

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL ZERO HUNGER AND INDIA

Dr. S. E. Ghumatkar

Associate Professor and Head

Department of Economics, Balbhim College, Beed.

### Abstract:

*Zero hunger is the second goal of Sustainable Development Goals which to achieve up to 2030. India is a country who is also bound her with this goal. India's situation in this field is worsening on today. The report of Global Hunger Index 2022 published in October 2022 shown India's difficult condition. India's rank among 121 countries of the world is 107<sup>th</sup> in this report with the GHI value 29.1. Pakistan the country is ahead of us at 99 ranks with GHI value 26.1. After 2014, India's rank got down from 55 to 107 in 2022. All four parameters, India's situation is difficult and not as much as required choices available to overcome on the problem. NITI Aayog is publishing report on that and showing condition and national targets towards SDG's. Hunger is more dangerous for the sustainable development and India is far away from it.*

**Key Words:** *Hunger, Sustainable Development, Malnutrition*

### Introduction:

India is known as developing economy in the sense of per capita income and Human Development Index. Indian is highly depended on primary/agriculture sector on account of workforce dependency. Even though India is facing biggest problem of hunger which effect present and future of the quality of human capital<sup>1</sup>. UN has published the report on Global Hunger Index GHI in October 2022 of 117 countries. India's average score in four parameters of GHI is 29.1 which were 30.3 in 2019 report. India's rank in GHI was 100 in 2017 among 119 countries and slipped in 2018 at 103<sup>rd</sup> rank and now in the report of 2022, India's rank is 107<sup>th</sup> among 121 countries<sup>2</sup>. Now it became harder to India to achieve zero hunger up to 2030 as the second goal put in 17 Global Sustainable Development Goals by United Nations Development Programme UNDP. World's 193 countries came together and made 17 Sustainable Development Goals to achieve during 15 years from 2015 to 2030. India is also a member country of 193. 17 Sustainable Development Goals are: 1) No

poverty, 2) Zero Hunger, 3) Good health and well being, 4) Quality Education, 5) Gender equality, 6) Clean water and sanitation, 7) Affordable and clean energy, 8) Decent work and economic growth, 9) Industry innovation and infrastructure, 10) Reduced inequalities, 11) Sustainable cities and communities, 12) Responsible consumption and production, 13) Climate action, 14) Life below water, 15) Life on Land, 16) Peace, Justice and strong institutions, 17) Partnerships for the goals. These seventeen goals are interrelated and supportive to each other and hope these will prove to achieve up to 2030<sup>3</sup>.

The study is focused on the 2<sup>nd</sup> sustainable goal which is Zero Hunger. It is tried to see the India's current situation about hunger and the possibility to achieve this goal up to 2030. To analyze the problem, Reports of NITI Aayog, UNDP, World Bank, and Government of Indians institutions are being referred.

### Zero Hunger:

"Hunger is a condition in which a person, for a sustained period, is unable to eat sufficient food to meet basic nutritional needs". Figure of Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) shows, the number of people suffering from chronic hunger has been increasing from 2015. The report also mentioned there is a strong correlation between increase in hunger and economic slowdown of Economy<sup>4</sup>. Zero hunger is to be achieved with the help of to achieve food security and improved nutrition and to promote sustainable agriculture<sup>5</sup>.

Hunger is the most vulnerable condition for those poor people suffering from it and the progress of economy stopped due to the less powerful human capital. The data shows, among every nine people of the world one suffer from chronic hunger. One billion people of the world are undernourished and 3.1 million children die every year only due to hunger and malnutrition. Hunger effects on poor people in present and future also. When people are

hungry and malnourished, they are less able to improve their livelihoods; adequately care for their families; live full and healthy lives and lift themselves out of poverty. Specifically children are more vulnerable because malnutrition during first two years of children can result in physical and cognitive damage that diminishes future health, welfare and well-being<sup>6</sup>. Now it became prime goal to achieve sustainable development of the world and specifically developing country as India.

