

INTEGRATING MARGINALIZED SECTIONS - THROUGH POVERTY ERADICATION

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Abstract:

In India and other developing nations, marginalized sections—including Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, minorities, women, and informal workers—remain disproportionately affected by poverty and social exclusion. Poverty eradication is not only an economic imperative but also a social necessity for achieving inclusive and sustainable development. This research paper explores the interrelationship between poverty eradication and the integration of marginalized groups into mainstream social and economic structures. It analyses various poverty alleviation initiatives, such as livelihood programs, skill development schemes, microfinance, and social welfare policies, assessing their role in promoting social inclusion and empowerment. Through a review of government strategies, policy frameworks, and case studies, the paper highlights both the successes and the persistent challenges in addressing multidimensional poverty. The study emphasizes that true integration requires not only economic upliftment but also the dismantling of structural inequalities in education, health, and access to resources. It concludes that a holistic, participatory, and rights-based approach to poverty eradication can serve as a powerful tool for integrating marginalized communities and fostering equitable growth.

Keywords: Poverty Eradication, Marginalized Sections, Social Inclusion, Empowerment, Sustainable Development, Inequality, India

1. INTRODUCTION:

Poverty has individual and social dimensions. Individually every man, should have certain requirements like food, shelter, clothing, primary education and health care. In India (2019-21) people who are living below poverty line is 14.96 percent. Previously it was 21.9 percent. Poverty has been declining.

ORIGIN AND DEFINITION:

Growth with social justice has been the central objectives of the Indian five-year plans. Important components of social justice are eradication of poverty and reduction of inequalities in incomes. It is important to note that poverty is a multi-dimensional issue and it has been with us at least from the reindustrialization process that began during the British rule. As far back as 1900, Dadabhai Naoroji through his book "poverty and un-British rule in India" highlighted the severity of the poverty issue. He attempted to correlate poverty with colonial rule.

FACTS OF POVERTY.

Poverty is multi-faceted. The planning commission has adopted the definition of poverty provided by the "Task force on projections of minimum needs and effective consumption demand". In its report the task force has defined the poverty line as the mid-point of monthly per capita expenditure class having a daily calorie intake of 2,400 per person in rural areas and 2,100 in urban areas. On the basis the cut-off points turn out to be Rs 49/- per rural areas and Rs.57/- per urban areas at 1973-74 prices.

As pointed out by Tendulkar committee, the concept of poverty is associated with socially perceived deprivation with respect to basic human needs. The committee estimated the new all-

India poverty line for the year 2004-05 for rural areas at Rs.446.68/- per capita per month and for urban areas at Rs.578.80/- per capita per month. On this basis, 41.8 percent of the rural population and 25.7 percent of the urban population was below poverty line in 2004-05. For the country as a whole, 37.2 percent of the people were below the poverty line in 2004-05. For the year 2001-12, the planning commission has defined the poverty line as Rs.27.20/- per capita per day in rural areas and Rs.33.33 per capita per day in urban areas. This translates to Rs.816/- per capita per month in rural areas and RS.1000/-per capita per month in urban areas. Rangarajan committee (2014) defined poverty line for 2011-12 at RS.47/- per capita per day for urban areas and RS.32/- per capita per day for rural areas.

2. CONCEPTS OF POVERTY:

In general HUMAN POVERTY means the lack of essential human capabilities illiteracy and ill health. In this context we have to keep in mind, human poverty is entirely different from income poverty.

Hence, INCOME POVERTY means the lack of sufficient income to meet minimum consumption needs.

Further, ABSOLUTE POVERTY means the degree of poverty below which the minimal requirements for survival are not being met. This is a fixed measure in terms of a minimum calorific requirements plus essential non food components.

Finally, RELATIVE POVERTY means normally defined in relation to some ratio of the absolute poverty line or as in developed countries as a proportion of average income per capita. As a relative measure. It can differ across countries or over time.

POVERTY ALLEVIATION SCHEMES INTRODUCED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ARE THE FOLLOWING:

Small Farmers' Development Agency (SFDA), Marginal Farmers' And Agricultural Laborers' Development Agency(MFAL), Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Crash Scheme for Rural Employment (CSRE), Pilot Intensive Rural Employment Project (PIREP), Food For Work Programme (FWP), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP), Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana(SGSY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Sampoorna Grameena Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), Desert Development Programme (DDP), Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SJGSY), Rural Works Programme (RWP), Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP), Self-Employment for Urban Poor (SEUP), Swarna Jayanti Shari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme(MGNREGS), IRDP has been renamed as Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), from April 1999. In this SGSY, allied Programmes of IRDP liked TRYSEM, DWCRA, SITRA, GKY AND MWS are merged SGSY deals with all rural self employment schemes. These Schemes are reviewed by the central level coordination committee and at the district level by the Governing body of the district rural development agencies.

Some important steps taken recently more effective in achieving the objectives of poverty alleviation are:

1. Improvement the infrastructure in rural areas.
2. Raising the level of investment per family.
3. Extension of family credit plan.

3. POVERTY EXPECTATIONS (TENDULKAR COMMITTEE)

YEAR	POVERTY RATIO (PERCENT)	POVERTY NUMBER (MILLIONS)
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	RURAL	URBAN	TOTAL	RURAL	URBAN	TOTAL
1993-94	50.1	31.8	45.3	328.6	74.5	403.1
2004-05	41.8	25.7	37.2	326.3	80.8	407.1
2009-10	33.8	20.9	29.3	278.2	76.5	354.7
2011-12	25.7	13.7	21.9	216.7	53.1	269.8
2019-21	19.28	5.28	14.96	172	26	198

Source: planning commission reports, June 2014 & MPI Progress Report 2023.

From the above table the rural poverty ratio is reducing much faster than urban poverty. i.e., in 1993-94 rural poverty was 50.1 percent, urban poverty was 31.8 percent. In 2019-21 rural poverty was 19.28 percent, and the urban poverty was 5.28 percent so the reduction of rural poverty is much faster than urban poverty. In compare with the rural poverty and urban poverty in millions in 1993-94 the rural poverty was 328.6 Millions and the urban poverty was 74.5 Millions. In 2019-21 the rural poverty 172 millions and the urban poverty 26 millions so the urban poverty in millions compare to the rural poverty millions is less.

4. FINDINGS:

1. Poverty has declined much faster than in earlier years. Because of the introduction of various welfare schemes.
2. Rural poverty declining faster than the urban poverty.
3. Poverty Reduce towards cash transfer in subsidies, because of direct benefit transfer that is no middleman agency.
4. According to survey Government aiming reduce poverty by 2030.

Poverty will decline further if we bridge the gap between rural and urban areas.

Poverty is intertwined with socio economic and political arenas to the need of the hour is political will and government should Act as a facilitator in implementing the schemes with transparency and accountability.

Thus paper examines the concepts of poverty in different contexts and it throws a light on the poverty expectation given by Tendulkar committee. Few suggestions were also given on how to overcome the obstacles of poverty.

5. CONCLUSION:

By adopting the above measures rural urban inequalities, gender disparities, intra and inter regional disparities can be removed to a certain extent. We also can not only eradicate poverty but also can integrate the marginalized sections into the mainstream of development in an inclusive, sustainable and wholistic manner. In spite of taking meticulous care by state governments as well as central government, it is an herculian task because of inequalities in wealth as well as social welfare schemes. We have to go a logway to remove these hurdles and bring the marginalised sections into the main stream of development with their participation in all spheres.

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