



**FOOD SECURITY: A STRATEGY FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN INDIA**

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**ABSTRACT**

*Poverty has the results of breeding social disillusionment with reference to what the objectives are and members responsibilities towards attainment of the objectives even as ignorance maintains poverty, so also can poverty perpetuate ignorance, since the victims cannot think. And pray beyond where subsequent meal is coming from. The magnitude and extent of poverty in any country depend upon two factors: the typical level of value and therefore the degree of inequality in its distribution. Clearly, for any given level of National per capita income, the more unequal the distribution, the greater the incidence of poverty. Similarity, for any given distribution, the lower the typical income level, the greater the incidence of poverty.*

**Key Words:***Poverty, ignorance, victims, national per capita income, distribution, income level.*

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## INTRODUCTION

The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) defines the poverty as a "*multidimensional phenomenon, encompassing inability to satisfy basic needs, lack control, poor health, malnutrition, lack of shelter, poor access to water and sanitation, vulnerability to shocks, violence and crime, lack of political freedom*".

The food and Agriculture organization of united Nation (FAO) defines food security as "*access by all people at all times to food needed for a Healthy and active life*". However, achieving food security necessitates that food be available on a regular basis and that all those people in need of it can obtain it. According to FAO, chronic under nutrition and food insecurity are principally caused by a mixture of things like low agricultural productivity, high seasonal and year to year variability in food supplies and lack of off-farm employment opportunities.

The issue of poverty alleviation is recently emerging as a serious subject of concern in national and international policy discourse. However, the intensity of poverty in less developing countries is more severe than that of the developed countries. Poverty is seen as a drag of economic development in less developing countries while growth is seemed to be the issues of developed countries. The magnitude and extent of poverty in any country depend upon two factors: the typical level of value and the degree of inequality in its distribution of income. Clearly, for any given level of National per capita income, the more unequal the distribution, the greater the incidence of poverty. Similarly, for any given distribution, the lower the average income level, the greater the incidence of poverty.

During the 1970s, the interest in poverty increases development economists took initiative in measuring its magnitude, within and across countries by attempting to determine a standard poverty level. They went even further and devised the widely used concept of absolute poverty. It is meant to represent a selected minimum level of income needed to satisfy the essential physical need of food, clothing, shelter, so as to make sure continued survival. In addition to struggling on low income many people in developing nations fight a constant battle against malnutrition disease and ill health.

Although there have been significant improvements since the 1960s, in the least developed countries of the planet, anticipation in 1998 still averaged only 48 years, compared to 63 years among other developing countries and 75 years in developed nations. In the 1990s, the situation continues to deteriorate in sub-Saharan African with deep declines in food consumption and widespread famine in both Asia and Africa, over 60 percent of the population barely met minimum calorie requirements necessary to maintain adequate health, moreover, it has been estimated that the calorie deficit amounted to less than a 2 percent of the world cereal production. This contradicts the widely held view that malnutrition is inevitable result of imbalance between World populations and world food supplies. The mores likely explanation is often found within the world income distribution. Thus, malnutrition and poor health in the developing world are maybe even more a matter of food production, despite, the 2 factors are indirectly interrelated.

The basic reason for the concentration of individuals and production in agricultural and other primary production activities in developing countries may be a simple fact at low income levels, the primary priorities of a person are food, clothing and shelter. Agricultural productivity is low not only due to large numbers of individuals in reference to available land but also LDC agricultural is usually characterized by primitive technologies, poor organization and limited physical and human capital inputs. Technological backwardness persists because developing country agriculture is predominantly non-commercial peasant farming. It is no wonder that efforts to improve efficiency of agricultural production and increase the yields of rice, wheat, maize, (corn), soya beans, and millet are now and can continue to be top priority development objectives.

