**Food Security and Consumption Pattern in Bihar, India: Emerging Perspective and Policy Issues**

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**Abstract**

***In India food consumption pattern are changing rapidly due to change in income, tradition, availability and accessibility of food items, taste and preferences etc. Bihar is one of the poorest states in India. Over the year due to urbanization and life style the consumption of fat has increased but intake of carbohydrate and protein has decreased. The consumption of fruits, vegetables and animal products has also increased. The paper deals with food and nutrition consumption pattern in poor state Bihar. The present study aims to estimate the income and price elasticity’s of demand for different food commodities in rural and urban areas of Bihar. The study has used various NSSO household expenditure data of food commodities. The study has used quadratic almost ideal demand system for estimation of income and price elasticity. The result of the study reveals that the consumption pattern differs in Bihar as in rural and urban areas of Bihar. The major determinants of food consumption are income and the price of the food commodities. Increase price of food grains will severely affect their consumption and thus food security in the rural areas. The efforts are required to bring the income of rural areas through income diversification programme which will help in securing food security. The price of foodgrains like rice and wheat should be stabilized to increase the consumption and enhance food security. . The study would provide the insights and help the policy makers to prepare policy regarding food security.***