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Problems Of Opportunity Poverty Alleviation Programmes In India

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Abstract
The poverty Alleviation programme in India can be based on whether it is targeted for rural areas. Several poverty Alleviation programmes in India Initiated by both the towards a solution of the problems of poverty, Economic reforms and reduction of poverty and NSSO 55th Round Poverty reduction controversy, aimed at combating and alleviating poverty have been not to be successful. But to be successful instead of reducing incidence of poverty. The publish in economic survey (2000-2001) NSSO 55th Round Shows a significant in poverty 26%, to 23.3% decline the poverty Ratio the planning commission in march censes 2012 below poverty line come down to 29.8% into 2009 -2010 and 1993 -94 - 45% population was below poverty line which come down to 21.9% in 2011 -12. For a successful implementation of poverty alleviation in Rural India progammes strategy. Strengthen the existing poverty alleviation strategies and ensuring good management could be one major way towards the effective performance of existing poverty alleviation programmes. Direct poverty alleviation program and will continue on expanded scale in the ninth plan. But these programmes would be oriented towards strengthening productive potential of the economy and providing more opportunities for involving the poor in the economy process. The poverty eradication is one of the major objectives of the planned development. Poverty can effectively eradicated only when the poor start contributing to the programmes should be increasingly based on approaches al the methods which involve the poor themselves in the process of poverty eradication and economic growth.

Instruction

India is the home to above 40 crores of poor did not have incomes to access a consumption Basket which defines the poverty line. Of these, 83.36 per cent were in the rural areas.2 India is home to 33 per cent of the poor fall below the international poverty line. Such a high incidence of poverty is a matter of concern in view of the fact that poverty eradication has been one of the major objectives of the development planning process. Indeed, poverty is a global issue. Its eradication is considered integral to humanity's quest for sustainable development. Reduction of poverty in India is, therefore, vital for the attainment of national and international goals. The problem poverty in India as over the years engaged the attention of the international community. NSSO, 55th round poverty reduction controversy. Poverty in India countries is massive pervasive and chronic engulting a large proportion of the society planning commission in march census 2012. In India human conditions have greatly deteriorated with real disposable incomes dwindled and malnutrition rates on the increases. The situation is more critical considering that in spite of the vast resource committed to the poverty Alleviation by every successive administration, no obvious achievements has been accomplished in this direction. The upshot of the entire argument is that absolute standard of poverty expressed in terms of minimum requirements of cereals, pulses, milk, vegetables, butter or calories intake is conditioned by the relative levels of living prevalent in the country. The deprivation of a significant section of the society of minimum basic needs in the face of a luxurious life for the e life classes makes poverty more glaring. Poverty can be defined as a

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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 plugged with mass poverty. The countries of the third world exhibit invariably the existence of mass poverty, although pockets of poverty exeunt even in the developed countries of Europe and America. For instance, in India, the generally accepted definition of poverty emphasis minimum level of living rather than a reasonable level of living.

Aim &Objection:

Our aim is to combat poverty by working with others to empower individuals and communities to affect change in the distribution of power and resources.

We have four objectives for the period 2009-2012 that guide our work:

- To work with people and communities experiencing poverty to empower them to address poverty
- To work with organizations to build a strong anti-poverty network in India
- To support the development of policies which promote social justice and combat poverty
- To raise awareness about poverty and encourage debate about solutions

Statement of the problems

Being female is reported to be a risk factor for common mental disorders. Studies from India have shown that poverty and deprivation are independently associated with the risk for common mental disorder in women and add to the sources of stress associated with womanhood Interviews with relatives of young women in rural India who had committed suicide and the survivors of suicide attempts revealed that hopelessness was a core experience, associated with poverty, limited educational and work prospects and the migration of husbands to urban areas for employment; these were in addition to other issues such as stigma for failing to produce a son, spouse and family abuse and forced marriages. Within a household, studies reported that some members of the household go without certain goods and services in order to increase the amount available for others; parents most commonly go without on behalf of children and women are most likely to go without than men. Depression during pregnancy is a common problem and is associated with indicators of socio-economic deprivation as well as other problems such as violence and loss of an intimate relationship.

