



Poverty and Alleviation of Poverty In India

Dr. M. Padmaja

Assistant Professor, Specialization in Social Anthropology, Centre for Southeast Asia & Pacific Studies, Sri Venkateswara University Tirupati-517502

M. Surendra

Research Scholar, Dept. of Anthropology, Centre for Southeast Asian & Pacific Studies, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati-517502,

ABSTRACT

Poverty in India is defined on the basis of consumption of calories required for an individual to survive, along with certain other basic costs like healthcare, educations etc. The Rangarajan Committee was set up to review for estimating poverty. The report also indicates that in Southern Asia, only India is on track to cut poverty by half by the 2015 target date. The present paper is based on secondary data. The paper focuses its attention on causes of poverty and to eradicate poverty through Govt. Welfare schemes.

KEYWORDS : Poverty, Rangarajan Committee, Health care, Eradication. Welfare schemes

Introduction:

The national rural poverty line of Task Force (Alagh) was disaggregated into state-specific poverty line using inter-state price differentials measured by Fisher's Index (**Report of the Expert Group to Review the 2014, p.12**). In 1999-2000, the poverty line in rural areas was fixed at Rs. 328 per month and in urban areas it was Rs. 454. When persons living in rural areas require more calories than that required by persons living in urban areas.

“How to Know Whether a Family is Below or Above Poverty Line?”

Suppose for example a family is living in rural area and comprises 4 members. Assume that your family's expenditure is Rs. 1800 per month. The per capita per month consumption expenditure of your family will be $Rs. 1800 \div 4 = Rs. 450$ which is above the rural poverty line amount, i.e. Rs. 328. Your family is thus considered above poverty line (APL) family. It means that your family is not poverty-ridden. (**Padmaja, M, 2011, Pp. 97-98**).

Objectives of the Study:

- To explain in detail about the causes of poverty
- To bring out the Govt. Schemes in clear cut manner
- How to eradicate poverty.

The Planning Commission released estimates of poverty for 1993-94 and 2004-05 derived from the Expert Group (Tendukar) method in January 2011. Subsequently, based on the same methodology, the poverty ratio for 2009-10 and 2011-12 were derived by the planning Commission in March 2012 and July 2013 respectively.

Table 1: Percentage and Number of Poor Estimated from Expert Group (Tendulkar) Methodology

S.no	Year	Poverty Ratio%			Number of Poor (million)		
		Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
1	1993-94	50.1	31.8	45.3	328.6	74.5	403.7
2	2004-05	41.8	25.7	37.2	326.3	80.8	407.1
3	2009-10	33.8	20.9	29.8	278.2	76.5	354.7
4	2011-12	25.7	13.7	21.9	216.7	53.1	269.8

Source: Report of the Expert Group to Review the Methodology for Measurement of Poverty”, Govt. of India planning commission, June 2014, p.12

Table 2:

Caste	Percentage	No. of People
FC	30.8%	393M
OBC	41.1%	524M
SC	8.5%	108M
ST	19.7%	251M

Poverty in India based on caste.

Table 3:

Caste	Percentage of Poverty	No. of People
FC	12.5%	49.1M
OBC	20.7%	108.5M
SC	29.4%	31M
ST	43.0%	108.1M

Reservations provided under Indian Constitution SC 15% ST 7.5%, OBC 27%

From the above statistics the No. of people of “FC” caste below Poverty is very high when compared to “SC”. Even though the No. of “OBC” and “ST” is also high but as the reservation is provided the number may reduce in coming years, it may decrease for “SC” as well, what about “FC”. Percentage of people below poverty decreases every decade but No. of people increases as population increases.

Causes of Poverty are given below:

Climatic factors: Climatic conditions constitute an important cause of poverty. Frequent flood, famine, psunami, earthquake and cyclone cause heavy damage to agriculture. Moreover, absence of timely rain, excessive or deficient rain affect severely country's agricultural production.

Demographic factors: Rapid growth of population aggravates the poverty of the people. The growth of population exceeds the rate of growth in national income. Population growth not only creates difficulties in the removal of poverty but also lowers the per capita income which tends to increase poverty.

Low agricultural productivity: So far as agricultural sector is concerned, the farmers even today are following the traditional method of cultivation. Hence there is low agricultural productivity resulting in rural poverty. While services and industry have grown at double-digit

figures, agriculture growth rate has dropped from 4.8% to 2%.

Lack of employment opportunities: Unemployment is the reflection of poverty. Because of lack of employment opportunities, people remain either unemployed or underemployed. Most of these unemployed and underemployed workers are the small and marginal farmers and the landless agricultural labourers.

Education: Education is an agent of social change and egalitarianism. Poor people cannot afford money on higher education. They always think to meet the basic needs. The government cannot help all the poor.

Social Customs: The ruralites spend a large percentage of annual earnings on social ceremonies like marriage, death feast etc. As a result, they remain in debt and poverty.

