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FOOD SECURITY IN INDIA: A SYNOPTIC VIEW

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ABSTRACT

Taking the case of India this paper deals with different aspects of food security. Firstly the paper tells about the food security. Secondly this paper brings out facts about programs and policies India followed in achieving food security. Thirdly the paper discuss about economic costs of food security and how far India made progress in achieving food security. Last the paper come up with some suggestions which can help food schemes to be sufficient and significant programs in achieving food security in second highest populated country of the world.

KEYWORDS

economic costs, food security in India, programs and policies, progress.

INTRODUCTION

Food security refers to the availability and access of food to each and everyone. A household is considered food-secure when its occupants do not live in fear of food shortage or starvation. The World Health Organization defines three facets of food security: food availability, food accessibility, and food use. Food availability is having available adequate quantities of food on a daily basis. Food access is having enough resources, both financial and material, to obtain appropriate foods for a healthful diet. Food use is the appropriate use based on knowledge of basic nourishment and care which is necessary to eradicate malnutrition and hunger, as well as adequate water and sanitation. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) adds a fourth facet: the stability of the first three extent of food security use based on knowledge of basic nutrition and care, as well as enough water and cleanliness. In words of the FAO, "Food security means when all community, always, have physical and financial access to adequate, safe and nourishing food which meets their nutritional wants and food preferences for an energetic and fit life. World Food Day is celebrated every year around the world on 16th October in respect of the date of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 1945. The day is celebrated extensively by many other organizations concerned with food security, including the World Food Programs. The theme of World Food Day for 2012 is "Agricultural cooperatives – solution to feeding the world".

RIGHT TO FOOD

The memorabilia right to food, and its variations, is giving the right for people to nourish themselves in pride, implying that adequate food is obtainable, that people have the sources to right to use it, and that it effectively meets the individual's nutritional needs. The right to food saves the right of all human beings to get rid from famine, food insecurity and undernourishment. The right to food does not mean that governments have a compulsion to hand out free of cost food to everyone who desires to have, or a right to be fed. though, if people are dispossessed of access to food for reasons without their control, for instance, because they are in custody, in times of battle or after natural disasters, the right imply that government have an responsibility to provide food directly.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Angus Deaton and Jean Dreze (2009) in their paper discussed about the trends in calories consumption and nutrition, and interpretations. He found strong verification of sustainable decline in per capita calorie consumption during the last 25 years. [1]

P. J. Gregory et al. (2005) in their paper title, "Climate Change and Food Security" explains that climate change is only one of several changes affecting food systems and that its relative significance varies both between regions and between different community groups within a region. The climate change may affect food systems more than a few ways ranging from direct effects on crop production (e.g. changes in rainfall leading to droughts or flooding, or warmer or cooler temperatures leading to changes in length of growing season), to change in markets, food prices and supply chain transportation. [2]

Ramesh Chand (2005) in his paper title, "With her India's Food policy? From Food Security to Food Deprivation" discussed about the government interference in food grain markets and accumulation of grain stocks in 1990s, causes for decline in consumption, implications of grain accumulation, vicious incentives to private trade, and impact on food grain export. He came out with fact that administration interference in food grain markets meant first and foremost for promoting food security has reached a stage where consumers are being deprived of basic food, when a large share of output is diverted from market to government warehouses. [3]

Marcela Villarreal and Libor Stloukal (2005) in their study discussed on food security about the access, availability, and stability of food security, trends in food demand and food consumption, outlook for agriculture: the wide picture, hunger and under-nutrition around the world, expected trends in food demand, expected trends in nutritional well-being, and other population factors affecting agricultural and food security. They concluded that progress in improving global food security will not happen with business as usual. Enormous efforts will be needed on many fronts as discussed in their paper. [4]

Maithireyi Krishnaraj (2005) in her paper discussed about the gender and food security, and 'feminization' of agriculture. He conducted an empirical field work on general situation about food insecurity among poor women and point to importance of public measures for protection of this vulnerable section. [5]

Mark W. Rosegrant and Sarah A. Cline (2003) in their paper came out with fact that achieving food security needs policy and investment reforms on multiple fronts, including human resources, agricultural research, rural infrastructure, water resources, farm- and community-based agricultural and natural resources management. [6]

V. S. Vyas (2000) stated in his study that ensuring nutritional security requires three fundamental institutions – the state, the market, and civil society. Each recognizes its own role and responsibility in abolishing hunger, and ensuring food security. [7]

Madhura Swaminathan (1999) conducted a study and discussed about the volume of food subsidy from 1966-67 to 1997-1998, FCI: objective and cost, and efficiency of FCI versus private trade: some price comparisons. The data from FCI performance budget explain clearly that increase in procurement price was a serious factor in the increase in economic cost of rice and wheat. [8]

