
WORKING PAPER 246/2023

**ROLE OF STATE IN FOOD AND NUTRITION
SECURITY: A CASE OF TELANGANA**

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Matta Srinivas
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Role of State in Food and Nutrition security: A case of Telangana

Gummadi Sridevi, Amalendu Jyotishi, Matta Srinivas and Balaji

Abstract

The causes of food insecurity are poverty (transient or chronic) and unequal access to resources. After the failure of the 'trickle down' approach to ensure poverty reduction, direct approach with PDS, mid-day meal, ICDS, and Urban canteens were introduced as the main safety net programs to protect the poor from potential short-run, price-induced adverse food insecurity. The direct approach of reaching food to the unreached makes the scheme effective in achieving its objective. The Telangana State Government launched GHMC Annapurna Canteens for the urban poor in GHMC region to improve the food and nutritional security in Hyderabad with eight centers in the year 2014 and has expanded to 150 centers through Hare Krishna charitable Foundation and had also expanded its prospects via. Mobile Canteens in selected areas. This initiative is appreciated by a wide spectrum of urban poor ranging from homeless to migrant workers and food delivery workers. In the beginning, the introduction of these canteens was been doubted as be effective for mitigating food insecurity and accused of being "populist". But this idea of providing inexpensive food meals in urban areas promises food security and also keeps food prices in check. Our primary data revels that urban canteens played a very crucial role during the first phase of lock down in Hyderabad.

Keywords: *Nutrition, food .*

JEL Codes:

Preface

Madras School of Economics (MSE) established the Centre for Public Finance (CPF), which started functioning on April 1, 2021. This Centre is financed by the Government of Tamil Nadu. Its activities are guided by an Advisory Council (headed by me). The Centre focuses on both theoretical and empirical issues of public finance, covering the following areas: deficit financing and public debt, monetary and fiscal interactions, tax policy and reforms, public expenditure management, public investment appraisal and cost benefit analysis, public enterprises reform, intergovernmental transfers, local finances and environmental issues.

Apart from general research activities, the Centre is committed (i) to review the Tamil Nadu Economy and State Finances every year, (ii) to conduct an Annual Conference on topics related to public finance and policy and (iii) to conduct Training Programs on public finance. It will also undertake specific studies on public finance funded by the Government of Tamil Nadu and other National and International agencies.

During the academic year 2021-22, the Centre organized —Virtual Meeting on Improving the Presentation of Tamil Nadu Budget Document// on April 29, 2021 and conducted 5-day Training Programs on Public Finance for 15 batches covering a total of 270 Group A and Group B officials of Government of Tamil Nadu through online mode (from August 31, 2021 to December 31, 2021). It organized a two-day national Conference on - Issues of Public Finance// during January 20-21, 2023 and also a summer training program for college teachers and Ph.D. scholars from July 3-15, 2023. It has also initiated several research studies.

The study "Role of State in Food and Nutrition Security: A Case of Telangana", by Gummadi Sridevi, Amalendu Jyotishi, Matta Srinivas and Balaji P is the fourteenth working paper of the CPF. This study examines different approaches to providing food security to the poor. The study supports and recommends direct distribution schemes such as public distribution through ration cards, mid-day meals, ICDS, and urban canteens, to ensure poverty reduction.

**C.Rangarajan
Chairman**

Acknowledgement

This paper is a part of an IoE -University of Hyderabad funded project titled "Understanding and Addressing Food and Nutrition Security issues among Vulnerable Groups: An Inter-disciplinary study in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana". We thank UoH-IoE for funding this project . We thank all the respondents. This paper initial draft was presented at IEA, 2022

**Gummadi Sridevi
Amalendu Jyotishi
Matta Srinivas
Balaji**

INTRODUCTION

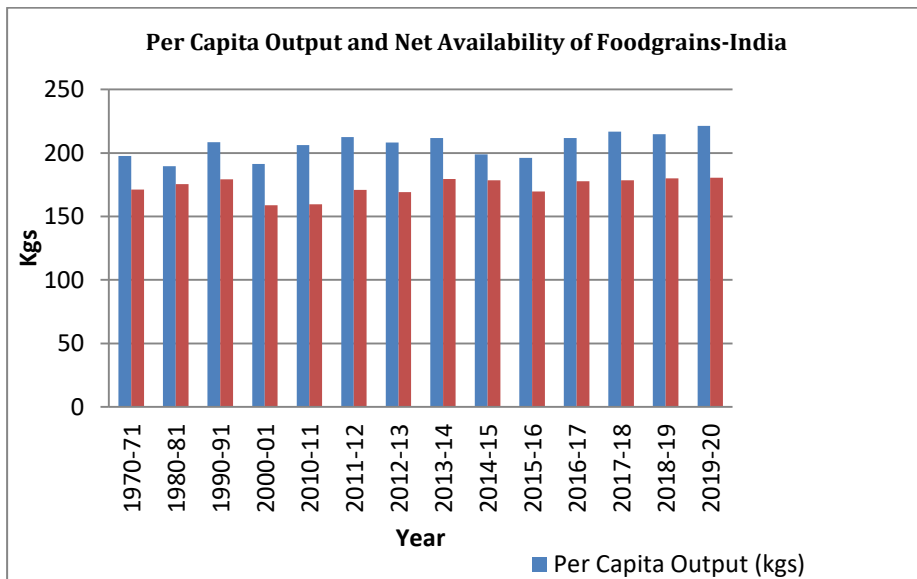
Food security subsists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (FAO, 1996). The important six dimensions of the food security include: Availability, Accessibility, Utilisation, Stability, Agency and Sustainability, together help the nations to be adequately secured in terms of food. The production of food grains, pulses, cereals, oil, milk and meat constitute the availability aspect. Prices, wages, land holding, expenditure, income, number of days employed and rural indebtedness both in urban and rural areas intersect with social groups functions as economic accessibility. Drinking water, sanitation, number of Primary Health Centers, child mortality and nutrition practices works as utilisation aspect. While, PDS, Anganwadi, mid-day meal scheme, markets, MGNREGA, ICDS scheme and any other institutions can be considered as agency aspects specifically its role in providing economic access to food. With these four dimensions, the other two indicators, namely: 'stability and sustainability' mark the sufficiency of food and nutrition security in the nation. Lack of employment opportunities, poverty among rural marginal farmers and poor economic conditions push the rural population to urban areas, which contributes to urban migration and that paves the way to the creation of unorganized work force and slum settlements in urban areas. The people who are poor in the urban areas are worse off than the rural poor in terms of employment, better standard of living and predominantly food security.

CONTEXT

Undernourishment and related health issues have are the dreaded realities of India for decades. The picture, however, varies across the states according to the intensity of poverty, literacy, low density of health infrastructure and state support policies. The total food grain production in India is estimated at a record of 308.65 million tones,

which is 11.15 million tonnes higher than in the year 2019-20 (Economic Survey, 2021-22).

