

Food Security Programmes in Karnataka: A brief snap shot

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Abstract

Food security is very important goal of sustainable development agenda. In the absences of In order to achieve food security it is also important that the poor have sufficient means to purchase food. Poor people cannot afford to purchase the food they need at market prices, and therefore, social protection programmes are needed. In order to provide food security to its people Karnataka state has taken many steps through various targeted schemes. With this background this paper aims at discussing various food security programmes implemented by Government of Karnataka.

Key words; Food security, hunger, and government programmes.

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Introduction

The conceptualisation of food security has also changed over time in India. The food security initiatives initially after Independence in 1947 were focused more on increasing grain production (Acharya, 2009) and which was achieved in the 1970s largely through the Green Revolution (Ramachandran, 2016). However, prevalence of high levels of malnutrition among children and women in particular led the government to realise that national food production was not the sole determinant of food security (Acharya, 2009). Consequently, government policy began to address poverty and to consider household and individual food security (ibid).

To ensure food access, the GOI launched the ICDS scheme in 1975 and the PDS in 1922 (Ramachandran, 2014). In 1993, the GOI launched a National Nutrition Policy which expanded these two schemes. In 1995, the GOI launched a National Plan of Action on Nutrition and the MDMS. The National Food Security Mission was introduced in 2007 to increase production. Schemes also exist to address the utilisation dimension of food insecurity, including The School Health Programme (part of the 2005 National Rural Health Mission) and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Campaign) launched in 2014. To further ensure access to food, the National Advisory Council (NAC) of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA)

government drafted a National Food Security Bill in 2011 (Kotwal et al., 2011). An amended version of the Bill was passed on 2 September 2013, becoming the National Food Security Act.

The Government of India enacted the National Food Security Act (NFSA) in 2013 with the aim of ensuring food and nutrition security for the most vulnerable groups of the population, through its associated schemes and programmes, thus making access to food a legal right. The NFSA 2013 ensures affordable access to adequate quantity of quality food so all people can live a life with dignity. The Act provides for coverage of up to 75 percent of the rural and up to 50 percent of the urban populations to receive subsidized foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). The eligible households are entitled to 5 kgs of foodgrains per person, per month at the subsidized prices of INR 3 per kg of rice, 2 per kg for wheat and 1 per kg for coarse grains. The existing Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households, which constitute the poorest of the poor, continue receiving 35 kgs of food grains per household, per month. The Act also has a special focus on the nutritional support to women and children and, as a women's empowerment measure, the Act designates the eldest woman, above 18 years of age, in a household, as the head of the household. The Act also includes provisions of supplementary nutrition for pregnant women and lactating mothers, and children from 6 months to 6 years of age. During pregnancy and up to six months after childbirth, women are also entitled to receiving maternity benefits of not less than INR 6,000 in total. Children from 6 to 14 years of age are entitled to nutritious meal through the Mid-Day Meals (MDM) scheme. If supplies of entitled foodgrains or meals are not available, the beneficiaries receive a food security allowance. The Government of India's investment in other large agriculture, employment, health and sanitation, and education schemes also contribute to India's obligation to achieve food and nutrition security.

Table 1 Food-based scheme in India

Scheme	Year Launched	Entitlements (NFSA, 2013)
Targeted Public Distribution Scheme (TPDS)	PDS since Pre independence, revamped PDS in 1992, TPDS Since 1997.	5kg of grain per person per month in each priority household at a maximum price of INR 3 per kg of rice, INR 2 per kg of wheat and INR 1 per kg of coarse grain. Priority households can constitute up to 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population.
Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)	2000	Ration card to the poorest of Below Poverty Line (BPL) households, entitling them to 35kg of grain per household per month at the subsidised prices of the PDS.
Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)	1975	Children below the age of six should receive food equal to 500 kcal and 12-15g of protein. Pregnant and lactating women should receive food equal to 600 kcal and 18-20g of protein. Malnourished children should receive 800 kcal and 20-25g protein

While the Government of India passed the national Food Security Act in 2013, the Government of Karnataka implemented a revised food distribution system known as the Annabhagya Yojane Scheme. The main objective of the scheme is to make Karnataka a hunger free state and ensure food security to the under privilege families. Karnataka, India's seventh largest State in terms of geographical area (191791 sq.km) is a home to 6.11 crore people (2011 Census) accounting for 5.05% of India's population. The achievements in some demographic goals have been noticeable in Karnataka. The literacy rate of the State is 75.4 percent in 2011 which is above the National Average of 73.0 percent. Female literacy rate is 68.1 percent in 2011 which is above the National Average of 64.6 percent. The food security is one of important goal of Sustainable Development Goals of United nation the following table shows Karnataka's performance on SDG Goal of No poverty and No hunger.