**Global Hunger Index:**

Measuring hunger is complicated but on international level GHI scores are calculated using aggregate of four indicators. These are as: undernourishment is the share of the population that is under nourished means whose caloric

intake is insufficient; chilled wasting is the share of children under the age of five who are wasted means who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute under nutrition; chilled stunting is the share of children under the age of five who are stunted means who have low height for their age, reflecting chronic under nutrition; child mortality is the mortality rate of children under the age of five means a reflection of the total mix of inadequate nutrition are unhealthy environments. The indicators average score is between 0-100 point. 100 -point GHI severity score, where 0 is the best score means no hunger. But both are not found in actual in any country<sup>7</sup>.

GHI severity scale has been given in the table number one.

**Table No. 01, GHI Severity Scale (2018, 2019)**

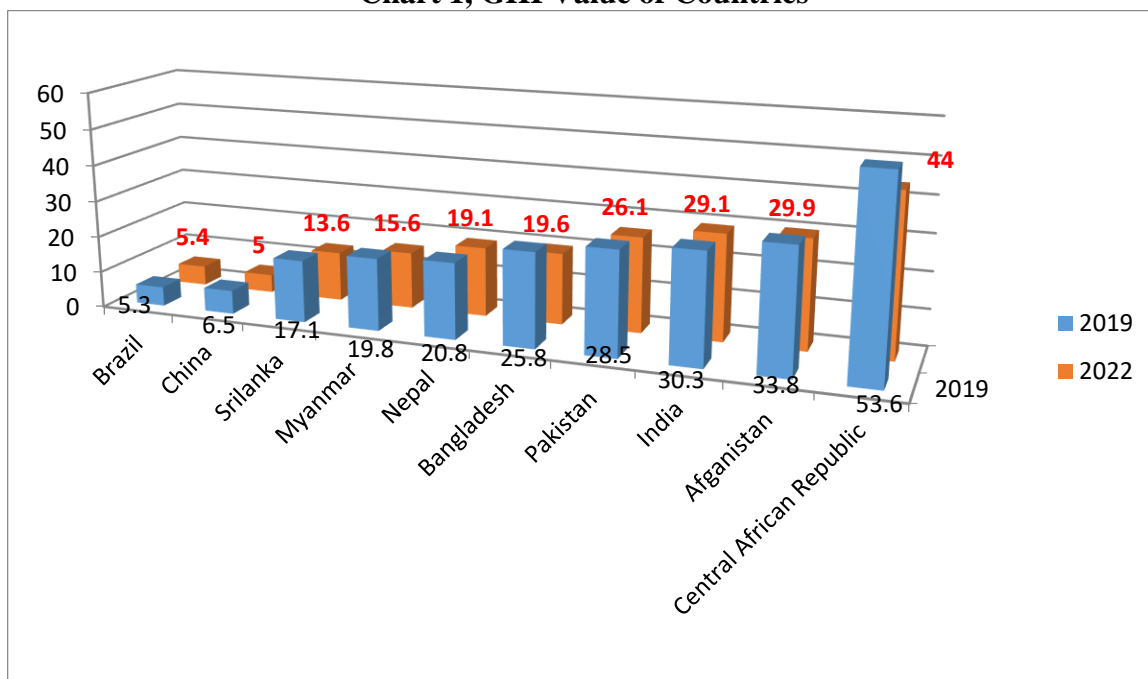
Low	Moderate	Serious	Alarming	Extremely alarming
≤9.9	10.0-19.9	20.0-34.9	35.0-49.9	50.0 ≤

Source: UNDP’s report on GHI-2018, 2019.

