



Investigating the Roots of Hunger in North Korea

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Abstract

North Korea is one of the countries whose name has always been associated with the crisis. The North Korean people have ever faced is hunger and a lack of food as one of their perennial deepest crises. North Korea has had food insecurity for decades. This crisis is deep but silent. Sometimes it appeared catastrophic. At other times, it was silent but continuous. It is hidden under the shadow of other North Korean military and political problems and tensions. Although that is no less important than other problems. This study seeks to answer this question, where are the roots of the hunger crisis in North Korea? Another question is how much does the government play a role in this enduring challenge? This study shows that the famine crisis in North Korea is largely the result of the policies of the North Korean government and depend on its management structure. All of the Economy, human rights, politics, militarism and tension are tied. The situation of the North Korean people is the same today under the control of ideological government.

Keywords: *North Korea; Food Insecurity; Hunger; Country Management*

Introduction

Hunger has always been a problem in North Korea. Lack of adequate food has sometimes led to disaster. Although in other times has been hidden but permanent along with the severe erosion in the

society. It can be said that the North Korean government could not or did not want to find a permanent solution for this problem.

The report," International Food Security Assessment, 2020-30, "found that 15.3 million North Koreans, or 59.8 percent of the population, are food-insecure in 2020. An estimated 59.2 percent of North Korea's population is food-insecure in 2020 (koreatimes.2022/2). The North Korean government formally began in 1948. Although it had gained independence three years earlier. North Korea has a history of several decades, but in this short period has played a role in political divisions and events in Southeast Asia and between world powers. Although the North Korean government leaders express their concern for the people in speeches, the outcome of its governance food security strategies shows something else.

This year, North Korea could face food shortages of up to 1.35 million tons, according to a May report from the Korea Development Institute, a think tank backed by the South Korean government. The institute's report estimated the country's food requirements are about 5.75 million tons annually (Jeong · . (2021) It can be said that many internal events in North Korea have roots in the famine years in the country. Various events have affected food scarcity. They are worth for investigate. The signs of those years have been very profound and lasting in North Korean society life. They have continued to this day.

Four terrible years of hunger from 1995 through 1998 may have cost the country two million to three million lives, according to accumulating evidence gathered by a range of experts. Many of the dead were old people and children, or urban dwellers of any age with no way to forage off the land (Crossette, 1999). Then should try to understand the food insecurity situation in North Korea and its cause. It has needed to pay attention to the country's management. The management ruling in North Korea has caused the fluctuating but sustained humanitarian crisis. It always has been seen in the country for decades. In this study have been used library data collection, as well as consultation with researchers and the study of the testimony of people involved in the challenge of food insecurity in North Korea and scrutiny in their narratives.

Research Background

There is a wide range of research on food insecurity and its humanitarian problems in North Korea. Those researches usually pay more attention to political affairs. The consequences of the management structure of that country are understood of them. The other group are reports of international organizations-countries in the field of aid or food and hunger research. They are continuously obtained and published about life quality in North Korea. Preeti Kapuria of the Observer Research Center in 2021 examines the current situation in North Korea during the Covid epidemic. The signs of sanctions on the country's economy and the effect of food production and processing were her research focusing. Andrew Jong examines the veracity of the North Korean leader's remarks. In 2021, he attributed the country's famine to floods. Lina Yoon from Human right watch research related to the North Korean food shortages during the Covid 19 epidemic. Choe Sang-Hun addresses food shortages in Korea in his article. He examined North Korea's policy and agriculture and their interconnectedness. Barbara Crossette's article on famine is also used to look at the devastating period of the historic famine. YongJin Yi calls North Korea a land of hunger. He examines the role of government and managing global aid by them. The Korea Times talked about North Korea's food insecurity and statistics in an article in 2020. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has always focused on North Korean society's problems. They reported about the challenging days of North Korea and the need for global assistance in 2019. The World Food Program has also been active in North Korea. The organization's relief work has continued unabated. WFP regular reports published independently or in conjunction with the FAO examine hunger and food situation in North Korea. The WFP, FAO and Red Cross reports are valuable research resources for humanitarian topics. Statistics and reports have been used as a practical benchmark

