Is India on the path to achieving agenda 2030 for zero hunger a comparative analysis from a global perspective

Princy Gogoi 
princygogoi12oct@gmail.com  
Amity University, Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Paras Kohli 
paraskohli2000@gmail.com  
Amity University, Noida, Uttar Pradesh

ABSTRACT

This paper examines the UN Sustainable development goal 2, i.e., zero hunger. Here, we review the hunger and the nutrition situation prevailing in India and suggest policy measures for ensuring adequate food security at the household level, particularly for the marginalized groups, destitute people, women and children. Also, we will analyse the fall of India’s performance in comparison to the other BIMSTEC nations. The main objectives of this Study are to critically analyse if India still stands a chance in achieving the targets of Agenda 2030 & to evaluate India’s performance in comparison to other BIMSTEC nations. The study is based on secondary data being collected from the reports being published by United Nations with regard to performance in the sustainable development goals as well as the various reports being published by the respective countries. For the study the BIMSTEC nations are taken into account which includes Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand. The study is comparative in nature. And also, the major indicator that is used to derive the interpretation is the GHI. Besides other indicators are used based on the target to be achieved.

Keywords— SDG, Hunger, GHI

1. INTRODUCTION

This study examines the UN Sustainable development goal 2, i.e., zero hunger. The SDG 2, pursued of global food security and agricultural sustainability, requires critical and collaborative action from the developing and the developed countries. This, on the other hand depends on the universally agreed targets and indicators. The complexed nature of the SGD’s has further challenged to their implementation on the ground. Here, we review the hunger and the nutrition situation prevailing in India and suggest policy measures for ensuring adequate food security at the household level, particularly for the marginalised groups, destitute people, women and children. Also, we will analyse the fall of India’s performance in comparison to the other BIMSTEC nations.

In spite of rapid economic growth in the past two decades, India is unlikely to meet the 1st millenial development goal MDG of cutting the proportion of hungry people by half. It has been seen that since 1996, the per capita availability of food grains in India has declined; the percentage of underweight children has remained stagnant between 1998 and 2006, and since 1987 the rate of calorie consumption of the lower strata of the population has been rapidly declining since. In brief, we can say that all of the indicators point towards the harsh truth that hunger affects majority of the human population.

The eradication of hunger requires the SDG2 targets and the indicator aligned with the 4 pillars of food security, i.e., availability (having a sufficient quality of food, whose continued production also depends on a healthy environment), access (having the economic and physical means to obtain a nutritious diet), utilisation (having an adequate diet intake and the ability to absorb and use nutrients in the body), stability (ensuring the other 3 pillars on a consistent basis). The triple burden of malnutrition –is growing challenges all over the world and indicates how structural changes affected the pillars of food security. Most of these changes concern production system, the emergence of commercial food value chain and urbanisation. All together they led the substitution of more diverse nutritious diets by greater consumption of calorie rich staples that mark the post green revolution era, clearly calling for systems-oriented malnutrition strategies.

2. OBJECTIVES

• To critically analyze if India still stands a chance in achieving the targets of Agenda 2030.
• To evaluate India’s performance in comparison to other BIMSTEC nations.
3. LITERATURE REVIEW
When we talk about hunger, the first thing that comes to our mind is the insufficient consumption of food. But hunger is not just limited to this concept but has a broader aspect. Keeping a major population of a country hungry not only affects the former but the country as a whole in terms of economy and a sustainable way of living. As per FAO, hunger refers to the consumption of minimum number of calories that is required by an individual irrespective of age and gender to lead a healthy and prosperous life.

It has been seen that in the last decades the number of undernourished people has declined by almost halves as a result of rapid economic development and increase in agricultural activities. Having said that we can’t deny the fact that hunger still remains a huge hindrance in the economic development of many countries especially the low income and the middle-income countries.