Food security, a way of poverty alleviation efforts in India is sustained through local initiation also as international assistance. There are however, several obstacles to the effective implementation of the programmes. Some of the obstacles pivots from the very fact that a lot of the programme were either not spotless, formulated or implementation in a organized manner, most of the poverty reduction programmes have relied solely on government subvention for his or her operation leading to financial problem during the amount of decline in government revenue, discontinuity and other bureaucratic decent.<sup>[1]</sup>The programmes also fail as a result of inconsistency, corruption of state officials and public servants, poor target mechanism and failure to focus directly on the poor and thereby reducing poverty.<sup>[2]</sup>

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The aim of this study is to look at the impact of food security as a way of poverty alleviation in India. In<sup>[1]</sup>addition this study seeks to examine:<sup>[2]</sup>

- a. The impact of National programme for food security on poverty alleviation in India.<sup>[1]</sup>
- b. The effect of food security in alleviation poverty.<sup>[2]</sup>

## **SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY<sup>[1]</sup>**

An examination of indicator of economic performances shows how that poverty has eaten deep into the material of the society. The GDP is severely declining, unemployment increasing, low level of agricultural productivity, high seasonal and year to year variability in food supplies and low level of income.<sup>[2]</sup>In order to scale back hungers, action is required within the following areas: ensuring enabling conditions, improving access to food, producing food, increasing the role of trade, dealing adequately with disaster and investing in food security. Poverty is considered as one of the major causes of food insecurity and poverty eradication is essential to improve access to food.<sup>[3]</sup>

## SCOPE AND LIMITATION OF STUDY

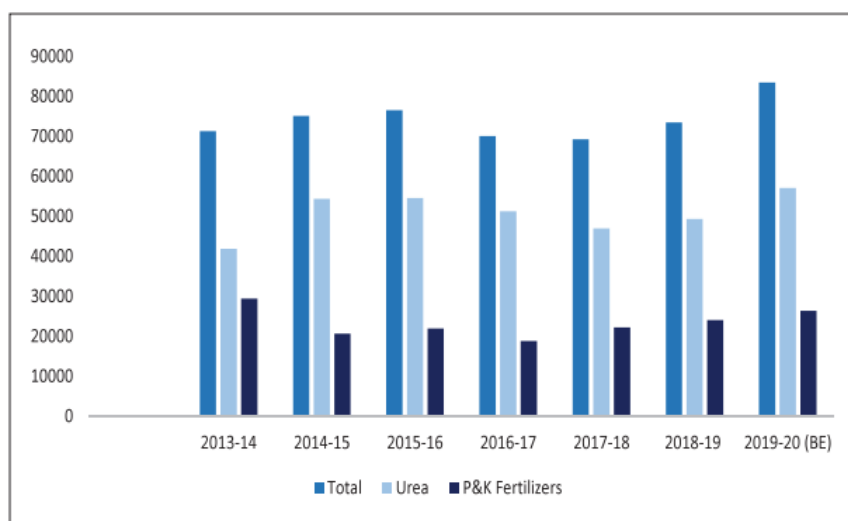
This study is administered with emphasis on food security as a way of poverty alleviation in India. The study is limited to the analysis of the contribution of food security in terms of: poverty reduction through food security and improving agricultural productivity.

## FOOD MANAGEMENT AND ANALYSIS

The main purpose apropos food management being procurement apropos food grains from farmers at compromising prices, disposal of food grains to consumers, particularly along vulnerable sections of society at affordable prices along with maintenance of food intermediates for food security and price establishment. Farcical nodal authority which commences procurement and storage of food grain is the Food Corporation of India (FCI). The distribution of food grains is primarily under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) and other welfare schemes of the Government and is authorized by the scale of allotment and being overtaken by the beneficiaries.

The NFSA which came into force in July, 2013, provides for uncovering of upto 75 per cent of the rural population and upto 50 per cent of the urban population for receiving food grains through Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), thus uncovering about two thirds of the population of the country for receiving food grains at the rate of 1/2/3 per kg for nutria-cereals/wheat/rice respectively. Recognizing beneficiaries under the Act is along two categories- households covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority Households, within the coverage determined for the State/UT.

Figure - 1.1: Fertilizer Subsidy during 2013-14 to 2019-20 (Rs.Crores)



Source: Economic Survey of India 2018-19

Priority Households are designated to receive 5 kg per person per month, AAY households, which constitute the poorest of the poor, continue to receive 35 Kg of food grains

per household per month. At present, the Act is being implemented in all the States/UTs covering about 80 crore persons to get highly subsidized food grains.

