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## WORLD HUNGER INDEX 2021 AND HUNGRY INDIA

**\*PROF. RAJARAM M. KAMBLE**

*\*Assistant Professor Arts and Commerce College, Nagthane, Satara, Maharashtra  
Mobile No. 7507309650*

### PREFACE

The fact that agrarian India is in a state of famine has come to the fore in the recently released World Hunger Index 2021 report. According to the report, India lags behind Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal. In 2020, India was ranked 94th in the list. In one year, India has dropped by seven places. India is one of the 45 hungriest countries in the world. A joint report by the Irish agency Concern Worldwide and the German organization Welt Hunger Hilde states that the level of hunger in India is alarming. While it is often said that the country has progressed rapidly, the statistics released have brought India's reputation to the forefront of the world. If you look at the statistics before Corona, it is clear that India's position in the world in terms of poverty and hunger is not very satisfactory. The figures that have just been released.

It is the duty of the government of a developing country like India to provide adequate food grains to the people of the country. However, inequality increased as food production was lower than that of the growing population. As a result, the majority of the population in India still does not get even two meals a day. As the poverty rate rises, the number of people living below the poverty line is higher. Renowned economist Dr. Amartya Sen has suggested focusing on social empowerment by focusing on poverty alleviation programs. Attempts have been made by the government to provide food security along with employment schemes to provide better living conditions to the people living below the poverty line in the country, but this Global Hunger Index report shows that India is still starving.

### RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. To study the 2021 World Hunger Index Report
2. To study the change in India's ranking in the World Hunger Index
3. To know the food production in the post-independence period of India

4. Understand the current status of Food Security Act in
5. Know the criteria of Global Appetite

### HYPOTHESIS

1. India's ranking in the Global Hunger Index has dropped compared to 2020
2. India's food production has increased in the post-independence period.
3. The scope of India's Food Security Act has expanded.

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research paper is based on secondary information and 2021 World Hunger Index report, reference books, books, magazines, current papers and reports etc. have been used for the collection of secondary information.

### BEGINNING OF THE WORLD HUNGER INDEX

The Global Hunger Index is a multidimensional tool for measuring the country's hunger situation. This index is published once a year. The index was compiled by the International Food Policy Research Institute IFPRI Global Hunger Index, a global hunger victim index and its report, has been published annually since 2006 with the help of the German organization welt hunger Hilde and since 2007 in association with the Irish organization concern worldwide.

### MEASUREMENT OF INDEX

This index ranges from 0 to 100 points. Zero means zero hunger and 100 mean complete hunger. Also, 0 to 9.9 points are classified as extremely mild problem, 10 to 19.9 points are moderate problem, 20 to 34.9 are severe, 35 to 49.9 are dangerous, and 50 points are classified as very severe hunger victims.

### CRITERIA FOR CREATING APPETITE INDEX

1. Proportion of malnourished persons in the total Population.
2. Proportion of malnourished children under five years of age; (Child stunting)
3. Proportion of children with stunted growth in children under five years of age; (Child Wasting)
4. Infant mortality rate in children below five.

World Hunger Index of 2021

Country	Number 2021	Points	
		2000	2021
China	<b>5</b>	13.3	-5
Sri Lanka	<b>65</b>	21.9	16.0
Myanmar	<b>71</b>	39.8	17.5
Bangladesh	<b>76</b>	34.0	19.1
Nepal	<b>76</b>	37.4	19.1
Pakistan	<b>92</b>	36.7	24.7
India	<b>101</b>	38.8	27.5

**Source: Global Hunger Index 2021**

In the table above, India ranks 101st out of 116 countries in the Global Hunger Index 2021. India lags behind Pakistan, Bangladesh, China, Sri Lanka and Myanmar. In the 2020 report, India was ranked 94th in the list. The 2021 report collected data from 136 countries. And reports from 116 countries were presented. According to the report, 18 countries are in the 0 to 5 points group with the lowest hunger problem. These include Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, China, Chile, etc. Countries are in the top five so the last number is 116<sup>th</sup> Somalia. Also, 300 million people worldwide, or about 40 percent of the population, do not have enough money to buy nutritious food. That means three billion people worldwide are deprived of food due to inflation, poverty and unavailability of nutritious food, economic inequality. Malnutrition is a serious problem among five-year-olds in Africa and Asia.

**Current Status of India's Hunger Index**

Year	Number of Countries Participating	Number of India	Point
2010	84	67	24-1
2011	81	67	23-7
2012	79	65	22-9
2013	78	63	21-3
2014	76	55	17-8
2015	104	80	29-0
2016	118	97	28-5
2017	119	100	31-4
2018	119	103	31-1
2019	117	102	30-3
2020	107	94	27-2
2021	116	101	27-5

**Source: Global Hunger Index 2010 to 2021**

The table also analyzes India's appetite index. India was ranked 94th out of 107 countries in 2020. In 2000, India's hunger index was 38.8. From 2012 to 2021, it is between 28.8 and 28.5. In 2010, India's score was 24.1. By 2014, the score had dropped to 17.8. However, since 2015, the score has risen again and in 2021, India's score has increased to 27.5 and the index has dropped by 9.7 points. Reducing this rating has been made even more challenging by the epidemic of covid. It should be addressed in a positive and effective manner.

**THE REALITY OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION IN INDIA**

Malnutrition is still a major problem in the tribal areas of India. As a result, many children die. Lack of adequate food, lack of health facilities, old habits are the factors that are causing India's appetite index to decline. Although food grains are being supplied through cheap food shops, the problem of food grains is not diminishing. There is a need to produce enough food for the growing population. It is important to look at how food production from agriculture will increase and how malnutrition will be reduced. The challenge is to provide adequate food to the growing population and to satisfy the hunger of the people.

