

Food insecurity: the defining Challenges of the Century ahead

Outline

1. Introduction

Thesis Statement: Food insecurity poses a significant and pressing threat to humanity, stemming from unequal distribution of resources and impact of human activities on food production. Comprehensive and well structured planning is required to mitigate this challenge.

2. Current Status of global food insecurity

3. How food insecurity defining challenges ahead?

- a. Bring poverty, malnutrition, and stunted growth
- b. Political turmoil and lack of trust in the state institutions
- c. Catastrophic economic conditions
- d. Promotes gender inequality
- e. Increases in social instability and vices
- f. Physiological and physical health disorder
- g. Educational structure damage

4. Causes of food insecurity

- a. The affects of climate change on the production of food
- b. Unbridled population growth
- c. Wars and conflicts among states at national and international level
- d. Dearth of credit and resources for farmers
- e. Extreme poverty due to unequal distribution of resources
- f. Global food waste: due to lack of policies

5. How to make the world food secure?

a. Adaptation to climate change

b. Arresting global population growth

c. Promoting global peace

d. Ensuring fair and equitable food resource distribution

6. Conclusion

In an Indian village, Asma, a young girl was living with her family. It was difficult to manage. Two times meal on the table from Asma's family ends. Asma asked one question to her mother, why we are facing food shortage? Her mother replied, we are poor, that's why we are facing. Like Asma, more than four billions of people are facing food insecurity in the world. The circle of global food insecurity increases gradually. It brings poverty, malnutrition, and stunted growth. It is the reason of catastrophic economic condition and due to it government and institutions have lost their status. The consequences of this is in political turmoil in the state and in the life. Global food insecurity not only promotes the gender inequality, but is also cause of many social vices. Humans suffer physiological as well as physical health problems. Moreover, it leads to educational barriers in the security. The humanity suffers this insecurity because of climate change and uncontrolled population. Wars and conflicts among the states at national and international levels are responsible of this insecurity. Lack of credit and resources for farmers and unequal distribution of resources are also contributes in this insecurity. Moreover, the wastage of food also plays a key role in food insecurity. This challenge can be mitigate easily by adaptation to climate change, peace among countries, equal food resources distribution, and controlling the global

population growth. Food insecurity poses a significant and pressing threat to humanity, stemming from unequal distribution of resources, and impact of human activity on food production. Comprehensive and well-structured planning is required to mitigate this challenge.

Currently, food insecurity is a big challenge that is faced by whole globe. Food insecurity plays a key role in depreciation of world economy. Food insecurity means that one has worked whole day and night, but is not able to get three time meal on the table. If even the state is full of resources, but internal and external factors contribute to a key role in this insecurity. It is prime duty of every state to provide food to every citizen of that state. World Bank and United Nations already warned the world about food insecurity. According to Global Hunger Index, 9.2 percent of world population is affected from food insecurity. It is a big challenge that affects the whole world.

Global food insecurity brings poverty, malnutrition which result in stunted growth. Food insecurity is directly linked with the poverty. When people have no money then how they fulfil the food requirements. Shortage of food results in malnutrition which lead to health issues like stunted growth. For instance, the average age of underdeveloped countries are less as compared to average.

age of developed countries population. According to Global Hunger Index, almost 50% of Pakistan's women and children face high nutrition deficits, which triggers deficiencies and long-term serious health impacts. This difference is the reason of underdeveloping countries. Poverty and malnutrition is the result of food insecurity.

Political turmoil and lack of trust in institutions are the factors that make the global food insecurity a death knell. Pakistan faces political turmoil and internal instability; resultant, no international financial institutions granted loans on moderate conditions. Similar conditions are prevalent in many other countries like Sri Lanka and Argentina. There is poor national integration because of internal instability which affects the production of food and food chain process. The 23rd IMF program for Pakistan was not successful because of political turmoil and resultant Pakistan faces a lot of problems during achieving 2023-2024 food targets. The result of this is seen in high inflation and catastrophic country social conditions. Global food insecurity is defining challenge because of political instability and paucity of institutions trust from public ends.

