

An Exploration to Livelihood Framework Analysis: Household Economy Approach (HEA)**Johns Tiyndel G.**PG Research Scholar, Department of Agricultural Economics, College of Agriculture,
Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Manipur**SUMMARY**

The Household Economy Approach (HEA) was designed by "Save the Children" to develop a mechanism that could estimate crop failure or other shocks that might affect the availability of food. It is a livelihood analytical framework, not any kind of data collection technique. It was developed for studying how individuals obtain the food and money they require, as well as their assets. For conducting HEA analysis, there are six steps; Livelihood zone, Wealth breakdown, Quantification of livelihood strategies, problem specification, analysis of coping strategy and projected outcome. It was widely used in various fields like agriculture, urban, coastal and refugee camps by countries like India, Bangladesh, Sudan etc. It is a unique and powerful mechanism for analysing livelihoods.

INTRODUCTION

A group of people who spend significant amounts of time residing together, working together to support economically and sharing the food and other benefits that resulted to constitute a Household, whereas the Household economy refers to the total household's sources of income, savings and assets to meet out their food requirements and non-food demands. It is now generally acknowledged that the best way to explain hunger and famine is to consider both the availability of food and the accessibility of enough of it for people. People can go hungry even in wealthy nations when food was widely available if they do not have enough money to purchase it. Considering the facts, the world needs a strategy that should be able to determine the condition and identify potential appropriate interventions to monitor. The primary objective was to develop a mechanism that could predict the anticipated impact of crop failure or other shocks on the supply of food in the future, Thus HEA was formed. Household Economy Approach was abbreviated as 'HEA' and it was designed by the organisation named "Save the Children" and coordinated with the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) & Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) in the year between 1992 and 1997.

The Household Economy Approach is a framework for analysing the livelihoods of people that focuses on how people attain access to resources that are required to live and succeed. It assists in identifying effective measures of support, whether short-term critical measures, longer-term development programmes, or economic reform, as well as people's demands for food and income. It studies how individuals in various situations obtain the food and money they require, as well as their assets, the opportunities and limitations that are available to them and the solutions that are available to them in times of hardship. It includes evaluating the relationships between various groups and geographical regions to give an impression of how resources are allocated within a group and who benefits from whom. HEA is an analytical framework for analysis, not a method of collecting data. It outlines the data that must be collected and how it must be analysed to respond to a certain set of questions.

