

# Food security in India- Present perspectives

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## ABSTRACT

In India, the situation of food security is going worse day by day, as it is in African countries. Over the period, it has been increased due to less agriculture production and less job opportunities. In a report of Global hunger index (2017), India's rank is 100 out of 119 countries in the world. It is representing India's status on poverty, malnutrition and hunger. In 2014, India's rank was 55th and now in 2017 it is 100. According to the GFSI position of India is 74 out of 113 countries. Due to low demand of food, the problem of food security has been increasing and if the demand can be increased, then the problem of food insecurity might be solved in India. Further, demand can be increased when the job opportunities and agriculture production will be grown. In India, mostly people are dependent on agriculture and agriculture sector should be linked with other sectors, therefore agriculture production and job opportunities can be increased. Looking at the fact of food security, the govt. of India has passed food security bill in 2013. The analysis in this paper points out that without providing proper facilities, increasing job opportunities and agriculture production the problem of food security cannot be solved.

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## 1. Introduction

In terms of population, India is biggest country in the world, in these days the problem of food security is increasing day by day. India's position in global hunger index is going worse year by year. British economists told that food unavailability is responsible for the food insecurity in the country. Sen (1976) in his book put his own point against orthodox perspective on food security; he told that food security is not caused by food unavailability in the country and famine was caused by inflation. Then it is clear that food insecurity was not only from supply side, it is from demand side too. People don't have enough money for purchasing food in developing countries like India. After 70 year of independence people are committing suicides due to starvation and malnutrition. In India we will look at the demand side some portion of population is unable to get their meals daily, looking at that fact Govt. of India passed food security bill in 2013. As per the guidelines of this bill every person who belongs to priority household is able to get food grains at lower rate or subsidised prices. The objective of this paper is to explain the food security problems and food security bill. To serve this purpose we are dividing the topic in hand i.e. food security in India into six sections. In first section we will discuss the concept of food security and in second we will explain Scenario of food security in the world. In third section we will discuss the scenario of food security in India and in fourth section we will critically evaluate the food security bill and in fifth section we will discuss the reasons, which are responsible for food insecurity in the country and in sixth section we will be explaining conclusion and policy suggestion. We will try to analysis it well and then give some suggestion at the end.

## 2. Food security: Conceptual review

Food security defines when all people have ability to fulfil the dietary needs at all times to live their active and healthy life

(Summit, 1996). Food security is defined as when people have enough ability to purchase adequate, safe and personally acceptable food in social acceptable way at all the stages in life (Cook, 2008). Food insecurity means when people don't have enough money to purchase food for the satisfaction of their hunger or having limited amount of food to eat. Therefore, they are very anxious about food insecurity then they started begging and scavenging or depend on emergency assistance programme (Cook, 2008). Food security basically related with low household resources such as less job opportunities, which results in low disposable income and poor socioeconomic status (Cook & Frank, 2008; Press, 2004; Rusk, 2009). Only supply of food is not responsible for the food security there could be other reasons. Apart from this food security is also depended on the agriculture growth, environmental change, water and energy (Gustafson, 2013; Hanumankar, 2014; Henningson et. al, 2004).

Ensuring food security and safe water is going to be big challenge for Asia. The concept of food, water and energy is completely relevant with Asia because this region has to feed two third world's population (4.14 billion people) and it consumes 59% total planet's water (Rasul, 2015). The problem of food insecurity is closely related with developing countries in the world like south Asian countries- India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka etc. Where more than 40% poor people live in the world, which are not able or do not have enough amount of money to purchase daily meal (Ahmed et al., 2007).

## 3. Food security in the world

We can see the condition of food security at the world level by using two types of indicators, first one is Global food security index and second one is Global hunger index. With the help of first table (global food security index) we will come to

know the countries where people are not able to get their daily meal to live their healthy life.

In GFSI the countries are indexed as food secure on the basis of three parameters such as affordability, availability and quality & safety in 113 countries around the world. On the basis of these three indicators global food security index is prepared by the economist intelligence unit's.

Table 1 shows the list of countries according to the Global food security index. According to the GFSI 100= most

favourable countries and 0 = least favourable. With the analysis of table 1 we will come to know that those countries which are lying the range of 90-70 are more food secure countries and they are in high category, those are lying within the range of 69-50 are less food secure and they are in medium category. Those countries which are laying down in the range of 49-30, those are in serious problem of food security and they are in lower medium category and less than 30 are extremely unsecured countries.

