

**RESEARCH ARTICLE**

**Dew Drops on the Barren Land**

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**Abstract**

This article focuses on the lives of the deprived across the world who have been suffering from extreme poverty and dying of Hunger and endeavors to arouse empathy towards them and Strives to remind the humane duties towards them according to the religion we practice, the nature we live in, and the knowledge we acquire being a human. The title, “dew drops on barren land” is aptly given to this Article because it was written about the suffering of the deprived who desperately looking for someone to help them. The deprived here are similar to the barren land and the help they receive is like drops of dew that soothe the dry land.

**Keywords:** drops, hunger, help, human duties, deprived barren lands.

**Introduction**

A creature or living thing with flesh and blood turns into a human if it gets induced human qualities such as love, care, compassion, mercy, and magnanimity The present article talks about the prevailing sufferings among human beings across the world and endeavours to persuade the reader to have empathy towards them and to remind humane duties.

Hunger is the burning crisis prevalent all over the world. A hunger death of a human being is a stigma on the entire human race. Let's have a glance at the numbers but before that, we must understand what hunger is. Hunger for food to eat is neither a disease to be cured, nor a social evil to be cast. It is a stimulus to have food, at its first stage, causes depression in the second stage, weakness and anger in the third stage. The fourth stage of hunger is the extreme condition which leads to death. However, hunger for food to eat is said to be a symptom of a healthy body and therefore considered as a blessing to those of the upper rug but it is a curse and disease to the deprived.

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The words curse and disease are affirmatively attributed to hunger here because the hue and cry of the scenes of hunger deaths tell us why hunger is a disease and a curse to the deprived. The crisis of food starvation is increasing day by day and blazing like a volcano which emits the lava of agony.

The numbers that show hunger deaths across the world may throb in our hearts. International food policy research institute published the challenge of hunger in 2007. According to the report, there are 854 million people who go hungry every day. Two years later the number had increased to approximately 1 billion people. A large number of hungry people are found throughout South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. India alone constitutes 45per cent of the world's hungry according to Albert Rora Bacher in his book 'Hunger and Poverty in South Asia.

Based on a report published by 'The Guardian' on July 15 2019, more than 820 million people worldwide are still going hungry. According to the UN report reaching the target of zero hunger by 2030 is a big challenge. The most glaring example of widespread food insecurity is found in the Kalahandi district located in the state of Orissa in India.

Dan Banik also gives a clear picture of the extent to which tribal groups are vulnerable to starvation and famine in his book "Starvation and India's democracy".

The numbers in reports are scary to the hearts that have a spark of humanity in them. Knowledge about the numbers and names of the states which suffer from poverty, food insecurity and hunger death may add a tag of studiousness to the one who is studying its statistics.

But a question is raised by humanity whether that studiousness is contributing anything to solving the problem. Let's have a glance at the reports of hunger deaths across the globe by the global hunger index.

**Sudan**

Sudan has been suffering from severe hunger for decades caused by violence and civil wars. 3.5 million face hunger

**Niger**

Drought and failed harvest plunge Niger into a hunger crisis. Nearly 1.5 million Nigerians face hunger.

**Timor – Leste**

Timor- Leste is a small country with a population of 1 million. Almost all the citizens of the country face hunger.

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Yemen

According to the reports of the UN in 2017 65 per cent of the population faced hunger caused by civil war.

Chad

Almost 1.5 million people face hunger because of continuous drought.

The Central African Republic

The Central African Republic suffers from extreme poverty and hunger in the world. More than half of its population goes hungry.

The statistics of hunger deaths may sting our hearts. However, the figures are not enough to understand the agony of those suffering lives. So let's peep deep into the lives of the people suffering from hunger deaths. According to a report by "The Guardian", Published on 14 Sep 2010, children are branded in Mirgitan, a Tribal village in India, to cure them of hunger. Let's have a glance at the scene.

An old man of the village heats a poker in the flames of burning wood till it turns hot and glows red. The other man holds a leaf against the stomach of the hungry child. Suddenly the old man takes hold of the poker and lunges toward the boy's stomach. The villagers who are standing around there know what would happen next. The child screams as the flesh begins to blister. The child writhes in agony, but the old man jabs again and again with the glowing poker at the child's belly. The more the child screams the happier the people around will be because the villagers of Mirgitan in India believe that the only way they can cure the hungry stomachs of their children is by branding them with pokers. Hunger is a disease and a curse for them. Our hearts throb even to imagine the intensity of the pain that they are experiencing. A HUNGER DEATH OF A HUMAN IS A STIGMA ON ENTIRE HUMAN RACE across the globe.