for researchers. As an example, the 2020 FAO report addresses the role of natural disasters and sanctions. Also, the useful data of the Wikipedia encyclopedia have caused the finding of key signs for better coordination in this research. Robert Collins discussed ideological national classification in North Korea. In this grouping, people by Political expediency can access food. Also, Lee et al the White Paper on Human Rights in North Korea examined people classification with political goals in North Korea. Piétris In a 2002 paper, Petri explored the North Korean government's priorities during the famine. In 2017 entitled "The real crisis in North Korea is not the one you've been hearing about", Spezza examined North Korea's economic and political conditions and their role in fueling food insecurity. Ferrie (2016), in his article, points to the foundations of sanctions against North Korea. Mount & Andrea, published a lengthy report in the International Study Group on North Korea Policy. In this report, different subjects like economic, agricultural and ecological changes were discussed. Tordo and Pearson in *Against Development* explore various aspects of North Korea's habitat and trade. They shed light on it through talks with fugitives from Korea and popular and organizational reports from that country. Tudor and Pearson in (North Korea Confidential) pointed out aspects of North Korea's life and trade. They used interviews with fugitives from North Korea and international organization reports.

Food Security in North Korea

As mentioned earlier, hunger has been a major problem in North Korea. North Korea's position is inadequate and vulnerable in terms of food security. North Korea's food security is vulnerable to any stress. In this situation, ordinary people suffer a lot.

However, recent statistics suggest that food rationing became more challenging between 2018 and 2019. Compared to the average of 1,529 kcal per day rations in 2018, an average North Korean family received 1,393 kcal per day in 2019 (Yong,2020). The USDA assessment defines a daily intake of 2,100 calories as necessary to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle and said that North Korea is running a per capita deficit of 430 calories. Quintana said that "an increasing number of families eat only twice a day, or eat only corn, and there are reports that some are starving (Korea time, 2022). WFP's 2014 mid-term review of PRRO 200532 revealed that 81 percent of DPRK's population do not have acceptable diversity in their diet. One in three children under five years of age, and almost half of the children between 12 and 23 months of age, are anemic (WFP, 2017). Food insecurity is widespread. Around 10.3 million people – more than 40 percent of the population – are undernourished (WFP, 2019). There are times when events occur that result in a lack of food in society. These issues lead people to some defensive solutions that affect the use of food, such as rations. These solutions are somewhat similar in different countries.

Food-related coping strategies are widely adopted, including reducing consumption by adults for children to eat and reducing meal sizes (FAO/WFP, 2019). After the overthrow of the Soviet Union, There was no replacement for it in North Korea. Same time some natural disasters crises such as floods occurred. The great famine was theirs result in North Korea. The Great Famine of Korea was an important chapter in their history of this country in these recently decades.

North Korea says that 220,000 people died in the four-year period. Outside the country, estimates range from 1.5 million to 3 million.' We now know that more than 10 percent of the population starved to death (Crossette, 1999) .

For food security study about societies first need to research about Its components .It defined by FAO" Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life " (World Food Summit,1996). According to this definition, first should discuss about food security in North Korea and the factors that effect on it. It also investigated problems and traced their origins.

The Role of Economics on Food Insecurity

The Economy plays an important role in individual and social life. Because economics is known as the ability of a family or nation to meet their needs. North Korea is a country with a tightly closed state economy. North Korea's economy suffered severely after the overthrow of the Soviet Union due to its high dependence on the Soviet Union. This period was accompanied by profound climate and political changes in Southeast Asia, such as new US ties with China and China and South Korea.

Today, it is safe to say that, in effect, China runs North Korea's economy. Chinese currency is widely used in the unofficial markets that have mushroomed around the country since the crisis of the mid-1990s (Spezza,2017).

A number of deadly floods in 1994 and 1995, which destroyed 1.5 million tons of grain and destroyed most of the country's infrastructure, made matters worse. As a result, North Korea lost 85 per cent of its electricity generation capacity. The public distribution system came under increasing and unprecedented pressure. Between 1994 and 1997, the amount of food provided to the public decreased from 450 grams of food per day to 128 grams. During this period, for most people, the public distribution system became an important source of food. The food was accessible for 6% of the population. Hunger gripped society on a horrible scale. Border and rural areas were severely affected. But mass deaths due to famine occurred in all parts of the country, including cities and suburbs (Tudor and Pierson,37, 2020) .

The birth rate in North Korea has declined over time, and there is a strong correlation between the economy and hard life in that country. The country's economic growth rate varies in statistics but has been negative in recent years. Although dramatically all of the people in that land have a purposeful job. But the government jobs are just a matter of government commitment. Most of them do not have enough income to buy a daily meal. It has led to the creation of a black market and semi-secret work.

