

IDENTIFICATION OF FOOD SECURITY IN RAWAL-PINDI

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ABSTRACT

Food Security means that all people at all times have physical & economic access to adequate amount of nutritious, safe, and culturally appropriate foods, which are produced in an environmentally sustainable and socially just manner, and that people are able to make informed decisions about their food choices. The study focused the food secure population in district Rawalpindi. The study was carried out in Tehsil Rawalpindi in the Punjab province of Pakistan. Simple random sampling technique was used for this research study in Tehsil Rawalpindi. A sample of 200 respondents was selected. The data was analyzed by SPSS. It was concluded that majority of the people have low income, high food expenditures, low educational level affecting food security and government policies were not satisfactory to ensure food security

Key words: Food security, Poverty, Expenditure, Policies

INTRODUCTION

Food is the fundamental requirement of humans because food security is important for healthy individuals, for their freedom and respectable livelihood between the societies of countries throughout the globe. A starving country, in no state of admiration and regard, can never sustain its freedom. To gain major objective of constancy of a Government, it's extremely necessary to grasp the value of surety of foodstuff in the kingdom. No wise country can bear food insecurity mainly as the state of rising populace weight leading to more expanding of current disparities. In addition, it can direct to wars, generate disorder, oppression between the nation. Major objective of each person of country be struggle in opposition to famine (Ahmed, 2009).

Definition of food security says that each individual contain physical & economic access to proper amounts of healthy, secure, well and ethnically suitable food, that are formed in a sustainable and communally just way, and individuals are capable of creating up to date decisions of their food choices. It can also be defined as the people who generate food are capable to make a first-class, livelihood income mounting, catching, forming, transferring, and presenting food. Another view is, access to balanced, well food and best nutritions for everybody. Food access is openly linked with provision of foodstuff, therefore food security rely on a balanced and healthy

food scheme. It includes the production, dispensation, sharing, promotion, gaining, and utilization of food (Anonymous, 2012).

Poverty shapes a horrible condition to Pakistan and this situation endlessly flattering better that swallowing the entire developmental resources and each attempt done towards the development is simply going downward the drain. It becomes a huge challenge to the rulers, legislators, politicians, rule makers and other concerned regulators. Poverty is increasing quickly and offsetting the entire economic profitable which is a big problem. Today about 45 % of total population is living under the poverty line and this % is on rising tendency which invites the total intellectual forces to come on the point. The circumstances prevailing is so bad that need some instant action with greatest all ears interest (Aslam, 2009).

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To identify the policies for ensuring food security.
- To assess the food insecure population in the subject area.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This research was held in the chosen regions of Rawalpindi district and survey technique was used for data collection. Focus of the research was to investigate the poverty reduction situation and food security. The respondents in the present study were 200 males, including farmers, labors and common man. Simple random sample technique was utilized to choose the respondents. The major technique used for data collection was Interview schedule. It was pretested before collecting the actual data to check the reliability of the interview schedule. The data collected was analyzed through descriptive and inferential statistics. It includes frequency distribution. To draw inferences, bi-variant method was used.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Data analysis and its justification to clarify the facts and figures present the fundamental function to convey some scientific study results. Generality of results and forecast for upcoming study cannot be accomplished until and except the gathered data go through its scrutiny. The subject section enlightens the analysis plus explanation of the data gathered throughout the investigation of the present research. It furthermore stands for the background information concerning respondents

Table 1:

Government facilitate when shortage of food	Frequency	Percent
Agree	5	2.5
Disagree	125	62.5
Strongly Disagree	70	35.0
Total	200	100.0

Table 1 depicted that only 2.5% respondents were facilitated when there is a shortage of any food item in the market. Rest of the 97.5% respondents said that we were never facilitated by the government, it happens every 2nd year when there is a shortage of sugar and tomato in the market but we were never facilitated by the government. Saeed (2013) stated that food shortages are becoming a pervasive danger and food insecurity a constant worry. More than half of Pakistan's population is food insecure, anemic and malnourished.

Table 2:

Food distributed equally among all	Frequency	Percent
Undecided	10	5.0
Agree	15	7.5
Strongly Agree	10	5.0
Disagree	165	82.5
Total	200	100.0

According to them inflation is increasing day by day, While 9.5% of the respondents said nothing about this. Aftab (2013) expressed that one of the most important factors influencing poverty in the country is inflation. Pakistan general price level is persistently raising since it's establishment. Table 2 illustrated that only 5.0 % of the respondents were agreed as well as strongly agree,

That food is distributed equally among people. 82.5% of the respondents were disagreed that food is not distributed properly and equally among all people. And 5% of the respondents don't have any idea about the distribution of the food items

Table 3:

Government should make precautions to save the crops	Frequency	Percent
Agree	140	70.0
Strongly Agree	60	30.0
Total	200	100.0

Table 3 showed that 70% of the respondents were agreed that government should take steps and make precautions to save crops from any kind of threats and disasters, 30.0% of the respondents were strongly agreed that government must take steps and save the crops to increase the yield and production. Arif (2007) stated that famine, floods, tropical storms plus pests can suddenly wash away great amounts of foodstuff as it raises or is stocked up for later on use or planting

CONCLUSION

Majority of the respondents had low level of income and more than half of their income is expended on food items only. There was neither a job opportunity available for the respondent's except farming, nor the replacement in agricultural equipments. Living standards of respondents were not increasing. Government policies were not working in the area. There was neither a loan-providing scheme for the farmers for creating conducive environment for the facilitation. Furthermore there was not a single awareness program regarding food security. Food production is enough for the people, still they do not have access to it due to lack of economic opportunities, inflation and black-marketing.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Government must launch awareness programs in the area for food security, so that respondents should be well aware of securing food.
- There should be availability of loan for the farmers on easy conditions.

- Modern technology and training should be available in order to increase the yield.
- The Policy makers must strengthen the role of Gov. and private sector to improve the status of food security.
- There must be a law to give a decent wage to the labors that produce food.
- Government should make precautions to save the crops from natural disasters.

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