

# Impact of Increasing expenditure of Cardholders of PDS during Covid-19: A case study of Gaya District

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**Abstract:** Public Distribution System (PDS) is a medium for distribute of food grains from Government to Cardholders at higher subsidize rate. During Covid-19 pandemic was increasing rate of essential goods for Cardholders. The goal of the study was to assess the impact of Covid-19 on rate of basic needs of Cardholders of PDS in Gaya District of Bihar. The study has been primary data on grassroot level survey. The data has been collected from 987 Cardholders in Gaya District of Bihar.

During pandemic lots of Cardholders were increasing expenditure for consuming basic needs likes green vegetables, rice, wheat, pluses, etc. because highly increasing rate of essential goods, then outcome is that highly increased poverty in Gaya District. Central government and Bihar Government were imposed lockdown in entire country and all work place was closed and Cardholders were facing many problems in one time like Unemployment, increasing rate of basic goods, health problems, etc during Covid-19.

The study is found out of impact on Cardholders of PDS in different aspects during Covid-19 and given different vision of expenditure on essential goods for Cardholders.

**Keywords:** Cardholders, PDS, Covid-19, and Gaya District

## Introduction:

The origin of food security through Public Distribution System (PDS) goes to Kautilyan “Arthashastra”. According to Kautilya “social security was both a private and a state matter”. The history behind introduction of the Public Distribution System in India is rooted in famines and food scarcities during the entire period of British colonial rule in the most significant medium through which the Government ensures food security at the micro-level is the PDS<sup>1</sup>.

Public Distribution System was established under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution Government of India and managed central government state governments<sup>2</sup>. PDS is a medium of distribution of food grains from government to cardholders and cardholders are show that poverty and low income in country. Public Distribution System is main objective that food access all person easily at minimum price. PDS is control of inflation directly and indirectly in country. PDS is a food security system accountable for providing basic food and non-food commodities to the economically vulnerable sections of the society through government-sponsored shops at highly subsidized rate in every nook and corner of the nation.

Never happen history of world was all nations closed on one time but came Corona virus in 2019 then all over world was closed. Covid-19 pandemic was stuck of all working places were closed, loss the jobs of informal sectors etc. in Bihar. Came the result was that rapidly increasing inequality in society and negative impact on food insecurity and livelihood. During the first wave of Covid-19 pandemic, in the absence of vaccination, many develop and developing nations adopted lockdowns to contain Covid-19 pandemic<sup>3</sup>. The lockdowns were expected to aggravate the existing worldwide recessionary trends resulting in loss of livelihood and increases in unemployment rate, decreasing income, increasing of food insecurity, a highest spread of poverty and inequality rate<sup>3,4</sup>. During lockdown transport is not proper working then result is that basic commodities are not move to one place to another place. People are not working agriculture and others sectors then result came out is that increasing the price of commodities like green vegetables, pulses, meats, eggs, milk and etc. Cardholders were using saving income for survive.

Bihar is third position in populous state of India with population of 10.4 crore and ranked 12<sup>th</sup> in term of areas, Bihar divided two parts by Ganga River north Bihar and south Bihar, north Bihar is each and every year effected of flood and south Bihar is every year suffering of drought<sup>5</sup>. Gaya district is positioned in south Bihar and also every year effected of drought. Bihar is one among the poorest states of India, A big part of population here dependents upon Farming for their survival and besides this, this state is also one among production house of migrant Laboure to entire country<sup>5</sup>. Gaya district is 2nd largest areas and 3rd largest district of population in Bihar state. According to census 2011, living schedule caste of 30.29% in Gaya district and first position hold for schedule caste stay in Bihar state. Maximum schedule caste householders are landless, those are daily wage workers, migrant laboure and living of life these based. During Covid-19 pandemic all people trouble of Gaya district. Its impact was increasing price of all commodities of Gaya district during Covid-19 pandemic.

