



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ADVANCE RESEARCH, IDEAS AND INNOVATIONS IN TECHNOLOGY

ISSN: 2454-132X

Impact Factor: 6.078

(Volume 9, Issue 5 - V9I5-1157)

Available online at: <https://www.ijariit.com>

The Plight of People below The Poverty Line in India

Aleya Masand

aleya.masand7@gmail.com

Bombay Scottish School, Mumbai, Maharashtra

Samara Masand

samara.masand27@gmail.com

Bombay Scottish School, Mumbai, Maharashtra

ABSTRACT

One of India's most pressing societal problems is poverty. A sizable portion of the Indian population is impacted. Due to the recession brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of impoverished people in India has more than doubled from 60 million to 134 million in only one year. As a result, India has once again returned to the category of "country of mass poverty" after 45 years. The negative effects of poverty on our country's children include subpar housing, homelessness, poor nutrition and food security, inadequate child care, a lack of access to health care, hazardous neighbourhoods, and underfunded schools. It is a must to take prompt, appropriate action to address the issue of poverty. Farmers should be provided with enough amenities that they can make farming viable and avoid moving to cities in search of work. People who lack literacy should be provided with the necessary training so they may earn their living. Family planning should be practised to stop the population from growing. Additionally, steps should be taken to eradicate corruption so that we can address the wealth disparity. The issue of poverty affects the entire country, not just one individual. For India's people, society and economy to thrive sustainably and inclusively, poverty must be eradicated.

Keywords: *Absolute Poverty, Relative Poverty, Urban Poverty, Cyclical Poverty, Chronic Poverty, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), Dalit, Livelihood, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), Indebtedness, Rag Pickers, Beggars, Push-Cart Vendors, Street Cobble, Zamindari System, Global Hunger Index, Multidimensional Poverty Index, World Health Organisation (WHO).*

Objectives

The objectives of this study are

- To study about the poverty line and the poverty estimates in India
- To understand the various categories of poor people
- To analyse different poverty alleviation schemes in India
- To evaluate the sufferings of poor people

1. INTRODUCTION

Poverty signifies the insufficiency of adequate financial means, leading individuals, households, and entire communities to lack the resources needed for a basic life. This entails being extremely destitute, struggling to attain fundamental essentials like sustenance, attire, housing, and medical supplies. As per the World Bank, poverty denotes severe deprivation in overall well-being, encompassing multiple aspects. It involves meagre incomes and the inability to procure necessary basic goods and services essential

for dignified survival. Additionally, poverty entails limited levels of health and education, deficient access to uncontaminated water and sanitation, inadequate physical safety, absence of representation, and insufficient capability and prospects for enhancing one's life.

Different types of poverty in India are:

Absolute Poverty: This pertains to a circumstance where an individual or household lacks fundamental necessities for survival, including nourishment, pure water, shelter, and garments.

Relative Poverty: Relative poverty is gauged relative to the economic status of the neighbouring populace. A person is considered relatively impoverished if their earnings and living conditions notably lag behind the average populace in their society.

Urban Poverty: Manifesting in urban zones, this kind of poverty is marked by substandard housing, restricted access to medical care and education, and elevated rates of unemployment or underemployment.

Rural Poverty: Predominant in rural areas, rural poverty is often intertwined with agrarian-centred economies. Inadequate access to education, healthcare, and infrastructure contributes to this variant of poverty.

Cyclical Poverty: Termed as temporary poverty as well, cyclical poverty emerges when individuals or families undergo phases of impoverishment followed by intervals of relative stability. This could result from factors like economic downturns or job loss.

Chronic Poverty: Chronic poverty is enduring and lingering, often spanning across generations. It is identified by limited access to resources, education, and employment prospects.

The official poverty line and its estimates

The poverty line denotes the minimal amount of money required for an individual to meet fundamental life necessities, such as housing and sustenance. Individuals earning less than this threshold are classified as impoverished. Poverty remains a prominent global challenge, with billions of people grappling to satisfy their essential needs. The 2022 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) report discloses that approximately 1.2 billion people across 111 countries are situated below the poverty line. Although strides have been made in alleviating global poverty, substantial efforts are still needed for its eradication.

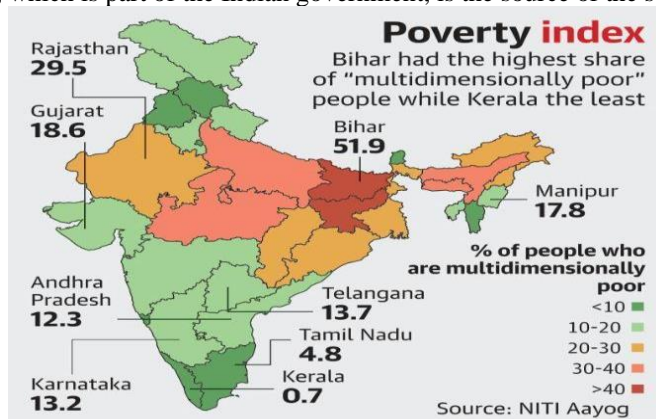
In simple terms, the poverty line signifies the monetary income necessary to afford basic life amenities. The global poverty line currently stands at \$2.15 per day, an update introduced by the World Bank in 2022. However, this threshold can vary among countries based on their social and economic contexts. For instance, in India, the urban poverty line rests at 1,286 rupees per month, while in rural areas, it is 1,059.42 rupees per month.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) conducted a report that reveals India as having the largest population of poor individuals globally (228.9 million), followed by Nigeria (projected 96.7 million in 2020). In 2022, India had around 38 million males and 45 million females living in poverty. Approximately 60% of India's nearly 1.3 billion people subsist on less than \$3.10 daily, which is the World Bank's median poverty line. Additionally, more than 250 million people, or 21% of the population, survive on less than \$2 per day.

