

Food and Nutrition Security in India

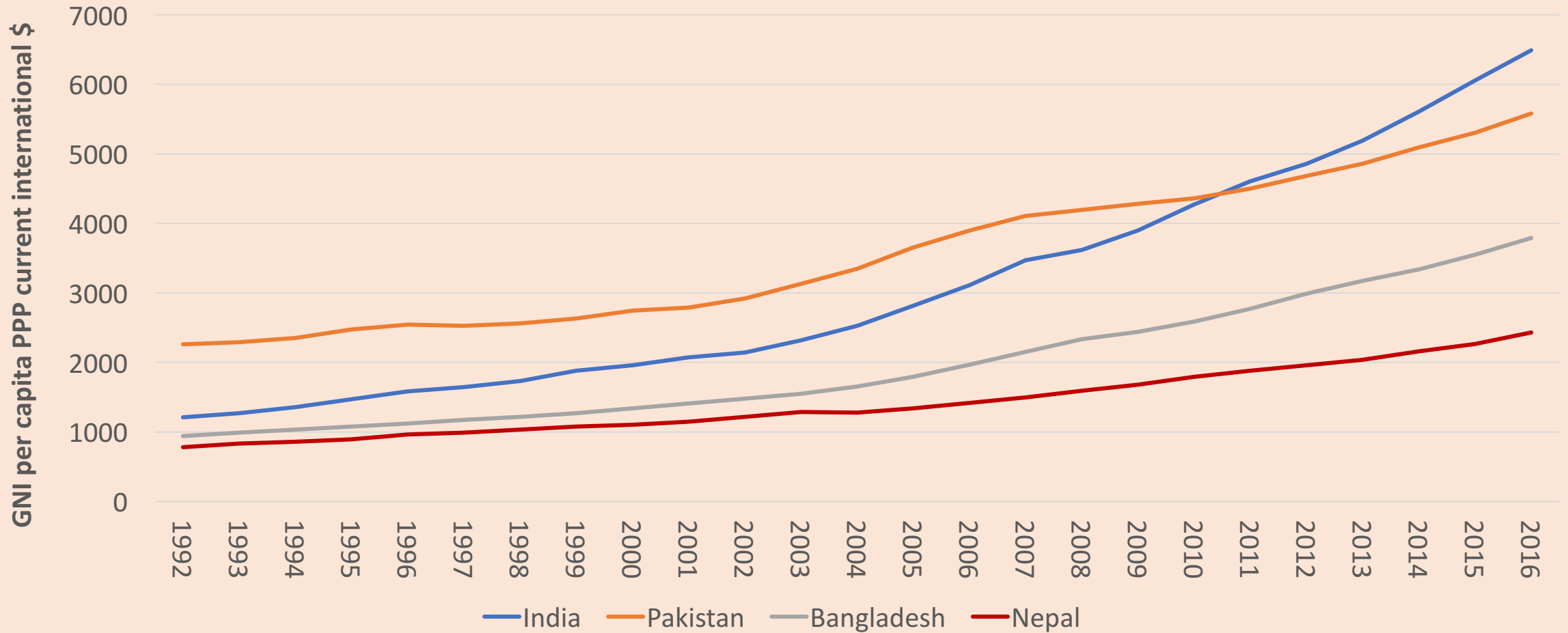
Spencer Henson
University of Guelph

Food security

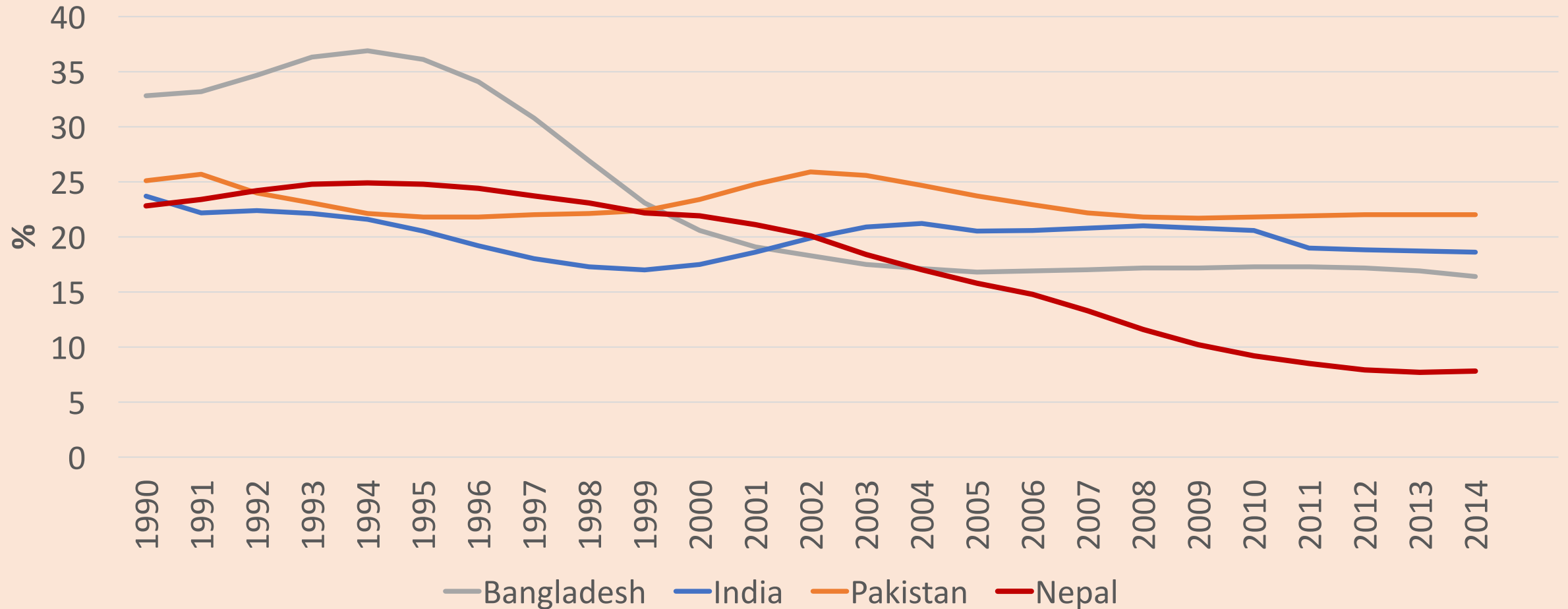
“Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.”

