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Right to Food as Human Right in India: Issues and Challenges

ORIGINAL ARTICLE



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Abstract

Food is the basic requirement of human being to sustain their life. Without proper and balanced amount of food human being cannot survive and may suffer from various diseases. Availability of nutritious and adequate food to all is protected by State. Availability of food is a basic human right. Right to food is one of the fundamental rights. It is the duty of State to provide food to all irrespective of age, sex, caste, social, political or economic conditions irrespective of any conditions of life. Right to food has been recognized at national as well as international level. Indian Constitution under Article-21(Right to Life) recognized right to food in implied manner. It has been observed by the Honorable Supreme Court in the case of PUCL v Union of India; that right to food is the basic human right of all human being and it is the duty of State to provide to nutritious handful amount of food to all to raise their living standard. Right to food ensures quantity and quality

of food. To ensure quality and quantity National Food Security Act, 2013 was enacted in India. It ensures the availability of food grains to targeted beneficiaries. It provides food grains, cereal, oil and nuggets to ensures dietary recommendation value. Infant are protected under maternal benefits schemes whereas infants from the age group of six months to six years are benefitted by Anganwadi and from the age up to class fifth will be benefitted from Mid-Day Meal Scheme etc. there are various person who don't know about right to food and can't access the benefit of right to food in India such as Beggar, destitute, poor illiterate people, refugees etc. if they don't have Adhaar Card. Infants, people, children, male or female are malnourished in India. Rickets, undernutrition is prevalent in country where as on other side people are wasting the food and getting obesity due to consumption of large number of calories in their diet. India ranked high in Hunger index it is the matter of thought that why people are malnourished and living on starvation. It is the duty of State and people to implement laws for the protection of right to food for all in all conditions of life and eradicate hunger, malnutrition from the State.

Key Words

Right to food, National food security act, Food.

Introduction

“Right to food is one of the important weapons to fight against hunger, malnutrition, diseases and poverty. Right to food is not only the fundamental right it is a human right which should be protected by State

and for all human being. Being a human availability of food comes under the human right which is a Statutory, fundamental right. It is protected at national and international level. United Nations's Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948 and several other instruments have recognized the importance of right to food. National Food Security Act, 2013 has been enacted to provide subsidized food grains procured at minimum price by (FCI) Food Corporation of India and distribute these food grains from FCI to respective States and from states to Fair Price shop to targeted beneficiaries these food grains are distributed. Despite of enactment of National Food Security Act people are malnourished. India ranked high on Global Hunger Index and people are suffering from starvation. It is the matter of thought and debate why needy people are lying on starvation and hunger and on the other side people are becoming obese and suffering from obesity related disease such as heart attack, diabetes, kidney problems, obesity etc."¹

Meaning and Components of Right to Food, Right to Food as Human Right

Right to food is an intrinsic basic human right. It refers to a right which ensures availability of food in quality and quantity by State. It is the fundamental right which ensures the availability of food to sustain the life of people. According to Jean Ziegler right to food consists of three important components. It pertains that food should be nutritious and available physically and economically according to the culture of people.² These are as follows:

1. **“Availability:** Availability refers to getting ample amount of food for present and future generation. It should be available in long term basis and according to the environment norms.”³
2. **“Adequacy:** It refers to availability of nutritious food both in quality and quantity. The available food should be full of nutrients and acceptable to concerned people's culture.”⁴
3. **“Accessibility:** It refers to economic limits of people to purchase the food. People should not hamper the other basic such as housing, health, education if they have to purchase food by themselves. It also defines that physical weaken people or vulnerable group of people, children, elderly people, physically disabled people, terminally ill, medically weaken etc. should get proper amount of food along with the other basic needs.”⁵

“Right to food includes three obligations on State. These was defined in General Comment 12 by the Committee on ESCR and adopted by States at the time of FAO Council adopted the Right to Food Guidelines in November 2004. Therefore, right to food obliges duties on State in following ways:”⁶

