



# A STUDY ON IMPEDIMENTS AND TRIALS OF FOOD SAFETY & SECURITY IN INDIA

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**Abstract--** Today the Food Security is one of the main challenges across the world. Food security, along with poverty eradication, ecological and conservation, is one of the major significant issues of the millennium development goals. The thought of food security is delineated as that take account of both physical and economic admittance to food that meet people's dietary needs as well as their food predilection. Food security exists "when all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life".<sup>3</sup> Food Security is based on three essential pillars like are "Food availability" on a consistent basis, "Food access" for appropriate nutritious diet and "Food use" for basic nutrition and care as well as adequate water and sanitation. For accomplishing the objective of self-sufficiency in the developing countries, the main concern is specified to food stability and availability of food. In Countries like China and India billion of peoples are have generated a challenge and pressure for food security. These countries hold about half of the world's reserves of wheat and the largest reserves of rice<sup>4</sup> India experienced a bumper harvest in year 2010, however, owing to inadequate storage facilities has demolished almost one third of food grains. Thus, the government has strong-willed to save rather than to sell the stocks in the market<sup>5</sup> India is the world's largest food security puzzle as the country vestiges enormously significant in the global food and nutrition security equation.

**Keywords:** Food Safety, Security, issues and Challenges of food safety and security.

## INTRODUCTION

Policy frame-work of a country needs to be dynamic in character so as to respond to the needs and priorities in an appropriate manner. Its long range policies should have a vision and near term policies ought to be capable of dealing with the current problems and issues. The Indian model of planned economy has enough scope for required charges and adjustments. Yet the contingencies keep arising for a mid-course correction in policies, requiring immediate action. The present food and nutrition situation in India warrants a directional change in the strategic food related polices and action thereon. Possible alternatives are discussed hereunder. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Constitution (Amendment) Act, 1976 widens the scope of Article 31C<sup>6</sup>. In *Kesavananda Bharathi's* case<sup>7</sup>, the legality of Article 31C of the Constitution was questioned before the Supreme Court. The Court in this case upholds the constitution legality of the said Article. A contravention verdict regarding the validity of extended part of Article 31C was questioned in *Minerva Mills's* case<sup>8</sup>, the Supreme Court in this case struck down the validity of the extended portion of Article 31C by holding that the Parliament has enacted the provision beyond the power conferred to it under Article 368 of the Constitution. In *Bhim Singhji v. Union of India*<sup>9</sup>, the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976 was held "to be covered and protected by Article 31C, as much as the purpose of the that law was to inhibit concentration urban land to sub serve the common good, and said that Act was intended to achieve and implement the purpose of the Article 39(b) and (c)" Though Article 31A, B and C are under Part III of the Constitution as a Fundamental Right and they do not confer Right to property as a Fundamental Right to every citizen of India.

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<sup>3</sup> The World Food Summit, 1996.

<sup>4</sup> Rice Market Monitor, 2017.

<sup>5</sup> International Business Times, 2010.

<sup>6</sup> Article 31C, Saving of laws giving effect to certain directive principles.

<sup>7</sup> AIR 1973 SC 1461.

<sup>8</sup> *Minerva Mills Ltd. and Ors. v. Union Of India and Ors.* (AIR 1980 SC 1789)

<sup>9</sup> AIR 1981 SC 234



The continuous and unchecked land fragmentation is increasing the number of small and marginal farmers, limiting their capacity to invest in the small pieces of land, depriving the rural households of potential production and income, thus making them poorer as they are losing their livelihood opportunities.

### IMPORTANCE OF FOOD SECURITY IN INDIA

Food security is a condition related to the supply of food and individual's access to it. Attaining food security is a matter of prime importance for India where more than one third of its population is estimated to be absolutely poor, and as many as one half of its children have suffering from malnourishment over the last three decades. National Food Security is critically dependent on the adequate availability of sufficient food stocks to fully satisfy domestic demand at all times<sup>10</sup>.

Food security is not only a poverty issue but it is a much larger issue that involves the whole food system and affects everyone. Food security is a complex sustainable development issue, linked with health through malnutrition and also economic development, environment, and trade. In the Global and National the concept of the Food Security must exist to meet the challenge of providing the world's growing population with a sustainable, secure supply of good quality food to all peoples.

1. To encourage economic development of a country.
2. To reduce poverty.
3. To encourage development of backward classes.
4. The Public Distribution System (PDS) is a rationing mechanism that entitles households to specified quantities of selected commodities at subsidised prices. The essential commodities supplies through the Public Distribution System are rice, wheat, sugar, edible oil and kerosene. Additional commodities like pulses, salt, tea, clothes, etc. are supplied selectively. The Public Distribution System is the by-product of the market situation of the shortage of the commodities either because of the condition of war or because of the short supply, low production, high demand and other such market conditions, may be because of the natural calamities like famines and others.
5. The Indian Public Distribution System is probably the largest distribution network in the world. The system was designed to help both the producers and consumers of food grains by linking procurement to support price and ensuring their distribution along with other essential commodities at affordable prices throughout the country.<sup>11</sup> Public Distribution System continues to be a major instrument of Government's economic policy for ensuring food security for the poor in the country.
6. Inadequate distribution of food through public distribution mechanisms (PDS i.e. Public Distribution System), is also a reason for growing food insecurity in the country. The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has the disadvantage in the sense that those people who are the right candidates for deserving the subsidy are excluded on the basis of non-ownership of below poverty line (BPL) status, as the criterion for identifying a household as BPL is arbitrary and varies from state to state. The often inaccurate classification as above poverty line (APL) and below poverty line (BPL) categories had resulted in a big decline in the off take of food