(World Food Summit, 1996)

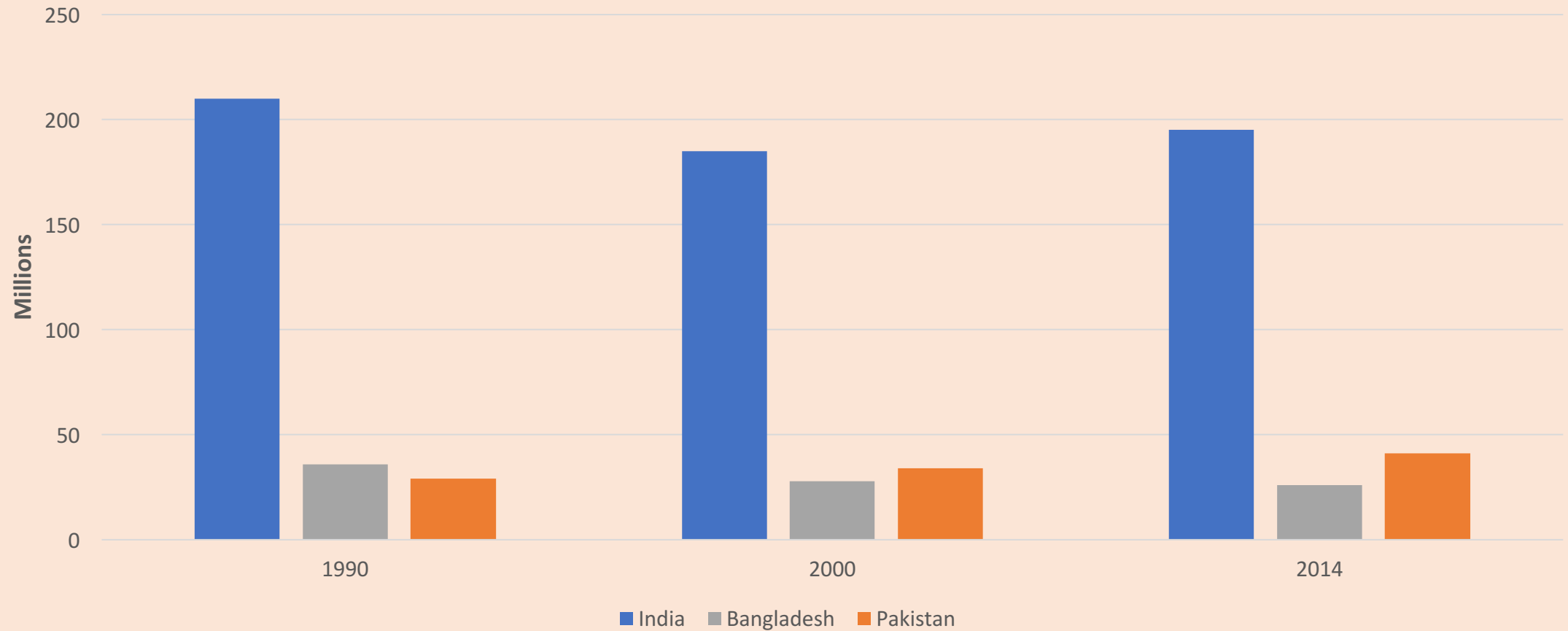
Growth in income per person, 1992-2016



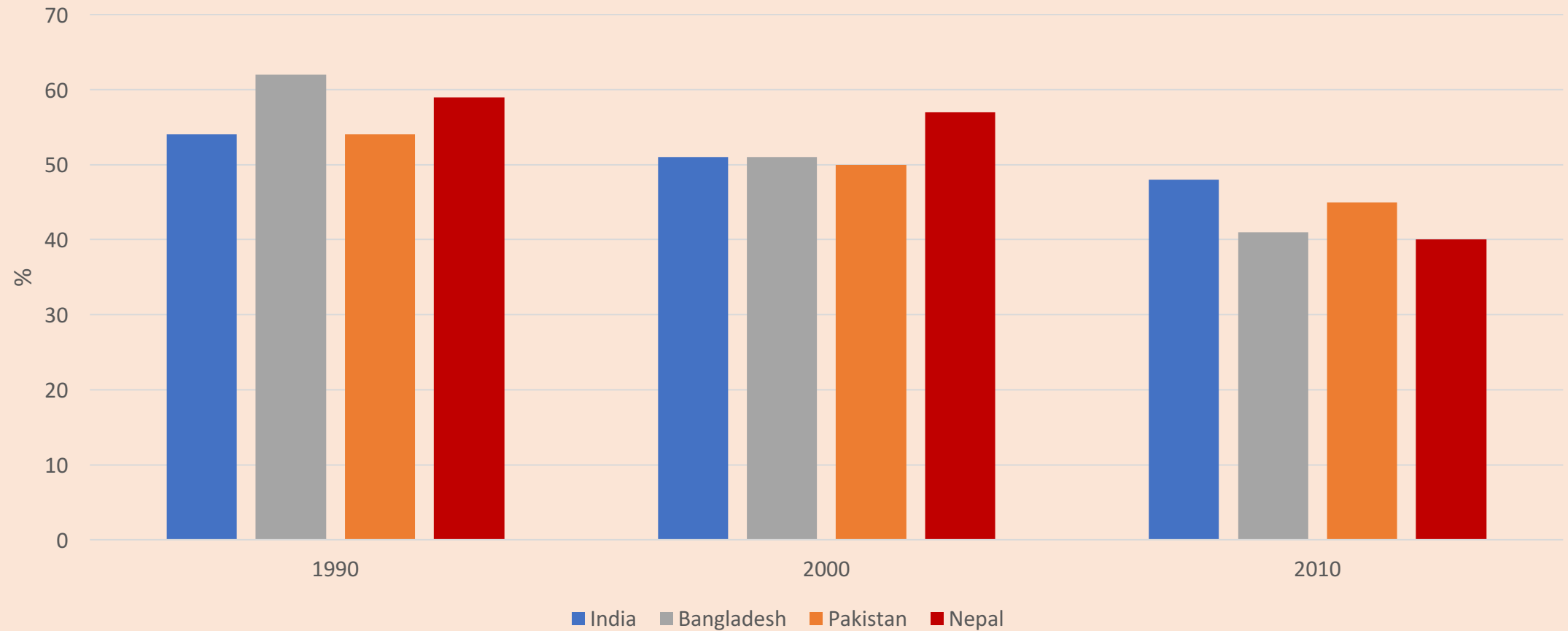
