



Impact of Food Security on Human Security and Sustainable Governance

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Abstract

This paper explores the relationship between food and human security in context of sustainable governance in India and also the impact on human security. Human security means securing livelihood, survival and dignity of an individuals. According to UN General Assembly (66/290) that human security means securing survival of an individual and strengthen their individuality by empowering livelihood. Whereas food security means that everyone has equal access of sufficient, safe and nutritious food at all times for an active and healthy life as define by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO, 1983). Though, food is also a basic human right and is also categorized as one of the basic aspects of human security and development in the report of human development (1994). Further, this paper presents the role of food security in strengthening human security as well as sustainable development. The paper also reflects the impact of food security in terms of an individual security. Thus, for more advancement in sustainable governance, any government must have to adopt a sustainable, ethical and accountable approach for human security. Many international and national organization and institution are working for human

welfare. Still there has been some sorts of gap exist for example: due to population explosion, poverty and unemployment not everyone can get better quality of food and livelihood. The rate of stunting, malnutrition and hunger has been also increased after covid19 pandemic. Thus, for decimating food insecurity and poverty government must introduce sustainable policies based on sustainable and accountable approach.

Keywords: Food, Food Security, Hunger, Rights, Sustainability & Development.

Introduction

This paper focus on what is the linkages between human security and food security after that it highlights the impact of food security on human or individual security. It also addresses the role of sustainable governance on strengthening food security vis a vis human security. Although, the concept of food security is not a newer as an issue but globally action was taken earlier after food security summit in 1996. In India after the implementation of National Food Security Act (NFSA, 2013) the concept of food security has taken a big picture with the support of right to nutritious food as an everyone's fundamental right to live. Food security is defined by FAO (1996), as an availability of sufficient and nutritious food for all people at all times and the concept of human right was developed to secure every individual's right to live with dignity and peace. The right to food is everyone's right to live with happiness, love and dignity. However, if a nation wants to become a hunger free, empowered and developed country so it's important to implement the right to food as a fundamental right to live for practicing objectives of food security. Thus, the linkages between both of them is obvious. Since, the replacement of MDGs-2015 to SDGs-2030 the concept of Sustainable Development and Sustainable Governance has outspread. As we know the concept of sustainable development is developed for providing the basic needs of present generation by minimum use of natural resources and preserving the natural resources for upcoming generations to meet their own needs. Thus. the conception of sustainable governance has involved to resolving the issue of present generation and saving the planet's resources for future generation. Though the paper presents some suggestions regarding the issue of human and food security in context of sustainable governance as well as development.

Understanding Food Security

The term food security is the convergence of two terms: food and security which means a person who is secured or feels secure in terms of availability, accessibility and affordability of food is known as a healthier, happier and peaceful person. Most importantly, food security means something more than getting two square meals. In 1996 the World Food Summit address that food security includes both the physical and economic access of food that meets people's dietary needs and also their food inclination. World food day is celebrated every year around the world on 16th October in honour of the date of the founding of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in 1945. The reason behind celebrating this day is to raising awareness of the issues like poverty, hunger and malnutrition. According to the FAO, Close to 150 million children in countries around the world are stunted because of a lack of proper nutrition.ⁱ "Food is the most basic human right," said FAO. Food has long served as a carrier of culture in human societies and has been a driving force for globalization. UN declares 16th October 2016 as a world food day. Food is known as substance of accurate protein, carbohydrate, fat, and other nutrients. These elements of diet are must be included in human body for sustain growth and to furnish energy. So, if a person feels food secure and energetic, they will be able to do work and live a healthy life with peace and dignity. Merriam Webster defined food as a material consisting essentially of protein, carbohydrate, and fat used in the body of an organism to sustain growth, repair, and vital processes and to furnish energy.ⁱⁱ Whereas according to American dictionary it is something that can be taken in by an animal and used to keep it alive and allow it to grow or develop. As defined by Cambridge dictionary that food is something people and animals eat, or plants absorb, to keep them alive.ⁱⁱⁱ Furthermore, the concept of Food (in)security is not a new concept hunger, undernourishment, malnutrition and wasting are also contributes to increase this affliction. Hunger and food both can be understood as cause and effect and are used interchangeably. In 2021 the Global Hunger Index report India (GHI) ranks 101st out of 116th qualifying countries. With a score of 27.5, India suffers from a level of hunger that is serious. The Global Hunger Index is a tool designed to comprehensively measure and track hunger at the global, regional, and national levels. The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) calculates GHI scores each year to assess progress and setbacks in combating hunger. According to Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) estimates in *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the*

