

SHRI RAM COLLEGE OF COMMERCE

ISSN: 2581-4931 (Print)

# STRIDES - A STUDENTS' JOURNAL OF SHRI RAM COLLEGE OF COMMERCE

VOLUME 4 – ISSUE1 & 2

JULY 2019 - JUNE 2020

## ***Quantum Computing: A futuristic frontier in the financial sector***

Chaitanya Sawhney & Yashvardhan Bajpai

## ***Effects of COVID-19 on the Travel Industry***

Gunjan Soni

## ***Education Crisis in India and its Impacts***

Lichi Sharma & Sai Lakshmi

## ***Role of Monetary and Fiscal Policies during Covid-19: India and Comparative Analysis***

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## ***Environmental Impact of Fertilizer and Power Subsidy***

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Shri Ram College of Commerce  
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## **STRIDES - A STUDENTS' JOURNAL OF SHRI RAM COLLEGE OF COMMERCE**

### **ISSN 2581-4931 (Print)**

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### **ABOUT THE JOURNAL**

It is a double blind reviewed bi-annual Journal launched exclusively to encourage students to pursue research on the contemporary topics and issues in the area of commerce, economics, management, governance, polices etc. The journal provides an opportunity to the students and faculty of Shri Ram College of Commerce to publish their academic research work.

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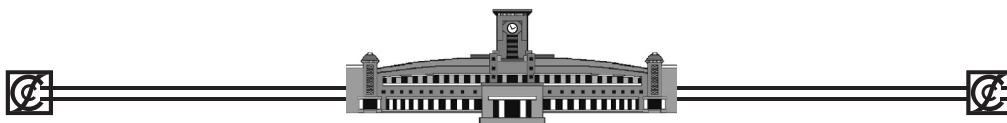
To achieve and promote excellence in research and publish quality academic as well as educational resources as guided by the Mission Statement of the College, Shri Ram College of Commerce had launched a Journal, "Strides- A Students' Journal of Shri Ram College of Commerce" on the occasion of 91st Annual Day of the College held on 13th April, 2017. The Journal was released by then the Hon'ble Union Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri Prakash Javadekar. The Journal publishes the research papers and articles written by students of the College under the mentorship of Faculty Members which go through an intense review mechanism before getting published.

Through the Journal, students get an excellent platform to enhance their research calibre, display their academic perspective, and practically apply their classroom learnings to real-world situations. The present Issue includes several multi-disciplinary and contemporary topics such as "Quantum computing: A futuristic frontier in the financial sector", "Unfolding the Global Hunger Index 2020", "Role of Monetary and Fiscal policies during Covid-19: India and Comparative Analysis", "An analysis of macroeconomic and bank-specific causes for burgeoning NPAs in India", "The political leaning paradox", and "Re-engineering climate change solutions through carbon credit trading".

I wholeheartedly congratulate the Editor, Strides, Dr. Rajeev Kumar and students whose research papers got published in Volume 4 Issue 1 & 2 of the Journal. Simultaneously, I encourage more students to contribute their research papers for the successive Issues.

My best wishes for your future endeavours!

**Prof. Simrit Kaur**  
**Principal**





## Editor's Message

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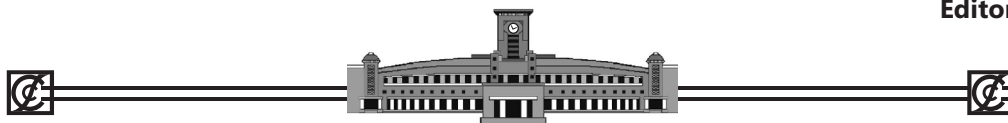


publication. The research work published in Strides is absolutely original and not published or presented in any form at any other public forum.

The foundation issue of the Journal "Strides - A Students' Journal of Shri Ram College of Commerce, Volume 1, Issue 1, 2016-17" was successfully released on 91st Annual Day of SRCC held on 13th April, 2017 by Shri Prakash Javadekar, Honb'le Union Minister of Human Resource Development, Government of India. The successive issues of 'Strides - A Students' Journal of Shri Ram College of Commerce' have been released bi-annually. However, due to the COVID19 pandemic and ensuing lockdowns the current issue has been delayed.