Prevalence of undernutrition, 1990-2014



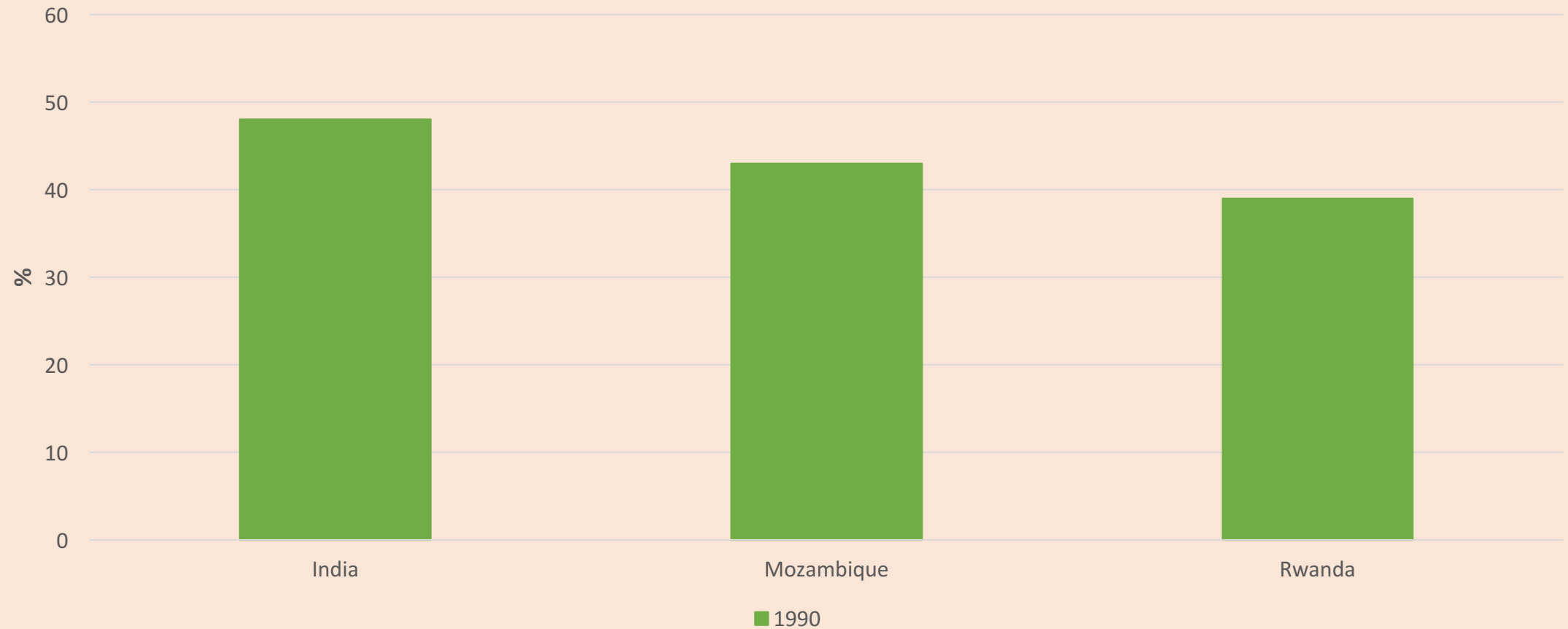
Number of undernourished people, 1990-2014



