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## Status of India in Global Hunger Index SDGs: Challenges and Initiatives

Ms. Reena Sahota<sup>a,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, DAV College, Hoshiarpur, University of Punjab, India

### KEYWORDS

Hunger status of India, hunger and malnutrition, Challenges for hunger, Food problem, Sustainable Goal, Global hunger index.

### ABSTRACT

India adopted the 2nd Zero hunger goal out of the 17th Sustainable Goals which includes- achieving zero hunger by 2030 with the aim that everyone enjoys their adequate right to food. In the country, the economic growth rates have not been matched with the changing demographics. India is facing a substantial challenge to meet of achieving zero hunger. The paper highlights the status of India in Global Hunger Index, and challenges, and suggest some measure to combat this problem.

### 1.0 Introduction

Extreme hunger and malnutrition continue to be a major impediment to many countries' growth. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were approved by the United National Assembly in September 2015 and predesigned to be accomplish by 2030 as an Agenda for Sustainable Development, a determination intended at altering our planet. Sustainable development goals have comprehensive assortment of 17 objectives targeted at enlightening a country's social, economic, and environmental conditions. The 2nd goal is Zero hunger of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to attain Zero Hunger by 2030, with the goal of ensuring that everyone has access to adequate food. As per UN Report, 821. Million (1in 9) to be chronically undernourished by 2018, up from 811 million in 2017 (UN Report, 2019).

India has a significant economic growth in recent years and produces enough to feed its population, but still the country have 194.4 Million i.e. 14.5% people are undernourished state (FAO). According to the Global Nutrition Report 2019, 20.8% children underweight and 51.4% of women are anemic. The analysis of NFHS-4 also reveals this problem.

According to NITI Aayog Sustainable Development Goals 2019, in the past two years, more Indians have fallen into poverty between 2005-06 and 2015-16. For India the zero hunger challenge is extremely relevant.

#### Objectives

- To highlights the current status of India in Global Hunger Index.
- To highlight the challenges to achieve zero hunger target
- To suggest the measures to overcome this serious issue.

### Research Methodology

The paper is based on secondary data: Global Hunger Index Report 2019, journals, articles, web sites, internet survey reports etc. related to this issue.

### Global hunger Index

Global hunger index is a tool that is planned to measure and trajectories hunger universally as well as by region and country. The Global Hunger Index is calculated yearly and its outcomes appear in a report issued in October every year. The International Food Policy Research (IFPRI) measures Global Hunger Index scores every year to assess progress or the lack thereof, in fighting with hunger. In 2019, Global Hunger Index the position of India in world ranking is 102 out of total 117 qualifying countries, with a score of 30.3%, it shows that India suffers from a level of hunger in serious situation. There are various Indicators of Global Hunger Index for malnutrition, Child Wasting, Child Stunting, Child

Mortality etc.

### Global Hunger Index Compositions

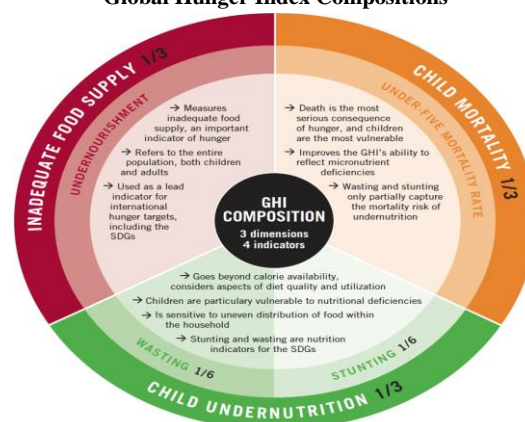


Figure-1.1: Global Hunger Index Organization

Figure 1.1 shows the dimensions and indicators of Global Hunger Index arrangement that apprehension the nutrition condition of the population as a whole particularly vulnerable set of population for whom a lack of dietary energy, protein and micro-nutrients (essential vitamins and minerals as well) leads to illness, poor Physical, Psychological and Cognitive development.

### Rank of India in GHI as compared to other countries 2019

Countries	Rank	Score
Brazil	18	1.5
Russia	22	5.8
China	25	6.5
South Africa	59	14.0
Sri Lanka	66	17.1
Myanmar	69	19.8
Nepal	73	20.8
Bangladesh	88	25.8
Pakistan	94	28.5
India	102	30.3

Figure: 1.2: Global Hunger Index 2019

It is clear from the figure 1.2 that in Global Hunger Index India ranked 102 out of total qualifying 117 countries with the serious hunger condition of India. Neighbourhood countries Sri Lanka stands 66th,

### \* Corresponding author

E-mail: [reena.sahota2173@gmail.com](mailto:reena.sahota2173@gmail.com) (Ms. Reena Sahota).

