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THE HUNGER, POVERTY AND SILENCE: THE SYNERGY OF THREATS TO DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS

***Sophie, L. and Acharya, S. K.**

Department of Agricultural Extension, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Mohanpur-741252,
West Bengal, India

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ABSTRACT

With the spurt of the new global order in terms of liberalization, privatization and globalization that got off to a swash bucking debut in the decades of 90's, the concept and perception of poverty and hunger have undergone a sea-change. Across the world, one billion people are now reeling under abject poverty and hunger. This is basically a threat to the human kind for their mere biological existence. Poverty is now even hatched a wider expanse of impacts over the geography of hunger. Around 895 million people across the world have been plunged to BPL (Below Poverty Line) status. Now these two problems are so close and cognate that no further explanation is at all essential to elicit their inter-relationship. Across the world, poverty now is not only a concern but a threat to sustainable development subsequent to the Millennium Declaration made by UNO. Poverty has bestowed no sign of reduction, it is increasing unabatedly. Whatever benefits or devidence are created somehow and somewhere are being extorted by poverty and ultimately a more impoverished world is scrambling. The root causes of poverty are reticulated with two more barriers to development and these are hunger and silence. More than 1 billion people across the world are touching the bed at night having no food in the stomach and more than 80% of Indian women are suffering from anaemia. Every 3 seconds one child is bidding goodbye to this world because of hunger and malnutrition.

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INTRODUCTION

With the spurt of the new global order in terms of liberalization, privatization and globalization that got off to a swash bucking debut in the decades of 90's, the concept and perception of poverty and hunger have undergone a sea-change. Across the world, one billion people are now reeling under abject poverty and hunger. This is basically a threat to the human kind for their mere biological existence. Poverty is now even hatched a wider expanse of impacts over the geography of hunger. Around 895 million people across the world have been plunged to BPL (Below Poverty Line) status. Now these two problems are so close and cognate that no further explanation is at all essential to elicit their inter-relationship. Silence is again another character or traits of danger which can be traced as an integer two of the preceding problems, i.e. hunger and poverty. The collary can be framed this way- the people are silent hence they are poor; people are

poor so they are hunger in another way, silence or voicelessness has created a dangerous synergy between hunger and poverty. Voicelessness is increasing across the global society especially from within the peripheral population. The poorer populations are undermined by the society, denied by the state power, denigrated by the governance and are forced to lead a life which is disgraceful and without any destination. Across the world, poverty now is not only a concern but a threat to sustainable development subsequent to the Millennium Declaration made by UNO. Poverty has bestowed no sign of reduction, it is increasing unabatedly. Whatever benefits or devidence are created somehow and somewhere are being extorted by poverty and ultimately a more impoverished world is scrambling.

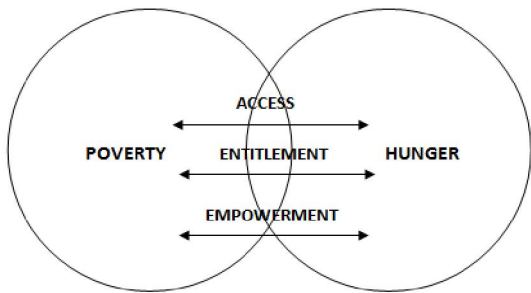
The process of synergizing poverty, hunger and silence

The synergy between poverty and hunger has cropped up through the three basic elements of economic socialization, viz. access, entitlement and empowerment. Poor people are denied of access to the sources of food, income and social prestige. As a result they don't feel empower. The legal and

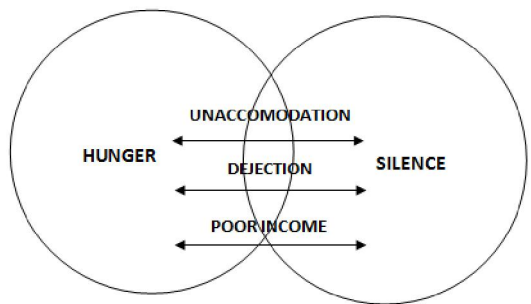
***Corresponding author: Sophie, L.**

Department of Agricultural Extension, Bidhan Chandra Krishi
Viswavidyalaya, Mohanpur-741252, West Bengal, India

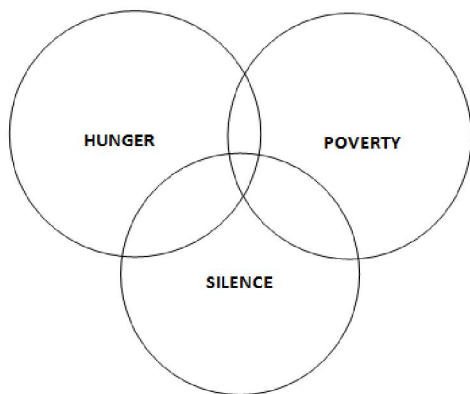
operational entitlements are the means to combine and catalyze the aspects of access and empowerment. For e.g. the entitlement hand by the woman helps and joins access to both food and income. So, the basic synergy between poverty and hunger has been structurally configured by this three elements i.e., access, entitlement and empowerment.



