued BPL cards due to various reasons. Table no VI (1) & fig. VI (1) show the block wise type of card the sample BPL households are having.

Table No: VI.1

Block wise Type of Cards of the BPL households

Block	BPL	AAY	Total BPL	APL	MMASY	Total APL	Total
Morongi	7	20	27 (54)	9	14	23 (46)	50
Kakodunga	20	5	25(50)	4	21	25 (25)	50
Gamariguri	19	5	24 (48)	10	16	26(52)	50
Central	31	12	43 (86)	7	0	7 (14)	50
South	42	11	53 (58.89)	10	27	37 (41.11)	90
East	33	10	43 (61.43)	12	15	27 (38.57)	70
North	31	8	39 (55.71)	12	19	31 (44.29)	70
West	32	11	43 (61.43)	9	18	27 (38.57)	70
Total	215	82	297 (59.40)	73	130	203 (40.60)	500 (100)

Source: Tabulation from the primary data- 2014

(Figures in the brackets shows percentage)

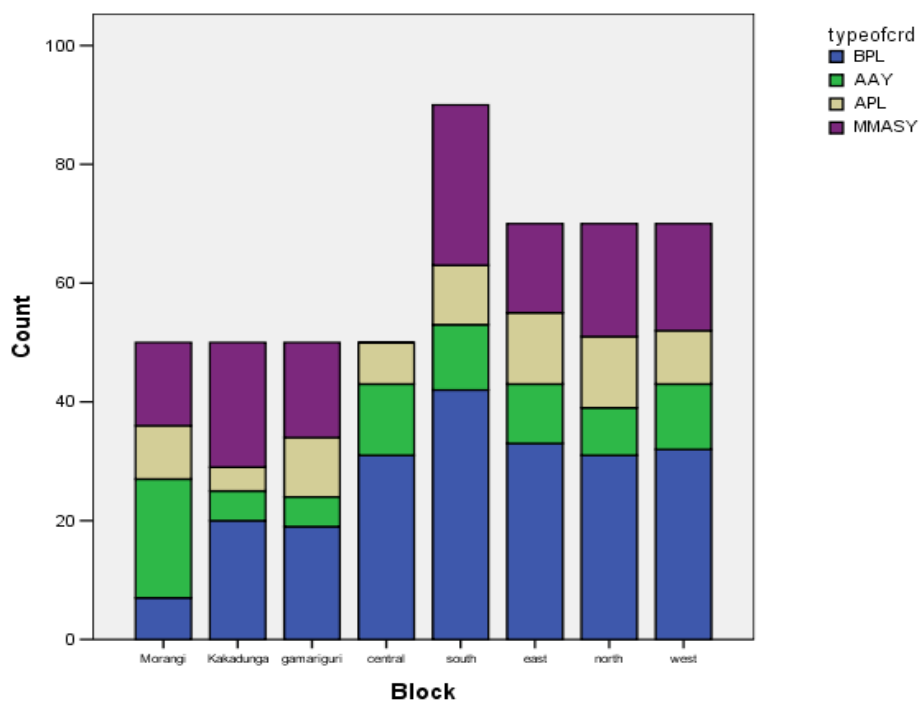


Fig. VI (1): Block wise sample households type of ration card

Table no VI (1) & fig. VI (1) show that out of the 500 sample households 40.6 percent (203 nos) households have not received BPL card, although they are BPL identified families. Out of the total sample households having BPL cards, highest percentage is [188]

in the Golaghat Central development block where 86 percent sample BPL households have the BPL card, whereas in the Gomariguri development block this percentage is lowest, where only 48 percent of the sample BPL households have BPL card. 61.43 percent sample BPL households of both Golaghat east and Golaghat west development blocks have BPL cards in their disposal. Out of the 203 non BPL card holder sample households, in Gomariguri development block highest percentage (52 percent) of sample BPL households have APL card followed by Kakodunga development block where 50 percent of the sample BPL households have either APL or MMASY card. In Golaghat central development block, the non BPL card holder sample household is the lowest, where 14 percent have either APL or MMASY card.

Of the total 400 sample rural BPL households 233 nos (58.25 percent) households have either BPL or AAY card (i.e BPL card) and remaining 167 nos (41.75 percent) have either APL or MMASY card (i.e non BPL card) , although they are all BPL identified families.

Out of the total 100 sample urban BPL households 64 nos (64 percent) households have either BPL or AAY card (i.e BPL card) and remaining 36 nos (36 percent) households have either APL or MMASY card (i.e non BPL card). This is shown in the table no. VI (2)

Table No : VI.2

Regionwise Distribution of Households having Type of Card

Household	Rural	Urban	Total
BPL	168	47	215
AAY	65	17	82
Total BPL	233 (58.25)	64 (64)	297 (58.4)
APL	63	10	73
MMASY	104	26	130
Total APL	167 (41.75)	36 (36)	203 (40.6)
All Total	400 (100)	100 (100)	500 (100)

Source: Tabulation from the primary data- 2014

(Figures in the brackets shows percentage)

VI.1.(B) Caste wise Classification:

Out of the total 500 sample BPL households, Other Backward Class (OBC) category constitutes 272 nos (54.4 percent). Out of this OBC sample households, 151 nos (55.5 percent) households have BPL card (either BPL or AAY card) and remaining 121 nos (44.5 percent) households have APL card (either APL or MMASY card). Out of the 113 sample general category households, 78 nos (69.03 percent) have BPL card (either BPL or AAY card) and remaining 35 nos (30.97 percent) have APL card (either AAY or MMASY card). It also reveals that out of the 82 sample ST (P) households 46 nos (56.90 percent) household have BPL card and remaining 36 nos (43.90 percent) have APL card. It is also found that 33 nos sample households are SC category where 22 nos (66.67 percent) have BPL card and remaining 11 nos (33.33 percent) have APL card. Table no VI. (3) depicts this result.

Table No: VI.3
Distribution of Cards among Households by Caste

Household	General	OBC	ST (P)	SC	Total
BPL	59	103	36	17	215
AAY	19	48	10	5	82
Total BPL	78 (69.03)	151 (55.50)	46 (56.10)	22 (66.67)	297 (59.40)
APL	12	44	13	4	73
MMASY	23	77	23	7	130
Total APL	35 (30.97)	121 (44.50)	36 (43.90)	11 (33.33)	203 (40.60)
All Total	113 (100)	272 (100)	82 (100)	33 (100)	500 (100)

Source: Tabulation from the primary data- 2014

(Figures in the brackets shows percentage)

VI.1. (C) Gender Wise Classification:

Of the total 500 sample BPL households, 431 households head is male and remaining 69 households head is female. Out of the 431 male headed households 247 nos (57.31 percent) households have BPL card (either BPL or AAY card) and remaining 184 nos (42.69 percent) households have APL card (either APL or MMASY card). On the

other hand, out of the 69 female headed household 50 nos (72.46 percent) households have BPL card (either BPL or AAY card) and remaining 19 nos (27.54 percent) households have APL card (either APL or MMASY card). Thus 57.31 male headed households and 72.46 percent female headed sample BPL households have BPL card in the study area. These are shown in table no. VI(4)

Table No: VI.4

Distribution of Type of card by Gender of the Household Head

Household	Male	Female	Total
BPL	179	36	215
AAY	68	14	82
Total BPL	247 (57.31)	50 (72.46)	297 (59.4)
APL	66	7	73
MMASY	118	12	130
Total APL	184 (42.69)	19 (27.54)	203 (40.6)
All Total	431 (100)	69 (100)	500 (100)

Source: Tabulation from the primary data- 2014

(Figures in the brackets shows percentage)

VI.1.(D) Education Wise Classification:

Of all the total 500 sample BPL household, 87 households head are illiterate. Among them 53 nos (60.92 percent) households have BPL card (either BPL or AAY card) and remaining 34 nos (39.08 percent) have APL card (either APL or MMASY card). Out of the total 134 nos households head whose education level are upto class V, 87 nos (64.93 percent) households have BPL card and remaining 47 nos (35.07 percent) households have APL card. Out of the 231 nos household heads having education level upto class X, 126 nos (54.55 percent) households have BPL card (either BPL or AAY card) and remaining 105 nos households have APL card (either APL or MMASY card). It also reveals that 40 nos household heads education level is upto class XII. Among them 24 nos (60 percent) households have BPL card (either BPL or AAY card) and remaining 16 nos (40 percent) households have APL card (either APL or MMASY card). It also reveals that 8 nos of household heads education level is graduate and above of whom 7 nos (87.5 percent) have BPL card and remaining 1 nos (12.5percent) have APL card. These are depicted in table no VI (5)