**Table: 1 List of countries according to the Global Food Security Index 2017**

Rang	Category	Country
90-70	HIGH	Ireland, United States, United Kingdom, Singapore, Australia, Netherlands, Germany, France, Canada, Sweden, Austria, Switzerland, Norway, Finland, New Zealand Denmark, Belgium, Japan, Israel, Portugal, Spain, Italy, Czech Republic, Chile, South Korea, Kuwait, Poland, Oman, Qatar, Hungary, Greece, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Slovakia, Uruguay, Costa Rica
69-50	MEDIUM	Bahrain, Brazil, Romania, Argentina, Malaysia, Russia, Mexico, South Africa, China Belarus, Bulgaria, Panama, Turkey, Serbia, Colombia, Botswana, Peru, Tunisia, Jordan, Thailand, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Paraguay, Kazakhstan, Ecuador, Dominican, Republic, Ukraine, Vietnam, El Salvador, Sri Lanka, Morocco, Algeria, Bolivia, Indonesia, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Guatemala
49-30	LOWER MEDIUM	India, Honduras, Ghana, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Philippines, Myanmar, Nepal, Senegal, Cambodia, Uganda, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Cameroon, Rwanda, Bangladesh, Benin, Mali, Nigeria, Togo, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Sudan, Guinea, Mozambique, Ethiopia Syria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Laos, Zambia, Malawi
Less than 30	LOWER	Niger, Haiti, Yemen , Sierra Leone, Chad, Madagascar, Congo (Dem. Rep.), Burundi

(Source; Global food security report 2017)

The global food security index has measured the slippage in global food security since earlier many decades. Population is moving towards urban areas from rural areas in some countries' where economies and infrastructure has already burdened with large and growing urban population, therefore they are not able to sustainable accommodate. With more opportunities in urban areas personal income of households are increasing and they are spending their more income on food so that as demand grows, the production cannot accommodate.

Developed countries are in the high category because food security is very high except Russia. Russia is included in the medium category. India's position is not good in Global food security index and it stands at 74 out of 113 countries in the world (The economist intelligence study, 2017). Year by Year the position of India is decreasing due to some portion of population don't have enough resources to eat food at all times. The data shows that India's position is worse in terms of affordability and food absorption (food security and safety) as compared to the availability in the country. Developed countries where the diet diversification is high, they are more food secure countries or agriculture production is enough to satisfy the hunger of population in the country. On the other hand where agriculture production is less or volatile, they are less food secure countries(Pandey, 2015). South African countries are still in worst condition in food security. If we will compare India's position in food security, comparably it is

better than the hunger level in the country. As the personal income of lower and middle level people is increasing they are being more food affordable, but still there is need for effective production and supply chain management in the country like India. India's middle level people are more growing in these days due to increase in income but due to poor supply chain management almost 30-40% produce has been wasted (Kushwaha et.al, 2015).

China has shown a 54% growth in GDP per head since 2012, on the other hand economies in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia have been grown rapidly. Approx., by 2050, 50% boost in agricultural production will be required to satisfy the world's 10bn people (The economist intelligence study, 2017).

**Table 2** shows the countries list according to the global hunger index. In global hunger index it stands at 100 out of 119 countries and has the third-highest score in all of Asia — only Afghanistan and Pakistan are ranked worse. Despite India is more growing economy in the world still the level of hunger and malnutrition is growing year by year, it is the slow progress in resolving them. Although the hunger index for India has improved from 38.2 in 2000 to 31.4 in 2017 and it has declined by 6.8 points. Many developing countries where the level of hunger and malnutrition level was similar than India have seen a much faster decline. During the same period, the corresponding decline for North Korea (12.1), Bangladesh

(11.1), Nepal (14.8), Afghanistan (19.4), Ethiopia (23.7) and Rwanda (24.9) was almost double or more. One can add to the

list many more countries which have achieved a much faster and better outcome despite growing slower than India.