India's trajectory of poverty estimation has encountered challenges due to diverse price variations between states and over time. There has also been a lack of consensus regarding the findings from committees such as the Tendulkar and Rangarajan panels. The demographic and economic dynamics further contribute to the complexity of poverty assessment. At the time of India's independence, poverty incidence was approximately 80%, equivalent to around 250 million people. By 1956, serious calculations indicated that 65% or 215 million Indians were impoverished. In 2017, around 269 million people remained below the same poverty line of 2,200 calories a day, although the incidence had diminished to approximately 21.92%. Subsequent governments have continually worked to reduce this figure, with the present administration aiming to lower it to 9%. However, there have been doubts about the credibility of the figures presented.

State-wise percentage of people living below the poverty line

The distribution of poverty rates throughout several Indian states, categorised by socioeconomic groupings, is shown in a chart. The graph provides information on the percentage of the population that experienced poverty during 2004 and 2005. The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, which is part of the Indian government, is the source of the statistics.



The chart provides a visual overview of the distribution of population below the poverty line across states, segmented by social groups. Each state's poverty rate is displayed as a percentage, providing a clear view of the prevalence of poverty across various regions of India.

1. **Bihar** ranks as the poorest state with around 33.74% of its population below the poverty line. This situation can be attributed to factors like deficiencies in institutions and technology, illiteracy, and challenges in the agricultural sector. Variations in poverty rates are also evident within Bihar's districts. Kishanganj has the highest rate at 64.75%, whereas Patna exhibits a lower rate of 29.20%. The struggle against poverty in Bihar is compounded by inadequate access to quality education and healthcare, positioning it as one of India's least developed states.
2. **Jharkhand**: Formerly a part of Bihar, Jharkhand is the second poorest state with a poverty level of about 42.16%. Social indicators, including literacy and infant mortality rates, lag behind the national average, necessitating efforts for improvement.
3. **Uttar Pradesh**: India's largest state, Uttar Pradesh, has a poverty rate of 37.08%. Challenges include high child malnourishment rates and inadequate infrastructure, which contribute to its persistent poverty.
4. **Chhattisgarh**: With about 39.93% of its population below the poverty line, Chhattisgarh grapples with limited economic opportunities, particularly in rural areas.
5. **Manipur**: Ranking as the third poorest state, Manipur faces a poverty rate of around 36.89%. Economic backwardness due to inadequate infrastructure contributes to its struggle for development.
6. **Arunachal Pradesh**: The fourth poorest state, Arunachal Pradesh, has a poverty rate of approximately 34.67%. Limited access to major production centres hampers economic progress.
7. **Odisha**: With a poverty rate of 29.04%, Odisha confronts challenges related to educational backwardness and insufficient female literacy rates.
8. **Assam**: Approximately 32.07% of Assam's population lives below the poverty line. The state's location and climatic conditions impact its development.
9. **Madhya Pradesh**: Often referred to as the tribal state, Madhya Pradesh has a poverty rate of around 36.07%. Tribal populations heavily reliant on forest resources need diversified livelihood options for poverty reduction.
10. **Karnataka**: Despite urbanisation, Karnataka records a poverty rate of 13.2%. Urban-rural disparities persist, demanding inclusive growth strategies.

Poverty alleviation schemes

The following are some of the poverty alleviation schemes introduced by the government of India:

National Food for Work Programme: Launched on November 14, 2004, in 150 backward districts, the National Food for Work Programme aims to boost supplementary wage employment. Open to rural poor seeking manual unskilled work, it operates as a centrally sponsored scheme, providing free food grains to States. Implementation is overseen by district collectors, and for 2004-05, a budget of Rs. 2020 crore and 20 lakh tonnes of food grains have been allocated.

Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY): Introduced in 2001, SGRY strives to provide more wage employment in rural areas, enhancing food security and nutrition. It caters to rural poor seeking manual and unskilled work in villages and habitats. Implementation is carried out through Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY): Commencing in 1993, PMRY targets educated unemployed youth for self-employment opportunities. It has established about 20 lakh units, creating 30.4 lakh additional jobs. The scheme addresses both urban and rural areas, focusing on economically viable activities and promoting entrepreneurship.

Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY): Launched in 1997, SJSRY replaces various urban poverty programs and consists of Urban Self Employment and Urban Wage Employment components. With a 75:25 funding arrangement between the Centre and States, it has efficiently tackled urban poverty challenges.

Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY): Initiated in December 2000, AAY provides highly subsidized food grains to impoverished families. Initially aimed at one crore families, it expanded to cover an additional 50 lakh BPL families in June 2003. By August 2004, the scheme included 2 crore families, addressing food insecurity and reaching vulnerable populations.

The following are the successes of the above schemes:

The National Food for Work Programme, initiated to boost supplementary wage employment, has proven highly effective in improving job opportunities within the country's most underserved districts since its launch in 2004. By providing food grains to States without financial burden, the scheme has eased the plight of rural individuals seeking manual unskilled work. District collectors have played a crucial role in efficient planning and execution, ensuring successful implementation with allocated budgets and food grains.

Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), established in 2001, has transformed rural areas by offering crucial wage employment opportunities. Integrating with Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), the program has empowered rural individuals, fostering community development and local empowerment. Its success lies in meaningful job creation and holistic rural advancement.

Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), launched in 1993, has empowered educated unemployed youth through self-employment options. The scheme's success is evident in the multitude of units established, generating over 30.4 lakh new jobs. By encouraging entrepreneurship and catering to both urban and rural settings, PMRY has been a driving force in reducing unemployment and promoting economic growth.

The Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), introduced in 1997, has streamlined urban poverty alleviation by consolidating programs. With funding shared between the Centre and States, the scheme has effectively increased employment opportunities in urban areas. By offering wage and self-employment chances tailored to urban needs, SJSRY addresses critical poverty challenges.

Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), established in 2000, has been instrumental in aiding economically disadvantaged families through subsidized food grains. Its expansion to include more Below Poverty Line (BPL) families reflects a commitment to battling food

insecurity. With significant quantities of food grains distributed, AAY plays a vital role in ensuring food access for vulnerable populations, underscoring its dedication to making a positive impact.

The shortcomings of the above schemes are as follows:

1. Unequal Distribution of Benefits: Poverty alleviation programs have been criticised for benefiting the non-poor due to the unequal distribution of land and other assets. The intended advantages of these initiatives often do not reach the target population, leading to ineffective outcomes.

2. Resource Allocation and Implementation Issues: The resources allocated for poverty alleviation programs are insufficient when compared to the scale of poverty. These programs heavily rely on government and bank officials for implementation. However, the lack of motivation, inadequate training, corruption, and susceptibility to pressure among officials result in inefficient resource utilisation.

3. Lack of Local Participation: The non-participation of local-level institutions in program implementation is a significant concern. The absence of local engagement hinders the programs' ability to understand and address the unique needs of specific regions. Additionally, government schemes have fallen short of reaching the vast majority of vulnerable people living just above the poverty line. Economic growth alone does not guarantee poverty reduction. Active involvement and participation of the poor are crucial for the successful implementation of poverty alleviation programs.

Characteristics of poor in India

The following are the unfortunate characteristics of India's poor.

1. Hunger, Starvation, and Malnutrition: Starvation and hunger stand as fundamental challenges for the most impoverished households. The prevalence of malnutrition among these underprivileged groups is notably and distressingly high. Infant and child malnutrition, in particular, are massive challenges faced by India. The deaths related to hunger are in several thousands each year.

2. Impaired Health: Individuals with limited means tend to experience physical frailty due to inadequate health, disabilities, or severe ailments. Their offspring face reduced prospects of survival and health upon birth. India lacks good healthcare facilities for the poor.

3. Constrained Economic Opportunities: Owing to their lack of education and dearth of skills, their prospects remain severely restricted. The economically disadvantaged are highly susceptible, rendering them unable to negotiate for fair wages and rendering them susceptible to employer exploitation.

4. Cycle of Indebtedness: A cycle of indebtedness ensues when borrowers find themselves unable to repay accumulated debts. Impoverished individuals frequently resort to borrowing from moneylenders, who impose exorbitant interest rates, leading to a perpetual state of indebtedness.

5. Absence of Adequate Utilities: Electricity and Water: The impoverished population lacks reliable access to electricity, resorting to cooking with firewood and cow dung cakes. A substantial segment of the impoverished demographic lacks access to safe potable water.

6. Gender Disparity: Profound gender inequality is evident in the disparate engagement of women and men in the workforce, educational settings, and household decision-making. Furthermore, limited attention is directed toward impoverished women in their journey to motherhood.

7. Expanded Family Sizes: Impoverished families tend to be larger, compounding their economic predicament.

The different categories of poor people in India

There are two broad categories of poor people in India which are the urban poor and the rural poor.

Urban Poor are those who live in cities which are further subdivided into

1. Rag Pickers: These are individuals who earn a livelihood by collecting and selling recyclable materials from waste. They usually scour through garbage landfills for recyclable items. This exposes them to toxic fumes and many of them are children and young adults who are often addicted to cheap addictives such as glue.

2. Beggars: These are Individuals who solicit money or goods from others due to their economic hardships. They are commonly seen at traffic signals and places of worship. India has several hundred thousand of poor who are beggars.

3. Push-Cart Vendors: People who run small businesses selling goods from mobile carts or stalls. With the advent of big grocery stores and online shopping, these vendors' businesses have suffered.

4. Street Cobbler: Individuals who mend shoes and leather items on the streets to earn a living. Many professional shoe spas and repair shops have opened, causing the street cobblers' business to suffer.

Rural Poor are those who live in villages which are further subdivided into

1. Landless Labourers: These are individuals who lack ownership of agricultural land and work as labourers for others. Due to the Zamindari system which was prevalent since the British era, these labourers are often enslaved by bonded labour for centuries.

2. Cultivators with Small Landholdings: People who own small plots of land and engage in farming, often struggling to make ends meet. Indian agriculture is dependent on the monsoons. Thus due to dependence on the weather and primitive methods of agriculture due to lack of finances, these farmers are languishing in poverty and hardships.

India's poor are India's biggest challenge

India is a country where the rich are growing richer and the poor are growing even poorer. Even though the economy is booming and many billionaires and millionaires are added each year, the plight of the poor is getting worse. This has given way to rising inequality and disparity. It is disheartening to know that approximately 50% of Indians lack proper shelter, exposing them to harsh

living conditions. This deprives them of basic respect and privacy which every human being should be entitled to. Many women and children are also exposed to criminal elements because of this. Around 70% lack access to decent sanitation facilities, contributing to the spread of diseases. Due to recurrent infections and sicknesses, they are pushed further into poverty. Roughly 35% of households do not have a nearby water source, compromising access to clean water. Many women and children have to walk for several miles to get clean water. This adds greatly to their hardships. An alarming 85% of villages lack secondary schools, hindering education despite economic growth claims. Without education, society continues to be backward thus hindering progress. Over 40% of these villages lack adequate road connectivity, hampering accessibility and development. Access to good medical facilities is also absent.

There is acute rural poverty since a sizable portion of the rural population works in the agricultural sector. Policies that prioritise agriculture can reduce poverty because of the substantial agricultural workforce and rural population. The connection between agricultural production and rural poverty highlights the need to increase productivity per person. Investment and technical advancement should be the focus of policies to increase production and lower poverty. Additionally, marginalised groups' exclusion has made life more difficult for the poor. Marginalised groups like as Dalits, women, and minority ethnic tribes are conspicuously absent from official poverty statistics. This is because, politicians occasionally exclude certain groups from census data, which affects statistics on poverty reduction. Neglecting the underprivileged might result in social unrest and conflicts within the community. To stop additional inequality and discontent, the problem must be addressed and these groups must be considered in policy decisions.

