“Impact of Cultural and Societal Norms on Food Loss and Waste”

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“Throwing away food is like stealing from the table of those who are poor and hungry”.
-Pope Francis

“There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of the bread”
-Mahatma Ghandhi
Introduction

- UNEP Food Waste Index Report 2021
- Third International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste September 29, 2022 (UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO))
- Social initiative ‘Save Food Share Food’ (FSSAI) to "help promote donation of surplus food and reduce food waste"
Food loss

- “A decrease in mass (dry matter) or nutritional value (quality) of food that was originally intended for human consumption”

Food waste

- “Food appropriate for human consumption being discarded, whether or not after it is kept beyond its expiry date or left to spoil”

Food wastage

- “Any food lost by deterioration or waste. Thus, the term wastage encompasses both food loss and food waste.”
Food in different religions

Hinduism
food is considered as a gift from God and should be treated respectfully. Annadanam is Mahadanam or the greatest donation in Hindu religion and is an essential part of Sanatana Dharma tradition.

Islam
“Eat – But waste not by excess: for God does not love the wasters.” (Qur’an, 6:141)

Christianity
"Give us each day our daily bread" (Lord's Prayer) (Lk. 11: 3)
Food is a part of divine grace and providence.

To be continue........
Sikhism
An essential part of any Gurdwara is the Langar, or free kitchen. (Guru’s Langar)

Jainism
अन्नं न निन्द्यात्, तद्वत्तम्– Do not insult food [by wasting].

Buddhism
Buddhist rituals imbue food with sanctity; the sanctity remains in the food after it has been received by the monks. Communal eating is one means of experiencing Buddhist precepts and concepts in a direct and sensory way.
Food wastage and loss

Households/Individuals

Social Gatherings/Public Ceremony/Festivals

Hotels/Restaurants/Cafeteria/Hostels/Canteen/Clubs
Food wastage in social gathering

- Rural area
- Urban area

Age wise:
- Infant
- Child
- Adolescence
- Young
- Adult
- Old age

Income wise:
- High income group
- Middle income group
- Low income group
Factor responsible for food wastage (households and social gatherings)

- Consumer’s Attitude
- preference
- Planning issues
- Storage
- Packaging issues
- Portion sizes
- Socio-economic factors
- People take more than they can eat
- Miscalculation of invitees
- No idea of Guest's food preference
- More dishes on the menu list

Food wastage during Past and Present (Occasions/Celebrations/Festivals)

- Change of the pattern of celebration
- Expenditure on food
- Food consumption level
- Methods of food serving
- Status Symbol
- Social/Relative Pressure
- Competition to do better
- Social networking
National Policies, Laws & Regulations regarding food wastage (social and cultural gathering)

- Rajasthan Guest Control Order and Mrityu Bhoj Act, 1960
- Rajasthan Guest Control Order (1972)
- Assam Guest Control Order (1973)
- Mizoram Guest Control Order (1987)
- The Punjab Marriage Functions (Prohibition of Ostentatious Displays and Wasteful Expenses) (REPEAL) ACT 2006
Institutional initiatives .........

- Feeding India
  https://www.feedingindia.org

- Robin Hood Army
  https://robinhoodarmy.com

- India food banking network
  https://www.indiafoodbanking.org

- Love Food Hate Waste
  https://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com

- Foodtank: the think tank for food
  https://foodtank.com
Take some simple steps ............... and reduce food waste

- Buy only what you need
- Store food wisely
- Understand food labeling
- Love your leftovers
- Use leftovers creatively
- Sharing is caring
- Respect food
THINK BEFORE YOU THROW!

To Grow Crops Farmer Has To Plough His Field.

From Time to Time, the Farmer Has to Sprinkle Fertilizers and Pesticides on his crops.

When the crop is ready, the farmer has to harvest his crop.

After harvesting, the farmer stores the grains in the warehouses.

.........and you easily THROW it??!!
Conclusion

A large quantity of food is wasted and are being thrown away around the World, While a child dies every 5 seconds as a result of hunger.

“Buy less, use all, waste nothing.”