I congratulate all the students whose research papers are published in this issue of Strides and express my sincere thanks to their mentors and referees.

**Dr. Rajeev Kumar**  
**Editor**



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**STRIDES - A STUDENTS' JOURNAL OF SHRI RAM COLLEGE OF COMMERCE**

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Anmol Gupta  
B.Com. (Hons.)  
SRCC, DU



Sneha Sharma  
B.Com. (Hons.)  
SRCC, DU



**Mentor:**  
Dr. Hijam Liza Dallo Rihmo  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Pol. Science  
SRCC, DU

# Unfolding The GHI 2020

## ABSTRACT

*In the recently published Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2020 report, India has been ranked at 94 among 107 countries and is in the 'serious' hunger category with a score of 27.2. The reason for recording hunger worldwide is to ensure that the world achieves "Zero Hunger by 2030" - a Sustainable Development Goal of the UN by raising awareness and understanding of the hunger problem, match levels of hunger among countries, and draw global attention to those areas of the world where hunger levels are alarming. This paper analyzes India's position highlighting various dimensions of the hunger index, thereby comparing it with other countries. It examines the reasons and suggests some ways to tackle the mounting problem of hunger in India.*

## OBJECTIVE OF STUDY

The study is undertaken to achieve following objectives:

1. To interpret the GHI and its determinants.
2. To analyze India's position and its comparison with other countries
3. To understand the reasons behind severe hunger issue in India
4. To find ways to reduce hunger problem and food insecurity in India.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

For the study, the paper-primarily uses content analysis tool incorporating the data from the Global Hunger Index 2020 report published by the Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe, and international organizations such as UNICEF, WHO and various bodies of UN which work in this field. The data has been used to understand India's position vis-à-vis other countries and various parameters in eradicating hunger. Basic charts and growth rate figures are used to analyze India's stance. The paper attempts to explain the rationale behind India's position and suggest recommendations for a way out of the problem.

## INTRODUCTION

The Global Hunger Index is a peer-reviewed annual report, mutually published by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe, designed to comprehensively quantify and track hunger at the global, regional, and country levels. The Global Hunger Index was first published in 2006. It is published every year since then, generally in the month of October. The 2020 edition marks the 15th edition of the GHI. The GHI score is calculated using a 3-step process that utilizes available data from various sources to capture the multidimensional nature of hunger.

**First step**, incorporates four component indicators from each country. These 4 components along with the method of calculating them is highlighted in Table 1.

**Table 1: Constituents of GHI**

Three Dimensions	Four Indicators	How is it measured
Inadequate food supply	Undernourishment	% of population whose calorie intake is insufficient
Child undernourishment	Child wasting	% of children under 5 who have low weight for their height
	Child stunting	% of children under 5 who have low height for their age
Child mortality	Under five mortality rate	% of children dying before reaching the age of 5

Source: D wiesmann, H biesalski et al (2015)

**Second step**, each of the four component indicators from a particular country are given a standardized score on a 100-point scale based on highest figure of that component from recent global trends.

**Third step**, a final score is calculated after giving a weightage of 33.33% each to undernourishment and child mortality and a weightage of 16.66% each to child wasting and child stunting. In other words, Undernourishment and child mortality

each contribute one-third of the GHI score, while the child undernutrition indicators—child wasting and child stunting—each contribute one-sixth of the score.

