

Empirical analysis of alternative measures for ensuring food security of poor household in Varanasi district of U.P., India

Mukesh Kumar Maurya¹, Sukhveer Singh², P.S. Badal¹, V. Kamalvanshi¹

Received November 13, 2016 and Accepted January 22, 2017

ABSTRACT : The purpose of this study was to study the status of household food security and the alternative measures for ensuring food security among poor households in Varanasi district of Uttar Pradesh. The data were collected from 300 individuals from 50 households located in 2 villages through simple random sampling. The Aggregate Household Food Security Index (AHFSI) developed by FAO was used to evaluate the household food security situation. The values of AHFSI ranged from 0 to 100, the higher values representing higher levels of food security. The results revealed that the value of AHFSI was 79.04, which comes under category of 75 to 85 and showed that there is sufficient level of food security in the study area. The National Food Security Act, 2013 includes cash transfers and food coupons as possible alternative mechanisms to the public distribution system (PDS) for ensuring household food security.

Key Words: Empirical analysis, poor household, Food Security, National Food Security Act, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India.