



The Role of the Societal and Economic Securities' Interrelationship in Influencing Sustainable Food Security in Jordan

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DOI: 10.31080/ASNH.2022.06.1040

Received: March 23, 2022

Published: April 11, 2022

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Abstract

This study aims to reveal the interrelationship between societal security and economic security and its role in influencing Sustainable food security in Jordan.

Methodology: The study used the descriptive method which depended mainly on describing the actual status of things which was revealed by results of official and unofficial statistical reports issued by institution related to food and community security. Was reviewed to collect the data.

The researchers depend on collecting the data from the main source of Jordanian official statistical reports and bulletins and international reports issued by (NGO,s) that deal with the issue of societal security and economic security and analyze them to find out a role in the impact on sustainable food security in Jordan.

The study has eventually reached a number of several results, the high rate of crimes against money, the economic insecurity represented by the high rate of poverty, unemployment, and low income affect the members of society through their exposure to malnutrition is associated with diseases such as anemia among children and women as well as dwarfism.

Conclusion: Poverty, unemployment, high prices, high cost of living and economic conditions are the greatest challenges regarding sustainable food security, and this in turn has affect on societal security.

Keywords: Sustainable Societal Security; Economic Security; Food Security

Introduction

Security is a basic human need and an indicator of stability, prosperity and progress in societies and communities. Experts and specialists confirm that societal security refers to providing safety for individuals and groups from internal and external dangers, represented by security or economic threats. There is no security and societal stability without economic security. Economic security refers to the ability of people to meet their needs consistently.

Societal security is achieved when secure access to food is coupled with education, health, food, marriage, justice, well-being, growth, and long-term prosperity that a person needs and when a decent life for the individual and other members of society is provided. Economic security provide a decent living, meet basic needs, improve living conditions, and create job opportunities. As far as working individuals are concerned, of developing their capabilities and skills through training programs opens the ways of self-em-

ployment within the formwork of legislative laws. It can keep pace with the young spirit in the midst of today's living requirements.

However, the inability to access to sufficient and safe nutrients, or the inability to eat appropriate foods for any reason is known as sustainable food insecurity [1]. Sustainable Food insecurity negatively affects the physical health and lives of the members of the society [2].

In Jordan, the main factors that contribute to food insecurity are the increasing level of unemployment and lack of job opportunities and the deterioration of the productivity of agricultural lands which leads to decrease the contribution of the agricultural sector to GDP (5%) in 2017. The decrease in the wheat self-sufficiency and the limited available water resources and their depletion, contributes significantly to increase the level of sustainable food insecurity in the Kingdom [3]. Jordanian society imposes each member to love and respect its values, norms and traditions [4].

Societal security has relationship with social, economic and health care. because every individual needs good nutrition and employment to make them capable of living a safe, stable and contented life through physical and psychological strength [5].

The provision of food, economic and social security in social interdependently and intertwined circles is the basis of coexistence that exists between the people of the same country in providing the means of decent living. Tolerance and nutritious satisfaction are also two intertwined factors, Economic cooperation is one of the foundations of cooperation in providing nutritious crop, whether through agriculture or trade or industry. Political participation can only be achieved when mouths are full of food, and a sense of responsibility can only be developed after meeting the individual's needs of food, clothing, housing, health and educational affairs [6].

In Jordan, the citizens suffer from poverty, unemployment, high prices, the high cost of living, economic conditions, low salaries and community security. These factors pose major challenges in securing the food requirements, and this in turn. leads to impact societal security. These are the most important issues of today faced by the Jordanians. Moreover, the deteriorating economic conditions, consequences of the COVID pandemic, and poor services. in general. are the additional causes. This confirms the strong relationship between societal security, food and economic security, unemployment and poverty [7].

Sustainable Food insecurity and malnutrition due to poor dietary patterns, inadequate knowledge and unhealthy environments affect the health of pregnant women and this malnutrition pass on through the generations.