- a. **“The obligation of respect:** It imposes duty on State that don't take any measurements for people who may eradicates the availability and access of food to people.”⁷
- b. **“The obligation to Protect:** It imposes duties on State that people's right to food should not be violating by enactment of any rules, regulations or laws when preventing the rights with third party such as corporations etc.”⁸
- c. **“The Obligation to fulfill:** It obliges State to provide adequate amount of food to all in adverse conditions of life. If any person is unable or could not access the food then it is the duty of a State to provide nutritious and adequate amount of food to them. State should also make such types of policies which may strengthen the accessibility and availability of food to all in all conditions of life.”⁹

Constitutional Aspects on Right to Food

“The right to food is fundamental right which comes under right to life Article-21 of Indian Constitution. Article-21 right to life ensures life with dignity and right to food is protected by State under Article-39(a) and 47. Article-21 should be read out with Article-39(a) and 47 to defines the obligation on State to ensure right to food for all.

Article 39(a) of the Indian Constitution explains the Directive Principles, it ensures obligation on State for governance of the country, it gives direction to State to make welfare policies for people to securing that all citizens have the right to an adequate means of livelihood. Article 47 explains the duty of State to raise the level of nutrition and standard of living of its people as on priority. The Indian Constitution ensures Right to

Food a guaranteed fundamental, basic human right. It can be enforceable or any one gets remedy if his or her basic fundamental rights are violated by themselves or through Public Interest litigation.”¹⁰

1. Fundamental Rights: “Article-14: “*The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India.*”¹¹ “It ensures equal protection of law among people.”¹²

“Article-21: “*No person shall be deprived from his life or personal liberty except the procedure established by law and the procedure must be fair and reasonable.*”¹³ “It ensures Protection of life and personal liberty.”¹⁴

“Article-32(1): *The right to move the Supreme Court by appropriate proceeding for the enforcement of the rights conferred by this Part is guaranteed.* If fundamental rights of any person are violated then in those circumstances, he or she can approach to judiciary to enforce their fundamental rights or through Public Interest Litigation any person may seek legal remedy to enforce fundamental rights.”¹⁵

“Therefore, it is the fundamental right of each and every one to get adequate amount of food in all situations. It is the duty of Government to provide desirable food to all beyond any limitations.”¹⁶

2. Directive Principles of State Policies: “Article-39(a)- “*The state shall, in particular, direct its policy towards securing, that the citizens, men and women equally, have the right to an adequate means to livelihood.* Article-47-*The State shall regard the raising of the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health as among its primary duties and, in particular, the State shall endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption except for medicinal purpose of intoxicating drinks and of drugs which are injurious to health.*”¹⁷

3. Fundamental duties: “**Article-51A (h)** *It shall be the duty of every citizen of India to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform.* Article-51A (j): *It shall be the duty of every citizen to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement.*”¹⁸ Fundamental Duties tells us that every citizen should work in proper manner which ensures growth and development of people. Country should adopt a scientific approach to do any task. It is the fundamental duty of each and every parent to give nutritious food to their children.”¹⁹

Legislative Measures for Right to Food: Salient Features of National Food Security Act, 2013

“In order to prevent hunger and malnutrition in the country, since Independence, the Government of India has adopted many food-based schemes and food assistance programmes. In Sept 2013, the National Food Security Bill 2013 was passed by both the Houses of Parliament in India. The National Food Security Act, 2013 is a law enacted by Parliament to provide for subsidized food and nutritional security to the people, in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity. This law aims to provide subsidized food grains to approximately two-thirds of India’s population.”²⁰

The features of this Act are as follows:

- i. “The Government will provide food entitlement to 75% of the population in rural India and 50% of the population in cities.”²¹
- ii. “Each eligible household will get 5 kg of food grain per person per month.
- iii. “The grains will be available at Rs. 3/2/1 per kg of rice /wheat /coarse grains.”²²
- iv. Entitlement of the existing Antyodaya Anna Yojana Households to be protected at 35 kg per household per month.”²³
- v. “Anganwadi’s to provide age-appropriate meals to children aged between 6 months and 6 years.”²⁴
- vi. “Mid-day meal scheme will provide food to children aged between 6 years and 14 years.”²⁵

