

# India Faces major challenge of malnutrition, largely due to childhood wasting and low birth

## Emerging India and its consequences

Global emerging economic superpower India is proud of its achievements of economic growth, but the reality is different. The economic growth has not reached all people equally and the pathetic situation is that the vast majority don't even have the basic bare minimum of nutritional food.



Owing to the sluggish economic growth, annualizing growth rates of incomes fell from over 6% in 2015 to 4.7% in 2016, 4.2 % in 2017 & 2018 and 1.6% in 2019. On the other hand, unemployment has risen considerably during this period.

India's income distribution is another cause for concern, the top 1% of India holds 40.1% of the wealth, while the bottom 50% of the income bracket received only 15% of the national income.

In the financial year 2022 – 2023, the bottom 50% and middle 40% annually earn rupees 71,000, whereas the richest 10,000 individuals make in a year rupees 480 million, which is 2,069 times of the national average. India got a billionaire every 5 days. India is home to the third largest pack of billionaires next to US and China.

## India Major challenge of Hunger:



India despite being world's second largest food producer by calorie content, ranked 111<sup>th</sup> out of 125 countries in 2023, according to the Global Hunger Index (GHI) which gives an idea of the seriousness of the hunger in Indian population. Of its 1.4 billion population, India houses a quarter of

world's undernourished individuals, amounting to 190 million people live in these households. India's GHI score of 28.7, which is a very serious score, places it behind countries such as Pakistan (102), Bangladesh (81) and Nepal (69).

What is the seriousness of malnutrition in India?

According to National Family Health Survey:

Prevalence of malnutrition in India:

- 35.5% of children under age 5 are stunted.
- 19.35% are wasted
- 32.1% are under weight.
- 3% are overweight.
- Malnutrition among women aged between 15 to 49 years is 18.7%.

Prevalence of Anemia:

- 25% in men between 15 to 49 years.
- 57% in women between 15 to 49 years.
- 31.3% in adolescents aged 15 to 19 years.
- 59.1% in adolescent girls.
- 52.25% in pregnant women between 15 to 49 years.

Among 74% of Indian population could not afford healthy diet and 39% fall short nutrition adequacy.

## Conclusion:

We at St. Joseph's Development Trust do our best to reach out to and support all our children with good food, clothing and education. We thank all of those who support us.







