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"REFORMS, INCIDENCE OF POVERTY AND EMPLOYMENT IN INDIA"

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ABSTRACT

India is a democracy country. Poverty can be defined as a social phenomenon in which a section of the society is unable to fulfill even its basic necessities of life. There area all society are conditioned by the vision of minimum or good life obtaining in society. There is an effort in all definition of poverty to approach the average level of living in a society. India the generally accepted definition of poverty emphasis minimum level of living rather than a reasonable level of living this attitude is borne out of a realization that it would not be possible to provide even a minimum quantum of basic need for some decades and therefore. The poverty line is based on nutritional norm of per capital daily intake of 2400 calories in rural areas and 2100 calories for urban areas. sample surveyor household consumer expenditure conducted by the national survey organization the uniform recall period poverty ratio of 28.3 percent in rural areas 25.7 percent in Urban area and 27.5 percent for the country as a whole in 2004-05. The corresponding poverty ratio from the mixed recall period consumption distribution data are 21.8percent for rural areas, 27.7 percent for Urban areas and 21.8 percent for country as a whole. The average per capital consumption expenditure for rural and Urban population as per 2004-05 is Rs.558.78 and Rs.1.052.36 respectively. It is observed that reporting of inadequate food has also come down between 1993-94 and 2004-05 with 1.9 percent household reporting inadequate food availability. For the country as a whole in 2004-05. However most of the poor would be concentrated in six states - Bihar, Madhyapradesh, Orissa, Uttarprades, West Bangal and Maharashtra these six states would have 164 million poor (75%) in 2006-07. As against them Haryana. Punjab, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Goa and Delhi are likely to register legible level of poverty (2%) by 2006-07.

In the meantime the Eleven Five year plan has largely used the current daily status basis of estimation of employment and unemployment in the country. 47 million work opportunities were created compared only 24 million in the period between 1993-94 and 1999-2000 to 8.28 percent in 2004-05. The share of agriculture in total employment dropped from 61 percent to 57 percent. In urban India in 2004-05 trade hotel and restaurant sector has engaged about 28 percent of the male workers while manufacturing and other services sector accounted for nearly 24 and 21 percent respectively of the usually employed males. Agriculture sector is projected to generate no increase in employment during the Eleventh plan period. Employment in manufacturing is expected to grow at 4 percent while construction and transport and communication are expected to grow at 8.2 percent and 7.6 percent respectively. The projected increase in total labour force during the Eleventh plan is 45 million.

Keywords :

Introduction

Poverty can be defined as a social phenomenon in which a section of the society is unable to fulfill even its basic necessities of life. When a substantial segment of a society is deprived of the minimum level of living and continues at a bare subsistence level, that society is said to be plagued with mass poverty. Attempts have been made in all societies to define poverty, but all of them are conditioned by the vision of minimum or good life obtaining in society. For instance, the concept of poverty in the U.S.A. would be significantly different from that in India because the average person is able to afford a much higher level of living in the United States. There is an effort in all definitions of poverty to approach the average level of living in a society and such these definitions reflect the existence of inequalities in a society and the extent to which different societies are prepared to tolerate them. For instance, in India, the generally accepted definition of poverty emphasis minimum level of living rather than a reasonable level of living. This attitude is borne out of a realization that it would not be possible to provide even a minimum quantum of basic needs for some decades and therefore, to talk about a reasonable level of living or good life may appear to be wishful thinking at the present stage.

"No types of standards are common in economic literature: the absolute and the relative. In the absolute standard, minimum physical quantities of cereals, pulse, milk, butter etc are

determined for a subsistence level and then the price quotations convert into monetary terms the physical quantities.

Definition:

1. Mr. P.D.Ojha : Estimated the number of person below the poverty line on the basis of an average calories intake of 2,250 per capital per day. This entailed monthly per capita consumption expenditure of Rs.15-18(1960-61 prices) in urban areas and of Rs.8-11 in rural areas.
2. Dr. V.M.Dandekar and Mr. Nilkantha Rath : Estimated the value of the diet with 2,250 calories as the desired minimum level of nutrition. They suggested that whereas the planning commission accepts Rs.20 per capital per month (or Rs.240 per annum.)
3. Gaurav Datt: The world bank has made a study of poverty in India for the period 1951-1992 using NSS data. The poverty line is based on nutritional norm of per capital daily intake of 2500 calories in rural areas and 2100 calories for urban areas.
4. International poverty line: An international monetary threshold under which an individual is considered to be living in poverty. It is calculated by taking the poverty threshold from each country - given the value of the goods needed to sustain one adult - and converting it to dollars. The international poverty line was originally set to roughly \$1 a day. When purchasing power parity and all goods consumed are considered in the calculation

of the line, it allows organizations to determine which populations are considered to be in absolute poverty.

