

Chapter - 8

Empirical Studies

Hunger, Poverty and Silence: The Synergy of Danger and Dereliction in the Social Ecology of India

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Abstract: More than one billion people in the world are reeling under the social venom of hunger and against each of 3.4 second; we are losing one hungry child forever. This been the world scenario, the challenges of food security have been turned into a struggle for social existence food security. While describing food security, it is the contribution of polymorphic factors like access to food, quality of food, cost of food and then food free of social and gender discrimination. The paper examines the trifoliate disposition of the threats that refrains a hungry bowl from getting food. The combination of three social decadents viz. hunger, poverty and silence has been inextricably tuned. It is found that when people go silent or kept silent, *poverty* goes up and then hunger has become the worst and coercive consequence to poverty. Silence in this study has been conceived as a situation of getting ‘uninformed’, ‘unvoiced’ and ‘non-verbal’. The neo-

information divide as a resultant of explicit globalization has vitiated the situation further. The section of the population remaining un-tuned to the sources of information and impact of being selectively uninformed are invariably getting complex in social economic and cultural terms in present India. So, this would suggest a lot of interventions to be made including scale neutrality of technology, announced entitlement to resources, drastic change in policy and governance and academic researches with human faces both at micro and macro level of functioning right at this moment. The methodology used in this study includes both participatory data generation and survey method. The field data then undergo a multivariate analysis to estimate the reticulate impact of poverty hunger and silence through a mutually synchronized interaction. It has been astoundingly found that both the hunger and poverty are inextricably reticulated to silence to infer that silence of people has been enrooted into their hunger and poverty. People are poor because they are not allowed to speak; they are hungry because they prefer to remain silent. All the qualitative variables under study have been quantified by application of scales and underwent z-transformation for their normalization to befit against normal distribution curve.

Keywords: Uninformed section, Unvoiced, Non-verbal, Explicit globalization, Scale neutrality of technology, selectively uninformed, food security.

Introduction:

More than one billion people in the world are reeling under the social venom of hunger and against each of 3.4 second; we are loosing one hungry

child forever. This been the world scenario, the challenges of food security have been turned into a struggle for social existence food security. While describing food security, it is the contribution of polymorphic factors like access to food, quality of food, cost of food and then food free of social and gender discrimination. The paper examines the trifoliate disposition of the threat that refrains a hungry bowl from getting food. The combination of three social decadents' viz. hunger, poverty and silence has been inextricably tuned. It is found that when people go silent or kept silent, poverty goes up and then hunger has become the worst and coercive consequence to poverty. Silence in this study has been conceived as a situation of getting 'uninformed', 'unvoiced' and 'non-verbal'. The neo-information divide as a resultant of explicit globalization has vitiated the situation further. The section of the population remaining un-tuned to the sources of information and impact of being selectively uninformed are invariably getting complex in social economic and cultural terms in present India. So, this would suggest a lot of interventions to be made including scale neutrality of technology, announced entitlement to resources, drastic change in policy and governance and academic researches with human faces both at micro and macro level of functioning right at this moment.

Objectives:

- To present a concept on interaction amongst poverty, hunger and silence.
- To generate an axiomatic paradigm on hunger and food security.

- To highlight the perceived threats of poverty-hunger-silence and for necessary policy implication

World wide hunger and poverty scenario:

- Some 1.1 billion people in developing countries have inadequate access to water, and 2.6 billion lack basic sanitation.
 - Almost two in three people lacking access to clean water survive on less than \$2 a day, with one in three living on less than \$1 a day.
 - More than 660 million people without sanitation live on less than \$2 a day, and more than 385 million on less than \$1 a day.
 - Some 1.8 million child deaths each year as a result of diarrhea.
 - The loss of 443 million school days each year from water-related illness.
 - Close to half of all people in developing countries suffering at any given time from a health problem caused by water and sanitation deficits.
 - Millions of women spending several hours a day collecting water
- 1.02 billion people do not have enough to eat - more than the populations of USA, Canada and the European Union;
- The number of undernourished people in the world increased by 75 million in 2007 and 40 million in 2008, largely due to higher food prices;
- 907 million people in developing countries alone are hungry;
 - Asia and the Pacific region is home to over half the world's population and nearly two thirds of the world's hungry people;
 - More than 60 percent of chronically hungry people are women;

- 65 percent of the world's hungry live in only seven countries: India, China, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan and Ethiopia.
- Every six seconds a child dies because of hunger and related causes;
- More than 70 percent of the world's 146 million underweight children under age five years live in just 10 countries, with more than 50 per cent located in South Asia alone;
- 10.9 million children under five die in developing countries each year. Malnutrition and hunger-related diseases cause 60 percent of the deaths;

Silence/ unvoiced:

"Nobody hears the poor. It is the rich who are being heard."—a discussion group of poor men and women, Egypt

"Poverty is humiliation, the sense of being dependent and of being forced to accept rudeness, insults, and indifference when we seek help."—a poor woman, Latvia

"When the poor and rich compete for services, the rich will always get priority."—a discussion group of poor men and women, Kenya.