In India, Make in India, Skill Development, Jan Dhan Yojana, Notabandi, GST Goraksha, Love-Jihad, Surgical Strike, etc. In the midst of the controversy, we have unforgivably neglected the fundamental question of development and the question of hunger and malnutrition. The most struggling groups on the issue of hunger and malnutrition include the Scheduled Castes, Dalits, Tribals, Nomadic Castes and Tribes as well as the Muslim community.

## FOOD SECURITY IN INDIA

India became self-sufficient in food grains. But the government has not had much success in bringing all the people below the poverty line above the poverty line. As it is the responsibility of the government to supply food grains to these people, the government enacted the National Food Security Act on February 1, 2014. Under this Act, 35 kg of food grains per month will be provided to every family below the poverty line at the rate of Rs. 3 per kg. This was changed when the new ration card was issued. The new ration card is now given to the woman in the family. The woman is considered as the head of the family and her name and photo are given in the ration card. Eligible beneficiaries include all the beneficiaries of the current Atyonda Food Scheme and BPL. Under this scheme, crores of citizens of India have got Java.

## FOOD GRAIN PRODUCTION IN INDIA

India has made tremendous progress in agriculture, industry and services. After independence, efforts were made to increase food production through economic planning. Food production increased due to green revolution. In the last five years, however, we have seen a radical change in food production in India.

Food grain Production in India- D.L.T.

Five Year Plan	Target Cereal Production	Cereal Production
1951-1956	67	62
1956-1961	80	81
1961-1966	72	100
1969-1974	104	129
1974-1980	132	125
1980-1985	146	154
1985-1990	171	180
1992-1997	199	210
1997-2002	211	234
2002-2007	216	234
2007-2012	250.4	258
2020-2021	308.65	

Source: Global Hunger Index 2010 to 2021

Attempts were made to increase food grain production during the five-year plan period but the target of food grain production was not achieved except for the first five-year plan. But there is no denying that food grain

production has increased significantly during the five-year plan period. That is why the country has become self-sufficient in food today. But the problem of malnutrition has not gone away, Because Indians get 471 grams of food grains per day but they need to get 396.2 grams per day. Pulses, leafy vegetables, dairy products and fruits are very rare in the diet of Indian people.

## **GOVERNMENT APATHY**

The budget has been drastically slashed in the last few years as it is necessary to make substantial provision in the budget considering the serious problem of malnutrition at the Center and in the states. India's Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has slashed the allocation for malnutrition by 27 per cent from Rs 3,700 crore in the 2021 budget, up from Rs 2,700 crore in the current year's budget, or 27 per cent. Although the budget aims to implement Specialized Mission Nutrition scheme in 112 districts of the country, it shows how serious the Government of India is in addressing the problem of malnutrition of women and children by reducing the budget deficit.

Even though the problem of malnutrition is serious in Maharashtra, in the last two years, the budget of the Department of Women and Child Development for Anganwadi programs has been reduced by crores of rupees. As a result, many social facilities have been compromised. Health, nutrition, public distribution, employment, education, public transport, these social services are the basis of life for all. There are important elements in the concept of welfare state. But at present, social services seem to be neglected. Over the last few years, the budget for various social services has not been increased as required. As a result, India is declining in the global hunger Index.

## **MEASURES**

Nutrition or malnutrition depends on one's financial status, gross income, and other household expenses. In India even today, after seeing swollen stomachs like sticks and naga, it is clear how much malnutrition has affected Indians. This needs to be addressed. Strict implementation of schemes like Food Safety Officer, Appointed Mother Child Care, Scheme, Mid-day Meal Scheme, Public Distribution System, MNREGA, and National Health Mission should be implemented in the states, rural areas, talukas and villages which are suffering from hunger and malnutrition.

The Central and State Governments should provide additional funds for this scheme. Requirement of Aadhaar for availing welfare schemes should be relaxed. Ensure that clean drinking water is supplied to rural and semi-urban areas and adequate public health facilities and infrastructure are made available to the poor. Also food security is the biggest plan in the world. Strict enforcement of this food security law is required.

## **SUMMARY**

India adopted a new economic policy three decades ago and waited for economic prosperity for the common man, but even today, the plight of India's citizens is not over, according to the Global Hunger Index report. Ration queues, black market, lack of transparency. With all these pictures sitting on one side and rising food production on the other, the Central Government needs to take a more serious look at the reasons for the steady rise in the appetite index. This is because these statistics on child malnutrition and malnutrition are the basic criteria of the

appetite Index. This is because these statistics on child malnutrition and malnutrition are the basic criteria of the appetite Index.

As India ranks even lower than Nepal and Bangladesh, introspection on these important figures in the Hunger Index is equally important. It is important to know the advice of various experts and economists to stop this decline. Because the government is responsible for the overall health and well-being of children in India. This can hamper food security. India enacted the Food Security Act to increase food production, land reform legislation, commodity pricing policy, change in dietary habits, food policy, public distribution system, food subsidy, special nutrition program, lunch scheme and integrated child development service scheme. Activities have been implemented but its scope needs to be widened.

The government which adopts the concept of welfare state should give priority to the poor and the needy. This is the duty of the government. But the government has forgotten this. Therefore, the number of starvation victims needs to be reduced by focusing on providing adequate food to the poor, child mortality due to malnutrition and malnutrition and sick mothers.

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