

## FUNCTIONING OF FAIR PRICE SHOPS UNDER PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IN DIBRUGARH DISTRICT, ASSAM

**DUTTA, J.P.**

RESEARCH SCHOLAR,  
ASSAM DOWN TOWN UNIVERSITY, GAUHATI,  
ASSAM.

vyotiprasaddutta@gmail.com.

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### ABSTRACT

Fair Price Shop (FPS) means a shop which has been licensed to distribute essential commodities by an order issued under section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to the ration card holders under the Targeted Public distribution System (TPDS). FPSs play a significant role in service delivery mechanism of the PDS. It is the last leg of the supply chain and deals with beneficiaries directly. The State of Assam with a view to strengthen the PDS introduced 22 non PDS items in the PDS basket of commodities through an innovative scheme with the brand name 'Amar Dukan' (Assamese name) in the year 2014-15 with a target to cover 10000 shops out of 40557 FPSS. At present 2814 number of AMAR DUKAN shops are functioning in the state.

The aim of the present paper is to examine the functioning of FPS and the problems faced by the FPS dealers in the Dibrugarh District of Assam. The study is mainly based on primary data collected from 167 FPS agents randomly selected from the Dibrugarh District. The major findings of the study is that majority of FPSs have very less working days and opened their shops on random dates and times causing inconvenience to the card holders. Besides, FPS agents are not satisfied with the present level of profit. The study suggests certain steps for effective functioning of FPSs by way of conclusion.

**KEY WORDS:** Fair Price Shop (FPS), Targeted Public Distribution System ( TPDS), Amar Dukan ( Assamese name for FPS)

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