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Right to food in India

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Abstract.

The aim of this article is to examine the right to food in the Indian context, and to analyse the right to food in terms of availability, accessibility, adequacy and sustainability. These are examined in terms of equity and justice. The study differs from previous studies on food safety in that it is based on a human rights approach. The question of food is approached from a rights perspective. Progress is examined in terms of availability, accessibility (physical and economic). Programs are examined in terms of their obligation to meet, protect and fulfil (facilitate and deliver).

India is a signatory of numerous international treaties concerning the right to food. The Indian Constitution also indirectly refers to the right to food. Therefore, there is an obligation for the Government of India (Central and States) to fulfil people's right to food. Despite many programs, there are concerns about diet and malnutrition. Some of the worst violations of the right to food can be seen in India today. We have looked at the problems with various social assistance programs. To realize the right to deliver, the following programs must be strengthened and implemented effectively.

Agriculture is the livelihood of around two-thirds of the country's workforce. It is true that the country now produces enough food to feed its entire population. When there is a rapid increase in hunger in parts of India, it is now usually attributed to short-term natural events such as hurricanes or droughts. These are described as transient, episodic events, temporary deviations from normal. India no longer suffers from large-scale famines as in the past. However, this optimistic version of the food situation in India overlooks the reality of the country's chronic malnutrition. Temporary disruption of the food system due to natural disasters is disastrous for so many people simply because they live so close to the edge under normal conditions. India could feed all of its people, but it is not.

Introduction

India is experiencing a human rights paradox. While its GDP has grown steadily over the past decade, rates of hunger-related malnutrition and morbidity remain extremely high. In a notable refusal to accept the negative effects of globalization on access to a basic diet for its poorest populations, the Supreme Court of India has however established itself as a champion of food security and is committed to enforcing the law. India.

The latest manifestation of government action on the right to food is the National Food Security Act. Although the bill provides an important opportunity to codify the rights currently protected by a court decision, the bill is currently being prepared for national debate.

According to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the right to adequate food is realized when every man, woman and child, alone or in community with others, has physical and economic access at all times to food or to adequate means, content of the right to adequate food implies the availability of food in sufficient quantity and quality to meet the dietary needs of individuals, free from harmful substances and acceptable in a given culture and the accessibility of these foods in a sustainable manner and which does not interfere with the enjoyment of other human rights.

The right to food is the right to have regular, permanent and free access, directly or through financial purchases, to food that is quantitatively and qualitatively adequate and sufficient, corresponding to the cultural traditions of the people to which the consumer belongs, and which ensures a physical and mental, individual and collective, fulfilling and dignified, without fear. Therefore, right to adequate food includes three essential elements; the adequacy, availability of food, and the permanent access to food with dignity.

Adequate nutrition means that there must be enough food. Appropriate means that the food meets the nutritional needs taking into account the age, living conditions, health, occupation, gender, etc, of the person, for example, infant food does not contain the necessary nutrients for their physical and mental development, it is not sufficient. Food must be safe for human consumption and free from harmful substances, such as contaminants from industrial or agricultural processes, including pesticide residues, hormones or veterinary drugs.

Availability means that food must be available from natural resources, either through food production, agriculture or ranching, or through other forms of food production such as fishing, hunting or gathering.

Accessibility requires that economic and physical access to food is guaranteed, economic accessibility means that food must be affordable. People need to be able to afford food for adequate nutrition without having to forego other basic needs such as school fees, medication or rent. Accessibility means that food must be accessible to everyone, including those at risk, such as children, the sick, people with disabilities and the elderly, who find it difficult to go out and look for food. People from remote areas and victims of armed conflict or natural disasters, as well as prisoners.

Issues Related to Right Food In India.

There is an urgent need to put the concept of food security into practice, which includes physical, economic and social access to a balanced diet, clean water, a safe environment and medical care. Just ensuring food security will help reduce hunger, but it will not eliminate malnutrition or severely affect nutritional status if other components such as clean water and health care are not provided.

Implementing Measures To Improve Agricultural Productivity and Food Storage.

