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# **RNI MAHMUL/2011/38595**

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**Golden Research Thoughts** 



# **POVERTY IN INDIA: AN ANALYTICAL STUDY**

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## **ABSTRACT:**

Proverty in India is widespread, and a variety of methods have been proposed to measure it. The official measure of Indian government, before 2005, was based on food security and it was defined from per capita expenditure for a person to consume enough calories and be able to pay for associated essentials to survive. Since 2005, Indian government adopted the Tendulkar methodology which moved away from calorie anchor to a basket of goods and used rural, urban and regional minimum expenditure per capita necessary to survive.

**Key Words:** Poverty in India , Analytical Study , variety of methods.

# **INTRODUCTION**

The World Bank has similarly revised its definition and benchmarks to measure poverty since 1990, with \$2 per day income on purchasing power parity basis as the definition in use from 2005 to 2013. Some semi-economic and non-economic indices have also been proposed to measure poverty in India; for



example, the Multi-dimensional Poverty Index placed 33% weight on number of years spent in school and education and 6.25% weight on financial condition of a person, in order to determine if that person is poor.

**Objective-** 1. Who comes in the category of the poorest class in India.

2. Where do the majority of poor live in India?

3. Important initiatives of present government

Who comes in the category of the poorest class in India? – Tribal people, Dalits and labour class including farm workers in villages and casual workers in cities are still very poor and make the poorest class in India.

Where do the majority of poor live in India? – 60% of the poor still reside in the states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The reason for these states to be in the category of the poorest state is because 85% of tribal people live there. Also, most of these regions are either floodprone or suffer from drought-like conditions. These conditions hamper agriculture to a great extent, on which the household income of these people depends.

According to the Global Hunger Index Report 2012 by the International Food Research Institute, India ranks 65 in Global Hunger Index. Though there is no shortage of food production in India, our nation still has the highest percentage of underweight children under five. India is working hard to become a superpower in 2020, but what about these poor in India as our nation still lags behind in improving GHI. India at present has a greater share of the poor around the world. Thirty years ago,

#### POVERTY IN INDIA: AN ANALYTICAL STUDY

India was home to one-fifth of world's poor but now it is a home to one-third of poor people. This means we now have more poor in India as compared to thirty years ago.

International poverty line stands at \$1.25 per day and in 2010, 32.7% of the total population in India was below this line.

According to a 2011 poverty Development Goals Report, poverty in India is expected to drop by 22% in 2015.

High population growth rate is one of major reasons of poverty in India. This further leads to high level of illiteracy, poor health care facilities and lack of access to financial resources. Also, high population growth affects the per capita income and makes per capita income even lower. It is expected that population in India will reach 1.5 billion by 2026 and then India will be the largest nation in the world. But India's economy is not growing at the same pace. This means shortage of jobs. For this much population, near about 20 million new jobs would be required. Number of poor will keep on increasing if such a big number of jobs won't be created.

Ever increasing prices of even basic commodities is another reason of poverty. A person below the poverty line finds it difficult to survive. Caste system and unequal distribution of income and resources is another reason of poverty in India.

Apart from all these, unskilled workers are paid very low in spite of hard work they put daily. The problem lies with the unorganized sector as owners do not bother the way their workers live and the amount they earn. Their area of concern is just cost-cutting and more profit. Because of the number of workers looking for a job is higher than the jobs available, unskilled workers have no other option but to work for less money. The government should really find a way to impose minimum wage standards for these workers. At the same time, the government should ensure that this is implemented well.Poverty must be eradicated from India as every person has the right to live a healthy life.

## **IMPORTANT INITIATIVES BY MODI'S GOVERNMENT**

**Make in India:** A couple of days back Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a flagship "Make in India" campaign with an objective to make India a manufacturing superpower. In this campaign local and foreign companies were urged to invest in India. The Government has selected 25 sectors where India can beat the world. Major among these are automobiles, chemicals, IT, pharma, electronics, design manufacturing, mining, bio-technology, textiles, ports, aviation, leather, tourism and hospitality, wellness and railways. Ministers related to manufacturing are also participating in the "Make in India" campaign.

These 25 sectors will also focus on skill enhancement and job creation.