Gordon R. Hopper (1999) in his paper discussed about the food production since independence, food supplies: encouraging and discouraging realities, dietary change and food quality, and determining nutritional requirements. He came out with fact that recently the country is making slow progress in the direction of increasing its food supplies, and will likely continue to make progress in the future, but it has a long way to go before it can claim to have achieved nutritional security for its people. [9]

N. A. Mujumdar (1997) in his paper showing the vulnerability of the economy in term of food security which is emergency import of food grains and highlighted the importance of supply side factors in supporting price stability. [10]

Paul R. Ehrlich et al. (1993) in their study discussed about the nutritional security, misdistribution and absolute shortage of food, green revolution technologies, the outlook for expanding food production, the environmental constraints on increasing food production, and prospect for the future. They concluded that ten million people cannot be nourished even temporarily unless far greater awareness and resource are directed to developing a more productive, environmentally sound agricultural and to improving food allocation. [11]

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the food schemes in India and evaluate food security in India.
2. To prove that providing just staple food grains is not sufficient to embark upon health problems of women, children, and old age persons.
3. To evaluate the impact of unsuitable functioning of food distribution and storage.
4. To discuss upcoming food security bill.
5. To suggest what should be done to attain food security to all citizens of India?

SOURCES OF DATA: REPORTS AND WEBSITES

- United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) report on India- the children nutrition.
- World Bank report on India's undernourished children: a call for reform and action.
- Nandi Foundation Hungama Survey report 2011.
- International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) on 2008 India state hunger index: key finding and facts.
- United Nations Standing Committee report on the state of food and agriculture.
- United Nations Administrative Committee in 2004 on Coordination/Standing Committee on nutrition. Fifth report on the global nutrition position: nutrition for improved development outcomes. Geneva: ACC/SCN.
- www.wikipedia.com
- www.mospi.gov.in
- www.fao.org.com

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

• CHRONOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES OF FOOD SECURITY

It is necessary to have to look at India's brief experiments with decontrol to understand the importance of an extensive food policy. The government's policy reaction to the Bengal food crisis of 1943, which caused death of 1.5 million people, provides us with a briefing of what not to do in a food crisis situation. At first, there was a full liberal policy towards food grains trade, which led to hoarding by middleman, traders, farmers and consumers. Consequently, the state governments introduced a policy of procurement and distribution of food grains, which failed sadly as they did not have the necessary infrastructure and transport facilities to execute the policy. For example, grains were decomposing in Calcutta which is the centre of distribution in the eastern states of the country, as the government had not made preparations to handle incoming stocks. The government took steps towards setting up a wide-ranging food administration, including procurement by the government; the building of buffer stocks and the introduction of ration shops to avoid this type of misfortune.

• FOOD SCHEMES

Below Poverty Line (BPL): Under this scheme households having BPL ration cards are issued 35 kg of rice and wheat for 5.65 rupees and 4.15 rupees per kilogram. Last year, the planning commission calculated India's poverty line for rural area at 28.65 rupees per day.

Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY): This scheme was started in December 2000, which provides 35 kg of grains at cheap prices to the poorest to poor families. Each month, 25 kg of wheat is given at two rupees per kg, while 10 kg of rice is circulated for three rupees per kg.

Above Poverty Line (APL): There are some plans for the not-so-poor as well. Households not covered under the BPL or AAY are eligible to get 35 kg of grains: rice at a rate of 8.3 rupees per kg and wheat at 6.10 rupees per kg.

Mid-day Meal Scheme: This is the world's largest school feeding agenda which has been working in India from 1995. The aim is to improve nutritional levels among children, as also encouraging enrolment and presence in primary education. According to the provision, Children get cooked food, including vegetables and pulses.

Integrated Child Development Scheme: This scheme launched in October 1975. This is one of the world's biggest and most unique programs for early babyhood development. The purpose of this scheme is to improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age-group 0-6 years.

Annapurna Scheme: This scheme targets senior citizens (65 years or older) and gives Food Security to those not receiving a pension. Each month, beneficiaries get 10 kg of grains without any cost.

Emergency Feeding Program: This scheme covers about 200,000 people in eight Kalahandi-Balangir-Koraput (KBK) districts in Orissa, considered one of the most backward regions in the country. This scheme provides one cooked meal a day during the year, including rice, pulses and vegetables.

Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls: The aim of this program is to improve the health of girls between 11 to 18 years, while also helping them understand more about sexual health and child care. Health check-ups and supplementary nutrition is also provided under this scheme.

• PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Public Distribution System (PDS) is an important Food Security system in India. It was started by the Government of India. It works under Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and regional governments. It distributes subsidized food and other than food items to the meager people of India. The idea of Public Distribution System was put forward around 1942 because of food grains shortage in 2nd World War and Government interference in distribution of food grains started. The Government interferences in distribution of food grains in the food scarcity period continued in main cities, towns & certain food scarcity areas. Distribution System has undergone a number of changes with every Year. The Seventh Five Year Plan gives to it a very important job by bring the whole people of country under Public Distribution System and to make it a stable characteristic in the economy. Major commodities distributed include two staple food grains wheat and rice and two necessary goods sugar, and kerosene, with the help of public distribution shops also known as Ration shops started in a number of states of the country. The Public Distribution System is procured and managed by Food Corporation of India.

The Ministry of Consumer affairs, Food and price distribution and the central government has been setting up central issue prices of food grains occasionally which is identical throughout the country.

TABLE 1: CENTRAL ISSUE PRICES UNDER PDS

Target Groups	Wheat	Rice	Families Covered
Poorest of the Poor (AAY)	2.00	3.00	20 million
Below Poverty Line (BPL)	4.15	5.65	65 million
Above Poverty Line (APL)	6.10	7.94	Variable

Source: Government of India, Economics Survey 2001-2002.

FALLOUT OF THE P.D.S.

The Public Distribution System of India is not lacking defects. With coverage of around 40 crore BPL (Below Poverty Line) households, an analysis of the PDS have revealed the following structural defects and turbulence:

1. Growing incident of the consumers getting lower grade food grains in ration shops.
2. Untruthful dealers change good quality food grains supplied by the F.C.I (Food Corporation of India) with low-grade stock and sell FCI supply in the black market.
3. Large number of counterfeit cards has found created illegally by fair price shops owner to sell food grains in the open market.
4. Many FPS (Fair Price Shop) dealers use to misbehavior, against the law distribution of commodities, hoarding and black marketing because of smallest salary received by them.

5. Plentiful illegal activity make safe and healthful food unapproachable and too expensive to many poor thus suffers in their malnutrition starvation which create problem of food insecurity.
6. Identification of families to be denoted BPL status and distribution to approved PDS services has been highly asymmetrical in many states. The current development of Aadhar cards by Unique Identification Development Authority of India (UIDAI) will help to solve the problem of identification and allocation of PDS services along with direct benefits Transfers.
7. Local distribution and coverage of FPS are unsatisfactory and the main objective which is stable price of necessary commodities has not met yet.
8. Lack of accountability has inspired a number of middlemen who eat a large share portion of the stock destined for the poor.
9. Transparency should be needed as to which families should be included in the BPL list and which excluded.
10. The rural poor have little knowledge about the PDS and FPS to extremely poor societies.
11. The main obstacle to the well functioning and overall achievement of PDS in India is that the stock assigned to a single family cannot be bought in installments.
12. Many BPL families are deprived of ration cards because either they are cyclic migrant workers or they live in illegal colonies.

• FOOD SECURITY BILL

The Food Security Bill is for consideration before the Government of India. The bill aims to provide cheap food grains to around 67 percent of India's 1.2 billion public. In July, the union Cabinet cleared an ordinance to implement the significant national food security bill without waiting for Parliament's monsoon session that is about a month away. For the ordinance to continue as a law, both houses of Parliament must sanction it within six weeks from the start of the next parliamentary session.

The ordinance was tabled for discussion in the lower house or Lok Sabha. If passed, it will be debated in the Rajya Sabha or the upper house. The regulation needs to pass with a simple majority in both houses to continue as a law. The broader aim is to lessen chronic hunger, undernourishment and shortage in India. In World Bank report, "India accounts for a third of the poor people of the world". More than half of the country's children fewer than five are classed as acutely malnourished and about one third of Indians aged 15 to 49 are malnourished. The bill, if approved, would make available cheap food grain to 75 per cent of India's predictable 8330 lakhs rural population and 50 per cent of an estimated 3770 lakhs urban population.

According to the provision in the program, beneficiaries can get a total of five kilograms of subsidized rice, wheat and coarse grains in a month. The state-owned Food Corporation of India will hand out subsidized grains through a countrywide system of 'fair price shops'.

HIGHLIGHTS OF BILL

The National Food Security Bill is a historic initiative for ensuring food and nutritional security to the public. It gives right to the people to get adequate quantity of food grains at affordable prices. The Bill has main focus on the needs of poorest of the poor, women and children. Other features of the Bill are as follows:

- Upto 75 per cent of the rural population and up to 50 per cent of the urban population will have uniform entitlement of 5 kg food grains per month at highly subsidized prices of Rs. 3, Rs. 2, Rs. 1 per kg for rice, wheat, coarse grains respectively. It will entitle about two thirds of our 1.2 billion populations to affordable food grains under the Targeted Public Distribution System.
- The poorest of poor families would continue to receive 35 Kg food grains per household per month under Antyodaya Anna Yojna at subsidized prices of Rs 3, Rs 2 and Rs 1. It is also proposed to protect the existing allocation of food grains to the States, subject to it being limited to average annual off take during last three years.
- Corresponding to the coverage of 75 per cent rural and 50 per cent of urban population at the whole country. State wise coverage will be determined by the Planning Commission. The work of recognition of eligible households is left to the States/UTs, which may structure their own criteria or use Social Economic and Caste Census data.
- There is a special focus on nutritional support to women and children. Expecting and expectant mother, besides being entitled to nutritious food as per the prescribed nutritional norms will also receive maternity benefit no less than of Rs.6000/-. Children in the age group of 6 months to 14 years will be entitled to take home ration or hot cooked meal as per prescribed nutritional norms.
- The Central Government will provide funds to States/UTs in case of short supply of food grains from Central collection, In case of non-supply of food grains or meals to allowed persons, the concerned State/UT Governments will be required to provide such food security allowance as may be prescribed by the Central Government to the beneficiaries.
- In order to address the concern of the States regarding additional monetary burden, Central Government will provide assistance to the States towards cost of intra-State transportation, managing of food grains and FPS dealers' margin. This will guarantee timely moving and efficient usage of food grains.
- Reforms have been initiated for entrance way delivery of food grains, application of information and communication technology (ICT) including end to end computerization, leveraging 'Aadhar' for unique identification of beneficiaries, diversification of commodities under TPDS etc for effective implementation of the Food Security Act.
- Eldest woman of seventeen years of age or above will be head of the household for issue of ration card, and if not available, the eldest male member is to be the head of the household.
- There will be state and district level redresser mechanism with designated nodal officers. The States will be permitted to use the existing machinery for District Grievance Redresser Officer (DGRO), State Food Commission, if they so wish, to save expenditure on establishment of new redressal set up. Redressal system may also include call centers, helpline etc.
- Provisions have also been made for exposé of records relating to PDS, social audits and setting up of Vigilance Committees in order to ensure transparency and accountability.
- The Bill provides for fine to be imposed on public servants or authority, if found guilty of failing to comply with the relief recommended by the District Grievance Redressal Officer (DGRO).
- At the proposed coverage of privilege, total expected annual food grains necessity is 612.3 lakh tons and related probable food subsidy for the Bill at 2013-14 costs is approximately Rs.1, 24,724 crore.

OBJECTIVES OF FOOD SECURITY POLICY

- Announcement of minimum support prices at the time of sowing.
- Procurement or purchases of rice and wheat at these prices, in the event of market prices falling below these levels.
- Maintenance of food buffer for food security and price stability.
- Distribution of rice and wheat to the consumers, particularly to vulnerable sections, at affordable (subsidized) prices.
- Rules of traders' marketing practices through inter alia imposition of stocking limits and levies.

Regulation of imports and exports through canalization, licensing, imposition of trade tariffs, and minimum export prices (MEPs), with a view to maintaining supplies and price stability in the domestic market.

TABLE 2: FOOD SUBSIDY

Year	Food Subsidy (Rs in billion)	Per cent Change Over Preceding Year
2000-01	120.01	-
2001-02	174.94	45.7
2002-03	241.76	38.2
2003-04	251.60	4.1
2004-05	257.46	2.3
2005-06	230.71	-10.4
2006-07	238.28	3.3
2007-08	312.60	31.2
2008-09	436.68	40.0
2009-10	582.42	33.4
2010-11	629.29	8.0

Source: Government of India, Economic Survey 2008-09 and 2010-11.

TABLE 3: RICE AND WHEAT DISTRIBUTED UNDER VARIOUS PROGRAMS (Million tons)

Year	Rice	Wheat	Total
2003-04	25.0	24.3	49.3
2004-05	23.2	18.3	41.5
2005-06	25.1	17.2	42.3
2006-07	25.1	11.7	36.8
2007-08	25.2	12.2	37.4
2008-09	24.6	14.9	39.5
2009-10	27.4	22.3	49.7

Source: Government of India, Economic Survey, 2006-07 to 2010-11.

PRICE SUPPORT PURCHASES/PROCUREMENT OF RICE AND WHEAT

The Food Corporation of India (FCI) established in 1965 is the central nodal agency designated for purchase of food grains at pre-announced support prices. The FCI also establishes its own purchase centers but largely depends on the state agencies, which operate on behalf of the FCI. Some state governments also make purchases to meet the needs of their own initiated public distribution programs, but the quantum of such procurement is a small proportion of total procurement at the national level. The trend in procurement of rice and wheat during the last 16 years is shown in Table - 4.