<sup>10</sup> Anil ChandyIttyerah, Food Security in India: Issues and Suggestions for Effectiveness, Indian Institute of Public Administration New Delhi 2013, [Http://Www.Iipa.Org.In/](http://www.iipa.org.in/), Accessed On 13/04/2015 At 9:00pm

<sup>11</sup> Pradeep k. Bhowmick, food security for tribals: a study on PDS in Tribal Area, abhijeet publication new delhi



grains. Besides this, low quality of grains and the poor service at PDS shops has further added to the problem. Furthermore discussed on chapter 6 relating Public Distribution System in India.

## FOOD SECURITY AND POVERTY

Poverty has traditionally been defined in income or expenditure terms and can be viewed in relative or absolute terms. Poverty and food security are complex and multidimensional in nature. Poverty leads to under nutrition and food insecurity by limiting poor people's access to food. About three-fourth of India's population living in the rural sector is reeling under abject poverty, illiteracy, ill-health, unemployment, low quality of life and so on. Food insecurity causes poverty, vulnerability and livelihood insecurity, but is at the same time also a result of these conditions. It is widely accepted that poverty is currently the principal root cause of food insecurity at the level of households. It is also clear that in several societies, households are not homogenous entities, since within a household, women and girl children often tend to be relatively more undernourished. Food security at the level of each individual is hence important.

The concept of poverty, condition where people's basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter and not being met. Poverty is generally two types:

1. **Absolute poverty** is synonymous with destitution and occurs when people cannot obtain adequate resources (measured in terms of calories or nutrition) to support a minimum level of physical health. Absolute poverty means about the same everywhere, and can be eradicated as demonstrated by some countries.
2. **Relative poverty** occurs when people do not enjoy a certain minimum level of living standards as determined by a Government (and enjoyed by the bulk of population) that vary from country to country, sometimes within the same country. Relative poverty occurs everywhere, is said to be increasing, and may never be eradicated<sup>12</sup>.

Millennium Development Goals (MDG)<sup>13</sup> recognizes that hunger and food insecurity are the core afflictions of poor people, and specifically sets out to halve the proportion of extremely poor and hungry people in the world. Amartya Sen<sup>14</sup> added a new dimension to food security and emphasised the "access" to food through what he called 'entitlements' – a combination of what one can produce, exchange in the market along with state or other socially provided supplies<sup>15</sup>. The 1995 World Food Summit declared, "Food security at the individual, household, regional, National and Global levels 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 Declaration further recognizes that "poverty eradication is essential to improve access to food". Food security, as internationally understood, involves physical, economic and social access to a balanced diet, safe drinking water, environmental hygiene and primary health care. Such a definition will involve concurrent attention to

<sup>12</sup>Datt and Sundharam, Indian Economy, 67<sup>th</sup> revised Edition 2013, S Chand and Company Pvt. Ltd p 388 and 389.

<sup>13</sup>The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were eight international development goals for the year 2015 that had been established following the millennium summit of the United Nations in 2000, following the adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. All 191 United Nations member states at that time and at least 22 international organization committed to help achieve the following millennium development goals by 2015.

<sup>14</sup>Amartya Sen Indian economist who was awarded the 1998 Nobel Prize in economic science for his contributions to welfare economics and social choice theory and for his interest in the problems of society's poorest member. Sen was best known for his work on the causes of famine, which led to the development of practical solutions for preventing or limiting the effects of real or perceived shortages of food.

<sup>15</sup> Food Security in India, <http://www.ncert.nic.in>, accessed on 23/4/2015 at 10:15 pm.



the availability of food in the market, the ability to buy needed food and the capability to absorb and utilise the food in the body. Thus, food and non-food factors that is, drinking water, environmental hygiene and primary health care are involved in food security.

