serve as a warning against the inducement of any such activity that may create an environment in the sea which poses as a potential site for becoming a dead zone.16 Addressing the issue of invasive species will be a step forward in the direction of eliminating one of the serious threats faced by oceans. Thus, a ban on introducing invasive species that eat into the natural ecosystem, through promulgation of a proper law for the same, will go a long way in upholding sustainable development along the coasts of India.


**CORRESPONDENCE**


**HIMALA JOSHI**<sup>1•</sup> <br>**N. MARIMUTHU**<sup>2•</sup>

<sup>1</sup>School of Development Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, V.N. Purav Marg, Deonar, Mumbai 400 088, India
<sup>2</sup>Centre for Marine and Coastal Studies, School of Energy, Environment and Natural Resources, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai 625 021, India

*e-mail: himalajoshi@gmail.com; marinemari@hotmail.com

**Dual burden of malnutrition and hidden hunger among tribal children of North East India**

The new edition of the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition includes a supplementary volume on the double burden of undernutrition and obesity in Latin America. It could gather nine articles from different countries signifying the major health implication of the same. The implication of double burden is found to be major in some countries like Uruguay<sup>1</sup>, but in others like Brazil, its impact is trivial due to the inclusive social policies<sup>2</sup>. But the condition is

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**Table 1. Dual burden of stunting and stunted overweight cases among the Mising tribal children of North East India (according to WHO 2007 criteria)**

worst in the developing countries going through the initial phase of nutrition transition\(^3\). Dual burden of malnutrition can be found at the population level, household level or individual level\(^4\). Most recent updates from Africa also show similar events of micronutrient deficiency, stunting, anaemia and overweight among preschool children\(^5\). The dual burden of malnutrition at population level shows existence of stunting as well as overweight/obesity within the same group or population. This is well marked in the countries already undergoing nutrition transition. The existence of dual burden within the same household mostly deals with the overnourished mother having undernourished child. But the existence of the dual burden of malnutrition within the same subject often calls for attention of concomitant presence of overnutrition and hidden hunger. This situation has got little attention in India. It may be more marked among the tribal children of developing nations undergoing nutrition transition. This has been substantiated with a study among particular tribal children of North East India (Table 1). These children are getting enough calories to become fatter, but lack one or more micronutrients required for linear growth. Zine deficiency might be the major cause of such outcome. Here the dual burden of malnutrition is not transient at infancy, but is propagated to the adolescents also. India is on the verge of submitting its report of millennium development goal by 2015. Though much has been done for accomplishing the project, the prevalence of micronutrient deficiency particularly among the tribal children continues to be a public health concern. Most of these children practice open-air defecation which also makes them prone to hookworm infestation leading to iron deficiency anaemia. Therefore, not only micronutrient supplementation but also adequate measures for absorption in the body as well as dietary diversification are the need of the hour to combat the situation.


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**Mithun Sikdar**

*Anthropological Survey of India Western Regional Centre, Udaipur 313 001, India e-mail: msikdar@hotmail.com*