TABLE 4: TREND IN PRICE SUPPORT PROCUREMENT OF RICE AND WHEAT (Million tons)

Marketing Year	Rice (Oct-Sept)	Wheat (Apr-March)
1996-97	12.97	8.16
1997-98	15.59	9.41
1998-99	12.60	13.19
1999-00	18.23	14.69
2000-01	21.18	16.71
2001-02	22.13	21.03
2002-03	16.42	19.58
2003-04	22.83	16.00
2004-05	24.68	17.16
2005-06	27.66	15.27
2006-07	25.11	9.23
2007-08	28.74	11.19
2008-09	33.68	26.04
2009-10	26.82	27.94
2010-11	32.35	22.08
2011-12	35.00*	28.30

Source: Government of India (2011), Agricultural Statistics at a Glance

HINDRANCE OF OBJECTIVES

- Leakages in food grains provided under public distribution system.
- A lot of food grain wasted in distribution and transport.
- Absence of proper storage houses is another cause of wastage of food grains.
- Food subsidy is rising year by year.
- Major threat to food security in India is black marketing.

ECONOMIC COST

Economic cost of rice and wheat that is distributed under public distribution system is the sum of procurement (support) price paid to the farmers, procurement incidentals, and distribution cost of the grains. The procurement incidentals and distribution cost together account for around 31 percent of the economic cost. This also implies that procurement and distribution costs account for around 45 percent of the procurement price paid to the rice or wheat growers.

TABLE 5: ECONOMIC COST OF RICE AND WHEAT (Rs. per quintal)

Particulars	2007-08	2008-09	Average
RICE			
Procurement Price	1037.13	1216.09	1126.61 (68.6)
Procurement Incidentals	214.91	252.58	233.74 (14.3)
Distribution Cost	297.82	263.81	280.82 (17.1)
Total	1549.86	1732.48	1641.17 (100)
WHEAT			
Procurement Price	903.30	960.53	931.92 (69.1)
Procurement Incidentals	164.02	193.62	178.82 (13.3)
Distribution Cost	244.43	230.27	237.35 (17.6)
Total	1311.75	1384.42	1348.09 (100)

Source: Government of India, Economic Survey 2010-11

MAJOR PROBLEMS TO FOOD SECURITY**UNDERNOURISHMENT**

Undernourishment is the situation which results from eating a diet in which certain nutrients are lacking, in excess, or in the erroneous proportions. Sometime "malnourish"; "malnourishment", "malnutrition" is used instead of "Undernourishment". In most of the world, malnutrition is present in the form of lack of nutrition, which is caused by a shortage of adequate calories and protein—not enough food, and of poor quality. Malnutrition has shown to be an important worry in women, children, and the old age people. Because of pregnancies and breastfeeding, women need additional nutrition. Children can be in a danger of malnutrition even before birth, as their diet is directly connected to the nourishment of their mothers. Breastfeeding can reduce rates of starvation and mortality in children, and educational and awareness programs for mothers could have a great impact on upgrading of these rates.

HUNGER

Hunger is the material sense of willing food. When politicians and social scientists discussed about people suffering from hunger, they generally refer to those who, for continued periods, are incapable to eat adequate food to meet fundamental nutritional requirements.

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES OF MALNUTRITION AND HUNGER

- The unhappy trend has been confirmed by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), which estimates that over a fifth of India's population still suffers from chronic hunger and that the number of undernourished people in the country increased substantially in the second half of the 1990s.
- According to the World Health Organization (WHO), "nearly 50 per cent of Indian children, who suffer severe deficits in weight and height, are in this condition because of food deprivation".

Despite of a number welfare schemes which offer subsidized food to Indians started in India to remove malnutrition and hunger there is high percentage of under-five suffering from underweight, stunting, and wasting in comparison to other countries.

TABLE 6: UNDERWEIGHT, STUNTING AND WASTING, BY WORLDWIDE, 2000

Region	Per cent of under-fives (2000) suffering from		
	Underweight	Stunting	Wasting
Latin America and Caribbean	6	14	2
Africa	24	35	8
Asia	28	30	9
India	47	45	16
Bangladesh	48	45	10
Bhutan	19	40	3
Maldives	45	36	20
Nepal	48	51	10
Pakistan	40	36	14
Sri Lanka	33	20	13
All developing countries	22-27	28-32	7-9

Source: ACC/SCN 2004

- "Almost 70 percent of India's people lives on less than \$2 (around 120 rupees) daily", according to World Bank (WB). The country, second-largest producer of wheat and rice after China, is also address to a quarter of the world's hungry people.
- India is residence of the world's major food anxious population, with more than 200 million people who are hungry.
- Approximately 320 million Indians sleep without food every night, and recent data suggests this already alarming situation is getting worse.

RANKING

Countries with extremely alarming (GHI ≥ 30), alarming (GHI between 20.0 and 29.9) or serious (GHI between 10.0 and 19.9) hunger situation. The Global Hunger Index is composed of the proportion of the undernourished as a percentage of the population, the incidence of underweight children under the age of five and the mortality rate of children under the age of five.