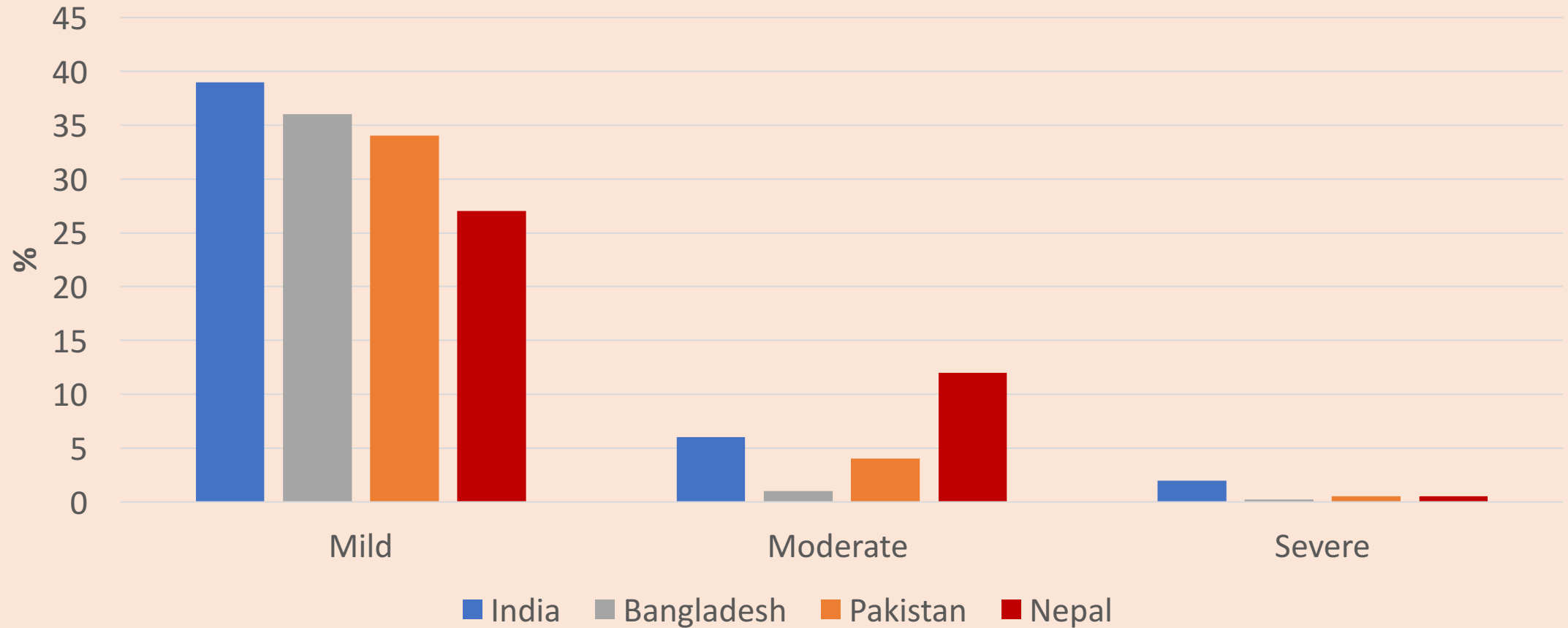
Prevalence of stunting of children under the age of five, 1990-2010