This three-step process results in GHI scores on a 100-point GHI Severity Scale, where 0 is the best score (no hunger), and 100 is the worst. In practice, neither of these extremes is reached. The GHI Severity Scale shows the severity of hunger— from low to extremely alarming—associated with the range of possible GHI scores. (Refer to Figure 2)

**FIGURE 1: GHI SEVERITY SCALE**

≤9.9	10.0–19.9	20.0–34.9	35.0–49.9	≥50.0
low	moderate	serious	alarming	extremely alarming

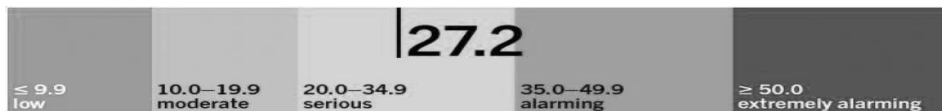
Worldwide hunger as an average is at a moderate level, according to the 2020 Global Hunger Report. In that, there are nearly 690 million undernourished people worldwide, 144 million children suffering from stunting, 47 million children suffering from wasting, and in 2018, 5.3 million children died before their fifth birthdays. Of the total 107 countries with sufficient data available, three suffer from alarming levels of hunger, 31 countries have serious levels of hunger (including India), 26 countries are there with a moderate level of hunger and 47 countries with a low level of hunger (including 17 countries with <5 level of hunger). It is critical to understand that the GHI scores presented in this report do not yet reflect the impact of COVID-19 on hunger and undernutrition. The data used is from 2016–2019, with the most current data in that component from each country. In 2020, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the values of the GHI component indicators and GHI scores were likely to worsen.

Data used for calculating this score comes from various UN and other multilateral agencies like the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME), Global database on child growth and malnutrition from WHO and surveys and statistical tables from UNICEF.

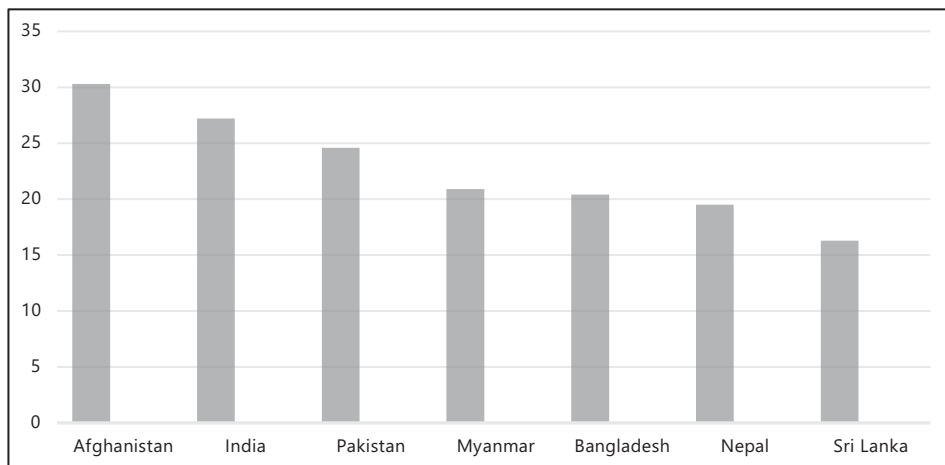
## WHAT IS INDIA'S POSITION

In the 2020 Global Hunger Index, India ranks 94th out of the 107 countries with a score of 27.2 reflecting serious level of hunger.

