BLISS OF RIGHT TO FOOD OR GRIEF OF MALNUTRITION– A STUDY OF MELAGHAT REGION IN MAHARASHTRA.

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Abstract:

The surplus of society can be judge by the position of the child and woman. Child is considered to the pillar of nation. Malnutrition is a byword in the forested hills of the Melghat region inhabited mostly by Korku Adivasis. Every year 400-500 children between the ages of 0 and 6 die in the region, comprising Chikhaldhara and Dharni taluks, according to official figures from 2005. Melghat tiger reserve is located in Amravati district in Central India. It is 25 km from Chikaldhara a hill resort in the south Satpura range also known as Gavilgarh Hills. It is 760 km north east of Mumbai and 225 km west of Nagpur. This reserve has 80 tigers which are spread over 1,674 sq km of vast area. They live mostly in the inner parts of the reserve which are hardly accessible. Melghat tiger reserve was established as wildlife sanctuary in 1967 and was declared as Tiger reserve in 1974. Its rugged terrain and rocky ravines provide natural protection from the poachers. River Tapi is the northern boundary of the reserve. One can see tigers, sloth bear and flying squirrels apart from monkeys and other fauna. The reserve is home to 2,000 gaur the second largest in India. Melghat is stunning with natural scenic beauty. The Maharashtra region is one of the richest and Natures gift in the form of Melaghat. The cultural heritages and beauty of Nature is no doubt attract the attention of visitors but simultaneously feel sorrow by seeing the verse situation of the well-known Nation on the map of world where the right to life and dignity hardly prevail on such social evils like malnutrition. it was horrible when In September 2011, in
reply to a PIL, the state told the Bombay High Court that 14,500 children in Melghat are malnourished and that 266 had died in the last 4 months. Interestingly, Melghat has 320 villages, but what's baffling is as an RTI reveals that there are 370 NGOs registered in the area. With the stated purpose of battling malnutrition come huge funds, big donors. The violation of basic human right can easily been seen through one eyes and hence involve attention from the society. The present research paper prepared in order to considering the aspect of right to food of those tiger who resides along with the real Tiger but with starvation.

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1. Introduction:

Hunger is both a violation of human dignity and an obstacle to social, political and economic progress. International law recognizes that everyone has the fundamental right to be free from hunger, and 22 countries have enshrined food rights in their constitutions. National governments must do everything possible to ensure that people have the physical and economic access to enough safe, nutritious food to lead healthy and active lives. But in Melghat the most popular region of Maharashtra for malnutrition realises the lossing of all hopes. The very basic and fundamental right to food is snatch away by them. Right to educate food will only realise when each and every companionat of the society assure with the food. Here food does not mean food for existance . The talk is spend in order to assure the quality food. The progress of each society depends on the capacity of works of individuals. It’s a matter of hapyness that atleast we the Indians feel that, right to food protects the right of all human being to be free from insecurity of food and from hunger. But again feel sorrow by looking the condition of those malnutrish child and woman who not only suffer by starvation but by other social evils also. The right to food does not mean right to feed up the hungree only. On the other hand right to food include the right to helth which is one of the most recongnise and appreciated right by the International community. One can not belive without documentary proof . But reaily it’s a matter of belive and having a document supportive to that. Both at on National and International leval.

2. Are Right To Food And Good Helth Recognised ? National and International Perspectives:

The human right to adequate food is recognized in several instruments under international law. In fact Universal Declaration of Human Right 1948 provides that everyone is entitled to ll the rights and freedom set forth in the declaration without any descrimination. Article 25 of Universal declaration of human Right clearly says that - Everyone has the right to 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 to security in the event of unemployment,
sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control. The most remarkable area is clause 2 of art. 25 which says: Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection. Again The International convention on economic, Social and Cultural rights 1966 also mention about right og aducute food and freedom from hunger. The parents are responsible for the child's care and hence in order to feed up the child. More particularly the health of child depend upon the health of mother. So in order to improve the health of mother, The Convention on elimination of all forms of Discrimination against woman provided for measures to be taken by the state and to ensure adequate nutrition to woman during pregnancy and lactation. The General Committee considers that the core contents of the right to adequate food implies:

The availability of food in a quantity and quality sufficient to satisfy the dietary need of individual, free from adverse substance and acceptable within a given culture. The accessibility of such food in way that are sustainable and that do not interfere with the enjoyment of others Human right including economic and physical accessibility.

This was about the international instruments. Now its no longer a question that right to food is fundamental of all fundamental without which progress of society could not imagine. Even Artile 14, 15 19,21. Are all found on the line of right to accessibility of food without any discrimination and with assuring the right to resides in the part of the territory where one want to settle and resides.

3. Melaghatiens not Fully Realizing Nor Enjoying Right To Quality Food:

As compare to abovemention condition, the condition of Melaghatience childs is verse and measurable. Malnutrition is a byword in the forested hills of the Melghat region

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inhabited mostly by Korku Adivasis. Every year 400-500 children between the ages of 0 and 6 die in the region, comprising Chikhaldhara and Dharni taluks, according to official figures from 2005. Beside right to helth, right to food is recognised as a fundamental right by Supreme Court in The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroba Vadidara the Supreme Court follow the guideline issued in case of Chameli Singh Vs State of U.P. and held that, Article 21 includes rith to food, water, decent environment, medical care shelter and education. But in reality the Melghatience are depriving from their right to quality food, and education. The main reason is that without work no one can earn there. And again if one educating he will hardly be in work. Under scu situation how one can assure that art. 21 is being fulfilled in the area of Melghat? The ratio of Malnutrition child even though disrease in the comparative ratio of 2005, but till no one can assure that the problem of Malnutrition of child is completely vanish from Melghat.

