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RIGHT TO FOOD IN INDIA: A CRITICAL STUDY

Dr. Vinod Kumar

Introduction

Food is an important component for human life. Individual health is promoted with food and health is directly related to the enjoyment of all other human rights and is a full participation in social and economic life. Recognizing right to food as a human rights demonstrates, health as a special importance to the life and survival of an individual. This is a way to win over all diseases. The food is helpful in prolonging life and promoting physical and mental health. India is one of the largest grain producers in the world but despite that it has the largest number of hungry people in the world too. It is such a contradictory position in itself. The problem is very serious because under - nutrition and mal - nutrition adversely affect the growth children at mental level and physical level. After becoming adult they are unable to function optimally. Further, under-nutrition decreases the immunity power and result of that they are vulnerable towards diseases and infection. These are the reasons, which increase the mortality rate, particularly of young children, in India.

International Instrument and Right to food

The right to food has been guaranteed in several international instruments. Universal Declaration of Human Right 1948¹ provide everyone has the rights to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right of security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.² Economic Social and Cultural Rights 1966³ provide "Right to an Adequate standard of Living" according to it, state parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions.⁴ The covenant says that, state parties to the International Covenant recognizing the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger shall take measures individually as well as through international co-operation to

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¹ GA Resolution No. 217A (III) 10 Dec 1948

² UDHR Art. 25

³ Come in to force 13 march 1976

⁴ I C E SCR An 11 (1)

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