**FIGURE 2: INDIA'S GHI SCORE**

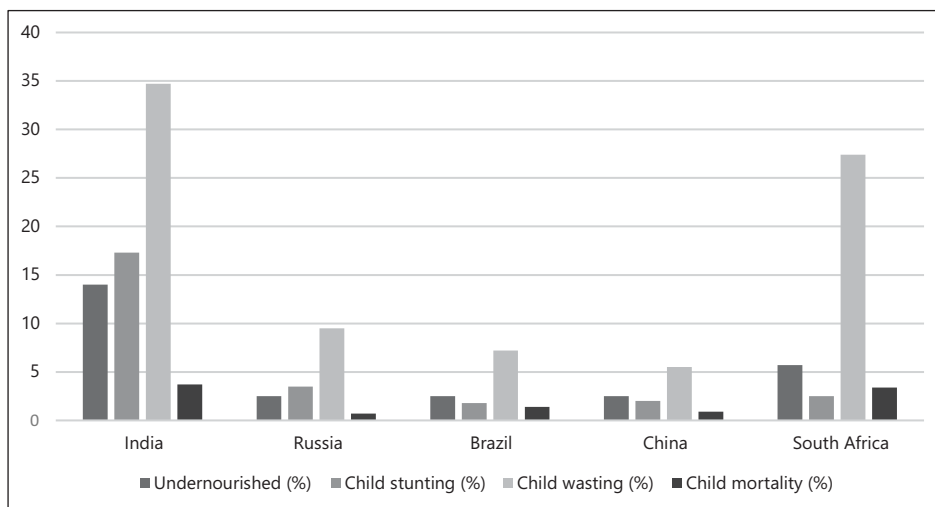


**FIGURE 3: GHI SCORE IN SOUTH ASIA**



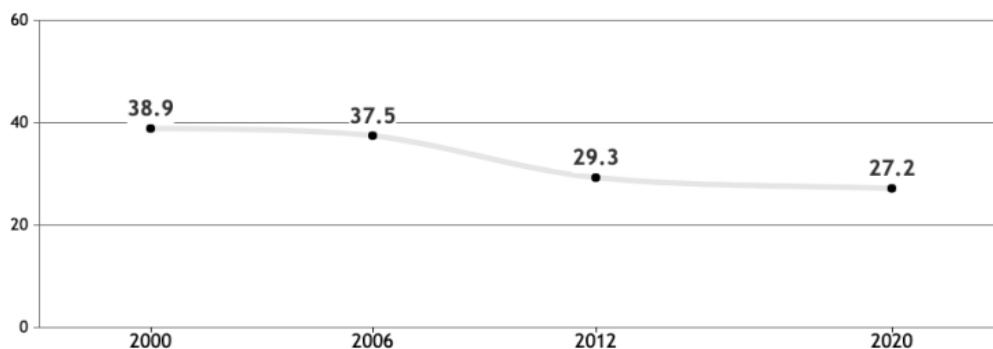
Source: GHI, Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe

The score of 27.2 is second to the worst among the South Asian countries. The score is inferior to Pakistan (24.6), Bangladesh (20.4), Sri Lanka (16.3), Nepal (19.5) and most other neighbours. Out of the total 107 countries, only 13 countries are worse than India including, countries like Rwanda, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Sudan and Liberia, among others.

**FIGURE 4: GHI SCORE IN BRICS NATIONS**

Source: GHI, Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe

India is way behind all the BRICS nations in all the parameters. India's score (27.2) is nowhere close to the global average of 18.2.

**FIGURE 5: GHI SCORE TREND FOR INDIA**

Source: <https://www.globalhungerindex.org/india.html>

Next, in the trend analysis of GHI for India, we see a decline in the overall GHI score with a diminishing percentage of the undernourished population, child wasting and under five mortality rate as highlighted in Figure 6 and Table 1. In terms of overall undernourishment, 14% of India's population does not get



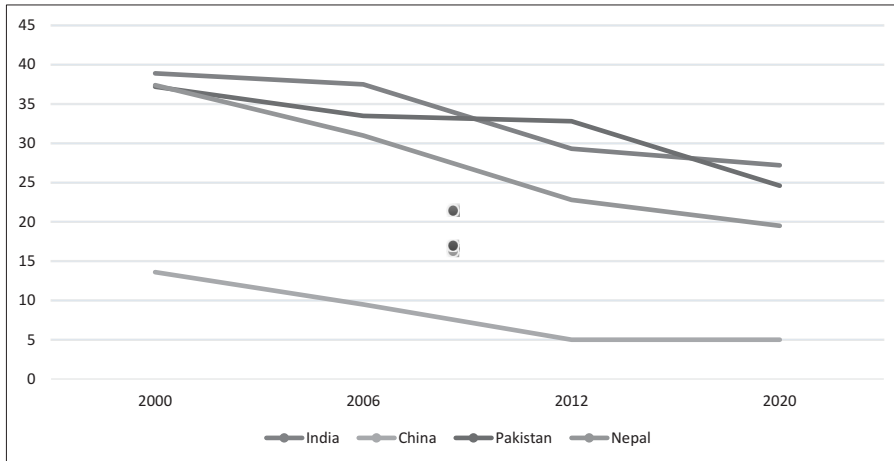
enough calories. The child mortality rate has seen a significant decline from 9.2% in 2000 to 3.7% in 2020, the only parameter where we see an improvement. India's low score's biggest contributors are child stunting and child wasting. 17.3% of Indian children under five are wasted, which has seen no improvement from the previous score in the 2000s. When it comes to child stunting, we saw a sharp fall from 54.2% in 2000 to 34.7% in 2020, but the figure is still among the world's worst.