Eventhou several NGOs are working there, but the reality is that, they work in order to politicle goal and snatch the income from the counter of Government on the name of Malnutration of child. On the name of social work several NGO,s working for their own benefit rather than the malnutritions sufferer. The issue of Mother Starvation is also there. Adequate health care of mothers during their pregnancy and post-delivery periods can reduce malnutrition and disease related deaths of tribal children and infants in the Melghat region. According to a survey conducted by PREM in 44 villages of Melghat region (Chikaldhara block), lack of proper health care both by their families and the primary health centres run by the government, has resulted in increasing number of tribal women giving birth to malnourished children. Inadequate basic health care, lack of elementary education and intensive land alienation of the indigenous people have been cited as the main reasons for the poor condition of the Korku tribals inhabiting the Melghat region. Improper childrearing practices, poor diet intake by the pregnant women, early marriages, poor spacing of children, health education and awareness, lack of
adequate income and purchasing power have been found to be the main reasons for the precarious state of child health in Melghat. A sick new-born is usually not rushed to the hospital and instead referred to the bhukkas or vaidyas who use local medicines for treatment. A delay in correct medication affects the child's health badly leading to death. The study found that the health of children deteriorated in monsoon and winter. A large number of children in Melghat die of water-borne diseases including diarrhoea and dysentery with pneumonia being the major killer in the winter months. Malnutrition deaths mostly occur in the pre-sowing season when the food security dwindles. so the above situation is so verse and unbearable for the young and educated minds. Under such situation following suggestion would be found helpful which are stated as under.

4. Conclusion and Suggestion:

Childs have different nutritional needs in different stages of their life and thus require more attention in every stage. Basically each problem involve in the main cause of that problem. As far the malnutrition in Melghat region is concern, the underprivileged and poor society is the main cause of undernourishment of childs. According to a world bank report in 2012, forty eight percent of total population is woman. Out of these 36% of women are malnourished. More than 50% of women are weak. 12% of women have moderate anemia and 2% of women have severe anemia. Pregnant women are more likely to be weak than non pregnant women are of 55%. In order to improve the condition of child malnourished and upcoming born of child with healthy wealth, the condition of mother woman should be improve in Melghat. Further even though right to food and right against malnourishment is there but the actual enforceability is not there. Infact the people themselves are not aware about the law and order. They are unknown from their basic Human rights. They are unawere about the enforcement machineries. Even in the era of information and technology they are ready and well with
the treatment of their child by Bhumka who work as a doctor without degree of medicine and without any technical knowledge of health. Considering the above all aspects following recommendation will be fruitfull.

1. There is need to introduce policies regarding the welfare of children and Mother thereof.

2. There is need to empower the mother first by providing them a necessary substance for health.

3. The compulsory posting of Medical officer with residence is needed in order to take care of right to health of Melghat people. There is need to a machinery for keeping watch on the malpractices at the hands of doctors.

4. There is need to place public awareness camps by Law colleges in order to curbing and preventing the problems of misguidance at the hands of Bhumka. There is need to hold criminally responsible to Bhumaka for misguiding the people.

5. Lot of funds being issue for the child and mother in Melghat on the name of Malnutrition. And most of the NGOs in Melghat has to implement the policies in that region. There is chance to misuse of that fund by such NGOs. Hence there must be a certain machinery which could put watch on the whole mechanism.

6. Poverty is one of the cause of malnutrition of child and woman in Melghat area. The Government must have to introduce various schemes for eradication of poverty by providing more employment opportunities and their effective implementation.

7. Right to food does never mean free food. But lot of grain been composed in Government godowns. These food may be made available to them in lowest cost. There is also need to make right to work a fundamental duty under part IV A of Indian Constitution as the Japan have with the affirmation of Right to quality food.
5. End Notes:

1 The researchers are the Ph. D scholar and working and next one is the student of LL.M S.G.B.A.U. Any suggestion, recommendation and criticism are inviting on mls.pankajumbarkar21@gmail.com or mohod.priyanka@gmail.com. The thought produce in this article are for the educational evaluation. In case of any dispute the possible caveat will apply.


4 articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com

5 http://www.google.co.in/images?output=search&sclient=psyb&gbv=1&hl=en&sa=X&ei=y8p0UbLaKsbSrQeLuYCQDw&ved=0CCYQsAQ&biw=1280&bih=878&q=Melghat%20and%20Malnutrition&tbm=isch

6 http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/0/3d02758c707031d58025677f003b73b9

7 Article 2 of Universal Declaration of Human right 1948

8 For more details see http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml#a25

9 See Article 11 of international convention on economic, social and cultural rights 1966 for more details see http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CESCR.aspx

10 See Art 12 of CEDAW for more details http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/cedaw.htm

11 Committee means the committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The consideration regarding the acute food was sated in its general comment on 12th of 1999 Para 1 sub Para 1.2. For more details visit on http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.in


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14 On Poor healthcare for mothers leading to Melaghat infant deaths for more details see http://expressindia.indianexpress.com/news/ie/daily/19990801/ige01039.html