To make this campaign a success, the government has made plans to relax foreign investment caps in construction. This will boost participation of companies in the '100 smart cities' project and affordable housing. The government has already made changes in the FDI caps in defence and railways and these have been eased to 49% and 100%, respectively.

The initiative will be a success if India can control its corruption.

**Swachch Bharat Abhiyaan:** One of the biggest problems in India is lack of sanitation facilities and cleanliness. The Narendra Modi Government is going to tackle this problem by launching Swachch Bharat Abhiyaan on October 2, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The initiative will focus on cleanliness, waste management and sanitation across the country.

The first phase of the drive started on September 25 up to panchayat level and will last till Diwali.

Though a very good and needed initiative but cleanliness is not only the responsibility of the government but also the people. We must keep our surroundings clean to make Swachch Bharat Abhiyaan a success.

**100 smart cities project:** The government is planning to build 100 smart cities in India with the pilot project in Bangalore. Design and creation will be region specific. Smart cities will have 27×7 water supply and electricity. The cities will be free from garbage heaps. These cities will provide quality education and sports facilities. There will be open spaces for recreation and for healthy living.

Manufacturing companies are sensing good business opportunities and want to reap the benefits. Faridabad, Gurgaon, Delhi, Jodhpur, Ajmer, Dehradun, Haridwar, Kanpur, Jaipur, Gwalior, Bhopal, Indore, Lucknow, Varanasi, Bodh Gaya, Allahabad and Kochi are in the list of smart cities.

In the Union Budget, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had allocated Rs 7,060 crore for the development of the smart cities.

**Every Indian household to have a bank account:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi promised that every Indian household will have a bank account. Most of the poor people who do not have a bank account depends upon money lender for financial help. With this they enter into vicious cycle of debt. Modi launched a major initiative for providing bank account to every Indian. He wrote 725,000 emails to bank officials urging them to support the initiative.

Welfare benefits will be directly transferred to the bank account of the holder leaving no space for bribery and corruption. This will also reduce the influence of moneylenders.

Though such an initiative is not new in India but banks fail to provide services made for poor. Banks must target specific audience and its needs. The poor must have a regular source of income to pay back the loan if he takes from bank. So along with bank account, providing skill-based education and work becomes mandatory.

**Industrial corridors:** India needs well developed and connected roads, ports and infrastructure for the complete development and change in India.

To achieve this the government is working on many ambitious projects undertaking the development of infrastructure and roads in India. The Union finance minister in his budget speech proposed industrial corridors and 20 new industrial clusters.

Country Indicators
GNI per capita, Atlas method (current US\$)
\$1,560 <b>2014</b> \$1,590 <b>2015</b>
GDP growth (annual %)
7.2% 2014 7.6% 2015
Population, total (millions)
1,279.5 <b>2013</b> 1,311.1 <b>2015</b>
Poverty headcount ratio at \$1.90 a day (2011 PPP) (% of population)
31.4% 2009 21.3% 20

# Table-1 India : Poverty Indicators

#### **FINDINGS**

As per the survey conducted in 2011-2012, the percentage of persons below the Poverty Line in India for the year 2011-12 has been estimated as 25.7% in rural areas, 13.7% in urban areas and 21.9% for the country as a whole.

The respective ratios for the rural and urban areas were 41.8% and 25.7% and 37.2% for the country as a whole in 2004-05. It was 50.1% in rural areas, 31.8% in urban areas and 45.3% for the country as a whole in 1993-94.

In 2011-12, India had 270 million persons below the Tendulkar Poverty Line as compared to 407 million in 2004-05, that is a reduction of 137 million persons over the seven year period Poverty headcount ratio at \$ 1.90 a day in year 2011, GNI per capita \$ 1,590 in year 2015

## **CONCLUSION :**

Looking back 45 years or so, progress against poverty in India has been highly uneven over time and space. It took 20 years for the national poverty rate to fall below—and stay below—its value in the early 1950s. And trend rates of poverty reduction have differed appreciably between states. This research project aimed to understand what influence economy-wide and sectoral factors have played in the evolution of poverty measures for India since the 1950s, and to draw lessons for the future.

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