**TABLE 2: INDICATOR WISE TREND FOR INDIA**

<b>GHI SCORE in the year</b>	<b>Proportion of undernourished In the population (%)</b>	<b>Prevalence of wasting in children under five years (%)</b>	<b>Prevalence of stunting in children under five years (%)</b>	<b>Under-five mortality rate (%)</b>
2000	18.6	17.1	54.2	9.2
2006	19.8	20.0	47.8	7.1
2012	16.3	15.1	38.7	5.2
2020	14.0	17.3	34.7	3.7

Source: Appendix D, IFPRI- GHI

If we go by the official report, it is stated that it is futile to compare GHI date of one year with other for a country as the data on which the GHI scores are based are frequently being revised by the United Nations agencies that gather them, and each year's GHI report mirrors these changes. Comparing scores between different year's reports may create an incorrect impression on how GHI figures have improved or deteriorated, whereas in reality the change may partly or fully reflect a data revision. So comparing data vis-à-vis countries becomes more reliable where India has performed poorly as the rate of diminishing percentage of various parameters is more in most of the countries as compared to India.

**FIGURE 5: GHI SCORE COUNTRY WISE TREND COMPARISON**

Source: <https://www.globalhungerindex.org/nepal.html>

<https://www.globalhungerindex.org/pakistan.html>

<https://www.globalhungerindex.org/china.html>

In terms of percentage change of GHI scores since 2000, India has lagged behind countries like Pakistan and Nepal. For China, whereas we see a sharp decline from a score of 13.6 in 2000 to a score of less than 5 in 2012 and 2020 which suggests a percentage decline of massive 63% in GHI score. The percentage decline of Pakistan and Nepal is 33.9% and 47.9%, while for India the number hovers around 30%. Which suggests that in terms of improving our position we have not been able to match what our immediate neighbours have done. That is why although the score for the three countries was more or less same in 2000, the difference in curves have increased year by year.

## REASONS FOR INDIA'S POOR SCORE

India, with a population of now close to 1.4 billion people, has seen significant growth in parameters like GDP growth and per capita consumption. Despite the fact that India produces sufficient food to feed its population, the food accessibility in many parts of the country is muddled. The most common opinion about problem of hunger, as many think, is food insecurity. But this belief is highly erroneous. At the time GHI 2020 report was published, India had a food stock of more than 70 million tonnes stored at various warehouses

of the Food Corporation of India, which is enough to ensure that no one went hungry, but we are often flabbergasted by the amount of food that rots in these godowns. We have The National Food Security Act, 2013 enacted to ensure food security for the most disadvantaged communities of the country. Under the act, 67% of the population (75% in rural areas and 50% in urban areas) are entitled to highly subsidized food grains. But the problem is more of accessibility than availability. The over-emphasis on food availability has hurt badly with less importance given to health, care and other determinants of malnutrition.

