

Faced with a food and energy crisis, how can society improve its well-being?

Summary

Let us find out first causes of the crisis then how we can solve them. Looking at them, my mind hits first on Africa because it is a continent that is adversely affected. On my point of view, poor leadership is the chief cause of this and unequal distribution of resources. Corruption is prevalent in Africa and when it comes to energy, they lack proper machinery to exploit it, then over reliance on imported goods becomes the option. This is not to say that other continents are not victims. They usually concentrate too much on industries and neglect agricultural sector.

From my observation, I believe that any problem has a solution as long as we are determined to it. Agricultural sector should be emphasized globally and taken seriously. This may be done by introducing agriculture as a subject to all learning institutions and be made compulsory. We know very well that education is the key to success so a society that is not informed can not be in a position to solve any problem that is facing.

However, this is not enough if societies are corrupt and greedy for power. Africa is a major victim of these vices. As I talk at the moment, Kenya is facing food crisis and it is opting for imported goods. Recently, the president announced that his government is going to import maize to reduce this hunger, but my question is, until when will they rely on foreign goods? The election violence that they had in December 2007 elections contributed so much to this food crisis. This is a reflection of poor and bad leadership! Zimbabwe is no exception on this line of bad governance and political greed that has led to even outbreak of cholera and other dangerous diseases. These leaders should be cautioned by the international community and be forced to concentrate on agriculture and injecting more funds into it.

Proper farming practices should be emphasized by every society as much as possible. Large scale farming, small scale farming, market gardening are some of the best farming practices. In dry areas, irrigation takes over together with beekeeping. Honey harvested is a source of food and can be sold for income. About fishing, catching small fish should be avoided at all cost to allow more reproduction and multiplication of bigger fish. Those areas that have observed proper farming practices do not have so much problems with food. In the case of countries with poor climatical conditions like winter, greenhouse is an option on large scale although it may be expensive. This has worked well with American and European countries. Summer and autumn are usually the seasons for farming. This is when food becomes cheaper especially vegetables because they are produced on large quantities. This is to say that we should take advantage of favourable climates to cultivate more land.

Looking at developed countries, they emphasize more on manufacturing industries, like auto industries, constructions and they forget agricultural sector. My appeal to them is to engage more in food cultivation and animal keeping to balance food availability worldwide. What will happen to those third world countries who rely on imported goods if the source is limited? In this case the source are the developed countries. We know very well that if one of the continents is adversely affected, others are most likely to feel the pinch in one way or another. If economy crisis that has hit America is felt throughout the world, why not food crisis?

Third world countries that rely on foreign aid too much should get serious and work. I believe that where there is a will there is a way. Whatever little that they have, they should use it maximumly. Too much reliance on foreign aid is encouraging laziness among such countries hence more food scarcity.

Energy is a major crisis that has affected several countries therefore there is need for a quick solution to it. This is mainly in terms of hydro-electric power energy that facilitates supply of electricity. Electricity supply in most of African homes is a luxury. Despite the fact that these countries have several rivers that they can construct dams, tap water and run turbines to produce this energy, they live on little or no electricity supply. Some of the reasons are that they lack education which is very important for them to acquire skills for exploiting these resources. Therefore the people should get access to education provided by the respective states to minimize illiteracy by all means

. Mismanagement of funds is a core problem where leaders use them for personal gains. So my advice to the international community is to intervene and solve this problem probably by holding corrupts accountable. We can not just sit and watch things go upside down when we have the power to change them to something productive

Climatic conditions play a big role in this debate. Let us look at dry areas where there is no rain fall at all. In deserts, one does not expect to harvest hydro-electric power. Maybe wind and solar energy can be useful in such areas but they can not be enough to those multiple industries. What we can only say is that they substitute other forms of energy, which are applicable to both developed and developing countries.

Oil is a major commodity that has become so scarce both in all continents because the consumers pour every minute. The auto industry is a major victim of this scarcity and as a result, the prices have doubled and are almost unaffordable. What will follow next, bearing in mind that manufacturers of vehicles and other related machines produce them everyday? Business people have taken an advantage of this situation by hoarding the remaining supplies with a motive of doubling prices. Therefore it is the responsibility of the concerned government to crack down these criminals and face the full wrath of the law. In addition, oil wastages should be stopped where spillage is common. However this can not happen if international rules are not set up and be put in practice. In Kenya, oil prices have escalated to a point where people can not bare with. This is a worrying trend in relation to the economy of the country! So who else will come to save this situation if not us as human beings to act? Talk of countries like Somalia and tears roll down the cheeks! All of us have the ability to end these problems Unless we take responsibilities by ourselves and stop blaming each other this situation will even worsen. Yes we can change!

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