Figure 1: Per Capita Output and Net Availability of Food grains-India



Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

Despite the huge production of food grains, outwardly 224.3 million people are undernourished, 20 million children under the age of five are affected by wasting, 36.1 million under the age of five are affected by stunting, 187.3 million adult women are affected by anemia (FAO, 2022), under-five mortality rate is 41.9 per cent (NHFS, 5). India, one of the bottom-most countries, ranks 101st, out of the 116 countries with a GHI score of 27.5, which is seen to have a serious level of hunger (GHI, 2021) its ranked 107 out of 121 countries in 2022 (GHI,2022). In fact, the report points out “Idea’s child wasting rate, at 19.3 percent, is the highest of any country in the world” (GHI, 2022). NITI Aayog released report during June, 2021 highlighting the fact that

11 states, including the most populous ones, scored less than 50 out of 100 in reaching zero hunger (GoI, 2021). Andhra Pradesh and Telangana scored less than 50 out of 100 in reaching Zero hunger, but interestingly in the overall performance of the state, Andhra Pradesh is in 3rd position. The pandemic has threatened India's food security landscape across all four indicators: availability, access, stability, and utilisation of resources. Malnutrition could, in turn, further intensify the existing problem of malnutrition among women and children. It results not just from a lack of sufficient and adequately nutritious and safe food, but also from a host of intertwined factors linking health, care, education, water, sanitation and hygiene, access to food and resources, women's empowerment and more.

NFHS 5 fact sheets for 22 states/Union Territories (UT) shows, chronic undernutrition has increased in 13 states/UTs, whereas, underweight has increased in 16 states/UTs despite ambitious state support programs like *Poshan Abhiyaan*, malnutrition is still high.

Figure:2

Nutritional status of children under 5 (NFHS 4 and NFHS 5) : Underweight

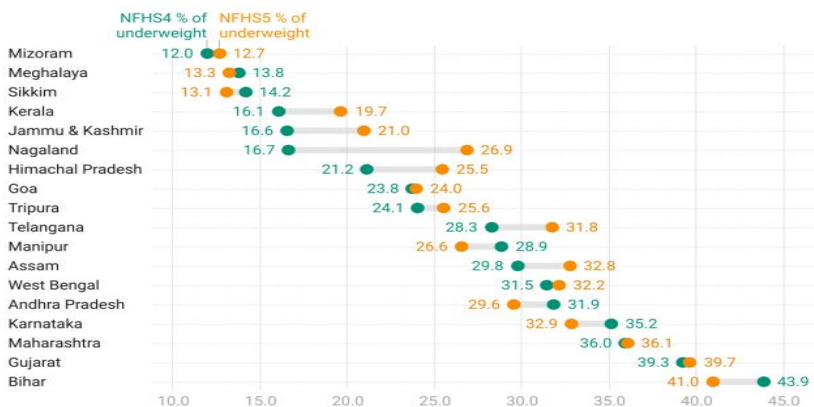


Chart: Gummadi Sridevi • Source: NFHS • Created with Datawrapper

Nutritional status of children under 5 (NFHS 4 and NFHS 5) : Wasted

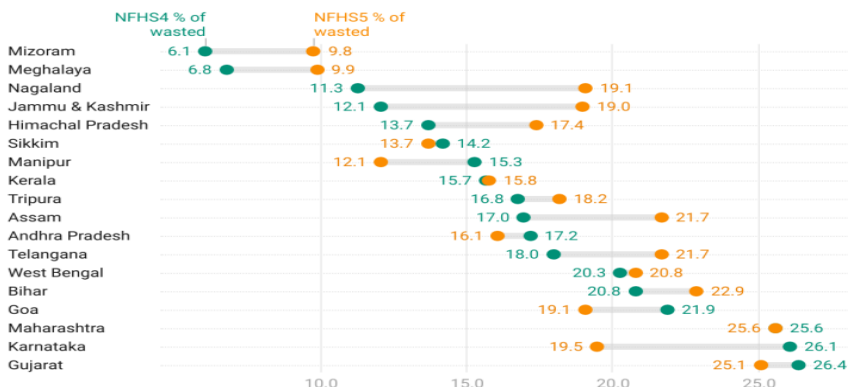


Chart: Gummadi Sridevi • Source: NFHS • Created with Datawrapper

Acute malnutrition is a complex socio-cultural problem that lies at the interplay of inequitable access to nutritious foods and health services, sub-optimal 'infant and young child-feeding practices' (IYCF) including breastfeeding, low maternal education, poor access to clean water and sanitation, poor hygiene practices, food insecurity and unpreparedness for emergencies.

Table 1 implies that there is not much change in the relative status of states on child nutritional outcomes over the various time periods.

Table:1 Grouping of States Based on Stunting and Wasting

States - Stunting	NFHS5 (2019-20)	CNNS (2019)	NFHS4 (2015-16)	NFHS 3 (2005-06)	NFHS 2 (1998-99)
Low nutritional Insecurity(≤ 30 percent)	Mizoram, Kerala, J&K, Himachal Pradesh Punjab, Tamil Nadu Uttarakhand Haryana	Mizoram, Kerala, J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Telangana	Mizoram, Kerala, J&K Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Telangana	Kerala, Tamil Nadu	Kerala, Tamil Nadu
Medium nutritional insecurity (31-40 percent)	Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, HP, Odisha, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan West Bengal	Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Odisha, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Rajasthan	Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Odisha, Maharashtra Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Rajasthan	J&K, Punjab, HP, Mizoram	Mizoram, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, J&K, Punjab, Maharashtra
High nutritional insecurity (≥ 41 percent)	Bihar Meghalaya	Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar	Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar	Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Haryana, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, UP	HP, West Bengal, Gujarat, Odisha, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh

States - Wasting	NFHS 5 (2019-20)	CNNS(2019)	NFHS4 (2015-16)	NFHS 3(2005-06)	NFHS 2(1998-99)
Low nutritional insecurity (≤15 percent)	Mizoram, Kerala, Haryana, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand	Mizoram, J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Kerala, Uttarakhand, Haryana Odisha, Rajasthan, Bihar	Mizoram, J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Kerala	Mizoram, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, J&K, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala	Haryana, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Mizoram, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, J&K, Kerala, West Bengal
Medium nutritional insecurity (16-24 percent)	J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, West Bengal, Karnataka, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh	Tamil Nadu, Telangana, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat	Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar, Haryana, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh	Maharashtra, West Bengal, Karnataka, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu	Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Bihar, Maharashtra, Odisha
High nutritional insecurity(≥25 percent)	Maharashtra, Gujarat	Jharkhand	Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Jharkhand	Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh	NIL

Source: Based on NFHS Reports (Various rounds), CNNS 2019.

Various rounds of NFHS provide the major source of macro-level statistics on the nutritional status of children under five in India. Often, aggregate results may be misleading as the severity of malnutrition at the dis-aggregated level may be masked by the average and may fail to capture the real cause of the problem at the micro-level. Within a state, there are inter-district disparities in nutritional

