

Topic:

# Food Insecurity: The Defining Challenge of the Century Ahead.

## Outline

1. Introduction
2. What is Food Insecurity? An Overview
3. What are the possible causes of food insecurity of this century?

(i) Changing climate and weather pattern are responsible for the food insecurity crisis.

Case in Point: Famines and Droughts in Developing world

(ii) Rapidly increasing population and food shortage

Case in Point: 2-3% annual increase rate, 8bn people

(iii) Threat of wars, conflicts, and disruption of global supply chains

Case in Point: • Russia - Ukraine war  
• Israel Palestine conflict

(iv) Outdated agricultural practices results in barren land and water logging

(v) melting economies and soaring food inflation

Case in Point: Food Inflation in Europe and South Asia

(vi) food wasting habits of people and lack of awareness

#### 4. Elucidation of the possible consequences of the food insecurity.

(i) Possibility of collapsing health system due to rising malnutrition cases

Case in Point: 2pc malnourished population: WHO Report

(ii) Increasing rate of unemployment and poverty

(iii) Resulting in possible higher rate of crime due to hunger

Case in Point: Crime Rate in Karachi

(iv) Soaring inflation and economic downfall

Case in point: USA spends 2pc GDP on feeding population

(v) Resulting in violent conflicts between nations to secure food.

## 5. A Way Forward to Mitigate the Challenge of Food Insecurity

~~1st~~ (i) Taking actions to overcome the challenge of climate change

Case in point: "Zero Carbon Emissions Policy"

(ii) Modernizing agricultural practices to overcome the issue of barren lands

Case in point: Agricultural practices of China

(iii) Controlling the rapidly increasing population rate

Case in point: "Birth Control Policy of China"

(iv) Resolving conflicts between nations through mediation

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(v) Controlling food inflation by  
bringing reforms

(vi) Educating people to change  
their food wasting habits

## 6. Conclusion

# Essay

## Food Insecurity: The Defining Challenge of the Century Ahead.

Food insecurity is the defining challenge of the century ahead. It is defined as the lack of consistent access to the food to live a healthy life. Despite making progress on all fronts with the technological advancement, the food security is a looming crisis of the 21st century. There are a number of factors that are responsible for the unfolding food emergency at the global level, including climate change, population crisis, and threat of wars and conflicts. The emerging intensity of the violent conflicts between the nations is responsible for disrupting global supply chains that are resulting in food insecurity.

According to the World Food Programme (WFP) 2022, around 1.8

billion people in the world are suffering from hunger due to the shortage of food and inadequate access to the proper diet. Moreover, it is estimated that food insecurity can result in an uncontrollable disaster that can harm the world economic system and the health system. Therefore, it is the need of the hour to mitigate the unfolding crisis of the food insecurity before it will turn into a violent conflict.

Moreover, the food insecurity is defined as the shortage of food that is necessary for the human beings to spend a healthy life. It is an adverse situation in which people don't have enough food to eat and they don't have access to the two meals in a day that an average person consumes to fulfill the needs of the body. It has significant impacts on the human body that can affect the proper functioning of a

person. It results in the stunted and malnourished population that wastes their productive potential and makes them a burden on the economy of a country. According to United States Department of Agriculture, around 44 million experience food insecurity annually.

However, there are a number of reasons that are responsible for the looming crisis of food insecurity in the 21st century. One of the challenges is the rapidly changing climate and weather patterns. The changing climate is responsible for the production capacity of the food at the national and the international level. The increasing rate of floods, droughts, and temperature are affecting the world food cycle. The extreme weather patterns are impacting the crop production that are essential to meet the human needs worldwide. For instance, the extreme weather pattern and floods in 2022 caused havoc

in Pakistan and damage the production of wheat and grains.

Moreover, the rapidly increasing population is another factor that is responsible for the rapid shortage of the food. According to the World Population Programme of the UN, the world population is increasing by 2pc to 3pc rate annually. The current world population is standing at eight billion people globally. But the situation of the food production is deteriorating rapidly. The current food produced is ~~not~~ not enough to meet the need of the eight billion people. It is observed that the food consumption patterns of the eight billion people differs from each other that are responsible for the food insecurity as well.

Similarly, the increasing threat of wars, conflicts, and disruption of global supply chains are responsible



for the looming crisis of the food insecurity. For instance, the Russia Ukraine war badly affected the global supply chain globally. According to the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), Ukraine is the biggest exporter of grain to the Europe. The Russian attacks on the Ukraine are responsible for the food shortage world wide. Similarly, the Houthis attack on the ships passing from Red Sea in solidarity with the Palestine is disrupting global supply chain.

Moreover, the outdated agricultural practices are responsible for the food insecurity world wide. It is observed that outdated agricultural practices turns a productive land into a barren land and leads towards the problem of water logging. It can deplete the soil nutrients and organic matters that are necessary

for the food production. According to the WFP, around 30pc of the crop is wasted annually due to the obsolete farming techniques.

