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The growing food insecurity amongst the tribals of Jammu and Kashmir some recent evidences

Mehak Majeed[a], Imran Maqbool Wani[b], Ishtiyaq Bashir[b], and Zahid Gulzar[c]

[a]Department of Economics, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora, Jammu and Kashmir, India; [b]Department of Economics, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Jammu and Kashmir, India; [c]Department of Economics, GDC Bijbihara, Department of Higher Education, Jammu and Kashmir, India

ABSTRACT

Food security has been recognized as a human right. Countries have been entrusted with the task of securing food security. The present study is an attempt to evaluate the status of food security amongst the tribals of Jammu and Kashmir, India. Based on data collected from all 20 districts of J&K, using the Household Food Insecurity Access Scale, the findings of the present analysis validate that the tribals of J&K have moved from being self-sufficient, thus food secure, to increasingly becoming food insecure. The study identifies various important factors, impacting the growing food security of the group under discussion.

Introduction

The central argument made by Amartya Sen,[1] in his book, "Poverty and famines: an essay on entitlement and deprivation" is that famines occur not necessarily because of a lack in the food production or supply. It is argued that instead famines are an outcome of multiple factors, predominantly the weakness in the process of food distribution. Based on the understanding of the necessity of providing food to the citizens as part of their basic human rights, this responsibility falls on the mechanism of democracy within an economic system. Globally, it has been observed that one of the fundamental welfare tasks taken care of by the democratic nations is the provision of state-subsidized, affordable, and accessible food to its citizens.[2] The first step in the direction of targeting the individual welfare worldwide is to ensure the provision of safe, secure, edible, and enough food for people. Over the course of human development, ensuing food security has been recognized as one of the fundamental tasks of the democratic and welfarist governments.

Food security is defined as a situation where all the people (under consideration) have physical and economic access to the food that they have a