Urban poverty and housing issues remain even in large cities, forcing the poor to live in slums. India's urban poverty is a result of rural migration that was prompted by poverty, which led to unemployment and housing scarcity. There is a significant movement to cities since there are many more chances there. Microfinance has helped a little, but not enough to end poverty and marginalisation. Even while urban poverty has reduced substantially, the fast expansion of cities has increased poverty's visibility through slums. Due to declining public services and increased prices, urban poor people have difficulty getting essential services. A slum resident lacks access to many basic amenities, and their living quarters are small.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A Study on Poverty and Hunger in India Junofy Anto Rozarina. N. Department of Economics, Central University of Tamilnadu, Thiruvavur, India ISSN 2039-2117 (online) ISSN 2039-9340 (print) Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences MCSER Publishing, Rome-Italy Vol 4 No 12 October 2013-Every poverty-related metric indicates that India is facing an immensely challenging predicament. This holds true not only for India but for the entire South Asian region, where the poverty outlook appears distressing. Analysing the data concerning poverty reduction, particularly in Bangladesh and India, based on the WHO's poverty threshold, reveals insufficient progress. By considering both the Global Hunger Index and the Multidimensional Poverty Index ranking, it is evident that India significantly lags behind Western and Far Eastern nations. Unless immediate and stringent actions are swiftly enacted on both a large and small scale, India's poverty problem will spiral out of control, resulting in serious consequences. Hence, the government must implement valuable alterations within its policy frameworks and ensure their effective execution.

Inequality and Poverty in India: Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic and Policy Response Elif Arbatli-Saxegaard, Mattia Coppo, Nasser Khalil, Shinya Kotera, and D. Filiz Unsal WP/23/147- Amidst considerable uncertainty, the pandemic-induced economic downturn has temporarily intensified poverty and inequality in India. Our analysis of two household surveys reveals a sharp rise in individuals below the poverty line in 2020, but this impact faded by late 2021, nearing pre-pandemic levels. Lower-income groups, especially in urban areas, were hit harder, temporarily increasing income inequality. Interestingly, consumption inequality briefly declined as higher earners reduced spending more than lower earners. Demographic, education, and labour factors played roles in poverty shifts. Households with more youth, led by less educated individuals, faced higher risks of poverty and income reduction. Labour market-wise, households with informal or contact-intensive workers were more likely to fall into poverty and experience income drops. Engaging in learning and maintaining savings helped buffer consumption. Government food subsidy expansions notably curbed poverty. Initial broad-based support was apt due to the pandemic's extensive impact, though fine-tuning targeting as the economy recovers is advised for fiscal efficiency.

Study of poverty in India: Dr Doreshor Khwairakpam and Ar. Soundrya Singh Amity School of Architecture and Planning, Amity University, Haryana, India ISSN: 0975-833X International Journal of Current Research Vol. 10, Issue, 04, pp.68468-68470, April 2018- The Indian government has initiated numerous programs to enhance the living conditions of individuals classified under the Below Poverty Line (BPL). However, specific states, namely Chhattisgarh (39.93% of the total population in poverty), Dadra and Nagar Haveli (39.31% of the total population in poverty), Jharkhand (36.96% of the total population in poverty), and Manipur (36.89% of the total population in poverty) exhibit high proportions of poverty. In rural areas, states like Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Tripura, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, and Karnataka have a significant portion of their population living on less than Rs. 1000 per capita per month. In urban areas, the lowest figures are observed in Orissa, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, and similar states, representing the lowest category of per capita monthly income. In light of these circumstances, the Indian government should prioritise addressing the needs of the impoverished segments across the nation, aiming to establish fundamental human rights and an improved quality of life.

Poverty reduction in China and India: Policy implications of recent trends - Jayati Ghosh, DESA Working Paper No. 92 ST/ESA/2010/DWP/92 January 2010- The Indian government has initiated numerous programs to enhance the living conditions of individuals classified under the Below Poverty Line (BPL). However, specific states, namely Chhattisgarh (39.93% of the total population in poverty), Dadra and Nagar Haveli (39.31% of the total population in poverty), Jharkhand (36.96% of the total population in poverty), and Manipur (36.89% of the total population in poverty) exhibit high proportions of poverty. In rural areas,

states like Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Tripura, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, and Karnataka have a significant portion of their population living on less than Rs. 1000 per capita per month. In urban areas, the lowest figures are observed in Orissa, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, and similar states, representing the lowest category of per capita monthly income. In light of these circumstances, the Indian government should prioritise addressing the needs of the impoverished segments across the nation, aiming to establish fundamental human rights and an improved quality of life. India's market-driven economy, constrained by demand, has struggled with growth and poverty reduction compared to countries like China. The flexible macroeconomic approach hasn't proven effective for stability or poverty alleviation. While India's growth outperformed some peers, it lagged behind China and others due to failure to transform output and employment composition for meaningful poverty reduction. This is tied to reduced public spending during reform, especially in vital infrastructure. State governments also faced resource constraints due to central policies, hampering developmental spending. Consequently, income growth remained below potential, and employment expansion lagged. Trade liberalisation affected certain manufacturing sectors, compounding issues. Presently, agrarian distress and weak employment generation are pressing concerns. Though India's experience showed better financial stability than many emerging markets, this was due to limited capital account liberalisation. Recent capital inflows impacted exchange rates and macro flexibility. Amid high global economic integration, India faces fallout from the global financial crisis and economic slowdown, impacting output and employment. With India's development journey ongoing, albeit less advanced than China's, seizing the moment is crucial. Using expansionary fiscal measures and redirecting investments towards infrastructure and basic needs can foster poverty reduction. Only then can future growth truly benefit those in need.

