

8-10 Improving nutrition calls for a system approach, cutting across various components in the country. In the context of pandemic, analyse.

A-10 The hidden crisis lurking over the future generation is malnutrition which has only ^{been} aggravated during pandemic due to disruptions in delivery of schemes such as Mid-day-meal.

Challenges: ~~challenges~~

- ↳ Lack of attention on mother's health
- ↳ Social inequality as well as regional disparities
- ↳ ~~sanit~~ Lack of sanitation and clean drinking water
- ↳ Lack of diversified food
- ↳ Lack of food security as around one-third of adults in country have BMI below normal
- ↳ Poor coverage under many government programmes, as well as inadequate delivery system due to inefficiency & corruption.

Recent Government efforts include POSHAN Abhiyan & with updated POSHAN-2. abhiyan in which focus is on 1000 days between mother's pregnancy till her child's second birthday. It focuses on improving accounts - to plan at district level & data driven approach. & monitor delivery of nutrition services.

• Poshan tracker by Ministry of WCD which will act as digital backbone of Poshan 2.0

Suggestions

- ↳ NITI Aayog 3 year agenda recommended to launch a National Nutrition Mission with representation from relevant ministries such as Agriculture, WCD, Health, etc.
- ↳ Accelerated efforts to improve coordination between frontline workers (ASHA, ANM & AWW)
- ↳ Provide greater flexibility to states under ICDS to suit their local contents.
- ↳ Engage private sector for fortification of wheat, flour, rice, edible oils & milk.
- ↳ External certified agency should be employed for verifying the quality of meals provided under schemes.
- ↳ Direct cash transfer e.g. Poshak Yojana in Bihar