Another story of hunger deaths reported by NDTV in South Sudan moves our hearts. A mother of two children goes in search of food for six days but returns with empty hands and she goes panics to see her children suffering from hunger, ultimately she finds a solution to satisfy their hunger by feeding them wild grass. This makes us rethink before wasting food.

Different geography but the same story continues, children below five years of age are stunted because of malnutrition which causes chronic disease and ultimately death. 2.5 million children go hungry every year in South Africa according to a report published by "Global Citizen".

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One more gloomy incident stemmed in Madhya Pradesh in India, a hungry child consumed insecticide after repeated begging from people around him for food. Shame on the people who denied offering him food. We forget that we are humans who are liable to have humanity. Even kids are not spared from the traps of hunger it hunts children, kids and even infants. Kids below 2 years of age starved to death according to CNN. Kids under 2 years old are particularly vulnerable because formula milk is expensive. Breastfeeding would be great. However, the mothers' milk dries up as they too starve.

**Hunger during Pandemic:**

This may throb in our hearts. Limited data has been collected but to our knowledge, we can imagine the situation of the deprived in the current scenario across the world.

Glimpses of hunger crises during Pandemic across the world.

- A Tenth of the World Could Go Hungry While Crops Rot in Fields
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- 690 million people in our global family do not have enough to eat
- 60% of the world's hungry are women
- The spread of Covid-19 means that 265 million people could face severe food insecurity or famine
- Race against death or starvation? COVID-19 and its impact on African populations

Heart-rending true stories of hunger deaths across the world have emerged into the columns of simple prevalent issues in the news magazines and common news bulletins on TV channels, and have become a part of pastime to the viewers, a source of information or data collection to the journalists, a witty topic to the scholars, a token of Good Samaritan who posts it on social media and most importantly a vote bank to the politicians

**CHAPTER 2**

**Introduction:**

Humanity is the basement on which peace, prosperity and harmony of the world are built. An attempt is made to remind humane duties toward the deprived especially those who are starving to death.

Hunger for food to eat is a burning volcano which emits the lava of agony. Neither can the Volcano nor can the lava be seen in the eyes of the self-centred people. The irony of the present world is that the poor are dying of hunger and the rich are dying of obesity. The self-centred tendency of human beings doesn't allow them to share. If one shares food with one there will be no hunger death and obesity deaths as well. A change in the ideologies of society will bring a

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better chance in the world rather than government policies. So all the able people should stretch their helping hands towards the needy and hungry. We cannot deny the fact that many thousands of hunger relief organizations exist across the world but only some of them are dedicated to the noble cause of preventing hunger deaths. So there is a strong urge to instil humanity in minds of the self-centred people by reminding them of the obligations laid upon the all the able and powerful people towards the deprived and downtrodden poor by the religion we practice, the sensibility we acquire during our lives' process, in the lap of mother nature, and the thoughts of humanitarians like Mother Theresa we follow.

To my knowledge, no religion on the planet earth asks you not to respond or help the hunger. On the planet earth, approximately 90 percent of the people practice one or another religion. If all the able start responding and helping the hungry and needy, there exists no hunger death on the planet earth.

One cannot become a good Samaritan with just the scripser in the hand and the parables on the tongue. The action of truly committed intention to practice what is said in the scripser turns a person into a good Samaritan.

Feeding the Poor According to Islam

In Islam, feeding people carries great virtues as can be seen from Qur'an and Hadith. Hadith mentions that feeding people is among the best aspects of Islam.

Qur'an mentions feeding people as a quality of those who love Almighty Allah:

And they give (their own) food, in the deep love of Allah, to the needy, the orphan and prisoner (out of sacrifice, despite their own desire and need for it),

(And say:) 'We are feeding you only to please Allah. We do not seek any recompense from you nor (wish for) any thanks. {Surah Al- Insan Chapter 76: Verse 8-9}

"Or feeding, on a day of severe hunger, an orphan of near relationship, or, a needy person in misery. (Qur'an 90:14-

Feeding the poor according to The Bible:

"Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor." Proverbs 22:9 ESV

"What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith and I have worked." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works." James 2:14-18 ESV

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“if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink”. Romans 12:19-20 ESV

“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.” Proverbs 19:17 ESV

“Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’” Matthew 25:37-40 ESV

The scripiter is emphasizing the importance of feeding the poor, needy and hungry. “Man service is service to God”. True faith is not just chanting the name of the Lord but practicing what is said in the scriptures.

Charity in Hinduism: Charity Or Dana is very important in Hinduism . Anna Daana is one of the greatest acts of helping the needy that pleases God a lot.

Jainism, Buddhism, Sikhism and almost all the religions teach the same thought of helping the needy especially feeding the hungry based on the single common concept of worshipping the Lord that is “service to man service is the service to God”.

Let’s take an oath that we will never let any needy go hungry. We either feed the hungry or make any others to feed them.

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