Catastrophic economic conditions of many underdeveloping states lead the world toward food insecurity. The financial distance between Global North countries and

Global South countries increases gradually that affect the food production and supply chain. As a result, almost 50 percent of world population faces food problems.

The humanitarian crises in Gaza, Ukraine, Afghanistan, Sudan etc are the result of war and economic. The result is increasing food insecurity. The GDP of world economy is decreasing gradually. According to IMF, the world GDP in 2022 was 3.4% but it fell down in 2023 till 2.9%.

The result of this failing is increasing unemployment and increasing food insecurity. Economic worst conditions of many countries lead to global food insecurity.

Global food insecurity promotes gender inequality in society. Gender inequality rises due to domestic violence, as family faces food shortage which propagates this violence. Food insecurity leads to forced labour, early marriage, subjugation and illiteracy. All these factors in gender inequality linked with financial system. The result of financial weak system is in form of food insecurity. The more financial weak system, more food insecurity, and more suppression the emancipation of gender. According to Women's Financial Inclusion Data Partnership, there will be an estimated 32% gender gap in access to formal financial services by 2030 in Pakistan. It is because, the alleviation in food insecurity, the increasing in gender gap. Global food insecurity promotes gender inequality.

Increases in social instability and vices is the result of food insecurity. When number of people in a society face shortage of food then all societal vices also increases because people adopt the wrong path to fulfil the food requirement. Such evils are terrorism, human extortion, human trafficking, extremism, beggary, and child labour. To get money for food, people are ready for any illegal activity and do not put interest in society or country. Many countries face this issues like Pakistan, India, UK etc In Pakistan, food is available, but people are unable to purchase it because of inflation and poverty. To fulfil the gap between purchasing power, people adopt illegal and unethical work for money. Shoot up of vices and social instability due to food insecurity is the problem that world is facing now.

Physiological and physical health disorder because of food insecurity sounds of death knell. Human body required sufficient food for mental and physical health stability and growth. When this requirement is not fulfill, then humans will suffer health issues that lead to death. Anxiety, depression, and suicidal tendencies are the results of physiological and physical health disorder, and million of people suffer these challenges due to food insecurity. According to Global Report on Crisis about 258 million people suffer from induced depression in 2022. Human health is affected

due to food insecurity which leads to death.

Educational structure is greatly affected due to food insecurity. When students face hunger issue, how can they get education. Researchers suggest that children's learning outcomes suffer when they regularly experience hunger and that nearly every aspect of physical and mental function is hurt as well. Food insecurity affects concentration, memory, mood, and motor skills; which a child needs to be able successful in school. When parents do not provide two time meal on table, then students leave the school and starting working to overcome family burden. Food insecurity greatly damage the education process. Now, transition to causes of food insecurity.

Climate change affects on the production of food. The temperature of world is increasing gradually and resultant the natural requirements for agriculture is disturbs. Moreover, floods in many countries damage the food production. In 2022, the food production in Pakistan was declined because of drastic flood. The agriculture production from sindh and KPK was not up to mark. The result of this on the Pakistan shown in decline GDP of the country. Similar conditions are occurred in many Asian and African countries. The locust attack in India, Pakistan, and African countries damaged the food production. In 2024, the locust ate

one-third crops. That's why, food insecurity is becoming more severe challenge due to climate change.

Second causes of food insecurity is rapid growth in population of the world. The earth is same as in 1800s but population is three time as compared to 1800s. According to US Census Bureau, the population was in 1960 about 3 billion, in 2000 6 billion and in 2022 8 billions.

The means and mode of production are same but in advanced condition, on the other hand, mouths are increasing day by day. That's why food insecurity is increasing on day basis. Similarly, Pakistan, an agriculture state, import the wheat and other food products shows that population play an important part in food insecurity. According to World Food Program, food inflation is heighest in Venezuela and in Pakistan, it is 40 percent. More mouth, more food that is the cause of food insecurity.

