

Changing Food and Non-food Composition Basket in Rural India: Impact of Income Changes

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Abstract

Food being the foremost basic need gets priority in the patterns of expenditure of people, especially for the poor classes. Access to food demands affordability which depends upon two factors, namely, income of the people and prices prevailing in the country. Slower growth in income than prices would undermine the purchasing power resulting in inadequate access to food and calorie consumption. Food grains, which account for about $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the calorie intake of the poor, are sensitive to market prices. As is evident from the above studies though the per capita grain consumption is decreasing, but neither the food intake has reduced, and in many cases the overall expenditure on food items per se has rather increased.

Present paper looks into changing composition of food and non-food expenditure with respect to income level changes. An all India and regional picture is attempted vide coverage of five districts in North, West, South, East and Central India.