Strayer University

#### **Poverty and Food Security**

Week 7

**Assignment 2**

for the

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**Poverty and Food Security**

**Introduction**

1. **A one-half page introduction**

This paper is about the global food security as it relates to population growth and poverty. Poverty and food security around the global are causing lots of problems more especially in developing countries. The world population “is expected to grow from 7 billion in 2010 to 8 billion in 2025, 9 billion in 2040, and 11 billion by the end of the 21st century”. As of the current number, three billion, one and half billion, live on $2.50 and $1.25 or less a day respectfully. In addition, 20,000 children starve to death in the world daily. Even though the population is growing, there is enough food to cater for this number. The major issues are the ways of making food available to people which are the challenges for the United Nation and other organizations. Before I go any further, I would like to define some terms which are used in this paper to make an understanding easy, then address what food insecurity is, what role the population growth play in it, what factors specifically interrupt the flow of food from the source to the people in the developing country like Ethiopia, and lastly, what forms of technology can be used to reduce hunger and improve food security.

1. **What is food insecurity and what role does population growth play in it?**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) [defines food insecurity as “ a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life](https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/definitions-of-food-security.aspx). the state of being without reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food”. It is the process which lead people to be in the state of hunger. This result in those who don’t have enough to eat especially young ones, become malnutrition. Before I go any further, I would like to identify the underlying causes of hunger and malnutrition. Hunger can be caused by poverty trap, war and displacement, and climate and weather.

### Many people are trap in poverty such that they can't afford nutritious food for themselves and their families. Therefore, they are physical and mentally weak, which make them unable to work hard and earn the money which can make them escape poverty. As a result, such people continue that same life style which can be pass to their off spring.

The has been a steady growing in the number of wars all over the world. This has resulted in people moving from place to place, starting the new life which takes long time to recover. Wars make them to leave their land behind and relocate them to other places which don’t have fertile land for farming.

Climate and weather are other issues which contributes to poverty. There has been an increase in the number of natural disasters all over the world. One of the major one is drought which has contributed to the shortage of food worldwide.

Malnutrition on the other hand, is a condition that results from nutrient deficiency or overconsumption. It can lead to serious health issues such as, stunted growth, eye problems, diabetes and heart disease. It has affected a lot of people worldwide. Some people have a high risk of developing certain types of malnutrition depending on their environment, lifestyle and resources.

1. **What factors specifically interrupt the flow of food from the source to the people in the developing country you selected?**

Ethiopia is one of the countries which has the interruption flow of food from the source to the peopleand it has played a major role locally. She still faces food security crises after the devastating famine in 1984. In 2003, up to 15 million people were considered food insecure. Despite much research, we still do not know enough about how local people in different settings understand and cope with food shortage. Some major factal of food insecurity are a decrease in land size and quality, animal and plant diseases and a reduction of trees and wild products, population increase, governance issues related to development policies and indebtedness, conflict, and a loss of work values. This has made the United nation and other agencies to come to their aid. But their work was met with some challenges which made it difficult to distribute food in different parts of the country to reach to the people. The following are the issues which interrupt the flow of food from the source to the people: civil war, **economic issues**, inadequate food distribution center, political instability and poor infrastructure.

Civil war can interrupt the flow of food from gathering depots, such as ports, to distribution centers where it can be handed out to people. People are in a constant way of ruining for their lives. Therefore, they have no time moving food from one location to the other. This make it difficult for the flow of food till the end of war.

**Economic issues also play an important role in the distribution of food.** The economy of Ethiopia is so bad that foods donating is going to the wrong hand because it becomes expensive to move it to the rural area.

Inadequate food distribution center comes as an issue as well. There is more than enough food in the world to feed its people. But there is less and poor distribution center of food which make it difficult for the food to reach the people who need it the most

Political issues are some of the problems which has made it difficult for the smooth distribution of food as every politician favors his or her group. Therefore, those who oppose the government don’t have access to the food.

There is poor infrastructure in the country such as the port facilities, transportation availability and road networks. This made it difficult for the food to be delivered to the designated area. Therefore, the food either take long time to reach the destination or is spoiled in the way and trashed in the process.

1. **What forms of technology can be used to reduce hunger and improve food security? Explain how these technical solutions can do that.**

There are many ways in which technology can be used to reduce hunger and improve food security. We are in a world where technology is moving so fast that it is very difficult to keep up with it. There is what is called big data, which explain how the data collected from different place can be used to improve the lives of everybody. Looking at a simple formula of census which has been used by the Government to allocate money for foods to different places in each state. They use the results of the data they collect to know want resource is needed in that place. Without those data, it is very difficult for them to know how much resources some place need.

Technology can also be used to spread the knowledge of the places where fast food restaurants offer super-sized meals for cheap, for millions of people, because getting enough to eat is a daily struggle. This can be done using social media posting such place which can easily spread like fire. In addition, social media data can move faster than information advertised in the news.

Technology has also contributed to an improvement in farming data which can be used and shared globally. This data can be used to improve crop yields and is used by both the FAO and the World Bank. The food agriculture organization always updated global food and agriculture data which can be mostly on production, trade, prices and food security. This make it easy for people all over the world to be on a same page on food security. Moreover, the information gathered can be used by different countries to be prepared for any anticipated issue.

## Using technology has help improved policy though the [e-agriculture strategy guide](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5564e.pdf) which was published by the FAO and the International Telecommunication Union. It gives a framework for countries in developing their national e-agriculture strategies, which can combine agriculture value chain with new technologies. These technologies make the job easy for the farmers because they have the necessary tools to produce food which is needed by people.

1. **A one-half page conclusion**

**Conclusion**

Finally, the world population is growing fast, and the growth will continue because of the improved standard of living and better medical services. This increase in population usually put pressure on the consumption of food. But there is enough food to cater for the population growth globally. Therefore, the United Nation and other organizations like World Food Organization are not worried about the scarcity of food. There are faced with some other challenges and one of them is how to get the food to the people who are in need. This can be seen in many developing countries like Ethiopia which has been hit by civil wars in the past. In addition, the infrastructure is bad which make it difficult to deliver the food in different parts of the country. Most of the food is only delivered to the area where transportation is better than other places. Also, there is few distribution centers which can lessen the number of people going there and collect food especially those in rural areas. Moreover, the political system in the country made it difficult for the distribution of food because each political party favors their supporters. Lastly, poverty and food security around the globe can be solved by working with the local people and their government more especially in developing countries. And the booming technology can be used to less this issue of food insecurity. Moreover, the technology can be used to simplify farming methods.

1. **Cite at least five credible sources, excluding Wikipedia, dictionaries and encyclopedias for your assessment.**

**Bibliography.**

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