Table 2 Goal-1 Performances of Karnataka and India for SDG 1 No Poverty

Indicators/ Goal	Raw Data			Score		
	Kar	India	2030 Target	Kar	India	2030 Target
Percentage of population living below National Poverty line	20.91	21.92	10.95	66	62	100
Percentage of households with any usual member covered by any health scheme or health insurance	28.1	28.7	100	26	27	100
Persons provided employment as a percentage of persons who demanded employment under MGNREGA	84.26	85.26	100	41	40	100
Proportion of the population (out of total eligible population) receiving social protection benefits under Maternity Benefits	19.9	36.4	100	19	35	100
Percentage of population living in Katcha houses	2.0	4.2	0	93	86	100
SDG 1 Index Score				49	50	100

Source: NITI, Aayog SDG Index -2019

Table 3 Goal-2 Performance of Karnataka and India for SDG2 on Zero hunger

Indicators	Data			Score		
	Kar	India	2030	Kar	India	2030
Ratio of rural households covered under public distribution system to rural households where monthly income of highest earning member is less than Rs,5000	1.1	1.01	1.29	76	65	100
Percentage of children under age 5 years who are stunted	32.5	34.7	2.5	24	18	100
Percentage of pregnant women aged 15-49 years who are anaemic (11.0g/dl) (%)	45.4	50.3	14	53	41	100
Percentage of children aged 6-59 who are anaemic	34.7	40.5	14	48	33	100
Percentage of children 0-4 years who are under weight	32.0	33.4	0.9	26	23	100
Rice, wheat and coarse cereals produced	1731.0	2516.6	5018.	8	30	100

annually per unit area (Kg/Ha)		7	44			
GVA in agriculture per worker	0.54	0.68	1.36	26	38	100
SDG 2 Index Score				37	35	100

Source: NITI, Aayog SDG Index 2019

Public Distribution System in Karnataka

The Indian Public Distribution System (PDS) is the largest food safety net programme in the world. It was introduced to address food security concerns and primary aim was to maintain price stability and check malpractices in the private trade. The PDS is operated under joint responsibility of Central and State Governments. The Central Government, through Food Corporation of India (FCI) has assumed the responsibility for procurement, storage, transportation and bulk allocation of food grains to the State Government. Food grains are distributed through the PDS to the poor at fixed rates throughout the year. As in other States, rice, wheat, sugar and kerosene oil are distributed through the Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in Karnataka as well. Distribution of sugar has been discontinued from April 2017. The PDS has now evolved in economic policy with National Food Security Act of 2013 to combat malnutrition. Before 1997 the central govt provided food subsidies to all, however, since 1997 Government with revamped Target Public Distribution System divided the population in to Above the Poverty line (APL) and Below the Poverty line(BPL), where BPL categories receive food grains at highly subsidized prices, whereas APL categories receive food grains at open market rate. The State Government identifies such poor families that shall be eligible for PDS entitlement under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Below Poverty Line (BPL) categories. The term BPL has been discontinued under National Food Security Act (2013) and instead the term Priority House Hold (PHH) has been introduced. This indicates wider coverage as compared to the earlier concept of BPL. National Food Security Act-2013 has been implemented in the State from January 2014. Under this Act, Central Government releases 35 kg of food grains to AAY and 5 kg food grains for each unit or member of priority household in the State. Households belonging to both AAY and Priority Household (PHH) families are being distributed food grains as specified under NFSA and as per the NFSA food grain allocation. But the food grains are distributed free of cost by the State Government.

Anthyodaya Anna Yojane (AAY)

The Central Government has implemented Anthyodya Anna Yojane (AAY) which is in force w.e.f.August 2002 in the state. It considers the poorest of the poor and the concept has been evolved for those who are not able to afford two square meals per day. They are the poorest segment of the BPL population such as landless, agricultural labourers, households headed by windows, terminally ill persons affected by HIV, households headed by old age person with meager income or non income under this scheme. Such beneficiaries are identified in the Grama Sabha by the concerned Grama Panchayath.