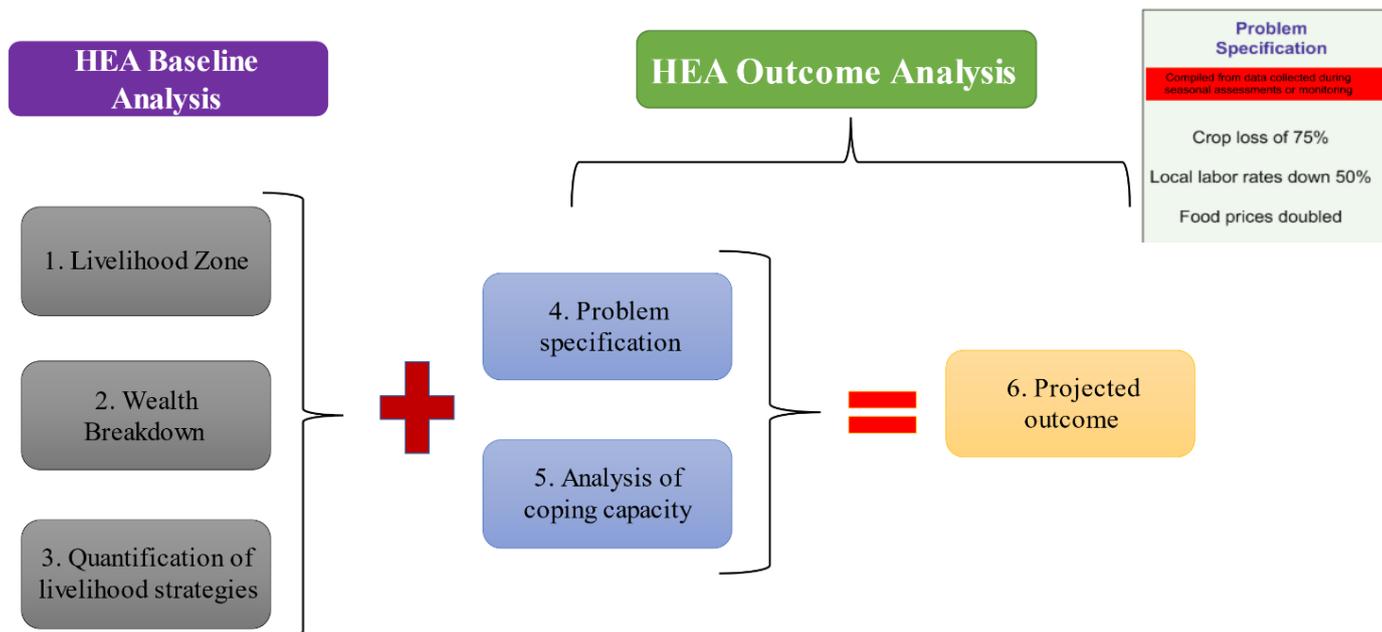
Origin of HEA framework

- Early in the 1990s, Save the Children developed the tool 'Household Economy Approach (HEA)'.
- It arose as a method of predicting famine.
- The transition from the famine prediction method in thinking was driven largely by ideas brought forth by Amartya Sen.
- Further developed in response to famines to enhance food security and livelihood analyses
- Furthermore, over the past fifteen years, different approaches and technologies have been established to support and enhance
- Later adopted by numerous institutions and partners, including FAO, IPC, FEWS NET etc.
- It is currently in use in about 50 nations in various fields of study.

Steps for conducting HEA – Analytical Framework:

There are six steps in conducting HEA which is broadly subclassified into two main components as HEA baseline analysis and HEA outcome analysis as shown in fig 1. The details are as follows

Fig 1. Schematic representation of steps in conducting HEA analytical tools



HEA Baseline Analysis

The Baseline analysis of HEA explains how people live from year to year and the relationships they have with other places and people. It has three steps livelihood zone, wealth breakdown and quantification of livelihood strategies

Livelihood Zone:

The identification of geographic regions where people live in largely similar ways. It lays a foundation for a sampling frame on sources of survival, authorises aid to be targeted regionally, and facilitates the customization of monitoring indicators.



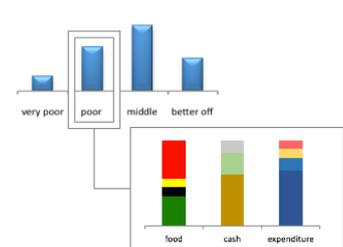
Wealth Breakdown:

The categorization of humans based on regional perceptions of wealth and the valuation of assets. This demonstrates how households differ in their responsiveness to shocks and afford estimations of the impacted population.



Quantification of Livelihood strategies:

The segmentation and estimation of people's food sources, sources of income, and patterns of income and expenditure using a common currency help to compare different wealth levels and areas of livelihood, which makes it easier to prioritise resources.



HEA Outcome Analysis

The "Outcome Analysis" evaluates how a particular threat or beneficial variation can alter the baseline ability to aid food and money. It has three steps problem specification, analysis of coping strategy and projected outcome

Problem specification:

The transformation of a threat or other shocks into economic consequences at the household level. It establishes a quantitative connection between the shock or the beneficial change and each essential livelihood option.