Exporting goods and importing workers from this country is an important way to provide foreign currency and income for this country; For example, we now have only 30,000 to 50,000 Korean (North Korean) workers working in deplorable conditions in Russia, earning \$ 120 million a year.) They should pay most of their salary to their government. They almost work like slaves). North Korea's total foreign trade is said to be about \$ 3 billion. Coal, iron ore, iron ore, lead and seafood account for \$ 1 billion of North Korea's \$ 3 billion trade (Choe, 2021).

Agriculture has also employed a large part of the population. However, earning money from the sale of weapons or dirty ways such as cyber theft, drug production and trafficking. All are special sources of income for the North Korean regime.

Agriculture

In the field of agriculture, North Korea, as mentioned earlier, is part of the country's economy dependent on agriculture. About a third of the country's active population works in this sector. However, North Korea's agricultural productivity rate result is not good.

North Korea's grain production was estimated to have dropped from 4.64 million tons in 2019 to 4.4 million last year, the Korea Development Institute of the South said in a report published this month. That creates an overall grain shortage of 1.35 million tons this year. North Korea has always suffered annual grain shortages (Choe, 2021). The roots of the inability of agriculture in Korea has caused. These roots indicate signs of a wider problem. Due to the mountainous nature of the country, the lands that have agricultural potential are limited in proportion to the number of people in North Korea. The traditional method of agriculture in that country does not meet the needs of the people. Therefore, production is insufficient.

The geography of the country is largely mountainous, with only 15 percent of the land (or 1.9 million ha) suitable for agriculture. Of this, about 30 percent is irrigated, mostly paddy fields and winter/spring crops. Rice, maize and potatoes constitute the major food crops. Soybean, barley and wheat are also widely cultivated as well as minor grains such as millet, sorghum, oats and rye (FAO/WFP, 10, 2019). Also, due to years of excessive use of pesticides and inappropriate fertilizers, lands have decreased yields. Also, in many other cases, many sectors suffer from a lack of suitable pesticides and fertilizers. Therefore, the country always has a shortage of food. Part of this deficiency must be imported. Another part of that compensated by global aid. So North Korea is unquestionably dependent on this foreign aid. Experts believe that the country's agriculture and animal husbandry is more powerful. As it is updated and empowered with more tools and knowledge, it can have good consequences in raising the level of production and its quality.

Raising production by 20-30 percent for a poorly performing agriculture appears well within reach, provided that the political and socioeconomic conditions are favorable. If the country opens itself to external know-how, technological inputs, and best practices. Insufficient agricultural production and land, non-availability of inputs, machinery and fuel, poor infrastructure, continuous mono-cropping, and limited capacity to cope with frequent climate-induced disasters have resulted in chronic food insecurity and malnutrition for as large as 40 percent of its population (Kapuria, 2021). This weak agriculture with old fragile structures is very vulnerable. Climate damage and ecological changes could have extensive effects on it. Food production does not have enough sustainability. In situations ecological change has swept the world.

Lengthy dry spells, floods and typhoons are driving crop yield losses and reducing the availability of food (FAO, 2020). The agricultural sector is estimated to contribute to roughly one-quarter of the country's GDP, with significant fluctuations over the years due to frequent climatic shocks impacting agricultural production (FAO/WFP, 4, 2019). The consequence is a reduction of food production in North Korea and severe and threatening shocks to food security for the people.

A typhoon last year may have dented food grain production by about 860,000 tons, equivalent to almost two months of food grain requirement in what was already a situation of scarcity. The estimated food deficit of about 1 million metric tons last year meant that the average North Korean was consuming about 445 calories lesser per day than the 2,100-calorie-diet recommended by the United Nations (Kapuria, 2021).

The damage caused by climate change is a threat to the country's food security now. They have gone from an occasional event to a perpetual bitter story in these recent years. At least have pointed to them in reports every year. Many natural disasters may not be as much of a crisis risk for other countries. But, as has been said, agriculture and food production in North Korea does not have the capacity to withstand tensions and respond to crises. Even in the best conditions, the food and agricultural industries production are not able to provide enough food with the population in North Korea. According to reports and the study of the role of weather events, it is possible to understand the problems of farmers, ranchers, and other food producers in the face of these challenges. The lack of adequate government support is also obvious.

