

## **THE STUDY OF ANTYODAYA ANNA YOJANA IN INDIA**

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### **ABSTRACT**

India, which dreams of the superpower, has many questions front of it. There is a serious question of poverty and hunger. A national sample survey exercise points towards the fact that about 5 percent of the total population in the country sleep without two square meals a day. As a solution to this, India established the Antyodaya Annas Yojana on 25<sup>th</sup> December 2000, to supply food grains through public distribution system. According to the figures of 2011 in India 236.9 lakh of families and 939.94 lakh of people come under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana. From the time of planning, various measures and schemes have been taken to solve the problem of food shortages and hunger. The Antyodaya Anna Yojana is important in this regard. But even today, the Indian government has not been successful in reducing hunger. This research paper has studied how the Antyodaya Anna Yojana is implemented in India, how the beneficiaries are selected and the states-wise estimated numbers of AAY families and AAY ration cards.

**Keywords** – hunger, poverty, India, poor, beneficiaries, food grains, Antyodaya Anna Yojana, supplyIntroduction

India is well known nation of agriculture. Though it becomes an exporter of foodgrains, the issue of hunger in the country is one of the matters of concern to the policy maker. As per the global hunger index of 2018, India is at 103<sup>th</sup> position with 31.1 points in 119 countries. The government is working on providing foodgrains to the BPL people, through the public distribution system. This is a very important scheme implemented by the government to reduce poverty. The government has implemented many schemes for eradicating poverty. Antyodaya Anna Yojana is one of the important

poverty alleviation programs in India, which has been launched by the honorable prime minister of India on 25<sup>th</sup> December, 2000. This scheme reflects the commitment of the government of India to ensure food security for all citizens of a country. The basic aim of this program is, to create a hunger-free India in the next five years and improve the public distribution system to survive the poorest of the poor in rural and urban areas Antyodaya Anna Yojana has been conserved. It is estimated that 5 percent of the population is unable to get two square miles a day on a sustained basis throughout that year. Their purchasing power is too low that they were unable to buy food grains even at BPL rates. Out of the total population, 5 percent population constitutes the target group of AAY.

### **Research Problem**

India faces many problems. The problem of hunger is important in that. Over the past several years, various study groups have been appointed to solve the problem of poverty. Public distribution system is very important in the implementation of many schemes to solve the problem of poverty and hunger. Even so many people in India still do not get two times meals because of poverty.

### **Objective of Study**

1. To study Antyodaya Anna Yojan in India.
2. To study working of Antyodaya Anna Yojan in India.
3. To study States-wise estimated numbers of AAY families in India.
4. To study States-wise AAY ration cards in India
5. To study Eligibility for Antyodaya Anna Yojana.

### **Importance of Study**

Due to poverty some people in India still do not get two meals a day. The Antyodaya anna yojana was started to provide food grains to these poor people. Through this scheme food grains are provided to the poorest of the poor people. The Antyodaya anna yojana has helped many people. Therefore, it is important to study this plan.

### **Research Methodology**

This research is based on secondary sources. The secondary data has been collected from various references the necessary statistical instruments, financial magazines, reports, websites and analyzing it.

### **Working of Antyodaya Anna Yojana**

From above all schemes, the important scheme is Antyodaya Anna Yojana. Through this scheme, it has become possible to provide grains to those who are needy and poor. So far, As Indian poverty is concerned that, it is important to study AAY scheme.

### **Eligibility for Antyodaya Anna Yojana**

While implementing any scheme, the government applies some rules and regulations. Under these terms and conditions, the beneficiary gets the benefit of the government scheme. Antyodaya Anna Yojana is an important scheme implemented for the poor. The government is providing food grains through economically weaker sections of the Antyodaya Anna Yojana. The government has set the following eligibility to avail the benefits of Antyodaya Anna Yojana.

1. Family members falling under below poverty line can apply for this scheme.
2. Annual incomes below Rs.15000 families are eligible.
3. Disabled person can apply for this scheme.
4. Widows and senior citizen who heading a family can apply.
5. Tribal families in the rural and mountain areas eligible for this scheme.

### **Beneficiaries of Antyodaya Anna Yojana are selection**

Under the terms and conditions of selection of beneficiaries to avail the benefits of Antyodaya Anna Yojana. This rule or Criteria can be seen differently for rural and urban areas as shown below.