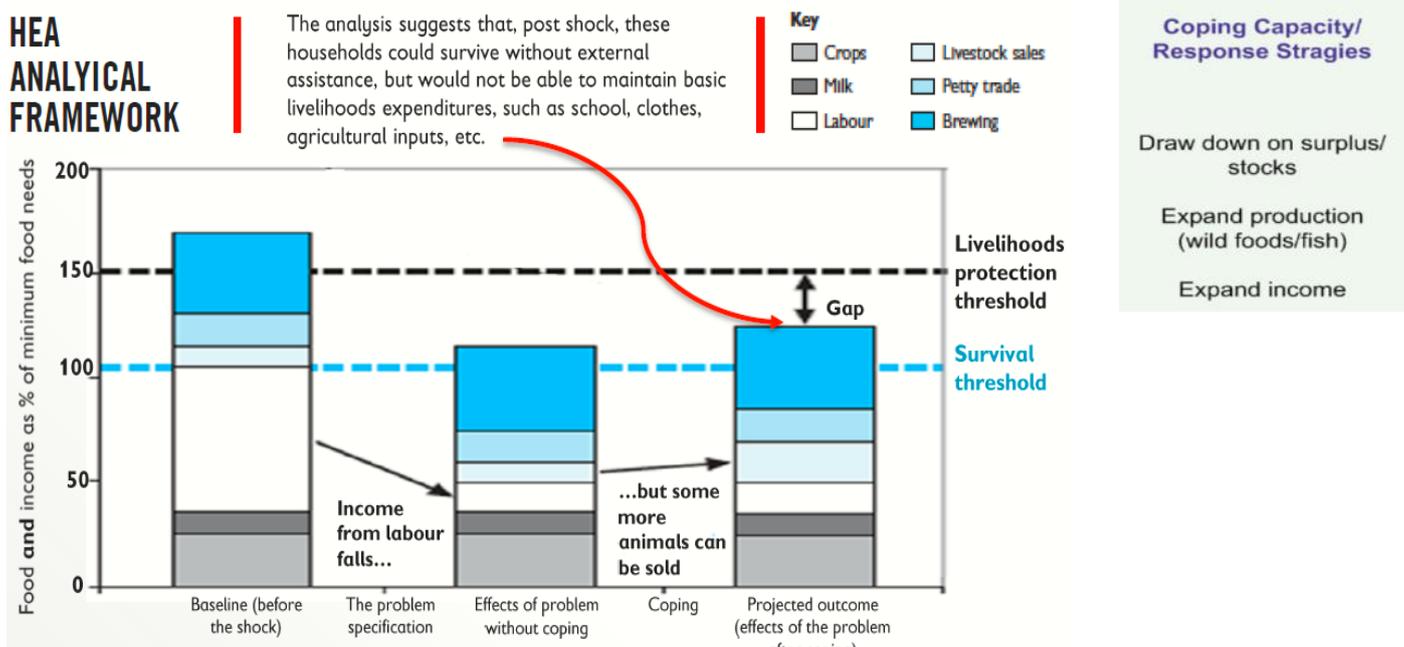
Analysis of coping strategy:

Analysis of coping capability looks at how households can react to a threat. It aids in understanding how to assist those in need and encourage their initiatives before households turn to harmful methods.

Projected outcome

It needs to take into account how well households will be able to: meet their essential demands for survival (the survival threshold); and retain their important sources of income (livelihoods protection threshold). When aid is required to help people survive or protect their way of life, Further, it simulates the possible advantages of suggested policies or activities.

HEA ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK



HEA was used in the following fields in which the countries adopting effectively

Sl. No	Field of study	Countries
1	Agricultural	India, Pakistan, Burma, Liberia, Bangladesh Cambodia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Sudan and Myanmar.
2	Agro - pastoralist	Somalia, Somaliland, Sudan, Ethiopia, Angola, Kenya and Burkina Faso
3	Urban	Serbia. Montenegro, Kosovo, Palestinian, Angola, and Zimbabwe
4	Costal (Fishing community)	India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Somalia
5	Refugee camps	Kenya, Bangladesh, Sudan, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Chad and Uganda
6	Internally displaced persons (IDPs)	Burundi, Southern Sudan, Somalia, Khartoum, Liberia, Ingushetia.

Advantages of HEA

- It is more inexpensive, faster and less time-consuming than carrying out a conventional quantitative survey on food security and livelihoods.
- It estimates the demands of households now and in the future needs by taking into account present or anticipated changes in livelihood strategies.
- There are hundreds of baseline HEA livelihood studies were available to inform early warning systems and project planning.
- Once the HEA baseline was established, it could be used for the next 10 to 15 years.
- It estimates valid results for large populations

CONCLUSION

As the majority of people in our country live in rural areas and struggle to meet their basic livelihoods needs. Developing countries like India should adopt a policy to control poverty, famine, malnutrition and other threats causing insufficiency meeting sources of food. To fulfilling, HEA would be more helpful in the assessment. The concept of HEA has formed as like one of the livelihood frameworks that understanding people's usual economies are important for evaluating how threats will affect households and for developing interventions that will help pre-existing survival strategies. It is an analytical framework that specifies the data that must be obtained and examined to respond to a defined set of questions. It is a specific method for estimating needs, identifying and analysing the households with the best economic hardship, and measuring and forecasting demands.

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