

## **Implementation of DBT to ensure Food Security: A Case Study of PDS in Puducherry, India**

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### **Abstract**

*The Public Distribution System (PDS) was initiated by the British government to address household food security issues, it is continuing for the last 8 decades even after independence. The government has taken several measures to address the problem of corruption, leakage and delay in distribution. The most recent initiative is the direct cash transfer (DBT) which has been piloted in 3 union territories. This study examines the functioning of cash transfer programme and enquires if it has succeeded in ensuring food security in rural Puducherry.*

**Key Words:** Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), Public distribution system (PDS), Food security, National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013.

### **Introduction**

In India since independence lot of programmes for food security have been implemented such as applied nutrition programme, supplementary nutrition programme, mid-day meals, integrated child development programme, public distribution system, food for work etc. (GOI, Planning Commission, 2008). Each and every programme has a different target group/s, some of them have targeted the children, some adolescent girls, some pregnant and lactating mothers, and programme like PDS has targeted the entire household food security. Even with all these initiatives, India has the largest number of children who suffer from under nourishment (Dreze, J& A.K Sen, 2013). Apart from that a large number of children and women are anaemic, there is high infant mortality and high maternal mortality rates (Indian Institute of Population Studies & Inter City Fund, 2017).

The NFHS 4 (2015-16) data show, nearly every third child in India is undernourished. The anthropometric data shows, 35.7 per cent of the children

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