Review of literature

Although concerned efforts have been initiated by the Government of India through several plans and measures to alleviate poverty in rural India, there still remains much more to be done to bring prosperity in the lives of the people in rural areas. Self-employment programmes like microcredit is successful because of people's participation in the form of SHGs. The government has taken a major step in this direction in the form of 73rd and 74th amendment to the constitution to give more powers to PRI. India is a haven to 22% of the world's poor. Such a high incidence of poverty is a matter of apprehension, in view of the fact that poverty eradication has been one of the major objectives of the development process. Really, poverty is a global dialog. Poverty eradication is considered integral to humanity's mission for sustainable development. Thus, reduction of poverty in India is vital for the attainment of international goals. The philosophy underlying the poverty alleviation programs is to tackle the rural poverty by endowing the poor with productive assets and training for raising their skills so that they are assured of a regular stream of employment and income in raising themselves above the poverty line. At the macro-level, there is a need to co-ordinate a myriad of poverty alleviation programmes of the central government and the State

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governments. The transfer of central funds to the States for different programmes should be efficient. Currently, such funds and goods like food grains are not fully utilized by the States. There is a need to strengthen the financial management capacity of certain States to use the funds efficiently.

Methodology

Measurement of Poverty: Mr.P.D.Ojha,

Mr. P.D. Ojha estimated the number of persons below the poverty line on the basis of an average calorie intake of 2.250 per capita per day. This entailed monthly per capita consumption expenditure of Rs. 15-18 (1960-61) in urban areas and of Rs. 8-11 in rural areas. On this basis, Ojha estimated that 184 million persons in the in the rural areas (51.8 per cent of total rural population) and 6 million persons in the urban areas (7.6 per cent of urban population) lived below the poverty line. For the country as a whole, 190 million persons (44 per cent of total population) could be classed as poor in 1960-61. For 1967-68, Ojha estimated that 289 million persons (70 per cent of the rural population) lived below poverty line.

Dandekar and Rath's

Dr. V.M. Dandekar and Mr. NilkanthaRath estimated the value of the diet with 2,250calories as the desired minimum level of nutrition. They suggested that whereas the
Planning commission accepts Rs. 20 per capita per month (or Rs. 240 per annum) as the minimum desirable standard, it would not be fair to use this figure for both the urban and the rural areas. Dandekar and Rath, therefore, suggested somewhat lower minimum for rural population i.e., Rs. 180 per capita per annum and a somewhat higher minimum Rs. 270 per capita per annum for the urban population at 1960-61 prices. However, at 1968-69 prices, the corresponding figures for the rural and urban population work out to be Rs. 324 and Rs. 486 per capita per annum Interpolating at this basis Dandekar and Rath estimated THAT in 1968-69 about 40 per cent of rural population (i.e., 166 million) and a little more than 50 per cent of the urban population (i e, 49 million) lived below the poverty line. The total number of persons living below the poverty line showed an increase from 1960-61 to 216 million in 1968- 69, but there was no change in the percentage of rural and urban poor to the population in the two years it stood at 41 per cent.

Minhas' Study of Rural Poor

Another estimate made by B.S.Minha on the basis 'of.NSS data revealed that if one regards the level of per capita annual consumption expenditure as the bare minimum, then 50 6 per cent of the population lived below the poverty line in 1967-68. During the period 1956-57 and 1967-68, the proportion below the poverty line among the rural poor seems to have fallen in good harvest years but shot up again in bad harvest years. However, there has been a steady decline in the proportion of people below the poverty line, i.e., from 65 per cent in 1956-57 to 50.6 per cent in 1967-68. In other works, we had around 210 million poor people in rural areas in 1967-68, and the corresponding number in the earlier years varied between 206 and 221 million.