Poverty in India and It's Alleviating Programmes Kusum Chandrakar¹, D.K. Chandrakar², Debasis Das³ and R.K.Panigrahi⁴ Govt. Naveen College, Gudhiyari, Raipur (Chhattisgarh), India ^{2,3}Department of Agronomy, College of Agriculture, IGKV, Raipur (Chhattisgarh), India ⁴CPR Berhampur, OUAT, Bhubaneswar, Odisha- This chapter delves into the concept of poverty and programs aimed at alleviating it. Poverty remains a paramount issue in the Indian economy. The chapter clarifies the definition of poverty, with the poverty line drawn at the minimum income needed for basic nutritional requirements. This line varies across countries and timeframes. Various economists and organisations have conducted studies on poverty in India. Poverty is a social phenomenon where a segment of society cannot meet even its basic life necessities. The Indian government has launched poverty eradication programs to empower the poor through asset creation and enhanced productivity via education, public health, and human resource measures. The study reveals the government's multi-dimensional approach to eradicating poverty. While the government plays a significant role, its success largely depends on public-private partnerships. Private beneficiaries play a crucial role without which projects would falter. NGOs and other facilitators, particularly through Self-Help Groups (SHGs), now play a substantial coordinating role. However, the road ahead is lengthy, with substantial achievements to be pursued. Integration of projects and decentralisation of power are crucial. Government bureaucrats currently execute these schemes, but transferring the responsibility to beneficiary organisations could yield greater benefits for the vulnerable. Successful program implementation should prioritise specific objectives over mere numbers and financial allocations, especially in the context of ongoing economic development.

Understanding Poverty in India - Asian Development Bank Published 2011. ISBN 978-92-9092-318-3 Publication Stock No. BKK113448- The paradigm of measuring poverty in India has evolved, extending beyond the narrow scope of calorie intake to encompass more comprehensive indicators such as education and health. This shift acknowledges the significance of human capital accumulation for individuals living in poverty. The government's initiatives in the domains of education and health have undergone meticulous scrutiny, both in terms of their overall quality and the extent of their implementation. The Mid-day Meal Scheme stands out as an initiative that has yielded positive outcomes, particularly in terms of boosting school enrollment rates. However, its impact on broader health aspects and the mitigation of societal inequalities has been limited. This suggests that the scheme, while successful in a particular dimension, may require further refinement to address other critical concerns effectively. The Sarva Siksha Abhiyan has played a pivotal role in enhancing school access and reducing gender-based disparities in education. Nonetheless, the challenge remains to ensure complete enrollment and sustained retention, particularly for children from marginalised backgrounds. The hurdles in achieving this goal encompass issues tied to the quality of education, teacher competence, and effective management. Addressing the skills deficit in India's workforce is imperative, given that only a small percentage of individuals have received formal vocational training. This underscores the importance of aligning skill development programs with the demands of industries, thereby bridging the gap between the skills possessed by the workforce and the requirements of the job market. The introduction of the National Rural Mission aimed at providing accessible and reliable primary healthcare services, especially for the disadvantaged segments of the population, represents a significant stride. However, challenges including budgetary constraints and bureaucratic complexities have impeded its full realisation. Solutions to these challenges involve exploring alternative funding sources, such as public-private partnerships, and fostering community engagement in the delivery and supervision of healthcare services. To enhance the overall effectiveness of poverty-alleviation schemes in India, an emphasis on strengthening community involvement, bolstering accountability mechanisms, and refining institutional frameworks is essential. Proposals for introducing computerised systems and involving beneficiary communities, civil societies, and NGOs in monitoring and implementation processes hold promise in this regard. By addressing these multifaceted aspects, India can further advance its efforts in reducing poverty and improving the lives of its citizens.

Poverty in India and Indian states: an update - Gaurav Datt, The Indian Journal of Labour Economics, Vol. 41, No. 2, 1998- The paper offers a comprehensive and contemporary analysis of poverty metrics in India, encompassing national and state-level data, and distinguishing between rural and urban sectors. The research demonstrates that around 35% of India's populace lived in absolute poverty by 1993-94, indicating a notable decline from approximately 53% in the early 1950s. The trajectory of poverty in India exhibited resistance to decline until the mid-1970s, followed by more substantial reductions from the mid-1970s to the late 1980s. The pace of poverty reduction seemed to plateau by the early 1990s. Despite rural poverty decreasing faster than urban

poverty over the past four decades, rural areas still carry the greater burden. The study also unveiled mixed patterns of regional disparities, with states like Punjab, Haryana, and Bihar undergoing shifts in prosperity levels. Kerala, in contrast, transformed from being one of the poorest regions to a more prosperous one. The paper highlights that while improved living standards positively impacted the poor, favourable redistribution played a significant role in diminishing the depth and intensity of poverty. Nevertheless, the limitation of insufficient economic growth continues to hinder effective poverty reduction efforts.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The methodical collection of data and information and its analysis for the progress of knowledge in any field may be very generally characterised as research. Research makes an effort to use methodical approaches to find answers to theoretical and practical concerns. Research is described as "studious inquiry or examination; especially: investigation or experimentation aimed at the discovery and interpretation of facts, revision of accepted theories or laws in the light of new facts, or practical application of such new or revised theories or laws" by Webster's Collegiate Dictionary. Some individuals view the study as a transition from the known to the unknown.

Types of Research Methodology

Quantitative Research

Quantifying an amount or quantity of a certain phenomenon is the foundation of quantitative data. It is centred on collecting and analysing numerical data, and it may be applied to discover averages, trends, and make predictions. Within the two main types of research, quantitative research makes use of numbers. It makes a conclusion based on graphs, tables, and data. This kind of study is frequently employed in scientific and field-based research.