**Table: 2 List of countries according to the global hunger index**

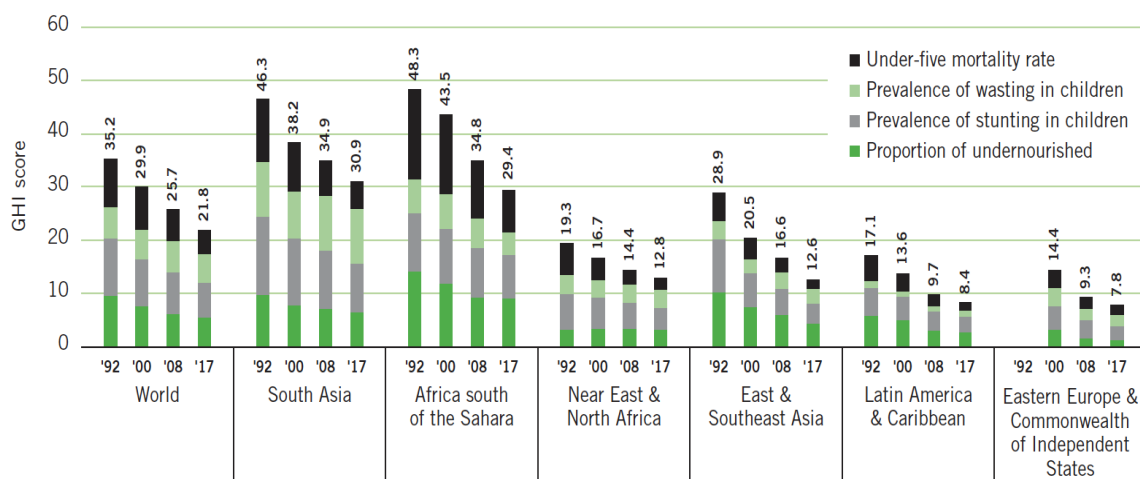
Rang	Category	Country
< 9.9	LOW	Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Chile, Croatia, Cuba, Estonia, Kuwait, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Slovak Republic, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay, Romania, Costa Rica, Macedonia, FYR, Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Mexico, Serbia, Jordan, Trinidad & Tobago, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, China, Iran, Moldova, Armenia, Georgia, Colombia, Jamaica, Fiji, Lebanon, Peru, Panama, Kyrgyz Republic, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Suriname
10 -19.9	MODERATE	Malaysia, Morocco, Thailand, Paraguay, Albania, El Salvador, Oman, Dominican Republic, Turkmenistan, Venezuela, Uzbekistan, South Africa, Mauritius, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Guyana, Gabon, Honduras, Ecuador, Egypt, Viet Nam, Ghana, Bolivia, Senegal
20- 34.9	SERIOUS	Philippines, Guatemala, Kenya, Swaziland, Indonesia, Nepal, Cameroon, Cambodia, Togo, Myanmar, Iraq, Gambia, Lesotho, Benin, Botswana, Mauritania, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Congo, Rep., Namibia, Bangladesh, Côte d'Ivoire, Malawi, Lao PDR, Burkina Faso, North Korea, Guinea, Mali, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, Djibouti, India, Rwanda, Uganda, Ethiopia, Angola, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Zimbabwe, Haiti, Timor-Leste
35- 49.9	ALARMING	Niger, Liberia, Sudan, Yemen, Zambia, Madagascar, Sierra Leone, Chad
>50	EXTREMLY ALARMING	Central African Republic

The Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2017 shows long-term picture in reducing hunger in the world. There are so technologies and advancements are coming in the countries but still people are experiencing hunger problems and places are suffering from food crises.

According to the scores of GHI 2017, the hunger level has decreased by 27%, if we will compare with the 2000 level. In GHI 2017, 119 countries are measured from which one country is falling into the extremely alarming category, 7 falls in the alarming category, 44 falls in the serious category, 24 in the moderate category and 43 falls in the low category. India falls in the serious category which shows high level of hunger in India, but if we will compare with food security status of India then it stands at bad position in GHI 2017. Most hunger level countries are Central African Republic – 50.9, Chad – 43.5, Sierra Leone – 38.5, Madagascar – 38.3, Zambia – 38.2, Yemen – 36.1, Sudan – 35.5 and Liberia – 35.3.

To give the picture of multidimensional process of hunger, Global hunger index scores are depend on four indicators such as: undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting, and child mortality. There has seen 27% improvement in the global hunger index with respect to the four indicators according to the latest data from 2012- 2016 in the GHI.

