

# Essay

Time Allowed: 1½ hrs.

Max. Marks: 125

## Instructions to Candidate

- Attempt one essay
- The test carries 125 marks.
- Write the essay in about 1000-1200 words.
- Any page left blank in the answer-book must be crossed out clearly.

*(Examiner will pay special attention to the candidate's grasp of his/her material, its relevance to the subject chosen, and to his/ her ability to think constructively and to present his/her ideas concisely, logically and effectively).*

## Remarks

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Date 07/10/16Signature Sandeep

1. Invigilator Signature \_\_\_\_\_

2. Invigilator Signature \_\_\_\_\_

1. Censorship is at odds with a knowledge economy.
2. Feeding India: Turning From Food Waste to Food Security

## FEEDING INDIA: TURNING FROM FOOD WASTAGE TO FOOD SECURITY.

Food is considered to be vital for the survival of living beings. In the Hindu philosophy, food is seen from the sacred point of view and considered to be the embodiment of parabrahma. Though, one need to procure his own food for survival, it is important for the state to ensure that the millions of people are fed with proper food in a country like India where society is dragged by malaise of poverty and disenfranchisement.

In the Indian context, nation has witnessed severe famines during the colonial regime. Bengal famine of 1786-1800 which killed 30 lakh people and

Bengal famine of 1944 which killed 8 million people stand as a testimony to this fact. Soon after independence, the immediate challenge before the Indian government was to ensure food availability to all. For that matter, India depended on us in the name of PL-480 for its food sufficiency. Finally, the gift of Green Revolution made India food self sufficient by 1975. However food security is questioned.

Though, India became self sufficient in food production and is exporting food products and major agricultural produce to other countries, there has been seen a substantial wastage of food. According to the study by CIPHET, a nearly 40% of the total food produced by India goes wasted.

A look at food security reflects that it is not just to ensure self sufficiency but also to ensure

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nutritional security of the people, especially children.

The debate on food security stands relevant in India as around 30% of the under five children are malnourished.

This is a very big number in terms of absolute quantity and would have huge ramifications on future of India.

The stunted growth due to malnutrition would have a negative impact on the future of the child. At this juncture, it become very crucial for the state to ensure nutritional security.

The importance of ensuring food security and reducing food wastage can be seen from the point of view of growing population, contribution to growth and prosperity of ~~rest~~ nation.

Growing population and the need to reduce food wastage:

presently, India comprise of nearly 1250 million people and the production level of total food grains amount

to 257 million tonnes according to 2015-16 Economic Survey. However it is estimated that, the population of India might grow upto 1600 millions by 2050 and to feed such a huge growing population, the production levels should go upto 350 million tonnes. For this reducing food wastage stands crucial as every grain of food wastage than can be protected is and preserved is equivalent to every grain produced. As quoted earlier, CIPMET study indicates 40% wastage of total agricultural produce which is a great quantity. primarily, perishable produce like fruits, vegetables, flowers etc, need to be preserved for longtime by modern strategies.

Importance and contribution to Economy (and) Food Security :

The food and nutritional security of people has large bearing on the economy. It can be related to the productivity of the person. The productivity of malnourished person is far less than the person who

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is healthy from nutritional aspect. Such productivity can ensure efficient and optimum utilisation of the natural resources which can substantially contribute to the growth of the economy.

prosperity of the nation and food security:

Today's children are going to shape the future of India. If they are malnourished, then the future become directionless. The food and nutritional security can ensure the good growth of children and contribute to the healthy society.

Steps taken by Government to ensure food security:

Government from time to time has come up with welfare activities to ensure food security. The mid-day meal scheme started in 1995-96 provides for a day meal to the school children with required nutritional content. The Antyodaya Anna Yojna scheme meant for the

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poorest of the poor would envisage for monthly 30 kg of food grains to each individual. In the recent times, Government has come up with National Food Security Act of 2013 which ensured that food security to 67% of Indian population is accomplished by providing fixed quantity of different food items to every individual. The price stabilisation fund envisaged for controlling the price of perishable items like vegetables and thereby helping the farmers.

Now, thereby it is imperative for reducing food wastage and ensuring food security.

How to reduce food wastage?

As it is found that huge stock pile of food grains are getting rotted, there are concerns over open ended procurement. So, shifting to a close ended procurement is a step in right direction. Also, the

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momentum on food processing industries has to be increasing as it has huge scope for using the perishable produce. Modern techniques of production and ~~do~~ cold storages has to be ~~establis~~ built more in areas where such agricultural items are produced.

How to achieve food security?

A comparison with china and US point out that the productivity of Indian agriculture is very less - china almost produces double that of what India produces in one hectare of land. There should be more consolidation of land holdings in order to ensure the increased productivity. Steps has to be take to bring investments in agricultural sector and moving to precision farming, modern sophisticated practices of agriculture. It is also imperative to ensure suitable cropping pattern and the production of pulses has to be introduced due to its nutritional

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content and less water usage capacity.

To conclude, food as a basic and primary source of survival needs to be available to each and every individual. It is essential for a country like India where a huge wastage of food is seen - to reduce it. The nutritional security of child is not only important for the growth of child in proper manner, but also would lead to a insights into valuable future.

As food security has lot to do with the productivity levels of people and the growing population, government has to take up the welfare programmes seriously and implement the schemes with due concern. When only it would increase the growth and development of the nation and lead to the prosperity of the nation.

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