World 2018: Building climate resilience for food security and nutrition report, countries with prevalence above 15 percent (very high category) include India. Thinness in school-age children is extremely high in India; where over one-quarter of children are too thin (FAO, 2018). Meanwhile, this year 2020-21 almost 122 million (The Hunger Virus) more people could be pushed to get into dearth/starvation due to socio-economic fallout by the pandemic including scarcity of food, decrease in agricultural production and supplies, declines in business, unemployment, and the declining in cooperation among local, regional, national and international level (OCHA, 2020). According to world bank group, (2015) approximately 800 million people are still sleeping hungry without taking basic meal per night and also many people are suffering from hidden hunger or malnutrition. In India, debates surrounding food security, hunger and malnutrition became more visible after National Food Security Act (NFSA, 2013). According to National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013, it is an “An Act to provide for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity.”^{iv} Furthermore, the System of Public Distribution has evolved over a period of time and counterpart the issues of hunger, malnutrition, stunting and poverty etc. The initiative was developed after the Bengal famine in 1940s for distributing food grains to people who live below poverty line.

Food security and Human Security: Interlinkages

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) through its Resolution 66/290 in 2012, recognizes the concept of human security as an approach to bring together the concept of human rights, development, peace and security. According to it, Human Rights can be defined as the “the right of all people to live in freedom and dignity, free from poverty and despair”, that “all individuals, in particular vulnerable people, are entitled to freedom from fear and freedom from want, with an equal opportunity to enjoy all their rights and fully develop their human potential” (FAO 2016:03). The linkages between human security and food security are all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. As per Article 3, everyone has the right to life, liberty and security as a person. This realization of the human right to adequate food is known as a fundamental human right to live with dignity and peace. The notion of human security is all about people centred, context specific, all-inclusive and prevention oriented to address the plethora of risks and threats that endanger and undermine the resilience of communities and societies. Thus, the core

vision of development of human security approach is to accomplish the persons' basic needs likewise providing nutritious food for healthy life and freedom from fear, hunger and indignity also to support marginalized communities and societies. Thus, food security means fulfilling the objective of human security. Although, the main drivers of food insecurity are poverty, malnutrition, unemployment, natural and man-made disasters. However, we couldn't make sustainable environment if we continually affecting our planet by industrial development and environmental damages. The impact of man-made disaster is worsening the 'world of hunger'. The current global food system is slow in progress due to covid19 pandemic, millions of people are dying every year cause of hunger. In India alone after covid19, 196 million people are undernourished and malnutrition is becoming major cause of death after and mid-covid19 pandemic. Thus, due to covid19 situation is becoming worse for many countries in the world the progress has going slowdown and often reverse. We need to reconfigure our food system policies and programmes for better livelihoods, securing people's right to live and for challenging the cataclysm like covid19 pandemic. If we need a healthy and prosperous environment, we must counterpart the issues like hunger, poverty, malnutrition and unemployment without destroying the natural resources; or by saving the planet by awareness between people about sustainable development as a sustainable governance. For ensuring an individuals' food security we need to focus on regionalization of food policies. We need to develop a sustainable environment for those who live in poverty and vulnerability by awareness of right to food is a fundamental right to live. If we focus on human security which means it is about a person or an individual security in terms of freedom, peace, health, dignity and living standard.

Impact of food security in terms of an individual security

Objective of the paper is to look into food security and human security towards sustainable governance and its various dimensions. This paper also looks at an individual security. For better future a person must be food secure for his/her own well-being. Being self-sufficient in food production is beneficial but for better result we must ensure affordability and stability of food that is also important for any individual. Food is a basic need for every individual and it is more important to having nutritious food for active life as also defined by FAO. All the Governments must focus on the sustainability through sustainable agricultural development; targeted and support regional productions and accountability in assessment and performance. As mentioned in Maslow's hierarchy theory of needs where he discusses about an individual

needs or needs of human beings. It is a five-tier model of human needs as follows: Food and clothing, Safety means job security, Love and belonging needs (Friendships), and Esteem and Self-actualization.



Therefore, these needs are reasons of an individual's existence. If one of them is not function properly the pyramid of human needs will be crack. Due to cause of food insecurity; an individual can feel unhealthy, reduced life expectancy, growth in maternal mortality, malnutrition led to low level of energy, growth of immaturity, cognitive inability, low level of immunity, all of this could affect any individual's every aspect of human life. Thus, any of this situation could obstruct the lives of people and increasing their susceptibility to illness, poverty and malnutrition issues.

