

Economic growth oriented development has taken a toll on nutrition in India. In this context, discuss the major challenges in tackling malnutrition & suggest measures to address it?

Development is about expanding the capabilities of disadvantaged & improving the overall life. But the states like Maharashtra, Gujarat that scores high on economic indicators, scores poor on development indicator - nutrition.

Economic growth oriented development has imposed major challenges in tackling malnutrition, such as -

- a) Rampant industrial growth has led to climate change which in return severely affects the agricultural outputs. It results in lack of food.
- b) Critiques of Green Revolution in India suggests that it restricted dietary pattern to majorly ~~the crops~~ wheat & rice. It resulted in lack of nutritious food.
- c) Urbanization as a direct result of economic growth contributed to growing slums in cities, causing sanitation problems. It results in lack of absorption of food, thus causing malnutrition.
- d) Economic growth oriented development resulted in poor status of women, especially in green revolution belt. It caused malnutrition among women as well as their children.
- e) Economic growth oriented development liberated people from their caste barriers but pushed them towards poverty. Thus, unable to afford nutritious food.

Tackling malnutrition is complex, thus its delivery must be simplified through the following —

⇒ Fortification of food such as zinc with rice, vitamins with vegetable oil, etc. must be carried out in large.

⇒ Availability of food through Public Distribution System must be revamped by providing cold storage facilities for distribution of food items other than grains.

⇒ POSHAN Abhiyaan ~~will start~~ is expected to cover the targets under National Nutrition Mission & must be made pan-India scheme.

⇒ Convergence of urban development schemes like Smart Cities, HRIDAY, PRASAD, Housing for All, etc.

~~will provide~~ with Swachh Bharat will provide better elimination of slums, thereby reduce malnutrition.

⇒ Faster adoption of green energy in industries will positively ~~impact~~ affect climate change, thus less variation in agricultural outputs.

Malnutrition is a silent assassin that creates an army of sick persons. ~~The faster~~ The sooner we realise it, the better it is ~~to fighting the Sustainable Development Goals. reflected in our growth.~~ reflected in our sustainable growth.