

Food security has become so important a policy area that now it has been discussed as a part and parcel of overall national security. With a phenomenal growth of population and rising food prices, especially in the developing world, countries are facing a significant threat to their food security. In urban areas food security is an invisible problem as compared to more visible issues like environmental pollution and lack of services. Tackling food security requires understanding of its concepts and determinants. According to FAO definition, food security exists when all people all the times have access to safe and nutritious food. Thus availability and accessibility to food are two of the major determinants of food security. In Pakistan the focus of food security has largely remained on the availability side while access component of food security has been a less attended policy area. According to reports and statistics, Sindh is fast becoming food insecure. How much food insecure is Hyderabad? There is no study, national or provincial, which determine the status of food security at the district level. This study, therefore, attempts to measure food security at the level of Hyderabad especially from the perspective of availability of and accessibility to food. It will not only inform different policy options for addressing the issue of food insecurity at the level of district but may also serve as an empirical model that can be applied to other parts/districts of the country in order to address this critical urban problem.