

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM



FUNCTIONAL SPECIFICATIONS OF DESIGN:-

1. The Issue Price must be checked , at time of transaction.
2. Must work offline and online also .
3. Must have a Fixed distribution schedule and people must be well informed before their transaction schedule
4. People must be provided with a way complete transaction if they miss their schedule time.
5. Not completely dependent on a particular requirement say Internet Connectivity.
6. Should not require a feature, with



which a significant fraction of the areas are not functional with (e.g. Internet).

7. People must know the amount they are entitled, what they have received.

8. Dealers shouldn't get full allocation month after month :-
It should be dependent of how much they actually distributed

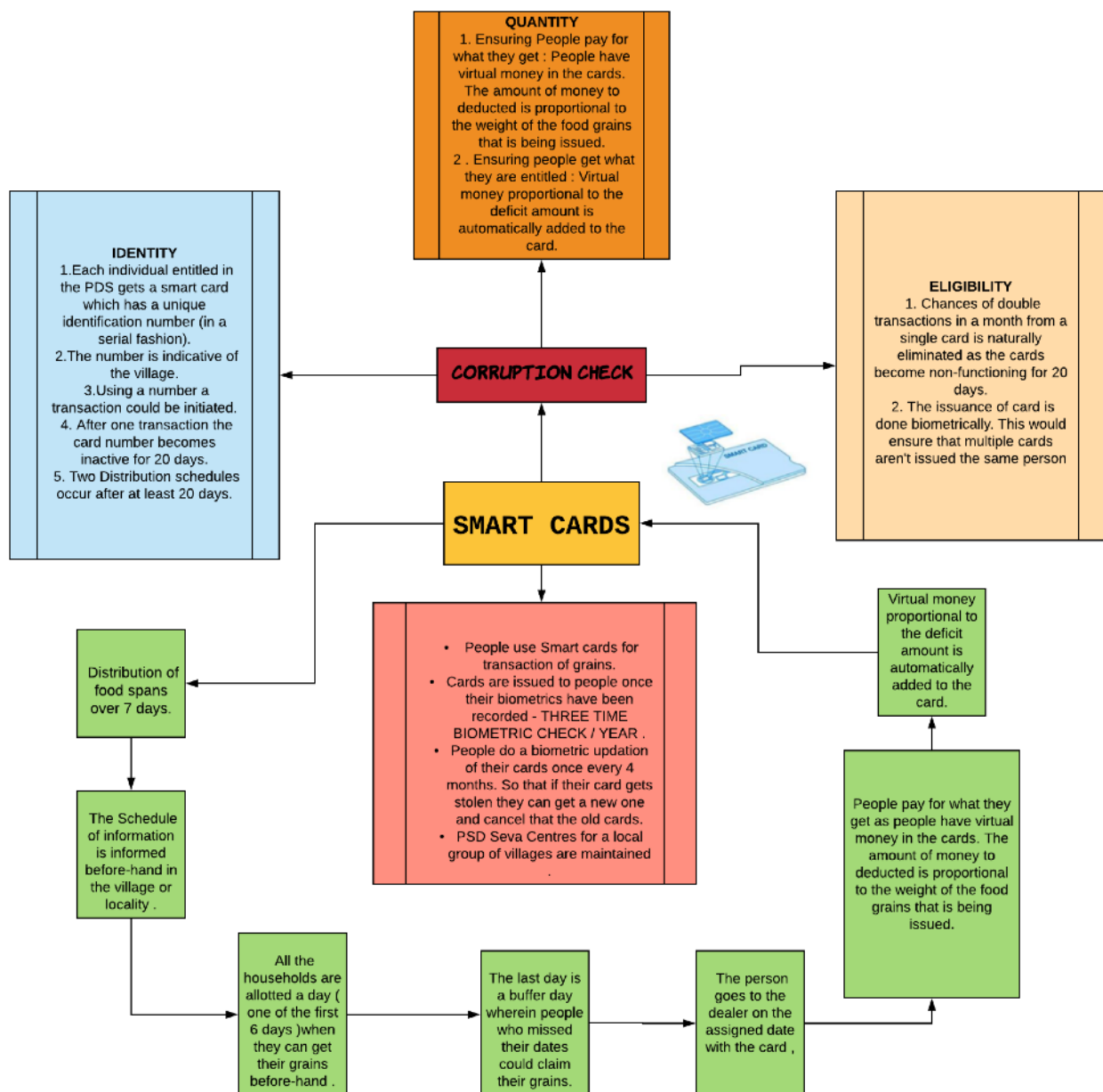
9. A reachable authority for the people to check for the accountability of the PDS dealers and raise voice against him.



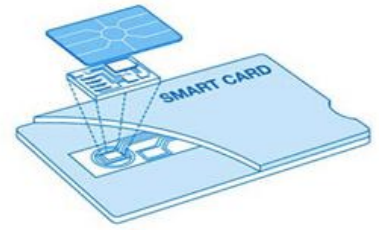
10. Rules for using the Model must be easily comprehensible (the dependency on the dealer in this front is inevitable probably).