The leaders of the United Nations were of the view that they should foster pro-poor and inclusive structural transformation especially emphasising on people and placing communities at the centre to reduce economic vulnerabilities and get themselves on track to ending hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition. The factual figures as given by FAO (Food Agricultural Organisation) indicates:

(a) In 2017, it has been estimated that as a result of environmental degradation, nearly 821 million people are chronically undernourished.
(b) More than 9 crore children are estimated to fall under the category of underweight
(c) Again in 2017, Around 22% children, i.e., 15.1 crore of children under the age of five years were stunted as a result of chronic malnutrition.
(d) Among every eight adults, more than one of them is suffering from obesity, i.e., overweight.
(e) One in every three women of reproductive age is anemic, i.e., suffering from a condition in which there is a deficiency of red cells or of haemoglobin in the blood, resulting in pallor and weariness.
(f) In the agricultural sector 26% of the workers are employed.

So, based on these facts it can be said that unless immediate measures are being taken to resolve these issues, the number of people being undernourished, malnutrition, stunted, wasted, anemic etc. would not only fail to achieve the targets as set by agenda 2030 but infect would increase by 2050.

So, the very reason of the implementation of SDG 2 is to cater to these issues thereby reducing all forms of hunger and ensuring that sufficient amount of nutritious food is accessible to all people around the globe especially the children throughout the year.

• **Vision:** SDG2 visions of a world that would be free from hunger, malnutrition and rural poverty, which can be jointly achieved through the modifications of the food productivity systems
• **Mission:** The mission of SDG2 is to bring together all the main players to discuss the importance of food security, nutrition together with a sustainable and resilient agriculture so as to fulfil the targets of Agenda 2030.
• **Targets:** SDG 2 comprises of eight targets each directed to achieve a goal and fifteen indicators to help each goal get achieved.

The targets of SDG 2 as set by agenda 2030 includes:

(a) **Target 2.1: Universal Access to Safe and Nutritious Food**
   It is targeted that by 2030, there will be an end to hunger and accessibility to safe, nutritious and sufficient amount of food by all people, especially the poor, the vulnerable and the children, all round the year.

(b) **Target 2.2: End All Forms of Malnutrition**
   It is targeted that by 2030, there will be an end to all forms of malnutrition, example: stunting and wasting and to achieve the set targets for the same for the children under the age of five and also to make the people aware about the dietary needs of young girls, pregnant and lactating women and elderly people.

(c) **Target 2.3: Double the Productivity and Incomes of Small-Scale Food Producers**
   It is targeted that by 2030, the agricultural productivity will be doubled as well as the incomes of small-scale food producers, especially family farmers, women, pastoralists and fishers, indigenous peoples, and also to make them have secure and equal access to land, markets, productive resources and inputs, financial services and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.

(d) **Target 2.4: Sustainable Food Productions and Resilient Agricultural Practices**
   It is targeted that to increase the agricultural productivity, to maintain ecosystems, to increase the adaptability to extreme weather, drought etc and to improve the land and soil quality, sustainable food production systems will be ensured and resilient agricultural practices will be implemented by 2030.

(e) **Target 2.5: Maintain the Genetic Diversity in Food Production**
   It is targeted that, the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and domesticated animals and their associated wild species needs to be maintained by 2030 at the national, regional and international levels. Even there should be an equitable access and sharing of advantages so obtained from the use of genetic resources.

(f) **Target 2.A: Invest in Rural Infrastructure, Agricultural Research, Technology and Gene Banks**
   It is targeted that the investments I needs to be increased in the agricultural research, rural infrastructure, technological development, plant & livestock gene banks so as to boost up the agricultural productive capacity in the least developed nations.

(g) **Target 2.B: Prevent Agricultural Trade Restrictions, Market Distortions and Export Subsidies**
   It is targeted that restrictions in all forms, be it the trade restrictions and the distortions in world agricultural markets coupled with all forms of export measures and agricultural export subsidies needs to be eliminated.