• **Poverty and inclusive growth:**

Incidence of poverty is estimated by the planning commission on the basis of quinquennial large sample. Sample surveys on house hold consumer expenditure conducted by the National sample survey organization (NSSO). The Uniform Recall Period (URP) consumption distribution data of NSS 61st Round Yields a poverty ratio of 28.3 percent in rural areas 25.7 percent in Urban areas and 27.5 percent for the country as a whole in 2004-05. The corresponding poverty ratio from the mixed recall period (MRP) consumption distribution data are 21.8 percent for rural areas, 27.7 percent for Urban areas and 21.8 percent for country as a whole. While the former consumption data uses 30 day recall period for all items, namely, clothing, footwear, durable goods, education and institutional medical expenses and 30 days reference period for remaining items. The percentage of poor in 2004-05 estimated from URP consumption distribution of NSS 61st round of consumer expenditure data are comparable with the poverty estimates of 1993-94 (50th round) which was 36 percent for the country as a whole. The percentage of poor in 2004-05 estimated from MRP consumption distribution of NSS 61st round of consumer expenditure data are roughly comparable with the poverty estimates of 1999-2000 (55th Round) with was 26.1 percent for the country as a whole.

• **Consumption patterns below and above poverty line**

There are concerns about vulnerability of people who have crossed the poverty line and are at present above it. Vulnerability is a relative term and could be gauged from the consumption patterns.

Table – 1
Poverty Ratio by URP and MRP (percent)
Uniform Recall Period

Sr.No.	Category	Year 1993-94	Year 2004-05
1	Rural	37.3	28.3
2	Urban	32.4	25.7
3	All India	36.0	27.5
Mixed Recall Period (MRP)			
4	Rural	27.1	21.8
5	Urban	23.6	21.7
6	All India	26.1	21.8

Source: Planning Commission

Given meager resources, higher share of expenditure on food

Table - 2

Employment and Unemployment in Million person year (by CDS basis Growth P.a.%)

	Million 1993	Million 1993-94	Million 1994-95	Million 1995-96	1983 to 1993-94	1993-94 1999-00	1999 to 2004-05
Population	718.10	893.68	1005.05	1092.83	2.11	1.98	1.69
Labour force	263.82	334.20	364.88	419.65	2.28	1.47	2.34
Work force	239.49	313.93	338.19	384.91	2.61	1.25	2.62
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	9.22	6.06	7.31	8.28			
No. of unemployed	24.34	20.27	26.68	34.74			

Source : Various round of NSSO survey on employment and unemployment/planning commission.

Employment growth accelerated from 1.25 percent per annum to 2.62 percent per annum. However, since the labour force grew at a faster rate of 2.84 percent than the work force, unemployment rate also rose. The incidence of unemployment on CDS basis increased from 7.31 percent in 1999-2000 to 8.28 percent in 2004-05.

The decline in over all growth of employment during 1993-94 to 1999-2000 was largely due to the lower absorption in agriculture. The share of agriculture in total employment dropped from 61 percent to 57 percent. This trend continued and the share of agriculture in total employment further dropped to 52 percent in 2004-05. While the manufacturing sector's share increased marginally during this period trade, hotel and restaurant sector constituted significantly higher to the over all employment the in earlier yerars. The other important sectors whose shares in employment have increased are transport storage and communications apart from

items, which indicative of vulnerability to some extent. The average per capital consumption expenditure for rural and urban population as per 2004-05 is Rs.558.78 and Rs.1,052.36 respectively. NSSO data also reveals that rural population on an average spends about 55 percent of its consumption on food and remaining 45 percent on non-food items.

• **Food Availability and Hunger :**

On he basis of NSSO data for various rounds. It is observed that reporting of inadequate food has also come down between 1993-94 and 2004-05 with 1.9 percent households reporting inadequate food availability for the country as a whole in 2004-05 as against 4.2 percent household in 1993-94. Of these 1.6 percent households reported inadequate food for some months while 0.3 percent reported inadequate food for all months. Further rural households accounted for a predominant share of inadequate food availability.