Qualitative Research

It alludes to the non-numerical components of the study. When a researcher is unable to understand the information or facts pertaining to statistics, qualitative research steps in to the rescue. Qualitative research aids in creating a better synthesis of hypotheses in the data, although not being as dependable as quantitative research. The motivations underlying human behaviour, or the reasons why individuals act or believe in a certain manner, are also of interest to this kind of inquiry. Through this research, one may comprehend the factors influencing people's behaviour or determining their propensities towards a particular issue.

Descriptive Research

A sort of analysis called descriptive research describes the characteristics of the population or topics being studied. The "what" of the research topic is given greater attention in this technique than the "why." The researcher can only accurately describe the facts as they happened or are happening since they cannot change the variables in this study design. In descriptive research, surveys, case studies, and observations are the main methodologies employed. In descriptive research, several factors may be used to illuminate the data.

Analytical Research

Proven facts serve as the foundation for analytical study. Researchers typically do further studies to bolster and validate their prior conclusions. It also aids in the development of novel research-related concepts. Analytical research therefore brings together little facts to create more plausible theories. Thus, the analytical investigation clarifies the reasons a claim is true.

Statistical tools adopted:

Data evaluation and analysis were conducted using graphs and chart presentations.

Sampling technique:

A questionnaire with 11 straightforward general questions was employed in this study. The goal of this questionnaire is to collect the information that is necessary for the analysis of impact attribute data.

Hypothesis:

The hypothesis proposed here is as mentioned below:

H0- Poverty is not one of the biggest social issues and concerns for India.

H1- Poverty is one of the biggest social issues and concerns for India and should be eliminated by combined efforts of government and society.

Data types and sources:

Primary data

Using methods like interviews, questionnaires, surveys, etc., the researcher directly collects information from primary sources to create primary data. Obtaining source data offers the researcher several advantages. First of all, primary data is current and highly recent compared to secondary research that was obtained decades ago, providing the researcher with a knowledge of the current situation. The data is also confidential, which gives it some distinction since only the researcher has access to it. Thirdly, primary research is under the researcher's control to guarantee impartial outcomes.

Secondary data

Information obtained by a person other than the original user is referred to as secondary data. Common sources of secondary data for social science study include census data, information gathered by government agencies, organisational records, and data initially collected for other research objectives. Secondary data gathering for research is quicker and simpler, allowing researchers to jump immediately into the analysis phase and save time.

Because all the information required for secondary research is already available and frequently simple to acquire from free institutions like public libraries, secondary research is frequently the less expensive option. The gathering of secondary data often takes far less time than the gathering of main data. Longitudinal research may be carried out without having to wait a long time for findings thanks to secondary data.

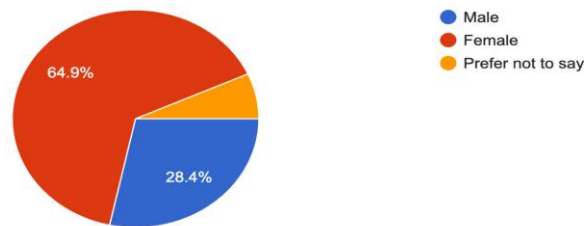
Limitations:

Only the outcomes of the sample's analysis were used to draw the findings. Therefore, it is impossible to achieve an accuracy of 100 percent. Getting a sample that reflects all the features of the population is exceedingly challenging. Inadequate data collecting when done remotely can also lead to inaccurate data. Specialised expertise is necessary.

Data Analysis and Presentation

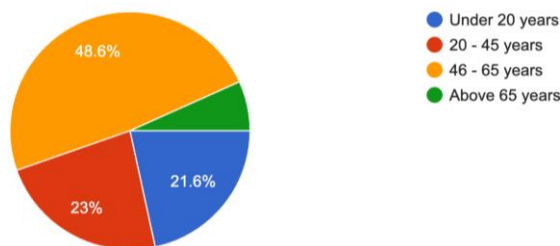
WE TOOK THE SURVEY: QUESTIONNAIRE METHOD AND RESULTS WERE AS FOLLOWS: WE GOT 74 RESPONSES TO THE COMPULSORY QUESTIONS ASKED BELOW:

What is your gender?
74 responses



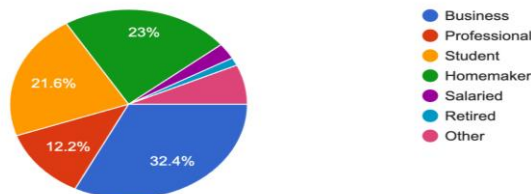
This chart shows that the number of females that undertook the survey outnumbered the number of males that took the survey.

What is your age?
74 responses



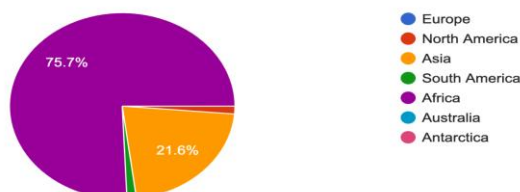
The above chart shows us that the majority of respondents to this survey were in the age group of 46-65 years old. The second-most majority of participants were in the age group of 20-45 years old.

What is your profession?
74 responses



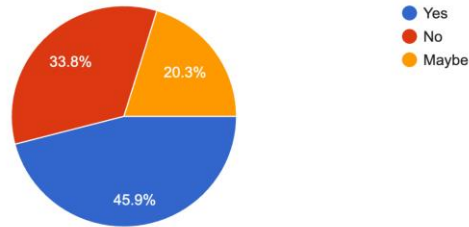
The above pie chart tells us that people of various professions took part in the survey with the majority being those who started their own businesses, who accounted for 23.5 percent of the overall responses.

