

Letters to the Editor

[The Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by the correspondents]

Global Hunger Index

SIR, — After the outbreak of pandemic Covid-19, and the great lockdown, the world as well as India faces the greatest crisis of shortage of purchasing capacity of food and a famine like condition pervasive. It is another famine - which is not visible, and being carefully covered - but which is spreading like wildfire.

On Friday, October 16, 2020, the results of a study published by "Concern Worldwide and Weal Hungerlife" ie, - World Hunger Index. It is published every year. This year, India ranks 94th out of 107 countries in the world in terms of global hunger index. For a country like India, the results have been disappointing and embarrassing, even though it has been a few steps up since last year. There are tears of hunger all over the country - not reaching the ears of the country's directors. No matter how dazzling the eyes may be on top, no matter how many boastful stories of development may be haunted, the tears in the chest can never be suppressed.

The report of the World Organization shows the deteriorating situation in India. India's position in the last few years according to the hunger index—

2011-67	2015-80
2012-66	2016-97
2013-63	2017-100
2014-55	2018-102

As much as there has been discussion of building up India's economy and improving expectations for everyday comforts, the more all discussion of improvement, the more the cry of hunger grows; Appetite is also increasing. Proving how stupid the development story is. More directly demonstrates the neglect in the preservation of our national child health, resulting in the deterioration of child health. This is because the World Hunger Index is based on a number of essential components of child health.

What are those elements ?

Malnutrition :

First, the rate of malnutrition. What percentage of Indian children are suffering from malnutrition. The survey says 14 percent. Although in reality the rate of malnutrition is much higher, many scientists believe.

Child Wasting :

Second is the calculation of whether the children are underweight according to their height. In English it is called Child Wasting Rate. In India, the child wasting rate is 17.3 percent.

Child Stunting :

Thirdly, where the height and growth of children is less than the age. Child stunting rate in India, is very high at 37.4 percent. This is a reflection of malnutrition and low birth weight.

Child Mortality :

Fourthly, the under-five mortality rate in India has come down slightly. Respiratory infections, infections, pneumonia, diarrhea have been reduced at birth, but on the other hand for low birth weight, premature infant mortality has increased.

Judging by these four criteria, India ranks 94th in the world hunger index in 2020, even below Pakistan. Ranks of some neighboring countries: Pakistan 88, Nepal 73, Bangladesh 74, Sri Lanka 64, Myanmar 78, and even 24 African countries are ahead of India. The report says the situation in India is serious.

In a country where only 2% of GDP is spent on health, child health is neglected; the situation in that country will be serious –without any doubt!

In this country on the one hand the grain is wasted in the warehouse and on the other hand the children are crying with hunger, which is suppressed. Child malnutrition is a major obstacle for the overall development of a nation.

In 2020, according to Human developmental index, India is lagging behind, 131st out of 189 countries, even behind Bangladesh. As mentioned earlier, infant mortality rates have declined somewhat. The state health minister has claimed that the infant mortality rate in West Bengal is lower than other states. But the survival of a sick, infirm, disabled child who is suffering from anemia, who is underweight, who is underweight in proportion to his age, increasing the burden of society - the ability to lead a successful life will remain elusive for all those children - and if the child suffers from such malnutrition, his talent and intellect will not be able to develop.

This cry of hunger is not of today – It was started a long time ago. In the context of globalization, it was said - the tears will decrease, will go away - but instead it has increased - it is increasing day by day. Pandemic Covid-19 has boost up it further. A private survey in West Bengal found that more than 18 per cent of people go to bed with hunger, while 44 per cent are forced to borrow money to buy two handfuls of food. Getting nutritious food is a far cry.

Past Associate Editor, JIMA **Dr. Amitabha Bhattacharya**

Are We Marching away from Safety

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SIR, — Today a patient was referred for fistula in ano . He had consulted an Ayush doctor for fistula in ano two years back , who tied a kshar sutra and has been treating from two years with worsening of symptoms. At present there is anal stenosis, persistent fistula but cannot do per rectal examination because of tight anal stenosis.

Who is responsible? No one blames the Ayush doctors for the negligence.

Second case : a patient came with sloughing of anal area in shock, giving history of sclerosant injection in haemorrhoids, we had to perform colostomy to heal the anal area. Again who is liable? These are some examples who come to surgeons all over the country. These are the few procedures which Ayush doctors perform freely without thinking about the morbidity and mortality of the patients.

In the editorial above the editor has brought up the current issue of allowing Ayush doctors to perform Surgery. Especially the remark in the last paragraph "we all know that MS stands for Master of Surgery in modern Medical education in Indian Medical education system. In this vast country it is next to impossible to identify/distinguish somebody who designates himself as only MS."

If they are allowed other procedures without any liability it will increase the morbidity of patients. Already patients come with advanced stage of malignancy as they were promised by Ayush doctors of treatment. In India illiteracy and ignorance leads the patient to an easily available option or fooled by middleman to be treated.

Ayush doctors do not face the violence against doctors and are not held responsible for procedure they do.

Government should look at the consequences and instead of giving Guns to amateurs provide facilities at already existing surgical centres.

Hope government understands these things and puts the Ayush doctors too under some law and answerable to patients.

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