- vii. “Breastfeeding to be promoted for children below 6 months.”²⁶
- viii. “State Food Commissions to be created that will monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Act as well as redress grievances.”²⁷
- ix. “Central and State Governments will undertake PDS reforms.”²⁸
- x. “The Central Government will provide food grains (or, failing that, funds) to State Governments, at prices specified, to eligible households.”²⁹
- xi. “Provision for penalty on public servant or authority, to be imposed by the State Food Commission, in case of failure to comply with the relief recommended by the District Grievance Redressal Officer.”³⁰Top of Form:
 - “One of the guiding principles of the Act is its **life-cycle approach** wherein special provisions have been made for pregnant women and lactating mothers and children in the age group of 6 months to 14 years, by entitling them to receive nutritious meal free of cost through a widespread network of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) centres, called Anganwadi Centres under ICDS scheme and also through schools under Mid-Day Meal (MDM) scheme. Higher nutritional norms have been prescribed for malnourished children up to 6 years of age. Pregnant women and lactating mothers are further entitled to receive cash maternity benefit of not less than Rs. 6,000 to partly compensate for the wage loss during the period of pregnancy and also to supplement nutrition.”³¹
 - “In case of non-supply of the entitled quantities of foodgrains or meals to entitled persons under NFSA, such persons shall be entitled to receive such food security allowance from the concerned State Government to be paid to each person, within such time and manner as may be prescribed by the Central Government. These provisions are governed through the **Food Security Allowance Rules, 2015**.”³²

Direct Benefit of transfer³³

“National Food Security Act (2013) provides for reforms in the TPDS including schemes such as Cash transfers for provisioning of food entitlements. In pursuance of enabling provisions under section 12 of NFSA for cash transfer, Govt. notified ‘**Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy Rule, 2015**’ in Aug 2015. The DBT experiment aims to (i) reduce the need for huge physical movement of foodgrains (ii) provide greater autonomy to beneficiaries to choose their consumption basket (iii) enhance dietary diversity (iv) reduce leakages (v) facilitate better targeting (vi) promote financial inclusion.”³⁴

Power of Central Government to make Rules

“Under Section 39(1) of NFSA, the Central Government may, in consultation with the State Governments and by notification, make rules to carry out the provisions of the Act. The following Rules have been notified by the Central Government”³⁵:

- i. “Provisioning of Funds to State Governments for Short Supply of Foodgrains Rules, 2014.
- ii. Food Security Allowance Rules, 2015.
- iii. Food security (assistance to State Government Rules) 2015
- iv. Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy Rules, 2015
- v. Notification of WCD and HRD”³⁶

“Section 40 of the National Food Security Act provides that the State Governments may, by notification and consistent with the Act and the rules made by the Central Government, make rules to carry out the provisions of this Act.”³⁷

International Aspects on Right to Food as Human Right

International law and instruments

Historical development of right to food

“This section provides an overview of international developments relevant to the establishment and implementation of the right to food from the mid-20th century onwards.”³⁸