#### ISSUES AND CHALLENGES FOR ACHIEVING FOOD SECURITY IN INDIA

Today the Food Security is one of the main challenges in the world. The food security is delineated as that take account of both physical and economic admittance to food that meet people's dietary needs as well as their food predilection. Food security exists "when all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life".<sup>16</sup> For accomplishing the objective of self-sufficiency in the developing countries, the main concern is specified to food stability and availability of food. Fulfilling food security to people in the country there are some issues and challenge which are given bellow:

1. Policies Affecting Food Security;
2. Degradation of the Agriculture Land / diversion of land;
3. High Pollution;
4. Social Issues Involving Food Security;
5. Climate Change Impact on Food Security;
6. Crop Diversification;
7. Faulty food distribution system/ Failure of Public Distribution System (PDS);
8. Unmonitored nutrition programmes;
9. Lack of inter sectoral coordination;
10. Implementing measures to improve agricultural productivity and food storage/ Lack of storage facilities;
11. Ensuring food availability and accessibility to below poverty line (BPL) candidates/ Need to identify the beneficiary;
12. Improving purchasing power through employment generating schemes;
13. Crop diversification, establishing food grain banks and promoting household gardening;
14. Community awareness through IEC activities and social marketing;
15. Community participation and inter sectoral coordination

#### SEZ IMPACT ON FOOD SECURITY

According to John Stuart Mill<sup>17</sup> "Land differ from other elements of production, labour capital is not being susceptible to infinite increases. Its extent is limited and the extent of the more productive kinds of it more limited still". It is also evident that the quantity of produce capable of being raised on any given piece of land is not indefinite. This limited quantity of land and limited productiveness of it, are the real limits to the increase of production.

The committee on state agrarian relations and unfinished task in land reforms highlighted in its 2009 report that the total area of land under SEZs is expected to be over 200,000 hacter and this land is capable of producing around 1 million tons of food grains. It is estimated that farming families will have to face losses of around Rs 212 crore each year in total income. Availability of food grains depend on output of

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<sup>16</sup>The World Food Summit, 1996.

<sup>17</sup> John Stuart Mill ((20 May 1806 – 8 May 1873)) was a British philosopher, political economist and civil servant. One of the most influential thinkers in the history of liberalism, he contributed widely to social theory, political theory and political economy.



food grains on some extent and if there is change in the food grains output, the nutrition level of the poor farmers and Agriculture Labourers will also be affected.

Acquisition of Agriculture Land for SEZs will create the problem of food security. Food security has economic as well as political dimensions (food sovereignty). Food security not only depends upon the food grains output but in actual, it depends upon the access & ability to purchase food and this depends upon the purchasing power of the people. So, when Agricultural land is acquired, not only landlords but other classes such as Agri. Labourers, tenants, share croppers also lose their current livelihood and may or may not be able to get alternative livelihood. Hence the problem of food security will occur and also increase day by day.

Even if the food is equally distributed, in order to counter the negative impact of population explosion, the agricultural growth rate has to be maintained at a steady 4.5 per cent from 1997 to 2002 to sustain an overall economic growth of 7 per cent. In the circumstances, it is alarming that the average size of operational holdings has come down to less than 1.6 hectare in 1990-91 from 2.3 hectare in 1970-71.

An instance of the pressure of population making a once-beneficial practice harmful is to be seen in shifting cultivation. As more people require more food and more land, the practice of leaving land fallow long enough to recover is no more practicable, thus rendering shifting cultivation more harmful than useful.

Independent India, by and large, has been able to avoid large scale deaths caused by famines, by resorting to a multipronged strategy comprising increased food production, augmentation of grain reserves, maintenance of a public distribution system (PDS) and generation of employment. However, hunger caused by under-nutrition continues to be endemic. The protein-energy malnutrition (PEM)<sup>18</sup> in our country is abnormally high in most of the households.

The study done by the National Council for Agricultural and Economic Research (NCAER)<sup>19</sup> suggests that about 80 per cent of India's rural population and 70 per cent of urban population thrive on less than the recommended levels of calories. It is estimated that by 2025 almost 50 per cent of the Indian population will be residing in urban areas which calls for a substantial shift in the patterns of food cultivation. Since the national average yield of most of the crops is staggeringly low, it is necessary that we bridge the gap between the actual and potential yield through technology transfer so as to ensure food for all.

## CONCLUSION

Primary needs of every individual are Food, clothing and shelter and food continues to be the central point of our existence. It is very essential for survival of living beings ranging from insects and bacteria to the plants and animals and human beings on this globe. Food security is a multi-dimensional phenomenon in the country as huge population grows and where a considerable section of the population is suffering from malnourished and under-weight it becomes indispensable to achieve the aim of food

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<sup>18</sup> PEM is also referred to as protein-calorie malnutrition. It develops in children and adults whose consumption of protein and energy (measured by calories) is insufficient to satisfy the body's nutritional needs. While pure protein deficiency can occur when a person's diet provides enough energy but lacks the protein minimum, in most cases the deficiency will be dual. PEM may also occur in persons who are unable to absorb vital nutrients or convert them to energy essential for healthy tissue formation and organ function.

<sup>19</sup> The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is an autonomous body responsible for co-ordinating agricultural education and research in India. It reports to the Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Ministry of Agriculture. The Union Minister of Agriculture serves as its president. It is the largest network of agricultural research and education institutes in the world.



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security. The supplying chain among the farmers and the consumers should be abridged. Farmer-friendly marketing procedures needs to be put in place so that the food security situation in India is positive and prepared to meet any eventuality. In India achieving food security to all people in the country need some reforms in the all perspective such may be administrative, sociological, economic, policy making and other sector because the provides the food not possible only one authority or perspective so government must solve the above issues and challenges relating food security than it would possible to provides the food security to all in the country.