#### **Rural Areas of Beneficiaries**

Since, India is an agrarian country, 66.46 percent out of the total population live in rural areas. In rural areas employment opportunities are less available, hence hidden unemployment in agriculture is widely seen. Therefore, poverty is seen in large numbers in rural areas. To avail the benefit of the Antyodaya Anna Yojana, be eligible as follows.

1. Those families getting an annual income up to Rs.15000 are eligible for Antyodaya Anna Yojana.
2. Old age pensioners.
3. Small and marginal farmers.

4. Landless agricultural laborers.
5. Physically handicapped person.
6. Destitute widows.
7. Rural artisans or craftsmen such as potters, weavers, blacksmiths, carpenters and slum dwellers.

#### **Urban Areas of Beneficiaries**

Due to the decrease in employment rates in the village, people have been migrating to large number of villages. There is a serious question about the living, food and pollution of these migrants. Since, all the people in the city are not employed, poverty is also seen in large numbers in the city. The government is providing food to some economically weaker sections through the Antyodaya Anna Yojna. The eligibility given below is to avail the benefits of this scheme.

1. Family annual income below Rs.15000 will get benefit under this scheme.
2. People living in slums.
3. Daily wager such as rickshaw-pullers are one of the beneficiaries under AAY.
4. Porters are eligible for AAY scheme.
5. Fruit and flowers sellers on pavements.
6. Domestic servants will get benefit of AAY.
7. Construction workers can apply for this benefits,
8. Households headed by widows or disabled person or person aged 60 years or more with no assured means of subsistence or societal support will get benefit of AAY.
9. Snake charmers, rag pickers, cobblers are also get benefit under this.

#### **Procedure or criteria for selection of beneficiary in Antyodaya Anna Yojana**

Without a fresh survey to ascertain the beneficiaries of Antyodaya Anna Yojna, "IRDP 1997-98 survey" by rural development department in rural areas government has taken into consideration the BPL family's survey of "Golden Jubilee urban employment scheme" by urban development department in urban area. The central government has divided 10,01,700 households into the rural and urban areas of the state considering the number of BPL families in the district wise rural and urban areas, the number of Antyodaya Anna family in the rural and urban areas of the respective district has also

been decided. Under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana, the procedure or criteria for selection of beneficiary in Antyoday Anna Yojana as followed.

### **To get BPL families list**

The list of BPL families has been taken into consideration by the rural development and urban development department to determine the beneficiaries of the Antyodaya Anna Yojana. Provide a literary copy of the village wise and city wise lists to the respective upper district collectors by the officers present in the district.

### **Check the number of families**

After the district level list is available, the numbers of bellow poverty line families are checked.

### **Expansion of Antyodaya Anna Yojna**

The objective of the scheme is to ensure food security to the poorest of the poor. The scale of issue that was initially 25 kg per family per month has been increased to 35 kg per family per month with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2002. Initially, 1 Kg for each card 3 rupees had to be paid for it, but started to give grains of 2 rupees. The status is required to bear the distribution cost, including margin to dealers and retails as well as the transportation cost. Thus, the entire food subsidy is being passed on to the consumer under the schemes.

### **The First Expansion of AAY**

The AAY Scheme has been expanded in 2003-2004 by adding another 50 lakh households from amongst the BPL families headed by widows or terminally ill persons or disabled or persons aged 60 years or more with no assured means of subsistence or social support. With this increase, 1.5 crore (i.e.23 percent BPL) families have been covered under the AAY.

### **Second Expansion of AAY**

In line with the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the UPA Government and the announcement made by the Hon'ble finance Minister in the Union Budget 2004-05, the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) has further been expanded with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2004 by another 50 lakh BPL families by including, inter-alia, all households at the risk of hunger. The following criteria will be adopted for identification of additional Antyodaya families.

**1) Rural area:** A) Families getting an income up to Rs.15, 000 per year. B) Landless agriculture labours. C) Small and marginal farmers. D) Self-Employed rural artisans. E) Old age pensioners and destitute widows, physically handicapped persons etc., who are getting similar person from government (In the case of items (b) to (e) the income limit of per annum will apply).

**2) Urban Area:** A) Families getting an income up to Rs. 15000 per year. B) Generally, People living in slum. C) Daily wage-earners like Rickshaw-pullers, porters, fruit and flowers sellers on pavements, domestic servant, construction workers and other similarly place. Households headed by widows or terminally ill persons or disabled persons or persons aged 60 years or more with no assured means of subsistence or social support. With this increase, the number of AAY families have been increased to crore.