**Methodology:**

The present study evaluated the impact of increasing of expenditure of Cardholders of PDS during Covid-19 in Gaya district of Bihar state on door to door surveyed of 987 Cardholders spread across six blocks of Gaya district, namely Barachatti, Dobhi, Mohanpur, Gurua, Bodhgaya and Sherghati. Hence, primary data assist us to evaluate the increasing expenditure during Covid-19 pandemic. The study has also tried to understand to increasing expenditure and how was faced these challenges. The collected data was broadly representative of Gaya district. The surveyed collected data on aspects such as Cardholders increasing expenditure during Covid-19 pandemic. Asking basic information facing challenges during pandemic of Gaya district. The questionnaire was translated to the Hindi language. It was pretested to check the flow of questions and usage of relevant terminologies. Each interview lasted for 20 minutes and 45 minutes.

**Hypothesis:**

(1) Increasing expenditure of Cardholders of PDS during Covid-19 in Gaya district.

**Increasing expenditure of Cardholders of PDS during Covid-19: -**

Government of India was imposed lockdown on 24<sup>th</sup> March whole nation, the impact on all working places was closed, disturbed supply food chain, etc. Its impact on all human beings in whole nation. Increasing expenditure during Covid-19 pandemic in Gaya district of Bihar.

**Table no. 1**  
**Increasing expenditure of Cardholders of PDS in Gaya district during Covid-19 pandemic**

Sl. No.	Blocks	Respondents	Expenditure on Food Grains before Pandemic (in Rupees)			Expenditure on Food Grains during Pandemic (in Rupees)			Expenditure on Food Grains after Pandemic (in Rupees)	
			PDS	Open market	Total	PDS	Open market	Total	PDS	Open market
1	Barachatti	162	18248	215424	233672	18248	299201	317449	0	382976
2	Dobhi	164	18552	221346	239898	18552	307425	325977	0	393504
3	Mohanpur	164	17596	196146	213742	17596	281500	299096	0	360320
4	Gurua	162	16036	213210	229246	16036	296125	312161	0	379040
5	Bodhgaya	170	19192	226836	246028	19192	315050	334242	0	403264
6	Sherghati	165	18776	225468	244244	18776	131150	331926	0	400832
	<b>Total</b>	987	108400	1298430	1406830	108400	1630451	1920851	0	2319936

Source: - Field Survey

Table no. 1 is explaining the expenditure of Cardholders of PDS before pandemic, during Covid-19 and after pandemic. During lockdown in blocks of Barachatti, Dobhi, Mohanpur, Gurua, Bodhgaya and Sherghati of Gaya district. Before pandemic cardholders got the food grain from public distribution but not full month of ration, the amount of food grain is surviving only ten days and remaining days of ration is buying from open market, so cardholders are need of ration then purchasing ration from open market. Total expenditure of all respondents is 1406830 before Covid-19 and expenditure through PDS is 108400 and expenditure through open market is 1298430. During pandemic government was decided giving double food grain of Cardholders. Government was

given extra food grain through Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) scheme for all Cardholders without taking price. Total expenditure of all respondents is 1920851 during Covid-19 and expenditure through PDS is 108400 and expenditure through open market is 1630451. Comparison of expenditure of respondents before Covid-19 and during Covid-19. It's found that 25.57% increasing expenditure of respondents in open market. After pandemic government was decided that Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) scheme closed and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority Householder (PHH) Cardholders giving the free food grain from public distribution system but the amount of food grain not complete full month, so cardholders are purchasing of food grain at high price from open market because during pandemic all transportation were disturbed. Comparison of expenditure of cardholders before pandemic to after pandemic is show that expenditure increase regularly because inflation rate regularly increases, so that cardholders are facing regularly problem.

### **Conclusion:**

Our study found that, during Covid-19 pandemic 25.57% increasing expenditure of Cardholders of PDS in Gaya district. Increasing price of basic essential commodities like rice, wheat, pulse, milk, green vegetables, pulse, egg, meat, medical needs and others. Increasing food insecurity then Cardholders were using low quality essential goods and minimum quantity and decline accessibility and consumption items because income is low and every where fear of spread of Corona virus and increasing inflation rapidly because shutdown of manufacturing and disruption transportation. Rapidly increasing poverty during pandemic because all work place closed then result is massive people come under poverty line.

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