



## EFFECT OF FOOD SECURITY ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION: CASE STUDY ON KALAHANDI DISTRICT (ODISHA)

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### ABSTRACT

*“Access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life” defined by World Bank on food security and Similarly, the Planning Commission of India also defined food security as a situation where everyone has access, at all times, to food needed for an active and healthy life. In today’s scenario food insecurity is now being seen as the major problematic area in under developed countries & developing countries. While considering the poverty characteristic of Odisha the route cause are rural circumstance and stagnant agricultural aspect. Agricultural productivity is far below than that of national level. Some of the worst poverty stricken regions of the world like KBK region consisting of the districts of undivided Kalahandi, Bolangiri and Koraput are situated in southern and western part of Odisha. Although various poverty alleviation programmes have been in operation in the state, the incidence of poverty is insulated to these programmes. This paper discusses the causes and incidence of poverty in Kalahandi(Odisha) in line with food insecurity in the state.*

**KEYWORDS:** Food security, Socio-economic, Poverty, Hunger

### INTRODUCTION

Food security was understood as all people at all times have physical and economic access to adequate amount of world food supply of basic food stuffs, safe and culturally appropriate foods, which are produced in an environmentally, sustainable and socially just manner and that people are able to make informed decision about their food choices and to access a healthy diet, the challenge of global food security also depends upon physical, biological, socio-economic and political situation. Food access is closely linked to food supply, so food security is dependent on a healthy and sustainable food system (Production, processing distribution, marketing acquisition and consumption of food). In other word it said that a health sustainable food system is one that focuses on

environmental health, Economic vitality and human health and social equity. In many parts of India hunger is pervasive and chronic persisting even when weather is good and global agricultural production is adequate like Orissa. For the people of Orissa hunger is fundamentally a reflection of wealth, income and power within their societies and among nations. Hunger is important aspect indication food insecurity. Hunger is not just an expression of poverty, it brings about poverty.

### ABOUT TRIBAL COMMUNITY

All most 22% of the total population in Odisha is tribal. In rural Odisha the figure is higher at 25%. This is more than twice that of the national level Odisha has the maximum number of tribal communities (62 tribes



including 13 primitive tribes). According to census of India 2001 in Kalahandi value is 48.1 and Rank is 17. Particularly in Kalahandi District encroachment of tribal (Kondh) land by Kultas which led to control of productive assets by gountias, traders, money lenders, middleman and rich farmers mostly belonging to higher castes which deprives tribal1ds of their rights over land and forest and water. Food crises is not always owing to a different drop in the purchasing power but the nexus between landlords / money lenders and middle man has contributed to the vulnerability of STs,SCs, workers and farmers and landless labour to hunger, malnutrition, starvation and epidemic diseases. Women, children and old age people are worst affected during the food crises. Therefore hunger and mal nutrition occur even without any short fall in food production and availability.

### **FOOD HABIT AND PRINCIPAL CROP PRODUCED**

Measuring hunger terms of calorie intake or malnutrition alone does not explain scarcity deprivation and distress implicit in condition of famine that exists in Kalahandi. When death in strictly clinical term, cannot be related to starvation, the tragic reality remains that the latter often die of prolonged malnutrition and continuous distress which renders their inability to withstand common diseases like malaria and diarrhea. Seasonal hunger, a regular experience of tribal's, has been documented in terms of eating famine food wild root, bamboo tubes, mango kernels, edible root, with of sago palm power of tamarind seeds, and leaves wild plants, mushroom. Which have toxic elements as indentified by Indian Famine code 1880, distress migration, planning of children malnutrition and cases of starvation deaths? "Periodic Hunger" in this district has very little to do with trends of production because while drought is declared on the basis of 50 percent crop loss. The loss of minor millets, mostly consumed by tribal, is not taken into account. Through tribals depend on Agriculture for minor millets such as raggi gurjikodo and suan during certain months of a year (between January and March and between August and December). They collect food, fuel, fodder, fiber small timber, bamboo, medicinal herb, honey, bahada, harida, spices, manure and Mahul flowers from forest which provides them subsistence during most part of the year. Food habit not only varies across communities regions, class, caste, gender and religion but are also important to include minor millets/ pulses oil besides wheat and rice in the PDS (Public Distribution System) base, which has been limited only to cereals in most of the states. Therefore it is felt necessary to guide and educate farmers about

new technologies, provide rural infrastructure and make available market linkage and take more efforts area needed to improve the production of cash crops to make the tribal self reliant.

### **LAND HOLDING SYSTEM**

Land holding system is also responsible, to a great extent to bring up poverty in the region. Land ownership and occupancy rights have a long and complex trajectory in this region. In legal terms tribal land rights are well defined: First there is a lack of awareness amongst Adivasis about the land right, second over time tribal's have lost control over much of better land in the lower valleys. Food insecurity is directly linked to the defective land holding structure and the Gountia culture in the region, landless, marginal and small land holding and lack of irrigation facilities in the sample village are the major cause of food insecurity.

