INTRODUCTION
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India has one of the highest levels of malnutrition in the world and there are reports of hunger and starvation deaths from different parts of the country. The average requirement of cereals per person in the country is 427 grams per day, whereas actual consumption for economically deprived groups cover merely half of this requirement. Hunger is the most deplorable manifestation of poverty. This can manifest itself in the form of starvation, chronic under nutrition or specific nutrient deficiencies. A staggering five percent of rural and two percent of urban population do not get food throughout the year in India.

Food production has increased more steadfastly than the population, which has been evidenced through various studies. Against this reality, hunger persists in many parts of the world. Today more than one billion people are very poor and suffering from hunger. Every six million children under the age of five die due to malnutrition. Food is one of the basic human needs and it is indispensable for survival of life. Food security describes a situation in which people do not live in hunger or fear of starvation. World wide around 852 million men, women and children are chronically hungry due to extreme poverty; while up to 2 billion people lack food security intermittently due to varying degree of poverty.

The term food security came into use during last 30 years. The world food conference convey by FAO in 1974 drew the attention of world community for the first time to the urgent need of devising way and assuring food security to the hungry million of the world. It was recognized that the assurance of the world food security is the common responsibility of international community. The conference gave the call that no child, women, men should go to bed hungry and no human being physical and mental capabilities should be stunted by malnutrition.
In recent years, most of the experts attempted to define food security as an access to enough food by all people at all times to lead a healthy life. It is now being increasingly appreciated that food security is primarily a matter of ensuring effective demand rather than a problem relating to food supply (FAO, 1987).

Human being can survive with economic, social and political deprivation but not without food. Food is the basic human needs. Food security means that food is available at all times, all persons have means of access to it, it is nutritionally adequate, in terms of quantity, quality and variety only when all these are considered, food is secure (FAO, 1996). The study would try to identify the household food security and its determinants.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

1. To identify the food secure households in the selected villages of Aligarh District.
2. To analyses the food availability, accessibility, stability and utilization and overall food security at households level.
3. To examine the reasons of existing food insecurity.
4. To suggest measures for solving the problem of food insecurity in selected villages of Aligarh District

**METHODOLOGY**

In the present study especially core chapter of the dissertation is based on primary data which is collected by the field survey of the selected villages of Aligarh District. These villages have been selected by purposeful sampling. Out of them, 24 villages have been taken from 12 blocks i.e. 2 villages from each block. One village is located near the block headquarter and other from interior of village. Nearly 30 households have been selected from each village which includes a total of 720 households in the present study.
The information about the household food security is collected through direct questionnaire method. While Secondary source is also used to collect the published data. Various secondary sources are:

- Nagar Nigam Office, Aligarh.
- Suchana and Jansampark Vibhag, Aligarh.
The various determinants for which questions from respondents were asked relates to food availability, accessibility, stability and utilization such as land holdings, family size, employment, education etc.

All the data were converted into percentages, ratios and other relative numbers. The statistical techniques commonly known as Z scores were used to analyze the data. In order to access the status of food security and the inter relationship among the different variables of food security. The results of the analyses have also been presented in the forms of tables and diagrams and also show on the district map.

ORGANISATION OF THE STUDY

The main body of the dissertation has the following chapters arranged in the following manner. Chapter first is the concept of food security which deals with the various definitions given by different scholars in the field of food security. The Chapter second is the review of literature which deals with various works done in the field of food security. Third chapter is the study area covering physiographic, cultural and socio- economics characteristics of Aligarh District. Chapter fourth describes the determinants of food security, which play an important role in food security of any region. Fifth chapter analyses status of food security at household’s level in the selected villages of Aligarh District. Finally conclusions have been drawn and suggestions have been made.