Table No: VI.5**Distribution of Type of Card by the Education level of Household Head**

Household	Illiterate	Upto class 5	Upto Class 10	Upto Class 12	Graduate and Above	Total
BPL	42	61	90	16	6	215
AAY	11	26	36	8	1	82
Total BPL	53(60.92)	87(64.93)	126(54.55)	24 (60)	7 (87.5)	297(59.4)
APL	12	21	36	4	-	73
MMASY	22	26	69	12	1	130
Total APL	34(39.08)	47(35.07)	105(45.45)	16 (40)	1 (12.5)	203(40.6)
All Total	87 (100)	134 (100)	231 (100)	40(100)	8 (100)	500 (100)

Source: Tabulation from the primary data- 2014

(Figures in the brackets shows percentage)

VI.1. (E) Occupation Wise Classification:

Of the total 500 sample BPL household 178 household head's occupation is cultivation of whom 107 nos (60.11 percent) households have BPL card (either BPL or AAY card) and remaining 71 nos (39.89 percent) households have APL card (either APL or MMASY card). It also reveals that out of 4 households whose household head's occupation is agricultural labour, all have BPL card. Table no VI (6) also reveals that maximum households occupation is daily wage earner, where out of 188 nos households, 106 nos (56.38 percent) have BPL card and remaining 82 nos (43.62 percent) have APL card. Out of the 45 households, where the occupation of the household head is private service, 28 nos (62.22 percent) have BPL card (either BPL or AAY card) and remaining 17 nos (37.78 percent) have APL card (either APL or MMASY card). It is quite significant that 2 sample BPL households head have Government service and both the household have BPL card. Out of the 72 household of whom the occupation of the household head is small business, 46 nos (63.89 percent) households have BPL card (either BPL or AAY card) and remaining 26 nos (36.11 percent) households have APL card (either APL or MMASY card). 2, 4 and 5 sample household head's occupation are housewife, unemployed and others

respectively of whom 1, 1 and 2 nos of households have BPL card respectively. These are depicted in table no VI (6)

Table No: VI.6
Distribution of Type of Card by Households Occupation

Household	Occupation of the Household Head									Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
BPL	72	4	78	18	2	38	0	1	2	215
AAY	35	0	28	10	0	8	1	0	0	82
Total BPL	107 (60.11)	4 (100)	106 (56.38)	28 (62.22)	2 (100)	46 (63.89)	1 (50)	1 (25)	2 (40)	297 (59.4)
APL	28	0	29	5	0	8	0	2	1	73
MMASY	43	0	53	12	0	18	1	1	2	130
Total APL	71 (39.89)	0	82 (43.62)	17 (37.78)	0	26 (36.11)	1 (50)	3 (75)	3 (60)	203 (40.6)
All Total	178 (100)	4 (100)	188 (100)	45 (100)	2 (100)	72 (100)	2 (100)	4 (100)	5 (100)	500 (100)

Source: Tabulation from primary data – 2014

(Figures in the brackets indicates percentage)

Note: 1- cultivation, 2- Agricultural labour 3- Daily worker, 4- Private service, 5- Govt. service, 6- Small business, 7- House wife, 8- Unemployed and 9- Others

VI.1.(F) Income Level Wise Classification:

It reveals that out of the total 500 sample BPL households, maximum number (265 nos) households monthly income level lies between Rs. 3001 to Rs 5000, out of which 159 nos (60 percent) households have BPL card (either BPL or AAY card) and remaining 106 nos (40 percent) households have APL card (either APL or MMASY card). Out of the 166 sample households, where the income level of the household was upto Rs 3000, 94 nos (56.62 percent) households have BPL card (either BPL or AAY card) and remaining 72 nos (43.38 percent) household have APL card (either APL or MMASY card). It also reveals that 65 sample households income level lies between Rs 5001 to Rs 10000 of whom 40 nos (61.54 percent) have BPL card (either BPL or AAY card) and remaining 25 nos (38.46 percent) have APL card (either APL or MMASY card). 4 sample households income level was above Rs 10000 where ironically all of them have BPL card. These are shown in the table no VI (7)

Table No: VI.7**Distribution of Type of Card by Households Income Level**

Household	Upto Rs 3000	Rs 3001- 5000	Rs 5001- 10000	Above 10000	Total
BPL	67	115	29	4	215
AAV	27	44	11	0	82
Total BPL	94 (56.62)	159 (60)	40 (61.54)	4 (0)	297(59.4)
APL	28	40	5	0	73
MMASY	44	66	20	0	130
Total APL	72 (43.38)	106 (40)	25 (38.46)	0	203(40.6)
All Total	166 (100)	265 (100)	65 (100)	4 (100)	500 (100)

Source: Tabulation from the primary data- 2014

(Figures in the brackets shows percentage)

VI.1.(G) Distribution of Household in terms of Distance from Fair Price Shop (FPS's) :

Of the total 500 sample households, 59.8 percent (299 nos) get the Fair Price Shop (FPS) located within the village or within 1 km. For 40.2 percent (201 nos) of the households, the FPS is located at a distance of more than 1 km but less than 2 km distance.

Inter-block variations can be seen in the location of FPS's and the location of the sample households. For the 70 households surveyed in Golaghat East Development Block, as high as 75.71 percent reported that the FPS's are located at a distance within 1 km from the house, whereas in Golaghat south development block out of the 90 household surveyed 42.22 percent households reported that the FPS's are located at a distance within 1 km from the house. For the 90 household surveyed in Golaghat south development block as high as 57.78 percent household reported that FPS's are located at a distance more than 1 km but less than 2 km. On the other hand in Golaghat East development block 24.29 percent sample households reported that the FPS's are located at a distance more than 1 km but less than 2 km. table no VI (8) depicts these findings.

Table No: VI.8**Distance of Location of FPS's from the Residence of sample Households**

Block	Distance from FPS		Total
	0-1 km	1-2 km	
Morangi	27 (54)	23 (46)	50
Kakodunga	36 (72)	14 (28)	50
Gamariguri	31 (62)	19 (38)	50
Central	27 (54)	23 (46)	50
South	38 (42.22)	52 (57.78)	90
East	53 (75.71)	17 (24.29)	70
North	48 (68.57)	22 (31.43)	70
West	39 (55.71)	31 (44.29)	70
Total	299 (59.8)	201 (40.2)	500

Source: Tabulation from the primary data- 2014

(Figures in the brackets shows percentage)

VI.2. Performance of Public Distribution System (PDS):**VI. 2. (A) Gap between Requirement and Distribution of Items per Period and Gap between Market Price and FPS Price of Items:**

In the present study the consumption requirements of households of the essential commodities distributed through the PDS and what is actually distributed are considered, so that the gap, if any between these two can be derived. Let us see the gap item wise and by type of having card i.e. BPL and APL card.

For rice, for BPL households having BPL cards, the percentage of gap between requirement and that supplied by the FPSs per household per month is 43.01 percent. This signifies that only 56.99 percent of the requirements of rice of the sample BPL card holder households are covered by FPSs. For wheat, for BPL households having BPL cards only 47.4 percent of requirement per period per household are covered by distribution of FPSs. The gap thus being 52.6 percent between quantity required and quantity distributed through FPSs. For sugar, for BPL households having BPL cards the percentage gap between requirement and that supplied by the FPSs per household per month is 56.37 percent. It means that only 43.63 percent of the requirement of

sugar of the sample BPL card holder households is supplied through FPSs. For kerosene, this situation is slight better for BPL households having BPL card, where 67.74 percent of requirement is supplied by the FPSs. This means that the gap between the requirement and distribution of FPS is 32.26 percent. By absolute quantity only 26.5 kg in average of rice per household per month is supplied through FPSs for sample BPL households having BPL cards, while the required quantity is 46.5 kg. For wheat for sample BPL households having BPL card, only 0.82 kg in average is supplied through FPSs while the actual consumption is 1.73 kg. For sugar the supplied quantity is 0.89 kg in average whereas the actual consumption is 2.04 kg for the sample BPL households having BPL card. For kerosene, the supplied quantity is 3.15 lt. in average for the sample BPL households having BPL cards while the actual requirement in average is 4.65 lt.