- “1941 – In his Four Freedoms speech, U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt includes as one of the freedoms: The freedom from want.
- Later this freedom formed part of the 1945 United Nations Charter (Article 1(3)).
- 1948 – Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognises the right to food as part of the right to an adequate standard of living:
- “Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control (Article 25).”³⁹
- “1966 – The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, reiterates the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with regard to the right to an adequate standard of living and, in addition, specifically recognises the right to be free from hunger. The covenant, states parties recognise; the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food” (Article 11.1) and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger. (Article 11.2).”⁴⁰
- “1976 – Entry into force of the Covenant.
- 1987 – Establishment of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights overseeing the implementation of the Covenant and beginning a more legal interpretation of the Covenant.
- 1999 – The Committee adopts General Comment No. 12 ‘The Right to Adequate Food’, describing the various State obligations derived from the Covenant regarding the right to food.
- 2009 – Adoption of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, making the right to food justiciable at the international level.”⁴¹
- “1974 – Adoption of the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition at the World Food Conference.
- 1988 – Adoption of the right to food in the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the area of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (the Protocol of San Salvador).
- 1996 – The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) organises the 1996 World Food Summit in Rome, resulting in the Rome Declaration on World Food Security.
- 2004 – The FAO adopts the Right to Food Guidelines, offering guidance to States on how to implement their obligations on the right to food. The drafting of the guidelines was initiated as a result of the 2002 World Food Summit.
- 2000 – The mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food is established.
- 2000 – Adoption of the Millennium Development Goals, including Goal 1: to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by 2015.
- 2012 – The Food Assistance Convention is adopted as a result of the Food Aid Convention (1985?), making it the first legally binding international treaty on food aid.”⁴²

“Amartya Sen won his 1998 Nobel Prize in part for his work in demonstrating that famine and mass starvation in modern times was not typically the product of a lack of food; rather, it usually arose from problems in food distribution networks or from Government policies”⁴³

“The right to food is protected under international human rights and humanitarian law.”⁴⁴

International Law

The right to food is recognized in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 25) as part of the right to an adequate standard of living, and is enshrined in the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Article 11). The 2009 Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights makes the right to food justiciable at the international level. In 2012, the Food Assistance Convention was adopted, making it the first legally binding international treaty on food aid”⁴⁵.

International Instruments

It is also recognized in many specific international instruments as varied as the 1948 Genocide Convention (Article 2), the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (Articles 20 and 23), the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child (Articles 24(2)(c) and 27(3)), the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (Articles 12(2)), or the 2007 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Articles 25(f) and 28(1)).⁴⁶

Regional Instruments

The right to food is also recognized in regional instruments, such as⁴⁷:

- “The 1988 Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the area of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights or “Protocol of San Salvador” (Article 12);
- The 1990 African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.
- The African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights, implicitly in the right to life (Article 4), right to health (Article 14), and right to economic, social and cultural development (Article 22), according to the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights decision in *SERAC v Nigeria*.
- The 2003 Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa or “Maputo Protocol” (Article 15).
- The ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (Article 28).
- Neither the European Convention on Human Rights nor the European Social Charter mentions a right to food.⁴⁸

“There are also such instruments in many national constitutions.”⁴⁹

Non legally Binding Instruments

There are several non-legally binding international human rights instruments relevant to the right to food. They include recommendations, guidelines, resolutions or declarations. The most detailed is the 2004 Right to Food Guidelines. They are a practical tool to help implement the right to adequate food. The Right to Food Guidelines are not legally binding but draw upon international law and are a set of recommendations States have chosen on how to implement their obligations under Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Finally, the preamble to the 1945 Constitution of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization provides that the Nations accepting this Constitution, being determined to promote the common welfare by furthering separate and collective action on their part for the purpose of: raising levels of nutrition and standards of living and thus ensuring humanity’s freedom from hunger.⁵⁰

Other Instruments

In 1993, the *International Food Security Treaty* was developed in the US and Canada.

In 1998, a Conference on Consensus Strategy on the Right to Food was held in Santa Barbara, California, US with anti-hunger experts from five continents.

In 2010, a group of national and international organisations created a proposal to replace the European Union Common Agricultural Policy, which was due for change in 2013. The first article of The New Common Food and Agriculture Policy considers food as a universal human right, not merely a commodity.⁵¹

International Conventions

1. “**The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) (1948)** under Article-25(1) defines that everyone is entitled to live in a standard living condition. Proper cloth, food shelter and other necessary social services should be provided during all stages of life.”⁵²
2. “**The United Nations Committee on International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) of 1966 under Article-11 has defined Right to Food: (Article-11, para-1)** every person should enjoy all life including food.”⁵³

3. “**International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), 1966 (Article-11 para-2)** ensures right to life under good living conditions.”⁵⁴