The persistent country-wide drier-than-normal conditions in the 2018/19 cropping season, resulted in low levels of water in irrigation reservoirs. Official data indicate that water availability in irrigation reservoirs during the 2018 main season was well below the five-year average. Most farmers reported that they also faced difficulties in pumping water to irrigate fields due to lack of fuel and erratic supply of electricity (FAO/WFP, 25, 2019). More frequent and severe natural hazards in DPR Korea mean that communities' coping capacities are stretched to the limit, and the risks of humanitarian catastrophes are real. Floods, drought and heat waves affect the country, sometimes in the same year, destabilizing agricultural production and affecting food security in the long term (WFP, 2021). Examining

these severe climatic roles on North Korean agriculture, the inability of the governing structure of the country is evident. The management of agriculture and food production in that country is not only incapable of compensating for damage but cannot of relative resilience against them. This inability is due to the lack of proper management. Also lack of tools, insufficient budget, and non-up-to-date food production sector in North Korea. This is largely due to the inability of the sick and corrupt economy of that country.

The Effects of Policy on Food Insecurity

North Korea's foreign policy is closely linked to the country's internal administration and nation quality of life. North Korea's foreign policy has also been a trap for its economy.

Continuing economic isolation and coercion to the detriment of management and transformative objectives will only allow North Korea to develop on its own terms, prioritizing military expenditures, deepening its repression of its citizens, and expanding its access to global markets through illicit means (Mount and Berger,2019) . In North Korean politics, militarism is paramount. Because the North Korean regime sees its survival in building tensions in Southeast Asia and threatening its neighbors. However, North Korea attributes its aggressive behaviour to fear of external threats and foreign hostility (self-defense). But if its behaviour is properly examined, that country itself has committed the first Stressful political and military acts in the region. As examples include launching the Korean War, progression plan for making weapons of mass destruction such as microbial, chemical, nuclear, and threatening to destroy our neighbors.

The regime's priority in making North Korea a defense economy has overshadowed development and food production, while allocating precious resources to the military industrial complex, and bringing down living standards drastically. Such suffering of the large section of the populace can only be contained by state oppression and denial of basic human rights. This only further diminishes the ability of the North Korean society to address the food crises (Kapuria,2021) . However, the North Korean leaders have always promised a bright future and a reduction in the suffering of its people. But in fact, their management has had the opposite consequences. To the extent that the new leader of North Korea has repeatedly expressed his dissatisfaction with how difficult life is for the people. This is perhaps the most responsive of an authoritarian regime. When he came to power, he used the title of belt fastening, which was reminiscent of the famine era, to announce that this would not happen again. But the policies of his regime, by preferring the politics of militarism and continuing the horrific behaviour in the region, continue to block the way to reconciliation with the world.

When he took power a decade ago, one of his first promises was to ensure that his long-suffering people would“ no longer have to tighten their belt. ”But those economic plans suffered a setback when the country's growing weapons arsenal led to punishing international sanctions. In January(2020), he once again admitted to his economic failures, announcing a new five-year plan and vowing to strengthen the country's nuclear and missile capabilities) Hun,2021) .

A clear consensus has emerged among North Korea experts that the country's weapons program is inextricably linked with human rights and humanitarian issues (Yoon, 2021). In this way, even the hardships and sufferings of the people have not stopped his harsh policies. He likes the language of threatening his neighbors and the United States instead of trying to cooperate with the world. Nuclear games and weapons tests are among the tense behaviors of this government.

North Korea conducted its fifth and largest-ever nuclear test on Friday, exploding a bomb underground that caused a magnitude 5.3 earth quake of problems and raised alarm throughout the diplomatic community (Ferrie, 2016). North Korea is on a trajectory of nuclear development that has transformed it into a fundamentally different kind of strategic challenge—a state with a significant nuclear arsenal, an increasing range and number of delivery systems, and a nuclear doctrine of early or

