

Hunger, Poverty and Voice: The Impact and Interrelation

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Abstract—In this modern and dynamic world where the emperorship of man is indomitably being established whether by the creation of Artificial Intelligence or by understanding the mystery of the universe, it's an agony of the mankind that near about 750 million people do not have enough food and nearly half of the world's population that is nearly 1.3 billion people are living under extreme poverty. 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. 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 refrain a hungry bowl from getting food. The combination of three social decadants viz. hunger, poverty and voice 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. This section of the population is remaining un-tuned to the sources of information and impact of being selectively uninformed. So, this would suggest a lot of interventions to be made including scale neutrality of technology informed entitlement to resources and change in policy.

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

INTRODUCTION

Even with the swashbuckling claim on growth and prosperity on the present civilization, the other side of this prosperity is so brick and disastrous that have no match for the past centuries even. Out of around 7 billion population of the world, 1.5 billion are hungry. They don't have adequate access to food, if it is there, the quality doesn't stand anywhere near to fulfil their calorie requirement. In India 350 million people are living below the poverty line and of them, 200 million people have become victim to moderate to extreme hunger indexes. 42 per cent of the new born babies are under weight. 60 per cent of the children are suffering from moderate to high level of anaemia experiencing stunted growth.

Beyond the curtain of hunger, there is another problem that is chronic hunger. Based on hunger index we the nation is occupying 100th position in the world (IFPRI Report, 2017). The scenario of chronic hunger is even worse and astoundingly it is worse than African nations as well.

HUNGER: A DEVIL TO DEFEAT

What is Hunger

Everyone feels hungry on a daily basis. Most people are able to satisfy this craving and need. Even if not immediately, they can count on having a meal or snack within hours. This is not the type of hunger that Bread is concerned with.

People who suffer chronic hunger don't have the option of eating when they are hungry. They do not get enough calories, essential nutrients, or both. People who are hungry have an ongoing problem with getting food to eat. They have a primary need — how to feed themselves and their children today and tomorrow. They have little energy for anything else.

In politics, humanitarian aid, and social science, **hunger** is a condition in which a person, for a sustained period, is unable to eat sufficient food to meet basic nutritional needs.

Throughout history, portions of the world's population have often experienced sustained periods of hunger. In many cases, this resulted from food supply disruptions caused by war, plagues, or adverse weather. For the first few decades after World War II, technological progress and enhanced political cooperation suggested it might be possible to substantially reduce the number of people suffering from hunger. While progress was uneven, by 2000 the threat of extreme hunger subsided for many of the world's people. According to the WFP some statistics are that, "Some 795 million people in the world do not have enough food to lead a healthy active life. That's about one in nine people on earth. The vast majority of the world's hungry people live in developing countries, where 12.9 percent of the population is undernourished."

Until 2006, the average international price of food had been largely stable for several decades. In the closing months of 2006, however, prices began to rise rapidly. By 2008, rice had

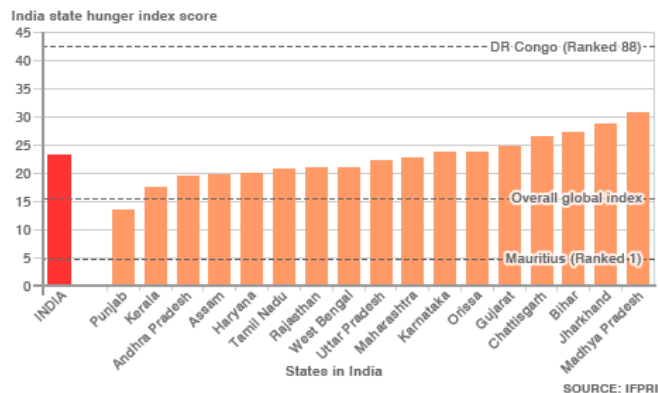
tripled in price in some regions, and this severely affected developing countries. Food prices fell in early 2009, but rose to another record high in 2011, and have since decreased slightly. The 2008 worldwide financial crisis further increased the number of people suffering from hunger, including dramatic increases even in advanced economies such as Great Britain, the Eurozone and the United States.