Constitution of Different Countries for Right to Food

1. “**Australia**”⁵⁵:
 - i. “The Constitution of Australia does not contain provisions related to the right to adequate food.
 - ii. Australia has become a State party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 1975 by way of ratification.”⁵⁶
2. “**America**”⁵⁷
 - i. “The Constitution of the United States of America does not contain provisions related to the right to adequate food.
 - ii. The United States of America have signed the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) in 1977 but has not yet become a State party.”⁵⁸
3. “**Uganda**”⁵⁹
 - i. “The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda has directive principles that contribute to the realization of the right to adequate food.
 - ii. The Republic of Uganda has become a State party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) in 1987 by way of accession.”⁶⁰
4. “**United Kingdom**”⁶¹
 - i. “The Constitution of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland does not contain provisions related to the right to adequate food.
 - ii. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has become a State party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) in 1976 by way of ratification.”⁶²
5. “**China**”⁶³
 - i. “The Constitution of the People’s Republic of China does not explicitly guarantee the right to adequate food.
 - ii. The People’s Republic of China has become a State party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) in 2001 by way of ratification.
 - iii. Other pertinent provisions for the realization of the right to adequate food.”⁶⁴
- iv. “**Article 44:** The state prescribes by law the system of retirement for workers and staff in enterprises and undertakings and for functionaries of organs of state. The livelihood of retired personnel is ensured by the state and society.”⁶⁵
- v. “**Article 45:** Citizens of the People’s Republic of China have the right to material assistance from the state and society when they are old, ill or disabled. The state develops the social insurance, social relief and medical and health services that are required to enable citizens to enjoy this right. The state and society ensure the livelihood of disabled members of the armed forces, provide pensions to the families of martyrs and give preferential treatment to the families of military personnel. The state and society help make arrangements for the work, livelihood and education of the blind, deaf-mute and other handicapped citizens.”⁶⁶
- vi. “**Article 46:** Citizens of the People’s Republic of China have the duty as well as the right to receive education. The state promotes the all-round moral, intellectual and physical development of children and young people.”⁶⁷

Judicial Aspect on Right to Food as Human Right

Right to Food under Article 21 of Indian Constitution

“Article 21 is considered as one of the most essential provisions of the constitution. It is a fundamental right that guarantees the right to life and personal liberty to all citizens equally. The ambit of Article 21 has

always been kept wide and inclusive. The right to life includes a right to live with dignity. The right to live with dignity recognises the right to food as an inseparable part of Article 21. The right to food has also been upheld by judicial pronouncements.⁶⁸

“In the landmark judgement of *Keshavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973)*, which discussed the basic structure of the Constitution, talked about the right to be free from starvation as an integral part of the right to life under part III of the constitution.”⁶⁹

“In another case of *Dena Nath v. National Fertilisers Ltd. (1991)*, the court directed the establishment of food canteens in every worker’s quarters and to provide food in these canteens at a subsidised rate. This was to ensure the workers get access to adequate food and uphold their rights.”⁷⁰

“In yet another case of *Shantistar Builders v. Narayan Khimalal Tomate (1990)*, the courts recognised the right to shelter as a basic human right and further stated that in India, 3 basic rights have been recognised – the right to shelter, right to food and right to clothing.”⁷¹

“In a 2021 crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic had already caused loss of life, shelter, food and basic amenities to the migrants. Approximately 11 million migrants in India faced food crisis and food insecurity. The Court reiterated that the right to food is an inseparable part of the right to life under Article 21. The Supreme Court directed the state Governments to initiate appropriate schemes immediately and stop the plight of migrants. The Court ordered state Governments to distribute dry ration to the migrants, even the ones that did not possess a ration card. The Central Government implemented the One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) Scheme and also set up a National Database of Unorganized Workers (NDUW) portal in 2021.”⁷²