even preemptive use. (DPRK) has medium- and long-range artillery that can hold South Korean population centers hostage to a massive conventional and chemical barrage (Gentile et al, 2, 2019). North Korea has built one of the largest armies in the world in terms of personnel, although this is the big army only in numbers and not in quality. They have resorted to mass destruction capable weapons. They made nuclear, chemical or biological weapons for compensating it. This tool, along with the threat of others, has caused increasing pressure on this country. Bear the high military costs pressure and tough global sanctions have shattered the North Korean economy. North Korea could threaten Russia, China, South Korea, Japan and the United States cities by mass destruction of weapons. In this situation, the international community has used all sorts of strategies to put pressure on the leaders of this ruthless dictatorial regime. One of these solutions has been sanctions. These harsh and debilitating sanctions, although they could control part of the regime's harmful power, have put terrifying pressure on the people of North Korea too. The sanctions are broad. The Sanctions can be divided into two groups, the global sanction and countries' sanctions. Some countries, such as Japan, Australia, China, South Korea, and the United States, have imposed separate sanctions since the 1950s. The widespread international sanctions were imposed on North Korea. They have imposed after nuclear weapons test and detonating an atomic bomb in 2006 and as well as North Korea's missile tests. These sanctions have increased over time to this day. Their spread has been due to new tense North Korean government behaviour. The sanctions cover the banking, commercial, factory machine tools, and North Korea's trades. President Trump also issued a decree in 2017 authorizing the taking of assets of individuals doing business with North Korea. In this way, the country's trade came under more pressure and become more secretive and smaller. It is clear which put more pressure on people's lives.

North Korea, however, is an authoritarian, secretive, and closed nation, which compounded with its military belligerence, has left it isolated and distrusted in the global community. A series of economic and trade sanctions has meant that North Korea does not have access to global markets and its few trading partners are also encumbered by economic sanctions in trading with it (Kapuria,2021) . These sanctions have crippled the country's economy. Few companies accept cooperation with North Korea. The technologies don't send to the country. These sanctions have affected very badly. They even made problems for aid organizations.

Sanctions, fuel restrictions and lack of or out-of-date machinery and equipment are worsening the humanitarian situation, stressing communities 'already limited coping capacities (FAO, 2020). Analyses by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) suggest that the country experienced an economic downturn in 2017 and 2018, amid reduced trade activities as a consequence of sanctions targeting top-earning export sectors, such as coal, minerals and textiles (FAO, 2019). Trade with China in 2020 decreased by almost 81 per cent, which came after already enormous drops in 2018 after the United Nations anti-weapons proliferation sanctions were expanded (Yoon, 2021). The North Korean government, however, is keen to ease sanctions on it. But they are not ready to play the role of a normal and peaceful government, neither for their nation nor for the world. The regime knows that its existence is a means of isolating the Korean people from the world and holding the life vessels of the Korean people like food. Hence, the internal administration of the country is much politicized. The regime manages the country by methods established in political and ideological priorities.

Internal Management and Food Insecurity

Establishing sustainable food security in macro-policy-making is a task for governments. This duty mentioned in international law. Especially in countries where the government is more involved in managing the lives of citizens, this accountability should be greater. The North Korean regime has ruled on the basis of entering all spheres, even in private life, such as dress and appearance. There is a need to examine parts of the regime's governmental behaviour. Especially, it is important to examine the part of the governance method that is related to the food security of the people.

Just like many other aspects of North Korean life, the central government distributes the country's food. The Food Procurement and Distribution Authority of the North Korean government sets average monthly rations for the upcoming month. According to this recommendation, the North Korean authorities review food availability in the country, and after this, they make decisions on whether the country needs to import food (Jin Yi, 2020). As can be deduced from the various reports, As of January 2019, PDS rations have been reduced to 300 grams per person per day (g / pp/day), compared to 380 grams in the same period in 2018 (decreased). Obviously, not only directives issued for the country's imports but even for people daily consuming feed. The plans can be shifted on government policies. They don't plan on the basis of health for human health and wellbeing needs. What is being done in North Korea, or what the government wants to do, is the government-controlled distribution of food in the form of coupons. However, in practice, the role of black markets is outside the full control of the government. Households are forced to resort to them in order to provide food. There are several types of government stores in North Korea that are one of the main ways to provide food for households. In fact, it is the only legal way accepted by the government. However, the government itself is aware of the existence of a black market.

Different types of state shops exist in DPRK. Coupons work as entitlements to buy certain kinds of food items (the amounts per household are indicated on the coupon and those amounts vary by households depending on the household member occupation, hard or light labour, and number of dependents). Coupons are a means to distribute the relatively small supply of certain items as compared to the total population in the area being serviced (FAO/WFP, 32, 2019).