Child malnutrition starts very early in life. Reports of difference between Indian babies and African babies are astounding. As per a report, African babies are usually healthy at birth, but as they grow up, undernourishment starts to kick in. South Asian (Indian) babies, on the other hand, show very high levels of wasting very early in their lives within the first six months. This reflects the poor state of maternal health and less focus on childcare practices more than anything else. The societal aspect also comes into the picture. The inferior status of women in rural areas and their pre-legal age marriages leading to adolescent girls giving birth to babies who are bound to be malnourished. Low grade childcare practices involving no complete breastfeeding for the first five months, irregular complementary feeding afterwards and lack or low use of colostrum for the newborns take a toll on health of the children. According to a report by 'Child Rights and You' in August 2019, taking data from National Family Health Survey, 3 in every 5 children in India have been denied colostrum. Lack of unsafe drinking water sanitation especially in rural areas, make the situation miserable.

Next, what has the government been doing to tackle the issue? The Indian state implements massive social security programmes to support its disadvantaged population. For children, an integrated child development scheme (ICDS) is in place under which there are close to 1.3 million centers, called Anganwadi centers (AWC), that provide early education, health, nutrition services for children from birth up to six years of age. They also work for improving the hygiene and nutritional level of pregnant women and teach them basic healthcare measures for their child. Its reach in quantifying figures has been impressive, but these anganwadis suffer from a major predicament. All this outreach and footfall looks good on paper, but the ground reality is

appalling. The prevalence of such high rates of child stunting and child wasting are the best answers for the failure of ICDS. These programmes are the hotbed of corruption, leakages, obstructions, poor allocations and little answerability. The infrastructure of ICDS centers is dreadful which makes their day to day working complex. "A survey conducted recently of 36 Anganwadi centers in the state of Odisha found that more than 85% of the AWCs did not have designated building for daily functioning and that the centers had a severe lack of water, toilet, and electricity facilities" (Source-wcdodisha.gov.in). In another report by the National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development, "27% of AWCs didn't have enough food supplies to feed all the students for more than 90 days". Ministry for women and child development always has troubles recruiting more members in AWCs, that's because the workers are not paid enough and are not trained enough to work efficiently. A Comptroller and auditor general (CAG) report highlighting the quality of food in anganwadis noted the distribution of sub-standard food by the AWCs. As per the report, in the 18 test-checked AWCs, children were reported to have fallen ill after consuming the preparation. As per a ruling by the Supreme Court of India, State Governments were instructed to conduct health camps in villages to ensure that every undernourished child and pregnant women are given adequate healthcare and nutritional diets to improve child wasting and stunting score. But the state administrations have failed to do so, the bureaucracy has been unresponsive in its work, and on-the-field workers are not motivated enough to work for the better. The administrative structure of ICDS is faulty, it is poorly delivered, and it needs immediate reforms.

## **WAY FORWARD FOR INDIA**

A multifaceted approach is required to address the mounting problem of hunger. To end hunger by 2030, we need to reform our food systems and incorporate them into a wider political initiative to maximize health and ensure the right to healthy and nutritious food for all.

There is a growing need to design and build more efficient integrated food production, processing, preservation and distribution systems to feed the nation's evolving food requirements. There is a need to strengthen the PDS, focusing on women's health, which would lead to healthier pregnancies.

'Health camps' must be undertaken by the state government in every village to identify every malnourished child and pregnant woman. By undertaking these extensive health Camps, Government must ensure that those identified as malnourished receive proper nutrition and health care. Under the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) scheme, a more robust supplemental nutrition would also provide children with a better chance at all-round development. It is also essential to streamline access to food grains under the PDS by simplifying technological processes and reducing glitches associated with Aadhar.

COVID 19 has exposed the shortcomings of the PDS scheme's targeted design, and therefore, this is the best time to universalize PDS. Although the PDS may not eradicate malnutrition and child mortality, if its implementation is done effectively, it may help in reducing the hunger levels in India. The PDS has a vast potential to ensure good health for the people of India. Various measures are necessary so that it becomes the base for Nutritional security in India. Some measures include:

- Incorporating more items in the Public Distribution System's purview to provide nutritious food like pulses and edible oil.
- Providing fortified food grains to ensure nutritional security to masses.
- Investment in storage infrastructure is needed to reduce food wastage.