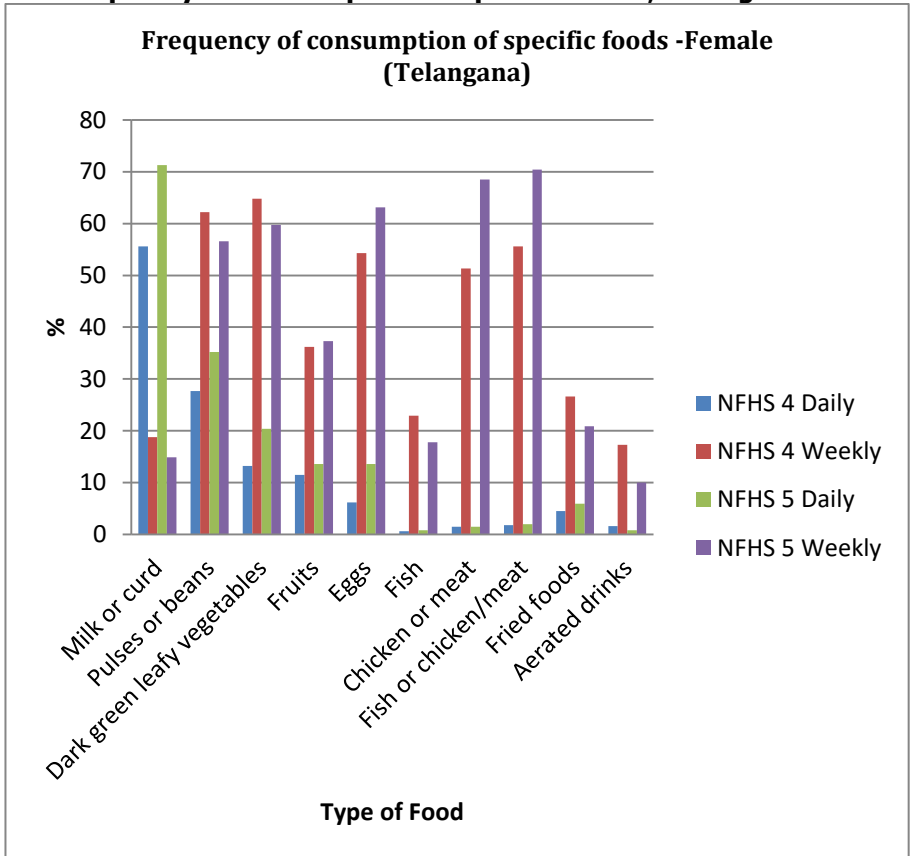
outcomes and the health and nutritional status of vulnerable communities are precarious. Most of the studies at micro-level focused on the high burden malnutrition states in India. Hence, it has not attracted much interest of researchers to analyse the urban nutritional status of Telangana state.

In Telangana, according to NFHS 4 and 5, the proportion of the underweight children below five years in the urban region has gone up from 22 per cent to 26 per cent; stunted children from 21 per cent to 28 per cent and percent of children who are wasted increased from 15 per cent to 20 per cent. Around half of the women who are in the reproductive age group (15-49 years) are suffering from anemia and, also, interestingly, obesity is rising among urban females. Given the magnitude of the problem, there is a need to understand the food value chain, especially at the point of consumption and assess its availability, accessibility, utilisation and stability [the four critical dimensions of food and nutrition security (FNS)]. While food production and the market as critical dimensions that are generally well discussed in literature, there is little knowledge of how food reaches the consumer's plate. The knowledge base is further inadequate in terms of various pathways, negotiations, choices and cultures influencing who eats what and why. What are the constraints to availing and accessing nutritious food? What role do the state and other institutions play in addressing under-nutrition?

The main emphasis of the SDG is to reduce malnutrition and provide food security to all (Goal No.2 by 2030, zero hunger and all forms of malnutrition). 40 per cent of children in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh are malnourished majority belong to vulnerable groups. Among these groups, the prevalence of stunting is highest amongst children from STs (41.0 per cent), followed by SCs (35.2 per cent) and OBCs (31.6 per cent). Women whose BMI is below normal ($<18.5 \text{ kg/m}^2$) is highest among ST (21.1 per cent) followed by OBC (16.1 per cent) and SC (15.0 per cent) anemia among children 6-59 months across social

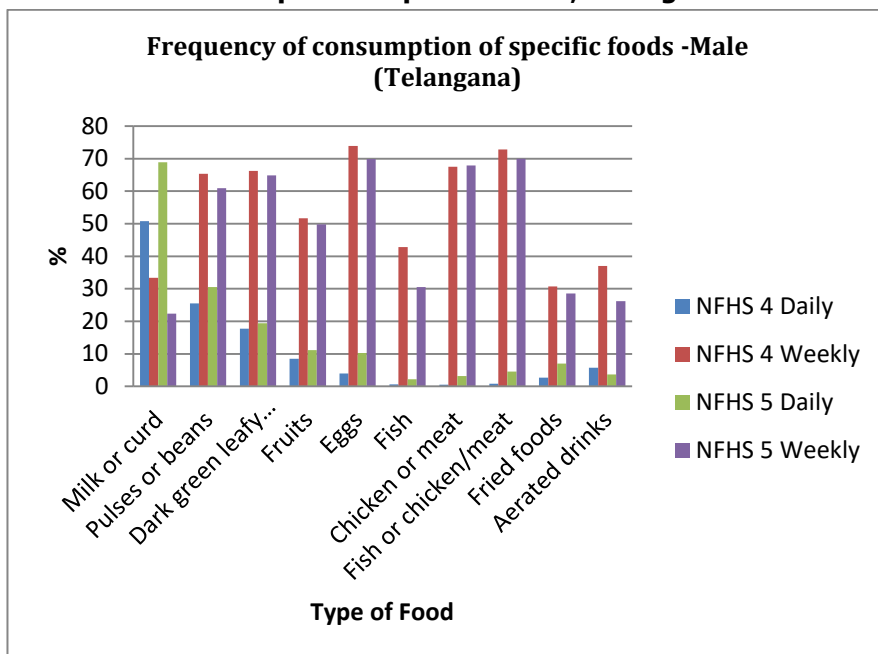
groups is very high based on NFHS 5 for Andhra Pradesh. For Telangana state, these percentages are high. Apart from indirect interventions, there is a need to directly focus on nutritional deficiencies and address them in timely manner (Gummadi et. al. 2021). A paradigm shift from caloric consumption to consumption of micronutrient and protein-rich food as well as the four pillars namely availability, accessibility, utilisation and stability through direct and indirect modes of targeting are crucial. While indirect means would include understanding bottlenecks and improving the production and value chain processes of nutrition-rich food products, the direct method would involve provisioning of adequate nutritious food to malnourished groups. Undernourishment and related health issues have been one of the dreaded realities of India. Across the states the picture varies according to the intensity of poverty, literacy, low density of health infrastructure and state support policies. Below two figures (figures 3 and 4) throw light on the consumption of specific foods by males and females in Telangana according to NFHS 4 and 5.

Figure 3: Percent Distribution of Women Aged 15-49 by Frequency of Consumption of Specific Foods, Telangana



Source: International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) and ICF. 2021. National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), India, 2019-20: Telangana. Mumbai: IIPS.

