

## AN ECONOMIC STUDY ON FOOD INSECURITY IN INDIA WITH REGARD TO PEOPLE IN CHENNAI

<sup>1</sup>Sathyamoorthy M , <sup>2</sup>Kirubakaran K

<sup>1</sup>BA.LLB (Honours), Saveetha School of Law, Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences,  
Saveetha University, Chennai-77, Tamil nadu, India. .

<sup>2</sup>Assistant Professor, Saveetha School of Law, Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences,  
Saveetha University, Chennai-77, Tamil nadu,India.

<sup>1</sup>[sathyadhoni07@gmail.com](mailto:sathyadhoni07@gmail.com), <sup>2</sup>[garan24@gmail.com](mailto:garan24@gmail.com).

### ABSTRACT:

Food security is one of the important areas which is needed to be identified in the society especially in India and it plays a vital role in the study of the poverty level in the country. The food insecurity is one of the main issues prevailing in the country and this paper made its effort to analyse the state of food insecurity in India with regard to the people of a rural place called Otteri. In this paper we study about the state of food insecurity and the NATIONAL FOOD INSECURITY ACT 2013 .We also study about the usefulness of this act and its distribution of the food supplies to all the classes of the people and its work in resolving the food insecurity. It is found that the act needs some more recognition and some reforms in it in order to make it a successful act.

**KEYWORDS:** Food insecurity, National, Per capita, rural economy, food security

### INTRODUCTION:

Food security means the availability of the food or once access to food. The inability of access to food is called as food insecurity. The widespread hunger and malnutrition persist today despite in per capita food availability (Barrett 2002). Food insecurity remains as a problem in many parts of India. The difference in that only the region differs. We have to recognize that the agriculture and the rural economy are greatly influenced by policies and outcomes in rest of economy (Peter Timmer 2014). A sufficient statistics to characterize the level and distribution of

income in as 134 countries and regressed on variables along with its major countries in order to get a sufficient result.(Shane et al. 2000)

The food security may be one of the areas where the government is negligent of. Three main shifts about food security since World Food Conference of 1974 is that from global to household, from food first to livelihood first and from objective indication to subjective perception. The shift remains consistent with postmodern thinking(Maxwell 1996)). The continuing population and consumption growth will increase the demand is another 40 years. Growing population, competition for land and water will affect the ability to produce food .(Godfray et al. 2010)

National food security Act, 2013 is the unique step taken by the government to fight against the hunger and to protect the rights of people for food (Tanksale and Jha 2015) One of the great changes in food securities was brought by National food security Act. It has some implications at the recent commentary about National food security Act and also implication of the India's international commitment signed in WTO. The WTO director general came to India and aimed at India's food security being renewed(Sandhu 2014). The agreement was also based on food security. The government started the National food security Act on the 12<sup>th</sup> September 2013. There are several aims, one of them is giving subsidized food and the challenges in implementation due to the environmental impact (Sengupta and Mukhopadhyay 2016). The National food security Act had aimed at reducing the food security. It focuses on the failure in redressing the childhood who are undernourished. The food security act relating to it are one of the most discussed topic in the day to day life. The author (Sassi 2018) says that India has the highest no.of undernourished people and food insecurities was not so beneficial after 2013, 2014. . The commission on the agriculture (Dr.Lakshmi T and Rajeshkumar S 2018) cost and the prices and the Government of India Act brought and the criticism was that the agriculture producers and experts and the supporters were the investors in capital. Thus the Nation food security Act can only be brought only with help of subsequent awareness and the market role or otherwise it is a distant dream.(Narayanan 2011).The objective of this paper is to analyse the problem of food insecurity in India and the effectiveness of National food security Act, 2013 in ensuring food security in India.

**HYPOTHESIS:****NULL HYPOTHESIS:**

There is no significant change in condition of the food insecurity in India after the implementation of National Food Security Act, 2013.

**ALTERNATIVE HYPOTHESIS:**

There is significant change in condition of the food insecurity in India after the implementation of National Food Security Act, 2013.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS:**

The current paper is analysed about the Act and the effects. It is an empirical study and it is passed on the sampling method and had used the stratified method of sampling with a population of about 1400 people. The sample size is being limited to 300. This is done with PICO analysis method in which the sources are the primary sources took summary and collected the respondent as much as 70 people.