1. The overall population share with respect to undernourishment has decreased from 18.2 to 13%.
2. As per the new data Children stunting percent less than five years has decreased from 37.7 to 27.8 percent.
3. Child wasting less than five years has decreased from 9.9% to 9.5 percent.
4. The under-five mortality rate is 4.7 percent; it has come down from 8.2 percent in 2000.



Source: Global hunger index 2017 (1992, 2000, 2008, 2017 data)

#### 4. Food security in India and states

Current scenario of food security of India has represented through GHI and GFSI and India's status amongst all countries in the world is not safe. Undernourishment is one of the indicators, which helps to measure food insecurity in the country as we shown it in the table 3. This table shows that

almost 32% children who are under five year of age are stunted, underweight and wasted (Krishan, 2017). Mainly the problem of food security is related with demand, if it is possible to increase the demand, food security can be achieved.

**Table3. Malnutrition in children under 5 years (2005-06 and 2015-16)**

Indicators	2005-2006	2015-2016
Children under 5 year of age who are stunted	48.00%	38.4%
Children under 5 year of age who are wasted	19.8%	21.00%
Children under 5 year of age who are underweight	42.5%	35.7%

Sources: national family health survey.

With more than 200 million food-insecure people (The state of food and agriculture, 2008), India is home to the largest number of hungry people in the world. According to the report of World Bank, India had 30% of its population living under poverty line in 2013.

Although the central government has given attention to hunger and under nutrition, India's states play important roles in planning and executing development programs. The hunger index at state level is a useful technique for making awareness of the hunger levels in the states and disparities among them. The objective behind the development of an India State Hunger Index is to focus on the reasons of hunger and malnutrition at the state levels and central levels in India.

Indian states are classified into 4 categories on the basis of their position in the hunger index. These categories are safe

(<4), serious (4 to 6), alarming (6 to8) and extremely alarming (>8).

In terms of hunger level Punjab is the best performing Indian state, as in global hunger index countries like Honduras and Vietnam, which are positioned low in global ranking and some states which are on the top of India state hunger index like Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Bihar.

When we look at the state level it gives us more interesting scenario of food security in India. To explain the status of food security in the states, the food security index has been constructed for the year 2016-17. To measure the food security three indicators are used like availability, affordability and food absorption.

**Table4. State wise list according to the availability, affordability and food absorption**

State	Affordability	State	Availability	State	Food absorption
Kerala	92	Punjab	51	Tamil Nadu	100
Haryana	79	Assam	42	Andhra Pradesh	87
Punjab	78	Uttar Pradesh	41	Gujarat	86
Maharashtra	76	West Bengal	40	Haryana	85
Tamil Nadu	68	Bihar	39	Maharashtra	84
Karnataka	63	Kerala	39	Karnataka	82
Gujarat	59	Haryana	31	Punjab	62
Andhra Pradesh	59	Odisha	24	Rajasthan	48
Madhya Pradesh	48	Rajasthan	22	Kerala	33
Rajasthan	47	Karnataka	20	Uttar Pradesh	30
West Bengal	40	Madhya Pradesh	18	West Bengal	28
Chhattisgarh	37	Maharashtra	16	Madhya Pradesh	25
Uttar Pradesh	33	Chhattisgarh	15	Chhattisgarh	22
Odisha	29	Andhra Pradesh	14	Odisha	12
Jharkhand	20	Tamil Nadu	13	Jharkhand	11
Assam	13	Gujarat	10	Assam	8
Bihar	0	Jharkhand	5	Bihar	0

Source: (Pandey, Food security in india and states: key challenges and policy option, 2015)

Table 4 shows the food security status of 17 states and data was not available for rest of the states. In terms of affordability Kerala is on the first place then Haryana, Punjab, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka etc. The status of Punjab, Haryana, Kerala, and Maharashtra comparatively are better than Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand, and Bihar. In terms of availability the Punjab is on first place then Assam, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Behar and Kerala etc. The

condition of Rajasthan, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh comparatively are better than Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Jharkhand. In terms of food absorption Tamil Nadu is on first place then Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Punjab etc. The condition of Rajasthan, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal comparatively are better than Odisha, Jharkhand, Assam and Bihar.