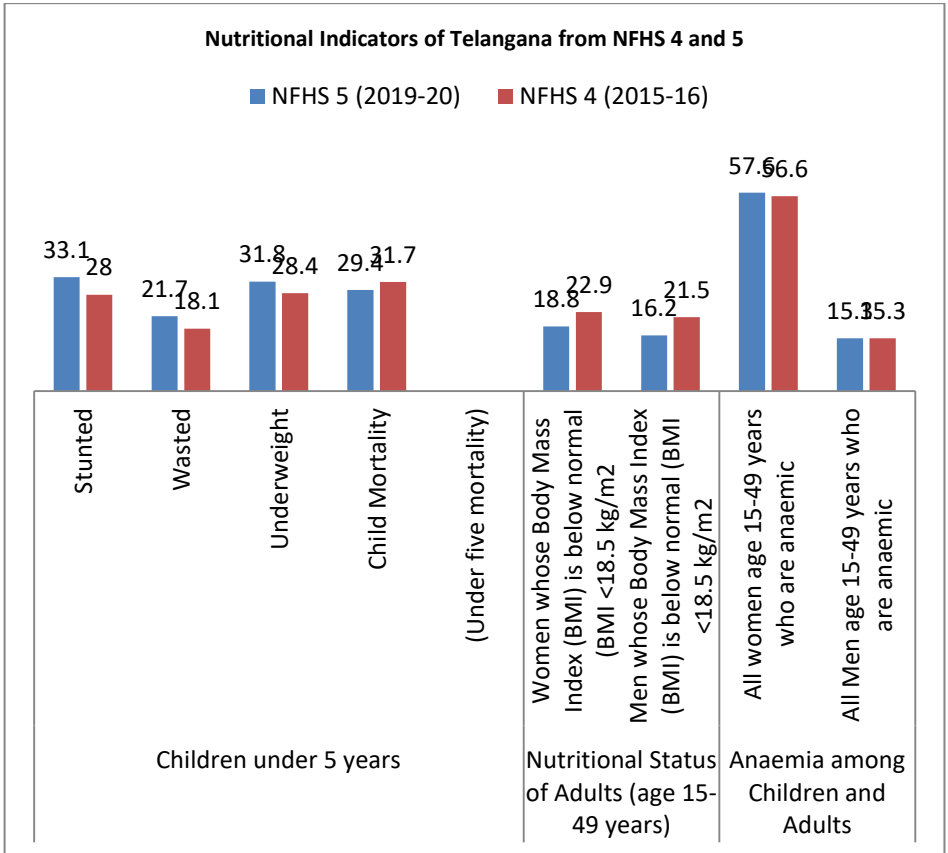
Figure 4: Percent Distribution of men aged 15-49 by frequency of consumption of specific foods, Telangana



Source: International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) and ICF. 2021. National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), India, 2019-20: Telangana. Mumbai: IIPS.

Females do consume more milk or curd daily than males along with pulses and vegetables. Males do consume more eggs, chicken or meat on a weekly basis than females. This consumption pattern has an impact on the physical health of females and explains the oft quoted observation that anaemia has been increasing in females than males. Figure 5 shows that although acute BMI is decreasing in both males and females in Telangana for a span of four years, anaemia in females is increasing, which do have a serious health issue in female population which in turn has an effect on the child. Children who are stunted, wasted and underweight in Telangana have increased over the span of four years.

Figure 5: Nutritional Indicators of Telangana from NFHS 4 and 5

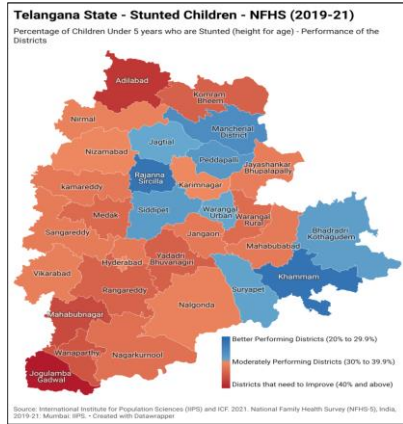
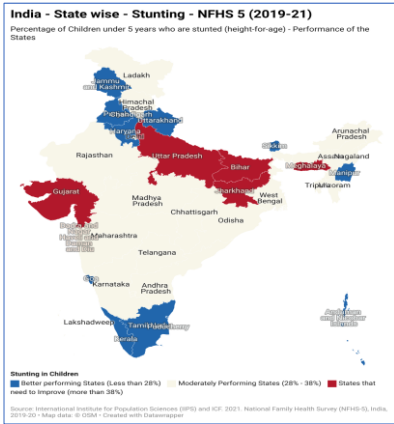


Source: NFHS 4 and 5.

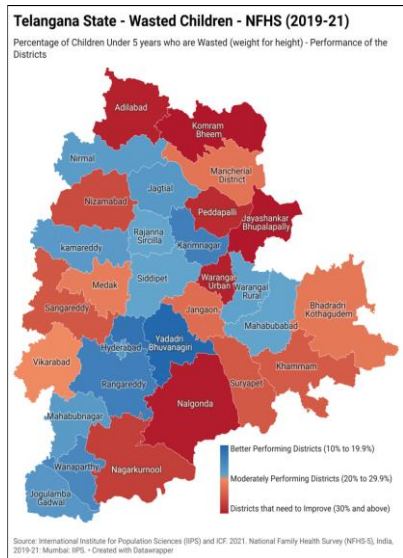
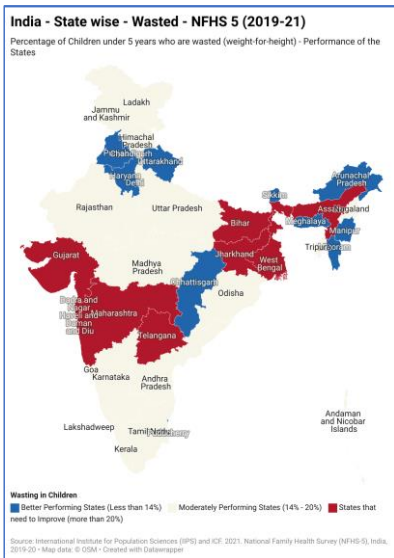
Children less than 5 years of age who are stunted, wasted underweight have increased in four years except for the child mortality is varying among the districts of Telangana Figure 6.

Figure 6: Nutritional Indicators of India and Telangana State; NFHS 5 (2019-21)

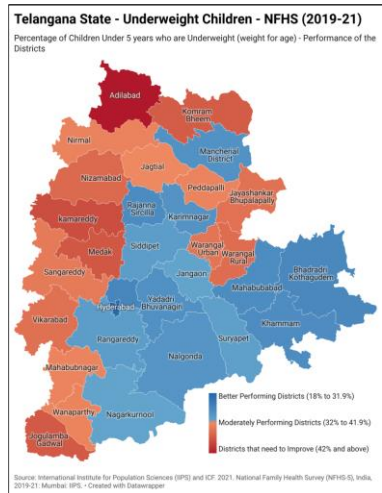
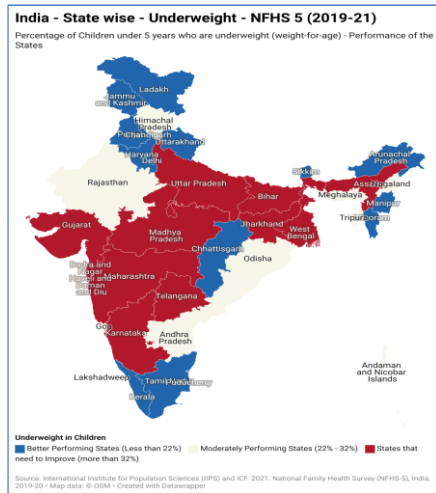
Stunting (Height for Age)



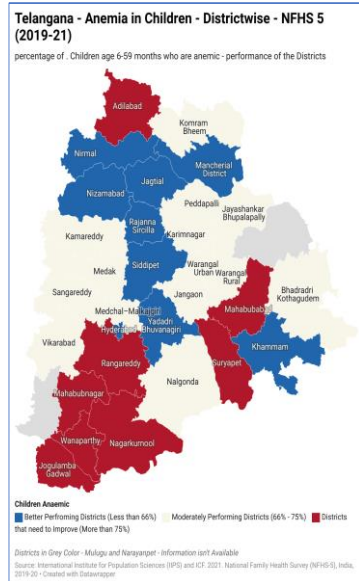
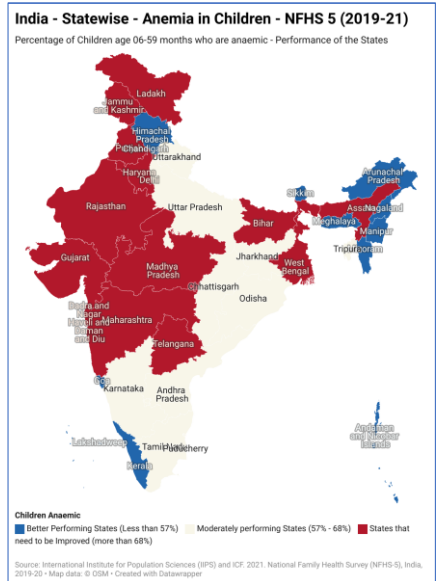
Wasting (Weight for Height)



