

Latest ^{National health} family survey data shows dismal performance of the country in curbing child malnutrition. In this context, suggest various measures to be taken to overcome the problem. (GIS-3, Health) 15/12/2020.

Malnutrition is lack of ~~non~~ nutrients through diet. This causes children to stunted growth and other health ailments. In around 17 states and 5 union territories the stunted growth in children increased.

Current Schemes and future Reforms:

* Public Distribution System (PDS) has reduced poverty to a greater extent. Eggs, pulses and other ~~cheap~~ low cost nutrients can be distributed for free or low cost.

* Mid-day meals scheme has helped to achieve dual goal one is ensuring nutrient supply to children and another is providing education to future generation. This scheme can be made mandate in every states and can be extended to provided nutritious morning breakfast as well.

* Poshan Abhiyan, through a holistic approach has provided nutrients for children, pregnant woman with goal to reduced anemia, stunting, low bmi has been addressed

Challenges faced in execution of Schemes:

- * There is a general neglect and underfunding. for instance. Under Poshan Abhiyan scheme only 32% of funds are released from 2017-18 onwards.
- * Recently due to Covid-19 schools are closed so students who get their nutrients through mid-day meals in schools has been affected. They move to do odd work to meet their food demands which also increase school dropouts.

So let us (hope) that experience from pandemic as well as from the above mentioned NFHS survey serves as a wake-up call for serious rethinking of issues related to nutrition and take measures to tackle them.