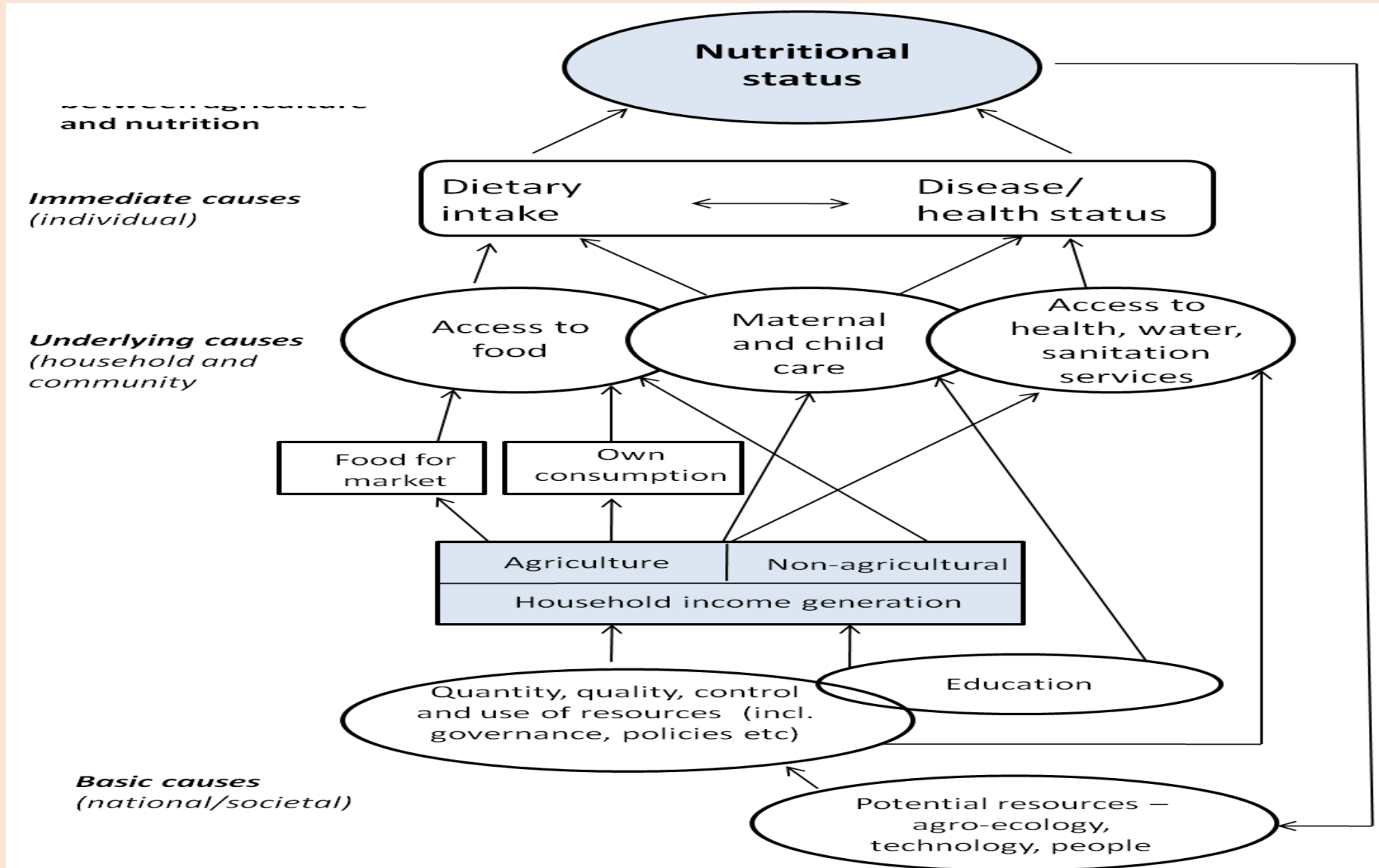
Prevalence of stunting of children under the age of 5, 1990-2014



Prevalence of women with anemia, 2014



Conceptualizing the Causes of Malnutrition



The big questions.....

- Why has India failed to achieve significant improvements in food and nutrition security?
- What should be done to address this problem?

India's approach to reducing undernutrition

- Economic growth
- Food Distribution System
- Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS)
- National Food Security Act (2013)
- Clean India Campaign

