

FOOD INSECURITY: THE AFFECTS OF SOCIOECONOMIC AND FOOD CONSUMPTION

Nur Hidayah Zaini^{1*}, Wan Hasmat Wan Hasan², Afzan Nor Talib³, Dr. Shafinar Ismail⁴

^{1,2,3,4}Faculty of Business Management, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Melaka, Malaysia.

Email: ^{1*}hidayah0946@bdrmelaka.uitm.edu.my, ²wanhasmat@gmail.com, ³afzan150@melaka.uitm.edu.my, ⁴shafinar@bdrmelaka.uitm.edu.my

Article History: Received on 18th July 2019, Revised on 27th August 2019, Published on 28th September 2019

Abstract

Purpose: “Food security” is one every of major factors of progress and poverty alleviation and has been the goal of many worldwide and countrywide public organizations. The worst food crisis since 1974 broke out in 2007 - 2008 ([FAO, 2009](#)). The food crisis directly affects one of the most primary human rights of being free from malnutrition. This paper is about the determinants global food crisis contributes to food insecurity at selected hypermarkets in Malaysia.

Methodology: This research study proposed a framework of the determinant of the global food crisis that contributed to food insecurity.

Main Findings: Food insecurity and lack access to healthy food affect the health and well-being of low income in most developing countries especially for those with lower income. When people do not have enough resources to buy food for them to consume, it will give an impact on purchasing power. The increasing number of hunger people could threaten the stability of political for particular country ([GFSI, 2016](#)). Hence most of the countries are coming with their own program to assist and to improve the situation.

Implications/Applications: This research study proposed a framework of the determinant of the global food crisis that contributed to food insecurity. The findings can be used as a model to develop program to assist and improve quality of food.

Keywords: Food Crisis, socioeconomic, food consumption, food security, food insecurity.

INTRODUCTION

There are four basic necessities in life: air, food, water, and shelter. According to Maslow’s hierarchy theory, human needs physiological in order to survive. If these requirements are not met, the body cannot function well. Food, it isn’t just critical to work both physically and socially, yet in addition assumes a significant financial job in the public eye ([Calender, 2015](#)). Existing with lack of food or there is no food is a form of scarcity which may influence health of human being ([Goyal & Goyal, 2015](#), [Sindin, 2016](#)). Besides air, water, food, and shelter, human also needs for security. Security here means it is not only from any danger of physical attack but it is all about danger or protection in life.

Defining food security precisely is very difficult. There are more than 200 definitions and 450 indicators of food security ([Bajagai, 2016](#)). According to [World Food Summit \(2016\)](#), “food safety exists when people, at all times, have physical and financial access to sufficient, secure and nutritious food that meets their dietary wants and food preferences for a lively and healthy life” ([World Food Summit, 2016](#)). The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization ([FAO, 2015](#)) defines food security as a situation that “exist when all people, at all time, have physical, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life”. The food crisis is where individuals were worried about how a deficiency in the worldwide sustenance supply could undermine political strength. Based on United Nations Conference on Trade and Development’s report in 2008, the cause of food crisis is not only because of the rise in oil prices, climate conditions, speculations, nor biofuels production, it is also the consequences of changing demographics and consumers’ patterns and years of systematic failures of development strategy.

Problem Statement

Security of food is a principle concern plan of each nation and it includes all level including family unit, national and worldwide players. Report from the Global Food Security Index for 2016 stated that over 89 out of 113 countries in the GFSI has experienced food security improvements over the past five years. It is shown that there was decreasing in the case of food hunger. However almost 800 million people which is more than one out of nine individuals still stay hungry, and nourishment security stays to be one of the major worldwide difficulties for what’s to come. The Economist Intelligence Unit’s Global Food Security Index (GFSI) has provided a basic system in understanding the reasons for sustenance instability. Since it is very difficult to list down the cause, GFSI has themes down to their core which is affordability, availability, and utilization in 113 countries around the world ([GFSI, 2016](#)).

According to [Bajagai \(2016\)](#), effective food method contributes positively to all dimension of meals protection. Utilization is whether the human body is adequately ingested, digest and metabolize the food. Lastly stability address other the stability of three dimensions (availability, access, and utilization) over time. Food insecure has been reported in Household Food Security in the United States in 2014, where 19.2 percent of U.S. families with youngsters (7.5 million family units) have being nourishment uncertain which is half of these family units; the two grown-ups and kids were sustenance shaky.

The study also shows that between 2001 and 2013, the threat for hunger among seniors increased by 45 percent (60 percent more likely than other seniors to experience depression).

While in Malawi, from July 2016 to March 2017, they face a hazard-related food security and nutrition emergency coming on top of the devastating floods in 2015. Since Malawi's economy is not sufficiently diversified because of most of their citizens is highly dependent on the agriculture sector, food insecurity is remaining alarmingly high. This is according to 2016/2017 Food Security Respond Plan Report of Republic Malawi. Among the issues on food insecurity, Malaysia needs to rely on its domestic market to move forward.