The Govt of India enacted National Food Security Act 2013, which entitled every person belonging to Priority Household (PHH) for 5 Kgs of food grains per person at subsidized prices as per schedule I of the Act per month under public distribution System. A house hold (Family) shall get not exceeding 35 Kgs of food grains every month. The scheme was intended to cover 75% of the eligible families in Rural Area and 50% in urban area. GOI also advised all the states and union territories to implement the Act as per the provisions.

Anna Bhagya Yojane is a Scheme of Government of Karnataka, which was designed to implement the provisions of National Food Security Act 2013 enacted by Government of India. It was enacted with an intention to provide good quality of enough food to the BPL Families in the state. Annabhagya scheme is in force w. e. f. July 2013 in Karnataka. From the date of implementation of Annabhagya yojane the beneficiaries of the BPL card holders are availing enhanced quality of food grains. Earlier to this a BPL card family having one member were availing a minimum quantity of 4 kgs of rice and 1 kg wheat, and a maximum quantity of 20kg rice and 3 kg wheat. According the new scheme a BPL family having 1 member is availing quantity 10kg, 2 members family is availing 20kgs, 3 members and above family is availing 30kgs of food grains. Under Annabhagya Scheme up to April 2015 the rate of issue of food grains per kg is reduced to Rs 1.00. Until system of food grain distribution was introduced from May 2015 onwards. Accordingly, every unit of priority household are being distributed 5kg of food grains at free of cost.

From the year 2017-18, each member of Priority House Hold (PHH) is being distributed 7kg food grains and AAY households are given 35 kg food grains. Food grains are distributed free of cost. These cardholders are also entitled to 1kg dal per card as subsidized rates. Under this scheme during the month of November 2019 around 1.26 crore BPL (AAY+ PHH.) families have been the beneficiaries. Distribution of food gains at no cost has not only ensured food security but has also contributed to the purchased power of the AAY and PHH households. Sugar, salt and Palmoil/Sunflower Oil distribution has been discounted from the year 2017-18.

Table 4 Details of Number of Cardholders in Karnataka (Unit: In Nos)

Year	AAY	PHH	NPHH	Total	Percentage change
2011-12	1199700	8401792	3832931	13434423	-
2012-13	1118371	8715869	3499056	13333296	-0.75
2013-14	1100340	8486938	2767627	12354905	-7.34
2014-15	1017034	9325498	1957100	12299632	-0.45
2015-16	801845	9597173	132779	10531797	-14.37

2016-17	793321	9728718	220755	10742794	2.0
2017-18	783846	10021903	299219	11104968	3.37
2018-19	781937	12094537	349987	13226461	19.10

Source: Economic Survey 2018-19

At present, release of foodgrains to the state from the Central Government are being lifted from the district FCI godowns to the taluk wholesale depots by the Wholesale transporters, selected by the department through a process of tender. With the implementation of Door Step Delivery system, food grains from the Taluk Wholesale Godowns up to the Fair Price Shops are being lifted by the Retail Transporters who are selected through the tender process. In Taluks where retail transporters have not been selected, food grains from the wholesale godowns are lifted by the Fair Price Shop Owners. Depending on the topography and existing cardholders, there is one FPS in every Revenue village. Keeping in view the economic viability of the Fair Price Shops, minimum number of ration cards in fair price shops in rural and urban areas has been specified in the Karnataka Essential Commodities Public Distribution System (Control) Order 2016. In the hilly areas of Dakshina Kannada, Kodagu, Raichur, Mysore and Chamarajanagara, 9 mobile FPS are also working which are operated by the Karnataka Food and Civil Supplies Corporation. Currently, 19938 FPSs are operating in the State as on November-2020.

Padithara Khatari Scheme

This scheme has been revised in 2018 to ensure availability of foodgrains from the beginning of the month and during the entire month. As per the scheme the Fair Price Shops are to issue PDS commodities from 1st of every month to the cardholders and the Fair price shops shall function on all the days from 7-00 AM to 12-00 noon and from 4.00 PM to 8.00 PM (Except every Tuesday and State Government holidays).