For BPL households having APL card (i.e having either APL or MMASY card), the scenario was worse than the households having BPL cards. For rice, the percentage gap between requirement and that supplied by the FPSs per household per month is 69.63 percent. This implies that only 30.37 percent of the requirements of rice by the sample APL card holder households are covered by the distribution of PDS. For wheat, for BPL households having APL cards, 35.37 percent requirement per period per household was covered by distribution by PDS's. The gap thus being 64.63 percent between quantity required and quantity distributed through PDS's. For Sugar, for BPL households having APL cards, the percentage gap between requirement and that supplied by the PDS per household per month was 63.74 percent. It means that only 36.26 percent of the requirements of sugar of the sample BPL households having APL cards were supplied through PDS. For kerosene, the situation was slight better than the other essential commodities, but it was less than the sample BPL households having BPL cards where 63.51 percent of the requirement was supplied by the FPSs for the APL card holder sample BPL household, which means that the gap between requirement and distribution of PDS is 36.49 percent. By absolute quantity only 13.3 kg of rice in average per household per month was supplied through PDS for sample BPL households having APL cards, while the required quantity was 43.80 kg. For wheat for sample BPL households having APL cards, only 0.52 kg was supplied through PDS while the actual consumption was 1.47 kg. For sugar the supplied

quantity was only 0.66 kg in average whereas the actual consumption was 1.82 kg for sample BPL households having APL cards. For kerosene, the supplied quantity was 3.08 ltr. in average for the sample BPL households having APL cards while the actual requirement in average was 4.85 ltr.

The high gap between quantity of essential items required and that distributed through PDS shows the insignificant contribution of PDS in meeting the consumption requirement of households. It also signifies that the necessity for increased quantity to be supplied for households by the PDS. For total 500 sample BPL households, we have observed that on average 45.4 kg rice was required whereas only 21.6 kg rice was distributed through FPSs. Requirement of wheat and sugar were very minimum, on average requirement of wheat and sugar per household per month was 1.62 and 1.95 kg respectively. Whereas, the distribution of wheat and sugar through FPSs was very insignificant, on average only 0.70 kg wheat and 0.80 kg sugar had been distributed through FPSs. On average 3.13 ltr. kerosene was distributed through PDS, whereas the actual requirement was 4.74 ltr. for sample BPL household. These all are explained in the table no VI(9)

Table no VI (9) also shows the price per unit of item the households pay in the open market and for distribution through the FPSs. The open market price is the price or average on observed and reported by the households and FPS price is the price actually charged on the item by the FPS dealer. It reveals that in case of rice for sample BPL households having BPL card, the gap between the market price and FPS price is very high with 234.96 percent. Absolute price on average market price was Rs. 22 whereas the FPS price was Rs. 6.57. For wheat for sample BPL households having BPL card, the gap between the two was 90.97 percent. Absolute price on average market price was Rs. 22 whereas the FPS price was Rs. 11.52. For sugar, for sample BPL households having BPL card, the gap between the market price and FPS price was 98.64 percent. Absolute price of market price and FPS price were Rs. 38 and Rs. 19.13 respectively. For kerosene, for sample BPL households having BPL card, the gap between the market price and FPS price was 46.18 percent. Absolute price of market price and FPS price were Rs. 28.3 and Rs.19.36 respectively and absolute gap being Rs. 8.94 per ltr.

For sample BPL households having APL card holder, although the gap between market price and FPS was high but it was less than the households having BPL card. For rice, for sample BPL households having APL card, the gap between the market price and FPS price was 161.91 percent. Absolute price on average market price and FPS price were Rs. 22 and Rs. 8.40 respectively. For wheat, the gap between the market price and FPS price was 87.25 percent. Absolute price on average market price and FPS price were Rs. 22 and Rs. 11.75 respectively. For sugar the absolute price of market price and FPS price were Rs. 38 and Rs. 19.08 respectively whereas the gap between these two was 98.75 percent. For kerosene, the gap between the market price and FPS price was 42.05 percent. Absolute price of market price and FPS price were Rs. 27.5 and Rs. 19.36 respectively and absolute gap being Rs. 8.14 per ltr.

In total of 500 sample BPL households gap between market price and FPS price was maximum for rice, where the gap was 201.37 percent (Rs.14.7) followed by sugar (98.75 percent). The gap between the market price and FPS price were 84.66 percent (Rs 10.4) and 44.53 (Rs. 8.62) for wheat and kerosene respectively.

Table No- VI(9): Gap between Requirement and Distribution of Item Per Month and Gap between Market Price and PDS Price of Item

Items	Households	Average Consumption of Items			Average Price of Items		
		Requirement per household per month	Distributed by PDS per household per month	Gap between requirement and supply of PDS	FPS Price (Rs)	Market Price (Rs)	Gap between market price and FPS price
Rice (in kg)	Having BPL Card	46.5 (100)	26.5 (56.99)	20.00 (43.01)	6.57 (100)	22.00 (334.86)	15.43 (234.86)
	Having APL Card	43.8 (100)	13.3 (30.37)	30.5 (69.63)	8.4 (100)	22 (261.91)	13.6 (161.91)
	Total	45.4 (100)	21.6 (47.39)	23.8 (52.61)	7.3 (100)	22 (301.37)	14.7 (201.37)
Wheat (in kg)	Having BPL Card	1.73 (100)	0.82 (47.4)	0.91 (52.6)	11.52 (100)	22 (190.97)	10.48 (90.97)
	Having APL Card	1.47 (100)	0.52 (35.37)	0.95 (64.63)	11.75 (100)	22 (187.23)	10.25 (87.23)
	Total	1.62 (100)	0.70 (43.21)	0.92 (56.79)	11.60 (100)	22 (189.66)	10.40 (89.66)
Sugar (in kg)	Having BPL Card	2.04 (100)	0.89 (43.63)	1.15 (56.37)	19.13 (100)	38 (198.64)	18.87 (98.64)
	Having APL Card	1.82 (100)	0.66 (36.26)	1.16 (63.74)	19.09 (100)	38 (199.06)	18.91 (99.06)
	Total	1.95 (100)	0.80 (41.03)	1.15 (58.97)	19.12 (100)	38 (198.75)	18.88 (98.75)
Kerosene (in Ltr.)	Having BPL Card	4.65 (100)	3.15 (67.74)	1.5 (32.26)	19.36 (100)	28.3 (146.18)	8.94 (46.18)
	Having APL Card	4.85 (100)	3.08 (63.51)	1.77 (36.49)	19.36 (100)	27.5 (142.05)	8.94 (42.05)
	Total	4.74 (100)	3.13 (66.03)	1.61 (33.97)	19.36 (100)	27.98 (144.53)	8.62 (44.53)

Source: Tabulation from Primary data – 2014

(Figures in the brackets indicate percentage)

VI.2. (B) Item wise Gap by Quantity Distribution to Household at Rural Urban Level:

While examining the gap between the requirement and allotment of items for the sample BPL households having BPL and APL card holders in totality and rural urban wise it has been found that for rice, the gap between required quantity by all sample households and received quantity (from FPS) was 23.8 kg per month which shows a gap of 52.61 percent. For wheat, the gap was 56.79 percent, for sugar it was 92.3 percent and for kerosene it was 33.97. Thus it has been observed that PDS has failed in supplying essential item to the sample BPL households except kerosene.

For sample BPL households having BPL card, required average consumption of rice is 46.5 kg per month per household while the distributed quantity through PDS was only 26.5 kg i.e 56.99 percent of the required quantity. For wheat, average consumption requirement per household per month was 1.73 kg for sample BPL households having BPL card while the average distributed quantity through PDS was only 0.82 kg i.e 47.40 percent of the required quantity. For sugar, the required quantity per household per month for sample BPL households having BPL card was 2.04 kg of which 43.63 percent was distributed through PDS. It has been also found that nearly 67.75 percent of consumption requirement for kerosene for sample BPL households having BPL card has been met through the PDS.

The sample households having APL card have a little lower requirement per household, per month, for the items such as rice, wheat and sugar compared to the requirements of sample BPL households having BPL card. For rice, wheat and sugar they have required marginally lower amount than its counterparts. While for kerosene, the required amount was marginally higher for the sample BPL households having APL card than the sample BPL households having BPL card. The sample BPL households having APL card holder received only 30.37 percent of rice of the requirement from the PDS. While they have received 35.37 percent of wheat required for consumption. They have also received 36.26 percent of sugar required for consumption and 63.51 percent of the kerosene from the PDS.