### **Third Expansion of AAY**

As announced in the union budget 2005-2006, the AAY has further been expanded to cover another 50 lakh BPL households thus increasing its coverage to 2.5 crore households.(i.e.38 percent of BPL). As 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2009, 242.75 lakh AAY families have been covered by the status under this scheme.

The scheme seeks to improve the distribution system to create a hunger-free India in the next five years and to provide services to the poor in rural and urban areas. It is for the poor that Antyodaya Anna Yojana has been conserved. It is estimated that 5 percent of people unable to get two square meals a day on a sustained basis throughout the year. Their purchase is so low that why they are not in a position to buy food grains round the year even at BPL rates, 5 crores of people or 1 crore family.

### **States-wise estimated numbers of AAY families and AAY ration cards**

While the public distribution system is focusing on the poor people, under TPDS, it is imperative for states to create and implement flawless systems for the distribution of the poor in a transparent and responsible manner, as well as to identify and distribute the poor. A national sample survey exercise points towards the fact that about 5 percent of the total population in the country sleep without two square meals a day. This section of the population can be called "hungry", the Government of India launched the "Antyodaya Food Scheme" on December 25, 2000 to make TPDS more concentrated and targeted to the population of this class. The state-wise estimated number of AAY families and the

families identified and ration cards issued under AAY by the state are given in the following table no.5.

**Table No. 1**  
**States-wise Estimated No. of AAY families and AAY families identified & Ration Cards issued (2017)**

(Figures in lakh)

Sr. No.	States/ Uts	Accepted No. of AAY families	Identified No. of AAY families	
			AAY families	No. Persons
1	Andhra Pradesh	9.59	9.08	23.52
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.38	0.37	1.47
3	Assam	7.04	7.00	29.9
4	Bihar	25.01	25.01	116.55
5	Chattisgarh	7.19	7.19	20.42
6	Delhi	1.57	1.57	2.90
7	Goa	0.18	0.13	0.50
8	Gujarat	8.13	8.02	42.77
9	Hariyana	3.03	2.68	11.35
10	Himachal Pradesh	1.97	1.82	7.67
11	Jammu & Kashmir	2.82	2.36	11.04
12	Jharkhand	9.18	9.17	37.98
13	Karnataka	12.00	10.97	43.91
14	Kerala	5.96	5.96	25.59
15	Madhya Pradesh	15.82	14.32	50.20
16	Maharashtra	25.05	25.05	408.01
17	Manipur	0.64	0.63	1.97
18	Meghalaya	0.70	0.15	0.85
19	Mizoram	0.26	0.26	0.82
20	Nagaland	0.48	0.48	2.11
21	Orissa	12.65	10.48	37.89
22	Punjab	1.79	1.79	7.71

23	Rajasthan	9.32	9.32	37.00
24	Sikkim	0.17	0.17	0.55
25	Tamil Nadu	18.65	17.17	73.27
26	Tripura	1.13	1.11	4.98
27	Uttarakhand	1.91	1.84	7.92
28	Uttar Pradesh	40.95	40.95	162.85
29	West Bengal	19.86	15.86	51.82
30	Pondicherry	0.32	0.25	0.86
31	Andman & Nicobar	0.11	0.04	0.17
32	Chandigarh	0.09	0.00	0.05
33	Dadara & Nagar Haveli	0.07	0.04	0.23
34	Daman & Diu	0.02	0.01	0.04
35	Lakshadweep	0.01	0.01	0.01
36	Telangana	5.99	5.67	4.98
	India	250.00	236.09	939.94

Source: Department of food and Public distribution, India, 2017.

In this table no. 4.5 shows that the highest estimated no. of AAY families and AAY families identified and ration cards issued in Uttar Pradesh i.e. 40.945 lakh. This growth appears to be the same. The minimum estimated no. of AAY families and AAY families identified and ration cards issued in Lakshadweep i.e. It appears to be 0.01.

### **Conclusion**

Poverty and hunger pose important questions for India, the dreamer of the world power. According to data of 2017, 939.94 lakh people and 236.09 families in India are the beneficiaries of Antyodaya Anna Yojana. This is a very serious matter. If you want to be financially enabled in the future, it is important to take effective solution on poverty and hunger. Important of providing foodgrain to more and more people through the Antyodaya Anna Yojana. In a related paper, we have studied how Antyodaya Anna Yojana works, how the beneficiary is selected and the number of ration card holders in India.



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