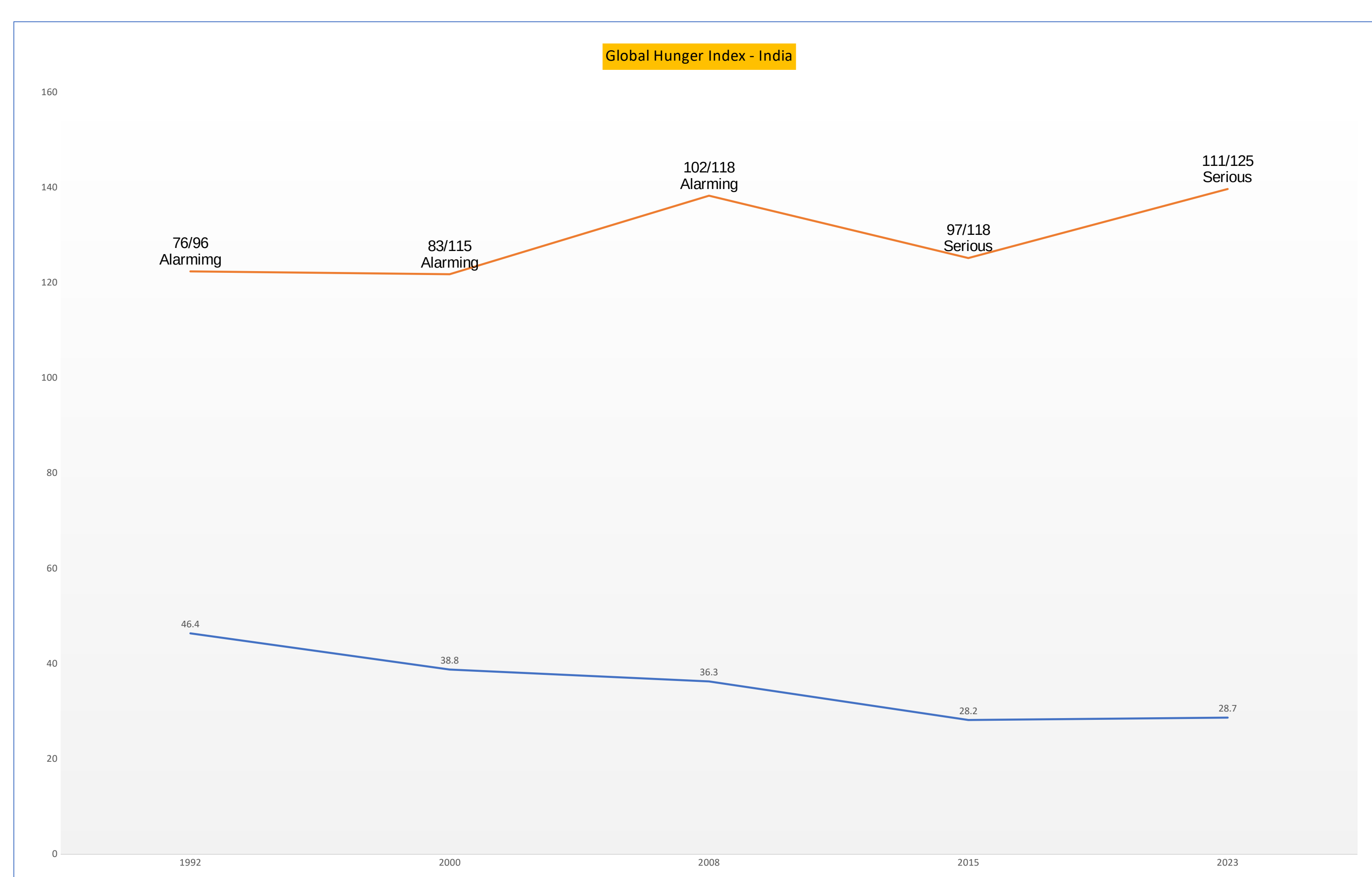


Urban Canteens, the Supply Ship of Food and Nutrition Security in Telangana and Karnataka: An Exploration

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OBJECTIVES

- Identify the level of improvement in food security that food-providing canteen initiatives implemented by the governments of different states brings in the vulnerable and poor section of societies.
- To analyse the level of satisfaction among the beneficiaries through urban canteens.
- To highlight the functioning of urban canteens from the supervisor's perspective.