The Millennium Development Goals included a commitment to a further 50% reduction in the proportion of the world's population who suffer from extreme hunger by 2015. As of 2012, this target appeared difficult to achieve, due in part to persistent inflation in food prices. However, in late 2012 the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) stated it is still possible to hit the target with sufficient effort. In 2013, the FAO estimated that 842 million people are undernourished (12% of the global population). Malnutrition is a cause of death for more than 3.1 million children under 5 every year. UNICEF estimates 300 million children go to bed hungry each night; and that 8000 children under the age of 5 are estimated to die of malnutrition every day.

HUNGER AND INDIA

India continues to have serious levels of widespread hunger forcing it to be ranked a lowly 100 among 118 developing countries for which the Global Hunger Index (GHI) was calculated in the year 2017 (IFPRI Report). Countries worse than India include extremely poor African countries such as Niger, Chad, Ethiopia and Sierra Leone besides two of India's neighbours: Afghanistan and Pakistan. Other neighbours Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and China are all ranked above India. The GHI is calculated by taking into account four key parameters: shares of undernourished population, wasted and stunted children aged under 5, and infant mortality rate of the same age group. Of the 131 countries studied, data was available for 118 countries. This year, for the first time, two measures of child hunger -wasting and stunting -have been used to give a more complete picture. Wasting refers to low weight in relation to a child's height, reflecting acute under nutrition. Stunting refers to the deficiency in height in relation to age, reflecting chronic under nutrition. The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) makes the annual calculations of GHI. Basing its readings on the most recent data, the 2016 GHI for India was derived from the fact that an estimated 15% population is undernourished -lacking in adequate food intake, both in quantity and quality. The share of under-5 children who are 'wasted' is about 15% while the share of children who are 'stunted' is a staggering 39%. This reflects widespread and chronic lack of balanced food. The under-5 mortality rate is 4.8% in India, partially reflecting the fatal synergy of inadequate nutrition and unhealthy environments.

WORLD HUNGER INDEX - HOW INDIA COMPARES



POVERTY: A BATTLE TO WIN

Poverty is the scarcity or the lack of a certain (variant) amount of material possessions or money. Poverty is a multifaceted concept, which may include social, economic, and political elements. Absolute poverty, extreme poverty, or *destitution* refers to the complete lack of the means necessary to meet basic personal needs such as food, clothing and shelter

The threshold at which *absolute poverty* is defined is considered to be about the same, independent of the person's permanent location or era. On the other hand, *relative poverty* occurs when a person who lives in a given country does not enjoy a certain minimum level of "living standards" as compared to the rest of the population of that country. Therefore, the threshold at which *relative poverty* is defined varies from one country to another, or from one society to another.

Providing basic needs can be restricted by constraints on government's ability to deliver services, such as corruption, tax avoidance, debt and loan conditionality's and by the brain drain of health care and educational professionals. Strategies of increasing income to make basic needs more affordable typically include welfare, economic freedoms and providing financial services.

Causes of Poverty

The International Food Study Institute had a brief on a collection of extensive studies that analysed the causes of poverty, analysing household data and reviewing empirical research in 20 countries. They found that some of the major causes of poverty were the inability of poor households to invest in property and education, limited access to credit; in some cases these instances produce more poverty via inherited poverty. The systematic exclusion of ethnic minorities, scheduled castes, tribes, women and people with disabilities and health issues. Persistence of poverty is partially attributed to these classes not having access to institutions and markets.

War and violence may be some of the primary causes of poverty. Political violence and organized crime have affected

39 countries since 2000, in those countries the poverty level is twice that of non-violent countries. These two items, poverty and violence may also feed themselves. When asked why young people joined gangs and rebel groups in half a dozen countries, two thirds of the respondents said that unemployment was their main reason, only one tenth cited a belief in the cause.

Colonialism has been cited as a cause of poverty, this idea is rejected by Walter E. Williams citing that not all post colonial countries have high poverty rates.

Third World countries have low GDP per capita per cent taxed, middle income economies have average levels of GDP per capita taxed and developed countries have higher per cent GDP per capita taxed.

Places like the Arctic and Antarctic are inhabitable but many people debate how much a role climate plays in Africa's poverty.

Extreme poverty

Absolute poverty rates, based on 2011 constant PPP international dollar, according to NAVTEJ, The World Bank in 2014. According to World Bank's revised estimates for extreme poverty coupled with regional economic development, extreme poverty rates have fallen significantly in China and India. In other countries, extreme poverty has increased per 2011 benchmarks compared to 2005 benchmarks.

Extreme poverty, absolute poverty, destitution, or penury, was originally defined by the United Nations in 1995 as "a condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information. It depends not only on income but also on access to services. In 2008, "extreme poverty" widely refers to earning below the international poverty line of \$1.25/day (in 2005 prices), set by the World Bank. This measure is the equivalent to earning \$1.00 a day in 1996 US prices, hence the widely used expression, living on less than a dollar a day. The vast majority of those in extreme poverty – 96% – reside in South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, The West Indies, East Asia and the Pacific; nearly half live in India and China alone.

The reduction of extreme poverty and hunger was the first Millennium Development Goal (MDG1), as set by 189 United Nations Member States in 2000. Specifically, MDG1 set a target of reducing the extreme poverty rate in half by 2015, a goal that was met 5 years ahead of schedule. This goal was created to end poverty in all its forms everywhere, and the international community, including the UN, the World Bank and the United States, has set a target of ending extreme poverty by 2030.

Defining extreme poverty

Income-based definition

Extreme poverty is defined by the International Community as earning less than a \$1.25 a day, as measured in 2005 international prices. Originally, the international poverty line was set at earning a \$1 a day when the Millennium Development Goals were first published. However, in 2008, the World Bank pushed the line to \$1.25 to recognize higher price levels in several developing countries than previously estimated.

As of September 2010 (the most recent, reliable date), according to the UN, roughly 1.2 billion people remain in extreme poverty based on this metric. Despite the significant number of individuals still earning below the international poverty line, this figure represents significant progress for the international community, as this number is 700 million fewer than the number living in extreme poverty in 1990 – 1.9 billion. As highlighted in the next section, though there are many criticisms of a purely income-based approach to measuring extreme poverty, the \$1.25/day line remains the most widely used metric as it is easily accessible to the public at large and "draws attention to those in the direst need."

On September 23, 2015, the UK-based Financial Times reported that the World Bank intends to revise its income-based benchmark upward, to \$1.90 a day based on 2011 prices. As differences in the cost of living across the world evolve, the global poverty line has to be periodically updated to reflect these changes. The new global poverty line uses updated price data to paint a more accurate picture of the costs of basic food, clothing, and shelter needs around the world. In other words, the real value of \$1.90 in 2011's prices is the same as \$1.25 was in 2005.

Common criticism/alternatives

Though widely used by most international organizations, the \$1.25/day extreme poverty line has come under scrutiny from a variety of factors. For example, when used to measure headcount ratio (i.e. the percentage of people living below the line), the \$1.25/day line is unable to capture other important measures such as depth of poverty, relative poverty and how people view their own financial situation (known as the "socially subjective poverty line"). Moreover, the calculation of the poverty line relies on several debatable assumptions about purchasing power parity, homogeneity of household size and makeup, and consumer prices used to determine a basket of essential goods. Not to mention the fact that there may be missing data from the poorest and most fragile countries which may muddle the picture even further.

To address these problems, several alternative instruments for measuring extreme poverty have been suggested which

incorporate other factors such as malnutrition and lack of access to a basic education. Thus, the 2010 Human Development Report introduced the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), which measures not only income, but also basic needs. Using this tool, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) estimated that roughly 1.5 billion people remained in extreme poverty as opposed to the conventional figure of 1.2 billion. As this figure is considered more "holistic," it may shed new light on relative deprivation within a country. For example, in Ethiopia, 39% of the population is considered extremely poor under conventional measures, but 90% are in multidimensional poverty.