Indebtedness: In the rural sector most of the ruralites depend on borrowings from the money-lenders and land-lords to meet even their consumption expenses. Moneylenders, however, exploit the poor by charging exorbitant rates of interest and by acquiring the mortgaged land in the event of non-payment of loans.

Poverty Ratio for Eligibility and Entitlements under poverty alleviation programmes:

Ministry of Rural Development (India): The Ministry of Rural Development, a branch of the Government of India, is entrusted with the task of accelerating the socio-economic development of rural India. Its focus is on health, education, drinking water, housing and roads. Shri Chaudhary Birender Singh was made the Minister of Rural Development, Minister of Panchayati Raj, Minister of Drinking Water and Sanitation after NDA came to power in May 2014.

National Food Security Scheme: On the pattern of MNRGS, the central government is trying hard to bring a bill in the monsoon session (2013) to provide guarantee for food to the poor people, although it has already issued an ordinance in this regard.

The Indian government's definition of poverty in 2009 was questioned by United Nation's World Food Programme. It wondered if 11 kilograms of grains per month per person (24 lbs) is sufficient (**Sinha, Kounteya (27 February 2009)**). The political debate that followed launched India's National Food Security Act, 2013, that guarantees food grains at very low costs to 820 million of the poorest Indians (**The National Food Security Act, 2013**).

Reduction in Poverty Alleviation:

The World Bank's Global Monitoring Report for 2014-15 on the Millennium Development Goals says India has been the biggest contributor to poverty reduction between 2008 and 2011, with around 140 million or so lifted out of absolute poverty. One of the main reasons for record decline in Poverty is India's rapid economic growth rate since 1991. Another reason proposed is India's launch of social welfare programs such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and Midday Meal Scheme in Government Schools Klonner and Oldiges, in a 2012 study, conclude that MGNREGA helps reduce rural poverty gap (intensity of rural poverty), seasonal poverty, but not overall poverty (**Klonner and Oldiges, 2012**).

Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) and Swarnajayanti Shahar Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY):

These schemes are aimed at the welfare of the educated unemployed in urban areas. The aim of these schemes is to provide self-employment to the educated unemployed particularly in the urban areas. All the educated unemployed in the age group of 18 to 35 are expected to benefit from these schemes. Persons belonging to weaker sections

are given priority.

Training Rural Youths for Self-Employment (TRYSEM): This scheme was launched in 1979 to provide technical skills (training) to rural youths (between 18-35 years) living below the poverty line, to enable them to seek employment in fields of agriculture, industry, services and business activities.

Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY): This programme was announced in June 2009 with an objective to make the country slum-free.

National Rural Health Mission: It was launched to make basic health care facilities accessible to the rural people.

National Rural Livelihood Mission: It is meant to eradicate poverty by 2014-15.

DWCRA Self-help Group: This scheme reduced poverty and enhanced and employed women status. This finance meet the needs of the family members for education need & Home construction for Health purpose Rjiv Arogya also helped a lot.

Infant Healthcare Services (NIPI): Support to Improving Administrative Efficiency for Delivering Newborn and Infant Healthcare Services (NIPI) (2013-2017) The project launched in 2013 as part of Phase II of the Norway India Partnership Initiative (NIPI) aims to reduce neonatal and infant mortality by strengthening capacities and improving access and utilization of public health services. It also seeks to accelerate the efforts of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) to improve the availability and access of people to quality health care, especially those residing in rural areas, women and children.

National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS): As the name suggests this scheme provided pension to old people who were above the age of 65 ('Now 60') who could not fend for themselves and did not have any means of subsistence. The pension that was given was Rs 200 a month. This pension is given by the central government. The job of implementation of this scheme in states and union territories is given to panchayats and municipalities. The states contribution may vary depending on the state. The amount of old age pension is Rs. 200 per month for applicants aged 60-79. For applicants aged above 80 years, the amount has been revised in Rs. 500 a month according to the (2011-2012) Budget.

Narendra Modi Government focuses on poverty elimination, that is "Rurban providing urban amenities to rural areas while preserving the ethos of villages was also underscored. Farmers concerned about failure of crops can breathe easy with the government thinking of providing crop insurance. The government indicated that it would invest more in developing agro-infrastructure and technology. The Modi government also dwelt on its commitment to the safety and rights of women ((**Narendra Modi, <http://articles.economictimes>**)).

Conclusion:

Many committees like Rangarajan and expert groups have taken steps to alleviate poverty and calculated the BPL list. National Food Security Scheme, Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Schemes, Pension scheme DWCRA, SHG'S, Mid-day meals, Primary Rozgar Yojana, Rajive Awas Yojana of rural youth for self employment have 3/4th successful reached. At present BJP Govt. conditions Swacha Bharat Program along with this Rurban amenities in rural areas many schemes are also implemented we hope 100% success then all the lives of poor look ever green for ever

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