Poverty alleviation and employment generation programmes

Poverty reduction has been an important goal of development policy since the inception of planning in India. Various anti-poverty, employment generation and basic services programmes are being implemented at present. The on going reforms attach great importance to removal of poverty and addressing specifically the wide variations across states at the rural urban divide.

• **Employment**

Last year economical survey had given estimates of employment and unemployment on usual principal status (UPS) basis from various round of NSSO survey. In the eleventh five year plan has largely used the current daily status (CDS) basis of estimation of employment and unemployment in the country. It has also been observed that the estimates based on daily status in the most inclusive rate of unemployment giving the average level of unemployment on a day during the survey year. It captures the unemployed days of the chronically unemployed, the unemployed day of usually employed who become intermittently unemployed during the reference week and un employed days of those classified as employed according to the criterion of current weekly status. The estimates presented earlier also need revisiting so as to be based on population projections released by national commission on population. Estimates on employment and unemployment on CDS basis indicate that employment growth during 199-2000 to 2004-05 has accelerated significantly as compared to the growth witnessed during 1993-94 to 199-2000. During 1999-2000 to 2004-05, about 47 million work opportunities were created compared to only 24 million in the period between 1993-94 and 1999-2000.

financial, insurance, real estate, business and community social and personal services.

Table - 3
Sectoral Employment shares by current daily status

Industry	1983	1993-94	1999-2000	2004-05
Agriculture	65.42	61.03	56.64	52.06
Mining & Quarrying	0.66	0.78	0.64	0.63
Manufacturing	11.27	11.10	12.13	12.90
Electricity water etc.	0.34	0.41	0.34	0.35
Construction	2.56	3.63	4.44	5.57
Trade, hotel and restaurant	6.98	8.26	11.20	12.62
Transport, storage & communication	2.88	3.22	4.06	4.61
Financial, insurance real estate & business services	0.78	1.08	1.36	2.00
Community social & personal services	7.10	10.50	9.16	9.24
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source : Various round of NSSO survey on employment and unemployment / planning commission.

Labour force a workforce participation rates:

Male participate on remained higher both in labour and work force, throughout the period between 1983 and 2004-05. Female participation percent in rural areas was much higher than in Urban areas. Urban male participation rates were higher than rural male participation in 1999-2000 and 2004-05.

Table - 4
Labour force and work force participation rates
Labour Force participation rates year

Sr.No.	Category	1983	1993-94	1999-2000	2004-05
1	Rural Male	52.7	53.4	51.5	53.1
2	Rural Female	21.9	23.2	22.0	23.7

3	Urban Male	52.7	53.2	52.8	56.1
4	Urban Female	12.1	13.2	12.3	15.0
Work Force Participation Rates - WFPR					
4	Rural Male	48.2	50.4	47.8	48.8
5	Rural Female	19.8	21.9	20.4	21.6
6	Urban Male	47.3	49.6	49.0	51.9
	Urban Female	10.6	12.0	11.1	13.3

Source : Various round of NSSO survey on employment and unemployment/planning commission.

In Uran India in 2004-05 Trade hotel and restaurant sector had engaged about 28 percent of the male workers while manufacturing and other services sector accounted for nearly 24 and 21 percent respectively of the usually employed males. On the other hand for urban females services sector accounted for the higher proportion 36 percent of the total usually employed followed by manufacturing 28 percent and agriculture 18 percent. Work opportunities for women in urban services and manufacturing sector probably exist but there is need for facilitating and improving their WPP through better education, skill development and removal of gender associated hurdles like lack of creches etc.

Employment in the Eleventh Plan :

The Eleven plan envisages rapid growth in employment opportunities while ensuring improvement in the quality of employment. It recognizes the need to increase the share of regular employees in total employment and a corresponding reduction in casual employment. The employment generation strategy of the eleventh plan is also predicated on other education of under employment and the movement of surplus labour in Agriculture sector to higher wage and more gainful employment in non agriculture sector. Agriculture sector is projected to generate no increase in employment during the Eleventh plan period. Employment in manufacturing is expected to grow at 4 percent while construction and transport and communication are expected to grow at 8.2 percent and 7.6 percent respectively. The projected increase in total labour force during the eleventh plan is 45 million. As against this 58 million employment opportunities would be created in the eleventh plan. This would be greater than the projected increase in labour force leading to a reduction in the unemployment rate to below 5 percent.

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