Another version of the MPI, known as the Alkire-Foster Method, created by Sabina Alkire and James Foster of the Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI), can be broken down to reflect both the incidence and the intensity of poverty. This tool is useful as development officials, using the "M0 measure" of the method (which is calculated by multiplying "the proportion of people who are poor by the percentage of dimensions in which they are deprived"), can determine the most likely causes of poverty within a region. For example, in the Gaza Strip of Palestine, using the M0 measure of the Alkire-Foster method reveals that poverty in the region is primarily caused by a lack of access to electricity and drinking water, in addition to widespread overcrowding. In contrast, data from the Chhukha District of Bhutan reveals that income is a much larger contributor to poverty as opposed to other dimensions within the region.

Current trends

Getting to zero

Using the World Bank definition of \$1.25/day, as of September 2013, roughly 1.3 billion people remain in extreme poverty (or roughly 1 in 6 people) (of ~7.1 billion people in same time frame). Nearly half live in India and China, with more than 85% living in just 20 countries. Since the mid-1990s, there has been a steady decline in both the worldwide poverty rate and the total number of extreme poor. In 1990, the percentage of the global population living in extreme poverty was 43%, but in 2011, that percentage had dropped down to 21%. This halving of the extreme poverty rate falls in line with the first millennium development goal (MDG1) proposed by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who called on the international community at the turn of the century to "have the proportion of people living in extreme poverty...by 2015." Various projections for the prospect of "ending" extreme poverty by 2030. The y-axis represents the percentage of people living in Extreme Poverty globally. This reduction in extreme poverty took place most notably in China, Indonesia, India, Pakistan and Vietnam. These five countries accounted for the alleviation of 715 million people

out of extreme poverty between 1990 and 2010 – more than the global net total of roughly 700 million. This statistical oddity can be explained by the fact that the number of people living in extreme poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa rose from 290 million to 414 million over the same period. However, there have been many positive signs for extensive, global poverty reduction as well. Since 1999, the total number of extreme poor has declined by 50 million per year, on average. Moreover, in 2005, for the first time in recorded history, poverty rates began to fall in every region of the world, including Africa. Although this is largely due to a change in the 2000 UN Millennium Declaration, extending the plan period backward to 1990, it was previously 1996. Changing the date took advantage of rapid population growth and a huge poverty reduction in China during the 1990s. As aforementioned, the number of people living in extreme poverty has reduced from 1.9 billion to 1.2 billion over the span of the last 20–25 years. If we remain on our current trajectory, many economists predict we could reach global "zero" by 2030–2035, thus "ending" extreme poverty. Global zero entails a world in which fewer than 3% of the global population lives in extreme poverty (projected under most optimistic scenarios to be fewer than 200 million people). This "zero" figure is set at 3% in recognition of the fact that some amount of "frictional" poverty will continue to exist, whether it is caused by political conflict or unexpected economic fluctuations, at least for the foreseeable future. However, the Brookings Institution notes that any projection about poverty more than a few years into the future runs the risk of being highly uncertain. This is because changes in consumption and distribution throughout the developing world over the next two decades could result in monumental shifts in global poverty, for better or worse.

SILENCE: THE CAUSE OF HUNGER AND POVERTY

In the modern civilized era there are two sides of the world: haves and have nots. One side is happy and prosperous with all the modern amenities and comforts of life, at the same time the other side is living in the dark and dearth of extreme poverty and hunger. But why is the discrimination? Is it because of the uneven distribution of resources? Inaccessibility of information? Lack of awareness about their rights? Or because simply of their silence?

We can cite many of the examples where the deprived section of the society when broke their silence, they just burst like a volcano and turn the society into ashes. For example we can say about the Cuba Movement Fidel Castro, Vietnam movement, Naxal movement of India etc.

So, we can say that if hunger is to be eliminated we have to reduce poverty and if we have to eradicate both hunger and poverty, silence is to be broken and empowerment is to be put in place.

Conclusion

The hunger, poverty and silence or voiceless are the inseparable parts of each other. People are hungry because they are poor and people are both hungry and poor because of their voicelessness. If hunger is to be removed we have to drive out poverty and to get rid of both hunger and poverty, people has to be out spoken about their problems and needs.

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