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Challenges and Suggestions of Food Security in India

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• Abstract:

Food security is considered as a human right. Food insecurity is one of the major problems facing humanity in the world. This issue is widely discussed at the international, national, regional and local levels. Food security is a basic necessity as a human right, but today millions of people in the world are suffering from hunger and malnutrition. The main cause of this problem is food insecurity. India is also facing a number of food security issues. Poverty, unemployment, etc. in the country are causing people to lack purchasing power. Thus, the government of India strives to provide food security to the citizens of the country through various welfare schemes. The objective of the research study presented is to know the various challenges related food security in India and show suggestions for prevention.

• Introduction:-

The problem of food security and nutrition is a major issue under the Indian Food security policy. In addition to population, income and urbanization, grain and demand has also increased and that has changed. Even though grain production has increased fourfold since 1951, a large section of our population still suffers from malnutrition and food insufficiency. Ensuring food security is an important issue for a country like India. One third of the population is estimated to be poor.

• Definition of food security

At the world food summit 1974 food security is defined as, "Availability at all times of adequate world food supplies of basic food stuffs to sustain a steady expansion of food consumption and to offset fluctuations in production and prices".

In 1983 FAO- "ensuring that all people at all times, have both physical and economic access to the basic food that they need".

• Food security in india:-

- Food security concerns can be traced back to the experience of the Bengal Famine in 1943 during British colonial rule, during which about 2 million to 3 million people perished due to starvation.
- Since attaining independence, an initial rush to industrialize while ignoring agriculture, two successive droughts in mid-1960s. and dependence on food aid from the united states exposed India's Vulnerability to several shocks on the food security front.
- The country went through a Green Revolution in the late 1960s and early 1970s, enabling it to overcome



productivity stagnation and to significantly improve food grain production.

- The green revolution was followed by the white Revolution, which was initiated by operation flood during the 1970s and 1980s. this national initiative has revolutionized liquid milk production and marketing in India, making it the largest producer of milk.
- Of late especially during the post- 2000 period, hybrid maize for poultry and industrial use and bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) cotton have shown great strides in production leading to sizeable exports of cotton which made India the second largest exporter of cotton in 2007-2008.

Concerns vis-à-vis food security in India:-

- India, currently has the largest number of undernourished people in the world i.e. around 195 million.
- Nearly 47 million or 4 out of 10 children in India do not meet their full human potential because of chronic under nutrition or stunting.
- Agricultural productivity in India is extremely low.
- According to world Bank figures, cereal yield in India is estimated to be 2.992 Kg Per hectare as against 7.318.4 Kg Per hectare in North America.
- The composition of the food basket is increasingly shifting away from cereals to high-value agricultural commodities like fish, eggs, milk and meat. As incomes continue to rise, this trend will continue and the indirect demand for food feed will grow rapidly in India.
- According to FAO estimated in “The state of food security and Nutrition in the world 2018” report, about 14.8% of the population is undernourished in India.
- Further according to the report 38.4 of children aged under five in India are stunted (Too short for their age), while 21% suffer from wasting meaning their weight is too low for their height.
- India ranked 76th in 113 countries assessed by the Global Food Security index (GFSI), in the year 2018 based on four parameters affordability, availability and quality and safety.
- Ad per the global Hunger Index, 2019, India was ranked 102nd out of 117 qualifying countries.

• Objectives of the Research study:-

1. Aim to know the challenges related to food security in India.
2. Purpose of showing suggestions on food security questions in India.

• Method of the Research Study:-

The research paper presented uses descriptive methodology and secondary information as the source of information.



• **Verification of objectives:-**

The following is a verification of the above objectives....

1. Aim to know the challenges related to food security in India.

Food is basic human need□ but millions of people around the world are still suffering for malnutrition. Food is the main cause of this problem. India is the second most populous country in the world. Even though India achieved self sufficiency in grain production□ most of our population does get enough food. There are various food security challenges in India such as

• **Climate change:**

Higher temperature and unreliable rainfall farming difficult. Climate change not only impacts crop but also livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture and can cause grave social and economic consequences in the form of reduced incomes eroded livelihoods□ trade disruption and adverse health impacts.

• **Lack of access to remote areas:**

For the tribal communities, habitation in remote difficult terrains and practice of subsistence farming had led to significant economic backwardness.

• **Rural to urban migration:**

Increase in rural to urban migration, large proportion of informal workforce resulting in unplanned growth of slums which lack in the basic health and hygiene facilities□ Insufficient housing and increased food insecurity.

• **Inadequate distribution of food**

Through public distribution mechanism (PDS i.e. Public Distribution System).

□ Deserving beneficences of the subsidy are excluded on the basis of non ownership of below poverty line (BPL) status, as the criterion for identifying a household as BPL is arbitrary and varies from state to state.

• **Biofuels:**

The growth of the biofuel market has reduced the land used for growing food crops.

• **Conflict:**

Food can be used as a weapon, with enemies cutting off food supplies in order to gain ground. Crops



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can also be destroyed during the conflict.

- **Lack of coherent food and nutrition policies** along with the absence of intersectoral coordination between various ministries.

- **Corruption:**

Diverting the grains to open market to get better margin, selling poor quality grains at ration shops, irregular opening of the shops add to the issue of food insecurity.

2. Purpose of showing suggestions on food security questions in India.

The problem of food security is found all over the world. The following suggestion can be shown to address food security issues in India.

- **Education and literacy:**

Role of education in improving farm efficiency and technology adoption has been well established, As agriculture transformed from subsistence to commercial level, farmers seek information on a wide range of issue to acquire knowledge or upgrade their skills and entrepreneurial ability. Literacy emerges as an important source of growth in adoption of technology, and use of modern inputs like fertilizers and machines. An education workforce makes it easier to train and acquire new skills and technologies required for productivity growth. thus, contribution of literacy will be substantial on yield growth and domestic supply of food.

- **Tackling climate change:**

Food security in India can be achieved by paying higher attention to issues such as climate change, limiting global warming, including the production systems and land use policies as a scale to help adapt and mitigate all effects of climate change.

- **Improved technology adoption:**

Adoption of technology like integrated nutrient management, and integrated weed management need to be made available for adoption to ensure higher production and sustainability of production base.

- **Awareness on population growth:**

The awareness of the pressures of increasing population growth and consumption patterns on ecosystem functioning should be created to sensitize farmers on adoption of sustainable crop cultivation and management practices.



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Conclusions:-

The Indian Economy has grown in the last two decades, urbanization has increased but majority of the urban population is facing severe food insecurity which is a very serious problem.

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