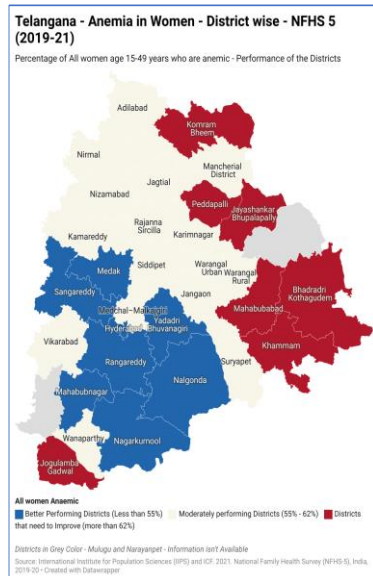
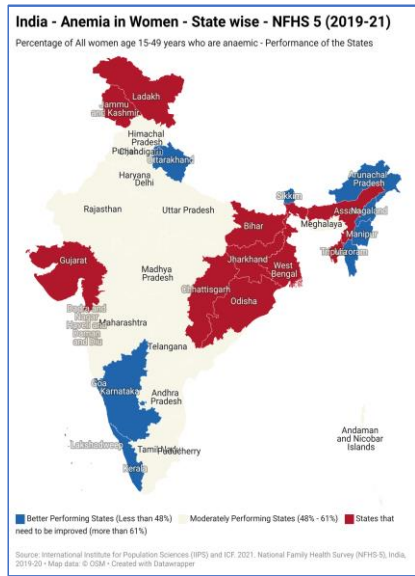
Underweight (Weight for Age)



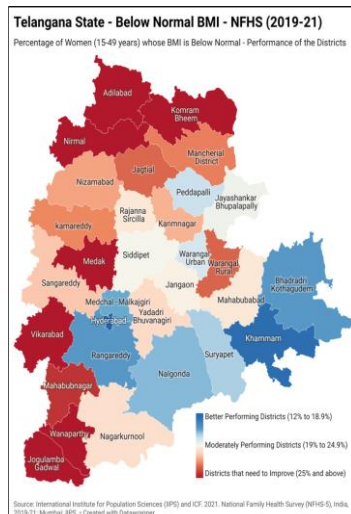
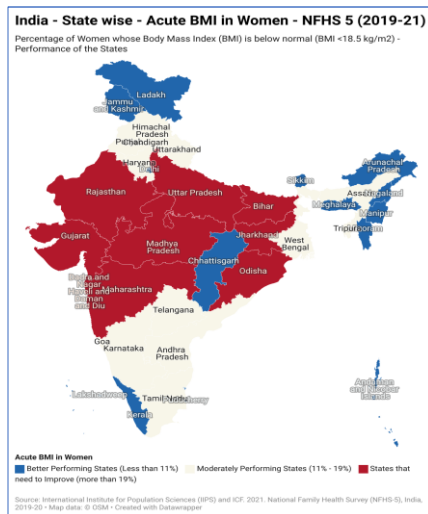
Anemia in Children



Anemia in Women



Acute BMI in Women



The Children who are stunted, wasted and underweight in Hyderabad have increased over the span of four years. Higher urban economic growth need not by itself imply improved access to food for all in particular, the recent pandemic and continuing phenomenon of rising food prices along with the decline in employment in urban India (Gummadi et. al. 2021). The quality of employment, as indicated by wage/income levels, insecurity and coverage in terms of social protection, was extremely poor. This has serious implications for urban food insecurity, since a large segment of the urban working population is mostly without productive assets and relies primarily on wage or marginal self-employment to survive.

A large segment of the urban population faces food insecurity in terms of access to food. While conducting the study, we have come across the new research question regarding the rise in urban food insecurity. In this context, we started looking at the state support schemes through urban canteens (Anapurna canteens) towards improving food security in Hyderabad.

GHMC ANNAPURNA CANTEENS-URBAN FOOD SECURITY

Food security has been a matter of concern in due to the global food crisis and rising food prices. For the urban poor, access to food is low due to high unorganized or informal sector employment which fetches low as well as irregular income. A major concern of any government today is to avert deprivation and find some sustainable livelihood opportunities for the most neglected sections of the society. Providing food through canteens by the Government at low price is not a new scheme in India but it is a new scheme in Telangana state (Appendix table 1). The Telangana State Government introduced GHMC (Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation) Annapurna Canteens, a chain of canteens for the urban poor in GHMC to mitigate food insecurity in Hyderabad. Annapurna was conceptualised by the Hare Krishna Charities and the former GHMC Commissioner Sri. Somesh Kumar (Chief Secretary, Government of Telangana). GHMC provides hygienic

and safe food to the underprivileged, poor and downtrodden, at just Rs.5/- per meal. Popularly known as the Rs.5/- meal programme, was officially termed as 'Annapurna' by the Hon'ble Minister of IT, MA & UD, Sri. K. T. Ramarao. The scheme had started with eight centres in 2014 and has now expanded to 150 centres serving 25,000 people lunch meals daily through the Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation. In this scheme, Rs. 5/- is paid by the beneficiary and GHMC subsidizes the remaining amount to Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation. The Hare Krishna Charity Kitchens serve 6750kgs of rice, 5265 litres of lentils and 4500kgs of curry, every single day. The very frequent customers who utilise these canteens for food consumption are homeless, auto rickshaw and taxi drivers, migrant labours and food delivery executives etc.

METHODS

The selection of the urban canteens was random based upon their geographical spread and observed certain specific characteristics as given in the table 2. As the method of research we have used participatory research observation method and also obtained data with the help of a structured questionnaire. Urban canteens located near the diverse variant of population were chosen and studied viz. canteens near the bus stops, hospitals, IT corridor and railway station. The food provided by each canteen varies everyday rice and sambar being the constant in the menu.