Women greatly suffer from nutritional deficiencies. The deficiency of iron and vitamin A is responsible for low birth weight, stunted growth and infant mortality. Mother's nutrition is the main determinant of fetal growth and weight at birth and infant disease, malnutrition often causes injury to the fetus with long-term and harmful consequences that are irreversible. Therefore, the present study was conducted to evaluate the effect of societal and economic security on food security in Jordan.

Research Problem/Question

The issue concerning this study is the continuous rise in poverty (15.7%) in 2019 [8], followed by a decrease in wages (20 - 30%) in 2021 [9] and high unemployment rates (18% - 24%) [10]. The rise in poverty, low wages and unemployment rates have put food limitations on citizens which ultimately leads to sustainable food insecurity in the society.

Materials and Methods

Research procedures: The main objective of this study is to Know the role of the societal and economic securities interrelationship in influencing food security in Jordan. This study followed the following steps

- **Methodology:** The study used the descriptive method which depended mainly on describing the actual status of things revealed by results of official and unofficial statistical reports issued by institution related to food and community security.
- **Data collection:** The researchers depend on collecting the data from the main source of Jordanian official statistical reports and bulletins and international reports issued by (NGO,s) that deal with the issue of societal security and economic security and analyze them to find out a role in the impact on sustainable food security in Jordan.
- **Statistical Analysis:** The researcher Applied the deductive analytical method, after reviewing and analyzing the official Jordanian statistical reports and the international reports, by using the applied analytical methods indicators related to food security and community security were extracted and linked with each other and find out a role in the impact on sustainable food security in Jordan.

Literature Review

Suhail Hawamdeh [11] conducted a study on the issue of societal and economic security which aimed to identify the close inter-relationship between both securities and what obstacles can face in contemporary society. The study concluded in finding that there is no social security without an economic one. It also concluded that there are obstacles to social and economic security, which are intertwined, including non-exploitation of wealth and natural resources and unfair distribution of revenues to society, which leads to weakening the economic situation of the state and indicates a need to improve the strategic, political and economic capacity of the state.

A study by Nabil Ramzy (1988), entitled: "Social Security and the Issue of Freedom," revealed that the individuals' satisfaction of various needs, whether social, economic, political or cultural, leads to a feeling of freedom. Such feeling leads individuals to reassure and practice their opinions in public and national issues. The study confirmed that the prevalence of chaos and the absence of democracy was the result of a lack of social and economic security as well as the failure to satisfy the basic needs of water and food [5].

Key terms

- **Societal security:** It provides a safe and sustained social life to the individuals and the society [12].
- **Economic security:** The International Committee of the Red Cross defines economic security as the state in which individuals, families or communities can meet their basic needs and cover mandatory expenses in a sustainable manner that respects their dignity. Basic needs include food, water, shelter, clothing, and personal hygiene items, as well as the ability to cover health care and education expenses (ICRC).

Sustainable Food security

- Sustainable Food security is defined as "the state in which all members of society, at all times, have access to adequate food to meet their nutritional needs" (FAO, 2018).
- Sustainable Food security according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is defined as the provision of food to all members of society in the quantity and quality necessary to meet their needs on an ongoing basis for a healthy and active life [13]. This definition differs from the traditional concept of food security, which is linked

to achieving self-sufficiency by the state's dependence on its resources and capabilities to produce its food needs locally. This difference makes the concept of food security, according to FAO, more in line with economic transformations, and the accompanying liberalization of international trade in food commodities [14].

Study Questions

- What are the challenges that face Jordanian society and affect societal and sustainable food security today?
- What are the economic challenges that affect societal and sustainable food security in Jordan?
- What is the interrelationship between social and economic security and its impact on sustainability of food security?

Study Results

The results related to the first question: the challenges facing the Jordanian society and affecting the societal, economic and sustainable food security.

No.	Content	National sample
1	Poverty and unemployment	61
2	War on drugs	56
3	Protection of public liberties	55
4	Poor level of services	27
5	community security	21
6	Instability in neighboring countries	20
7	The Palestinian cause	15
8	Rise in prices	14
9	Administrative and financial corruption	13
10	deteriorating economic conditions	11

Table 1: Challenges faced by Jordan (arranged in order of importance)

Source: Center for Strategic Studies [7].