According to a report recently published in the journal Food Policy, three out of four rural Indians cannot afford a nutritious diet. It states that almost two out of three of them would not have enough money to afford the cheapest possible diet that meets the criteria set by the Government's premier nutrition body, even

though they spent their entire income on food. This highlights the importance of immediate, sustained intervention. There is a need to monitor food prices more closely through a nutritional lens and move India's current food policies away from their extreme bias towards cereals.

The government has tried to address the issue of food and nutrition insecurity by implementing reforms in Nutrition Assistance programs and

Social Protection schemes, since the early 2000s. These Programmes involved Mid-day Meals Schemes in Government and government aided schools (which was designed to improve the nutritional requirements of school aged children) and the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), which guarantees 100 days of employment every year to every rural household. Still, there remains widespread concern about India's food distribution system not having adequate access to affordable and nutritious food. Several organizations, which are working under the MGNREGA scheme, suggested that the guaranteed workdays be increased to 200 and that justifiable wages must be given following the states' minimum agricultural wages. The government has also initiated Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana(PMMVY) to provide Rs.5000 Cash Transfers to pregnant women and lactating mothers on fulfillment of necessary conditions related to health and nutrition. Such social protection schemes and special programs have to be given a boost to increase employment and wages in rural areas. There is a need to improve the monitoring and accountability of all special programmes and schemes established to mitigate the exacerbating problem of hunger.

The Government must support small and marginal farmers in becoming sustainable and diversified producers. To ensure the affordability of a nutritious diet and tackle hunger, more crops have to be grown, especially by the small and marginal farmers, with the Government's support. Increasing food production in the nation does not necessarily ensure food security if the poor do not have the purchasing power. Therefore, to achieve food security, the participation of small farmers is necessary. A renewed focus is imperative on small and marginal farm holdings. Government must intervene more effectively to help vulnerable communities and victims of natural disasters and climate change. It may establish arrangements to supply vulnerable sections of society with cooked nutritious food. This must be done in addition to the current arrangements of nutritious diets from Anganwadi and schools through mid-day meals for children, mothers and students.

In a nutshell, a far more holistic approach to achieve nutritional security in India is required. Necessary action is needed in all parameters. Besides economic growth to lift more people out of poverty, the state must ensure the availability and accessibility of nutritious food to eliminate hunger and

malnutrition in deprived areas. For achieving nutritional security in India, agricultural programs and policies must focus on improving diet diversity. It should also focus on improving accessibility to micro- nutrient rich diets to improve health outcomes. There is a need for a reappraisal of social protection schemes that improve monitoring and greater accountability. The administrative design and structure of ICDS need immediate improvement and on the ground implementation of social policies must be made more accountable, without which the goal of zero hunger is highly improbable.

## **CONCLUSION**

In the Global Hunger Index 2020, India ranked 94th out of 107 countries. This report is quite troubling because even being one of the largest producers of food in the world, India still reflects a severe level of hunger and food insecurity. With a population of over 1.3 billion to feed, it is imperative to address the issue of food wastage to combat hunger and to improve food security. Even though significant efforts are made to enhance production, there is not much emphasis placed on curbing food supply chain losses. Despite focusing on improving food production only, there is also a need to ensure accessibility and affordability of nutritious food to improve health outcomes.

In the Overall analysis, poor implementation of policies, flawed administrative designs, lack of adequate monitoring, lack of transparency and accountability, poor governance and lack of political efforts contribute to the mounting problem of hunger and food insecurity in India. They are the constraints in reducing hunger levels, and therefore, Action is needed on all fronts. Economic growth can lift people out of extreme poverty, but it alone is insufficient to reduce malnutrition among children. Focus on improving agricultural policies and proper implementation of social protection schemes and a reappraisal of such schemes to strengthen monitoring, and greater accountability is needed. Concerted policy action is needed to attain the goal of rapid reduction in hunger and improve the indicators of hunger.