Table -2GHMC Urban Canteens: Important Indicators

S. No.	Location of the Canteen	Functioning Hours	Proximity Areas	Composition of the Customers	Rice Cans Supplied and Returned after the Utilization	Approximate number of the customers benefitting from canteen
1.	Lingampally Bus Stop	11:00 - 14:00	BHEL Lingampally bus stop.	Mainly taxi drivers, auto-rickshaw drivers, the homeless, a few passengers, and the regular public that includes nearby vendors and daily wage earners.	Cans Supplied: 04 Returned: 0	300
2.	Lingampally Vegetable Market	11:30 – 14:30	Vegetable market, auto stand	mainly vegetable sellers, auto-rickshaw drivers, homeless, GHMC workers (sweepers), sales boys and food delivery boys. The regular public includes vegetable sellers, vendors and GHMC workers.	Cans Supplied: 04 Returned: 0.5	250
3.	Patancheru Bus Stand	11:30 – 14:30	Bus stand and various petty shops	vendors, shopkeepers, and passengers including students, homeless and migrant labour.	Cans Supplied: 05 Returned: 0.5	700
4.	Kukatpally Bus Stand, KPHB	10:30 – 15:00	Metro station, bus stand for long distance regions and various shopping malls.	street beggars, people residing on the footpath, street vegetable vendors, passengers near the bus stop, nearby working labours, auto-rickshaw drivers and drinkers, Zomato, swiggy delivery boys, ola, uber cab drivers.	Cans Supplied: 09 Returned: 0.5	540
5.	Yellammabanda, Kukatpally	10:30 – 15:00	Bus stop and various petty shops	street beggars, people residing in the nearest slums, street vegetable vendors, passengers near the bus stop, nearby working labours, auto-rickshaw drivers and drinkers.	Cans Supplied: 02 Returned: 0.5	120

S. No.	Location of the Canteen	Functioning Hours	Proximity Areas	Composition of the Customers	Rice Cans Supplied and Returned after the Utilization	Approximate number of the customers benefitting from canteen
6.	Miyapur X Roads Bus Stand	10:30 – 15:00	Bus stop, various petty shops and labour joint.	street beggars, people residing on the footpath, street vegetable vendors, passengers near the bus stop, nearby working labourers, auto-rickshaw drivers and drinkers, Zomato,swiggy delivery boys, ola and uber cab drivers.	Cans Supplied: 09 Returned: 0.5	420
7.	Hitech City Metro Station	10:30 – 14:30	Various shopping malls, hospitals and metro station	Security guards, mechanic workers, Vendors, shopkeepers, food and groceries delivery boys, students, homeless, GHMC workers, cab drivers, auto drivers, migrant labourers and a few IT employees and also junior doctors who work in surrounding hospitals.	Cans Supplied: 11 Returned: 1.5	700
8.	Uppal	10:30 – 14:30	Uppal x road and government health centre.	street beggars, homeless, street vegetable vendors, passengers near the bus stop, visitors to the MRO office, health centre and police station and a few RTC employees and two to three people from the police department (home guards).	Cans Supplied: 05 Returned: 1.5	300
9.	Moosapet Goods Shed	10:30 – 15:00	Goods shed and trucks stand	Truck drivers, street beggars, people residing on the footpath, street vegetable vendors, nearby working labours, auto-rickshaw drivers and drinkers.	Cans Supplied: 02 Returned: 0.5	120

S. No.	Location of the Canteen	Functioning Hours	Proximity Areas	Composition of the Customers	Rice Cans Supplied and Returned after the Utilization	Approximate number of the customers benefitting from canteen
10.	Kukatpally Zonal Commissioner's Office, Moosapet	10:30 – 15:00	Various petty shops and shopping area.	Visitors of commissioner's office, street beggars, people residing on the footpath, street vegetable vendors, passengers near the bus stop, nearby working labours, auto-rickshaw drivers and drinkers, Zomato,swiggy delivery boys, ola and uber cab drivers.	Cans Supplied: 2.5 Returned: 0.5	150
11.	Osmania General Hospital, Afzalgunj.	10:30 – 15:00	Hospital and trading area	street beggars, people residing on the footpath, street vegetable vendors, passengers near the bus stop, nearby working labours, auto-rickshaw drivers and drinkers, Zomato,swiggydelivery boys, ola, uber cab drivers, patient escorts who came on along with patient and also hospital security staff and also out-patient (OP) visitors to the hospital.	Cans Supplied: 07 Returned: 0.5	420
12.	Hyderabad Railway Station	10:30 – 13:30	Railway station and Nampally metro station.	street beggars, people residing on the footpath, street vegetable vendors, passengers near the bus stop, nearby working labours, auto-rickshaw drivers and drinkers.	Cans Supplied: 02 Returned: 0	100
13.	BasavaTarakamma Cancer Hospital, Film Nagar	11:00 – 13:00	Hospital	street beggars, people residing on the footpath, nearby working labours, auto-rickshaw drivers, Zomato, swiggy delivery boys, ola, uber cab drivers, patient escorts who came on along with patient and also hospital security staff and also out-patient (OP) visitors to the hospital.	Cans Supplied: 4.5 Returned: 0.5	240

S. No.	Location of the Canteen	Functioning Hours	Proximity Areas	Composition of the Customers	Rice Cans Supplied and Returned after the Utilization	Approximate number of the customers benefitting from canteen
14.	Yousufguda	11:00 – 13:30	Petty shops and hostels.	street beggars, people residing on the footpath, street vegetable vendors, passengers near the bus stop, nearby working labours, auto-rickshaw drivers and drinkers.	Cans Supplied: 04 Returned: 0.5	240
15.	Chilakalaguda	12:00 – 14:00	Vegetable and petty shops.	Street beggars, vegetable vendors, nearby working labours, auto-rickshaw drivers and drinkers.	Cans Supplied: 02 Returned: 0.5	200
16.	Clock Tower, Secunderabad	10:00 – 15:00	Labouradda.	street beggars, people residing on the footpath, street vegetable vendors, passengers near the bus stop, nearby working labours, auto-rickshaw and taxi drivers, delivery boys and drinkers.	Cans Supplied: 09 Returned: 0	700

Source: Field Survey, 2022

From table 2 we can see that each canteen has attracted different composition of customers, varying from homeless to the junior doctors who are utilising the canteen's food. The supply of rice cans differs from one canteen to the other depending upon the population, demand of the food and also the return of the rice cans to the supplier. Canteens that are located in some vibrant parts of the city are well renovated than canteens located at mere earning public. Customers desire to have a shelter and a place to be seated while consuming food at every canteen except Hitech City and Kukatpally Zonal Commissioner's office, Moosapet. Customers have complaints about the supply of water packets, lack of variety of vegetables on everyday menu, long queues and hygiene surroundings.

The geographical location of the canteen in the very urban region and government body, the canteens ambience has its own definition compared with far long distant slummy dwelled canteens. The canteen at Hitech city and Kukatpally Zonal Commissioner's office, Moosapet has good facilities viz. seating arrangements and shelter whereas canteens at Goods shed, Moosapet; Yellammabanda, Kukatpally and Yousufguda are poorly maintained, although they too attract a handful of customers.





Source: Field Survey; Vibrant GHMC Annapurna Canteens at Hitech City (above) and at Moosapet beside Kukatpally Zonal Commissioner's office with seating arrangements.

A brief look at the sales points reveals that the locations with high concentration of working urban population and bus stops had more sales. Canteens located at KPHB Metro Station and HiTech City Metro Station catered to the maximum number of consumers' at least 700 customers during its functioning time. The composition of the customers shows a cross-section of the population visiting the canteens. This set of population is in the income group between Rs. 5,000 and 10,000 per month.

"If I have to eat in a hotel in this area, it would cost me around Rs. 100/- per plate and here it is just Rs. 5/-. I can save more money eating here rather eating in any hotel" as said by one of the respondents.

And also, the canteen's supply factor of rice cans depends upon the demand factor of the consumers in the respective area. Canteens at

HiTech City (11 rice cans), KPHB and Miyapur X Roads (09 rice cans each), and Osmania General Hospital (09 rice cans) have a maximum number of rice cans when compared to the other canteens viz. Moosapet Goods Shed and Nampally Station canteens sale about 02 rice cans each. The above said differentiation holds a reason on the population basis as well as the sale factor. The canteen at Hitech City attracts huge consumers ranging from homeless to the junior doctors in the vicinity and also the good ambience besides the aesthetic features of the canteen. If government can renovate other canteens as in the similar structure with all the facilities, it will benefit the consumers part as well as the government part in tackling food insecurity.

