

Topic: Food insecurity: the defining challenge of the century ahead.

### OUTLINE:

#### 1- Introduction

Thesis statement: Food insecurity can result from complex interplay of various factors. It has become a serious challenge of the century ahead. However, this multifaceted challenge can be addressed by taking adequate measures.

#### 2- An overview of food insecurity

#### 3- Factors that show food insecurity has become a challenge of the century ahead:

- (a) Armed conflicts and wars: Disruption of demand and supply phenomenon
- (b) Economic shocks and rising inflation
- (c) Poverty and unequal distribution of resources
- (d) Limited agricultural resources
- (e) Excessive population growth
- (f) Frequent natural disasters and crop failure due to global warming

(g) Excessive production of biofuels: Surge in food and fertilizer prices

4. Way Forward to address the challenges faced by food production and security:

(a) Adopt climate smart agricultural practices

(b) Promote global peace and security

(c) Control excessive population growth

(d) Ensure fair and equitable food resources distribution

5. Conclusion

In the world where technological advancement and scientific breakthroughs are pushing the boundaries of perceived limits, hunger which is the very basic human subject remains a persistent challenge. Utilizing the World Food Programme (WFP) survey, over 20 million people around the world go to bed hungry each night. This marks every tenth person in the world insecure with the number getting worse day by day. There are many factors that show the food insecurity has become a serious challenge to human. Starting with armed conflicts and wars which further create the economic shocks and mark an increase in inflation. Unequal distribution of resources and limited agricultural land are another cases in point. Furthermore, excessive population growth also poses a threat to food security. Moreover, frequent natural disasters and crop failure due to climate

change add fuel to the fire. However, fortunately enough for the mankind, this multifaceted challenges can be addressed to provide food security. These include, adaptation of climate smart agricultural practices, promotion of global peace and security, and distribution of equitable resources of food. In a nutshell, food insecurity can result from complex interplay of various factors. It has become a challenge of the century ahead. However, this multifaceted challenge can be addressed by taking adequate measures.

Food insecurity refers to the lack of consistent access to enough food for an active and healthy life. There are many reason which pave the way to food insecurity. The Global network against food crisis addressed the root causes of food insecurity and released its report on Food Crisis 2023. The

report provides a comprehensive analysis of key factors that drives food crisis globally, including conflict, climate change, and economic shocks.

Over a quarter of a billion people are estimated to face acute hunger. This report also highlights the need for comprehensive and coordinated efforts to address the food insecurity.

Starting with the factors showing food insecurity as a serious challenges ahead is an armed conflict and wars. Due to the conflicts, supply and demand gap increases. This further creates shortages in providing food. In many cases, conflicts disrupts agricultural production and hampers food distribution and access. According to the Global Report on Food Crisis, conflict was the main driver of food insecurity. Across 130 million people faced acute food insecurity in 2022. This figure shows the conflicts and war as a major challenge to ~~provide~~ food insecurity.

Furthermore, economic shocks and price hike in commodities ~~are~~ are also a challenge to provide food security in the world. Developing countries with already facing economic instability get affected by this price hike. Resultantly, the rise in inflation occurs. Food inflation in Pakistan was 11.8% in 2022, and it witnessed an ample increase with 37.9% in 2023, Economy Survey of Pakistan 2023. This shows that ~~low~~ food insecurity has become a serious challenge for the low-income countries like Pakistan.

Additionally, poverty and unequal distribution of resources further exacerbates the food insecurity situation. The world is already seeing a divide between global north and global south. The access to limited resources by poor countries adds fuel to the fire. Due to which people cannot get access

to the food production, and the countries face hunger. According to the report given by Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations, over 4 million people face poverty in the world. This emphasizes that poverty is a major defining challenge of the food insecurity.

Moreover, excessive population growth also pose a serious challenge in order to achieve a food security. With the increase in population rate, the demand of resources also increases. Disruption in supply chains and increase in demand further creates the food shortages especially in developing countries. There is a significant increase in population in Pakistan with the rate of 2.7% as compare to 2018. This highly populated figure shows that food insecurity has become a challenge to mankind.

Following this, frequent natural disasters and failure of crop cultivation also a challenge reason that complicates the challenges of food insecurity. Global warming poses a serious threat to mankind in many ways. Natural disasters and floods hamper the production of food in agricultural based countries. According to Food Agricultural Organization report, the total damage and loss in the agriculture sector was estimated at almost \$ 13 billion, consisting mainly of crops and livestock. This figure shows that climate change badly affects the food security, and it is one of the factors that become challenge of food insecurity.

Lastly, Excessive production of biofuels also paves the way to food insecurity. The more the production of biofuels, the more the surge in food and



fertilizer prices. Consequently, agricultural production will be declined which further exacerbates the food insecurity. On the one hand, fertilizers prices are increased, on the other hand there is lack of access to fertile land. This results in low in food production.

However, fortunately enough for the mankind, the challenge of food insecurity can be addressed efficiently. Firstly, there is a need to adopt climate smart agricultural practice. This means that ~~activate~~ and implement the climate based policies. Cultivation of crops which are drought resilient. This can also be achieved by honouring COP27 and COP28 commitments. The goal of moving towards climate friendly energy system can mitigate the global warming thus eliminate the risk of ~~the~~ natural disasters which poses a threat to food security.

Secondly, promotion of global peace and security is the need of the hour. To ensure peace, international organizations must ~~also~~ take steps to enhance the role of peace ~~and~~ promoting organizations and encourage the global powers to end the global conflicts. In this way, the disruption in food supply chain can be mitigated. In the words of James Beard, Food is our common ground. This shows that developed countries should ensure the peace and stability in the world thus providing food security to the hunger people around the world.

Thirdly, control of excessive population growth in order to provide food to the demanding people. Developing countries like Pakistan is already facing food shortages. With the increase in population, the demand of food resources also increases.

Therefore, there must be an awareness about family planning in the country. In this way, food security can be achieved.

Last but not least, ensure fair and equitable food distribution. There are many people ~~who~~ living in underdeveloping areas. They cannot get access to the healthy food in order to live a healthy life. According to scholars, Hunger is not an issue of charity; it is an issue of justice. This emphasizes that giving equal food distribution can mitigate the challenge of food insecurity.

To conclude, it can be said that food insecurity is a serious challenge of the century ahead. Factors including, economic shocks, global conflicts, climate change, and population growth are assuring the food

insecurity as a major challenge ahead. However, these challenges can be addressed by comprehensive and coordinated efforts by both developed and developing countries. The world can mitigate the challenge of food insecurity by promoting sustainable agriculture, enhancing food distribution systems, and alleviating poverty. It is hoped that one third of world population can get food production and security.

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