## **ALLOCATION OF FOODGRAINS UNDER NFSA/ TARGETED PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM (TPDS)**

NFSA has been established in all States/UTs. In Chandigarh, Puducherry and urban areas of Dadra & Nagar Haveli, the NFSA is being implemented in cash transfer mode, under which food subsidy is being transferred into the bank accounts of beneficiaries who then have a choice to buy food grains from open market. During the year 2019-20, Government of India has allocated 603.88 lakh tonnes of food grains to States/ UTs under NFSA and other Welfare Schemes as on 31st December 2019

**Table – 1.1 : Allocation of Food grains to States/UTs under NFSA and Other Welfare Schemes**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Quantity (in lakh tonnes)</b>
NFSA (including ICDS & MDM)	596.63
Festival, Natural calamity etc.	2.14
Other Welfare schemes	5.11
<b>Total</b>	<b>603.88</b>

Source: Economic survey of India 2018-19

## **DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

India's food security depends on producing cereal crops, also increasing in quantity of its fruits production, vegetables and milk to satisfy the stress of a growing population with rising incomes. To do so, a productive, competitive, diversified and sustainable agricultural sector will be got to emerge at an accelerated pace.

The sharp rise in food-grain production during India's revolution of the 1970s enabled the country to realize self-sufficiency in food-grains and debar the threat of famine. Agricultural intensification within the 1970s to 1980s saw an optimised demand for rural labor that raised rural wages and, alongside declining food prices, reduced rural poverty. However agricultural growth amidst 1990s and 2000s bogged down, averaging about 3.5% yearly once, and cereal yields have optimised by just one.4% yearly once, within the 2000s. The slow-down in agricultural growth has become a serious cause for consideration. India's rice yields are one-third of China's and about half those in Vietnam and Indonesia. The same is true for many other agricultural commodities.

Policy makers will thus be got to initiate and/or conclude policy actions and public programs to modify the world faraway from the prevailing policy and organisational regime that appears to be no longer viable and build a solid foundation stone for a much more productive, internationally competitive, and diversified agricultural sector.

Poverty alleviation and community actions while agricultural growth being, in itself, provides the bottom for optimised incomes, for the 170 million approximately rural persons that are below the poverty level, optimal measures are required to make this growth inclusive. For instance, a rural livelihoods program that empowers communities to become self-reliant has been found to be particularly effective and well-suited for scaling-up.

This program advertises the formation of self-help groups, optimizes community savings, and promotes local initiatives to increase incomes and employment. By federating to become larger individuals, these organisations of the poor gain the strength to barter surpassed prices and market access for his or her products, and also gain the political power over local governments to supply them with better technical and social services. These self-help groups are particularly effective at reaching women and impoverished families.

Agriculture remains the pre-dominant occupation in India for vast sections of the population. Over the years, several new challenges have emerged before the sector. With fragmentation of agricultural holdings and exhaustion of water resources, the acceptance of a resource-efficient, ICT based climate-smart agriculture can enhance agricultural productivity and sustainability. Smallholder farming can be a remunerative livelihood prospect with the implementation of appropriate technologies and relevance of natural, organic and Zero Budget Natural Farming. To renovate the rural economy, superior prominence should be given to allied sectors with a foremost focus on dairy, poultry, fisheries and rearing of small ruminants. The rationalization of food subsidy and superior use of technology in food management will ensure food security for all.

Agricultural conservatory plays a key role in boosting agricultural productivity, enhancing food security, improving rural livelihoods and varying farmers' preferences and farming practices optimistically (for example, adoption of better-quality seeds and critical along loss through getting their crops insured).

Fisheries is a fast-growing sector in India, which provides nutrition and food security to a huge population of the country moreover providing income and employment to more than 14.5 million people. The Global Food Security Index (GFSI), 2018 measured four core issues of food security transversely 113 countries: (i) affordability, (ii) availability, (iii) quality & safety and (iv) natural resources and resilience.

## **CONCLUSION**

With the implementation of the National Food Security Act from July 2013, the food subsidy bill has increased from Rs.113171.2 crore in 2014-15 to Rs.171127.5 crore in 2018-19. India's food management should focus on rationalisation of food subsidy while addressing the challenges of food security, especially of the most vulnerable sections. Though the interests of the vulnerable sections of the population need to be safeguarded, for sustainability of food security operations, the issue of burgeoning food subsidy bill needs to be addressed

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