While considering the rural urban variation in consumption requirement of rice per household per month, it has been found that average per month per household

requirement of sample rural BPL household was 47.46 kg. Out of which 20.81 kg (43.85 percent) was distributed through PDS. The gap between requirement and allotment of rice through PDS was 56.15 percent (26.65 kg). On the other hand the average household requirement of sample urban BPL household was 37.2 kg out of which 22.58 kg (60.70 percent) was distributed through PDS. The gap between requirement and allotment of rice through PDS was 39.30 percent (14.62 kg). It signifies that performance of PDS through the allotment of rice was better in the sample urban area than its rural counterparts. In regard to the consumption requirement of wheat per household per month, it has been found that average per household requirement of sample BPL household of the rural area was 1.70 kg of which only 0.70 kg (41.18 percent) on average has been allotted through PDS. The gap between requirement and allotment of wheat through PDS was 58.82 percent (1 kg). In the sample urban BPL household average requirement of wheat was 1.33 kg of which 0.70 kg (52.63 percent) was distributed through PDS. Hence the gap between the requirement and allotment was 47.37 percent (0.63 kg). Here also the performance of PDS is better in the sample urban area. For sugar, the consumption requirement of per household per month for sample rural household on average was 1.95 kg of which only 0.81 kg (41.54 percent) was supplied through PDS. Which signifies the gap between these two was 58.46 percent (1.14 kg). While in the sample urban BPL households, the consumption requirement of sugar per household per month on average was 1.92 kg of which only 0.75 kg (39.06 percent) has been supplied through PDS. The gap between these two was 60.94 percent (1.17 kg). It signifies that allotment of sugar through PDS was better in the sample rural area than its counterparts. For kerosene, the gap between the requirement and allotment through PDS in sample rural households was 34.45 percent (1.65 ltr.) on average, where actual requirement on average was 4.79 ltr while the PDS allotment through PDS was 3.14 ltr only. In urban area the gap between the requirement and allotment through PDS for sample urban BPL households was 32.60 percent (1.48 ltr) on average, where actual requirement on average was 4.74 ltr while the PDS allotment through PDS was 3.06 ltr only.

For sample BPL households having BPL cards, the average allotment of rice was 26.25 kg in sample rural area, whereas in the urban area it was 27.5 kg on average.

For wheat, the average allotment was 0.85 kg for sample rural BPL households having BPL card while it was 0.73 kg for sample urban BPL households having BPL card. For sugar, it was 0.92 kg in rural area while it was 0.90 kg in urban area. On average 3.16 ltr kerosene was distributed in the sample rural area for the sample BPL households having BPL card while it was 3.13 ltr for its urban counterparts.

For sample BPL households having APL card holder, the average distribution of rice, wheat and sugar through PDS were marginally higher in the sample urban area than its rural counterparts, while the average distribution of kerosene through PDS was marginally higher in the sample rural area than its urban counterparts. All these are explained in table no. VI(10)

Table No- VI(10)
Requirement and Distribution of Item per Month and Gap between Requirement and Distribution per Month

Region	Households	Average Consumption of Required Item				Average distribution of Item Through PDS				Gap Between Requirement and Received Item			
		Rice (In Kg)	Wheat (In Kg)	Sugar (In Kg)	Kerosene (In Ltr)	Rice (In Kg)	Wheat (In Kg)	Sugar (In Kg)	Kerosene (In Ltr)	Rice (In Kg)	Wheat (In Kg)	Sugar (In Kg)	Kerosene (In Ltr)
Rural	BPL	47.85	1.79	2.05	4.68	26.25	0.85	0.92	3.16	21.60	0.94	1.13	1.52
	APL	46.91	1.56	1.82	4.95	13.22	0.49	0.66	3.12	33.69	1.07	1.16	1.83
	TOTAL	47.46 (100)	1.70 (100)	1.95 (100)	4.79 (100)	20.81 (43.85)	0.70 (41.18)	0.81 (41.54)	3.14 (65.55)	26.65 (56.15)	1.00 (58.82)	1.14 (58.46)	1.65 (34.45)
Urban	BPL	41.53	1.47	2.00	4.57	27.50	0.73	0.80	3.13	14.03	0.74	1.20	1.44
	APL	29.50	1.08	1.78	4.49	13.83	0.64	0.67	2.92	15.67	0.44	1.11	1.57
	TOTAL	37.20 (100)	1.33 (100)	1.92 (100)	4.54 (100)	22.58 (60.70)	0.70 (52.63)	0.75 (39.06)	3.06 (67.40)	14.62 (39.30)	0.63 (47.37)	1.17 (60.94)	1.48 (32.60)
Total	BPL	46.5	1.73	2.04	4.65	26.5	0.82	0.89	3.15	20.00	0.91	1.15	1.50
	APL	43.8	1.47	1.82	4.85	13.3	0.52	0.66	3.08	30.50	0.95	1.16	1.77
	TOTAL	45.4 (100)	1.62 (100)	1.95 (100)	4.74 (100)	21.6 (47.39)	0.70 (43.21)	0.80 (41.03)	3.13 (66.03)	23.80 (52.61)	0.92 (56.79)	1.15 (58.97)	1.61 (33.97)

Source: Tabulation from Primary data – 2014

(Figures in the brackets indicate percentage)

VI.2. (C) Item Wise Price Differentials between Open Market and FPSs at Rural Urban Level:

While pointing out the item wise price differential between open market and FPSs it has been found that for rice, the gap in price per unit between open market and FPS for all the sample BPL households both having BPL and APL card was Rs. 14.7 which was 207.37 percent of FPS price (Rs 7.3 on average). For wheat, the absolute gap was Rs. 10.40 which was 89.66 percent of FPS price (Rs.11.60 on average). For Sugar the gap was Rs. 18.87 which was 98.75 percent of FPS price (Rs. 19.12 on average). For kerosene, the gap was Rs. 8.62 which was 44.53 percent of FPS price (Rs. 19.36 on average). This positive price gap was almost equally applicable for Both BPL households having BPL card and having APL card. For rice, the price gap between open market and FPS for BPL card holder was Rs. 15.43 which was 234.86 percent of FPS price (Rs. 6.57 on average). This gap was Rs 13.6 which was 161.91 percent of FPS price (Rs 8.40 on average) for the sample households having APL card. For wheat the price gap between open market and FPS price for sample households having BPL card was Rs. 10.48 which was 90.97 percent of the FPS price (Rs. 11.52 on average). The gap was Rs 10.25 which was 87.23 percent of FPS price (Rs 11.75 on average) for the sample households having APL card. The gap between the market price and FPSs price was Rs 18.87 for sugar for the sample household having BPL card, which was 98.64 percent of the FPS price (Rs. 19.13 on average). For the sample households having APL card, this gap was Rs. 18.91 which was 99.06 percent of the FPS price (Rs 19.09 on average). The gap between market price and FPS price was less in percent for kerosene for both the sample BPL households having BPL cards and having APL card. For BPL card holder households, the gap was Rs. 8.94 which was 46.18 percent of the FPS price (Rs 19.36 on average) whereas for the APL card holder households this gap was Rs. 8.14 which was 42.05 percent of the FPS price (Rs. 19.36 on average)

Table (23) also reveals that there are rural urban variations in item wise price gap. For rice the price gap between the market price and FPS price was Rs 14.78 sample rural BPL households, which was 204.71 percent of the FPS price (Rs. 7.22 on average) whereas this price gap was Rs. 14.36 in the sample urban area, which was 187.96 percent of the FPS price (Rs. 7.64 on average). For wheat, the gap between the market

price and FPS price was Rs. 10.48 in the sample rural area, which was 90.97 percent of the FPS price (Rs. 11.52 on average). On the contrary, the price gap of wheat for the sample urban region was Rs. 10.21 which was 86.60 percent of the FPS price (Rs.11.79 on average). Rural urban variation has been also found in regard to the price gap between the market price and the FPS price. In sample rural area, this price gap was Rs. 19.02 which was 100.22 percent of the FPS price (Rs 18.98 on average), whereas, in the urban area this gap was Rs 18.49 which was 94.77 percent of the FPS price (Rs 19.51 on average). For kerosene, the gap between the market price and the FPS price was Rs. 8.38 in the sample rural area which was 43.20 percent of the FPS price (19.40 on average). This gap was Rs. 9.54 in the sample urban area which was 49.69 percent of the FPS price (Rs. 19.20 on average)