Excerpt from Government of India submission to UPR

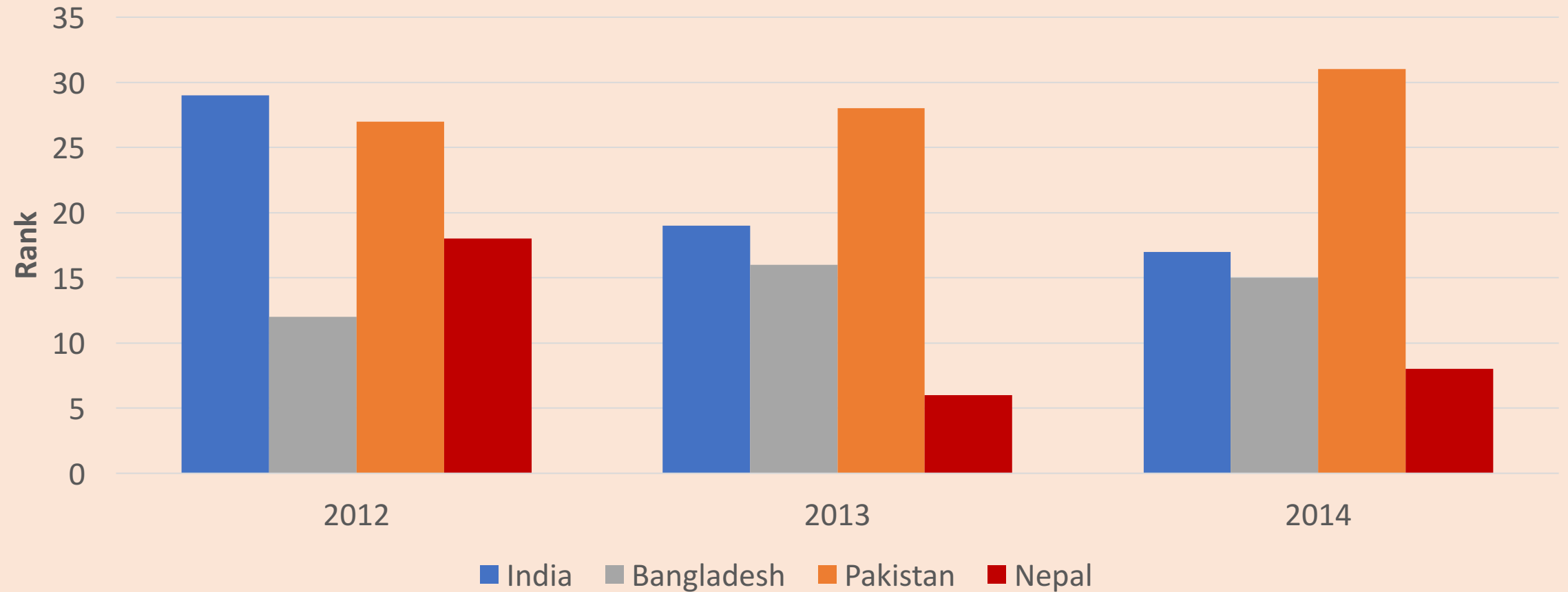
“India had taken various steps to eliminate all forms of malnutrition, including child malnutrition, notably through the adoption of the National Food Security Act, 2013, and the expansion of the coverage of the Integrated Child Development Scheme for better nutrition, health, and overall development of children that are less than 6 years old.”

National Food Security Act (2013)

"Food security means availability of sufficient food grains to meet the domestic demand as well as access, at the individual level, to adequate quantities of food at affordable prices."

"The proposed legislation marks a paradigm shift in addressing the problem of food security – from the current welfare approach to a rights based approach."