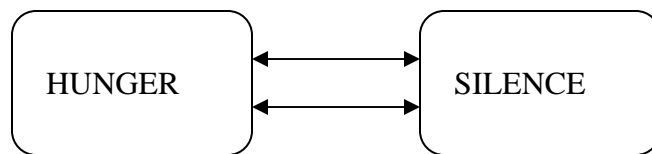
Poverty is powerlessness and voicelessness:

The defining experiences of poor people involve highly limited choices and an inability to make them heard or to influence or control what happens to them. Powerlessness results from multiple, interlocking disadvantages, which, in combination, make it extremely difficult for poor people to escape poverty. By and large, poor people say that insecurity of life has increased and they have not been able to take advantage of new opportunities because

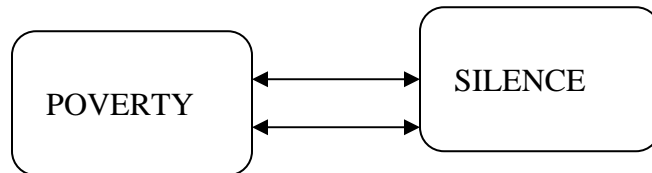
of corruption and a lack of connections, assets, finance, information and skills.

Many poor people define poverty as the inability to exercise control over their lives. Old men in Nigeria say, "If you want to do something and have no power to do it, it is taluchi/ poverty." Limited resources force poor people to think in terms of very short time horizons. "You can't think of the future because you can only see how to survive in the present," says a group of young adults in Ecuador.

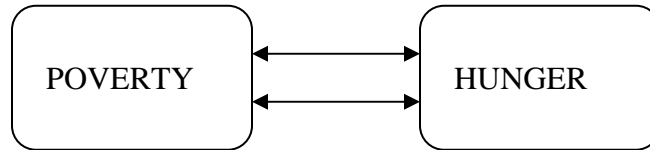
The process of synergyzing poverty, hunger and silence:



Of 370 million people of India suffering from abject poverty, are also away from mainstream communication process. 45% of them are illiterate, 25% are only TV viewers. They are kept silent or prefer to go silent because they are state with hunger.



People are poor because their voice to protest or claim is not up heat yet. Poor people are lacking far behind in presenting alternatives, delivering messages, they are not allowed to have leadership even.



Poverty means denial to the source of food, water and social esteem. Everyday intake of food is very fast dwindling its just 275-350 gm per day of cereals and 65-70gm of vegetables/day/capita. Poverty and hunger are inextricably related.

- Poverty (P) is strongly correlated to Hunger(H). (r value 0.672)
- The highest indirect effect is passing through the uninformed status(S) (S=0.465) in a regression analysis.
- The b value being 0.78, it is to say that one unit change in poverty (P) is contributing to 0.78 unit change in communication status.
- The d2 value has been found highest for silence (S) in characterizing both hunger and poverty.

Poverty:

- Nearly a billion people entered the 21st century unable to read a book or sign their names.
- Less than one per cent of what the world spent every year on weapons was needed to put every child into school by the year 2000 and yet it didn't happen.
- Infectious diseases continue to blight the lives of the poor across the world. An estimated 40 million people are living with HIV/AIDS, with 3 million deaths in 2004. Every year there are 350–500 million cases of

malaria, with 1 million fatalities: Africa accounts for 90 percent of malarial deaths and African children account for over 80 percent of malaria victims worldwide.

- For the 1.9 billion children from the developing world, there are:
 - 640 million without adequate shelter (1 in 3)
 - 400 million with no access to safe water (1 in 5)
 - 270 million with no access to health services (1 in 7)
 - Children out of education worldwide: 121 million

Hunger:

- Asia and the Pacific region is home to over half the world's population and nearly two thirds of the world's hungry people;
- More than 60 percent of chronically hungry people are women;
- 65 percent of the world's hungry live in only seven countries: India, China, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan and Ethiopia. Every year WFP feeds more than 20 million children in school feeding programmes in some 70 countries. In 2008, WFP fed a record 23 million children

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