Food distribution Value Chain under Supplementary Nutrition Programme of ICDS in India: A Case Study

Parasar R and R.V. Bhavani
• Access to safe nutritious food-17 SDG
• High rate of Under-nutrition: biggest challenge
• “The food and agriculture sector offers key solutions for development, and is central for hunger and poverty eradication”-SDG 2
• Nutrition sensitive agri-food value chains have a important to play
Why Value Chain Approach

• Dependency on Non-home Production/Markets
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- Impact beyond farm-gate
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- Impact beyond farm-gate
- Higher value and exclusion of poor as consumer
- Hence value chain analysis of targeted public food distribution is important.
- We chose to study Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) in Two Indian States Telangana and TN.
ICDS and Supplementary Nutrition Programme

• ICDS: National level social protection initiative targeting pregnant and lactating women, adolescent girls and 0-6 years children
ICDS and Supplementary Nutrition Programme

**ICDS**: National level social protection initiative targeting pregnant and lactating women, adolescent girls and 0-6 years children

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- Tamil Nadu: 54439 ICDS/Anganwadi Centres, 2.1 Million Children and 700,000 Women
- Telangana: 35700 ICDS/Anganwadi Centres, 1.6 Million Children and 500,000 Women
Food Provided under SNP

Women:

- Telangana: One full meal for pregnant and lactating women including 200ml milk.

- Tamil Nadu: Pregnant and lactating women are provided Nutritious Pre-mix (THR) every week to consume 160 grams of pre-mix per day.
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Children:
• Younger children (less 3 years): Eggs and Nutritious Premix (THR)
• Tamil Nadu: Provision of Noon Meal for 2-3 years
• Older children (3-6 years): Noon Meal (Spot feeding)
• Telangana: Extruded snacks
Anganwadi Centre

Anganwadi Kitchen

Helper serving food to children

Women at centre

Children at Anganwadi Centre
Value Chain in Telangana

- State Govt. Enterprise
- Under Utilisation of Capacity
Value Chain in Tamil Nadu

Two kinds of entities:

- The private manufacturers
- The women cooperative
Value Chain in Tamil Nadu

• Competitive biding for private manufacturers.

• The private player link in the value chain is about a decade old. Before that all processes were undertaken by the Women cooperatives.

• The new arrangement has enhanced the production
State Commitment

• Both Tamil Nadu and Telangana are allocating more resources than the Govt. of India recommendation.
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• The amount however accounts for only a small proportion of the state GDP

Cost to state of providing hot cooked meal to women

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Willingness of the State to spend is an important factor for impact
Impact

Using estimate of Rapid Survey on Children (2014) we find there is a negative association of prevalence of under-nutrition with additional per head cost.

State that spends more on the beneficiaries under SNP has lesser number of undernourished children.

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<th>Prevalence of Underweight</th>
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<td><em>Per Capita expenditure on SNP FY13 (in Rs)</em></td>
<td>-0.004</td>
<td>0.03</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Percent of Children Fully Immunised</em></td>
<td>-0.177</td>
<td>0.156</td>
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<td><em>Constant</em></td>
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R-squared = 0.2042
Number of States = 27
Overall Assessment

- Link between agricultural production and nutritional outcome

- **Consumer Perspective:** Nutritional Awareness, Credibility, Acceptability, Availability, and Affordability
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Overall Assessment

- **Gender:** Beneficiary, Agency and Contradictions

- **Food Safety:**
  - On-spot feeding
  - Quality Standard for Pre-mix
  - Packaging

- **Fulfilment of Nutritional Requirements:**
Differences in the two Value Chains

Reach
Differences in the two Value Chains

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- Implication on Public Resources: Underutilised capacity in Telangana
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- Importance of mixed value chain: What changed with private players in the chain?
Thank you!!