(h) **Target 2.C: Ensure Stable Food Commodity Markets and Timely Access to Information**
   It is targeted that appropriate measures should be undertaken to ensure stable food commodity markets and have timely access to market information, such as information on food reserves so as to reduce or eliminate the extreme fluctuations in food price.
India’s Performance in SDG 2
Indicator Used to See India’s Performance

To see each country’s performance, the tool that is being undertaken to measure SDG 2 is GHI that refers to Global Hunger Index. Basically, it measures the level of hunger from the broader to the narrower levels i.e., from global, national to even regional levels. GHI scores give a performance record of each country in fighting against hunger. GHI score consists of four elements:

- **Undernourishment**: It basically refers to that proportion of the population who has insufficient calorie intake, i.e., undernourished.
- **Child wasting**: It refers to that proportion of children under five years of age who have low weight as compared to their height, i.e., they are wasted.
- **Child stunting**: It refers to that proportion of children under five years of age who have low height as compared to their age, i.e., they are stunted.
- **Child mortality**: It refers to the mortality rate of children under the five years of age resulting from unhealthy environments and nutrition.

The GHI score ranges from 0 to 100 stating that 0 means no hunger and 100 means extreme hunger. A country which has a 0 GHI score is able to eradicate hunger with zero levels of undernourishment and also zero levels of stunted and wasted children under five years of age. On the other hand, a country with a GHI score of 100 is still debted to hunger with extreme levels of undernourishment, as well as extreme levels of stunted and wasted children under five years of age.

India’s Performance

As far as India’s performance is concerned with regard to SDG 2, its rank stands at 94 out of 107 countries as per the global hunger Index, 2020. Its score is 27.2 which is serious but has improved from its past conditions where it stood at an alarming state. This trend is being shown in the following figure:

![GHI Score Trend for India](source: Global Hunger Index)

As per the diagram we can see that the GHI has declined from 2000 to 2020 as a result of rapid economic growth and effective government policies. But again, the question arises if this declining rate is sufficient enough to achieve AGENDA 2030. Now if we consider the sub-components of GHI and observe India’s performance in each of them, it can be seen that:

![Trend for Indicator Values - India](source: UNICEF)
Graphical Reading: Prevalence of stunting and that of under-five mortality rate shows a declining trend whereas proportion of undernourished and prevalence of wasting in children under five years of age shows a slight fluctuating trend. Higher proportion of children under five years of age in wasting shows poor level of nutritional diet of pregnant women, poor breastfeeding practices, improper hygiene and sanitation facilities and inadequate access to health and medical facilities. Also, the costs of treatment for such health issues are expensive and also the population suffering from the same have low incomes, highly vulnerable to chronic diseases etc.

NITI Ayog Report on India’s Performance

The NITI Ayog Report for SDG INDEX even states that India is burdened with stunting, wasting, undernourishment, malnutrition etc in spite of its commendable success in reducing poverty. Even the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4) indicates that about 50% of pregnant women between 15-49 years of age are anaemic and almost 38.4% and 21% of children under the age of five years have low height in comparison to age and low weight in comparison for age. The obstacles faced by India in terms of food security and nutrition cater to a lot many factors which includes insufficient availability of food, poor health and sanitation facilities etc. However, government is taking initiatives to fulfil the set targets. As per the Food Security Act, food grains are made available to seventy five percent of the rural population and fifty percent of the urban population at reasonable prices under the PDS.

As per the report all the Indian states were categorised under four heads depending upon their performance in SDG2:

(a) Achiever: these included the states which had an index score of 100, i.e., zero level of hunger, undernourishment, malnutrition etc.
(b) Front Runners: These included the states which had an index score ranging from 65-99. Such states are: Goa, Manipur, Kerala, Punjab, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Delhi, Puducherry, Chandigarh.
(c) Performers: These included the states which had an index score ranging from 50-64. Such states are: Tamil Nadu, Jammu Kashmir, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, Karnataka, Assam, Haryana, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal.
(d) Aspirant: These included the states which had an index score ranging from 0-49. Such states are: Gujarat, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Meghalaya, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Lakshadweep, Daman Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Andaman & Nicobar Islands

The major points that can be brought out from this report:

- **Food Subsidy:** According to the socio-economic caste census, one among every household comes under the PDS system wherein the highest member of the family earns less than 5000 per month. In this indicator Manipur (1.36) and Delhi (1.29) have showed the best performances.
- **Stunting:** By 2030, it has been targeted the proportion of children under five years of age suffering from stunting should be brought down to 21.03 from its current percentage, i.e., 38.4 percent. The states who are performing excellently in this indicator are Kerala and Goa. As far as Union Territories are concerned, Andaman & Nicobar Islands has been able to perform fairly well in this indicator but hasn’t achieved the target yet.
- **Anaemia among women:** India has a higher level of pregnant women between 15 and 49 years of age suffering from anaemia and has a much higher rate compared to the national target that stands at 23.57 percent. Among the Indian states, Kerala has performed unquestionably well in reducing this rate to below the national target followed the Sikkim which is nearer to achieve the target. Among Union Territories Puducherry with twenty six percent has performed well in this indicator.
- **Agricultural Productivity:** As per recent data, India’s level of agricultural production (rice, wheat, coarse grains) stands at 2,509 kg /per Ha annually and it aims to double this quantity so as to achieve the target of agenda 2030. Under this indicator, Chandigarh is nearing to the target followed by Punjab.

Initiatives Undertaken by Indian Government to Achieve Agenda 2030.

(a) **The National Nutrition Strategy:** This strategy came into effect in 2017 under NITI Ayog. It focuses on zeroing down malnutrition in India and works towards a comprehensive development so as to reduce maternal and infant mortality rate.
(b) **The National Nutrition Mission:** It surveils the growth of children, and also keeps a check on the food rations which are being provided at Aanganwadi schools.
(c) **POSHAN Abhiyan:** It was introduced in 2017-18 and it focuses on reducing all issues associated with malnutrition such as stunting, wasting for children under the age of five years, anaemia, obesity etc. through better and integrated regulations.
(d) **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY):** This scheme emphasises on providing food at affordable prices to the people especially the underprivileged.
(e) **Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS):** This scheme emphasises on taking proper care in the development of children under six years of age as well as the pregnant women and young girls.
(f) **Mid-day Meal (MDM) scheme:** This scheme emphasises on providing food to the school children thereby aiming at improving their nutritional levels which indirectly impacts on the child’s living patterns and hence reducing absenteeism in schools.
(g) **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY):** Under this scheme, the government provides six thousand rupees to the pregnant ladies which is directly transferred to their banks so that they can have easy access to better medical facilities.

Besides the government has even undertaken several schemes to promote agricultural productivity. This includes:

(a) **The National Mission on Agriculture Extension and Technology:** This scheme helps the farmers to get access to more improved technologies and agro-practices so as to increase the agricultural practices.
(b) **The National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture and the National Food Security Mission:** Both these schemes focus on accelerating agricultural productivity.
Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY): This scheme is focuses on the efficient and sustainable use of water thereby avoiding its wastage.

Comparative Analysis

Performance of The BIMSTEC Nations with Regard to SDG 2: BIMSTEC stands for The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation and was founded in 1997. It is an international organisation of seven nations namely India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand so formed to focus on fourteen priority sectors such as trade & investments, agriculture, public health, poverty alleviation, etc.

GHI indicator: The performance of BIMSTEC nations as per GHI index is given by:

(note: Due to data unavailability, Bhutan couldn’t the included in the following table)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEARS</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MYANMAR</td>
<td>39.8</td>
<td>31.8</td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>20.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRI LANKA</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>19.5</td>
<td>20.1</td>
<td>16.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THAILAND</td>
<td>17.8</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>10.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEPAL</td>
<td>37.4</td>
<td>31.0</td>
<td>22.8</td>
<td>19.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BANGLADESH</td>
<td>34.1</td>
<td>29.0</td>
<td>27.8</td>
<td>10.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDIA</td>
<td>38.9</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>29.3</td>
<td>27.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The graph for the same is given below:

Graphical Reading: Looking at the figures and the graph above we can see that all the nations show a somewhat steady downward trend, with special reference to Bangladesh which shows a sharp fall after 2012. If we observe the index, we can see that Thailand since the beginning of 2000 is in a well to do state and has been able to maintain its position and in fact improve it in the subsequent years and hence is much closer to achieve Agenda 2030. The reason behind this is rapid economic development wherein the GDP increased by 113% and together with it there was a decline in in the level of undernourishment by eighty seven percent. This was added on by the effective government policies undertaken to eliminate various forms of malnutrition.

