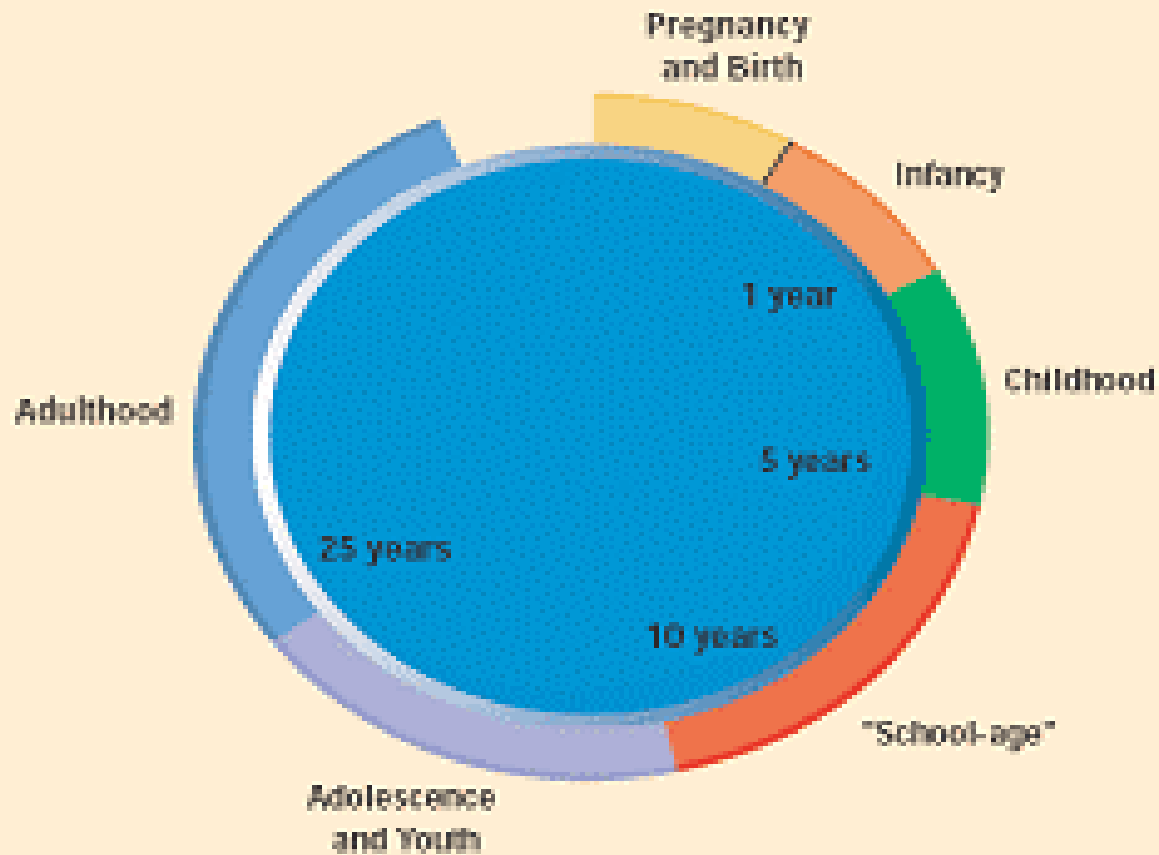


**CHALLENGES IN ADDRESSING  
UNDERNUTRITION IN THE  
YOUNG CHILD**

**RAMA NARAYANAN**

# The Life Cycle Pathway



# IMPACT OF UNDERNUTRITION

- GDP losses > 2.3%
- Eighty percent of brain dev occurs during birth to two years
- Stunting in early years linked to a
  - 4.6 cm loss of ht in adolescence
  - 0.7 grades loss of schooling
  - 7 month delay in starting school

