

To Assess the Role of Benazir Income Support Program in Achieving Food Security - A Case Study of Barikot, Swat, Pakistan

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Abstract

In this study an attempt is made to assess the role of Benazir Income Support Program in achieving food security in Barikot, District Swat, K.P.K Pakistan. During the study primary data were collected from 65 households of Tehsil Barikot four villages. Data were analysed, using statistical and econometrics tools. Regarding the role in food security the results of correlation, variable, BISP amount and household's wheat and vegetables consumption is positive related with each other (Correlation coefficient between these variables is 0.80 and 0.618). The respondent's or household's use this received amount from BISP on different items such as food, clothing and education etc. Majority of the household's (40.0%) use amount of BISP on food items such as for the consumption of wheat, rice, milk, sugar and for vegetables. The correlation also indicates that both variables are moving in the same direction. Besides the role of BISP in achieving food security and poverty reduction there is some problems in BISP, according to the respondent's responses the main problem are; problem of corruption, lack of offices, undetermined date schedule of receiving payments, rush in receiving cash or payments, discrimination and the problem mismanagement in of BISP.

Keywords: BISP; Food security; Food insecurity; Econometrics tools

Introduction

Food security exists when all people, at all times have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. According to this definition there are three main dimensions of food security, Physical availability of food, Economic and physical access to food, and food utilization. The amount and quality of food available globally, nationally and locally can be affected temporarily or long-term by many factors such as poverty, infrastructure, climate, disasters, war, population size and growth, moreover agricultural practices, environment, social status and trade are also included.

Food insecurity as a state in which consistent access to adequate food is limited by a lack of money and other resources at times during the year. It is the global problem there are nearly 10 million hunger are deaths every year and over 900 million people are estimated to remain hungry around the world (USDA). There are many factors which cause food insecurity are poverty, health, water, gender equity, disasters and conflicts and increasing prices of commodities etc.

Food security analysts have defined two general types of food insecurity; Chronic Food Insecurity and Transitory Food Insecurity. Chronic Food Insecurity is long-term or persistent. This occurs when people are unable to meet their minimum food requirements over a sustained period of time. Transitory Food Insecurity is short-term and temporary. It occurs when there is a sudden drop in the ability to produce or access enough food to maintain a good nutritional status.

Determinants of food security

Food availability: Food availability is achieved when sufficient quantity and quality of food available to all households. It supplied through domestic production, households own production, import capacity, food stocks, market infrastructure and commercial imports or food assistance.

Access to food: Access to food is achieved when a household and all members of the household have enough economic resources to acquire food requirements and dietary needs of the household. Access is the primarily function of a household's income or purchasing power,

its distribution within the household and the price of food, besides the physical aspect.

Food utilization: Food availability and access to food alone cannot ensure food security as proper food absorption is equally important. It has public health dimension and requires a diet providing sufficient energy and essential nutrients, along with access to clean water, health care and adequate sanitation. Food absorption also depends on the knowledge within the household of food storage and processing techniques, basic principles of nutrition, proper child care and illness management.

Equity of food distribution: Equity is a major issue of concern related to food security, particularly in the context of Pakistan where in inequity in land holdings and incomes is relatively high. There is a wide variation in income, human development as well as overall development across regions and provinces.

There is an increasingly serious problem of food scarcity in many areas of Pakistan where almost 21 million people are facing food insecurity and threats like malnutrition under nutrition and hunger. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is around 56% households of food insecure. The number of food insecure of districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 12 out of 24 districts are severely lacking food security and access to food is said to have become a major problem for the entire Khyber Pakhtunkhwa [1].

There are different programs that support the poor segment in Pakistan. Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) is one of these programs that support the poor segment in Pakistan. To support the

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Received September 26, 2016; **Accepted** October 13, 2016; **Published** October 23, 2016

Citation: Hassan T, Ahmad B, Bibi N (2016) To Assess the Role of Benazir Income Support Program in Achieving Food Security - A Case Study of Barikot, Swat, Pakistan. J Bus Fin Aff 5: 218. doi: [10.4172/2167-0234.1000218](https://doi.org/10.4172/2167-0234.1000218)

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low income group of the country, in 2008 the government of Pakistan launched the Benazir income support program (BISP), the main objective of the program was to ensure livelihood of the rural women, and to reduce poverty. The program provides financial assistance to low income families through bi-monthly cash payments. The program was expanded to cover 5 million low income families. The government of Pakistan allocated Rs. 34 billion for BISP [2]. This research study we will focus its support in food security especially in rural areas.