"This canteen is well maintained. Only this canteen has seating arrangements throughout Hyderabad and I have eaten in many canteens. But I like to have food in this canteen because of good ambience and it is hygienic"* said by a customer at HiTech City canteen.

One of the barriers the customers have faced is the specified time period of the canteen. Some canteens open at 10:30 and closes at 15:30 while some opens at 11:30 and closes at 13:30. The functioning of the canteens also depends upon the demand and the concern from the management.

"I open this canteen at 10:30 by seeing the public in front of the canteen for food who work as maids in these apartments, municipality appointed women, who sweep the road and the population from slums who live nearby," said a canteen management person at Yellammabanda, Kukatpally.

The canteens' running time and also the locality have been major factors for some of the customers to utilise the canteen for food in order

*in our field surveywe found that canteen at Kukatpally Zonal Commissioner's Office, Moosapet also has seating arrangement, shelter, fans and a wash basin.

to mitigate their hunger. Some localities have more than one canteen nearby while some do not have any. Lingampally has three canteens nearby and function at the similar time. Nampally and Gandhi Bhavan, Koti and MGBS, Patancheru and Beeramguda have similar picture while some localities doesn't have this advantage viz. Uppal, HiTech City and Osmania General Hospital.

"I have gone to Beeramguda canteen, it was closed, so I came here to have food as this canteen is open for longer time than that canteen" said a customer at Patancheru Bus Stand canteen.

The respective canteen's management have varied opinions on the functioning of the canteen based upon the composition of the customers and location of the canteen. At HiTech City, Miyapur X Roads and Yousufguda canteens, the management people have the opinion that canteens benefit the homeless more and they provide good food at a cheaper price. The remuneration is based upon the sale of rice cans each day and per customer it is fixed at Rs. 1.10/-; on an average they earn approximately Rs. 7,000/-. The composition of management (sex wise) is largely dominated by males in most of the canteens except at Patancheru and KP Zonal Commissioner's Office, Moosapet. While in some canteens, management has hired employees to serve food on a part-time basis. They serve the food at the stipulated functioning time and get back to their regular employment.

"I have been working here since the inception of the canteen. I see many people coming here and having food. Beggars will come, students will come, auto drivers will come, labour will come and drinkers also come. Some people ask for more food, more water packets. But I cannot give since it is fixed for one person. They eat here only and wash their hands here only. Some people will put the plates in dust bin and some will throw them and make this place dirty", said the person from canteen management staff at Patancheru Bus Stand.

Some of the canteens are taking a new shape in its establishment. They are being renovated in some parts of the city where the customers' demand is huge. In the North zone one such canteen is at Gandhi Hospital. And in West zone they are located at Madhapur (HiTech City Metro station) and at Moosapet at the busiest junctions and nearer to the railway station and labour ghetto. Many homeless and destitute people have been found to take rest on the pavement located near the canteen. There found to be a huge queue during the functioning times of the canteen.

"So many people will come here to eat. The only problem here for us is mice and electricity issues. Mice create a lot of damage in the canteen. Other than that, we do not have any issues", said the canteen supervisor at Clock tower, Secunderabad.

The canteen's composition of customers varies across different parts of the city. In the Secunderabad area, customers are found to be mostly construction and daily wage earners, vegetable sellers, auto drivers and a good number of homeless people and drinkers, whereas in Hyderabad area, the number of customers extends to food and other delivery boys, taxi drivers, entry level IT and hospital employees, and GHMC workers.

Based upon the composition, the perception on the canteen's food and management is also changing its hands. Food quality was found to be unwelcomed at Secunderabad areas compared with Hyderabad areas.

Food quality surely impacts the attraction of the customers to the canteens. It is being pledged by the charity, in its introductory period, that best quality of food is served but, in the long run it is getting faded away.

"I know that we do not get food anywhere at this rate but see this curry, the potato is unpeeled, rice is not cooked properly and it is hard, they have added flour in sambar for its thickness. I appreciate the government's idea to giving food to us at a cheaper rate but, if they can also look into the quality, we would be very happy." said the mason at Chilakalaguda canteen.

"Rice is not cooked, curry is bad, if I want to eat at a hotel I can, but I have to save money so I come to this canteen to have food at cheaper rate, but the food quality is bad. The government has to look into this issue and provide us good quality of food," said a security guard at the same canteen.

The views of customers are different when other composition of the customers visit the same canteen. A taxi driver, auto driver and other truck drivers found the canteen's food quality to be adequately good. This could be the reason because this composition keeps travelling through the whole city and visits various canteens, whereas the other composition works near a particular canteen and has food only in that canteen regularly.

The physiological composition of the canteen's management has its vulnerabilities. The canteen at Chilakalaguda has the only female supervised canteen since lock down and in Hyderabad areas but with a male supervisor as help.

"I have been working here since lock down. I have been verbally abused by the customers if I do not give extra water packets, food quality is found to be bad. I complained to the concerned people but received no help. Instead, they said, it will be like that and I have to manage the situation. It is becoming very difficult for me to serve food", said the female supervisor at Chilakalaguda canteen.

During lock down the GHMC opened the canteens and provided free meals through 250 canteens in the respective geographical limits. The main focus was on serving the needy during the lock down imposed to check the spread of Covid-19. Patient attendees, daily wage workers, hawkers, people living in shelter homes and others are benefiting from these canteens during the lock down.

It is understood that the government and charitable trusts have concerns about maintaining quality, hygiene and keeping food prices low and, at the same time, taking care of the surroundings of the canteens, physiological composition of the customers and its requirements to provide a decent ambience is neglected.



Source: Field Survey; Some customers have thrown their plates and food after using them and other customers have to sit beside them for their meal consumption at Nampally Railway Station.

Interestingly, a few months ago, GHMC initiated to serve the food in a thin paper plate based with a plastic plate for a better holding to consumer the food in all the canteens. Each canteen was given approximately 60 plastic plates. Customers should consume the food on the green thin plate, take the plastic plate as a base and should return the plastic plate after their consumption. But management has complaints that only some customers are returning the plastic plates and some aren't, and they cannot chase who isn't returning as they have to serve food to the other customers.

Canteens Sale can do better if;

- Food menu can include more variety of vegetables and also the cooking style which attracts more customers.
- Water packets per person should be increased as it is not sufficient to drink and wash hands from a tiny water packet.
- Less waiting time; some canteens in the busiest are attracting huge customers and the queue is long enough to get the food. If any arrangement is made to reduce the waiting time by employing more canteen servers, that would minimise the long queue.
- Seating arrangements; in summer it is extremely difficult for the customers to eat outside in the scorching heat and in the rainy season it is even worse. A decent seating ambience would help to fetch more customers.
- Hygienic environment; customers did complain a lot on the surroundings as well as the management. A crystallised word of blame game is seen on this factor from the supply and demand side.