The synergy between poverty and silence has been created through the negative features of inadequate information, unequal participation and voicelessness. Inadequate information makes people hesitant and confused. Hence they feel shaky and go voiceless. Unequal participation means both visible and invisible barriers to participation and decision making. So this will lead to poverty and of course the voicelessness or silence.



Hunger and silence have got diatictive relationship. A hungry child will keep screening for certain type for food and after that and being denied of food he will go asleep or voiceless. Hunger generates voice and calumniates with voicelessness and this synergy has been supported by the negative features like unaccommodation, dejection and poor income. A man with poor income has to face dejection and a dejected man has to face intolerable trauma and a man gone traumatized as supposed to lose the voices and accept the serene choice to go voiceless.



All the characteristics of a hungry poor people do culminate in the valley of silence. Poverty is the only reason for hunger. Poverty with hunger does provide a covalence of social

deception and leads to a trauma of dejection. Dejection is a kind of rejection which is driven to a social lethality. So, poverty, hunger and silence are forming what we may brand as a cultural chilet to combine the three heinous components of the society, i.e. poverty-hunger-silence.

SILENCE (Powerlessness and Voicelessness)

The study establishes, first, that poverty is multidimensional and has important noneconomic dimensions; second, that poverty is always specific to a location and a social group, and awareness of these specifics is essential to the design of policies and programs intended to attack poverty; and third, that despite differences in the way poverty is experienced by different groups and in different places, there are striking commonalities in the experience of poverty in very different countries, from Russia to Brazil, Nigeria to Indonesia. Poor people's lives are characterized by powerlessness and voicelessness, which limit their choices and define the quality of their interactions with employers, markets, the state, and even Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs). Institutions both formal and informal mediate and limit poor people's access to opportunities. The defining experiences of poor people involve highly limited choices and an inability to make themselves heard or to influence or control what happens to them. Powerlessness results from multiple, interlocking disadvantages, which, in combination, make it extremely difficult for poor people to escape poverty. By and large, poor people say that insecurity of life has increased and they have not been able to take advantage of new opportunities because of corruption and a lack of connections, assets, finance, information and skills. Low self-confidence both results from poverty and increases powerlessness and isolation from opportunity.

A group of young men in Bower Bank, Jamaica, rank low self-confidence as the second biggest impact of poverty. "Poverty makes us not believe in ourselves; we hardly leave the community. Not only are we not educated but we don't have a street-wise education." The study of Philippines highlighted the causes of deliberate silence by some 'elite society' while a large marginal communities are reeling under object poverty and stint of hunger. The silence against discrimination and impoverishment, agony and humiliation is amounting to the worsening of the situation and is pulling down to a venomous consequence. So, what is needed is the sharing of this stigma and agony and raising a voice against these biases and curse of society feel the agony and share the ignominy of the helpless people with more and more awareness and communication might be the much needed intervention. Consequences of being silent or uninformed leads to confusion, difficult to access, difficult to conclude, difficult to motivate, digitized and not qualified, have potential threats and experience trauma or shock. Then why people are uninformed? The poorer populations are mostly secluded from the rest of the privileged population; another reason for being uninformed is that they are scared of intermingling, not being connected, opted for being uninformed, alienated, potential threats.

The sequel of Poverty, Hunger and Silence

The findings presented by Doona E. Beegle (2003) revealed that poor people had no choice but to experience great shame and grieving in poverty. They believe that outsiders perceived

poverty to be their fault. The school children, hailing from poor family had to face physical, emotional, sociological and economic barriers to literacy and education at all stages of their lives. Of particular note were lack of jobs, basic needs, including house, food and health care, money and control over one's life.

The Strategic Implications

- Integration of development approaches is an essential precondition for achieving comprehensive development.
- Three basic dimensions of integrated development are food, poverty and voice. To fight against poverty these three dimensions need to be perceived isochronously.
- So, hunger should be seen as the worst consequences to the diadictic interactions between poverty and silence.
- People's Forum should be created wherein the poor will find their voices reaching the decision making end, food will be made accessible across the line of demarcation and poverty will be ameliorated and not be allowed to make a revisit.
- Social and institutional networking along with a capable leadership can accept the challenges to face the trident of hunger, poverty and silence.

Conclusion

In concluding the entire complex discourses it is suggested that the poverty alleviation approaches should not be considered an extremely linear phenomena. It has got social, economic and cultural dimensions. To fight against poverty the poor people must be made uttering and voicing. In doing this they must be tuned to the web of communication and network of information through the nutrition, food, social esteem, cultural support and policy stand as well. At the same time anyone of it, either food or money, will go ephemeral in solving this problem. It is true and real that poverty is associated with silence and for the silent and hungry people poverty will remain an endless story.

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