The government of each of these nations has undertaken many policies and initiatives and hence has given a critical eye to the matter especially since the inception of this goal of zero hunger. As a result of this, all these nations have shown a downward trend. But having said that the question arises, will all these nations be able to achieve agenda 2030? The answer to this question lies in the rate at which these nations are performing. For the nations which has a very high rate of improvement there is a possibility that they could achieve Agenda 2030 but for the nations which are running at low rates, the target achievement seems to be vague. Based on the above data, Thailand and Sri Lanka had a good beginning and thereby are moving closer to achieve Agenda 2030. But if we look at the other nations, i.e., Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Nepal, all of them didn’t have a great beginning but in absolute terms in spite of having a higher GHI index in the beginning, Bangladesh has shown a drastic improvement achieving its targets, followed by Nepal, then Myanmar and the worst performance among the BIMSTEC nations in absolute terms is India, the major hindrance being its huge population.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rate of change between 2000-2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YEARS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Considering the rate of change, we can see that Bangladesh has proved itself to be a success story with a rate of change of 69.50%, followed by Nepal with 47.86%, Myanmar with 47.49 and Thailand with 42.70, followed by India with 30.08 and the lowest being Sri Lanka at 25.57%.

**Why did Bangladesh perform so well in spite of having a high GHI score?**

Bangladesh has made considerable progress from being a constantly food deficiency country during the 1970s. Over the most recent thirty years, even as its populace has dramatically increased, food creation has more than stayed up with the populace development. Likewise, there has been a rapid decrease in people living below the poverty, which has tumbled from 56.6 percent in 1991-92 to 31.5 percent in 2010.

As per study, it has been stated that from 1997 to 2007, Bangladesh had accomplished one of the quickest drawn out decreases in kid undernutrition in history. The rate of stunting among kids under five, which mirrors the condition of constant undernutrition, has diminished from 55% in 1996-97 to 36 percent in 2014 and has even continued to decrease further. In spite of the fact that Bangladesh has accomplished much over ongoing many years, 33% of kids in this nation are as yet classed as "stunted " in view of constant hunger.

So, to move forward for the target, agriculture needs to be modernised and even farmers need to become environmentally sustainable at the same time. The pace of pesticide use is extremely high and is a peril to wellbeing. Individuals need to have proper diets with more variety of fruits and vegetables. One of the new examples of overcoming adversity has been the fast reception of Bt brinjal by Bangladeshis ranchers. Brinjal, or eggplant, is a significant culinary vegetable but has generally experienced serious pest pervasion and bringing about high paces of pesticide defilement. Since the Bt brinjal was sent by Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), nearly 33,000 smallholder ranchers—around 20% of the country's all out brinjal ranchers—have started to develop the yield. In general, they have allegedly encountered a 61 percent decrease in pesticide use and a six-overlap expansion in pay.

Besides more varieties of Bt brinjal, public-area researchers in Bangladesh are also occupied with collaborative endeavours to create local varieties of high-yielding rice improved with nutrient A, potatoes resistant to the staggering late blight disease, which is at present controlled through the utilization of fungicides, and pest resistant cotton that additionally can assist ranchers with shortening their pesticide use. These can add to a superior circumstance for smallholder ranchers and improved nourishment. Together with this the government has undertaken many initiatives:

- **Technical Symposium on Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture’ at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) – 10 April 2016:** The alarming necessity for nutrition education and varied food productivity to cope up with the issues of undernourishment and malnutrition, FAO collaborated with the Government of Bangladesh, BARC and many more organisations. The United states Agency for International Development funded the Technical Symposium on Nutrition – Sensitive Agriculture through FAO project ‘Meeting the Under-nutrition Challenge (MUCH).
- **Monitoring Report 2016 of the National Food Policy Plan of Action (NFP PoA) and the Country Investment Plan (CIP):** The National Food Policy aims to provide food and nutrition security to all the people, especially the poor, the vulnerable, the pregnant women, children and young girls.
- **Lao PDR government staff study tour to Bangladesh to learn Bangladesh’s experiences in strengthening capacity for mainstreaming nutrition into agriculture and promoting community-based nutrition-sensitive interventions:** It was a given day long tour that was held basically to analyse the extensive approach undertaken in Bangladesh by the ministries and the agencies so as to promote nutrition bound agriculture. It emphasised mainly on the homestead production.