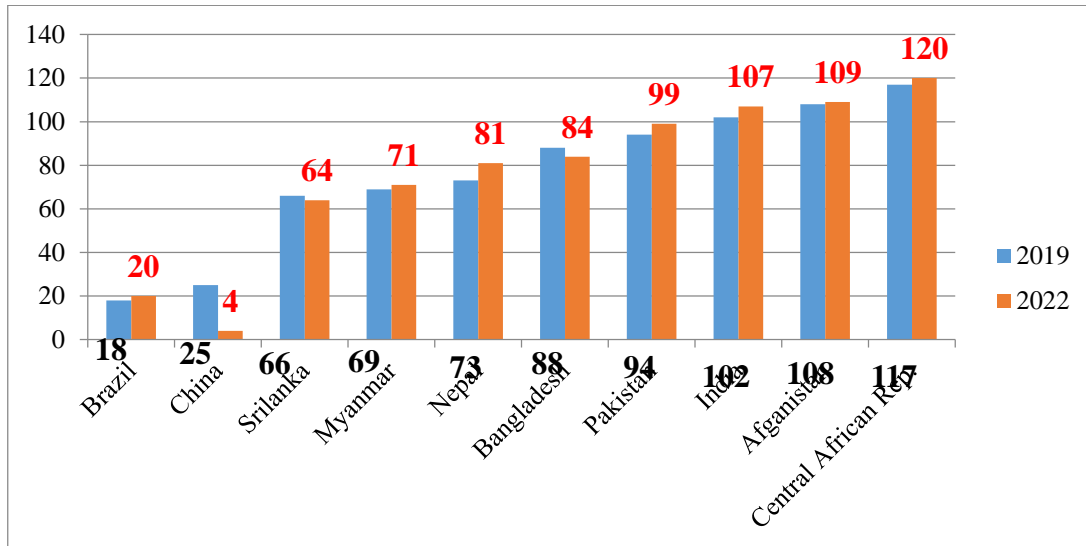
One the basis of severity scale we introduced the countries situation in hunger. India is in alarming condition of hunger because India’s score of GHI is serious 29.1 in 2022 report of UNDP it was 30.3 in 2019. It is good sign in absolute term for India but comparatively India’s score is worse than even Pakistan’s

26.1. The rank of India is slipped from 102 to 107 during 2019 to 2022. Bangladesh and Nepal’s performance is too much better than India. Srilanka is the nearest country of India whose GHI value is only 13.6 and number in rank is 64<sup>th</sup>.

**Chart 1, GHI Value of Countries**



**Chart No-2, GHI Ranks of Countries**



Source; - UNDP- Global Hunger Report -2018, 2019.

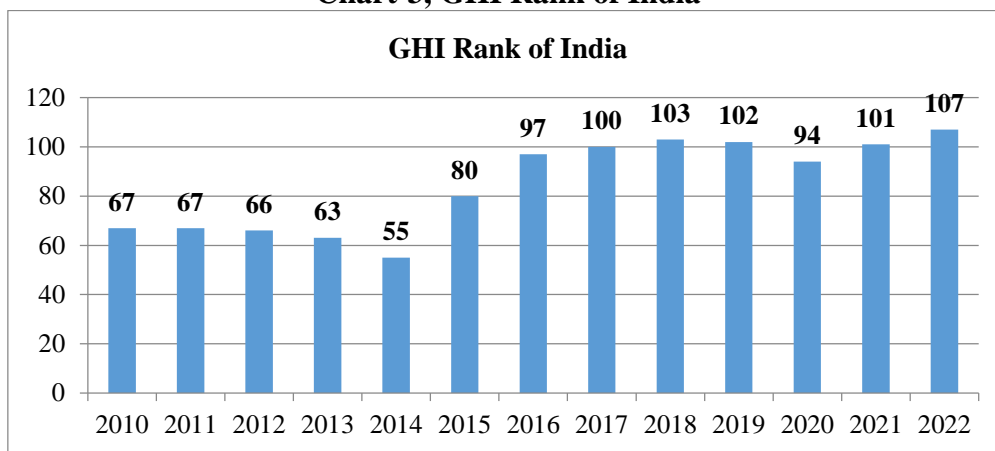
Yemen is the country at last rank 121 with GHI value 45.1 and second last is Central African Republic is the country whose rank is 120 with GHI value 44.0 in alarming condition.

**India’s Position in Hunger:**

Chart number 3 shows the data of India’s rank in Global Hunger Index from 2010. India’s

rank in GHI was 67<sup>th</sup> in 2010 and 2011. With the progress of Economy countries situation tends to uplift till 2014. The rank was 55<sup>th</sup> in 2014, but after that India’s rank decreased in the rule of BJP government in respect to GHI rank.

**Chart-3, GHI Rank of India**



Source: - UNDP- Global Hunger Reports.