Studies show that the distribution of foodstuffs follows instructions that are not based on fair needs assessments for a community. While the duty of a government is to respond to the needs of society. There are also various other points. Including the type of jobs of family members and the social status and political affiliation of family members with the government. The North Korean government has divided the people into three main groups and a large number of sub-branches. The government groups people to distribute food in the community. Those who are closer to the government are given a higher priority. In this way, the right of the people to life and death is determined by the government.

While the survey had its limitations because of restrictions placed on the effort by the North Korean state, it is noteworthy that the size of the three social classes is about the same as the size of the nutritional categories. In the context of the famine, songbun may have determined who lived and who died, who ate well and who starved (Collins, 3, 2012).

The lowest level, the hostile (choktae) class, is prejudged as being disloyal to the socialist revolution, the party, and its leadership. The hostile class is commonly referred to as "impure elements" or "antiparty and anti-revolutionary forces." Members of this class are regarded as class enemies by the Kim regime, and they suffer the most traumatic victimization of the songbun system. They are discriminated against in terms of employment, military service, education, food, housing, medical care, and especially opportunity (Lee et al, 6, 1996).

In this way, from the point of view of the North Korean government, people are not seen as human beings. The only value is based on the amount of loyalty to the North Korean regime and its benefits to that regime. And based on this value, the government gives them the right to food and basic human needs. The grouping, which was made by the founder of the North Korean regime and expressed by him in 1958, is similar to the behaviour of the Nazis and the former racist regime in South Africa. Undoubtedly, many human beings have lost their lives in this inhuman structure. In this way, the behaviour of the North Korean regime over the past decades has shown painful signs in the lives of innocent children who had no role in the acts of their predecessors against this regime. They were punished by inheritance.

Thus, a consequence of individuals being classified with poor songbun a decade ago led to their descendants being disadvantaged in food distribution today. Those descendants not only suffer from greater malnutrition but poorer health care as well (Lee et al, 6, 1996) . Conversely, the North Korean regime has always had the support of a small number of special people who need its support and have mostly gathered around its administrative centres. However, there are different internal categories among those elite groups or governmental trustful people. This grouping structure is unprecedented. Even among the communist countries, it has not seen. On the other hand, this division is clearly unfair to the extent that it has created a difference in the distribution of foodstuffs between the provinces and cities of the country. Clearly, some government-infested areas have less access to food and a smaller share.

In the first of the charts from the 2011 WFP/ FAO/UNICEF Rapid Food Security Assessment Mission to North Korea, one can see that there are greater food deficits in the PDS in those northern areas of North Korea. In the second, one can see that there have been greater health problems in the same areas of North Korea due to the lack of food and malnutrition over several years. The four northern provinces of North and South Hamgyong, Chagang and Ryanggang show greater signs of North Koreans being underweight, stunting, and wasting (Lee et al, 6, 1996).

By examining the charts prepared by international organizations and examining the relationship between provinces and cities with higher levels of food poverty, the researchers were able to find informed political connections between hunger and government domestic policies. Links that lead to planning and determine the fate of an individual, a district or a province. The signs of this ideological planning are traced from the past to the present.

There is a direct correlation between the population of North Korea's northeast provinces, their low songbun, the failure of the Public Distribution System (PDS), and the severe famine of the 1990s. Songbun's essential nature is the inequality that is deliberately created by design and the discrimination. "There are reports that the DPRK government has stopped providing food through the PDS to marginalized regions (Lee et al,36,1996) . In this way, the North Korean government use hunger to suppress and slowly and covertly destroy their opponents. The regime does not view food as a human right but known it as a weapon in front of the nation.

Due to the difficult food situation in North Korea and the constant shortage of food, the country has always needed foreign aid. North Korea has been a regular recipient of food aid from various countries, including countries it calls enemies.

It was estimated that 10.1 million people (40 per cent of the population) are food insecure and in urgent need of food assistance (the International Committee of the Red Cross, 2019). International aid organizations working with North Korea have repeatedly noted the need for aid for North Korea and the country's dire situation in their reports. However, they do not mention the cause of the problems most of the time. Also, the weather events have been bold as the cause of the problems. Of course, given the organization's position and its need to work with the North Korean government, this behaviour is understandable.