Impact of Food Security on Human Security and Sustainable Governance

The paper highlights the vision of human security and linkages between food security and human security. For making this progressive idea of development smooth we need to challenge the issue related to preserving the natural resources and saving the planet; by re-arrangements and assessment of wastage we do by over use of natural resources and by developing the developed. However, due to food insecurity, not just health of human beings is getting affected but the survival of our planet is also suffering by this issue of food insecurity.

The basis of existence of human beings is food whereas food security is more than that it includes a healthy diet for healthy life. It is the right of an individual to be able to do whatever his/her goals of life. In addition, to empower human's right to live life into their own terms is strengthened by human security approach. As mentioned earlier that the growth of population and climatic change are two major cause of food insecurity and poverty. Further, for decreasing the impact of population explosion and effects of

climate change we need to minimize the effects of these two (population explosion and climate change) by developing the measure of sustainability and food security issues. We should measure that how food is grown, produced, distributed and consumed; how much and how many times it is wasted? All of these have major impacts in the food system of the world and sustainability. As food is for everyone's right to have, consume and live so for this purpose we need to enhance our global food system through sustainable methods. Moreover, for sustainable development we need governance to behave like one. Sustainable development is only possible if all governments will have capacity to build smooth and stable relations between countries of the world and supporting each other's right to live through economic stability. For all of the above we need macro-level multisectoral innovation policies and programmes for sustainable development and targeting the communities and societies which are visible beneficiaries of welfare policies across the world. Many welfare policies and programmes which are implemented mainly for targeting marginal communities and societies but do not reach at their doors due to double dealing and loopholes. So, if we need to secure human right, we must fulfil basic or fundamental right of everyone that is right to food for right to live. As we know human right is all about right of an individual to life that refers to live with peace, power and dignity. Though, for this purpose, we must have to develop the notion of sustainability in every sphere of human lives. Only in this way we can control the disasters like hunger, malnutrition and poverty among the countries of the world and develop a sustainable environment via sustainable governance to sustainable development.

For decimating Food Insecurity and Strengthening Human Security: Way forward

Every government must introduce sustainable policies based on sustainable and accountable approach. As the concept of twin-track approach has initiated by FAO is impressive for challenging the issues of hunger, malnutrition and poverty with sustainable agricultural advancement and enhancing direct accessibility of food for the vulnerable populations. This kind of initiative is needed for the better present and future of upcoming generations and preserving the natural resources for healthier planet. We need to established resilient food systems, from agriculture to food processing and food distribution. We must focus on building sustainability in productivity of food processing, markets and consumption as well as assessing the structure of food economy as a whole. We need some specific food security policies for combat situation like covid19 pandemic or other natural or man-made disasters; or to provide immediate relief to

the vulnerable population with long term strategy for sustainable development. In addition, we need a holistic approach for sustainable future within a sustainable governance also for resolving the issue of hunger, malnutrition, poverty and safety of an individual so that people will live with dignity and peace. We must focus on more effective policies to be initiated not just for longer-term goals but as well as fulfil immediate food security needs. For some countries like India, Pakistan, and Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa need to implement sustainable, suitable policies based on regional diversity, stable sectoral and macroeconomic policies and programmes. Partnerships, co-operations and co-ordination are needs to be addressed and strengthened. So that they can share a positive notion of sustainability. Any successful country could enhance, support or share their technological equipment to other under-develop country for improving the condition of natural resource and irrigation policies.

Key Findings:

- ✓ In India, the system of PDS is working under 400,000 fair price shops.
- ✓ According to UNEP in Food Waste Index Report 2021, every year approx. $\frac{1}{3}^{\text{rd}}$ of the food produced in the world for consumption.
- ✓ Whereas 1.03 billion tonnes get wasted and it is costing the global economy closely to \$940 billion each year.
- ✓ Every year, consumers in rich countries waste almost as much food (222 million tonnes) as the entire net food production of Sub- Saharan Africa (230 million tonnes).
- ✓ Top five countries are listed in global food waste index report 2021 are China, India, U. S., Japan and Germany.
- ✓ We need to establish resilient food system, like Twin- track approach.
- ✓ We should provide immediate relief to the vulnerable population and we should implement some specific policies to combat situation like COVID-19 pandemic to ensure food security to all and as well as protecting their rights to live with peace and dignity.
- ✓ We should learn from this current situation which is already worsen the world of hunger.

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