

NUTRITIONAL INDICATORS, PUBLIC POLICIES  
AND ADJUSTMENT MEASURES

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~~NUTRITIONAL PROFILE~~

The Nutritional Profile when viewed against Nutritional and Food Consumption Indicators would indicate that nutritional standards have declined when compared to the same period about a decade ago. In terms of nutritional indicators, anthropometric, birth weight, morbidity and mortality data have been examined. The food consumption patterns are based on time series data pertaining to socio-economic survey and consumer finance survey data obtained from findings of the Department of Census & Statistics and Central Bank, respectively.

Policy measures in respect of the main interventions, such as the Food Stamp Scheme, Thriposha Programme, School Biscuit Feeding Programme and other Supplementary Feeding Programmes are discussed. The medium to long term strategies on nutritional improvement are critically reviewed in key sectors such as Health, Agriculture and Education.

The nutritional framework and associated strategies to improve nutritional status of vulnerable groups have become relatively more defined and ordered in successive studies. However, the efforts to translate policy considerations into effective strategic programmes have not met with desired success. The emphasis on specific nutrition criteria may have lost its value in the process of transition from consumption to a production oriented development approach. (Although, the vulnerable groups exposed to such a change were to be protected through specific adjustment measures which are discussed here.) It is essential that re-ordering of sectoral priorities be considered in relation to the nutritional problems.

Furthermore, low cost technologies and nutritional approaches at a micro level of implementation should be given more emphasis than to the hitherto supported conventional programmes.

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