**Table5. FSI of Indian states**

State	FSI	State	FSI
Punjab	63	Uttar Pradesh	37
Kerala	59	Rajasthan	36
Haryana	58	Madhya Pradesh	31
Maharashtra	50	Assam	26
Tamil Nadu	48	Odisha	24
Karnataka	46	Chhattisgarh	24
Andhra Pradesh	42	Bihar	18
Gujarat	40	Jharkhand	12
West Bengal	39		

Source: (Pandey, Food security in india and states: key challenges and policy option, 2015)

FSI has been constructed on the basis of three indicators, scores are given out of 100 from weighted mean where 100= most favourable and 0=least favourable. This table shows that Punjab is more food secure state followed by Kerala, Haryana,

and Maharashtra and so on. Assam, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Jharkhand are the worst performing states and they need to look at the food security.

**Table6. Poverty across the states of India**

Range of Poverty	States
0-10	Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab, Sikkim, Puducherry, Andaman & Nicobar, Daman, Lakshadweep
11-20	Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand, West Bengal
21-30	Chandigarh, Mizoram, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka
31-40	Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Odisha,

Source:(Press Note on Poverty Estimates,Govt. of India, Planning Commission, 2011-12 (2012-13))

**Table7. Total demand projection for food grains as household(in million tons)**

commodity	1993-94	2004-05	2011-12	2020-21
Rice	71.3	80.0	84.7	89.1
Wheat	48.7	58.0	62.7	67.5
C cereals	17.6	13.7	11.8	10.1
T cereals	137.6	151.7	159.1	166.6
Pulses	8.5	9.8	11.8	12.5
Food grains	146.1	161.5	169.9	179.1

Source:(TRINADH, 2012)

**Table8. Total supply projection for food grains as household (In million tons)**

Source	Year	Rice	wheat	T cereals	Pulses	oilseeds	Sugarcane
Mittal.S '97	2011	95.7	80.2	209.7	16.1	29.9	245.0
	2021	105.8	91.6	242.2	17.6	36.9	255.2
	2026	111.2	97.9	260.2	18.4	41.1	260.5
Kumar'98	2010	109.3	96.0	248.4	-	-	-
	2020	134.0	127.3	309.0	-	-	-
Mittal'00	2010	112.7	94.8	-	-	-	289.0
	2020	149.3	128.5	-	-	-	298.1
Kumar & Mittal'03	2010	107.8	95.4	236.8	13.9	-	-
	2020	127.0	111.5	274.0	15.2	-	-
Hanchate& Dyason'04	2026	-	-	265.8	23.7	-	-

Source:(TRINADH, 2012)

**Table9. Projected supply demand gap (MT)**

Food Items	Gap ( Demand- Supply)		
	2011	2021	2026
Rice	1.26	8.98	9.13
Wheat	21.21	27.33	32.04

T.Cereals#	21.19	-2.94	-16.97
Pulses	-8.05	-24.92	-39.31

Source:(TRINADH, 2012)

This table shows that there are negative growth rates in case of all food items except Rice and Wheat. Total supply of cereals is falling with respect to demand by 16.97 million tons in the year 2026, which would be only 2.94 MT in 2021. In case of pulses the demand will be more than the supply and there is huge gap between the demand and supply of pulses in the country as supply will be falling short of demand by 24.92 MT in 2021 and by 39.31 by the year 2026. If the projected demand of commodity is more than its supply it means it is indicating negative gap and this negative gap indicates the deficit of commodity in future. The projected supply and demand of oilseeds, pulses, edible oil and sugar is expected to be negative. It means the demand of these foods will be more than its supply. To keep balance between supply and demand, there is need to increase the agriculture production, so that domestic demand can be achieved. As per the projected demand and supply gap, it is indicating that to meet the domestic demand the country will have to rely on the imports, which will increase the threat of food insecurity in the country. Thus, we need to have necessary policy initiatives to increase the supply in future.

This analysis indicating that the condition of food security in India is very worse or serious. In this case the importance of food security bill cannot be ignored. Looking at the gap in supply and demand shows the scenario of food security in India. The food security cannot be achieved without improving level of agriculture production and improving job opportunities in the country. Agricultural growth will not only improve the level of overall production of agriculture but its linkages with other sector will enhance the overall level of economic growth and thus, poverty and buying capacity of common people (Diao, Hazell, Resnick, & Thurlow, 2006).