The table VI(11) also depicts that the FPS price were also fluctuating in the sample rural urban region. For rice, the average FPS price was Rs. 7.22 in the sample rural area whereas it was Rs. 7.64 in the sample urban area. FPS price for BPL card holder was Rs. 6.44 on average in the sample rural area, whereas it was Rs. 7.07 in the sample urban area. For the sample BPL households having APL cards, the FPS price for rice was Rs. 8.31 and Rs.8.64 respectively for the sample rural and urban area. For wheat, the average FPS price was Rs. 11.52 in the sample rural area, whereas it was Rs.11.79 in the sample urban area. FPS price for BPL card holder was Rs. 11.41 on average in the sample rural area whereas; it was Rs 11.80 in the sample urban area. For the sample BPL households having APL card, the average PDS price for wheat was Rs. 11.75 and Rs. 11.76 respectively for the sample rural and urban area. The PDS price for sugar also there is a variation between the rural and urban area. In the sample rural area it was Rs 18.98 on average whereas it was Rs. 19.51 in the urban area. This fluctuation of PDS price was also emerged regarding kerosene also. It was Rs. 19.40 on average in the sample area whereas it was Rs. 19.20 on average in the sample urban area. These are depicted in the table no. VI(11)

Table No- VI (11)
Price Gap in Items between Fair Price Shops and Open market Item Price (In Rupees)

Region	Households	RICE			WHEAT			SUGAR			KEROSENE		
		FPS	MARKET	GAP	FPS	MARKET	GAP	FPS	MARKET	GAP	FPS	MARKET	GAP
Rural	BPL	6.44	22	15.56	11.41	22	10.59	18.99	38	19.01	19.41	28.20	8.79
	APL	8.31	22	13.69	11.75	22	10.25	18.96	38	19.30	19.38	27.20	7.82
	TOTAL	7.22 (100)	22 (304.71)	14.78 (204.71)	11.52 (100)	22 (190.97)	10.48 (90.97)	18.98 (100)	38 (200.22)	19.02 (100.22)	19.40 (100)	27.78 (143.20)	8.38 (43.20)
Urban	BPL	7.07	22	14.93	11.80	22	10.20	19.49	38	18.51	19.19	28.66	9.47
	APL	8.64	22	13.36	11.76	22	10.24	19.54	38	18.46	19.22	28.89	9.67
	TOTAL	7.64 (100)	22 (287.96)	14.36 (187.96)	11.79 (100)	22 (186.60)	10.21 (86.60)	19.51 (100)	38 (194.77)	18.49 (94.77)	19.20 (100)	28.74 (149.69)	9.54 (49.69)
Total	BPL	6.57	22	15.43	11.52	22	10.48	19.13	38	18.87	19.36	28.30	8.94
	APL	8.48	22	13.60	11.75	22	10.25	19.09	38	18.91	19.36	27.50	8.14
	TOTAL	7.30 (100)	22 (301.37)	14.70 (201.37)	11.60 (100)	22 (189.66)	10.40 (89.66)	19.12 (100)	38 (198.75)	18.88 (98.75)	19.36 (100)	27.98 (144.53)	8.62 (44.53)

Source: Tabulation from Primary data – 2014

(Figures in the brackets indicate percentage)

VI.2.(D) Regularity in Visiting FPS and Purchasing Item from FPS's:

While considering the sample households visiting FPS it is found that out of the 500 sample BPL households, 484 nos (96.8 percent) have regularly visited the nearest FPS for consuming items allotted for them under PDS and remaining 16 nos (3.2 percent) were not visited FPS regularly. Reasons for not buying the PDS item from FPS are non-availability of money at the time of distribution, lack of information etc. Out of the 16 nos households who did not visit the FPS regularly, 8 nos belong to the Morangi development block, followed by Kakodunga development block having 3 nos of household. In Golaghat East development block 2 sample households have not visited FPS regularly. In Gomariguri, Golaghat South and Golaghat north development block 1 sample household each have not visited the FPS regularly. These facts are depicted in table no.VI (12)

Table No: VI.12

Block wise Distribution of Households by Visiting FPS Regularly

Block	Visiting FPS Regularly	Not Visiting FPS Regularly	Total
Morangi	42	8	50
Kakodunga	47	3	50
Gamariguri	49	1	50
Central	50	0	50
South	89	1	90
East	68	2	70
North	69	1	70
West	70	0	70
Total	484 (96.80)	16 (3.20)	500

Source: Tabulation from the primary data- 2014

(Figures in the brackets shows percentage)

Out of the total 500 sample households 73 nos (14.6 percent) households do not buy rice regularly from FPS. Non regular purchase of rice covers 35.96 percent (73 nos) of all the sample BPL households having APL card. All the sample BPL households having BPL card are regularly bought rice from FPS's. For wheat overall 271 nos

(54.2 percent) households do not buy wheat regularly from FPS's. Out of the total sample BPL households having BPL cards, 48.15 percent (143 nos) households do not regularly buy wheat from the FPS's and from the sample BPL households having APL cards 63.05 percent (128 nos) households have not regularly bought wheat from the FPS's.

Regarding the households visiting FPS regularly, block wise variation has been seen. It reveals from the table no. VI (13) that the percentage of sample household whom are non-regular in buying rice from the FPS is highest in Gomariguri development block, where it is 20 percent followed by Golaghat East and Golaghat North development block where 17.14 percent households for both the block are non regular in regard to the buying rice from the FPS's. In the Kakodunga development block the percentage of sample households whom are non-regular in buying rice is lowest, which is 8 percent of the total sample households. Table no. VI(13) also reveals that in the Gomariguri development block 100 percent sample households are not regularly buying wheat from the FPS's due to non allotment of wheat from the FPS. It is followed by Golaghat west and Golaghat east development block where 80 percent and 71.43 percent households do not regularly buy wheat from the FPS respectively. It is also found that in the Golaghat central development block least percentage (20 percent) of households do not regularly buy wheat from the FPS's. All these are depicted in table no. VI(13)

Table No:VI.13

Block Wise Regularity in Purchasing Rice and Wheat from FPS's by Hoseholds

Block	Type of card	Rice		Wheat		Total
		Regular	Non Regular	Regular	Non Regular	
Morongi	BPL	27	0	19	8	27
	APL	14	9	9	14	23
	Total	41	9	28	22	50
Kakodunga	BPL	25	0	17	8	27
	APL	21	4	10	15	23
	Total	46	4	27	23	50
Gamariguri	BPL	24	0	0	24	24
	APL	10	16	0	26	26
	Total	34	16	0	50	50
Central	BPL	43	0	39	4	43
	APL	0	7	1	6	7
	Total	43	7	40	10	50
South	BPL	53	0	32	21	53
	APL	27	10	27	10	37
	Total	80	10	59	31	90
East	BPL	43	0	12	31	43
	APL	15	12	8	19	27
	Total	58	12	20	50	70
North	BPL	39	0	26	13	39
	APL	19	12	15	16	31
	Total	58	12	41	29	70
West	BPL	43	0	9	34	43
	APL	18	9	5	22	27
	Total	61	9	14	56	70
Total	BPL	297	9	154	143	297
	APL	130	73	75	128	203
	Total	427 (85.4)	73 (14.6)	229 (45.8)	271 (54.2)	500 (100)

Source: Tabulation from the primary data- 2014

(Figures in the brackets shows percentage)

It is revealed from the table no. VI (14) that not a single sample household is buying sugar from the FPS regularly. This is due to irregular allotment of sugar from the FPS's. The FPS dealer viewed that sugar is not allotted by the Food and Civil Suppliers department. It also depicts that out of the 500 sample households, 23 households (4.3 percent) household do not buy kerosene regularly from the FPS's. Non regular purchase of kerosene covers 4.72 percent (14 nos) of all the sample households having BPL card and 4.43 percent (9 nos) of all the sample households having APL card.

Table no. VI(14) also reveals the block wise variation of non regular buying of kerosene in the sample region. In Morangi development block maximum 30 percent (15 nos) sample household does not regularly buy kerosene from the FPS's followed by Gomariguri development block and Kakodunga development block where 4 percent (2 nos) each sample households does not buy kerosene regularly from the FPS's. It also reveals that in Golaghat south development block and Golaghat west development block all the sample BPL households regularly buy kerosene from the FPS's. Table no. VI (14) explains the facts.

As stated by the sample respondents regarding the non regular purchase of essential items from FPS's, due to irregular allotment of rice for APL card holders they were irregular to purchase it from FPS's.. Except the sample APL card holder having MMASY card, all the 73 normal APL card holders do not regularly purchase rice from the FPS's. For wheat due to low quality product as well as non allotment of wheat regularly 54.20 percent (271 nos) sample household does not regularly buy wheat from the FPS's. It has been also reported by all the respondents that due to non distribution of sugar regularly by the FPS, all the sample households do not regularly buy sugar from the FPS's. In case of kerosene, due to non allotment of kerosene regularly as well as due to non availability of information, 4.60 percent (23 nos) sample households do not regularly buy kerosene from the FPS.