CONCLUSION

Food insecurity in urban areas is due to the large percentage of an unorganized labour force and that needs to be addressed swiftly, otherwise it results in unplanned growth of slums with undeveloped

health and hygiene facilities. Migrants from the rural regions form a large mass of the population referred to as the 'informal sector'. The development of these informal sector populations in the urban areas has led to increase in the number of slum dwellers characterized by scarce amenities viz. water and sanitation facilities, inadequate housing and augmented food insecurity. The reliance of this informal sector population on daily employment wages which tends to be variable on different days of the month, can also be seen as another factor for urban food insecurity. The scanty daily wages of migrant workers depend on their future employment and poor living conditions make their food procurement and access to food to fluctuate. In India, all the benefits of the government schemes and programmes that are aimed at helping the poor people specifically people are below poverty line in urban areas, is enjoyed only by notified slum population and approximately half of the slums in urban areas are non-notified and thus are deprived of the government schemes. People from these un-notified slums have to purchase food from the fair shops rather from Public Distribution System (PDS). Despite economic growth since liberalisation, the availability, accessibility, utilisation, stability indicators of food security announce that an enhancement in nutritional intake is ignored and a weakening trend is visible in terms of food security. A persuasive necessity to operationalise the concept of nutrition security and along with food security alone has to be taken up by the governing bodies. These institutions, programmes and policies in order to address the acute problems of hunger and food insecurity, need to act on these issues and it is found to be disappeared. A state of acceptance has to be undertaken and that will in turn, lead the existing institutions and pathways might aid urban spaces in a nation to be in a state of secured, food and hunger wise.

**Appendix
table-1**

**Various State Governments Providing Low Budgeted Food in
Respective Urban Centers**

S. No	State	Name of the Canteen	Date and year of Establishment	Particulars	Functioning Timings and Location Regions.
	<i>Andhra Pradesh</i> <i>(Now Halted)</i>	<i>NTR Anna canteens & Rajanna Canteens (2017)</i>	<i>June 2016. In July 2018 opened 100 canteens</i>	<i>Breakfast Rs. 5/- (Limited) Lunch at Rs. 5/- (Limited) Dinner at Rs. 5/- (Limited) Serving for 70000 people of urban areas</i>	<i>From; 11:00am – 08:30 pm</i> <i>Amaravathi</i>
	<i>Haryana</i>	<i>'Antyodaya Aahaar Yojana'.</i>	<i>February 2018, 23 canteens were started</i>	<i>Rs 10 per meal to all poor and needy "Each food packet weighing 730 gm will include flour, chapattis, rice, daal, seasonal vegetables, curd/raita, green chutney and jamagery.</i>	<i>From; 11:00am – 4 pm</i> <i>Faridabad, Gurugram, Hisar and Yamuna Paar</i>
	<i>Jharkhand</i>	<i>Guruji Kitchen Yojana or Guruji Kitchen Scheme 2022 replaced with Mukhyamantri Dal Bhat Yojana.</i>	<i>June, 2011 they started 370 centres.</i>	<i>Around 22.5 lakh people are being fed and the government spends Rs 25 crore annually. Canteens feed usually between 50 and 200 people each day.</i>	<i>Timings NA</i> <i>Current 377 centres are functioning across 24 districts of the state. Out of these, 11 Dal Bhat centres operate as night centres.</i>
	<i>Karnataka</i>	<i>Indira canteen</i>	<i>August 2017 100 canteens</i>	<i>Breakfast at Rs. 5/- Lunch and dinner at Rs. 10/-</i> <i>Fixed items in the menu: Idly for Breakfast. Anna and Sambar for lunch and dinner. (Menu varies with lots varieties)</i>	<i>Breakfast: 07:30 – 9:30am Lunch: 12:30 – 02:30pm Dinner: 07:30 – 09:30pm</i> <i>Bengaluru</i>
	<i>Madhya Pradesh</i>	<i>Deendayal Antyodaya Rasoi Kitchens'.</i>	<i>April 2017</i>	<i>Lunch at Rs. 10/- Chapati/Roti, seasonal vegetables, pulses and rice.</i>	<i>From; 10:00am – 03:00pm</i> <i>100 kitchen centers, in 52 district headquarters and 6 religious cities of the state</i>

S. No	State	Name of the Canteen	Date and year of Establishment	Particulars	Functioning Timings and Location Regions.
	New Delhi	Aam Admi Canteen, Atal Jan Ahar Yojana	January 2017 December 2017 225 Canteens	Luch at Rs. 10. & Started by South Delhi Municipal Corporation Plate contains; 250g rice with 150g sabzi in one of these combinations (chhole-chawal, rajma-chawal, puri-sabzi, dalchawal, puri-chhole).	From; 12:00pm – 02:00pm Six centres were launched in Okhla Mandi, Matiala Chowk, Green Park/ AIIMS, Raghbir Nagar, Kakraula Mor in Najafgarh and in Shalimar Bagh
	Odisha	Aahar Yojana	April 2015 Currently 157 centres are operational across all districts.	It provides lunch at Rs. 5/- for the urban poor. Rice and dalma in the menu.	Lunch: 11:00am to 03:00 pm Dinner: 07:00pm – 09:00 pm
	Rajasthan	Annapurna Rasoi	December 2016 80 vans in 12 cities of Rajasthan	Breakfast at Rs. 5. Lunch and dinner at Rs. 8	Mobile Vans In second phase of the scheme, breakfast and food will be provided through 500 Annapurna Rasoi vans in 191 cities.
	Tamil Nadu	Amma Canteen/Unavagam	February 2013 407 Amma Canteens across Chennai	For breakfast, idli (Rs 1 each), sambhar and pongal (Rs 5). Lunch: sambar rice and lemon rice (Rs 5/plate each) and curd rice (Rs 3/plate) are served as lunch. Dinner: Chapatis and dal (Rs 3) and tomato rice (Rs 5) are served as dinner.	Breakfast: 07:00am – 10:00 am, Lunch: 12:00pm - 03:00 pm, Dinner: 06:00pm – 09:00 pm. Chennai.
	Telangana	GHMC Annapurna Canteens	May 2014 8 centres in 2014 and now expanded to 150 canteens	Lunch meal for Rs. 5/- Rice, sambar, curry (bottle gourd, potato, soya, tomato) varies across days, curd on Mondays. Pickle 2 small cans of Kg each for a week.	In rush hours at 10:30 am – 03:30 pm Otherwise 11:30 am – 02:30 pm GHMC limits, Hyderabad area.
	Uttar Pradesh	Samajwadi Canteens/Annapurna	November 2016 /April 2017	Provide breakfast for ₹ 3 and Lunch is available for	Breakfast: 07:00am – 10:00am.

S. No	State	Name of the Canteen	Date and year of Establishment	Particulars	Functioning Timings and Location Regions.
		<i>Bhojnalayas'Yogitai</i>		<i>justRs 5. The dailymenu includes daal, vegetable, fourchapattis, rice, pickles, apieceofs weetpetha.</i>	<i>Lunch: 12:00pm – 03:00pm. Across 14 municipalities of the state</i>
	<i>Uttarakhand</i>	<i>Indira AmmaBhojanYojana</i>	<i>November2015</i>	<i>Lunch meal for Rs. 20/- Rajma-Udad-Bhatt, green vegetable, aaloo-gobhi, four chapattis, rice, green chutney and pickle.</i>	<i>From; 10:00 am– 04:00pm Dehradun</i>
	<i>WestBengal</i>	<i>JantaMeals</i>	<i>August2017</i>	<i>Rs.10/, vegetableThali.</i>	<i>NA</i>

Source: Abraham, M. (2019). NTR Anna Canteens: A Boon to Urban Poor of Andhra Pradesh, India. International Journal of English Literature and Social Sciences, 4(4), 1007-1012. pg.1008

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