Out of the following which continent has the highest poverty ?
74 responses



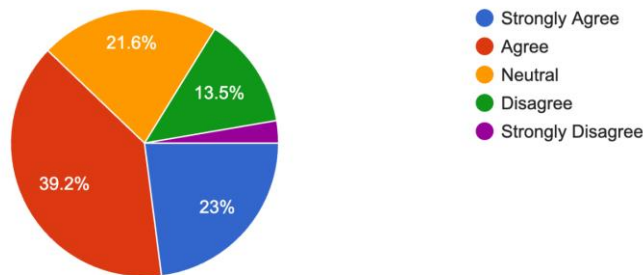
The above pie chart shows that 75.7 percent of the respondents are well aware that Africa is the poorest continent, while 21.6 percent of respondents are under the impression that Asia is the poorest.

Are you aware about the fact that India is not in the top 15 countries with highest poverty rate ?
74 responses



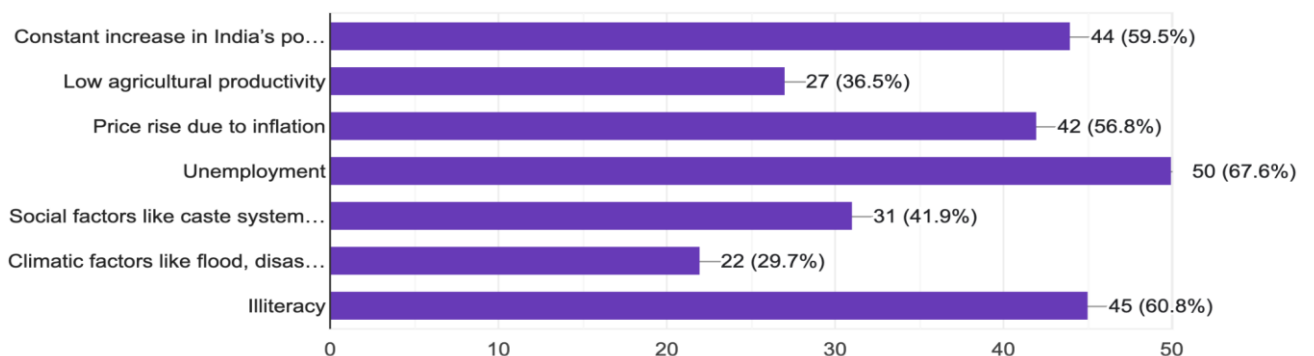
As one can see from the above pie chart, 45.9 percent of respondents are aware that India no longer features in the top 15 poorest countries. However, 33.8 percent of respondents still are under the impression that India still falls in the top 15 poorest countries.

In India, poverty is more in rural areas than in urban areas.
74 responses



This pie chart shows the various views of the respondents regarding the fact that in India, poverty is more prevalent in rural areas than in urban areas. The majority of respondents at 39.2 percent agree but the percentage that strongly agrees is lower at 23 percent. 21.6 percent are neutral and only 13.5 percent disagree.

What are the causes of poverty in India?
74 responses



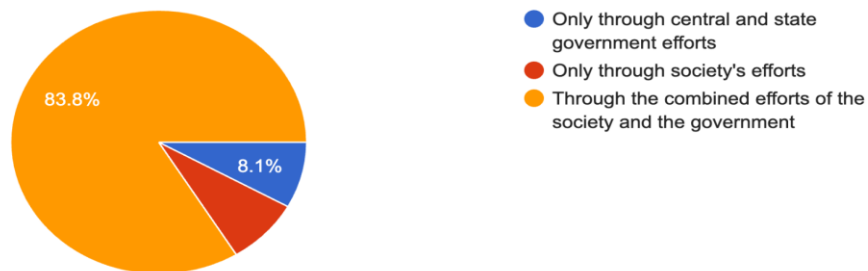
The above bar graph tells us what the perception of the causes of poverty is in India. The major view at 67.6 percent is that unemployment is the major cause. Coming in a close second are illiteracy (60.8 percent) and overpopulation (59.5 percent)

What is the peculiarity of the poor people in India ?
74 responses



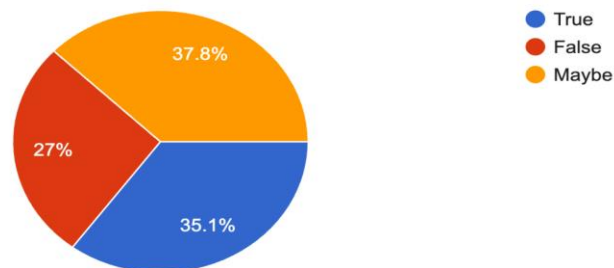
The 56.8 percent majority of the respondents feel that all the above factors are collectively responsible for poverty in India.

According to you, how can poverty be alleviated from India?
74 responses



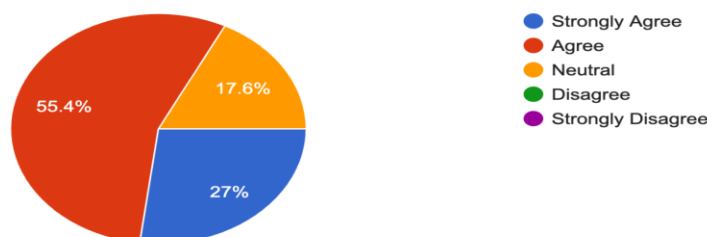
The majority of the respondents agree (83.8%) that India's acute poverty can only be tackled through combined efforts of the central and state governments along with the efforts of the entire society.

India is witnessing remarkable reduction in the poverty in last 15 years
74 responses



From the above pie chart, it is clear that the respondents are divided in their views on whether there has been a reduction in poverty in the last 15 years. At 37.8 %, the majority are unsure if there is any improvement.

Despite the expansion of the Indian economy and constant efforts for its removal, poverty still remains a serious problem in India
74 responses



From the above pie chart, we can deduce that poverty still remains a serious problem in India, which the majority of the respondents are aware of (55.4%).

3. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Conclusion

When someone is living in poverty, they are denied access to even the most basic requirements. The individual also doesn't lack access to enough clothing, food, or shelter. The majority of those living in poverty in India are unable to afford even one meal every day. They wear soiled, outdated clothing and sleep by the side of the road. Additionally, they do not receive adequate, wholesome, and nutritious food, medications, or any other necessities. In order to reduce poverty, the Indian government and non-governmental organisations have started various initiatives, including subsidising food and other essentials, expanding credit availability, enhancing agricultural practices and pricing supports, and encouraging family planning and education. Even though India's economy has expanded gradually over the past 20 years when compared to other social and economic categories, geographical regions, and rural and urban areas, it has risen unevenly.

The country's fast population expansion is one of the main issues with poverty in India. As a result, there are many people who are illiterate, there are subpar healthcare facilities, and there are not enough resources. Additionally, because of the high population growth rate, individual income is significantly smaller. India will likely have a population of more than 1.5 billion people by 2026, making it the biggest nation on earth. However, economic development is not accelerating as quickly as it does elsewhere in the world. This suggests a labour crunch. It will need over 20 million additional jobs to support this large population. If there are so many impoverished individuals, that number will continue to increase.

Suggestions

India can address these problems and develop a new national vision for assisting more than half a billion people in achieving a more economically empowered existence, in addition to the objective of eliminating severe poverty. To assess the gaps that need to be filled and guide resource allocation, policymakers require a more complete benchmark like Empowerment Line. In order to satisfy eight basic needs—food, energy, housing, drinking water, sanitation, health care, education, and social security—at a level high enough to achieve a respectable standard of living as opposed to mere subsistence, the Empowerment Line analytical framework is used.

The Empowerment Line measures individual consumption, but having the means or the desire to spend money is not enough to provide a fair standard of living. Along with having access to power, clean drinking water, and improved cleanliness within their houses, households also need to be able to access essential community services like schools and health facilities. According to our research, Indian households lack access to 46% of the essential services they require on average, and social infrastructure accessibility varies greatly by region.

The strongest factors for raising living standards historically have been increases in employment and productivity, and India needs significant changes that would encourage businesses to expand, invest, and hire more people. By 2024, more than one-third of the population is predicted to still be below the Empowerment Line, with 12 percent of the population still living in severe poverty, if India's current lacklustre economic performance and no significant changes are implemented.

Bibliography:

- [1]. <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/p/poverty.asp>
- [2]. <https://unacademy.com/content/cbse-class-11/study-material/economics/poverty/#:~:text=Absolute%20Poverty%3A%20a%20complete%20absence,of%20life%20in%20the%20society>
- [3]. https://www.drishitias.com/to-the-points/Paper2/poverty-9/print_manually
- [4]. <https://ourworldindata.org/poverty#:~:text=To%20measure%20poverty%20globally%2C%20however,extreme%20poverty%20around%20the%20world>
- [5]. https://m.economictimes.com/news/india/number-of-poor-people-in-india-fell-by-about-415-mn-between-2005-06-and-2019-21-a-historic-change-un/amp_articles/94910830.cms
- [6]. <https://testbook.com/amp/static-gk/poorest-state-in-india>

- [7]. [https://www.hindustantimes.com/opinion/india-at-70-the-good-and-bad-of-india-s-growth-story-story-Y2aLsMN1nbQVr8mmI4kPON_amp.html](https://www.hindustantimes.com/opinion/india-at-70-the-good-and-bad-of-india-s-growth-story/story-Y2aLsMN1nbQVr8mmI4kPON_amp.html)
- [8]. [\(PDF\) A Study on Poverty and Hunger in India](#)
- [9]. <https://www.imf.org/-/media/Files/Publications/WP/2023/English/wpica2023147-print-pdf.ashx>
- [10]. <https://www.journalcra.com/sites/default/files/issue-pdf/30063.pdf>
- [11]. https://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2010/wp92_2010.pdf
- [12]. https://www.researchgate.net/profile/SushantaTarai/publication/370059720_Economics_of_Sustainable_Agriculture_and_Environment/links/643d0a26e881690c4bdd123f/Economics-of-Sustainable-Agriculture-and-Environment.pdf#page=209
- [13]. <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/28930/understanding-poverty-india.pdf>

Appendix:

Questionnaire

Q1. What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to say

Q2. What is your age?

- Under 20 years
- 20 - 45 years
- 46 - 65 years
- Above 65 years

Q3. What is your profession?

- Business
- Professional
- Student
- Homemaker
- Salaried
- Retired
- Other

Q4. Out of the following which continent has the highest poverty?

- Europe
- North America
- Asia
- South America
- Africa
- Australia
- Antarctica

Q5. Are you aware of the fact that India is not in the top 15 countries with the highest poverty rate?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Q6. In India, poverty is higher in rural areas than in urban areas.

- Strongly Agree

- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Q7. What are the causes of poverty in India?

- Constant increase in India's population at a rate of 2.2 % per year
- Low agricultural productivity
- Price rise due to inflation
- Unemployment
- Social factors like the caste system, the law of inheritance, etc
- Climatic factors like floods, disasters, cyclones, etc
- Illiteracy

Q8. What is the peculiarity of the poor people in India?

- Hunger, Starvation, and Malnutrition
- Health problems with several ailments
- Large family size
- Trapped in the vicious circle of indebtedness
- All of the above

Q9. According to you, how can poverty be alleviated in India?

- Only through central and state government efforts
- Only through society's efforts
- Through the combined efforts of the society and the government

Q10. India has witnessed a remarkable reduction in the poverty in last 15 years

- True
- False
- Maybe

Q11. Despite the expansion of the Indian economy and constant efforts for its removal, poverty still remains a serious problem in India

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree