CHRONICLE
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UPSC & STATE PSCs

GS Master Series

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FOR CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATIONS



SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

For Civil Services Examinations

- **In General Studies, questions of about 50 marks in the Prelims and 150 marks in the Mains examination of Union Public Service Commission and State Public Service Commissions are asked from this section.**
- **In this book socio-economic issues, reforms, challenges & development are covered in a systematic and comprehensive manner.**

Editor

N.N. Ojha

Mentoring Civil Services Aspirants Since 1990

Compiled by

Chronicle Editorial Team

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01
CHAPTER

An Introduction to Socio-Economic Development

Socio-economic development refers to the improvement of social and economic conditions of a society or a region over time. It encompasses a range of factors, including economic growth, poverty reduction, access to education and healthcare, gender equality, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability.

Socioeconomic development is essential for achieving overall human development and improving the quality of life of individuals.

Socioeconomic development is often measured using various indicators such as the -

- Human Development Index (HDI),
- Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita,
- Poverty Rate,
- Literacy Rate,
- Life Expectancy, and
- Infant Mortality Rate.

- These indicators help in assessing the progress made in different aspects of development and identifying areas that need further attention and intervention.

Stakeholders

- Socio-economic development is a complex and multifaceted process that requires the involvement of various stakeholders, including government, civil society, private sector, and international organizations.
- It involves policies and interventions that promote economic growth, improve access to basic services, empower marginalized communities, and protect the environment.

Recent Approach to Socioeconomic Development

- In recent years, there has been increasing recognition of the importance of sustainable socioeconomic development, which takes into account the long-term social, economic, and environmental impacts of development.
- This approach emphasizes the need to balance economic growth with social inclusion and environmental sustainability, and to ensure that development benefits all members of society.

Therefore, socio-economic development is a crucial aspect of human development and is essential for creating a more equitable, just, and sustainable world.

By promoting economic growth, reducing poverty, and improving access to basic services, it can help to improve the quality of life of individuals and communities and contribute to the overall well-being of society.

Evolution of 'Concept of Development'

Economic Growth and Economic Development need not mean the same thing. Strategies and policies aimed at greater economic growth may produce greater national income in a country without improving the average living standards. That means growth does not take care of distribution in society and glaring inequality can accompany the period of high economic growth.

On the other hand, economic development is connected with improvement of living conditions of people and largely takes care of the issue of inclusion, illiteracy, poor health and inequality in society.

Therefore, growth is quantitative while development is "quantitative as well as qualitative" in nature.

- For example, in oil-producing Middle Eastern countries - a surge in oil prices boosted their national income without much benefit to poorer citizens.
- So, they experienced economic growth without developing the life of people at large. Conversely, people-oriented programmes and policies can improve health, education, living standards, and other quality-of-life measures with lesser emphasis on monetary growth. This occurred in the 30 years of welfare oriented governance in Kerala, India.
- Therefore, the purpose of development is to raise the level of well-being and quality of life of the population. It accompanies the expansion of local regional income and employment opportunities, without damaging the resources of the environment.
- The traditional concept of viewing economic development as synonymous with economic growth was based on what came to be known as the 'trickle-down strategy', which implies that the effects of rising incomes and output would ultimately trickle down to the poor so that they would benefit poor as well as the rich.
- The modern economists reject view of economic growth and stress the need for strategies designed to meet the needs of the poor directly.

02
CHAPTER

Human Development

Human development is a process of enlarging the range of people's choices, increasing their opportunities for education, health care, income and empowerment and covering the full range of human choices from a sound physical environment to economic, social and political freedom.

Growth in GDP will ultimately lead to human development was perceived earlier. But, this method of development has not been able to address the issues of social injustice, regional imbalances and environmental degradation. On the contrary, it is being widely considered as the prime cause of the social distributive injustices, deterioration in the quality of life and human development, ecological crisis and social unrest.

Thus, it was thought that overall economic development should not be seen as true Human Development. In the 1970s and 80s development debate considered using alternative focuses to go beyond GDP, including putting greater emphasis on employment, followed by redistribution with growth, and then whether people had their basic needs met. These ideas helped pave the way for new concept of human development.

In 1990, the first Human Development Report introduced human development as a new approach for advancing human wellbeing. Human development is about expanding the richness of human life, rather than simply the richness of the economy in which human beings live. It is an approach that is focussed more on people and their opportunities and choices. This report was the most systematic effort to explain human development.

Concept of Human Development

The concept of human development was introduced by Dr. Mahbub-ul-Haq. He described human development as development that enlarges people's choices and improves their lives. People are central to all development under this concept. These choices are not fixed but keep on changing.

- The basic goal of development is to create conditions where people can live meaningful lives. A meaningful life is not just a long one. It must be a life with some purpose. This means that people must be healthy, be able to develop their talents, participate in society and be free to achieve their goals.
- Leading a long and healthy life, being able to gain knowledge and having enough means to be able to live a decent life are the most important aspects of human development. Therefore, access to resources, health and education are the key areas in human development.
- In short, human development is the process of enlarging people's freedoms and access of opportunities. Human development is about the real freedom ordinary people have to decide who to be, what to do, and how to live.

People

- Human development focusses on improving the lives of people rather than assuming that economic growth will lead, automatically, to greater wellbeing for all.
- Income growth is seen as a means to development, rather than an end in itself.

Opportunities

- Human development is about giving people more freedom to live lives they value. In effect, this means developing people's abilities and giving them a chance to use them.
- For example, educating a girl would build her skills, but it is of little use if she is denied access to jobs, or does not have the right skills for the local labour market.

Choice

- Human development is a process of enlarging people's choices. The most critical ones are to lead a long and healthy life, to be educated and to enjoy a decent standard of living. Additional choices include political freedom, guaranteed human rights and self-respect.
- No one can guarantee human happiness, and the choices people make are their own concern. The process of human development should at least create an environment for people, individually and collectively, to develop to their full potential and to have a reasonable chance of leading productive and creative lives that they value.
- In this way the basic objective of human development is to create an enabling environment for people to enjoy long, healthy and creative lives.

03
CHAPTER

Sustainable Development

Sustainable development allows us to preserve the environment, protect biodiversity, mitigate climate change, eradicate poverty, promote social inclusivity, and foster long-term economic growth. The earth has enough resources to meet our present and future needs for development if we use them economically.

The concept of development is dynamic and has evolved during the second half of twentieth century. In the post-World War II era, the concept of development was synonymous to economic growth which is measured in terms of temporal increase in gross national product (GNP) and per capita income/per capita consumption.

But, even the countries having high economic growth experienced speedy rise in poverty because of its unequal distribution. So, in 1970s, the phrases such as redistribution with growth and growth and equity were incorporated in the definition of development.

- While dealing with the questions related to redistribution and equity, it was realised that the concept of development cannot be restricted to the economic sphere alone. It also includes the issues such as improving the well-being and living standard of people, availing of the health, education and equality of opportunity and ensuring political and civil rights.
- By 1980s, development emerged as a concept encapsulating widespread improvement in social as well as material wellbeing of all in a society.
- The notion of sustainable development emerged in the wake of general rise in the awareness of environmental issues in the late 1960s in Western World. It reflected the concern of people about undesirable effects of industrial development on the environment.
- The publication of 'The Population Bomb' by Ehrlich in 1968 and 'The Limits to Growth' by Meadows and others in 1972 further raised the level of fear among environmentalists in particular and people in general. This sets the scenario for the emergence of new models of development under a broad phrase 'sustainable development.
- In 1987, the Brundtland Commission published its report, "*Our Common Future*", in an effort to link the issues of economic development with environmental stability. In doing so, this report provided the often cited definition of Sustainable Development as "*Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*" (United Nations General Assembly, 1987).

Thus, the concept of development has now been given new interpretation of sustainable development which aims to maintain economic advancement and progress while protecting the long-term value of the environment. It also provides a framework for the integration of environment policies with development strategies.

Concept of Sustainable Development

The definition of the concept of sustainable development put forward in the report titled Our Common Future (1987) is: "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

It contains within it two key concepts:

(i) Concept of Needs: The concept of "needs", in particular the essential needs of the world's poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and

(ii) Idea of Limitations: The idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social organisation on the environment's ability to meet present and future needs.

In this light, the overall goal of sustainable development (SD) is the long-term stability of the economy and environment; this is only achievable through the integration and acknowledgement of economic, environmental, and social concerns throughout the decision making process.

Pillars of Sustainable Development

The three pillars of sustainable development are:

(i) economic growth,

(ii) environmental stewardship, and

(iii) social inclusion

They are spread across all sectors of development, from cities facing rapid urbanization to agriculture, infrastructure, energy, water availability and transportation.

04
CHAPTER

Inclusive Growth

Reducing poverty, improving the quality of life, and ensuring that all parts of the society benefiting from the economic growth of the country is the primary motive of an inclusive growth plan. It is about supporting communities, drawing on innovative finance and partnerships to mitigate unequal access and affordability among underserved populations.

Inclusive growth implies participation in the process of growth and also sharing of benefit from growth. Thus inclusive growth is both an outcome and a process.

On the one hand, it ensures that everyone can participate in the growth process, both in terms of decision-making for organizing the growth progression as well as in participating in the growth itself.

On the other hand, it makes sure that everyone shares equitably the benefits of growth.

In fact, participation without benefit sharing will make growth unjust and sharing benefits without participation will make it a welfare outcome.

In view of the above, inclusive growth can be observed from long-term perspective as the focus is on productive employment rather than on direct income redistribution, as a means of increasing income for excluded groups.

- Under the absolute definition, growth is considered to be pro-poor as long as poor benefit in absolute terms, as reflected in some agreed measure of poverty.
- In contrast, in the relative definition, growth is pro-poor if and only if the incomes of poor people grow faster than those of the population as a whole, i.e., inequality declines. However, while absolute pro-poor growth can be the result of direct income redistribution schemes, for growth to be inclusive, productivity must be improved and new employment opportunities created, so that the excluded section forms part of the growth process.
- In short, inclusive growth is about raising the pace of growth and enlarging the size of the economy, while leveling the playing field for investment and increasing productive employment opportunities
- The concept of inclusive growth has gained wide importance in several countries including India.
- The Approach Paper of the Eleventh Five Year Plan provides "an opportunity to restructure policies to achieve a new vision based on faster, more broad-based and inclusive growth. It is designed to reduce poverty and focus on bringing the various divides that continue to fragment our society"
- Government has thereby restructured various programme like National Rural Livelihood Mission, National Urban Livelihood Mission and Mahatma Gandhi Employment Guarantee Act to make growth more inclusive.

Concept of Inclusive Growth

The definition of inclusiveness involves four basic attributes:

(i) **Opportunity:** Is the economy generating more and varied ways for people to earn a living and increase their incomes over time?

(ii) **Capability:** Is the economy providing the means for people to create or enhance their capabilities in order to exploit available opportunities?

(iii) **Access:** Is the economy providing the means to bring opportunities and capabilities together?

(iv) **Security:** Is the economy providing the means for people to protect themselves against a temporary or permanent loss of livelihood?

In this light, 'inclusive growth' is defined as a process, in which, economic growth, measured by a sustained expansion in GDP, contributes to an enlargement of the scale and scope of all four basic attributes cited above.

Therefore, inclusive growth, by its very definition, implies an equitable allocation of resources with benefits accruing to every section of society, which is a utopian concept.

Dimensions of Inclusive Growth

Inclusive growth is not about raising the income level of poor, but also improving education and health status of all, particularly marginalized section.

Social Inclusion

- Social inclusion is more than the reduction of poverty and inequality.

05
CHAPTER

Social Security

Social security in India refers to a range of welfare measures and programs designed to provide economic security and support to vulnerable and disadvantaged sections of society. These measures are aimed at protecting individuals and families from economic hardships and ensuring a basic standard of living.

The social security system in India is primarily managed and administered by the government through various schemes and programs. These include pension schemes, health insurance, disability benefits, maternity benefits, and others. The government also provides subsidies and support to various industries and sectors to promote employment and economic growth.

The social security system in India has evolved over time, with new programs and initiatives being introduced to meet the changing needs of the population. Despite the government's efforts, however, there are still many challenges and gaps in the system, particularly for marginalized and vulnerable communities.

Overall, social security is an important aspect of the Indian welfare state, and efforts to strengthen and expand these programs are crucial for promoting social and economic development, reducing poverty, and improving the quality of life for all citizens.

Concept of Social Security

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) defines social security broadly as "protection that a society provides to individuals and households to ensure access to health care and to guarantee income security, particularly in cases of old age, unemployment, sickness, invalidity, work injury, maternity or loss of a breadwinner.

- In the Indian context, social security is a comprehensive approach designed to prevent deprivation, assure the individual of a basic minimum income for himself and his dependents and to protect the individual from any uncertainties.
- The State bears the primary responsibility for developing appropriate system for providing protection and assistance to its workforce.
- Social security is increasingly viewed as an integral part of the development process. It helps to create a more positive attitude to the challenge of globalization and the consequent structural and technological changes.

Need for Social Security

Social security protects people against a variety of risks to ensure them a basic flow of income in old age or other adversities of life. It also aims to enable many people who have struggled all their lives to have a decent standard of comfort and dignity, when they retire.

- **Basic Human Right**: The underlying philosophy of social security is to ensure a minimum level of material living to the needy or helpless ones of the society by the State.
- **Threat of Cyclic Unemployment**: The workers have been subjected to periodic unemployment due to cyclical fluctuations in business, sickness, industrial accidents and old age. In fact, there is nothing more disconcerting to worker and his/her family than unemployment.
- **Security Against Adverse Situation**: Similarly, while sickness suspends earning capacity of a worker temporarily, industrial accidents may disable him/her partially or even permanently, and old age may put a stop to his/her ability to earn and support himself/herself and the family.
- **Holistic Development:** The need for social security is realised not only to afford the needy workers' protection against the adversities of life, but also for the overall development of the State.
- **Stable Labour Force**: Lack of social security impedes production and prevents the formation of a stable and efficient labour force. Social security is, therefore, not a burden, but a wise investment in the long run.

Objectives of Social Security

The objective of social security is to provide individuals and families with protection and support against social risks and economic vulnerabilities throughout their lives.

The primary goals and objectives of social security programs are as follows:

- **Income Protection**: Social security aims to ensure a basic level of income security for individuals and

06
CHAPTER

Financial Inclusion

Financial inclusion may be defined as the process of ensuring access to financial services and timely and adequate credit where needed by vulnerable groups such as weaker sections and low income groups at an affordable cost (Dr. C. Rangarajan).

Financial inclusion, broadly defined, refers to universal access to a wide range of financial services at a reasonable cost. These include not only banking products but also other financial services such as insurance and equity products. (Dr. Raghuram G. Rajan)

The concept of financial inclusion was formally adopted by the Reserve Bank of India in the year 2005 by releasing the Annual Policy Statement. Later, the concept started to spread in every part of the nation.

It was chiefly introduced to touch every corner of the country without ignoring any remote area. The concept addressed the absence of a formal financial system and banking system for catering to the monetary requirements of the poor people.

The Indian government initiated the 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana' with the sole purpose of motivating and encouraging poor individuals to open bank accounts.

Concept of Financial Inclusion

Financial inclusion is the process of ensuring access to appropriate financial products and services needed by all sections of the society in general and vulnerable groups such as weaker sections and low income groups in particular.

- These include not only banking products but also other financial services such as insurance and equity products.
- The essence of financial inclusion is to ensure delivery of financial services which include - bank accounts for savings and transactional purposes, low cost credit for productive, personal and other purposes, financial advisory services, insurance facilities (life and non-life), etc.

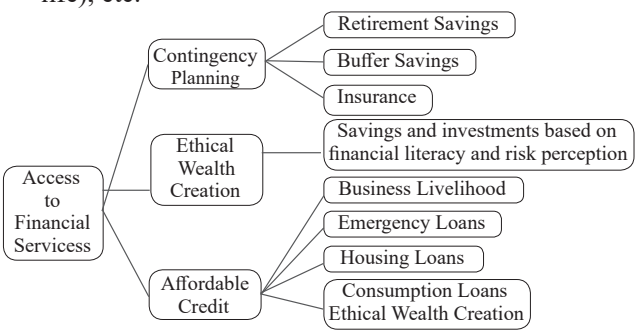
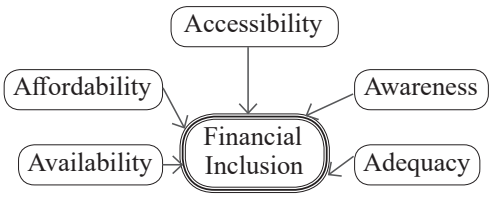


Fig: Household Access to Financial Services

- It broadens the resource base of the financial system by developing a culture of savings among large segment of rural population and plays its own role in the process of economic development.
- Further, by bringing low income groups within the perimeter of formal banking sector, financial inclusion protects their financial wealth and other resources in exigent circumstances. Financial inclusion also mitigates the exploitation of vulnerable sections by the usurious money lenders by facilitating easy access to formal credit.

Five A's of Financial Inclusion



(i) **Availability:** It implies that financial inclusion means making all types of financial services available to all individuals irrespective of income and size of credit.

(ii) **Affordable:** The second factor implies availability of such services at an "affordable" cost.

(iii) **Accessible:** The third factor implies that services like credit, insurance, savings etc. should not just be made available with the banks but should also be "accessible" for people staying in even remotest corner of the country. In this light, numerous bank branches were set up by public sector banks in rural areas.

(iv) **Awareness:** It implies that merely making products and services available and accessible at lower cost is not sufficient rather there is a need to create "awareness" about it. For this numerous campaigns were organized in villages, different advertisements were rolled out highlighting the importance of savings and insurance and

07
CHAPTER

Poverty

When we think about poverty, what comes to our minds? It's probably an image of a person who doesn't have enough (good) food to eat, lives in a dilapidated condition and having poor health condition. In this light, poverty is a state or condition in which a person or community lacks the financial resources and essentials for a minimum standard of living.

Poverty means that the income level from employment is so low that basic human needs can't be met. Poverty-stricken people and families might go without proper housing, clean water, healthy food, and medical attention.

- Poverty is about not having enough money to meet basic needs including food, clothing and shelter. However, poverty is more, much more than just not having enough money.
- The World Bank describes poverty in this way: "Poverty is hunger. Poverty is lack of shelter. Poverty is being sick and not being able to see a doctor. Poverty is not having access to school and not knowing how to read. Poverty is not having a job, is fear for the future, living one day at a time."
- Poverty has many faces, changing from place to place and across time, and has been described in many ways. Most often, poverty is a situation people want to escape. So poverty is a call to action -- for the poor and the wealthy alike -- a call to change the world so that many more may have enough to eat, adequate shelter, access to education and health, protection from violence, and a voice in what happens in their communities.
- In addition to a lack of money, poverty is about not being able to participate in recreational activities; not being able to send children on a day trip with their schoolmates or to a birthday party; not being able to pay for medications for an illness. These are all costs of being poor. Those people who are barely able to pay for food and shelter simply can't consider these other expenses.
- When people are excluded within a society, when they are not well educated and when they have a higher incidence of illness, there are negative consequences for society. We all pay the price for poverty. The increased cost on the health system, the justice system and other systems that provide support to those living in poverty has an impact on our economy.

Concept of Poverty

Poverty goes beyond lack of income. It is multidimensional, encompassing economic, social and governance perspectives.

- **Economically,** the poor are not only deprived of income and resources, but of opportunities. Markets and jobs are often difficult to access, because of low capabilities and geographical and social exclusion.
- **Limited education** affects their ability to get jobs and to access information that could improve the quality of their lives.
- **Poor health**, due to inadequate nutrition and health services, further limits their prospects for work and hampers them from realising their mental and physical potential. This fragile position is exacerbated by insecurity.
- **Decision-Making** - Living in marginal conditions with no resources to fall back on, shocks become hard or impossible to offset. The situation is made worse by the structure of societies and institutions that tend to exclude the poor from participating in decision-making that affects social and economic development.

Perspectives or Approaches on Poverty

Poverty can be defined in very precise technical terms that facilitate its measurement. Poverty can also be characterized in a more multidimensional – yet less precise – manner that helps see poverty in relation to its causes, its context, its consequences and the ways it is related to phenomena that can be influenced. Therefore, scholars adopt different approaches and perspectives to deal with the study of poverty.

There is a broad agreement that poverty occurs when someone experiences a fundamental deprivation – a lack of some basic thing or things essential for human well-being. Until the 1990s, poverty was considered mainly in "material" terms – as low income or low levels of material wealth.

08
CHAPTER

Inequality

Distribution of income in a country has always been an important topic of debate in all the nations. Economic growth in a country indicates country's development but this is not a sufficient indicator of development. If the economic growth distributes the income in a country more unequally, then there is a role of the government to try and mend it in a manner that the distribution is more equal than unequal.

Concept of Inequality

Inequality is all about the distribution of power and resources, the rights people can exercise, and the opportunities they can access. Some amount of inequality is inevitable. But inequality is problematic when it prevents people from living decent lives and fulfilling their rights. Since the Covid-19 pandemic, wealth inequality has escalated further distorting power dynamics and impeding progress on reducing poverty in all its forms.

The Cambridge dictionary describes inequality as "the unfair situation in society when some people have more opportunities than other people". The United Nations describes it even more simply as "the state of not being equal, especially in status, rights and opportunities".

Inequality can be classified into two categories:

(i) Economic inequality; and
(ii) Social inequality.

Both these categories are deeply intertwined and inequality in one often affects the inequality in the other.

Economic Inequality

Economic inequality is measured in two forms:

(i) income inequality, and
(ii) wealth inequality.

Income inequality is the inequality in and disparity in the incomes commanded by the top percentile of the population in comparison to the bottom percentiles, while wealth inequality measures look to do the same but by calculating disparities in wealth instead of income.

- **Income:** Income is not just the money received through pay, but all the money received from employment (wages, salaries, bonuses etc.), investments, such as interest on savings accounts and dividends from shares of stock, savings, state benefits, pensions (state, personal, company) and rent.
- **Wealth:** Wealth refers to the total amount of assets of an individual or household. This may include financial assets, such as bonds and stocks, property and private pension rights. Wealth inequality, therefore, refers to the unequal distribution of assets in a group of people.

Social Inequality

- Social inequality occurs when resources in a given society are distributed unevenly, typically through norms of allocation, that engender specific patterns along lines of socially defined categories of persons.
- It is the differentiation preference of access to social goods in society brought about by power, religion, kinship, prestige, race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, and class.
- In India, one of the most distinctive forms of social inequity comes within the spheres of gender and caste, where, people coming from the marginalized sections of these social categories, are directly impacted in terms of their opportunities, access to essential utilities, and their potential as a whole.

Measurement of Inequality

An inequality measure is often a function that ascribes a value to a specific distribution of income in a way that allows direct and objective comparisons across different distributions.

To do this, inequality measures should have certain properties and behave in a certain way given certain events. For example, moving $1 from a richer person to a poorer person should lead to a lower level of inequality.

- Measuring Inequality is about assessing income distribution and accumulation from the poorest to the richest.
- No single measure can satisfy all properties though, so the choice of one measure over others involves trade-offs.
- If the result is too skewed it means that the distribution of resources have not been even and crony capitalism is at fore.

09
CHAPTER

Hunger & Malnutrition

Good health benefits not only the individual, but the nation as well. In many countries across the globe, the path to quality health for large proportions of their population is fraught with difficulties.

In poor economies, people suffer from various health-related ailments, irrespective of their income level.

Though efforts are being made by State and non-State actors to address these health problems, many countries continue to lag in meeting their goals and targets.

But there are some alarming revelation about the incidence of hunger and malnutrition, according to the recent Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) report "The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI), 2021".

Welthungerhilfe, one of the largest private aided organisations in Germany, estimates that in every ten seconds, a child dies from the effects of hunger. 815 million people do not have enough to eat, 2 billion suffer from malnutrition, but there is enough food, knowledge and resources for all.

Basics of Hunger & Malnutrition

"*Hunger defines a short-term physical discomfort as a result of chronic food shortage, or in severe cases, a life-threatening lack of food*".

– National Research Council, 2006

Hunger is a condition in which a person, for a sustained period, is unable to eat sufficient food to meet basic nutritional needs. So in the field of hunger relief, the term hunger is used in a sense that goes beyond the common desire for food that all humans experience. When specialists talk about hunger, they differentiate between three types: acute, chronic and hidden hunger.

(i) **Acute hunger** (famine) designates undernourishment over a definable period. It is the most extreme form of hunger and arises frequently in connection with crises like droughts due to El Nino, wars and disasters. It often affects people who are already suffering from chronic hunger.