*Source: Repositioning Nutrition, World Bank, 2006*

# GLOBAL TRENDS IN UNDERNUTRITION

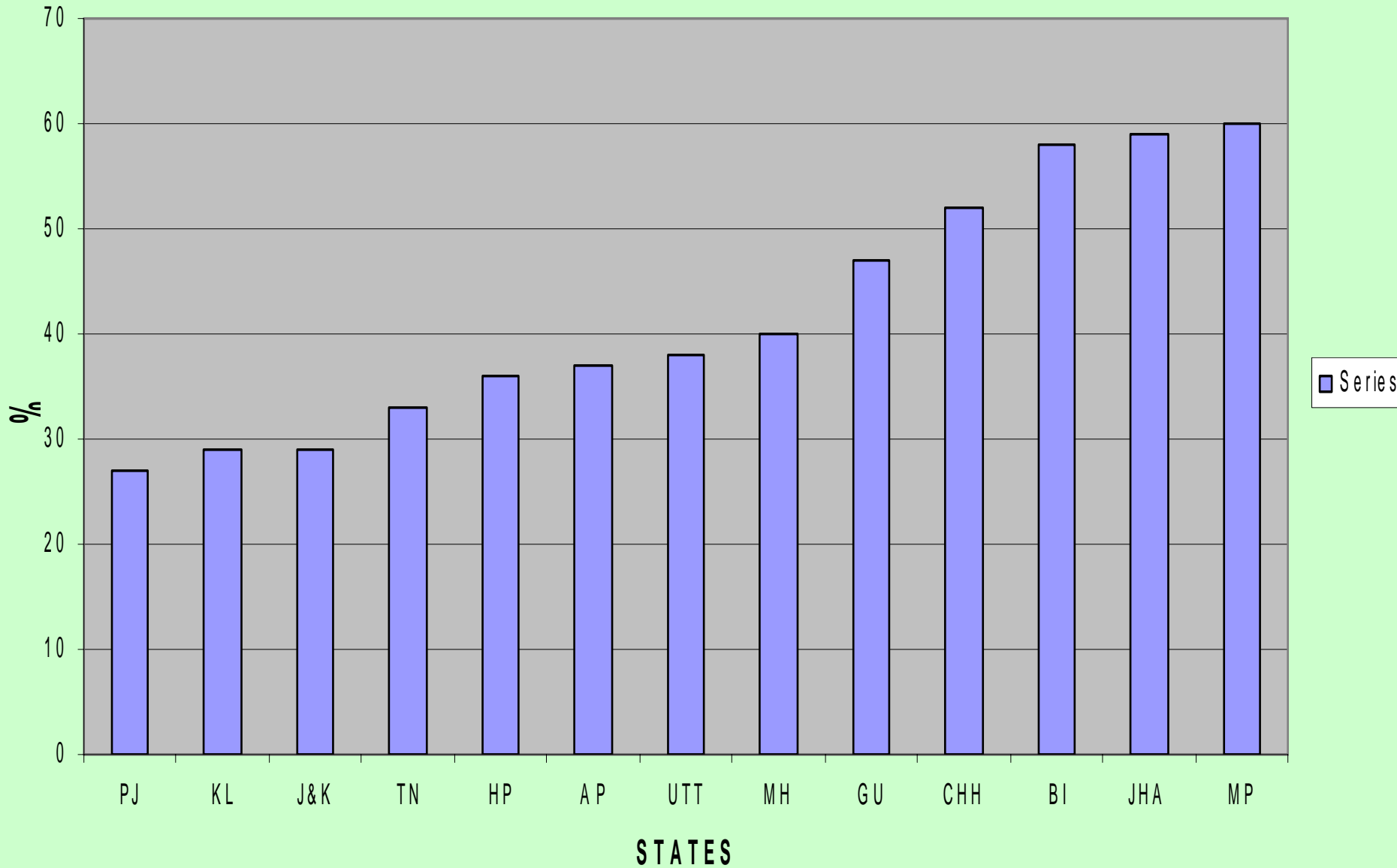
- In Sub Saharan Africa malnutrition is on the rise.  
Malnutrition & HIV/AIDS reinforce each other
- In Asia though decreasing, still highest rates and largest numbers of malnourished children are found.
- Prevalence rates in India, Bangladesh & Pakistan are more than that of Sub-Saharan Africa

# SITUATION IN INDIA

Children < 3 yrs	Urban (%)	Rural (%)	All – India (%)
Stunted	31	41	38
Wasted	17	20	19
Underwt	36	49	46

*Source: NFHS – 3 Factsheet, 2005 - 2006*

# PREVALANCE OF UNDERWEIGHT ACROSS STATES



# TREND IN REDUCTION OF UNDERWEIGHT

STATES	NFHS 2 ('98 –'99) (%)	NFHS 3 ('05 –'06) (%)
Punjab	38	37
Kerala	29	27
Tamil Nadu	37	33
Maharashtra	50	40
Orissa	54	44
Chattisgarh	61	52
Bihar	54	58
M P	54	60

# EXPLORATION OF CAUSAL FACTORS

- States with lowest proportion of undernourished children have better provisioning of health care services and care of newborn
- States which have improved their performance have shown decrease in levels of anaemia among women and children.

# CAUSES CONTINUED

- However anaemia levels continue to be high at 79% for children and 58% for pregnant women
- Widespread domestic violence with physical and sexual abuse ranging from 6% to 59%.
- Nutritional status of mothers continue to be poor.
- Two thirds of married women don't know condoms prevent HIV.

# Ensuring Nutrition Security for Children and Mothers (NNC)

- ✓ The key is reaching out to mothers and children
- ✓ Reaching out to priority groups with imp messages
- ✓ Advocacy for infant and young child feeding
- ✓ Capacity building for service providers
- ✓ Advocating for maternity entitlements & creches
- ✓ To network, communicate, advocate for action