TABLE 7: 15 COUNTRIES WITH EXTREMELY ALARMING HUNGER SITUATION**GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX 2012**

Rank	Country	1990	1996	2001	2012
1	Burundi	31.6	35.9	38.0	37.1
2	Eritrea	—	37.8	37.8	34.4
3	Haiti	33.9	32.2	25.8	30.8
4	Ethiopia	42.2	38.6	34.5	28.7
5	Chad	39.3	35.6	30.4	28.3
6	East Timor	—	—	26.1	27.3
7	Central African	27.4	28.4	27.4	27.3
8	Comoros	22.2	26.9	29.7	25.8
9	Sierra Leone	32.7	30.1	30.1	24.7
10	Yemen	29.0	27.6	27.9	24.3
11	Angola	41.9	39.9	33.0	24.1
12	Bangladesh	37.9	36.1	27.8	24.0
13	Zambia	24.8	25.0	27.2	23.3
14	Mozambique	35.5	30.7	28.8	23.3
15	India	30.3	22.6	24.4	22.9

FOCUS OF THE GHI 2012: PRESS

- India's global hunger index shows an improvement in 1996 from 1990 and then reverse is happen from 1996 to 2001 and in 2012, little improvement again seen.

NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES OF MALNUTRITION AND HUNGER

- Developed states of India also have a high number of women and children suffered with malnutrition and hunger.

TABLE 8: PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN AMONG ANEMIA: 1998-99

States	Percentage of Women with any Anemia	Percentage of Children with Anemia
Andhra Pradesh	49.8	72.3
Assam	69.7	63.2
Bihar	63.4	81.3
Gujarat	46.3	74.5
Haryana	47.0	83.9
Karnataka	42.4	70.6
Kerala	22.7	43.9
Madhya Pradesh	54.3	75.0
Maharashtra	48.5	76.0
Orissa	63.0	72.3
Punjab	41.4	80.0
Rajasthan	48.5	82.3
Tamil Nadu	56.5	69.0
Uttar Pradesh	48.7	73.9
West Bengal	62.7	78.3
India	51.8	74.3

Source: National Family Health Survey (NFHS-2), 1998-99.

- In India percentage of women and children suffers with any anemia is 51.8 and 74.3, which is very high after having many food schemes.

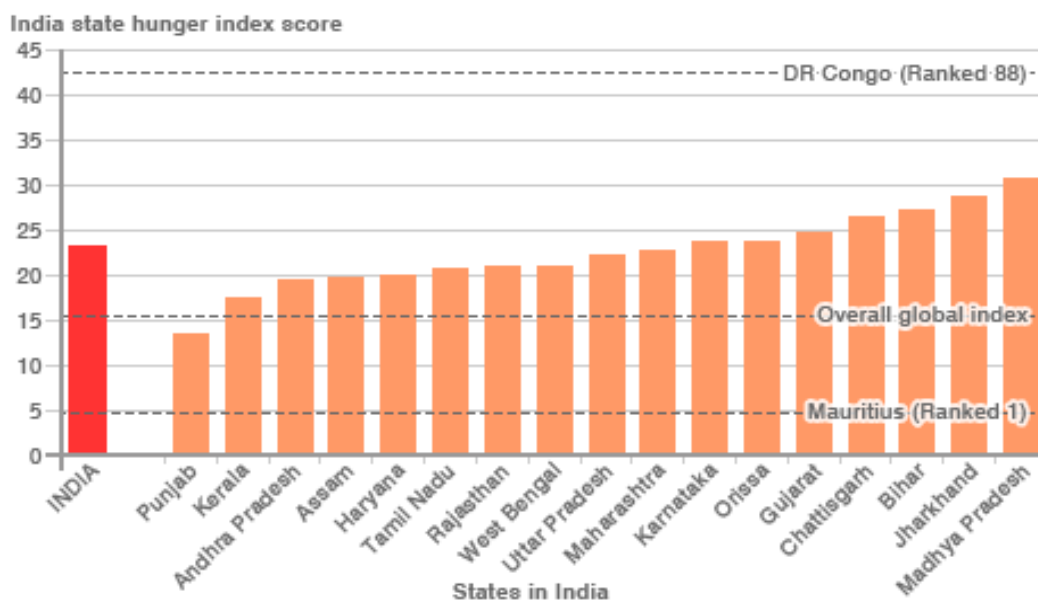
TABLE 9: MALNUTRITION RATE OF CHILDREN IN DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS IN ALL STATES