**RESULTS:**

The results based on the survey are presented in this part of this paper. The survey is based on the food insecurity in India and also about the National Food Security Act which has been brought in 2013 in order to reduce food insecurity. Some of the results of my research paper are that many of them come from chennai of about 27.9% and rest from rural areas of Madurai, Erode and other places and the rest were done with paper pen survey in the rural areas of chennai. The age of the people taken survey were the 86.9 % were above the age of 18 and rest of the people of about 13.1% were less (Trishala A 2018) than the age of 18. The educational level of the respondents were about 91.4 % of the college level education and rest 8.6% of the respondents were from the school level of education. The awareness about the food security was posted before the respondents, the respondents answered that about 47.5 % people were aware about the food security and the about 32 % were not aware about the concept of food security and 21.3 % had heard the concept but was not sure about the concept. The 42.6 % of the people were aware of the food security act in India and 57.4 % people were not aware of the food security act in India. This shows the lack of awareness among the people in India. The 14.8 % people had responded that the FSAI reduces the food insecurity and 32.8 % people tell that the FSAI does not reduce the food insecurity and the rest 52.5 % people were not sure about the

prevalence of the act in helping to reduce the food insecurity .The 7.4 % of people tell hunger is the the way which the people suffer regard to food , the other reasons told by the people were Adulteration,Disease related to hunger ,Unhealthy issues ,Malnutrition, and Lack of food for the next routine.The 44.3 % of people were not aware of the government effort in food insecurity and the 27.9 % of the people were aware of the government effort in food insecurity and rest were in a dilemma whether government had made his effort or not .The 48.3 % of people says that the food security act needs alteration and the 13.3 % of people say that the food security does not need any alteration and 38.3 % of the people had no answer as there was no proper education about the act. The 53.3 % of people say that the process of employment does not play a major role in food security and 16.7 % of people say that process of employment does not play a major role in food security .The 50.8 % of people say that the lower class people gets affected the most in food insecurity ,The 41 % of people say that the middle class people gets affected the most and the rest 8.2 % of people say that the rich people gets affected the most by food insecurity.Some of the reasons for such situation as polled by the people say that 56.7% people say that the lack of awareness about the issue and 26.7% of people say that the situation is due to the lack of legal legislations and 28.3 % say that it is due to the employment opportunities and finally 25 % people say it is due to illiteracy.Several suggestions were given by some people are to make awareness and must have certain laws to protect it .The employment must be improved.The Government should act for the favour of people .To literate the lower class people and educate them about the awareness of the act .Alterations of the present legislation must be highly recommended.To strict the enforcement in administrative level.The 52.5 % of people say that the government acts lethargic in this issue and 16.6 % of people strongly regret itr and 31.1% of the people say that they may act lethargic but the effective administration in the grassroot level must be important for such issue.

#### **DISCUSSIONS:**

(Rao 2012)has views that National Food Security Bill does not meet expectations. It disregards accepted definitions of „food security“ and „nutritional security“. It defines food security as “the supply of the entitled quantity of food grains” and meals provided under existing programmes. The Indian government must consult with the states, devise a strategy, reach

consensus on cost sharing, establish quantifiable objectives, set responsibility and monitoring mechanisms, and show political will to achieve the objectives.

Another author,(Elliott, Jahn, and Madkour 2012))are in a view there will a lot of misconception due to lack of clarity in implementation of National Food Security Bill at state level. So, consultation with states and local body participation through centres of autonomous decision making, transparency, accountability and grievance redressal mechanism have to be followed. The comments from the state government shall be dealt constructively to avoid large scale regional imbalance in the provisioning of the services. There is a perception that China has, by and large, solved its ‘food problem’, whereas India has not .(Peter Timmer 2014) This rings true in a very specific sense. The crux of India’s food problem today pertains not so much increasing food availability or production but with the distribution of food. This is not to suggest that the challenges associated with ensuring food availability in sustainable ways is not a policy concern, but rather, in terms of the immediacy of challenges, ensuring food access would appear to score over concerns over food availability. For example, despite flagging growth rates in the agricultural sector relative to targets, India has seen impressive growth in food grain production in recent years (Barron, Tharme, and Herrero, n.d.). The National Food Security Mission has played a key role in augmenting production in cereals and pulses. Much of this has come from yield increases in the eastern regions in the country where the Green Revolution did not take place. At the same time, there has also been a strong and continuing trend for diversification into non-cereal and high-value commodities such as dairy, fruits and vegetables, which implies the possibility of higher quality diets. Investments in the agricultural sector have been especially strong after 2004–05, both public and private, with private gross capital formation accounting for an increasing share of all investment.(Marwha 2015)