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<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0609-2906>



Myanmar 69th, Nepal 73rd, Bangladesh 88th, Pakistan 94th were also in a serious hunger level. India has better score than Brazil i.e. 1.5, Russia 5.8 and China 6.5 moved to a low severity category.

#### Status of India since 2014

YEAR	GHI SCORE OF INDIA	RANK
2014	17.8	55/76
2015	29.0	80/104
2016	28.5	97/118
2017	31.4	100/119
2018	31.1	103/119
2019	30.3	102/117

Figure-1.3: Global Hunger Index 2014 and 2019

The above figure shows that according to Global Hunger Index 2019, the rank of India is 102 out of 117 nations and categorized as a nation with serious hunger level. The score stands at 30.3, at a marginal improvement over the previous year 2018 at 31.1. Since 2014 India's ranking has slipped dramatically as high as 55 at 17.8 score, subsequently plunging to 80 at 29.9, 97 in 2016 at 28.5, 100 in 2017 at 31.4, and 103 in 2018 at 31.1 score with a continuous serious level of hunger.

#### Government Initiatives

The Govt. of India has taken significant steps to achieve SDGs Zero hunger target with various schemes and programmes as follows:

##### Food and Nutrition Schemes

- The National Food Security ACT, 2013.
- Integration Child Development Services.
- The Programs of nutrition meal to children in primary schools.
- Antyodaya Anna Yojna
- Public Distribution System
- POSHAM MAAH Abhiyan

##### Production and Climate Change

- The National Mission on Sustainable Agricultures.
- Agro Forestry Program Medh per Pedto quickly increase plantation.
- Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)
- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Beema Yojana
- Pandit Deendayal Unnat Krishi Shiksha Yojana and other educational initiatives.
- Massive irrigation, soil and water harvesting programs

##### UN Support

The United Nations supports Government efforts to scale up nutritional services, improve nourishing and caring practices at home and increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the safety nets under the National Food Security Act, and work towards raising farmers income for meagre and marginal farming household, the group offers support and strengthening livelihood and agricultural dimensions of antipoverty programmes as under:

- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
- National Rural Livelihood Mission

To hold a National Consultation on wheat flour protection, the group has cooperated with the Ministry of Health and Family welfare and Food Safety and Standards Authority of India organize a workshop on encouraging or a National Food Fortification Policy led by the Food and Agriculture Organization (F.A.O), United Children's fund (U.N.I.C.E.F), International Labour Organization (I.L.O), International Fund for Agriculture (I.F.D.A), United Nation Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of the women (U.N Women), International Organization for Migration (I.O.M), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and World Food Programmes (W.F.P). United Nations Development Programmes (U.N.D.P),

##### United Nation India (2019)

##### Challenges

Despite of various programmes and initiatives and UN support, the

country has a serious hunger with the following challenges:

- Poverty Conflicts
- Problem of Population Growth
- Lack of Sustainable Food system
- Unemployment
- Illiteracy
- Gender Inequality
- Impact of social change due to climate change, social, demographic and environmental degradation.
- Wastage of food
- Improper Implementation of Government initiatives and programs
- Poor Sanitation Conditions
- Poor Financial Conditions of farmers
- Inefficient Public Distribution system (Sahu 2019)
- Lack of Agricultural Development

##### Way forward or suggestions

To eliminate this serious issue the following steps should follow:

- Sustainable Food
- Food Donations
- Empowerment of poor families
- Urban Farming
- Women Empowerment
- Government Intervention
- Education opportunities
- Social Issues
- Birth Control Education
- Provide Health conditions
- Improve Child feeding practices.
- Safety Net Programs
- Improve Storage capacity of Food

##### Conclusion

From the above study it is clear that according to Global Hunger Index 2019, among the 117 countries, India has a serious level of hunger with 102 rank and 30.3 score in Hunger Severity Scale. While there is significant economic growth and enough food to feed its population, still the country is facing the challenge of extreme hunger and malnutrition with home to 25% of the world hungry population. The challenge of zero hunger seems to be unattainable goal of Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. To achieve this goal India requires a holistic approach ensuring accessible and nutritious food to reduce hunger and malnutrition with the proper investment in agriculture, changes in production and consumption pattern and effective implementation of safety net programmes by the Government at Macro and Micro Level in achieving the Zero Hunger Goal SDGs by 2030.

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