Table 1 shows the challenges faced by the Jordanian people. It indicates that Poverty, unemployment, high prices, high cost of living and economic conditions are important challenges regarding food security, and this. in turn. has an effect on societal security.

Similar results have been reported by Hawamdeh, Sohail (2012); Gonzalo and Juan2022 who found that economic security and social security affect the sustainable food security and the health of citizens.

Subject	Statement	Percentage
Unemployment by age and sex	Male	21%
	Female	30.8%
	Total	23.2%
Bachelor's degree and above	Male	27.7%
	Female	82.1%
	Total	42.9%
Marital status	Married	24.9 %
	Single	75.1%
Never worked (Jordanians)		43.1%
Employed by income	Less than 200 JOD	5.1 %
	200 -299 JOD	19.7%
	300 – 499 JOD	56.3%
	500 JOD or more	18.9%

Table 2: Distribution of the population in Jordan according to unemployment rates for the year 2021.

Source: WFP [3].

Table 2 shows the difficult economic situation in Jordan. It is observed that the general unemployment rate is 23.3% and the unemployment rate among males (21%) is lower than that of females (30.8%). The majority of the women (82.1%) are educated and hold bachelor's degrees whereas 27.7% of males are educated. It is worth noting that 25% of the population earns 410 dollars per month. About 5.1% of Jordanians earning are less than 200 Jordanian dinars which is equivalent to 290 US dollars. The income of 19.7% of Jordanians ranges from 200-299 Jordanian dinars, which is equivalent to 420 US dollars. Jordanians are considered as the poorest population and the ones who face poverty, hunger, and have no access to adequate and healthy food as well as the provision of other necessities of life such as a house, water, electricity, clothing and health.

In this difficult economic situation people do not have social and economic access to enough food for a healthy life. Moreover, they cannot pay house rent, water and electricity charges, generating instability and affecting societal security. Jordanians spend 243 Jordanian dinars (260 USD) on house rent, water, electricity and gas. (Family Expenditure and Income Survey, 2018). Reduction in purchasing power directly and negatively affect the food security. This result agrees with some previous studies conducted by Hawamdeh, Sohail (2012) and Nabil Ramzy (1988), who found that societal security has an integrative relationship with social and economic security and health services.

The prevalence of malnutrition is a traditional indicator of the Food and Agriculture Organization, which monitors hunger at the global and regional levels. In 15 years, Jordan has not been able to reduce the proportion of children suffering from anemia. The Population and Family Health Survey (2017-2018) showed that 32% of children under 5 years of age suffered from anemia in 2012, while it was 34% in 2009 and 2002. Anemia caused by lack of iron, folic acid, vitamin B12 or some other nutrients. The frequency of dwarfism among children (less than 5 years of age) has doubled from 100 thousand in 2012 to 200 thousand in 2020, the prevalence of anemia in women of reproductive age (15 - 49 years) has increased from 600 thousand in 2012 to one million in 2019 (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations "FAO", 2021).

The number of undernourished people in Jordan has increased from 6.6% in 2004-2006 to 12.2% in 2016-2018 (i.e., from 300 thousand to 1.2 million people) [3].

Financial crimes remain the highest (64.9%) in Jordan. This constitutes a threat to societal security (PSD, 2020).

Conclusion

The prevalence of food insecurity is very high in Jordan. Due to poverty, unemployment, high prices, the high cost of living, economic conditions and low salaries the Jordanian population has limited access to adequate food to meet their nutritional needs. Sustainable Food insecurity adversely affects physical and mental growth and the healthy life of the members of society.

Recommendations

Government should provide the cash or in-kind food aid to the poorer class in Jordan.

Voluntary funds by the richer people of civil society should be established to help the poor. Problem of unemployment among the members of society should be solved on priority basis. Appropriate funding for family empowerment projects should be provided on urgent basis.

Policies and programs to enhance local leadership, support decentralization in decision-making, enhance community participation, and empower the family in general, and women in particular should be adopted and encouraged, as producers and consumers are an essential element to improve sustainable family and community food security.

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