![Fig. 4: Malnutrition burden in BIMSTEC countries](image-url)
In the figure 4, we can see that the stunting rates were most noteworthy in India at 38 percent, followed by Bangladesh and Nepal (36%) and Bhutan and Myanmar at 34% and 29%, respectively. The lowest rate of stunting is seen in Thailand which is 11%. From the data, only Bangladesh and Thailand seem to be on-course to meet the worldwide target of 40% decrease in the children under-five years of age; and the rest of the nation’s i.e., India, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka have shown some advancement. Another indicator of malnutrition, wasting, is most noteworthy in India, and has not improved for as long as couple of many years. Bangladesh (14%) and Sri Lanka (15%) likewise have higher rates of wasting contrasted with the developing countries at 8.9 percent. There has been some advancement in Thailand, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Nepal regarding accomplishing worldwide focuses of diminishing youth wasting at under five percent. Overweight in less than five years of kids is additionally a reason for concern. Bhutan and Thailand, at eight percent of under-five youngsters, have the most elevated occurrence in the locale. Thailand has recorded a decrease from 10.9 percent in 2012; And Bhutan expanded from 4.4 to 7.6 percent from 2012 to 2016. Thailand, Nepal and Myanmar are on track in achieving the set targets for eliminating overweight in under-fives.

![Child Nutrition](image)

**Fig. 5: Child Nutrition**

The inception of breastfeeding is estimated at 50% among the BIMSTEC nations with the exception of Bhutan, Myanmar and Sri Lanka. With regards to sustaining the breastfeeding practice, nonetheless, there is a fall in the estimates as found in Bhutan and Myanmar. Sri Lanka has the most noteworthy rate of selective breastfeeding at 82%. The delayed commencement of breastfeeding is related with the socio-social act of giving pre-lacteal feeds in some South Asian countries: India (42%), Bangladesh (27%) and Nepal (26.5%).

### 3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study is based on secondary data being collected from the reports being published by UN with regard to performance in the sustainable development goals as well as the various reports being published by the respective countries. For the study the BIMSTEC nations are taken into account which includes Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand. The study is comparative in nature. And also, the major indicator that is used to derive the interpretation is the GHI. Besides other indicators are used based on the target to be achieved.

### 4. CONCLUSION

Hunger is a matter of grave concern for each and every country, be it developed or developing countries. On the basis of the data, we can see that The BIMSTEC nations although performing comparatively well but as far as the targets of Agenda 2030 are concerned, the possibility of attaining the same seems to be blur.

India being one of the largest and the most diversified economy in the world, has not been able to show an outstanding performance in the various indicators to achieve SDG2. Although it has showed a declining trend in undernourishment but the rate at which its declining is not sufficient enough to achieve the set targets. It was clearly noticeable that, before the COVID-19 pandemic, not all the BIMSTEC nations were on the tracks to achieve the set targets. The outbreak of the pandemic even further worsened the conditions thereby leaving the countries far away from achieving the targets. So, to achieve the target, India needs to have a more effective and sustainable food systems through systematic and integrated approach, taking into consideration its huge population so as to achieve the targets of zero hunger for Agenda 2030. Also, the nations need to take the positive points of countries which has been successful in moving towards the
So, government needs to invest in nutrition together with making proper health and medical facilities accessible to the people, health and hygiene etc that will help to eradicate all forms of undernourishment and malnutrition leading to a prosperous sustainable future—will help end all forms of malnutrition in the long run.

5. REFERENCES

[1] About: The Concept of the Global Hunger Index Global Hunger Index (GHI) - peer-reviewed annual publication designed to comprehensively measure and track hunger at the global, regional, and country levels https://www.globalhungerindex.org/about.html


