



Shackles and ties

Context: With the transition period of the U.K.'s exit from the EU (or Brexit) ending this month, the Boris Johnson government is beginning to firm up its partnerships outside its region.

Highlights:

1. Ties to be upgraded to a "Comprehensive" Strategic Partnership, which will envision closer military ties, cooperation in Indo-Pacific strategies, counter-terrorism and fighting climate change.
2. Now out of the EU, Britain is on a mission to secure free trade partners, and Britain hopes to announce the start of talks on an India FTA during his visit.
3. Closer cooperation on the coronavirus vaccine, with the Serum Institute, set to produce and distribute the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine in India, and then as part of the COVAX project to other developing countries.

Putting food at the centre of India's nutrition agenda

The National Family Health Survey (NFHS 2019-20) factsheets on the burden of child undernutrition is not encouraging, with few exceptions.

Diet-related undernutrition

1. Eight out of 10 children appear to be experiencing a dietary shortfall
2. The percentage of children who are stunted, wasted and anaemic has increased

Limitation Anthropometric nutritional survey

1. A classification of nutritional status using a combined method based on children who experience dietary failure and anthropometric failure (meaning low weight, height etc) is crucial.
2. A recent NFHS-4 based study using this method found that 36.3% of children who experienced a dietary failure do not show anthropometric failure. Anthropometric-centric measures thus run the risk of omitting such children from policy discussions.
3. A combined method is also necessary to highlight groups that may need most immediate priority (e.g., children experiencing both dietary and anthropometric failures, 44%).



4. Dietary factors can clearly be a major determinant of stagnancy in the nutritional status of Indian children. The true burden of child undernutrition thus may well be underestimated by the sole reliance on anthropometric measures.
5. Besides, a child's anthropometric status is a consequence of several complex factors, including inter-generational, which current policies and interventions cannot alter in the short term.
6. Importantly, food and diet have intrinsic importance, regardless of their impact on a child's anthropometry. Therefore the nutrition agenda needs to be considered from "food as a right" perspective.
7. A disproportionate focus on anthropometric measures inadvertently precludes meaningful and direct engagement with strategies and data necessary to address diet and food security concerns.

Additional information:

Anthropometry is the measurement of physical dimensions such as height or weight, as well as the fat mass composition of the human body to provide information about a person's nutritional status. An index is a combination of two anthropometric measurements or an anthropometric measurement plus age.

Learn Through Graphics: Apart from anthropometry we need to focus on other determinants particularly diet for Nutritional Assessment

Nutritional assessment - ABCD

- **Anthropometry:** height, weight, BMI, MUAC
- **Biochemical:** analysis of blood, urine, and other body tissues
- **Clinical:** complete physical examination, and a medical and psychosocial history
- **Dietary:** foods and quantities consumed, eating habits, accessibility of food, and cultural and socioeconomic factors that affect selection of food.



Converting waste to energy

The inorganic material, which consists of bad quality plastics and used cloth pieces, can be processed as Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF). This material can be used to generate steam energy, which can be converted into electric energy instead of burning coal and other materials used in traditional waste-to-energy plants.

A well-planned plant

1. The waste-to-energy plants usually accept the RDF material generated in organic composting plants.
2. They also segregate the wet and inorganic material near the plant, convert organic waste to compost, and inorganic waste to energy.
3. Handling inorganic waste that is not fit for recycling has always been a challenge. At present, these high-calorific materials are landfilled or left unhandled in waste plants and cause fire accidents.
4. This will reduce the city's dependency on unscientific landfills, reduce fire accidents, and provide a permanent solution to recover value from inorganic waste. However, there are some challenges.

Challenges

1. Technology suppliers struggle with the change in the quality and nature of waste generated in Indian cities.
2. Since segregation at source doesn't happen in the city
3. The other big challenge for the W2E plant is the power tariff. Generally, the tariff at which the power is purchased by such plants across the country is around ₹7-8 Kwh which is higher than the ₹3-4 per Kwh generated through coal and other means.