

FOOD SECURITY AND HUNGER

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- India is one of the major economies in the world and has development achievements including increase in food grain production, doubling the life expectancy at birth, reduction in child mortality rate, controlling the spread of HIV/AIDS and even reducing the threat of famine.
- But India is the home to largest number of hungry people in the world.
- World food day is observed on October 16th to create awareness and action to ensure food security and nutritious diet.
- FAO report observed, " Higher economic growth has not been fully translated into higher food consumption suggesting that the poor and hungry have failed to benefit much from overall growth."
- Income growth is not translated fully into improvements in health and nutritional status of children(Coffey et al 2014)

WHAT IS FOOD SECURITY?

- The Hot Springs Conference 1943 defined food security as a secure, adequate, and suitable supply of food to everyone.
- The World Food Conference 1974 diversified the concept of Food Security with three major shifts i.e. global to nation to household to individual- from food perspective to livelihood perspective from objective indicator to subjective perspective.

- World Food Summit 1996 adopted the definition as Food Security exists when all people at all time have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet the dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.
- Dr.M.S.Swaminathan described food insecurity as the inability of a person to eat enough, stay active and lead a healthy life.
- Food security not only carries significant benefits for human health but also serves as a basis to achieve sustain economic growth.

HUNGER

- “When India achieved independence, more than 50 years ago, the people of the country were much afflicted by endemic hunger. They still are”
-Amartya Sen.
- Hunger- protein hunger- hidden hunger.
- Dr.M.S.Swaminathan
- India’s hunger situation is of great concern – 2017Global Hunger Index released by IFPRI placed India at 100/119 countries.
- 11% of the world population are in hunger

- Sustainable development goals aims to end all forms of hunger and malnutrition by 2030, Zero hunger is one of the 17 global goals.
- Article 11 of the international covenant on economic, social and cultural rights recognizes the fundamental right to freedom from hunger and malnutrition.
- 300 million people in India are chronically hunger.
- Hunger remains no 1 cause of death in the world. Over 10 million die every year of chronic hunger and hunger related diseases.

IMPACT OF FOOD INSECURITY

- India ranks 133/188 countries in Human development index.
- India ranks 66/105 countries in global food security index.
- 46 percent of India's population suffer from nutritional deficiencies. This inflicts long term damage to the individual and society.
- India accounts for 40 percent of world maternal, neonatal, infant and child death in the world – loss of human resources.
- Economic growth is sustainable only if countries have food security.

- India accounts for 54% of all malnutrition related deaths. According to FAO high rates of malnutrition lead to loss in GDP as much as 4 to 5 percent.
- Lancet, a leading scientific journal in health and nutrition reported that a 10 percent increase in economy growth reduces chronic malnutrition by 6 percent.
- Of the Indian children under 5, 35 percent underweight, 38 percent stunted and 21 percent wasted. In Brazil it was found that when the gap between rich and poor with children under 5 is reduced in terms of access to education, health care and sanitation stunting fell from 37 to 7 percent.

WHAT ARE THE REASONS?

- Food insecurity is impacted by poverty- illiteracy- discrimination- neglect – unhygienic living- lack of basic amenities- health care.
- World Bank (2010) estimated that 32.7 percent of the India's population lives on less than \$1.25 per day.
- The factors behind chronic calorie deficiency of population are low dietary intake- poor sanitation and inadequate health care- poor infant caring practices. Daily calorie consumption of bottom 25 percent of the population declined from 1683 calorie to 1624 between 1987-88 to 2004-05.
- India provides a unique spectra of over flowing godowns(50 m.t food grains) and rotting, food grains on the one hand while millions go to bed hungry on the other.

STRATEGY TO ENSURE FOOD SECURITY

- Government of India passed the National Food Security Act 2014. It aims to cover 75% of rural population and 50% of urban population. It entitles to 5 kg of food grain per person per month and 2.43 crores Antyodaya households at 35 kg per household per month at subsidized price. This aims to cover 810 million citizen.
- FCI procures rice/wheat from farmers at MSP and distribute to various programmes using PDS. It also maintains a minimum stock of food grains of 50 m.t. to meet drought conditions. The economic cost of rice to Government is Rs.20/- per kg.
- 62 m.t. and Rs.130000 crores food bill which is 1.1 percent of GDP will feed 800 million people who are constantly under food insecurity.
- The problem is not availability but distribution. It is not the inadequacy of resources but primarily an implementation problem.

THANK YOU