Literature Review

Ahmad and Farooq defines that the term “food security” used to refer the access to adequate amount of food for meeting dietary energy needs that implied for many as self-sufficiency at the national level producing required food domestically [3]. A country is self-sufficient in food when it is able to manage supply and demand balance by producing domestically irrespective of what the equilibrium price would be which may not be affordable to majority of the population in a developing economy. They further find out that in Pakistan the daily average availability of calories per person is substantially lower than the average of other developing and developed countries, by 10% and 26%, respectively. The changes overtime in the composition of food intake show a shrinking share of wheat in total calories available and a rising share from animals and other sources.

Tareen studied the food insecurity areas of Pakistan and concluded that an increase in poverty ratio in Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkwa is the basic reason of food insecurity. He also reported that in Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkwa poverty rate is much higher than other provinces of Pakistan. He says that pillars of food security and reported that availability of food is possible where production and distribution channels are efficient. Similarly access to food depends upon the socio economic empowerment of the consumers. Stability can be harmfully affected by climatic factor, price fluctuations and political and economic factors. Stability of supply and access depends on food production, imports purchasing power and social safety net.

According to Nayab and Farooq the study was used the Pakistan panel household survey (PPHS) and formed that around 10% of the households are receiving cash assistance from a variety of programs [4]. Among this program BISP is the largest program as it covers two thirds of the total households receiving any form of cash transfer in both the rural and urban areas. They are further find that the impact of BISP benefits is significant in food and health expenditures but its impact on poverty in not so good. They are recommended to initiate new technology asset could build up for the poor households.

Safdar studied the impact of floods on agriculture and food security in Pakistan [5], and concluded that the flood caused heavy damage to many crop in the mountainous region of KPK province which the main cash crop of that area and hence created a serious food security condition. Although most of the population are live in rural areas in Pakistan is depend on the natural resources for their livelihood but the resources are not found in access of food security. The economic issues are seriously affecting food security as rise in prices can challenging implications on food security and especially when it is also associated with the decline in import capacity in developing countries [6]. Memon say that 80% of beneficiaries spend BISP cash transfer on food. Further stated that there is an established link between cash transfer and food security for better nutrition levels and adding that BISP has a significant food security impact on marginalized segments of society.

Data and Methodology

The main objective of this study is to assess the role of Benazir Income Support Program in achieving food, Case study of Barikot, District Swat, K.P.K Pakistan [7,8]. The needed Primary Data were collected using questionnaire schedule and the collected Data were analysed, using statistical and econometrics tools. The Data was collected through a questionnaire from 65 households of Tehsil Barikot four villages. For the data collection the convenient Sampling method were used. The response of the questionnaires was coded, tabulated and analysed under Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS) and Econometrics application such as EViews. Descriptive Statistical tools and Inferential Statistical tools were used to analyze data. Descriptive Statistical tools such as tables, percentages, Charts, and frequency distribution were used. Mean, maximum and minimum were used. Inferential Statistical tool is used such as correlation method. The Correlation method was used to analyze the relationship between amount received from BISP and households consumption level of food.

Result and Discussion

The results of this study clearly indicates that the information about the household's source of income shows that, majority of the households (38.5%) can get there income from the source of government or private employment and the second major source of income of these households is Agriculture (Table 1). The most of the respondents (80.0%) average monthly income is between Rs.3000-47700 (Table 2). The information about benefits or income received from BISP shows that, majority of the respondent's income received from BISP is Rs.13,500 and some of the respondents received amount from the BISP is Rs.25,000 (Table 3). The respondent's or household's

Source	Frequency	Percent
Agriculture	20	30.8
Business	3	4.6
Foreign remittances	17	26.2
Other	25	38.5
Total	65	100

Source: Own Survey, 2015.

Table 1: Household's primary source of income.

Income (Rs.)	Frequency	Percent
3000-47700	52	80
47701-92400	6	9.2
92401-137100	1	1.5
271201-315900	1	1.5
315901-360600	3	4.6
360601-405300	2	3.1
Total	65	100

Source: Own Survey, 2015.

Table 2: Household's monthly income (Rs.).

Amount (Rs.)	Frequency	Percent
6000	9	13.8
9000	7	10.8
13500	32	49.2
22500	1	1.5
25000	15	23.5
265000	1	1.5
Total	65	100

Source: Own Survey, 2015.