METHOD

The study relied on both secondary and primary sources. NSSO, NFHS Reports for various years and rounds been used to validate the dietary and nutrition issue facets. Pinning down from the secondary data, the study headed to the ground level, by taking up the closer observations from the Urban Canteens in metro cities of respective states viz. Telangana and Karnataka. Metro cities have been considered due to the variability and presence of the scheme in a vibrant geographical region. The selection of the urban canteens is random based upon the demographic location of the canteen and have incorporated participatory research observation method and also with a structured questionnaire. A detailed interview was done with the agents and stakeholders participating in this scheme viz. NGO (which is providing food), Government related officials (secretary body), respective canteen staff and the beneficiaries of the canteen. The locational status of the urban canteens and variants of the population been considered (i.e.) canteens in proximity to stations, construction sites, near the bus stops, hospitals, IT corridor and railway station. For this samples from Hyderabad and Bengaluru been collected by incorporating participatory research observation method and also with a structured questionnaire.

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Urban canteens play a significant role in addressing hunger and food insecurity by providing good quality and hygienic food at an affordable price. A nutrition focus would add to addressing malnutrition. In addition, making the canteens better accessible and provision for take away would allow women and children to better access the canteens. GHMC Annapurna Canteens and Indira Canteens initiated by Telangana and Karnataka state governments respectively to mitigate food and nutrition insecurity. Implementation in Telangana was led by Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation and Telangana State Government in 2014. In Karnataka Ministry of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer affairs and Government of Karnataka in 2017 the program was initiated.