Montek Ahluwalia's Study of Rural Poverty

Montek Ahluwalia studied the trends in incidence of rural poverty in India for the period 1956-57 to 1973-74. He used the same concept of poverty line i.e., an expenditure level of Rs. 15 in 1960-61 prices for rural areas and Rs. 20 per person for urban areas. The most important feature of Montek Ahluwalia's study is the marked fluctuation over time in the extent or incidence of rural poverty. The proportion of rural poverty declined initially from over 50 per cent in the mid-fifties to around 40 per cent in 1960- 61, rose sharply through the mid-sixties, reaching a peak in 1967-68, and then declined again.

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GauravDatt and Martin Ravallions' study on Poverty Line and Poverty Gap

Gaurav Datt and Martin Ravallions' are developed the concept of poverty gap along with the poverty line. The authors have also used Rs. 89 as the poverty line. Since all NSS data on consumption expenditure are in current local prices, the study has used rural interstate price relatives (ratio of rural prices in a state to all India Prices) for 1973-74 constructed by Bhattacharya updated to 1983 using Consumer Price Index for agricultural labourers as the rural price deflator. Similarly, consumer price Index for Industrial Workers the interstate price relatives for urban areas. According to his study, 43.9 per cent of the population was below the poverty line 40.9 per cent of urban population and 45 per cent of the rural population was reckoned as poor in 1983. He measured poverty gap as the distance from the poverty line of average consumption expenditure of the poor in each state as a proportion of the national poverty line.

Table-1: Poverty Lines with base 1973-74 (Rs. per capita per month

Year	Rural	Urban
1973 – 74	49.09	56.96
1977 – 78	56.84	72.50
1983	89.45	72.50
1987 – 88	115.43	165.58

Source: Planning Commission (1993): Report of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor, p. 36.

Table-2: Population below the Poverty Line

Year	In million			Percentage of Total Population		
	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
1973-74	261.3	60.3	321.6	56.4	49.2	54.9
1977-78	264.3	67.7	332.0	53.1	47.2	51.8
1983	251.7	75.7	327.0	45.6	42.2	44.8
1987-88	229.4	83.3	312.7	39.1	40.1	39.3

Source: Compiled from the Planning Commission (1993) Report of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor

NSSO Rounds and Poverty study

The NSSO has recently conducted the 61st round, which has large sample covering the period July to June 2000. Before this round the NSSO has conducted number of surveys since 1951-55 at all-India level. The details of the surveys are given in the following tables.

Table-3

Poverty in India 1951-2000: Summery Table

NSS Round	Head count index (POOR AS % Total Population)				Number of Poor (million)		
	Period	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
3-8	1951-55	54.77	42.70	52.66	170.6	28.1	198.7
9-15	1956-60	53.96	47.06	52.74	184.6	34.8	219.5
16-19	1961-65	48.59	45.46	48.02	183.0	38.6	221.6
20-24	1966-70	60.44	50.90	58.60	251.0	50.7	301.7
25,25,28,	1971-75	55.27	46.09	53.39	252.2	54.6	306.8
32,38	1976-83	47.96	38.08	45.68	246.0	58.1	304.1
42-45	1984-90	37.94	34.99	37.20	223.3	67.7	290.0
46-48	1991-92	39.44	33.24	37.84	249.5	73.3	322.8
Percentage change between							
1951-55 and 1991-92		-28.0	-22.2	-28.1	46.2	160.7	62.4

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Table-4
Poverty in India 1973-97