India’s rank increased to 80<sup>th</sup> in 2015, 97<sup>th</sup> in 2016, 100 in 2017. It was decreased in 2020 but the numbers of countries were decreased in 2020 due to COVID pandemic. It again down from 101 to 107 during 2021 and 2022.

**State Wise Hunger in India:**

NITI Aayog published SDG India-Index and Dashboard-2019-20 on the occasion of fifth anniversary of the adoption of Sustainable Development Goals. Aayog used 7 indicators to count state wise hunger in the

Country according to the SDG-goal 2<sup>nd</sup>. These are as: Ratio of rural households covered under public distribution system (PDS) to rural households where monthly income of highest earning member is less than Rs. 5’000; Percentage of children under age 5 years who are stunted; Percentage of pregnant women aged 15-49 years who are anaemic; Percentage of children aged 6-59 months who are anaemic (Hb<11.0g/dl); Percentage children aged 0-4 years who are underweight; Rice, wheat and

coarse cereals produced annually per unit area (Kg/Ha); Gross value added in Agriculture per worker. Index score counted by Aayog in number shows highest number is betterment of condition. The score for goal 2 ranges between 22 and 76 for states and between 12 and 73 for UTs.

Goa, Mizoram, Kerala, Nagaland, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh Sikkim, Chandigarh, and

Pondicherry are the front runner in Hunger Index score. Punjab, Lakshadweep, Delhi, Jammu-Kashmir, and Ladakh are performer. Tripura, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand such states are aspirant means their condition is worsen.

**Table No. 02**  
 Hunger in India published by NITI Aayog- 2019

State	% children under age 5 years who are stunted	% Children 0-4 age who are underweight	% of Pregnant women aged 15-49 who are anaemic	% of children aged 6-59 months who are anaemic (Hb is less than 11.0g/dl)	Hunger Index Score
Andhra Pradesh	31.5	35.5	52.9	39.6	35
Bihar	42	38.7	58.3	43.7	26
Chhattisgarh	35.4	40	41.5	40.8	27
Goa	19.6	20.3	26.7	22.1	76
Gujarat	39.1	34.2	51.3	38.2	39
Haryana	34.9	28.8	55.0	48.3	43
Jharkhand	36.2	42.9	62.6	43.7	22
Karnataka	32.5	32	45.4	34.7	37
Kerala	20.5	18.7	22.6	12.5	74
Madhya Pradesh	39.5	38.7	54.6	53.5	24
Maharashtra	34.1	30.9	49.3	41.6	34
Punjab	24.3	19.7	42	39.8	61
Rajasthan	36.8	31.5	46.6	32.4	35
Tamil Nadu	19.7	23.5	44.4	27.3	48
Uttar Pradesh	38.8	36.8	51	43	45
West Bengal	25.3	30.9	53.6	45.7	40
Delhi	28.8	28.1	45.1	47	56
<b>India</b>	<b>34.7</b>	<b>33.4</b>	<b>50.3</b>	<b>40.5</b>	<b>35</b>

Source; NITI Aayog Report on SDG

Table Number 02 presents some important states information about four major indicators of Index. It shows, percentage children under age 5 years who are stunted are 34.7 percent in India, 42 percent in Bihar which is most worsened, 39.1 percent in Gujarat and 34.1 percent in Maharashtra. Percentage of pregnant women aged 15-49 who are anaemic are too much which shows the future picture of India's hunger in children. On the basis of this data, it

seems to be very difficult to achieve 2<sup>nd</sup> sustainable development goal that is zero hunger till 2030 for India.

**Conclusion:**

On the basis of analysis, it seems to be very difficult to achieve 2<sup>nd</sup> sustainable development goal that is zero hunger till 2030 for India. Because, 34.7 percent of children under 5 years age are stunted, Almost half of the pregnant women aged between 15-49 years are anaemic

which affect future, 40.5 percent children aged 6-59 months are anaemic, 33.4 percent children between age 0-4 years are underweight. The condition of India is too much worsened to overcome this problem and achieve zero hunger. Food subsidies are necessary to the poor people which are provided by the Public Distribution System in India. But for that purpose agriculture production through increasing double productivity of food grain and other agriculture products is necessary. With only 40 percent of irrigation land it is impossible.

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