Food aid to North Korea is more than a simple international aid. There are multiple countries sending aid to North Korea, including China, South Korea, Russia, Canada and numerous other European countries. South Korea fulfilled its promise to donate \$4.5 million to the WFP in 2019. In addition, South Korea announced that it will further provide 50,000 tons of rice as food aid to North Korea. The United States used to be the biggest provider of food aid to North Korea between 1995 and 2008. It provided over \$1 billion in assistance, about 60 percent of which was food aid (YongJin Yi, 2020). But there is another problem with using this important resource for the North Korean help. Management without transparency and corruption, widespread discrimination among the people, prioritization of political affairs, military over humanitarian affairs, and the right to life of the North Korean people all have been reflected in the North Korean government's actions. These causes have made the North Korean regime an

unreliable coordinator in aid distribution. Thus, there is a lot of suspicion about the behaviour of that regime. However, in some materials, criminal and unfair behaviour in food distribution has been explicitly reported.

During UN inspection visits, donated rice bags were stored temporarily at civilian warehouses, then transported to military units after the inspectors left. Too many cases undoubtedly remain where the Kim regime takes back distributed aid as soon as international monitors depart. Based on the data presented heretofore the classification of individuals to be of low songbun parallels the Party's justification for de-prioritizing "enemies of the state" (Lee et al, 69,1996). These behaviors have led foreign donors to become more aware of the North Korean government's deceptive behaviour over time. As the result, donors have been looking for newer and more controlled ways to distribute their donations.

Many sceptics of the food aid to North Korea believe that much of the past aid only fed North Korean leaders and the country's military. The state of hunger in North Korea is both a humanitarian and a political issue. However, the same donors also want to hold the North Korean regime accountable. Meanwhile, there are signs that the North Korean government is only providing food and aid to its rich and elite populace (Yong, 2020). There have been some efforts to progress in monitoring food distribution. But still, the government's deceptive methods continue. There have been several reports of fraud. For example, in some cases, the North Korean regime uses soldiers in civilian clothes instead of ordinary citizens or takes back the food distributed to the people. An important example for examining the ideological management of the North Korean axis is the challenge of food insecurity after the Covid 19 disease. Due to the North Korean government's concealment, the extent of the damage is still unknown. But like past experiences, they will be determined in the future. North Korea reacts unscientifically to Covid disease. The witness who left the country says so:

"There is barely any food going into the country from China for almost two months now. There are so many more beggars, some people died from hunger in the border area (Yoon,2021)."

The root of the crisis also lies in North Korea's ideological view of having ideas (Conspiracy theory) the enemy is behind all the problems. They believe that the Coronavirus was made as a harmful anti-North Korean government device.

The government dramatically reduced imports of staple foods and other necessities from China in August and stopped almost all imports, including all food and medicine, in October, claiming that COVID-19 can spread through migratory birds and animals, snow, and "yellow dust" blowing into the country from China. In the face of what appears to be a mass humanitarian and food crisis, the North Korean government has repeatedly rejected offers of international aid (Yoon, 2021). The North Korean government also believed that the enemy wanted to infect the country in the name of humanitarian aid. With such a view and without examining the consequences, they took a hasty action.

Conclusion

The crisis and the problem of hunger and food shortages in North Korea have a long history. The North Korean government has a behavioral paradox. They try to show the Korean people that they have managed North Korea successfully. On the other hand, There are deeply dependent and need for foreign aid. The North Korean government has always intended to blame enemies for itself problems. A big part of foreign aid comes from those countries that North Korea calls enemies. Aid is sent through global reliefs organizations. Climate change challenges and natural disasters such as floods and droughts are reasons commonly used to ask countries for North Korea. Research by international aid organizations, observers, witnesses, and reports by research organizations testify to the difficult life of the North Korean people. If the roots of the famine crisis in North Korea are examined. If the roots of the famine crisis in North Korea and various business, social, agricultural, sanctions, natural and managerial sectors are

examined because these factors have effects on food security. It follows that food security problems in North Korea have two general causes. Part of the problems are deliberately created based on government policies and the other part is due to the effects of mismanagement of the government. The North Korean regime is an example of the most difficult and closed government in the world and has a dark experience in human rights records. The regime's tense behaviour has led to a tough and coordinated global response. These conflicts have caused many problems for the people of North Korea. On the other hand, there is natural damage caused by climate change. But the North Korean government's priorities are military and political ideology. The humanitarian needs of the North Korean people are not a priority for the government. According to various reports, the North Korean regime has used hunger as a tool to put pressure on the people or regions of the country. Even in the distribution of international aid, they have tried to deceive and use the aid purposefully. It can be concluded that the regime has the first cause of food insecurity in North Korea and more stable and independent food security in North Korea is dependent on a general change in government policy.

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