Table 3: Household's total amount received from BISP (Rs.).

use this received income from BISP on different items such as food, clothing and education etc. [9]. Majority of the household's (40.0%) use this income on food items such as for the consumption of wheat, rice, milk, sugar and for vegetables. From this information we conclude that BISP play a great role in achieving food security, because majority of people spend the income from BISP on food (Table 4).

According to the correlation coefficient value of two variables (BISP amount and household's wheat consumption), there is strong positive correlation (80.0%) exist between these two variables (Table 5), the correlation also indicates that both variables are moving in the same direction, and there is also positive correlation between household's amount received from BISP and households consumption level of vegetables the Pearson Correlation coefficient between these variables is 0.618 (61.8%). According to the information about payments received from any other programs that, majority of the respondents (93.8%) said that there is no other program without BISP to provide income but only 6.2% of the respondents also received income or payments from other programs (Table 6). These information shows that the BISP is one of the important programs that provide income to low level income group of the society and it can help in achieving food security as well as in poverty reduction.

Besides the role of BISP in achieving food security and poverty reduction there is some problems in BISP, according to the respondent's responses the main problem are; problem of corruption, lack of offices, undetermined date schedule of receiving payments, rush in receiving cash or payments, discrimination and the problem mismanagement in

Usage of amount	Frequency	Percent
Food	26	40
Clothing	8	12.3
Health	14	21.5
Education	6	9.2
Miscellaneous	11	16.9
Total	65	100

Source: Own Survey, 2015.

Table 4: Household's distribution of BISP amount.

		amount received Rs	wheat consumption after BISP
Amount received from BISP (Rs)	Pearson Correlation	1	0.031
	Sig. (2-tailed)		0.805
	N	65	65
Monthly wheat consumption	Pearson Correlation	0.031	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.805	
	N	65	65

Source: Own Survey, 2015.

Table 5: Correlations.

		How much amount you received Rs	vegetables consumption after BISP
How much amount you received Rs	Pearson Correlation	1	0.063
	Sig. (2-tailed)		0.618
	N	65	65
Vegetables consumption after BISP	Pearson Correlation	0.063	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.618	
	N	65	65

Source: Own Survey, 2015.

Table 6: Correlations.

of BISP. The majority (46.1%) of the respondents faced the problem of Mismanagement, next 32.2% of the respondent's faced the problem of undetermined date schedule of receiving payments and 29.2% of the respondent's faced the problem of lack of BISP offices.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The current study highlighted the role Benazir Income Support Program in achieving food security. In this study an attempt is made to assess the role Benazir Income Support Program in achieving food security in Barikot Swat, Pakistan. During the study primary data were collected from 65 households of Tehsil Barikot four villages. Data were analysed, using statistical and econometrics tools. The Data was collected through a questionnaire from 65 households of Tehsil Barikot four villages. For Data analysis descriptive statistical tools such as tables, frequency distribution and percentages, and inferential statistical tools; such as correlations were used to describe the responses on the role of BISP in achieving food security.

Regarding the role in food security the results of correlation, variable BISP amount and household's wheat and vegetables consumption is positive related with each other (Correlation coefficient between these variables is 0.80 and 0.618). The respondent's or household's use this received amount from BISP on different items such as food, clothing and education etc. Majority of the household's (40.0%) use amount of BISP on food items such as for the consumption of wheat, rice, milk, sugar and for vegetables. The correlation also indicates that both variables are moving in the same direction.

Besides the role of BISP in achieving food security and poverty reduction there is some problems in BISP, according to the respondent's responses the main problem are; problem of corruption, lack of offices, undetermined date schedule of receiving payments, rush in receiving cash or payments, discrimination and the problem mismanagement in of BISP. The majority (46.1%) of the respondents faced the problem of Mismanagement, next 32.2% of the respondent's faced the problem of undetermined date schedule of receiving payments and 29.2% of the respondent's faced the problem of lack of BISP offices. The Programs like BISP are most beneficial for poor segment of society and play a great role in achieving food security and poverty reduction in developing countries.

Recommendations

To conclude that, Programs like BISP play a great role in achieving food security. The household's made some suggestions about the betterment of BISP. The suggestions given by the household's includes; the arrangement of special organizers, teams of payment transfer and provision of monthly interval payments. To improve the functions of BISP it is recommended that to solve the problems involve in BISP and give priority to the suggestions given by the household's.

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