

A Study on Poverty Reduction and Food Security

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ABSTRACT

The world is coalescing around a goal to end extreme poverty by 2030 with growing optimism that this remarkable goal is within reach. The reality that political leadership and policy reform are essential preconditions to driving investment to the regions and sectors where it has the biggest impact on reducing extreme poverty and ending the most devastating consequences of child hunger and child death. Agriculture is a crucial factor that improves the economic growth of the country. In order to eliminate the poverty and to provide food security agriculture is an important element. Food security is a condition related to the supply of food and individual's access to it. The main aim of this paper is remove poverty in the modern global era and turn India into developed nation in the present economy world.

1. INTRODUCTION

A state or condition in which a person or community lacks the financial resources and essentials to enjoy a minimum standard of life and well – being that's considered acceptable in society.

2. DEFINITIONS OF POVERTY

Poverty has been defined in a number of ways. The World Bank (1990) has defined poverty as “the inability to attain a minimal standard of living” In the words of Dandekar (1981)’’ want of adequate income, howsoever defined is poverty....’’ Thus, lack of adequate income to buy the basic goods for subsistence living is an important element in the definitions of poverty’’.

3. TYPES OF POVERTY

Condition where a person's basic needs for food, clothing and shelter and not being met. Poverty is generally of two types:

- Absolute poverty
- Relative poverty

ABSOLUTE POVERTY

When people do not have adequate food, clothing and shelter, we say that they are in absolute poverty.

RELATIVE POVERTY

Relative poverty refers to differences in income among different classes of people or people within the same group or among people of different countries.

THE IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL GROWTH FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Agriculture plays a vital role in poverty reduction. Some of the reasons are summarized here:

- Primary and tertiary sector growth reduces poverty.
- Growth in rural areas reduces poverty in both rural and urban areas.
- Growth in small-farm production reduces the number of people in poverty and reduces its severity.

POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMMES:-

The following measures have been taken by the government to remove poverty from the country.

LAND REFORMS

Land reforms legislation has been passed by the state governments, which aim at improving the economic conditions of agricultural landless labourers. For instance, with the abolition of the Zamindari system, the exploitation associated with the system has been removed. Tenancy laws have been passed in most of the states for protecting the interests of the tenants and helping them to acquire possession over the lands they cultivate.

NATIONAL SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME (NSAP)

It was launched on August 15, 1995 to provide social assistance benefits to poor households affected by old age, death of primary bread winner or need for maternity care.

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAMODAYA YOJANA (PMGY)

It was introduced in the budget for 2000-2001 with an allocation of Rs.5000 crore. Its focus is on health, primary education, drinking water, housing and rural roads. Common Property Rights in grazing lands, wastelands, forests and water resources were made available to the rural people in the past. A poverty reduction strategy needs to be incorporated into the growth process. Such a strategy would be made up of four parts:- Establishing a policy framework that maximizes the income of the working poor through policies to promote self – employment, to upgrade the informal sector, and to improve labour market contracts. Investing in the next generation by increasing investment allocations for education and health. Introducing direct transfers as social protection measures for those segments of the population that cannot be reached through conventional policy instruments. Encouraging resource transfers from rich to poor countries through informed trade and aid regimes.

FOOD SECURITY

The Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United States (FAO) called the summit in response to widespread under-nutrition and growing concern about the capacity of

agriculture to meet future food needs. For a country of vast population like India, with vagaries of monsoon and frequent famines, food security should form part and parcel of the food policy and agricultural prices of India. The ninth Five-year plan discussed the problem of food security at the national level and at the household level. The Planning Commission states:” An approach to national food security, which realise largely on domestic production of food needed for consumption as well as for building buffer stocks, can be described as a strategy of self-sufficiency”.

PILLARS OF FOOD SECURITY

The WHO states that there are three pillars that determine food security: food availability, food access, and food use, and now food stability is also included.

FOOD AVAILABILITY

Food availability relates to the supply of food through production, distribution, and exchange. Food production is determined by a variety of factors including land ownership and use, soil management, crop selection, breeding, and management, livestock breeding and management, and harvesting. Crop production can be affected by changes in rainfall and temperatures. The use of land, water, and energy to grow often competes with other uses, which can affect food production.

FOOD ACCESS

Food access refers to the affordability and allocation of food, as well as the preferences of individuals and households. The UN Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights noted that the causes of hunger and malnutrition are often not a scarcity of food but an inability to access available food, usually due to poverty.

FOOD UTILIZATION

The next pillar of food security is food utilization, which refers to the metabolism of food by individuals. Once food is obtained by a household, a variety of factors affect the quantity and quality of food that reaches members of the household.

FOOD STABILITY

Food stability refers to the ability to obtain food over time. Food insecurity can be transitory, seasonal, or chronic. In transitory food security, food may be unavailable during certain periods of time. At the food production level, natural disasters and drought result in crop failure and decreased food availability. Other factors that can temporarily cause food insecurity are loss of employment or productivity, which can be caused by illness. Seasonal food insecurity can result from the regular pattern of growing seasons in food production. Chronic food security defined as the long – term persistent lack of adequate food.

4. CONCLUSION

It is easily within the capacity of the global society to eradicate poverty and hunger in a short period of time. There must be political will to achieve this. Economic growth, especially broad-based growth in agriculture and the rural economy, is a necessary condition for sustainable poverty and hunger reduction. Hunger is not only an effect but also a cause of poverty. The need to achieve substantial and sustainable poverty reduction requires that concrete steps be taken to promote agriculture and rural development. Agriculture and rural development is therefore key to achieving overall economic growth and poverty reduction for most developing countries. The peoples and governments of the countries concerned have the main responsibility for the achievement of hunger and poverty reduction targets. If National and international funding for hunger eradication and agriculture and rural development must be sufficient to meet requirements.

5. REFERENCE

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