“Kishen Patttnayak v. State of Orissa (1989)”⁷³

“In this case law the petitioner was a resident of a small village in the Kalahandi district of Odisha. He wrote a letter to the Supreme Court of India addressing the issue of extreme hunger and starvation in Kalahandi. People started selling their children in order to be able to buy food. This was the first case to be filed on the right against hunger and starvation. The letter requested the apex court to direct the state Government to take immediate and adequate steps and measures to improve this extreme condition.”⁷⁴“The Court directed the state Government to take the following steps for uplifting the conditions of people and provide to needy people in Kalahandi.”⁷⁵

“People Union for civil liberties v. Union of India”⁷⁶

“The People’s Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) had time and again filed several petitions in attempts to uphold the public interest. One such writ petition in the form of Public Interest Litigation (PIL) was filed by the organisation under Article 32 contending that not providing adequate laws to uphold the right to food and freedom from starvation is a violation of Article 21 and Article 47 of the Constitution.”⁷⁷”orders of Court are as follows:

1. “Several interim orders were first passed and authorities were directed to distribute and provide food to the destitute, the elderly, pregnant women, men, children and every individual facing extreme hunger and starvation. The authorities were asked to provide them with food stocks directly in case they were financially incapable of doing it on their own.”⁷⁸
2. “The court ordered to expand its Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) which provided provisions for supplementary food to children of 0-6 years age group and to pregnant women. The court directed to expand this scheme in order to make food more accessible to those undernourished, suffering from acute malnutrition and other deficiencies.”⁷⁹
3. “The court directed the Anganwadi centres to provide food to children, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating women for 300 days a year in the form of supplementary food.”⁸⁰
4. “An obligation was put on the Government of every state and every union territory to ensure that nobody dies out of hunger, starvation or malnutrition. Thus, the Government must either provide food

directly to those who are unable to get it for themselves, provide aid to them for doing the same, or provide them employment in order to make them capable enough to access basic necessities. The Court directed the state Governments to initiate food-for-work programmes and encourage people to participate.”⁸¹

5. “The Court further initiated the mid-day meals scheme and instructed the Governments in implementing the same.”⁸²
6. “The Court stated that any death caused due to malnutrition or starvation shall be treated as a violation of Article 21 by the respective state Government and they shall be liable for the same.”⁸³

“**Kapila Hingorani v. State of Bihar (2003)**”⁸⁴

“This saddening incident that took place in Bihar, hundreds of Government employees died due to starvation or committed suicide due to non-payment of salaries for a long period of time.”⁸⁵

“The court pronounced several directives to the state Governments and strictly asked them to make provisions to ensure that nobody dies of hunger or starvation. If that happens, the states could be held liable for violating.”⁸⁶

Issues and Challenges for Right to Food and Right to Food as Human Right

“The Act does not specify criteria for the identification of households eligible for PDS entitlements. Central Government has let the State Governments decide their own criteria for identifying the beneficiaries of the Food Security Act. Failure to define the beneficiaries is a shortcoming of the Act. This Act refers to food standards generally, but does not provide any detail of the nutritional levels to be met. Public distribution system has leakage.”⁸⁷

Preventive Measures for Implementation of Right to Food

1. Leakage in public distribution system should be checked.
2. Vulnerable group of people should be provided food in quality and quantity.
3. If Adhaar card is not available then needy people should be provided food.

Conclusion

“Right to food is human rights of all the nations. The Indian concept of Dharma (religion) lays extraordinary emphasis on growing and sharing food in abundance. *Atharvaveda* ensures that all have equal rights in articles of food and water. Food Security Act is a good initiative but not a sufficient measure. It is important that people being targeted are aware of their entitlements. Information regarding the programmes needs to be clearly communicated through the media, counseling and other methods. Since each state is different in terms of absolute and relative poverty, State- wise indicators may be formulated. Special efforts have to be made in selection of beneficiaries of the Food Security Act.

The Right to Food is not just a basic Human Right; it is also a basic human need. Therefore, as responsible persons we should pressurize the Government to enforce Right to Food effectively. Law should be implemented in true manner. Culprits should be punished and each and every one should be aware about their right to food to get nutritious and adequate amount of food.”⁸⁸

Footnotes

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