

Food Security – Key Element For Poverty Reeducation

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ABSTRACT

Poverty in India is wide spread, and a variety of methods have been proposed to measure it. The official measure of Indian government, before 2005, was based on food security. And it was defined from per capita expenditure for a person to consume enough calories and be able to pay for associated essential survive. In 2012, the Indian government stated 21.9% of its population is below its official poverty limited. According to United Nations millennium development goal (MGD) programmed 270 million or 21.9% people out of 1.2 billion of Indians lived below poverty line of \$ 1.25 in 2011-2012. After India gained its independence in 1947, mass deaths from famines were prevented, but poverty increased post-independence in 1960s. Rapid economic growth since 1991, has led to sharp reductions in extreme poverty in India. However, those above poverty line live a fragile economic life. Most of them lack basic essentials of life such as safe drinking water, sanitation; housing, health infrastructure as well as malnutrition impact the lives of the mass.

1. INTRODUCTION

According to the World Bank “India is the home for the largest number of poor in the current scenario, but its poverty rate is one of the lowest among those countries with the largest number of poor “. Giving fresh evidence that a quarter-century-long sustained reduction in poverty is moving the World closer to the historic goal of ending poverty by 2030, it said a new methodology applied to household surveys in India suggests that its poverty rate could be even lower.

According to the report, the poverty rate in low income countries averages 43 % in 2012, compared to 19% in lower-middle income countries. Yet lower-middle income countries are home to about half of the reason is that four nations with the largest populations were ones classified as low income but have moved into lower-middle-income category. China, India, Indonesia, & Nigeria.

India has already achieved the target of reducing poverty by half, with 21.9% of its 1.2 billion people living below the poverty line (or) having income of less than \$ 1.25 a days, the U.N report said. In India planning commission is the premier agency for conducting research and analysis on the poverty data & statistics and presenting these to be public. It is a fact that this is a controversial issue with many government ministers keeps to manipulate this data to exaggerate the success of their poverty eradication schemes. Those spending over Rs. 32/day in rural areas and Rs. 47/day in towns & cities should not be considered poor, an expert panel headed by former RBI governor C .Rangarajan said in a report submitted to the BJP government last week. Based on the Suresh tendulkar panel’s recommendations in 2011-2012,

the poverty line had been fixed at Rs. 27 in rural areas & Rs. 33 in urban areas levels at which getting two meals may be difficult.

FOOD SECURITY

Food security is a condition related to the supply of food, and individuals' access to it. Concerns over food security have existed throughout history. There is evidence of granaries being in use over 10,000 years ago, with central authorities in civilizations including Ancient China and Ancient Egypt being known to release food from storage in times of famine. At the 1974 World Food Conference the term "food security" was defined with an emphasis on supply. Food security, they said, is the "availability at all times of adequate world food supplies of basic foodstuffs to sustain a steady expansion of food consumption and to offset fluctuations in production and prices". Later definitions added demand and access issues to the definition. The final report of the 1996 World Food Summit states that food security "exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life". The United Nations (UN) recognized the Right to food in the Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, and has since noted that it is vital for the enjoyment of all other rights. The 1996 World Summit on Food Security declared that "food should not be used as an instrument for political and economic pressure". According to the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, failed agriculture market regulation and the lack of anti-dumping mechanisms cause much of the world's food scarcity and malnutrition.

NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY ACT, 2013

The national food security act (also right to food act) is an act of the parliament of India which aims to provide subsidized food grains to approximately two thirds of India's 1.2 billion people. It was signed into law on 12 Sep 2013, retroactive to 5 July 2013. The national food security act, 2013 (NFSA 2013) converts into legal entitlements for existing food security programmers of the government of India. It includes the midday meal scheme, integrated child development services, and the public distribution system.

The midday meal scheme and the integrated child development services scheme are universal in nature. Whereas the PDS will reach about two third of population (75% in rural & 50% in urban area). Pregnant women, lactating mothers & certain categories of children are eligible for daily free meals. The bill was highly controversial. It was introduced into India's parliament on 22 Dec 2011, promulgated as presidential ordinance on 5th July 2013 & enacted into law on 12th Sep 2013. Pregnant women and lactating mothers are entitled to nutrition's take home ration of 600 calories & a maternity benefit of at least Rs. 6,000 for six months.

The children 6 months to 14 years of age are to receive free hot meals or "take home rations". The central government will provide funds to states in case of short supplies of food grains. The poorest that are covered under the Anthodia Yojana will remain entitled to the 35 kilograms (7716) of grains allocated to them under the mentioned scheme. The intent of the National food security bill is spelled out in the Lok Sabah committee report, "The National food security bill, 2011, 27th report, which states, food security means availability of sufficient food grains to meet

the domestic demand as well as access, at the individual level, to adequate quantities of food at affordable prices.

India has seen impressive economic growth in recent years; the country still struggles with widespread poverty & hunger. India's poor people amounts to more than 300 million people, with almost 30% of India's rural people living in poverty. The good news is poverty has been on the decline in recent years. According to official government of India estimates, poverty declined from 37.2% in 2004-05 to 29.8% in 2009-10.

"Food Security" is one of major elements of development and poverty alleviation and has been the goal of many international and national public organizations. The issue is so important that according to the state of food insecurity in the world 2012 published by FAO around 870 million people (out of which 852 million from developing countries) are estimated to have been undernourished in the period 2010-12. Although the phrase "Food Security" is being used widely, the definition and concept of food security is elusive and being evolved and expanded over time. Defining food security precisely is very difficult. There are more than 200 definitions and 450 indicators of food security.

To brief on Household food security, a household is food secure when it has access to the food needed for a healthy life for all its members (adequate in terms of quality, quantity, and safety and culturally acceptable) and when it is not at undue risk of losing such access.

Food security at global or national level may not usually address the household level food security problem. The relationship between national food security and household food security is less prominent in developing countries than in developed ones. Therefore, specific policies are required to address household level food insecurity and these policies should be contextual and problem-specific.

2. KEY SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION

Corruption being the key obstacle, we need to focus on the pipeline and build an uncorrupted or non-leaking transit, which will help the prevalent stocks reach the needy. The government should emphasize on regular feedbacks upon implementation of schemes, with special reference to food security. We are aware that those above poverty line also, live a fragile economic life. Most of them lack basic essentials of life such as safe drinking water, sanitation; housing, health infrastructure as well as malnutrition impact the lives of the mass. Thus food security being the major element of development and eradication of poverty, we insist holistic implementation and execution of food security in India for a brighter future.

3. REFERENCES

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