Despite the large increase in production, access to food continues to be a serious issue especially in the context of extraordinarily high-inflation rates in food commodities in recent years and limited access in large parts of the country to high-quality diets. The imperative that the challenge of food security derives also from recent evidence from India and elsewhere suggests that income growth might not always translate fully or quickly enough to improvements in the health nutritional status of children, implying that this issue needs attention (Headey and Ecker 2013). This weak link between income growth and nutritional outcomes implied that food

security in the sense defined earlier would require special attention of policy-makers and cannot be presumed to follow as a consequence of growth. This is quite apart from a parallel discourse that argues for a rights-based approach to food security so that primary responsibility rests with the state. In general, there is broad agreement on the imperative of food security in India, but deep disagreement on how to achieve this. A recent survey of the PDS and people's perceptions of cash versus kind transfers, perhaps the only one available of its kind, provides useful insights into these issues..(Drrze et al. 2018). The author (Swaminathan and Bhavani 2017)) had told that according to Rural Food Security. Atlas, says that state had done a crucial role in Augmenting food grain, output expansion. The author (Berman 2011) stats that food security is based on the biotic, abiotic, socio-political situations and the food security must be reduced by using several strategies in food distribution. Another author (Khera 2015)states that WHO had told 3 pillars of food security, which are food availability, food access and food use but in 209 World summit, the 4 pillars were availability, access, utilization and stability. The author (Sinha and Patnaik 2016)states that National Food Security Act aims at 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of 1.25 crore population free from food insecurity. It also had sufficient method to implement it. The other author (Cassman 2012)) states that India is seemed worldwide in output and third purge society to have less food insecurity. As many people had suffered from food insecurity it is necessary to reduce food insecurity. Other researches told that the National Food Security Act was beneficial and had worked for the welfare of people and had created awareness about it. But my research says that about 47.5% of people were only aware of food security and 52.4% people were not aware of it. This shows the lack of awareness about the act. The answer given were for the knowing of National Food Security Act, the 42.6% of people had answered yes and had 59% answered no and maybe. this also shows the lack of awareness. The answers given for the prevalence of act for the reduction of food insecurity, the 14.8% answered yes and 32.8% had answered no. this shows the ineffectiveness of the act. The 48.3% people says that act needs amendment and 13.3% say no need of an amendment. This shows the lack of solving food insecurity. The answer given for the action of the government regarding the food security and the answers given for that was about 52.5% said government acts lethargic in this issue and 16.4% said that government does not act lethargic. According to the survey the several reasons for the solving of the food insecurity is the lack of awareness about the issue, lack of legal legislations, lack of employment

opportunities and illiteracy. The 53.3% of people say that the process of employment plays a major role in food insecurity, 16.7% of people say that the employment is not so important for food insecurity. The survey results show that 50.8% people who are affected are lower section people, 41% people show that middle class people are only affected and 8.2% people say that only rich people are only affected. Some of the suggestions are to give awareness and to educate the illiterate people about the unhygienic food and disease caused from it and finally to alter the present legislations.

#### **CONCLUSIONS:**

Thus my survey about the Food Insecurity and the National Food Security Act shows the lack of effectiveness in the implementation. The idea of the act was effective but if the implementation of the act has not been effective. If the implementation had been perfect it would have reached great heights and food insecurity would not have been a major issue. It has mixed views. The National Food Security Act on the Indian society has to be scrutinized and would reach accepted conclusions.

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