Government policy should adopt an integrated policy framework to facilitate the increased use of irrigation and new agricultural techniques. Measures should focus primarily on the rational distribution of arable land, the improvement of farm sizes and the security of the tenants, as well as the provision of improved cultivation technologies and equipment such as irrigation systems, availability of better quality seeds, fertilizers and loans at lower interest rates the unjust distribution of food is that a significant portion of the food is wasted.

It would make sense to adopt food storage strategies that have been successfully implemented in other countries. China, for example, has an excellent education and research system for grain storage. The country has invested in building advanced storage facilities that are shielded with modern equipment. India can get professional help from China to improve the quality of its food stores so that wasted and spoiled grains can satisfy the hunger of those who really need it.

Ensuring Food Availability and Accessibility To Below Poverty Line (BPL) Candidates.

It is important to ensure the availability of food crops for the general population at an affordable price. This can be achieved by more precisely targeting the GLP population to source food at a much lower price. There is a problem with the GLP list. There is a debate about the exact number of people who fall into this category. Government estimates put it at around 30 percent of the population. The Planning Commission (under the government of India) has now recommended a limit of 37 percent based on the report by the Tendulkar Committee. In addition to supporting the BPL population, the sale of grain to customers above the poverty line (APL) should also be subsidized. Trade finance must be abolished. This will lower food prices and increase affordability. The public distribution system must be transparent and reliable.

Improving Purchasing Power Through Employment Generating Schemes.

The government should propose more holistic programs like Mahatma Gandhi's National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), poverty reduction programs like the Integrated Rural Development Program (PIRD), and employment programs like Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Nehru Rozgar Yojana, etc. they need to be realigned. In addition, it is just as important to improve the quantity and quality of dependent employment in order to positively influence the purchasing power of the lowest socio-economic class of the population. Provide decent wages and healthy working conditions. In urban areas, helping small businesses will lead to increased employment opportunities. Nutrition goals must be guaranteed as an integral part of all poverty reduction programs.

Monitoring And Timely Evaluation of Nutritional Programmes.

There is a need to take a comprehensive community approach. Even focusing on simple interventions such as promoting exclusive breastfeeding, adequate complementary foods, and growth monitoring and promotion (GMP) can produce excellent results. Efficiently initiate and monitor implementation of nutrition-related programs Annual surveys and rapid assessment surveys could be some of the ways in which program outcomes can be measured Evaluations should be timely and relevant information on the effectiveness of the use of information technology can also be considered to improve program monitoring.

Conclusion

The right to food is an integral part of the vision of a world without hunger, where every child, woman and man can eat with dignity. It is an officially recognized human right by the vast majority of states, although there is consensus. In the vision, states have slowly implemented this human right. Sufficient information and an assessment of the right to food situation are a basic prerequisite for all measures on the right to food at the state level. People are insecure and at risk and, with the right to food being denied them, no corrective action can be identified and effectively applied to deal with the situation.

Finally, States should certify that human rights in general, and the right to food in-particular, are taught in schools and that training programs are offered to citizens and officials with primary responsibility for the realization of the right to food in urban and rural areas alike.

It is clear that the Supreme Court of India is leaving no stone unturned in interpreting various provisions of the Constitution protecting the fundamental right to food, taking into account changing conditions and purposes, in order to keep democracy in its real form. The term “right to life” is broadened to meet the needs of society. The right to food is now an integral part of the constitution. with the culture of India. The Indian concept of Dharma (religion) places an exceptional emphasis on growing and sharing food in abundance. Atharvaveda ensures that everyone has equal rights to food and water.

Lack of food for human beings would undoubtedly generate problems of law and order and, in any case, the freedoms contemplated in the Constitution would be meaningless.

The Food Safety Act is a good initiative, but not a sufficient measure. It is important that the people you speak to are aware of their rights. Information about programs should be clearly communicated through the media, counselling, and other methods. Since every federal state differs in terms of absolute and relative poverty, indicators can be formulated at the state level. Special efforts should be made in selecting the beneficiaries of the Food Safety Act. The right to food is not just a basic human right; it is also a basic human need. Therefore, as responsible people, we need to put pressure on the government to effectively enforce the right to food.