Table No:VI.14

Block Wise Regularity in Purchasing Sugar and Kerosene from FPS's by Households

Block	Type of card	Sugar		Kerosene		Total
		Regular	Non Regular	Regular	Non Regular	
Morongi	BPL	0	27	17	10	27
	APL	0	23	18	5	23
	Total	0	50	35	15	50
Kakodunga	BPL	0	25	24	1	25
	APL	0	25	24	1	25
	Total	0	50	48	2	50
Gamariguri	BPL	0	24	24	0	24
	APL	0	26	24	2	26
	Total	0	50	48	2	50
Central	BPL	0	43	42	1	43
	APL	0	7	7	0	7
	Total	0	50	49	1	50
South	BPL	0	53	53	0	53
	APL	0	37	37	0	37
	Total	0	90	90	0	90
East	BPL	0	43	42	1	43
	APL	0	27	27	0	27
	Total	0	70	69	1	70
North	BPL	0	39	38	1	39
	APL	0	31	30	1	31
	Total	0	70	68	2	70
West	BPL	0	43	43	0	43
	APL	0	27	27	0	27
	Total	0	70	70	0	70
Total	BPL	0	297	283	14	297
	APL	0	203	194	9	203
	Total	0	500 (100)	477 (45.40)	23 (4.60)	500 (100)

Source: Tabulation from the primary data- 2014

(Figures in the brackets shows percentage)

VI.2.(E) Household Satisfaction Regarding Distribution of Rice and Kerosene through PDS:

It is revealed from the survey that only rice and kerosene were only regularly supplied through PDS. The supply of sugar and wheat was irregular through PDS. So far as the distribution of rice and kerosene is concerned, only 42.8 percent (214 nos) of the sample households were satisfied in case of rice and only 45.4 percent (227 nos) of the households were satisfied in case of kerosene. Block wise variation also incurs in case of the satisfaction of household regarding distribution of rice and kerosene. For rice, on average in Golaghat Central Block maximum (66 percent) of sample households are satisfied regarding distribution of rice through PDS followed by Golaghat East Block with 62.86 percent. In Morangi Block only 18 percent sample BPL households were satisfied regarding distribution of rice through PDS. In Golaghat South, Golaghat East, Golaghat North, Gamariguri and Kakodunga Development Blocks 57.78 percent, 40.00 percent, 28.57 percent, 30.00 percent and 26.00 percent sample BPL households were satisfied with the distribution of rice through PDS. For kerosene, in Golaghat East Development Block on average maximum (67.14 percent) sample BPL households were satisfied with the distribution with the distribution of kerosene through FPSs followed by Golaghat South Development Block and Golaghat West Development Block where 63.33 percent and 62.66 percent sample BPL households were satisfied respectively with the distribution of kerosene through FPSs. In Morangi Development Block only 6 percent sample BPL households are satisfied with the distribution of kerosene through FPSs. On the other hand only 10 percent sample BPL households were satisfied in the Golaghat Central Development Block with the distribution of kerosene through FPSs. In Kakodunga, Gamariguri and Golaghat North Development Blocks 26.00 percent, 42.00 percent and 52.86 percent sample BPL households were satisfied with the distribution of kerosene through FPSs. All are depicted in the table no. VI(15)

Table No –VI.15**Satisfaction of the Households on the Distribution of Rice and Kerosene through PDS**

Block	Rice			Kerosene		
	Satisfied	Not Satisfied	Total	Satisfied	Not Satisfied	Total
Morangi	9 (18)	41 (82)	50 (100)	3 (6)	47 (94)	50 (100)
Kakodunga	13 (26)	37 (74)	50 (100)	13 (26)	37 (74)	50 (100)
Gamariguri	15 (30)	35 (70)	50 (100)	21 (42)	29 (58)	50 (100)
Central	33 (66)	17 (34)	50 (100)	5(10)	45 (90)	50 (100)
South	52 (57.78)	38 (42.22)	90 (100)	57 (63.33)	33 (36.67)	90 (100)
East	28 (40)	42 (60)	70 (100)	47 (67.14)	23 (32.86)	70 (100)
North	20 (28.57)	50 (71.43)	70 (100)	37 (52.86)	33 (47.14)	70 (100)
West	44 (62.86)	26 (37.14)	70 (100)	44 (62.86)	26 (37.14)	70 (100)
Total	214 (42.8)	286 (57.2)	500 (100)	227 (45.2)	273 (54.8)	500 (100)

Source: Tabulation from primary data – 2014

(Figures in the bracket shows percentage)

As per the view of the respondents dissatisfaction of the sample households towards the distribution of rice and kerosene through PDS arise due to deficiency of supply as well as low quality of rice for consumption. It has been also reported that for the APL card holders, supply of rice is only 5 to 10 kg and also these were not regularly allotted, so all the general APL card holders are dissatisfied with the supply of rice through PDS. The amount of kerosene supplied through FPSs is also not sufficient for consumption for a large number of sample BPL households (54.6 percent) were dissatisfied with the supply of kerosene through FPS. As the electricity supply in the sample area is not regular, kerosene has to utilise as source of lighting as well as source of fuel, the demand for the kerosene is very high in the study area, but the amount of kerosene supplied through FPSs has been limited, which emerged the dissatisfaction of sample households over the supply of kerosene through FPSs.

VI.2(F). Response of Households regarding Price Chart at Fair Price Shop's, Receive of Money Receipt from the FPS dealer and Satisfaction towards FPS Dealer:

It is found from the table no VI (16) that out of the 500 sample BPL households, 174 nos (34.8 percent) household reported non availability of price chart in the FPS's while 65.2 percent reported the availability of price chart in the FPS's. So far as the block wise variation is concerned in the Golaghat Central development block, maximum (90 percent) sample BPL household reported the non regular display of price list in the FPS's followed by Morangi development block with 60 percent. In Golaghat East development block, only 1 household (1.43 percent) out of 70 sample households reported that price list is not regularly displayed in the FPS's. These are depicted in the table no. VI (16)

Table No: VI.16

Block Wise Households view on the Display of Price List in the FPS's

Block	Display of Price List		Total
	Available	Not Available	
Morangi	20 (40)	30 (60)	50
Kakodunga	40 (80)	10 (20)	50
Gamariguri	43 (86)	7 (14)	50
Central	5 (10)	45 (90)	50
South	61 (67.78)	29 (32.22)	90
East	69 (98.57)	1 (1.43)	70
North	46 (65.71)	24 (34.29)	70
West	42 (60)	28 (40)	70
Total	326 (65.2)	174 (34.8)	500 (100)

Source: Tabulation from primary data – 2014

(Figures in the bracket shows percentage)

Table no.VI (17) depicts the sample households' response towards the receiver of money receipt from the FPS dealer and their satisfaction upon FPS dealer. It reveals from the data that not a single household have received money receipt from the FPS dealer. So far as the sample household's satisfaction towards FPS dealer is concerned.

Out of the total sample household 29.2 percent (146 nos) household reported that they are not satisfied with the FPS dealer. On average, dissatisfaction of sample household towards FPS's dealer is maximum in Gomariguri development block where 44 percent sample households are dissatisfied with FPS dealer, followed by Morangi development block with 38 percent dissatisfaction. Level of dissatisfaction is minimum in Kakodunga development block where 14 percent sample households are dissatisfied with FPS dealer.