Rank in Hunger and Nutrition Commitment Index, 2012-14



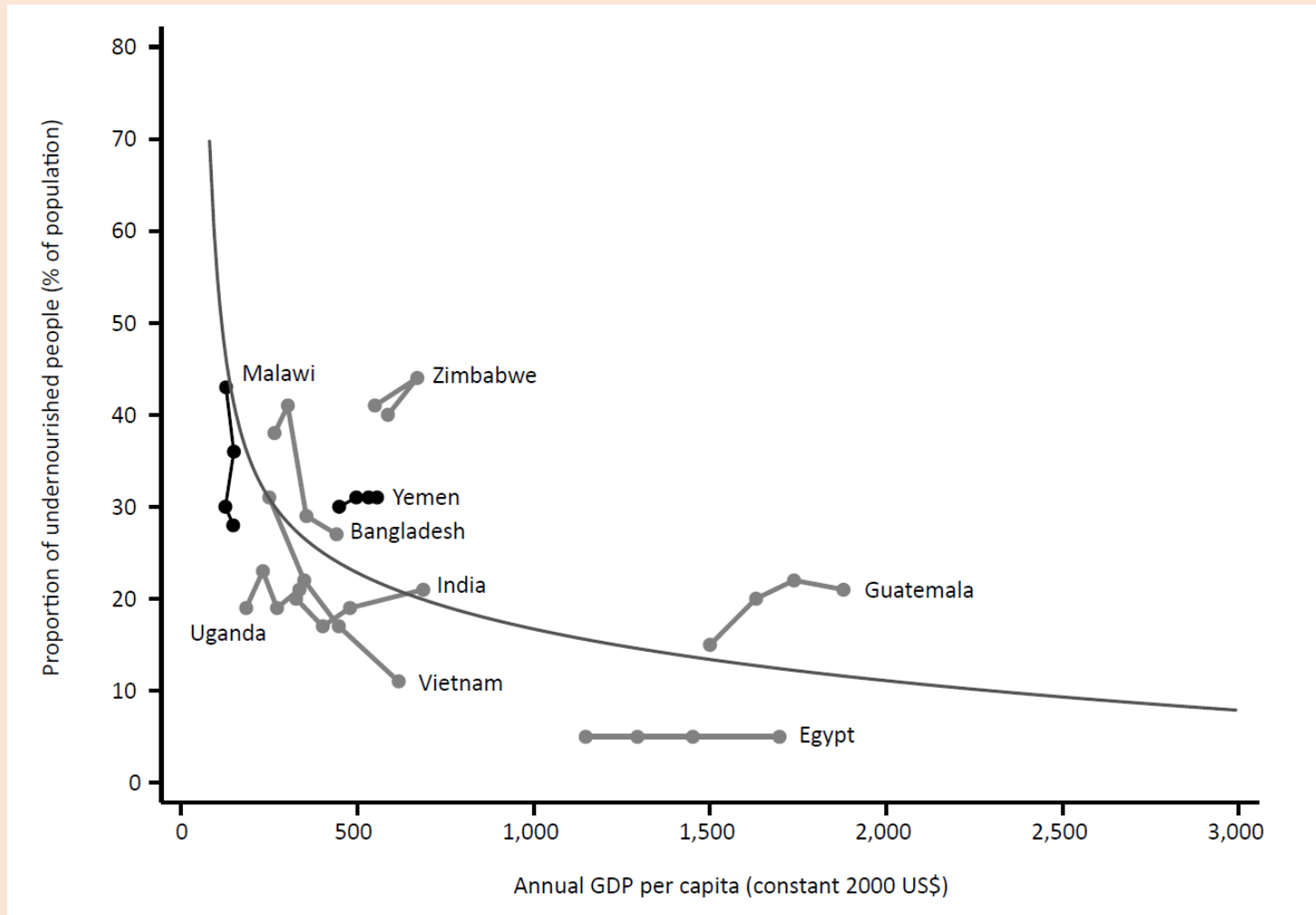
Excerpt from Government of India submission to UPR

“Consistent with the SDGs on sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, India has pledged to achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and to end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations, by 2030.”

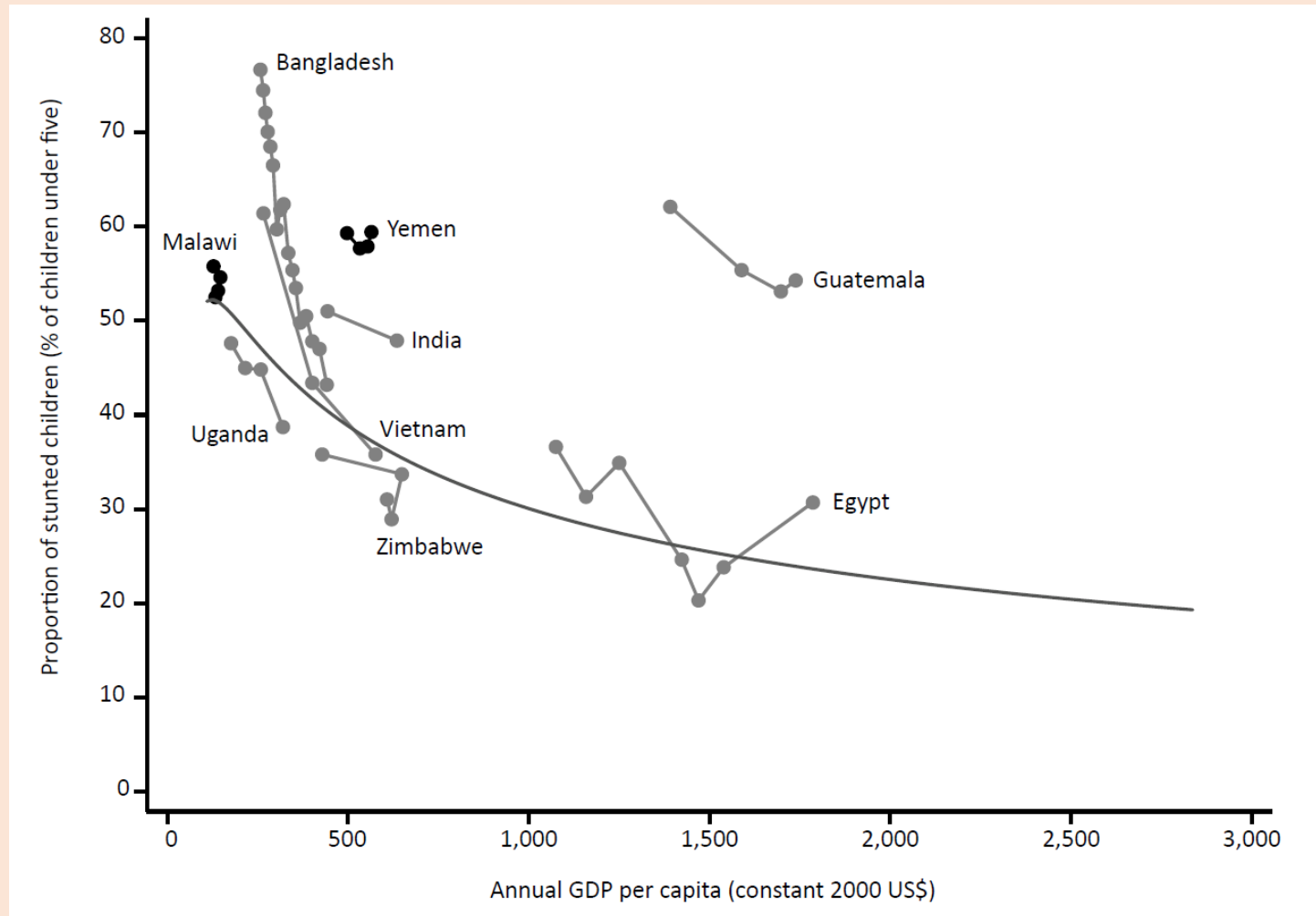
Why is India doing so badly?