Similarly, the food inflation is another reason for the food insecurity worldwide. There are many multinational companies that introduce different systems to malign the price rate of eatables. The manipulation of world economy by the business mafias is another reason for the rapidly increasing food insecurity. The melting economies are unable to meet the needs and demands of the rapidly increasing population. The food inflation rate in Pakistan is standing at 29pc in 2024.

Last but not the least, the food wasting habits of people are equally responsible for the looming

crisis of the food insecurity. It is estimated that each year around 1.8 million tonnes of food is wasted by people on different occasions and in general. The purchasing and consumption pattern of the people are responsible for the food shortage worldwide.

However, food insecurity has adverse implications for the global world. One of the possible consequence of the food insecurity is the collapsing health system due to rising cases of the malnutrition worldwide. According to the World Health Organization Report 2022, around 2pc population currently is malnourished. People don't have access to the proper meals that are essential to meet the bodily needs of the human beings. Malnutrition is one of the major problems observed in the Sindh Thal region of Pakistan. There are many children in Pakistan

most are malnourished and stunted to inadequate access to the food.

Moreover, the food insecurity results in the rapid increase of the unemployment and poverty rate worldwide. The lack of access to the food compromise the productivity of the young adults compromising their ability to develop required skills for a particular job. Eventually, it results in a increased rate of poverty. For instance, the poverty rate in Pakistan and India are the result of the poor employment opportunities resulted from a wasted talent of population due to the malnutrition.

Similarly, the food insecurity results in the higher crime rate in different region. Hunger is the major reason behind the increased crime rate worldwide. In order to

fulfill the nutrition needs, people start engaging in different crime, including smuggling, robberies, and killing citizens in order to fulfill their needs. For instance, the increased crime rate in Karachi is the result of the rising food inflation in the country.

Furthermore, the food insecurity results in the rapid increase of the violent conflicts between the nations. Each country spends its resources to mitigate the needs of its population in order maintain its national integrity. According to the International Crisis Group, the food insecurity will be the major cause of war between nations towards the end of the 21st century. For instance, Ukraine in 2022 suspended the export of grain to the Europe due to the food insecurity issue at home. Similarly, India

in 2023 suspended the export of onion worldwide due to the shortage of onion production in its own country.

However, a comprehensive strategy can help mitigate the looming crisis of food insecurity worldwide. It is the need of the hour to take steps to control the climate emergency worldwide. The changing climate and weather patterns are responsible for the rising threat of the food insecurity.

In COP 29, countries in Dubai pledged to overcome the issue of rapid emissions of the carbon. The "Zero Carbon Emission Policy" is the only way forward that can secure the adequate amount and access of food for the general population.

Moreover, there is a need to modernize the agricultural practices worldwide. With the

advant of technology, it become quite easy to enhance the nutrient value of the soil with the help of the agricultural foods. In this regard, china is an example. It is observed that china is using robots, temperature and moisture sensors, aerial images and GPS technology to increase the crop production. The use of robotics in agriculture is beneficial for the humanity.

Similarly, the rapid increase of population is responsible for the food insecurity. It can be mitigated by controlling population. The less number of people will consume less food and it will become ~~easy~~ easy to manage the demand and the supply of food world wide. In this regard, china is an example. China introduced the 'one child policy' in the country to overcome the burden of the people on the national economy. It is the need

of the hour to implement the "One Child Policy" globally to overcome the challenge of food insecurity.

Moreover, the conflicts and wars are responsible for disrupting the global food chains that impact the access of food to the people. There is a need to overcome the conflicts with the help of dialogue to control the escalating conflicts. The peace talks between Russia and Ukraine can eliminate the disruption of grain supply from Ukraine to the other regions of the world. Similarly, the solution of Israel and Palestine war with the help of diplomacy can control it from spreading into the Middle East. It is the need of the hour to put the peace talks on the priority list to overcome the challenges of food insecurity.

Last but not the least, it is necessary to educate people and raise



awareness at national and international level with the help of different forums. The food wasting and consumption habits of the people are responsible for the food insecurity crisis world wide. The awareness program can guide people to change these patterns and to collaborate with world organization to save other people.

In conclusion, food insecurity has become one of the defining challenge of the 21st century. But it can be overcome by taking appropriate measures that involve mitigating the risk of climate change, resolving conflicts and wars through peace talks, and controlling population rate world wide. It is the need of the hour to raise awareness at national and international level to aware people about the sensitivity of the situation. With the rapid technological advancement

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and by taking timely measures the issue of food insecurity can be mitigated. The economic reforms and measures to control inflation are necessary. According to Bill Gates, "Hunger is something no one should struggle with or be judged for."