## 5. Food security bill 2013

As we can see the level of food security status is very low and the level of hunger are very high in India. Despite India is fastest growing country in the world, still it is fighting with food security problems. The results of hunger and food insecurity can be seen with the statistics of malnutrition level. Looking at that fact Govt. of India introduced the food security bill in 2013. Although India is growing country in the world, still people are committing suicides due to starvation and famine. After the Bill passed several limitations has been discussed by academicians.

The objectives behind this bill were to provide subsidized food to two-thirds of India's 1.2 billion people. 75% of rural and 50% of the urban population is entitled to five kg food grains per month at Rs.3, Rs.2, and Rs 1 per kg for rice, wheat and coarse grains, respectively. Food security bill offers meal entitlement to particular groups like lactating women, pregnant women, children who are between the ages from 6 months to 14 years, malnourished children, starving and homeless people. The measure envisages food grain entitlement for up to 75 percent of the rural population and up to 50 percent of the urban population. Of these, at least 46 percent of the rural population

and 28 percent of the urban population will be designated as priority households.

## 6. Reasons responsible for food insecurity in India

**1. Failure of various schemes:-** Achieving the objective of food security in the country with the enhancement of agriculture production has been major focus in the most developing countries like India. In India many schemes has introduced to control the condition of food insecurity. Govt. of India initiated with various schemes:-

### Public Distribution system

The objective behind this scheme was to provide safe, adequate and equitable essential items of consumption to every priority household at subsidized prices. Before independence this scheme was used to control food prices and shortages (Department of food and public distribution, 2010). Food security bill is dependent on existing public distribution system, with the help of PDS they provide food item to beneficiaries. In food security bill (2013) it was mentioned that up to 75% rural population and 50% urban population will be cover under this scheme. But if we look at the hunger index from 2013 to 2017, we can see that status hunger and food security.

(Khera, 2011) Presented in her paper that, there are so many defects in public distribution system of India, with coverage of around 40 Crores BPL (Below Poverty Line) families, a review of the PDS has discovered the following structural shortcomings and disturbances:

The major snag in PDS system has been the delivery of poor quality food grains in the ration shops. Superior quality food grains are sold in the open market at a premium through the back door. Unscrupulous and bogus fair price shop owners have issued duplicate and illegal ration cards in the open market and so the deserving underprivileged customers are denied.

Many FPS dealers do malpractice, diversions of commodities in illegal way and black marketing because their salary is less. Numerous malpractices make safe and nutritious food inaccessible and unaffordable to many poor thus resulting in their food insecurity. It has been difficult to identify and specify the deserving and rightful consumers to be covered under PDS system. Though the AADHAR – UID Card schemes have generated enough scope for discreet identification yet some fraudulent practices circumvent the efficacy of PDS. Direct cash transfer has also helped in reducing mal practices of PDS.

### Position of India in GHI from 2013 to 2017

Year	India' position	Total countries
2013	63	120
2014	55	120
2015	80	104
2016	97	118
2017	100	119

We can see the position of India throughout the year from 2013 to 2017, the bill was introduced in 2013 to provide sufficient amount of food to priority household but due to failure of public distribution system it couldn't possible. Hunger level has been increasing year by year in India. In reality priority households are not getting sufficient amount of food to live their active life, govt should come forward to look at this fact and make some policies on these types of critical issues.

