

FOOD SECURITY IN PAKISTAN AND ITS EFFECT ON NATIONAL SECURITY

FOOD AS A CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT

- 1 Food is explicitly and implicitly mentioned in the Constitution of Pakistan as a basic fundamental right.
- 2 Article 9 of the Constitution of Pakistan guarantees citizens the right to life.
- 3 The Supreme Court has interpreted right to life to include food security in *Suo Motu Case No 13 of 2009* (regarding joint venture agreement between CDA and multi-professional cooperative housing society).
- 4 Article 38 (d) of the Constitution which is a policy directive states that the State is responsible for basic necessities such as food.
- 5 The Lahore High Court reiterated food security as an essential component of article 9 – Right to life (*Muhammad Ahmad Pansota V Federation of Pakistan*)

PAKISTAN'S FOOD SECURITY PROBLEMS

- 1 Pakistan despite having a food surplus experiences high level of food insecurity due to a lack of access to underprivileged households.
- 2 Food price inflation in Pakistan is one of the biggest threats to food security making it harder for people to afford basic foods.



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- The cost of food has been 10.4–19.5% higher than the previous year (2019) in urban areas and 12.6–23.8% in rural areas.
- Pakistan ranks 88th out of the 107 countries as assessed in the Global Hunger Index 2020.
- According to the Ministry of food only 63.1 of Pakistani households are food secure.
- As per the national nutrition survey 2018, 36.9 percent of the population experiences moderate or severe food in security in Pakistan.
- 20.5 percent of Pakistan's population is malnourished .
- 18 percent of children under 5 suffer from acute malnutrition.
- 44 percent of the children under 5 are stunted and 29 percent are underweight.
- Over three million people in the country are experiencing severe food insecurity

HOW LACK OF FOOD RESOURCES IS A DIRECT THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY?

- 1 Food security has direct implications on the economic and human capital front
- 2 Lack of food security entails large fiscal expenditure for the state as they have to incentivize farms sector to ensure food self sufficiency
- 3 If food self-sufficiency is not achieved the state has to bear the financial brunt of it - According to FAO, lack of food security can cost 7.6 billion dollar every year
- 4 Malnutrition causes high child mortality rates which leads to deficit in mental and physical development - Which results in weak labor productivity and loss of future labor in the country.