Third cause is war and conflicts among the countries are main reason in increasing food insecurity. The Russia-Ukraine war damage the food supply chain. These countries supplies 30 percent world food in different countries. But, after the war, continue war in Black sea halted the import and export of wheat. Moreover, in Gaza, about 2.2 million people are living on imported food and similar conditions in Swadan and in Yemen. Countries internal conflicts are also play a pivotal

role in reduction of food production. Food insecurity is due to war and conflicts among the states.

Fourth reason is the lack of resources and credits for farmers which play an important role in food insecurity. A country like Pakistan, where 70 percent land is suitable for agriculture, but lack of seed, high cost of fertilizers and lack of advanced machinery are hurdles in production of excessive food. Many countries face same challenges. The technological gap between global North and Global South is the main reason in food production. The pesticides, energy, and seeds are expensive and 25 percent interest rate on loan make the production in decline mode. That's why, many farmers preferred harvesting vegetables, sugar cane instead of wheat. Dearth of resources and money lead to food insecurity.

Fifth cause is extreme poverty due to unequal distribution of resources between bourgeoisie and proletariats. The economy system that ruled the world is capitalist, where economy and means of productions are controlled by only two percent of the world's population. Remaining 98 percent are depending on the upper class. Similarly, the economic gap between Global North and Global South is increasing and resultant increasing in food insecurity. The unfair trade rule and heavy trade duties, dominance of dollar^{etc} in the economic system

increases the poverty. The unemployment rate in Asia and Africa is high as compared to USA and European states. The result is increasing food insecurity in these regions. Poverty is also one of the cause of food insecurity.

Food waste is the sixth cause of food insecurity. When food is wasting, but number of mouths are increasing, then food insecurity is increasing. About one-third of global food is waste. A lot of food is wasting in restaurants and marriage halls. Similarly, a lot of food is wasted during harvesting and transportation. According to Food and Agriculture Organization of UN, about 1.3 gigatons of edible food is wasted each year. Food insecurity is due to wastage of food around the world. Now, coming towards the mitigation of these challenges.

Adaptation to climate change helps in food insecurity. Transition from non-renewable fossil fuels to friendly renewable energy sources protect the environment from climate change. All countries must be honouring COP27 and COP28 commitments. Moreover, India and Pakistan must promote irrigation system for agriculture. To make the world food secure, comprehensive planning and implementation is required in environment sector. To counter the food insecurity, the world must adapt climate friendly sources of energy.

Controlling the population is important

for food security. The population growth is essential but too much growth is harmful for the ecosystem as well as for the humanity. Many countries are totally dependent on import in food sector. Proper family planning will be helpful in this regard. A country like India, Pakistan, and African countries must adopt one child policy because these countries population is increasing fast. When mouths will be less the food will be enough. Arresting global population growth to make the food secure.

Promoting global peace is essential for food security. Many countries are in internal conflicts and war between Russia and Ukraine is no ending word. The United Nations must ensure to end all conflicts and wars with mutual understanding of involved countries. Where there is peace, there is prosperity and more food. This will definitely secure the food. Global peace is essential for food security.

Ensuring fair and equitable food resources distribution for food security. Currently, world is on Capitalism where wealth is revolving around some people. Either it is industry or agriculture land, few families control the world. Equal and equitable land, resources distribution will be helpful in food security. The workers work day and night, but get small in return. That's why socialism is best to counter food insecurity. Government must perform this

policy and work for human development. Food insecurity is easily counter with equal distribution of land and resources.

In a nut shell, food insecurity is increasing gradually, but it can be counter easily. Every state adopt one-child policy to control population growth, equal distribution of land and resources, and adopting climate friendly mood are given suggestions which helps in this regard.

It is truly said, "God helps those who help themselves."

Every individual along with state can easily overcome this challenge. Food is basic need and without food nothing because it is ^{need of} survival on earth. Human development is directly linked with food and without food no work, education, and development is beneficial. According to **James Bead** "Food is our common ground."