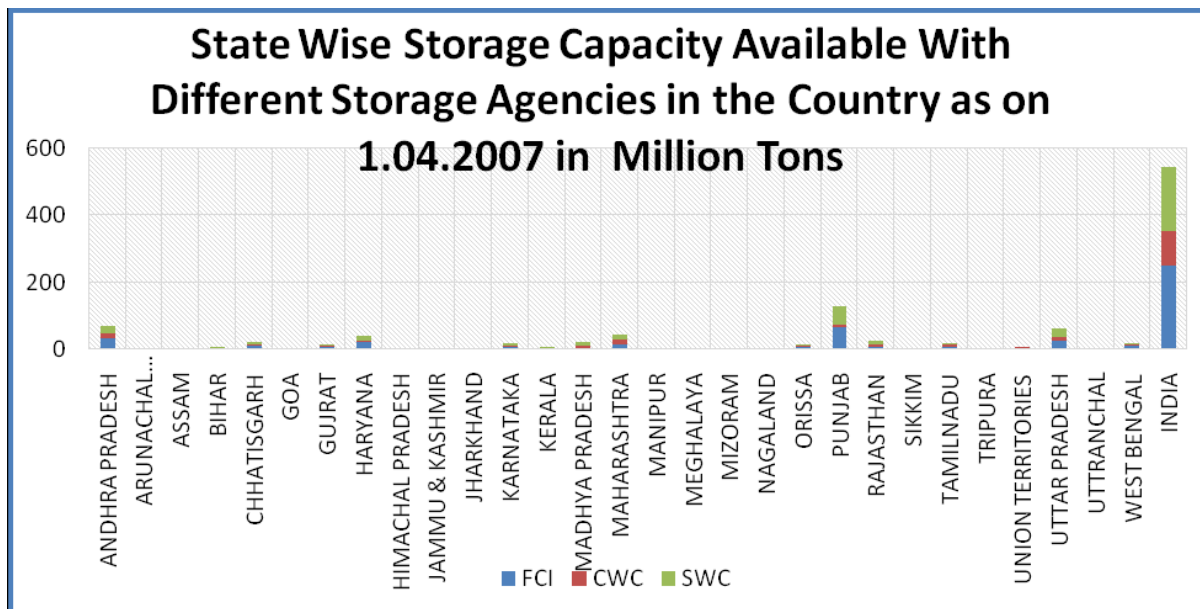
**National Food Security Mission**

This scheme was launched in 2007-08 with the objectives to increase the agriculture production. The objectives of this scheme were to boost agriculture production through area

expansion, productivity growth and creating job opportunities in the country.

**National Horticultural Mission**

This mission was started in 1984 to augment the quality of food security in the country. The objectives to start this mission was to develop post harvest management infrastructure, develop storage facilities, setting up Agri-Export Zones, promoting applied R & D for standardizing PHM protocols etc.



Source (Ministry of consumer affairs, food and public distribution, 2007)

The study shows that only 6% to 7% of the total agriculture produce is processed (Kushwaha et.al, 2015) and about 30-35% vegetables are wasted during postharvest storage handling due to lack of temperature controllable vehicles, improper marketing channel, non-availability of testing labs for quality control and shortage of cold chain vans in many parts of India for the storage of produce, along with required processing of the agricultural production, which results in huge loss to the country (Negi, 2013). Storage facilities are not available in the country it should be developed soon, so that loss of food can be decreased to some extent.

Therefore, we can say that food insecurity is also caused by the loss in post-harvest facilities. Govt. should develop post-harvest infrastructure so that the loss can be minimised.

**2. Changes in Climate**

Continuously change in climate is also another reason for food insecurity like it is happening in India. There are unusual impacts are on the agriculture production on the country. Sometimes due to heavy/ low rainfalls, low and high temperature has its impact on agriculture production in form of drought or floods and hazardously which affects the farm net income of the country. The climate change has vital effect on both good production and socio-economic aspects through the remarkable changes in land utilization pattern and also water

resource availability. These critical upshots can be removed only through the integration of bio-physical and socioeconomic aspects of food system.

**3. Inflation**

Food price inflation is a biggest or most critical economic problem in these days in the country. In India, it is not surprising that food security questions and the right to food have become such urgent political and social issues in India today. Rapid aggregate income growth over the past two decades has not addressed the basic issue of ensuring the food security of the population.

Price increase in cities averaged across the major regions, for rice, atta and sugar, which are among the most essential food items in any household. It is evident that the price increase has been as rapid as to be alarming especially over the past two years, with rice prices increasing by nearly half in Northern cities and more than half in Southern cities.

Atta prices have on average increased by around one-fifth from their level of two years ago. The most shocking increase has been in sugar prices, which have more than doubled across the country. Other food items, ranging from pulses and

dal to milk and vegetables, have also shown dramatic increase especially in the past year.

There are many reasons why food prices have risen at such a rapid rate, and all of them point to major failures of state policy. Domestic food production has been adversely affected by neoliberal economic policies that have opened up trade and exposed farmers to volatile international prices even as internal support systems have been dismantled and input prices have been rising continuously.