This study thus attempts to propose the determinant of the global food crisis that contributed to food insecurity. The following section considers overview of definition of food security and food insecurity in the world followed by socioeconomic and demographic characteristics and food consumption. In the following section, further discussion on food crisis and food supply in Malaysia. Lastly, the proposed framework of determinant of global food crisis that contributed to food insecurity has been presented by a conclusion and recommendations.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Food Security and Food Insecurity

Food can be view by two different perspectives: food security and food insecurity. There are four levels of food security based on the USDA which is high sustenance security, minimal nourishment security, low nourishment security, and low sustenance security. High nourishment security implies that no revealed signs of sustenance get to issues or constraints (USDA, 2014). While, food insecurity is defined by the USDA as report of reduced quality, variety, or desirability or diet and little or no indication of reduced food intake. While, according to the World Bank, food insecurity is "the lack of capability to produce food and provide access to all people at all times and having enough food for an active and healthy life" (World Food Programme, 2009).

Food insecurity (Sustenance instability) was first presented in the mid1970s because of the need to tackle a food insecurity issue (Calender, 2015) wherein 1980s, US President Ronald Reagan begun to build up a team so as to discover approaches to survey the size of appetite and to discover the strategies that would improve nourishment help program.

People in a developing country such as Latin America, Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean have higher prevalence rates of food insecurity. Lachance et al. (2014) stated that sustenance uncertainty (food insecurity) is characterized as an absence of customary access to satisfactory and nutritious nourishment and according to Runnels et al. (2011) it happened because of low income, high cost of food, or when purchasing nutritious food. Based on Global Food Security Strategic Plan 2010-2016 (2013), there are some main drivers essential to ensure food security in UK and globally which are global population growth, demographic change, and increasing affluence and urbanization, global climate and other environmental changes, environmental impacts, social, economic and political. The shortage in the number of food supply will give a huge impact to all people and can lead to hunger and can affect one healthy life. Therefore, food insecurity will influence individuals of all ages, races, and ethnicities in each zone of the state (Nord, Coleman-Jensen, Andrews, & Carlson, 2011).

Socioeconomic and Demographic Characteristic Contributes to Food Insecurity

Based on the study, socioeconomic and demographic is one reason for food insecurity. The variables consist of annual income, the household size, respondent's educational level, employment status of respondent and spouse, current saving and house ownership. Lachance et al. (2014) stated that low household income is the strongest predictor of food insecurity and the wellspring of salary (social help versus business) just as the sort of family unit (single parent) additionally assumes a job in deciding food uncertainty. Furthermore, a few financial components are connected to a higher danger of sustenance uncertainty, for example, the pay underneath the destitution line, lack of education, joblessness, leased lodging and women heading the household (Coleman-Jensen, Nord, & Singh, 2013; Jarjusey, 2017; Marfa, Niguidula, & Enriquez, 2017). Greater part of family units in creating nations rely upon the farming segment to give the primary wellspring of nourishment devoured in families, business and salary (Habyarimana, 2015). Based on report of Food Insecurity 2015 prepared by Calender, income imbalance is regularly the primary driver for some wellbeing inconsistencies in the U.S. what's more, moderateness of sound nourishments in low salary networks are additionally reliably added to such variations. Labour force status such as unemployed or underemployed is also contributed to food insecurity which is about 12-15% percent. There is another factor which is during a downturn in economic; there is an increase in the food price, while the income remains also that leads to food insecurity. However, when the recession ended, food prices remain unchanged. Socioeconomic is the key to measuring the capabilities of one person to manage their income and spending. The intake of healthy food such as fruits, milk, and fresh meat was low by those suffered from food insecurity as compared to individual with high income level. More studies will identify the prevalence and risk factors of food insecurity at Malacca.

Food Consumption

Food uses to appear as a level of complete individual utilization uses thinking about people spending merchandise and ventures in the household commercial center. The Food Consumption Score (FCS) is based on the response given by adult members in the household. This formula depends on a standard strategy structured by the World Food Programme (World Food Programme, 2009). To calculate the Food Consumption Score is by considering the amount (recurrence of

utilization) with quality (sort of sustenance) of nourishment devoured by a family unit in multi week, and dole out loads, in view of the kind of food expended. The latest year for information to be compared is 1994, where Americans spent 7.4 percent of their personal consumption expenditures for food while Canada 10.3 percent and United Kingdom is 11.2 percent. In less created nations, for example, India and Philippines, their sustenance consumptions were represented in excess of 50 percent of family's financial limit (UN System of National Accounts).

In Malaysia, "according to Datuk Johari Abdul Ghani, Second Finance Minister of Malaysia, and the current situation is that that one-third of their income is spending towards food consumption (Abas & Ching, 2016). It also shows that one-third of their income is spending on food consumption.

Nord et al. (2012) stated that one of a contributor to food insecurity is occurred because of lack of money and other resources to purchase food. Most of the time, food consumed by household members is either purchased from supermarket or grocery to be cooked and to be eaten at home or buying outside and be eaten outside the home.

