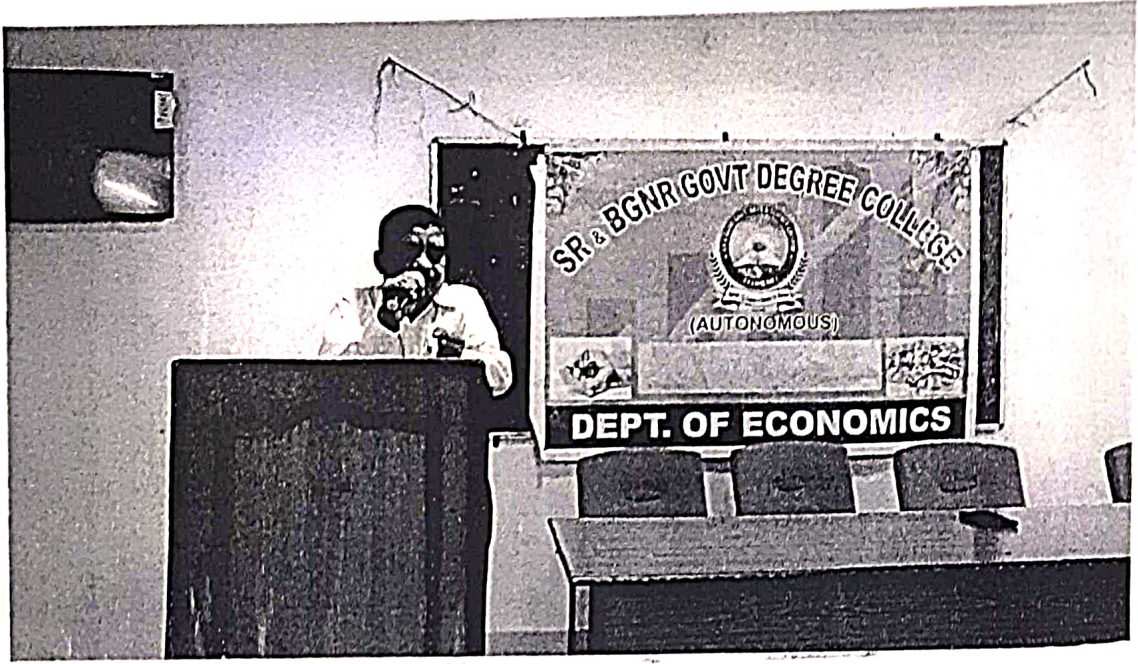


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Extension Lecture



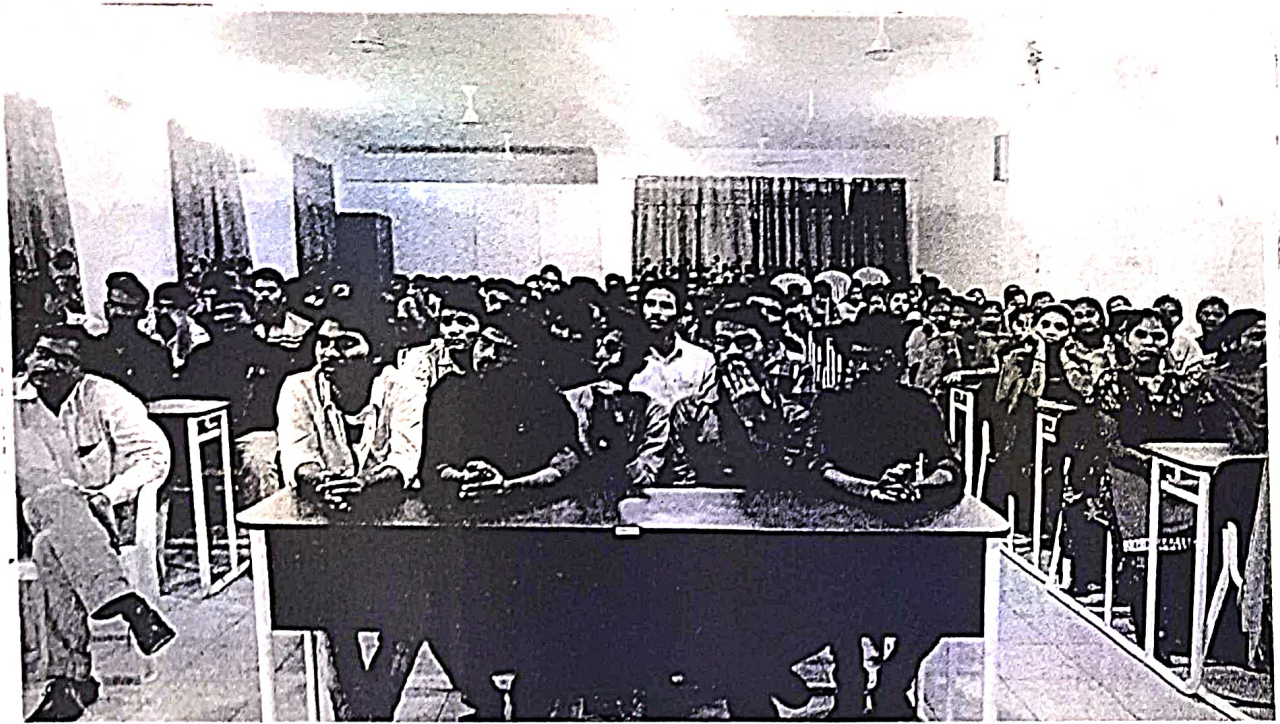
Date: 13/08/2018.

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Topic: ఆహార భద్రత (భద్ర) (Food security)

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* Food Security *

Food Security :-

India attained self-sufficiency in food by late 1980s though food security still evades the country. Food security means making food available at affordable prices at all times, to all without interruptions. Though India's GDP growth has been impressive and the agricultural production has also increased over the past few decades, hunger and starvation still persist among the poorer sections of the population.

State of Hunger & Malnutrition :- As per the latest State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019 report of the FAO (UNO), the state of hunger and malnutrition in India is very worrisome.

- * 14.5 percent of population is undernourished (that is 19.44 crore)
- * 51.4 percent of women in reproductive age (15-49 years age group) are anaemic
- * 37.9 percent of women in reproduction age (15-49 years age group) are anaemic.
- * 20.8 percent of children under five suffer from wasting (meaning their weight is too low for their height).

Some India - Specific findings of the report are as given below:-

* Ranked below Pakistan (94), Bangladesh (88), Nepal (73) and Sri Lanka (66)

* 9.6 percent of children (6-23 month of age) are given a minimum acceptable diet.

* The highest child stunting rate (37.9 percent against global average of 20.8 percent).

* Under five ~~gr~~ mortality has improved

Therefore, along with provision of food subsidy in agricultural commodity prices is essential for making the poorer section food secure.

(i) Enhancing its food production:- If food (i.e. food grains) is to be supplied to all today India will face deficit of around 80 million tonnes of food grains.

(ii) Strengthening supply chain:- Managing the issue like storage, transportation, proper retailing and integrating the segmented agri-markets into a national agri-market.

Due to high level of undernourishment and volatility in agricultural prices, India has one of the largest number of food schemes in the world to ensure food security.

(i) There is entitlement feeding programmes like the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) - covers all children under six, pregnant and lactating mothers.

(ii) Mid Day Meal Schemes (MDMS)

(iii) Annapurna (10 kg of free food grain for destitute poor) and the .

Till the vulnerable population is not enabled with the market-linked purchasing capacity, these programme. to run these schemes with utmost focus of beneficiaries