State	Children Age 0–5 Months Exclusively Breastfed (Per cent)	Children Age 6–9 Months Receiving solid or Semi-Solid Food and Breast milk (Per cent)	Children Under 3 Years who are Underweight (Per cent)
India	46.3	55.8	45.9
Andhra Pradesh	62.7	63.7	36.5
Arunachal Pradesh	60.0	77.6	36.9
Assam	63.1	59.6	40.4
Bihar	27.9	57.3	58.4
Chhattisgarh	82.0	54.5	52.1
Delhi	34.5	59.8	33.1
Goa	17.7	69.8	29.3
Gujarat	47.8	57.1	47.4
Haryana	16.9	44.8	41.9
Himachal Pradesh	27.1	66.0	36.2
J&K	42.3	58.3	29.4
Jharkhand	57.8	65.3	59.2
Karnataka	58.0	72.5	41.1
Kerala	56.2	93.6	28.8
Maharashtra	53.0	47.8	39.7
MP	21.6	51.9	60.3
Manipur	61.7	78.1	23.8
Meghalaya	26.3	76.3	46.3
Mizoram	46.1	84.6	21.6
Nagaland	29.2	71.0	29.7
Orissa	50.2	67.5	44.0
Punjab	36.0	50.0	27.0
Rajasthan	33.2	38.7	44.0
Sikkim	37.2	89.6	22.6
Tamil Nadu	33.3	77.9	33.2
Tripura	36.1	59.8	39.0
UP	51.3	45.5	47.3
Uttaranchal	31.2	51.6	38.0
WB	58.6	55.9	43.5

Source: NFHS-3 (2005–06)

- 42 percent of our children are undernourished.
- According to UNICEF, “1 in 3 of the world's malnourished children lives in India”

FIGURE – 1

WORLD HUNGER INDEX - HOW INDIA COMPARES

SOURCE: IFPRI

- According to UNICEF. "It is going to be difficult for India to use its human resources to develop the nation without making improvements on its health front."

In the struggle in opposition to hunger Nobel Prize-winning economist Amartya Sen has noticed that "there is no such thing as an apolitical food problem." whereas drought and other natural calamities may create food shortage conditions, it is government action or inaction that determines its harshness, and The UN Millennium Development Goals are one of the initiatives of the world aimed at achieving food security. In its list of goals, the first Millennium Development Goal states that the UN "is to eliminate acute hunger and poverty", and that "agricultural production is liable to play an important part in this if it is to be reached on time".

SCAMS AND ISSUES

- Uttar Pradesh food grains scam took place between year 2002 and 2010, in Uttar Pradesh state in India, where in food grains worth Rs.35000 crore (US\$5.9 billion), meant to be distributed between the poor, through various welfare schemes like Antyodaya Anna Yojana and midday meal scheme, was diverted to the open market. Some quantity of it was found at the Nepal and Bangladesh borders, as in 2010 safety forces detained Rs.1.17 crore worth of food grains like paddy and pulses being illegally transported to Nepal, another Rs.60.62 lakh worth of grains were confiscated on the Indo-Bangladesh border.
- The below poverty cards were introduced by the revenue-surplus Haryana to lessen poverty. After years, however, the worthy have failed to get the BPL cards but the list of counterfeit beneficiaries has greater than before in Haryana state. It is a challenge that how else would the occupants of the houses be registered as being below poverty line? Shocking revelations have come to light in Haryana's BPL scam in which thousands, well probably lakh of the BPL beneficiaries are exactly the people who should not be eligible to be so. Now the Haryana government has decided to conduct a survey of families living below poverty line in the state.
- A individual inquiry team (SIT), constituted by the Guwahati high court to probe in to the PDS scam in Arunachal Pradesh, has filled charge sheets in six cases against 57 accused, including 24 public servants. The SIT under special investigation cell of Arunachal Pradesh carried out investigation in six cases registered on allegations of irregularity and corruption in the distribution of food grains in the state under various welfare schemes.
- The Uttar Pradesh has failed to score well on midday meal performance audit carried out by inspection regulator, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India. In its stand-alone report on the implementation of the scheme in the state, the CAG has pointed out on numerous leaks and slips between the children and the dish. Not only has the scheme turned out to be a huge window for diversions and undue favors to vested interests, in non-compliance with Supreme Court directives [April 2004], the state has failed to provide nutritional support to 1.63crore children of drought affected areas during summer vacations of 2005 and 2007.
- Paddy and Rice worth Rs.1000 crore missing from the god owns of sellers in Punjab. If probably investigated, the food and supplies ministry headed by none other than Adesh Partap Singh Kairon and various Punjab agencies involved in the procurement of paddy may be found at fault and held responsible.
- Midday meal scheme is at the centre of a storm after 23 children died after having their midday meal at a Bihar school. At least 39 students fell ill after consuming food, infected by a dead scorpion, served under the Midday Meal Scheme at their school in Orissa's Dhenkanal district.
- In January 2006, the Delhi Police revealed a scam in Midday Meal Scheme.
- The Times of India reported a scam involving government schools involved scam that's siphon off food grains under the Midday Meal Scheme by faking attendance in December, 2006.
- Madhya Pradesh had undertaken a study on mid-day meal in four districts. According to the study reported that the food scheme is shackled because of corruption, absence of teachers, and non-availability of food in required among and no arrangement of water in many schools.