CONCLUSION

Food insecurity and lack access to healthy food affects the health and well-being of low income in most developing countries especially for those with lower income. When people do not have enough resources to buy food for them to consume, it will give an impact on purchasing power. The increasing number of hunger people could threaten the stability of political for particular country (GFSI, 2016). Hence most of the countries are coming with their own program to assist and to improve the situation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The current research was funded under the research Acculturation Grants Scheme (RAGS) of Ministry of Education (MoE) and Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM)

REFERENCES

1. Abas, A., & Ching, O. T. (2016). *Malaysians spend 31.2 pct of income on food, 23 pct on petrol*. New Straits Times. Retrieved from <https://bit.ly/2SjYiKP>
2. Bajagai, Y. S. (2016). *Basic concepts of food security: Definition, dimensions and integrated phase classification*. Retrieved from <https://bit.ly/2OdmwrN>
3. Calender, C. (2015). *Health equity series: Food insecurity*. Missouri Foundation for Health. Retrieved from <https://bit.ly/2GeCTOd>
4. Coleman-Jensen, A., Nord, M., & Singh, A. (2013). *Household food security in the United States in 2012*. Retrieved from <https://bit.ly/32s1g4B>
5. Coleman-Jensen, A., Rabbitt, M. P., Gregory, C., & Singh, A. (2014). *Household food security in the United States in 2014*. Retrieved from <https://bit.ly/32vwasP>. <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.2504067>
6. FAO. (2009). *The state of agricultural commodity markets*. Retrieved from <http://www.fao.org/3/i0854e/i0854e.pdf>
7. FAO. (2015). *State of food insecurity in the world: In brief*. Retrieved from <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4671e.pdf>
8. Global Food Security Strategic Plan 2011-2016 Updated November 2013, Retrieved from www.Foodsecurity.Ac.Uk
9. Goyal, B., & Goyal, R. C. (2015). Community thinking and acting: An evaluation of effectiveness of health talks, health exhibitions, role plays and puppet shows. *International Journal of Health and Medical Sciences*, 1(3), 65-69. <https://doi.org/10.20469/ijhms.30004-3>
10. Habyarimana, J. B. (2015). Determinants of household food insecurity in developing countries evidences from a probit model for the case of rural households in Rwanda. *Sustainable Agriculture Research*, 4(2), 78-91. <https://doi.org/10.5539/sar.v4n2p78>
11. Jarjusey, F. (2017). Consumers' awareness and knowledge about food waste in Selangor, Malaysia. *International Journal of Business and Economic Affairs*, 2(2), 91-97. <https://doi.org/10.24088/IJBEA-2017-22002>
12. Lachance, L., Sean Martin, M., Kaduri, P., Godoy-Paiz, P., Ginieniewicz, J., Tarasuk, V., & McKenzie, K. (2014). Food insecurity, diet quality, and mental health in culturally diverse adolescents. *Ethnicity and Inequalities in Health and Social Care*, 7(1), 14-22. <https://doi.org/10.1108/EIHSC-02-2013-0002>
13. Marfa, M. A., Niguidula, J. D., & Enriquez, J. B. (2017). Business analytics in performance assessment of food manufacturing system. *International Journal of Business and Economic Affairs*, 2(2), 159-164. <https://doi.org/10.24088/IJBEA-2017-22009>
14. Maslow, A. H. (1943). A theory of human motivation. *Psychological Review*, 50(4), 370-96. <https://doi.org/10.1037/h0054346>
15. McLeod, S. A. (2016). Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Retrieved from www.simplypsychology.org/maslow.html
16. Noorlidawati, A. H., (2015). Assessment of food security challenge in Malaysia: A review. *Journal of Food, Agriculture and Environment*. Retrieved from <https://bit.ly/2XM190U>
17. Nord, M., Coleman-Jensen A., Andrews M., & Carlson S. (2011). Household food security in the United States, 2009. *Advances in Nutrition*, 2(2), 153-154. <https://doi.org/10.3945/an.110.000216>

18. Runnels, V. E., Kristjansson, E., & Calhoun, M. (2011). An investigation of adults' everyday experiences and effects of food insecurity in an urban area in Canada. *Canadian Journal of Community Mental Health*, 30(1), 157-172. <https://doi.org/10.7870/cjcmh-2011-0011>
19. Sindin, A. I. (2016). Is total quality management/continuous quality improvement or quality assurance applicable in health services? *International Journal of Health and Medical Sciences*, 2(1), 7-12. <https://doi.org/10.20469/ijhms.2.30002-1>
20. The Global Food Security Index. (2016). *An annual measure of the state of global food security*. Retrieved from <https://foodsecurityindex.eiu.com/>
21. USDA. (2014). *Agricultural statistics annual*. Retrieved from <https://bit.ly/2Y8WYQ7>
22. World Food Programme. (2009). *Summary of food security and vulnerability in selected urban centres of Ethiopia*. Retrieved from <https://bit.ly/2LnldTy>
23. World Food Summit. (2016). *Food security*.