NSS Round	Survey period	Head Count index		Poverty Gap		Squared Poverty Gap Index	
		Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
28	Oct 73 – Jan 74	55.72	47.96	17.175	13.602	7.128	5.219
32	July 77 – Jan 78	50.60	40.50	15.025	11.687	6.057	4.526
38	Jan 83 – Dec 83	45.31	35.65	12.649	9.517	4.841	3.557
42	July 86 – Jan 87	38.81	34.29	10.013	9.100	3.700	3.395
43	July 87– June 88	39.23	36.20	9.275	9.121	2.982	3.056
44	July 88 – Jan 89	39.06	36.60	9.504	9.537	3.291	3.293
45	July 89 – Jun 90	34.30	33.40	7.799	8.505	2.575	3.038
46	July 90 - Jun91	36.43	32.76	8.644	8.509	2.926	3.121
Pre Economics Reform	July 89 – Jun 91	35.37	33.08	8.222	8.507	2.751	3.080
47	July 91 - Dec 91	37.42	33.23	8.288	8.244	2.680	2.902
48	Jan 92 - Dec 92	43.47	33.73	10.881	8.824	3.810	3.191
50	Jul 93 - Jun 94	36.66	30.51	8.387	7.405	2.792	2.417
51	Jul 94 - Jun 95	41.02	33.50	9.205	8.382	2.995	2.799
52	Jul 95 - Jun 96	37.15	28.04	8.098	6.781	2.527	2.222
53	Jan 97 – Dec 97	35.78	29.99	8.312	7.762	2.757	2.725
Post Economics Reform	Jul 95 - Dec 97	36.47	29.02	8.273	7.273	2.642	2.474

Source: Gaurav Datt, Has Poverty Declined since Economic Reforms, Economic and Political Weekly, December 17th November 1999

NSSO 55th Round

The NSSO completed the 55th round which has a large sample covering the period July 1999 to June 2000. According to figures published in Economic Survey (2000-01), NSSO 55th round shows a significant decline in poverty to 26 per cent based on 30 days recall and 23.3 per cent on 365 days recall methodology. In all NSS rounds after the early 50s, the reference period has essentially been uniform the schedules were field by asking the respondents about their consumption for the past 30 days. During the 55th round, the question on consumption of Clothing, footwear, education, health and durable goods were asked only by past 365 days

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and durable goods were asked only by past 365 days and for food, tobacco and intoxicants, all sample households were put both 30 day and one week questions.

Table-5: Estimates of Poverty (in Per cent)

Year	All India	Rural	Urban
1973-74	**54.9**	**56.4**	**49.0**
1977-78	**51.3**	**53.14**	**45.2**
1983 44	**44.5**	**45.7**	**40.8**
1987-88	**38.9**	**39.1**	**38.2**
1993-94	**36.0**	**37.3**	**32.4**
1999-2000 30 day Recall	**26.1**	**27.1**	**23.6**

Source: Economic Survey (2000-01), Ministry of Finance, Government of India, p. 13.

The real issue is that while most of the research studies for the decade of the nineties led to a general consensus that rural poverty at the all- India level did not show any declining trend, the results of NSS 55th round suddenly indicate a sharp reduction even in rural poverty from 37.3 per cent in 1993-94 to 27.1 per cent in 1999- 2000 on the basis of 30 day recall. Ironically, the reduction in rural poverty during the 6 year period (1993-94 to 1999-2000) is greater than the reduction in urban poverty a result, which is not in conformity with the research findings of other economists for the same period. While general consensus was being built that the second generation reform should change its strategy towards rural development, rather than having a narrow focus, the results of 55th round NSS only support the continuance of the reform process in its present form. This has been the subject of controversy in India.

The Causes of Poverty alleviation program

The International Food Study Institute had a brief on a collection of extensive studies that analyzed the causes of poverty, analyzing household data and reviewing empirical research in 20 countries. They found that some of the major causes of poverty were the inability of poor households to invest in property and education, limited access to credit, in some cases these instances produce more poverty via inherited poverty. The systematic exclusion of ethnic minorities, scheduled castes, tribes, women and people with disabilities and health issues. Persistence of poverty is partially attributed to these classes not having access to institutions and markets. War and violence may be some of the primary causes of poverty. Political violence and organized crime have affected 39 countries since 2000, in those countries the poverty level is twice that of non-violent countries. These two items, poverty and violence may also feed themselves. When asked why young people joined gangs and rebel groups in half a dozen countries, two thirds of the respondents said that unemployment was their main reason, only one tenth cited a belief in the cause.