FUNCTIONAL DESIGN



- People use Smart cards for transaction of grains.
- Cards are issued to people once their biometrics have been recorded - THREE TIME BIOMETRIC CHECK / YEAR .
- People do a biometric updation of their cards once every 4 months. So that if their card gets stolen they can get a new one and cancel that the old cards.
- PSD Seva Centres for a local group of villages are maintained .



1. Distribution of food spans over 7 days.

2. The Schedule of information is informed before-hand in the village or locality .



3. All the households are allotted a day (one of the first 6 days)when they can get their grains before-hand .

4. The last day is a buffer day wherein people who missed their dates could claim their grains.

5. The person goes to the dealer on the assigned date with the card , the following things are ensured to prevent the three Identity, Eligibility and Quantity frauds .

Is Design free from the main types of Corruption ?

1.Identity :-

1.Each individual entitled in the PDS gets a smart card which has a unique identification number (in a serial fashion).

2.The number is indicative of the village.

3.Using a number a transaction could be initiated.

4. After one transaction the card number becomes inactive for 20 days.

5. Two Distribution schedules occur after at least 20 days.



2.Eligibility :-

1. Chances of double transactions in a month from a single card is naturally eliminated as the cards become non-functioning for 20 days.

2. The issuance of card is done biometrically. This would ensure that multiple cards aren't issued the same person



2.Quantity :-

1. Ensuring People pay for what they get : People have virtual money in the cards. The amount of money to deducted is



proportional to the weight of the food grains that is being issued.

2 . Ensuring people get what they are entitled : Virtual money proportional to the deficit amount is automatically added to the card.



7. If people aren't able to get their grains even on the buffer day the they can

SUMMARY OF READING MATERIALS

Aadhaar and Food Security in Jharkhand

Pain without Gain?

The advantages of Digitalisation :-

1. Plugging out the leaks
2. Bring in view the fake ration cards
3. A check on whether the dealer is online on times/days they are required to be .
4. Prevent corrupt dealers to make fake entries of grain sales

Findings from the villages in Jharkhand :-

1. The Official list of ration cards has some credibility
The alleged problem of bogus ration cards is one of the reasons that have been invoked to argue for linking the PDS to Aadhaar in Jharkhand

2. Names on children born after the survey of 2011 missing from the list :- Updation improper

3. katauti (cuts). The cuts ranged between 0% and 20%, depending, inter alia, on levels of education and awareness among the cardholders

Possible hurdles and glitches for ABBA:-

1. The process of “seeding” Aadhaar numbers into the list of ration cards is far from trivial.

2. The limited battery life of PoS machines is a serious problem in areas without electricity connections.

3. Internet connectivity :- large areas of rural Jharkhand are still bereft of it

4. The PoS machine itself is sometimes out of order.

5. The PoS machine may not recognise someone's fingerprints

Safeguards ABBA Provides :-

1. First, any household member can collect food rations for the entire family if he or she passes the biometric authentication test.

2.Second, a fall- back “one-time password” (OTP) facility is available in the event where the PoS machine does not recognise someone’s fingerprints.

3.Third, a household’s food ration for a particular month does not “lapse” until the end of the following month.

Failing Causes of ABBA :-

1.The most common reason for failure is lack of internet connectivity.

RELIEF :

The system operates in “offline” mode in some areas. In the offline system, biometric authentication is not required: the PoS machine simply generates receipts and records trans- actions, to be uploaded

2. The above offline system has loops which the PDS dealers can use record fake transactions.

3. In the online areas, there is no exemption from biometric authentication

4.If the system fails, the concerned cardholders are simply deprived of their food rations.

5. Who the Dealers-

6.is is not the case in offline areas: about two-thirds of the sample house- holds that had not transacted in May 2017 according to the website reported that they had, in fact, bought their food rations in that month.

7.More importantly, it seems that the “two- month window” facility is, in fact, poorly used and even misused

8.The main problem with ABBA is that some households are unable to pass the biometric authentication test and lose out on their food rations:

9. 7%— had no PoS-able member at all.

10. Another form of exclusion is periodic inability to buy PDS rations because the PoS-able members of the household are not available (for instance, they were away from the village), or temporarily unable to transact due to fingerprint recognition or connectivity problems

12. The fact that transaction failures are much higher in online than offline areas confirms that ABBA bears a major responsibility for these failures

13. The bad news is that PERs were the same before and after the PoS system was initiated. They are also quite similar between online and offline villages (93% and 94% respectively). This is not very surprising, since ABBA is no protection against katauti.

14. Main Problem is the lack of power to resist rather than the lack of knowledge.

15. ABBA has made PDS more vulnerable to corruption.