### **SLENDER IRRIGATION & COMMUNICATION**

It is observed that Kalahandi have large areas under rice cultivation, rice production is still low after getting irrigation facility in some area. It is likely that a large part of Orissa rice production is not commercial i.e. there is subsistence production and roads in rural areas act as feeder road, serving such areas where agriculture is the pre-dominant occupation, providing them with outlets to Urban market centers. These roads also play a significant role in opening up backward areas and accelerating socioeconomic development.

### **LOW LEVEL OF FEMALE LITERACY**

The other main responsible factor is the rural female literacy in Kalahandi. Enhancing female literacy has been recognized as the single most important factor contributing to increase in food security and decline in malnutrition and mortality levels. (Save the children 2008, Government of Orissa 2004). Rural female literacy figure is lower than 20 percent which is an alarming figure. This figure is less than one-third that of the coastal districts. In Kalahandi district female literacy in percent value 26.5 and the Rank is 24.

The women's work force participation (WWPR) improves the household access to food and is also likely to improve the women's own access to food, following a martyr series argument that women's independent income would increase their bargaining power within the household. At the same time women's participation in the rural workforce is likely to be negatively related to a household's food security situation. It would be highest among agricultural labours and go down as one moved up the land cultivating categories. Women's work force

participation is also likely to be related to caste and ethnicity. It is higher amongst STs, SCs and lower as one goes up the caste ladder. Thus one can expect a negative relation between women's workforce participation and household's food security in a rural situation. Actually tribal's suffering from deprivation in multiple ways which should be located within the larger historical process of change in their economic role and social status. Hence, it is imperative to study if the schemes and policies have structurally in ferried to eradicate poverty and hunger. It is even difficult to reduce poverty and hunger.

### **PURPOSE OF MIGRATION**

Now the question arises what are the underlying causes of violations of basic right to food. Has the availability of work stopped people to migrate? The current paradigms for analyzing the nature of the multifaceted problem of hunger and poverty should address some of the controversial issues. There are many question arises like-I is the India of University of the proposed food Security Act consistent with the existing schemes/ respect for culture difference two, what are the underlying causes of violations of basic right to food, Has the availability of work stopped people to migrate. Has 33 percent preference for women workers improved women economically implemented to bring about gender equality at work place. The Kalahandi experience reflects that a strategy of development which fails to seriously question the existing unequal distribution and control over productive resources, political power and socio-cultural structures which are hire archival and exploitations will be devoid of its purpose.

### **THE GOVERNMENT'S ALLEVIATION SCHEMES**

The Government Schemes CEFS (Centre for Environment and Food Security) has undertake PDS (public distribution system) 100 percent at PDS is special schemes best in Kalahandi under food safety net around rural development schemes like SGRY ( Swaranajayanti Gram Swarozagar Yozana), NREGS ( National Rural Employment Gramin Scheme), MDM ( Mid-day meals), AAY (Antyodaya yojana), NOAPS ( National Old Age Pension Arnapurna Scheme) which is 100 percent of NOAPS card holder in Kalahandi district. They are getting regular and fully amount of old age pension , ICDS ( Integrated Child Development Services) which is 20% in Kalahandi district did not get any ICDS benefit, NMBS ( National Maternity Benefit Scheme). Among all the food security and poverty alleviation scheme NMBS is worst performance in Kalahandi.

### **FOOD SECURITY INDEX ( FSI)**

The FSI (Food Security Index) is a composite index covering three dimensions i.e. Availability, Access and Absorption factors. Districts having higher index value are considered relatively more food secure compared to districts with lower index values. All variables included in the index are for rural areas. Besides there three groups of factors an additional component i.e. public entitlement has been used to explain how this influence & food security. The lower the level of food security the greater should be public entitlement.

### **SUGGESTIONS**

We also read to ensure that particularly importance is placed on community development and focus on Environmental Health Economic vitality and Human Health and Social equity. Making sure that healthy food are available economically and physically to the community and that people are able to access these food in a dignified manner. Efforts may be made establish agri expert zone on lines of private public partnership for export of fruits like mango, guava, custard apple, pineapple, jackfruit, vegetable and Harida , Bahada and spices and also cotton and oil seeds. Promotion of organic fertilizers though suitable subsidy, establishment of Bio-control laboratory use of Bio- fertilizers and reduce pesticide hazards and improve the actual yield of crops. Implement Universal PDS with exclusion of 25-30 percent households on the basis of objective parameters like employment in the organisational sector, ownership of motor vehicle Tax payee etc. Disclose all information regarding the actual delivery of food security and poverty alleviation scheme on the district websites. Creates and operates state level MIS (Management Information System) for all food security and Social Security Schemes detailed. Awareness campaign for enforcement of all food security entitlements at G.P. block and District levels properly for the help of villagers activist and NGOs.

### **CONCLUSION**

From the above analysis it follows that freedom for hunger should be recognized not just as a human right but also a political right and therefore it calls for structural intervention. People want the implantation of Government machinery, schemes and awareness programmes. We need to improve our delivery systems to provide basic services to our citizens. Alleviating hunger needs to address multiple structural issues such as lack of access to land, forest, water, food and other productive assets that is produce. Bringing tribal into the ambit of land distribution and empowering them to control

productive resources can ensure food security to two third of the poor. Now the media, communication govt. schemes and information technology can solve this object smoothly.

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