What exactly is happening in India, farmers do not get direct benefits of rising prices but the consumers are forced to pay high prices for fruits and vegetables. The reason is when farmers go to mandis to sell their produce, that time price of buying of produce is less but after buying produce they started selling at high prices. Farmers who sold their produce at lower prices now they forced to give higher prices.

The problem of food insecurity is increasing due to food price inflation in the country those households which are unable to buy the food to live their active life govt. should make policies and eliminate the deficiencies from public distribution system. So that food can be delivered to the actual needy persons, it will help to reduce the fear of food insecurity.

#### 4. Agriculture production

In future the demand of oil seeds, pulses and cereals will increase. According to the total demand projection for food grains as household will increase in future and as per the supply projection there will be huge difference between the supply of food grains and demand of food grains except wheat and rice (TRINADH, 2012). The demand will be more than the supply of grain foods except wheat and rice. Until and unless the agriculture production and job opportunities can be increased, till then the dream of food security cannot be achieved in India. Farmers should be motivated to cultivate crops like oilseeds, pulses and cereals, so that demand can be met in future. In these days the farmers are only cultivating wheat and rice, very less portion of farmers are cultivating other crops. The biggest reason behind it is minimum support price (MSP), which is given on wheat and rice. Govt. should set MSP for all the crops so that the production can be increased.

Job opportunities can be increased with the growth in agriculture production and agriculture sector should be linked with the industry, Govt. should encourage foreign direct investment and domestic entrepreneurs to set up their food processing industries in the country. If it is doing so, then the farmers can be connected directly with industry they can sell their produce directly to the companies through contract farming. With this job opportunities will be emerged as more processing units are setting up in the country and income of the farmers will be increased.

#### 5. Production of High Yielding Varieties

Due to less unavailability of R&D in the country production of high yielding varieties cannot be achieved. As the climate is changing, new variety of crops are another big confronts for food gain production in India. Pesticides which are being used by the farmers are not beneficial for the health of people.

Everything like pesticides, seeds of crops and other inputs which are used by the farmers in the cultivation of crops, should be tested properly.

#### 7. Conclusion

India is fastest growing economy in the world and it is growing at rapid speed, still the country is facing lot many problems related with food insecurity and one third population is not able to get food two times in a day. Current condition of India can be seen with the help of GHI, GFSI and it is standing with the African countries. This analysis points out that if agriculture production grows; increasing food prices has no bearing on low food security. Due to low demand of food, the problem of food security has been increasing and if the demand can be increased, then the problem of food insecurity might be solved in India. Further, demand can be increased when the job opportunities and agriculture production will be grown. In India, mostly people are dependent on agriculture and agriculture sector should be linked with other sectors, therefore agriculture production and job opportunities can be increased. It shows that if overall economy will develop, the poverty will decrease. With the decrease in poverty more people will be able to get their meals daily.

The importance of food security bill should not be ignored. Although, there are so many drawbacks are in the bill: ignorance of supply side drawbacks related with agriculture production and PDS. Storage facilities should be available in all the states, so that guidelines can be fulfilled. In Behar, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh where storage facilities are not available, then how public distribution system work properly. There is need to look at some states like Assam, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh where the people are facing food security problems. These are the backward states in the country. To solve the problem of food security they need to grow agriculture production and job opportunities in the country and technological development should be there as china is doing.

#### 8. Suggestions

**Policy:** Whenever policymaker start making policies related with food security, then suggestions should take from small farmers, farm labourers, and urban poor side. So that they can come to know which policy will suit to particular problem and solve them. In production based policies govt. should grant credits, offer subsidies on agriculture inputs, improve marketing processes and develop new technologies.

**The Government** have to have courage to admit failure and courage to restart: more problems arise when they deny. Governments should conduct research properly so that they can know what is going on in reality. As per schemes which are offered by us every priority household are taking benefits or not. They should go in fields and learn from failures. They should encourage domestic entrepreneurs to set up food processing industries in the country and invite foreign investors to invest in food processing industries.

**Prioritisation:** Like companies are maintaining their key performance indicators for their sustainable developments, likewise the Govt. should start maintaining key performance

indicators for the sustainable economy development. Govt. should set sustainable goals, after that properly check whether we are achieving these goals or not.

**Education and social safety nets:** Education play an important role in any economy, focus should be given to this area also. Govt. should make people aware about the health and environment.

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