As reported by the sample households, their dissatisfaction towards dealer is mainly due to lack of dissemination of time when the PDS item were distributed as well as non availability of item when it is demanded and also supplied less than the allotted amount through PDS. These are depicted in the table no. VI(17) & fig. V(2)

Table No: VI.17
Block Wise Households View on Receive of Money Receipt from FPS Dealer and Satisfaction on FPS dealer

Block	Receive Money Receipt		Satisfied FPS Dealer		Total
	Received	Not Received	Satisfied	Not Satisfied	
Morangi	0	50 (100)	31 (62)	19 (38)	50
Kakodunga	0	50 (100)	43 (86)	7 (14)	50
Gamariguri	0	50 (100)	28 (56)	22 (44)	50
Central	0	50 (100)	42 (84)	8 (16)	50
South	0	90 (100)	64 (71.11)	26 (28.89)	90
East	0	70 (100)	53 (75.71)	17 (24.29)	70
North	0	70 (100)	44 (62.86)	26 (37.14)	70
West	0	70 (100)	49 (70)	21 (30)	70
Total	0	500 (100)	354 (70.8)	146 (29.2)	500 (100)

Source: Tabulation from primary data – 2014

(Figures in the bracket shows percentage)

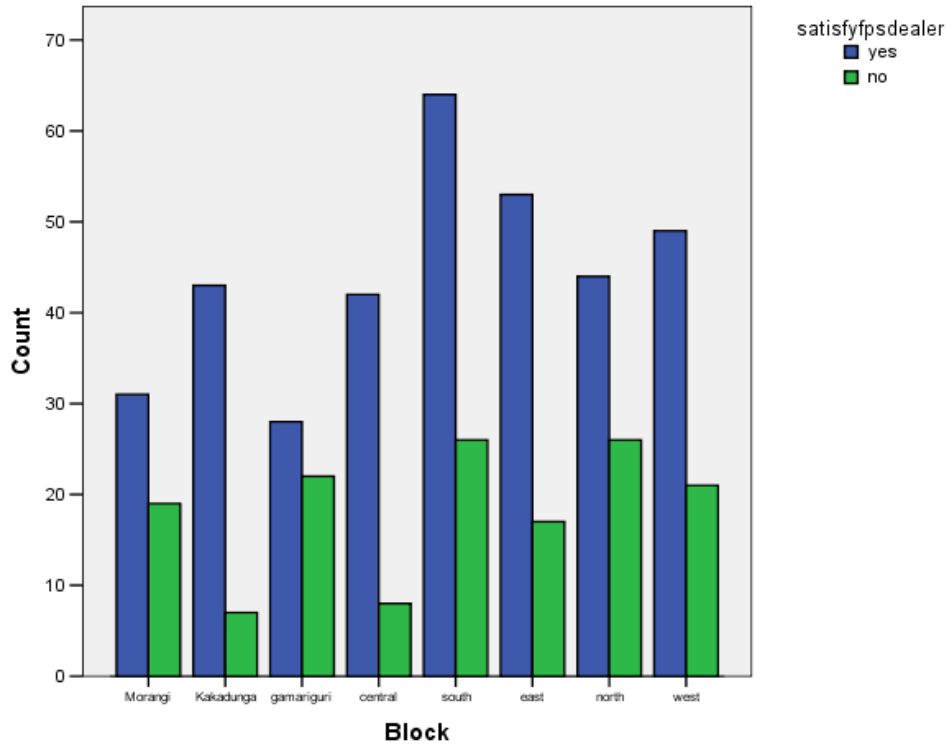


Fig.VI(2): Block wise households satisfaction towards FPS dealer

VI.2.(G) Households Complain Regarding Malfunction of PDS and its Consequence:

As per the information regarding household complain on malfunction of Public Distribution System (PDS) of the study area, it is found that out of the 500 sample household, 51 nos (10.2 nos) household lounge complain regarding poor functioning of FPSs for the supply of PDS allotted item. These complains are basically made in the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI's), Cooperative Societies , Supply Department etc. In Kakodunga development block maximum 24 percent (12 nos) households lounge complain against the FPS's followed by Golaghat North development block where it is 12.86 percent. In Golaghat East development block only 4.29 percent sample household lounge complain against the FPS's which is the minimum among all the blocks of the Golaghat district. So far as the consequence of these complains are concerns as reported by the sample households not a single complain has been meet up till date. So they have not got the desired result from these complains.

Because of that they are reluctant to lodge further complain regarding the malfunctioning of PDS's. Table no. VI (18) shows these facts.

Table No: VI.18
Block Wise Households Complain Regarding Malfunction of PDS and its Consequence

Block	Complain Made			Consequence		
	Yes	No	Total	Take Action	No Result	Total
Morangi	3 (6)	47 (94)	50	0	3	3
Kakodunga	12 (24)	38 (76)	50	0	12	12
Gamariguri	5 (10)	45 (90)	50	0	5	5
Central	4 (8)	46 (92)	50	0	4	4
South	10 (11.11)	80 (88.89)	90	0	10	10
East	3 (4.29)	67 (95.71)	70	0	3	3
North	9 (12.86)	61 (87.14)	70	0	9	9
West	5 (7.14)	65 (92.86)	70	0	5	5
Total	51 (10.2)	449 (89.8)	500 (100)	0	51 (100)	51 (100)

Source: Tabulation from primary data – 2014

(Figures in the bracket shows percentage)

VI.2.(H) Awareness of Households Regarding Functioning of PDS:

To access the awareness of sample BPL households regarding functioning of PDS, information are collected regarding their knowledge about rules and regulations of PDS, knowledge about Right to Information (RTI) Act, knowledge about precaution on PDS item and knowledge about their responsibility. Table no. VI (19) explains the awareness of sample BPL households about rules and regulations of PDS

Table No: VI.19**Block Wise Awareness of Households about Rules and Regulations of PDS**

Block	Awareness about Rules and Regulations of PDS		Total
	Aware	Not Aware	
Morangi	1 (2)	49 (98)	50 (100)
Kakodunga	1(2)	49 (98)	50 (100)
Gamariguri	4(8)	46 (92)	50 (100)
Central	0	50 (100)	50 (100)
South	5(5.56)	85 (94.44)	90 (100)
East	9(12.86)	61 (87.14)	70 (100)
North	1(1.43)	69 (98.57)	70 (100)
West	3(4.29)	67 (95.71)	70 (100)
Total	24 (4.80)	476 (95.2)	500 (100)

Source: Tabulation from primary data – 2014

(Figures in the bracket shows percentage)

Table no. VI (19) reveals that out of the total sample BPL households only 4.80 percent (24 nos) households are aware of the rules and regulations of PDS and remaining 95.20 percent are unaware about it. In Golaghat East development block maximum 12.86 nos (9 nos) sample BPL households are aware about the rules and regulations of PDS followed by Gomariguri development block with 8 percent awareness. Above table also reveals that in the Golaghat Central development block not a single sample BPL household is aware about the rules and regulations of PDS.

VI.2 (I) Awareness about Inspection on PDS:

Of all the households surveyed in the Golaghat district, only 4 sample households (0.8 percent) reported that they are aware of the inspection of PDS. Data also reveals that apart from Kakodunga and Golaghat East development block where only 2 households each are aware of the inspection on PDS. In case of all the remaining blocks not a single sample BPL households are aware of the inspection on PDS. This is represented in Table no. VI(20).

Table No:VI.20**Block wise Awareness of Household about Inspection on PDS**

Block	Awareness about Inspection on PDS		Total
	Aware	Not Aware	
Morangi	0	50	50 (100)
Kakodunga	2	48	50 (100)
Gamariguri	0	50	50 (100)
Central	0	50	50 (100)
South	0	90	90 (100)
East	2	48	70 (100)
North	0	70	70 (100)
West	0	70	70 (100)
Total	4 (0.80)	496 (99.20)	500 (100)

Source: Tabulation from primary data – 2014

(Figures in the bracket shows percentage)

VI.2 (J) Awareness about Right to Information (RTI):

Right to Information Act (RTI), 2005 of India provides special provision under which each and every citizen of India is entitled to acquire information relating to any matter. So it is important constitutional instrument under which people acquire information. To acquire information regarding the functioning of PDS, RTI can also be used. But it needs that people should aware about the RTI. Table no. VI (21) shows the sample households awareness of RTI.

Table No: VI.21**Block Wise Awareness of Households about RTI**

Block	Awareness about RTI		Total
	Aware	Not Aware	
Morangi	19 (38)	31 (62)	50 (100)
Kakodunga	3 (6)	47 (94)	50 (100)
Gamariguri	21 (42)	29 (58)	50 (100)
Central	18 (36)	32 (64)	50 (100)
South	30 (33.33)	60 (66.67)	90 (100)
East	39 (55.71)	31 (44.29)	70 (100)
North	19 (27.14)	51 (72.86)	70 (100)
West	36 (51.43)	34 (48.57)	70 (100)
Total	185 (37)	315 (63)	500 (100)

Source: Tabulation from primary data – 2014

(Figures in the bracket shows percentage)

Table no. VI(21) reveals that of the total sample BPL households, only 37 percent (185nos) households aware of the RTI and remaining 63 percent (315 nos) households does not aware of the RTI. In Golaghat East development block on average maximum sample households are aware of the RTI where, 55.71 percent households aware about the RTI. This is followed by Golaghat West development block where 51.43 percent sample households are aware of the RTI Act. Table no. VI(21) also reveals that in Kakodunga development block only 6 percent sample households are aware of the RTI Act.

