**Food security in local communities in Bangladesh.**

MD MOSTOFA HASIB,

American international university-bangladesh

21-44938-2@student.aiub.edu

**Abstract**

Food security being a problem for one of the developing countries is a major problem in Bangladesh. This is a country that produces its own food, but many citizens are food insecure. Ever since, scientists have tried to bridge the gap between people’s hunger needs in Bangladesh and available food supply. However, this study aimed at exploring the currently available data on food security in Bangladesh through systematic review. Although there has been considerable advancement in food availability, access, and use over the last decades, food solidity continues to be one of the biggest challenges. Even so, it is of interest to note that food uncertainty is one of the most critical problems facing the country. Among all countries, the most significant achievement has taken place in regard of rice in Bangladesh. This results in high incomes, but the food is rarely appealing. Unequal acquisition of land by individuals along with inequalities in income distribution are responsible for this poor food access. Although food waste has improved over time, equilibrium in food intake still stands below normal requirement. Millions of people are still plagued with food insecurity, hunger, and malnutrition. For instance, Bangladesh’s government made several attempts towards food security, but failed as it kept on recurring. Despite the general improvement in food security, nutritional availability differs between the two regions. Firstly, there are various factors that hinder food security. Therefore, GO’s and NGOs could cooperate with each other on some recent problems related to food safety in Bangladesh.

**Keywords:** Food security; Availability; Access; Solidity; Bangladesh; Developing country; Scientists; Income distribution; Government programs.

1. Introduction

Food is the basic need for survival of every organism with a lifecycle. For many developing countries like Bangladesh, the most significant development goal has been securing food supply. There are over 805 million hungry people globally, that is one out of every nine persons. In addition, “hidden hunger “, which results from poor micronutrients intake such as Iron, Vitamin A and Zinc, affects up to two billion people across the world[1].The food insecurity situation in Bangladesh has been worsened by issues like overcrowding and declining ratios of land-to-people, necessitating greater emphasis on food security[2]. The Bangladeshi government has made efforts toward eliminating population growth and overcoming food shortage since its emancipation in 1971[3] describes food security as a situation in which all individuals are able to make use of the physical, social, and economic means for obtaining nutritional, edible and sufficient food for active life[4]. Notably, food security involves four key dimensions, Food security means enough food for everybody at any given time. Being a “peasant state”, Bangladesh has over fifty percent of its people involved in agriculture for their survival [5]Additionally, about 14.17 percent of GDP is provided by the country’s agricultural sector[6]. The country may achieve self-sufficiency particularly in rice that is the staple food. Rice production has multiplied three times in the past three decades. More than 70% of the total daily dietary consumption of Bangladesh consists of rice [7][8]. Nevertheless, it is estimated that about 32% of the entire population is poor and cannot afford adequate meals[9]. However, even with enough food production in Bangladesh, as many as 26% of its people continue living in chronic food insecurity. Hence this also points out some gaps in availability, consumption and storage which are other areas of food-security. Consequently, it essential for policy makers to evaluate the prevailing state of food security in Bangladesh, highlight weaknesses in the access, utilization, and stability aspect which may present as future challenges and suggest ways of handling the emergencies. This paper will review the current situation of food security in the country, analyze observed weaknesses and recommend measures for improvement.

* 1. Literature Review

A substantial body of literature is available on food security in local communities and includes an extensive discussion of economics as well as other determinants such as environment and policies. To sum up, this review brings together key insights of other studies addressing various dimensions of food security challenges faced by Bangladesh’s community.[10]

Agrarian Dynamics: There has been extensive research on the agrarian scene in Bangladesh due to a large chunk of the population working as farmers. Rice is the major staple food in the country. Agriculture also plays a significant part in the national economy. The scholar’s probe into the complexities of local farming techniques, crop diversification, and local food security at the community level.

According to FAO (2008), food security stands for four basic pillars such as availability, access for all people, utilization and stability[11].Climate change is playing a key driver in developing countries by affecting their socio-economic, temporal, political aspects from the national to global levels. There are several vulnerability assessment studies found the impacts of climate change in Bangladesh, on its natural systems through low land inundation, storm surges, decreasing river flows, saline water intrusion and change in coastal morphology resulting to increase risk of natural disasters (cyclone, tornados, storm surges, flush flood, landslide, drought, erosion, erratic heavy rainfall), drought and erosion, sedimentation of riverbeds etc[12]. Consequently, socio-economic systems are adversely affecting by loss and transformation of thousands of hectares cultivable crops land from non-flood prone to moderately or extremely flood-prone status and livelihoods of local communities endangering food security.

Food insecurity in local communities, population growth comes out as a significant determinant. Researchers focus on the strain caused by declining land per capita ratios as well as the challenges posed by feeding ever increasing populations. The paper examines what role does population pressure plays in relation to local food production and consumption.

These findings point out how government policies influence food security outcomes. The government has put a lot of effort in controlling population growth and increasing food production since 1971 when Bangladeshi was liberated. This examines how effective have these interventions been on local communities as assessed by scholars. A few decades later, economic disparities and poverty remain recurring issues in these books. However, many still lack good quality and quantity nutrition and there is limited possibility for poor people to pay more money on such foods. The nexus between the alleviation of poverty and improved food security. Scholars predict potential threats to food security as social and economic situations change and environmental conditions alter. These cover all aspects ranging from production to access, usage, and instability as well.

REFERENCES

1. FAO 2014a. World Hunger Falls, But 805 million Still Chronically Undernourished. In UN Report.
2. Shaheen N & Islam S 2012. National Situation of Food and Nutrition Security in Bangladesh. Asian Alliance against Hunger and Malnutrition (AAHM) and the Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development(ANGOC).
3. Parvin GA & Ahsan SMR 2013. Impacts of Climate Change on Food Security of Rural Poor Women in Bangladesh. Management of environmental quality: an international journal.24 (6): 802-814.
4. FAO 2009. The State of Food Insecurity in the world. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome.
5. Jolliffe D, Sharif I, Lea G & Ahmed F 2013.Bangldesh-Poverty Assessment: Assessing a Decade of Progress in Reducing Poverty, 2000-2010.
6. BBS 2017. Gross domestic product of Bangladesh,2016-17. Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
7. Hossain M 2014. Sustaining Food Security: Achievements and Challenges. In The BEF Conference. Bangladesh Economist's Forum: Dhaka.
8. Shaheen N & Islam S 2012. National Situation of Food and Nutrition Security in Bangladesh. Asian Alliance against Hunger and Malnutrition (AAHM) and the Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC).
9. FAO 2011a. State of the World's Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome.
10. JEFFREY ALWANG A LITERATURE REVIEW OF PUBLIC FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN BANGLADESH. International Food Policy Research Institute Washington, D.C. September 1991.
11. 2008. Climate Change and Food Security: A Framework Document. Rome, Italy, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Retrieved from : www.fao.org/forestry/15538-079b31d45081fe9c3dbc6ff34de4807e4.pdf (access on October 18, 2014).
12. Huq, S. and Ayers, J. 2007. Climate Change Impacts and Responses in Bangladesh. Brussels, Policy Department Economy and Science, EU. 7 p.