(ii) **Chronic hunger** designates a state of long-term undernourishment. The body absorbs less food than it needs. Although the media mostly report on acute hunger crises, globally, chronic hunger is by far the most widespread. It usually arises in connection with poverty. Chronically hungry people do not have sufficient money for healthy nutrition, clean water or health care.

(iii) **Hidden hunger** is a form of chronic hunger. Due to an unbalanced diet, important nutrients are lacking, such as iron, iodine, zinc or vitamin A.

- At first glance, the consequences are not necessarily very visible, but over the long-term these nutrient deficiencies lead to serious diseases. In particular, children are unable to develop correctly, neither mentally nor physically. The risk of death is high.
- Hidden hunger not only harms individuals, but can inhibit the overall development of an affected region, as the efficiency and health of people decreases.

Some other associated concepts include:

- **Malnutrition**: Under-nutrition and malnutrition are the outcomes of hunger. Malnutrition is all-inclusive term that represents all manifestations of poor nutrition. It can mean any or all forms of under-nutrition, over-nutrition, overweight, and obesity.
- **Under-nutrition**: Refers to any form of nutritional deficiency, particularly those that manifest in maternal underweight, child stunting, child wasting, or micronutrient deficiencies. It does not include reference to overweight and obesity.
- **Over-nutrition**: It is a form of malnutrition in which the intake of nutrients is oversupplied. The amount of nutrients exceeds the amount required for normal growth, development, and metabolism.

10 CHAPTER

Food Security

Food security means availability, accessibility and affordability of food to all people at all times which should be sustainable over a considerable period of time. The poor households are more vulnerable to food insecurity whenever there is a problem of production or distribution of food crops. Food security depends on the Public Distribution System (PDS) and government vigilance and action at times, when this security is threatened.

Concept of Food Security

In 1960, the concept of food security started as a part of larger developmental strategy of countries. As a concept, it evolved in 1970s and was widely recognised as an assurance of availability, at all times, of adequate supply of basic foodstuffs. (UN, 1975).

- Amartya Sen added a new dimension to food security and emphasized the "access" to food through what he called 'entitlements' — a combination of what one can produce, exchange in the market along with state or other socially provided supplies. Accordingly, there has been a substantial shift in the understanding of food security.
- The 1995 World Food Summit declared, "Food security at the individual, household, regional, national and global levels exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life" (FAO, 1996). The declaration further recognises that "poverty eradication is essential to improve access to food".
- The concept of food security has undergone considerable changes in recent years. Food availability and stability were considered good measures of food security till the seventies and the achievement of self-sufficiency was accorded high priority in the food policies of developing countries.

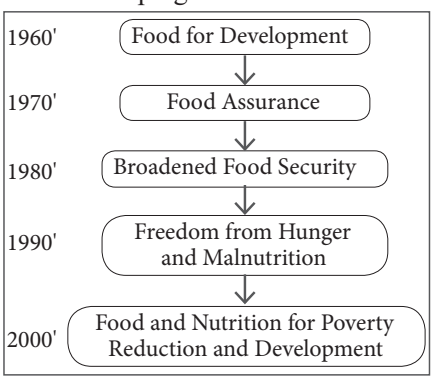


Fig: Evolution of the Concept of Food and Nutritional Security

Food Insecurity

- On the other hand lends itself more readily to measurement and analysis. The FAO also provide the definition of food insecurity as: "A situation that exists when people lack secure access to sufficient amounts of safe and nutritious food for normal growth and development and an active and healthy life."
- Although a large section of people suffer from food and nutrition insecurity in India, the worst affected groups are landless people with little or no land to depend upon, traditional artisans, traditional service providers, petty self-employed workers and destitutes including beggars.
- In the urban areas, the food insecure families are those whose working members are generally employed in ill-paid occupations and casual labour market. These workers are largely engaged in seasonal activities and are paid very low wages that just ensure bare survival.

Framework & Pillars of Food Security

Presently, two common definitions of food security come from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

1. **As per FAO:** Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.
   - Household means access by all members, at all times, to enough food for an active, healthy life. Simultaneously, it includes, at a minimum, the ready availability of nutritionally adequate and safe food.
2. **As per USDA:** An assured ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways (that is, without resorting to emergency food supplies, scavenging, stealing, or other coping strategies).