- Lack of control in local food
- Corruption: Corruption is both a major cause and a result of poverty around the world.
- Lack of access to education
- Mental illness, Lack of proper psychiatric care
- World Hunger, the economic development in the world.
- Epidemic diseases

The Effects of Poverty Alleviation program

The effects of poverty are serious. Children who grow up in poverty suffer more persistent, frequent, and severe health problems than do children who grow up under better financial circumstances.

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- Many infants born into poverty have a low birth weight, which is associated with many preventable mental and physical disabilities. Not only are these poor infants more likely to be irritable or sickly, they are also more likely to die before their first birthday.
- Children raised in poverty tend to miss school more often because of illness. These children also have a much higher rate of accidents than do other children, and they are twice as likely to have impaired vision and hearing, iron deficiency anemia, and higher than normal levels of lead in the blood, which can impair brain function.

Levels of stress in the family have also been shown to correlate with economic circumstances. Studies during economic recessions indicate that job loss and subsequent poverty are associated with violence in families, including child and elder abuse. Poor families experience much more stress than middle-class families. Besides financial uncertainty, these families are more likely to be exposed to series of negative events and "bad luck," including illness, depression, eviction, job loss, criminal victimization, and family death. Parents who experience hard economic times may become excessively punitive and erratic, issuing demands backed by insults, threats, and corporal punishment.

Conclusions

Debate on poverty in India has remained mostly in the domain of economists. Poverty is defined in terms of income, expenditure and nutritional value (calorie intake). Social dimension of poverty is a neglected area of study. Poverty is more of social marginalization of an individual, household or group in the community/society rather than inadequacy of income to fulfill the basic needs. Indeed, inadequate income is therefore one of the factors of marginalization but not the sole factor. The goal of poverty alleviation programme should aim merely increasing the income level of individual, household or group but mainstreaming marginalized in the development process of the country. The country cannot claim economic growth when sections of the people are marginalized to the periphery of the society. The rapid economic growth process should accelerate the access to services like education and health services for all, especially the marginalized citizens. The government should also aware the rural population about the importance of small family and mortality rate. Poverty give birth too many other problems. The link between ignorance and poverty and ill health and poverty are well-established. There are diseases of poverty such as malaria, tuberculosis, diarrhea and malnutrition. Having fallen ill due to poverty, the poor do not have the resources to seek quality health care, for which he/she has to borrow money for treatment. Ineptness due to hospitalization leading to poverty has been well documented. Poverty therefore is a complex phenomenon of many dimensions not merely the economic dimension. So government should provide better medical facilities, drinking water facilities and education so that people living below poverty line can improve their lives. Yesudian (2000) also suggested that Poverty alleviation programmes should also address the issue of poverty from broader social and economic perspectives.

Remedies

Interactive solutions for reduction of Poverty in India

Govt. Policy Regarding Reduction of Poverty

The Govt, of India took certain measures to reduce poverty, inequality of income and wealth in its five year plan periods. Followings are some steps taken by the Govt, from time to time.

Govt. Policy Regarding Reduction of Poverty

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1. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)
2. National Rural Employment Programme (NREP)

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3. Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP)
4. JawaharRozgarYojna
5. Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment
6. Development of Women and Children.
7. Drought Prone Area Programme
8. Desert Development Programme
9. Minimum Needs Programme
10. Employment Exchanges
11. Employment Guarantee Scheme
12. Development of Animal Husbandry and Agriculture
13. Employment Assurance Scheme
14. Prime Minister's RozgarYojana (PMRY)
15. Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Program (PMIUPEP)
16. Self-Employment Programmes
17. The SwaranJayantiRozgarYojana
18. Jawahar Gram SamridhiYojana

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