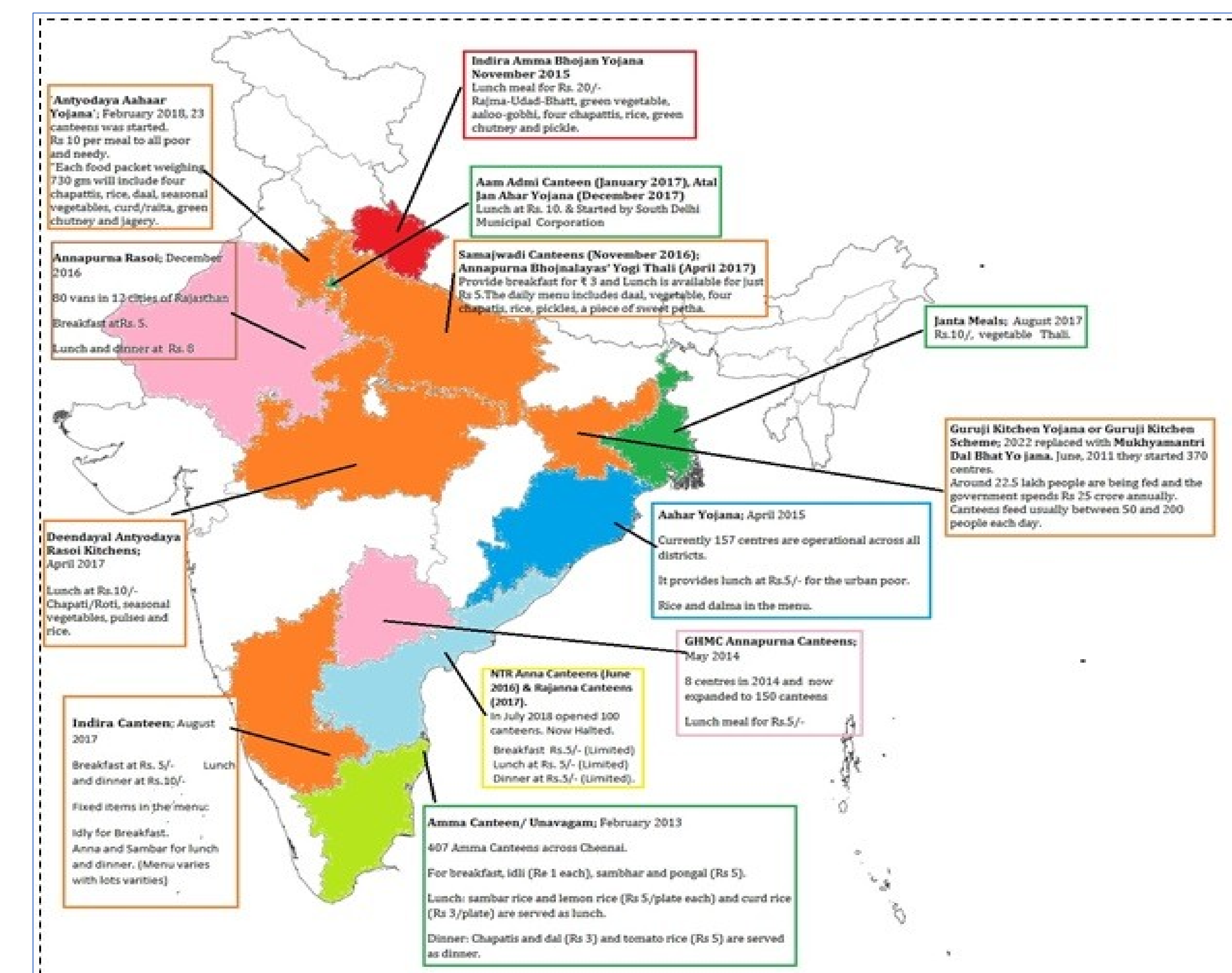


RESULTS

There is a negative relationship between Income and Level of satisfaction which indicates that beneficiaries with higher levels of income tend to have lower satisfaction with the services provided by the urban canteens and a positive relation between the number of times beneficiaries visit the canteen and the satisfaction level. Multiple Linear Regression Analysis on level of satisfaction depending on kind of Native/Migrant, Independent/dependent, quality of food, number of visits and Income shows the variables independent/ dependent, quality of food, and the income level as statistically significant. The study found that one of the main limitations faced by the canteens is lack of resources..

From the information gathered after interviewing/ participatory observation the beneficiaries of the canteens, the study has drawn the following conclusions;

- **Food Menu** can include more variety of vegetables and nutritious items such as millets and also, the cooking style which attracts more customers.
- **Water packets** per person should be increased as it is not sufficient to drink and wash hands from a tiny water packet.
- **Less waiting time;** some canteens in the busiest are attracting huge customers and queue is long enough to get the food. If any arrangement is done to reduce the waiting time by employing more canteen servers/helpers that would minimise the long queue.
- **Seating arrangements;** in summer it is highly difficult for the customers to eat in the scorching heat and in rainy season it is even worse. A decent seating ambience would help to fetch more customers.
- **Hygienic environment;** customers did complain a lot on the surroundings as well as the management. A crystallised word of blame game is seen on this factor from the supply and demand side.



Aspects	Indira Canteen	Annapurna Canteen
Formed by	Karnataka government	Telangana Government
Year of origin	2017	2014
Motive	To provide affordable food to the urban poor.	To tackle the problem of hunger and malnutrition among the poor and marginalized sections in society.
Menu	Breakfast- Puliogere, Kharabath, Pongal, Rava Kichadi, etc. Lunch: Veg Sambar and curd rice. Dinner: Tomato Bath and curd rice, Vegibath and curd rice, bisi bele bath and curd rice, etc.	Lunch: Rice, sambar and curry. Sometimes compensatory lemon and mango pickle and curd will be served.
Timings	Breakfast: 7:30 am – 9:30 am Lunch: 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm Dinner: 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm	Lunch: 12 pm – 3 pm
Beneficiaries	Daily wage workers, government school students, swiggy and Zomato delivery executives.	Taxi drivers, auto-rickshaw drivers, the homeless, few passengers, food and parcel delivery executives, junior doctors, back end software employees, vendors.

IMPLICATIONS

The study aimed to contribute in developing a policy regarding the enhancement of nutrition levels in the food menu of urban canteens and it is important to further study the nutritional security of the urban poor and also need an attention to identify mitigation strategies to reduce the food and nutritional insecurity through the extensive primary research.