



FOOD SECURITY FOR EQUITABLE FUTURES

Project Newsletter

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WHERE YOU CAN FIND US



wp.lancs.ac.uk/foodequity/



<https://bsky.app/profile/foodequity.bsky.social>



youtube.com/@Food_Equity



fb.me/FoodEquity



foodequity@lancaster.ac.uk



[FoodInsecurity, FoodEquity, Ethiopia, India, Peru, Vietnam](#)

WE HAVE EXCITING NEWS!!

Citation in the UK House of Commons Report

We are thrilled!! Yet another incredible citation!

The evidence our team provided to the UK Government 'call for evidence' has been cited in a recent House of Commons report on The UK Government's work on achieving SDG2: Zero Hunger. We are enormously grateful to our stakeholders and participants for sharing their time and experiences, and always for the opportunities to facilitate meaningful impact. You can read our submitted evidence [here](#), and the full report [here](#).



TALK BY PROF FLEDDERJOHANN

On 31st March, 2025, our own Prof Jasmine Fledderjohann delivered an invited lecture to the Ad Hoc Group 3: Food, Culture, & Society of the Indian Sociological Society, chaired by Dr Rituparna Patgiri. Prof Fledderjohann critiqued arguments that food insecurity is a problem of overpopulation and introduced a framework for viewing food insecurity as a matter of reproductive justice. Reproductive justice is a social movement and framework for addressing structural barriers to the realisation of the rights to: 1) have a child; 2) not have a child; 3) parent children with dignity and safe and healthy environments; and 4) control one's own body and future. Drawing on the qualitative interview data collected by our brilliant fieldwork team, Prof Fledderjohann provided empirical evidence of how food insecurity threatens reproductive justice in India. For example, many women reported self-sacrificing strategies for managing household food insecurity, e.g. neglecting their healthcare needs, taking on heavy manual labour, and reducing their own food consumption to ensure other household members' consumption. Because access to healthcare and adequate nutrition are essential for the biological ability to conceive and for health, neglecting these needs threatens the right to have a child, to not have a child, and to control one's own body. She explored many more pathways through which food insecurity threatens all four reproductive justice rights, including exposure to domestic abuse, creating impossible spending trade-offs between costs for food and other essentials (e.g. energy costs, adequate housing, medical treatment), and sacrifices in quality, quantity, and diversity of food items consumed.

You can watch the full talk here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jl3VUPpw52c>

PUBLIC LECTURE AT LANCASTER UNIVERSITY



Our Food Futures: Rising Inequality and Climate Change By Mr Biraj Patnaik

Food Security for Equitable Futures along with the Lancaster University Engagement Team invited Mr Biraj Patnaik, one of our key project stakeholders based in India, to give a talk entitled 'Our Food Futures: Rising Inequality and Climate Change' in a Public Lecture Series at Lancaster University.

Mr Patnaik is the Executive Director of National Foundation for India (NFI), which is India's oldest independent domestic philanthropic organisation. Prior to joining NFI, he was the South Asia Director of Amnesty International overseeing all operations in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) region. A well-known human rights activist, he has been part of many national and global campaigns, including the right to food campaign in India.

As Mr Patnaik highlighted in his talk, the Food & Agriculture Organization of the UN estimates that more than 800 million people globally are affected by hunger. Despite rapid technological progress on many fronts (including in agricultural production) this unconscionable statistic continues to haunt us.

Mr Patnaik charted the journey of what a fundamental right to food entails in law and practice. He outlined the challenges of growing inequality and climate shocks that are exacerbating the food crisis in India, and globally, and looked at how countries might respond to these challenges.

The lecture gained huge popularity not only in Lancaster (where it was organized) but also attracted audience from London and Oxford. More than 100 members of public registered to attend the event.

POSTER DISPLAY AT PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT EVENT

We organized a booth at Public Lecture to raise awareness about the project work and highlighted some of the key findings of the fieldwork in the form of a poster. The event was well received, and it was heart-warming to see audience from all age groups - from 7 to 70 - getting curious and excited about our work. You can find the poster presented at the booth below:



FOOD SECURITY FOR EQUITABLE FUTURES

AIMS

- Advance the literature on food insecurity
 - Highlight young people's experiences
 - Focus on the Global Majority
 - Understand within-household inequalities
- Advance measurement
 - Capture within-household inequalities
 - Specific focus on young people

ACTIVITIES

- Analysis of survey data
 - Young lives (Ethiopia, India, Peru, Vietnam)
 - Cross-national comparison of sociodemographic gradients
 - Socioemotional well-being
 - School drop-out, transitions to work
- Collection & analysis of interview, focus group, observational data
 - Focus on decisions re food budgets, preparation, allocation
 - Impacts of Covid, disability, climate crisis
 - Round 1, 12/2022-03/2023, 87 HHs, n=429
 - Round 2, 08/2024-11/2024, 40 HHs
 - Round 33, 03/2025-06/2025, 40 HHs