Table 5 Financial Progress of Anna Bhagya Scheme

Scheme	Year	Grants/Target	Expenditure Rs in Crores
Anna Bhagya Scheme for AAY, APL, and BPL families	2013-14	3,396	3,046
	2014-15	4,365	2,533
	2015-16	2,266	2,196
	2016-17	1,976	1,853
	2017-18	2,882	2,542
	2018-19	3,578	3,570
	2019-20	5770	928

Source: Dept of Food & Civil Supplies

Government of Karnataka, Mid Day Meal programme

Mid Day Meal programme is Govt of India's flagship programme for achievement of Universalization of elementary Education (UEE) and being implemented in partnership with state Government to cover the entire Karnataka. The MDMs guidelines envisage providing cooked mid-day meal with 450 calories and 12 g of protein to every child at primary level and 700 calories and 20 g of protein at upper primary level.

This energy and protein requirement for a primary child comes from cooking 100 g of rice/flour, 20 g pulses and 50 g vegetables and 5 g oil, and for an upper primary child it comes from 150 g of rice/flour, 30 g of pulses and 75 g of vegetables and 7.5 g of oil.

Table 6 details of food grains and conversion cost given to primary and high schools students in Karnataka

Sl no	Food grains (per Child / day)	1-5		6-8		9-10	
		Quantity (In Gms)	Cost in (Rs)	Quantity (In Gms)	Cost in (Rs)	Quantity (In Gms)	Cost in (Rs)
1	Rice	100	0	150	0	150	0
2	Dal	20	1.71	30	2.53	30	2.53
3	Vegetables	50	1.17	75	1.73	75	1.73
4	Oil	05	0.36	7.5	0.57	7.5	0.57
5	D.F Salt	02	0.02	4	0.04	4	0.04
6	Fuel	-	0.69	-	1.03	-	1.03
7	Condiments	-	0.18	-	0.28	-	0.28
	Total		4.13		6.18		6.18

Prescribed New Menu Chart :

Days	Food List	Vegetable Used for Sambar	Remarks
Monday	Rice Sambar	Palak and drumstick leaves and other leaves, Potato, Brinjal, Onion, Tomato, etc. vegetables	Daal/grain compulsory Locally available vegetables and sambar ingredients can be used. Use AG mark or certified instant sambar powder only or use good quality of sambar ingredients and prepare themselves.
Tuesday	Rice Sambar	White pumpkin, carrot, Beans, Cabbage, Beetroot, Tomato, etc. vegetables.	
Wednesday	Rice Sambar	Drumstick, Potato, Onion, Tomato etc.	
Thursday	Rice Sambar	Pumpkin, Bottle guard, cucumber, Ladies Finger, Radish, Ridge guard etc.	
Friday	Bisibelebath	Beans, Turnip, Carrot, Capsicum, Onion, Tomato, Cereals.	
Saturday	Food product from Wheat	Carrot, Beans, Cabbages, Onion, Dill greens and other cereals.	

Additional Nutrition. Under Midday Meal Scheme vitamin tablets and WIFS tablets under NRHM scheme, are distributed to the students from 1st to 10th standard studying in Government and Aided schools:

Table 7 Additional nutrition for students in Karnataka

Tablets	Description	Quantities	Supplying Department
Vitamin A	2 Lakh IU	2 Tablets/year	Department of Public Instructions
Weekly Iron and Folic acid Supplementation (WIFS) (for 1st to 5th std) (for 6th to 10th std)	45mg(Pink colour) 100mg(Blue colour)	One tablet per week on every Monday	Department of Health and Family Welfare
Albendozal (De-worming tablets)	400mg	2 Tablets/year	Department of Health and Family Welfare

Table.8 Number of Children provided with Mid-Day Meal in school- 1 to 10th standard (Number in Lakhs)

Year	Government Schools	Percentage change	Aided Schools	Percentage change	No. of Non-Government organizations involved
2010-11	52.83	-	13.93	-	100
2011-12	53.12	0.55	9.90	-28.93	100
2012-13	46.62	-12.24	14.86	50.1	105
2013-14	46.62	0	14.86	0	92
2014-15	46.61	-0.02	14.38	-3.23	87
2015-16	46.59	-0.04	13.97	-2.85	80
2016-17	44.66	-4.14	13.76	-1.50	73
2017-18	48.36	8.28	12.10	-12.06	66
2018-19	44.67	-7.63	13.49	11.48	68

Source: Karnataka Economic Survey

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) : ICDS is a centrally sponsored scheme, which provides a package of six services i.e., supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check-up, referral services, nutrition and health education for mothers and non formal pre-school education for children between the ages of 3-6years. This scheme has been in existence since 1975. Under this scheme, 62580 AWCs and 3331 mini AWCs are functioning.

i) Supplementary Nutrition Programme GOI is reimbursing 50% of the expenditure incurred by the state government for SNP. Supplementary nutrition is provided to the beneficiaries under the ICDS programme with revised feeding norms of 500 calories of energy and 12-15 gms of protein to 0-6 years children, 600 calories of energy and 18-20 gms of protein to pregnant women/lactating mothers/ adolescents Girls, 800

Calories Of Energy And 20-25 Gms Of Protein To Severely Malnourished Children As A Supplement To Their Normal Intake, As Envisaged In The Schematic Guidelines

ii) Ksheera Bhagya Scheme. Under Ksheera Bhagya Scheme, Anganwadi Children In the State are being given Milk (In The Form Of 15 Gm Milk Powder Converted To 150 ml creamy milk and 10 gms sugar) since July 2017 two days a week which has now been enhanced to five days. Sof ar 35.92 lakhs beneficiaries are availed the benefit.

iii) Srushti Scheme All the children in anganwadi centres between 3 to 6 years are provided eggs two days a week since June 2017. 14.12 lakhs beneficiaries are availed the benefit up to the end of November 2018.

iv) Supplementary nutrition for Severely Malnourished Children 6 months to 3 years severely malnourished children are provided egg for 3 days, 3-6 years severely malnourished children are provided egg for 5 days and children who do not consume egg are provided 6 days milk.

v) Mathru Poorna Scheme October 2nd 2017, Mathru Poorna scheme is being implemented in all the districts of the State. Rs 202 crore budget has been allocated by the govt. of Karnataka and the physical target is 10.23 lakh beneficiaries. Under Mathrupoorna pregnant and nursing mothers are provided hot meals in the Anganwadi Centre at a cost of Rs 21/- the state contributing Rs. 11.50/- and Rs. 9.50/- being provided under the centrally sponsored ICDS programme.Upto the end of Nov-18 7.83 lakh beneficiaries have availed the benefit.

vi) Health and Nutrition Education: All Anganwadi Centres are provided with a Hand book and Flip Chart on Health and Nutrition which is used for educating the pregnant and lactating mothers at the Anganwadi Centres.

vii) Pre-school Education: For effective Pre School Education, an Activity Bank called "Chili Pilli"-a series of books including 42 subjects in Kannada and Urdu language has been developed and distributed to all Anganwadi centres to be used by the Anganwadi workers during pre-school activity time.

Table 9 Food Menu and Nutritional value under ICDS

Sl. No.	Item	Nutritive Value		
		Energy (kcal)	Protein (g)	Calcium (mg)
1	Rice	517.56	10.2	15
2	Dal (Toor Dal)	104.4	7.25	22.50
3	Oil	144	0	0
4	Milk	273	10.03	490
5	Egg	100.92	7.76	35
6	Vegetables	52.5	1.8	16.06
7	Peanut Chikki	150	4	-
		1342.38	41.04	578.56

Table 10 Progress of Supplementary Nutritional Supplements under ICDS

Year	Expenditure (Rs. Lakh)	No. of Beneficiaries	Percentage change
2000-01	4360.58	3113000	-
2001-02	3794.94	3122000	2.89
2002-03	3236.14	3273000	4.83
2003-04	3802.76	3385000	3.31
2004-05	3886.90	3383000	-0.059
2005-06	6236.09	3422000	1.15
2006-07	8244.41	4171000	8.76
2007-08	9994.28	4320000	3.57
2008-09	24644.9	4245671	-1.72
2009-10	45473.90	4491148	5.78
2010-11	54587.07	4687803	4.38
2011-12	58234.83	4733216	0.97
2012-13	67708.24	5415895	14.42
2013-14	84632.89	5472021	1.04
2014-15	60160.53	5479064	0.13
2015-16	116306.73	5524282	0.83
2016-17	121787.18	5531028	0.12
2017-18	142029.59	5014579	-9.34
2018-19 (Up to November 2018)	79571.24	4406255	-12.13

Source: Karnataka Economic Survey

Conclusion

Though, Karnataka is in forefront in implementing food security programme like public distribution System to make Karnataka hunger Free State and also attempting to ensure nutritional requirement aspect of food security among women and children through targeted programmes like ICDS and MDM scheme. However, despite these efforts malnutrition among women and children remains the main challenge to be address in the state.

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