- Reliance on income growth
- Lack of access to improved sanitation
- Declining food consumption
- Low status of women
- Son preference
- Inefficiency of food distribution system
- Targeting of ICDS
- Lack of access to complimentary foods for infants
- Underfunded health system

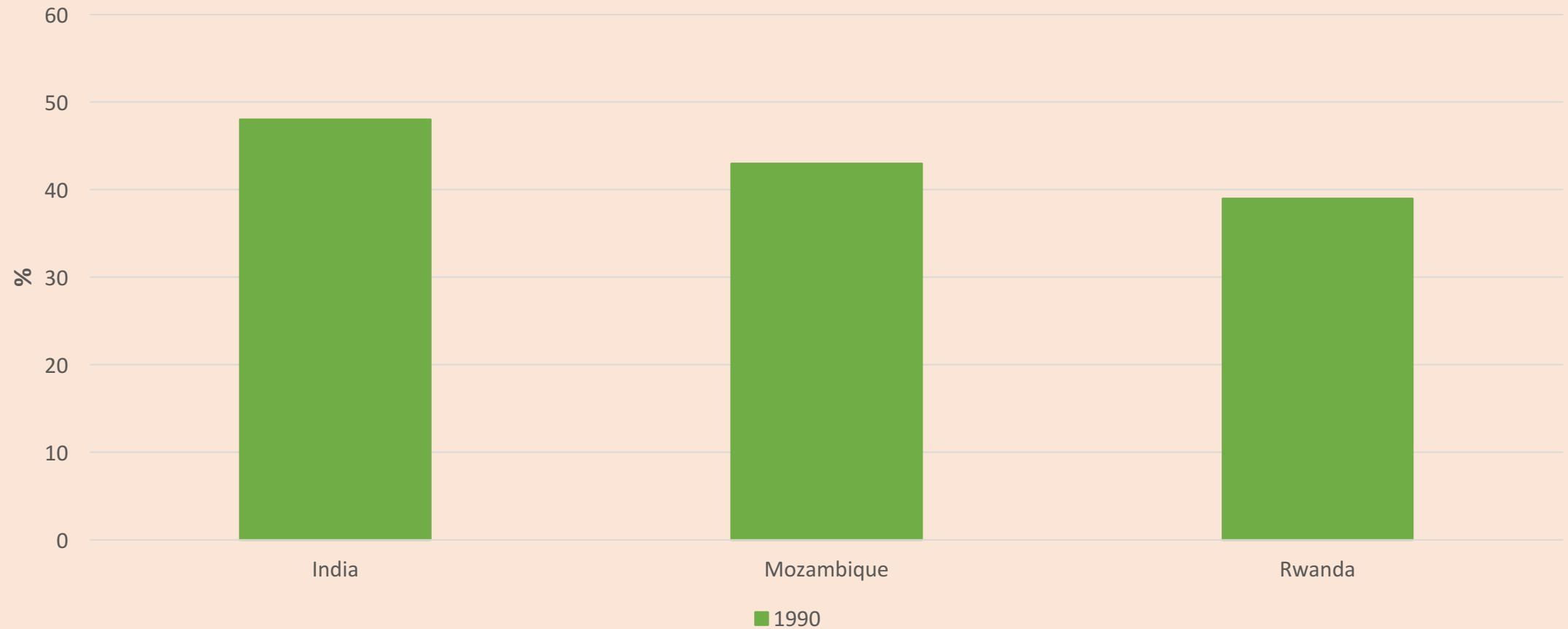
Income growth as a means to reduce undernutrition



Income growth as a means to reduce Stunting



Prevalence of stunting of children under the age of 5, 1990-2014



Proportion of population with access to improved sanitation facilities, 1990-2014