WASTAGE

India's supply chains are famously afflicted by poor infrastructure and its distribution channels riddled with fraud. Food grains are produced in surplus in the country, but rot due to the lack of proper cold storage year after year. And yet, instead of dealing with this recurring underlying problem, the bill seems to focus on the external aspects of food security without paying attention to effective distribution of food grains.

As millions of Indians surviving on less than Rs.20 a day starve, the Food Corporation of India lost rice and wheat worth Rs.2,050 crore in transfer and storage in the last three years has come to know under the right to information act.

According to the government-owned agency 1107638.8 metric tons (MT) of food grains in its god owns have been lost to wastage since 2010. The arithmetic works out to approximately Rs.700 crore in a year that could adequately feed at least 10 hungry people for a million few weeks.

Looking at these figures, one feels both worried and puzzled that we are doing so much but have so little to show; angry and disturbed at the massive leakages and corruption that has seeped into this structure. The 2005 Planning Commission report reveals that 57 per cent of the PDS food grains did not reach the proposed people. For every spending on the PDS, only 25% reaches the poor.

IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

The impacts of climate change can be considered in terms of sensitivity and vulnerability. "Sensitivity" describes the degree to which a individual system or segment might be affected by climate change. Affect of it can be positive or negative. "Vulnerability" describes the degree to which climate change affect a particular system or sector.

Easterling et al. (2007) assessed studies that made quantitative projections of climate change impacts on food security. It was illustrated that these predictions were highly uncertain and had boundaries. However, the study gives a number of fairly strong findings. The first was that climate change would likely increase the number of people at risk of hunger compared with reference scenarios without climate change. The impact of climate change depended strongly on projected future social and economic development. Additionally, the extent of climate change impacts was projected to be smaller compared to the impact of social and economic development.

SUGGESTIONS AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- Vigilance team should be strengthened to identify corruption, which is an added spending for taxpayers.
- Margin of profit should be increased for straightforward business, in which case the market system is more pertinent anyway.
- F.C.I. and other important agencies should provide quality food grains for distribution, which is a large order for an organization that has no real motivation to do so.
- Regular checks & raids should be conducted to eradicate false and fake cards, which is again an added expenditure and not fool proof.
- More Fair Price shops should be opened by civil supplies company in rural areas.
- The Fair Price dealers not often display rate chart and quantity available in the black-boards in front of the shop. This should be compulsory.
- Firm action should be taken in opposition to the culpable to ensure leakages free distribution of food grains.
- The country needs legislation that allows farmers to profit economically and grow independent, instead of forcing them to further depend on the government. The government should provide market incentives, not giving hand-out.
- Make powerful all women and care for their nutrition, human being rights and entitlements and those of their children, through awareness, skills, policies and instruction.
- Minerals and vitamins rich foods should be distributed under various welfare schemes.
- Encourage the production and consumption of culturally appropriate foods that are rich in micronutrients, and micronutrient supplementation when and needed.
- Build awareness, institutional capacity and leadership at national, sub-national, community and global levels for accelerating action on nutrition.
- Well developed god owns should be constructed in every block.
- The Right to Employment is essential for achieving food security.
- Effective execution of programs is important for achieving food security.
- Food grains export should be allowed for only when the country's total population is satisfactorily fed.
- Head of the department should be chosen locally
- A cereal-based diet takes no account of the special needs of growing children, expecting and expectant mother. They also need minerals, vitamin and proteins.

AN IMPORTANT STEP

A pilot program on Nutri-Farms for introducing new crop varieties that are rich in micro-nutrients such as iron-rich bajra, and zinc-rich wheat, is being launched. A sum of upto Rs 200 crore has been earmarked to start the pilots. It is hoped that agric businesses and farmers will come together to start a adequate number of pilots in the districts, most affected by undernourishment.

CONCLUSION

Today, India has the major stock of grain in world besides China. The government spends Rs 750 billion (\$13.6 billion) per year, almost 1 per cent of GDP through various food schemes to ensure food security to the citizen of India, yet 21 per cent leave undernourished. Still now we have not achieved vision of hunger and malnutrition free India. The main barriers to achieve food security to all citizen of India is shortage of infrastructure such as storage houses, food grain market, transport facilities etc, unawareness and illiteracy of poor and needy people, black marketing, lack of basic principal in citizen, and absence of proper observation team. Agricultural play an important role to ensure food security. So agricultural scheme should be given proper consideration and connected with food schemes.

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