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## HISTORY OF THE JOURNAL

The idea to launch this Journal was discussed in December 2016 by the former Officiating Principal, **Dr. R. P. Rustagi** with **Dr. Santosh Kumari**, the Editor of the Journal. Since the idea appealed to **Dr. Santosh Kumari**, she took the initiative to contribute to SRCC by creating this new academic research Journal and took the responsibility for its Creation, Registration, License and ISSN (International Standard Serial Number) etc. along with *Editorship*. Therefore, **Dr. Santosh Kumari, Assistant Professor in the Department of Commerce, Shri Ram College of Commerce** was appointed as the Editor of the Journal vide. Office Order – SRCC/AD-158/2017 dated March 14, 2017. She meticulously worked hard in creating the concept and developing the structure of the Journal. She introduced the concept of COPE (Committee On Publication Ethics) to maintain the high academic standards of publication.

On behalf of SRCC, **Dr. Santosh Kumari** made every effort in seeking License from Deputy Commissioner of Police (Licensing), Delhi to register the Journal at "The Registrar of Newspapers for India, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India". The paper work for seeking license started under the former Officiating Principal, **Dr. R.P. Rustagi** on March 27, 2017. The foundation Issue of the Journal "**Strides – A Students' Journal of Shri Ram College of Commerce, Volume 1, Issue 1, 2016-17**" was successfully released on the 91st Annual Day of SRCC held on April 13, 2017 by **Shri Prakash Javadekar, Honb'le Union Minister of Human Resource Development, Government of India**. The title of the Journal got verified and approved by the Registrar of Newspapers for India, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India on April 21, 2017. On September 1, 2017, **Prof. Simrit Kaur** joined SRCC as Principal and signed each and every legal document required for further processing and supported **Dr. Santosh Kumari**.

On December 18, 2017, the College got the license "**License No. - DCP / LIC No. F. 2 (S / 37) Press / 2017**" to publish 'Strides – A Students' Journal of Shri Ram College of Commerce'. Due to change of Printing Press, the License got updated on March 09, 2018. On April 26, 2018, the SRCC Staff Council unanimously appointed **Dr. Santosh Kumari as the 'Editor of Strides'** for the next two academic years.

On April 27, 2018 (The Foundation Day of the College), **Dr. Santosh Kumari** submitted the application for the registration of the Journal. On May 04, 2018, the SRCC received the '**Certificate of Registration**' for "**Strides – A Students' Journal of Shri Ram College of Commerce**" and got the **Registration No. DELENG/2018/75093** dated May 04, 2018. ***On behalf of Shri Ram College of Commerce, it was a moment of pride for Dr. Santosh Kumari to receive the 'Certificate of Registration' on May 04, 2018 at the Office of Registrar of Newspapers for India, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India (website - www.rni.nic.in).***

On May 07, 2018, **Dr. Santosh Kumari** submitted the application for seeking ISSN (International Standard Serial Number) at "ISSN National Centre – India, National Science Library, NISCAIR (National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources). Weblink - <http://nsl.niscair.res.in/ISSNPROCESS/issn.jsp>". Finally, the College received the International Standard Serial Number "**ISSN 2581-4931 (Print)**" on **June 01, 2018**.

We are proud that this journal is an add-on to the enriched catalogue of SRCC's publications and academic literature.

**STRIDES - A STUDENTS' JOURNAL OF SHRI RAM COLLEGE OF COMMERCE**  
**ISSN 2581-4931 (Print)**



**RELEASE OF FOUNDATION ISSUE OF STRIDES**



The foundation issue of the Journal "Strides - A Students' Journal of Shri Ram College of Commerce, Volume 1, Issue 1, 2016-17" was successfully released on 91st Annual Day of SRCC held on 13th April, 2017 by Shri Prakash Javadekar, Honb'le Union Minister of Human Resource Development, Government of India.



**SHRI RAM COLLEGE OF COMMERCE**

University of Delhi, Maurice Nagar Delhi - 110 007

Phone: 11 - 27667905 Fax: 11 - 27666510