Impact work



FINDINGS

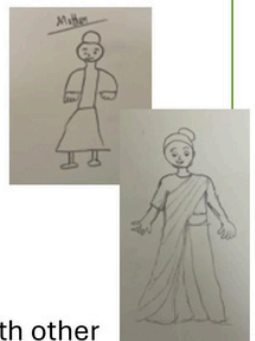


- Food insecurity driving debt
- And debt driving food insecurity

- Women make sacrifices
 - Skipping meals, eating less
 - Extra labour to feed others, make ends meet

Don't have time to eat. Okay. So in the morning I make their breakfast till 6.45. I don't even drink tea till then... After giving them breakfast, I leave them for school. Then finish off work at the workplace. By then it is 10 or 10.30 and then come home, so then get busy with homework. Then around 2, to 2.30 have food.... I come at 10.30, so it is 11.30 by the time I sleep. Then get up at 5, 5.30 again. [29 years, mother of 4]

Children's drawings of their mothers when asked: Who is responsible for everyone's food?



- Food insecurity intersects with other challenges
 - Housing quality
 - Limited dietary diversity/variety of food
 - Covid, flooding, lost crops negatively impact wages and food availability



WHERE TO FIND US

- <https://wp.lancs.ac.uk/foodequity/>
- @Food_Equity
- https://www.youtube.com/@Food_Equity

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR RESEARCH METHODS TRAINING COURSE



Dr Swayamshree Mishra, Dr Ankita Rathi, Dr Charumita Vasudev and Prof Jasmine Fledderjohann are conducting an online training session on 'Navigating Complexity: Qualitative Research in Challenging Field Settings'.

Anyone is welcome to take the course – please register here:
<https://www.ncrm.ac.uk/training/show.php?article=13917>

Description:

This course is designed to familiarize students and researchers with various facets of qualitative research, particularly focusing on challenging fieldwork environments involving complex and intimate inquiries, expansive research scopes and diverse participant types. The team will draw on their personal experience of undertaking ethnographic work and collecting semi-structured interviews with adults and children, presenting examples from the field to illustrate key challenges. The course will particularly benefit researchers engaging in qualitative research with vulnerable communities for short-term periods and in international contexts.



16 & 17 JULY, 2025

This course will discuss:

- Making sense of the field
- Working with 'vulnerable' participants
- Locating researcher and participant vulnerabilities in qualitative research
- Ethics as an ongoing process in qualitative research
- Adopting inclusive research practices

COST

- £60 for registered students at any University.
- £150 for staff at academic institutions, Research Councils researchers, public sector staff, staff at registered charity organisations and recognised research institutions.
- £350 for all other participants.

PROJECT WORKSHOP 3 IN NEW DELHI, INDIA

As we move forward, having completed three rounds of fieldwork and a few research papers in progress, it is more important than ever that we keep our insights aligned with the realities on ground. We try to engage with the lived experiences of people and know more about the various inequities affecting their daily lives.

We organized workshop 3 where our expert advisory panel convened in New Delhi, India, bringing together national and global specialists in the area of food insecurity to discuss project findings and receive feedback on our ongoing fieldwork, which is now in the final round. The feedback gained from this workshop played a pivotal role in addressing contextual ground-level issues. We are immensely grateful to our stakeholders for their time and insights!

FOOD EQUITY SHORT COURSES IN NEW DELHI, INDIA



In October 2024, the Food Security for Equitable Futures Team delivered a series of short courses for early career researchers in India. The courses focused on the right to food, measurement of food insecurity, links between food insecurity and the broader nutritional landscape in India, sociodemographic correlates of food insecurity and its associated outcomes, policy prospects going forward, and best practices for data collection and activism working with local communities. Videos of the sessions will be released on the project's YouTube channel in the coming months.



YouTube You can find event highlights video [here](#).

YouTube You can also find a video on participant experiences [here](#).

The programme had an excellent uptake of 70 selected participants invited to attend the programme. It was a huge success, and contributed to the capacity building of our participants.



PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

We received excellent feedback from the participants of the course. Just to give you a flavour, you can find some quotes by the attendees below:

“This course has equipped me with valuable tools and frameworks to better understand and address food insecurity challenges, and I am eager to incorporate these insights into future projects and initiatives. Special thanks to the organizers and facilitators for curating such a meaningful learning experience.”



“Successfully completed Food Security for Equitable Futures course organized by Lancaster University, found it to be highly informative and impactful. It offered a comprehensive understanding of food security through the lens of equity and sustainability, which helped to broaden my perspective on how systemic factors like policy, climate change, and socio-economic inequalities shape food availability and access.”



“As someone working in Sustainable Food Systems, this course has broadened my understanding of food insecurity’s multifaceted impact. I’m excited to apply the knowledge and skills gained, particularly in integrating community participation, climate resilience, and data-driven insights into future projects aimed at promoting sustainable food security solutions.”