VI.2.(K)Awareness about Precaution on PDS Item:

Of all the sample BPL households only 6 percent (30 nos) sample households reported that they are aware of the precautions on PDS item. Table no. VI(22) reveals that on average maximum 14.29 percent sample BPL households are aware of the precaution which have taken on PDS item in Golaghat West development block followed by Golaghat East development block with 8.57 percent. As reported by the sample households in Kakodunga development block not a single sample households is aware of the precaution to be taken PDs item and in Gomariguri and Golaghat north development block only one sample household each is aware about the precautions on PDS items. Table no. VI(22) shows awareness of sample household about precautions on PDS items.

Table No: VI.22

Block Wise Awareness about Precautions on PDS

Block	Awareness about Precautions on PDS		Total
	Aware	Not Aware	
Morangi	4 (8)	46 (92)	50 (100)
Kakodunga	0 (0)	50 (100)	50 (100)
Gamariguri	1 (2)	49 (98)	50 (100)
Central	4 (8)	46 (92)	50 (100)
South	4 (4.44)	86 (95.56)	90 (100)
East	6 (8.57)	64 (92.43)	70 (100)
North	1 (1.43)	69 (98.57)	70 (100)
West	10 (14.29)	60 (85.71)	70 (100)
Total	30 (6)	470 (94)	500 (100)

Source: Tabulation from primary data – 2014

(Figures in the bracket shows percentage)

VI.2.(L) Awareness about the Responsibility as a Citizen:

Of all the sample BPL households only 30.6 percent sample households are aware of their responsibility which has to be performed as a citizen of India and remaining 69.4 percent sample households are not aware of their responsibility . Of all the development block, on average in Golaghat central development block, maximum sample households are aware of their responsibility as a citizen, where 48 percent households are aware of it. This is followed by Morangi development block with 36 percent on average. In Kakodunga development block only 6 percent sample households are aware of their responsibility as a citizen. Table no. VI(23) depict the facts.

Table No:VI.23

Block Wise Awareness of Household about the Responsibility as a Citizen

Block	Awareness about Responsibility		Total
	Aware	Not Aware	
Morangi	18 (36)	32 (64)	50 (100)
Kakodunga	3 (6)	47 (94)	50 (100)
Gamariguri	16 (32)	34 (68)	50 (100)
Central	24 (48)	26 (52)	50 (100)
South	32 (35.56)	58 (64.44)	90 (100)
East	24 (34.29)	46 (65.71)	70 (100)
North	11 (15.71)	59 (84.29)	70 (100)
West	25 (35.71)	45 (64.29)	70 (100)
Total	153 (30.6)	347 (59.4)	500 (100)

Source: Tabulation from primary data – 2014

(Figures in the bracket shows percentage)

VI.2.(M) Perception of Households about the Role of Panchayats/ Town Committees in PDS:

The Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act 1992 of the Government of India defines ‘Panchayat’ as an institution of self government constitutes under article 243 for the rural area. The Eleventh Schedule includes 29 areas of jurisdiction of which public

distribution system is one (Institution of Social Science, 2000). Table no. VI(24) depicts the perception of households about the role of PRI's in PDS

Table No:VI.24

Block wise Perception of Households about the Role of PRI's in PDS

Blocks	Role of PRI's			Total
	Satisfactory	Not Satisfactory	Ignorance	
Morangi	1 (2)	21 (42)	28 (56)	50 (100)
Kakodunga	1 (2)	16 (32)	33 (66)	50 (100)
Gamariguri	7 (14)	14 (28)	29 (58)	50 (100)
Central	2 (4)	37 (74)	11 (22)	50 (100)
South	18 (20)	22 (24.44)	50 (55.56)	90 (100)
East	9 (12.86)	26 (37.14)	35 (50)	70 (100)
North	1(1.43)	18 (25.71)	51 (72.86)	70 (100)
West	13 (18.57)	11 (15.71)	46 (65.72)	70 (100)
Total	52(10.4)	165 (33)	283 (56.6)	500 (100)

Source: Tabulation from primary data – 2014

(Figures in the bracket shows percentage)

Of all the sample households as high as 56.60 percent (283 nos) households revealed their ignorance about the actual and possible role of PRI's in PDS where as 10.40 percent sample households reported that PRI's has played the positive role in PDS allotment whereas 33 percent sample households are not satisfied with the role of PRI's in PDS allotment. There are however inter block variations in 'prudent' and 'ignorant' households in terms of perception about the role of PRI's in PDS. Among the sample households who were satisfied with the role of PRI's in PDS allocation, on average maximum 20 percent sample households are satisfied with Golaghat south development block followed by Golaghat west development block with 18.57 percent. In Golaghat north development block only 1.43 percent sample households are satisfied with the role of PRI's in PDS allotment. On the other hand, among the sample households, in Golaghat central development block maximum 74 percent sample households are not satisfied with the role of PRI's in PDS followed by Morangi development block with 42 percent. In Golaghat west development block, the percentage of dissatisfied sample household is minimum with 15.71 percent.

Among the ignorant sample households about the role of PRI's in PDS, on average it is maximum in Golaghat north development block with 72.86 percent followed by Kakodunga development block with 66 percent. It is minimum in Golaghat central development block with 22 percent on average.

VI.2(N) Role of PDS on Household Food Security Status:

In order to determine the role of Public Distribution System (PDS) on the household food security status of the sample BPL households, descriptive statistics as well as simple regression model has been drawn in the present study.

VI.2(N)(i) Descriptive Statistics:

Based on the recommended daily calorie requirement it has been found that out of the 500 sample BPL households, 28 percent (140 nos) of sample BPL households are food secure whereas 72 percent (360 nos) are food insecure. Summary statistics of PDS contribution on per capita calorie intake for both food secure and food insecure households are presented in the table no.VI(25)

Table No: VI.25
Summary of Descriptive Statistics for Contribution on Household Food Security Status

Variables	Food Secure N=140		Food Insecure N= 360		Total N=500		'Z' Value
	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	
PDS Contribution in Per Capita Kcal	971.15	523.97	659.68	319.99	746.89	411.99	6.57**

Source: Authors Own Computation

**= Significant at 5% level

Table no. VI(25) depicts that PDS contribution in per capita calorie intake of the total sample household ranged from 0 to 3971.44 kcal and overall mean amount was 746.889 kcal. The PDS contribution to the food secure households ranged from 115.30 kcal to 3971.44 kcal per capita having mean value of 971.15 kcal. While on

the other hand the PDS contribution to the food insecure households ranged from 0 to 2985.93 kcal per capita having mean value of 659.68 kcal per capita. In addition the probability value of the ‘Z’ test has been 6.57 which is significant at 5% level. This implies that PDS contribution on per capita calorie intake plays a significant role on the household food security status.

IV.2.(N)(ii) Regression Analysis:

In order to determine the role of PDS on household food security status of the sample BPL households a simple regression model has been drawn by taking per capita calorie intakes of the sample household as the dependent variable and percentage of PDS contribution on per capita kcal (PCPDS) as the independent variable. The simple regression model is given by:

$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 PCPDS + U_1$$

Where Y_i = Per capita calorie intake of i th household

PCPDS= Percentage of PDS contribution on per capita kcal

U_1 = Stochastic Error Term

The result of the present model is shown in the table no. VI(26)

Table No:VI.26

Simple Regression Result

Dependent variable: Per capita calorie intake

Variable	Unstandardized Coefficients	Standardized Coefficients	‘t’ Value	Significance
	(β)	(β)		
CONSTANT	0.150		3.343	0.001*
PCPDS	0.024	0.343	3.221	0.001*

Source: Researchers own calculation

F= 10.373** $R^2 = 0.220$ Adjusted $R^2 = 0.218$

*= significance at 1% level, **= significant at 5% level

The model depicted in the table (26) reveals that it explained 22% of variation in the household per capita calorie intake in the study area. The ‘F’ value was 10.373 indicating that the model was significant at 5% level. The adjusted R^2 value is 21.8%.

The table depicts that the independent variable is significant. Percentage of PDS contribution on per capita calorie intake is significant at 1% level with a positive coefficient of 0.343 which implies that other variables being constant one unit increase in the percentage of PDS contribution on per capita calorie intake increases the household per capita calorie intake by a factor of 0.343 unit.