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DEVELOPING INDIA & ITS POVERTY: A REVIEW

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Abstract: The most heated and debated topic not only in India but in entire world is to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030. Poverty is a socio-economic incident and it is closely related with disparity. It adverse effects on human health, efficiency and output, this in turn effect an individual income. Due to poverty, it becomes close to impossible to fulfill even the bare requirements of life viz: food, clothing, shelter, education and health in deprive section of society. This paper is a review based on secondary data collected related to poverty in India, government policies to reduce poverty, and impact of poverty alleviation program.

Index Term: Poverty in India, Poverty Alleviation Programs, Impact

I Introduction:

A young nation with a long history, India has the second-largest population in the world. India is also a regional power with a stable democratic government and an economy that is growing quickly. Despite this, poverty in India is high. Despite of COVID-19 pandemic India's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) has grown by 11% in 2021. But amidst of all these developments, the state of poverty in India has always remained a matter of concern and a major problem in the country, the reason being India's uneven development. The problem with India's development can be clearly observed i.e. certain parts of the country and the society enjoy all the benefits of development where as the other parts largely remain untouched. As a result, India witnesses chronic and widespread poverty. More than 800 million people in India are considered poor. Most of them live in the countryside and keep afloat with odd jobs. The lack of employment which provides a livable wage in rural areas is driving many Indians into rapidly growing metropolitan areas such as Bombay, Delhi, Bangalore or Calcutta. There, most of them expect a life of poverty and despair in the mega-slums, made up of millions of corrugated ironworks, without sufficient drinking water supply, without garbage disposal and in many cases without electricity. The poor hygiene conditions are the cause of diseases such as cholera, typhus and dysentery, in which especially children suffer and die. In our daily life, we come across many people who we think are poor. They could be landless labourers in villages or people living in overcrowded jhuggis in cities. They could be daily wage workers at construction sites or child workers in dhabas. They could also be beggars with children in tatters. We see poverty all around us. In fact, every fourth person in India is poor [1-5].

India lacks an uniform methodology of estimating poverty which adds to the misery. However, Government's efforts towards poverty alleviation through financial inclusion programmes is a clear indication that India wants to have increases standard of living and quality of life for one and all, and not only for the privileged few. In this paper a review on changes and development in past and present poverty of India as well as vulnerability of poverty evolution in India is presented in detail.

II Poverty and Poverty line:

- **Poverty :** Poverty means hunger and lack of shelter. It also is a situation in which parents are not able to send their children to school or a situation where sick people cannot afford treatment. Poverty also means lack of clean water and sanitation facilities. It also means lack of a regular job at a minimum decent level. Above all it means living with a sense of helplessness. Poor people are in a situation in which they are ill-treated at almost every place, in farms, factories, government offices, hospitals, railway stations etc. Obviously, nobody would like to live in poverty. One of the biggest challenges of independent India has been to bring millions of its people out of abject poverty. Mahatma Gandhi always insisted that India would be truly independent only when the poorest of its people become free of human suffering.

- Poverty Line:** A common method used to measure poverty is based on the income or Economics consumption levels. A person is considered poor if his or her income or consumption level falls below a given “minimum level” necessary to fulfill the basic needs. What is necessary to satisfy the basic needs is different at different times and in different Palces. Therefore, poverty line may vary with time and place. Each country uses an imaginary line that is considered appropriate for its existing level of development and its accepted minimum social norms.. While determining the poverty line in India, a minimum level of food requirement, clothing, footwear, fuel and light, educational and medical requirement, etc., are determined for subsistence. These physical quantities are multiplied by their prices in rupees. The present formula for food requirement while estimating the poverty line is based on the desired calorie requirement. Food items, such as cereals, pulses, vegetable, milk, oil, sugar, etc., together provide these needed calories.

III Status of poverty in India in last four years:

It is clear from fig. 1 that there is a decrease in poverty % from 2016-2021. For the year 2016-17 the poverty ratio is 7.3% wish was increased in 2017-18 to 23 % again in 2018-19 the value decreased to 6.7 %.In 2019-20 the value is constant 6.7% but in 2020-21 value decreased to 6 %.

From this it is clear that there is decrease in poverty % ratio but the chance was not that countable .Also fig. 1 graph of state verses % of people below poverty line was plotted. Graph shows highest % of poverty is shown by West Bengal with value of **19.98%** and lowest value is of Goa and Kerala with **5.09 % , 7.05%** respectively[6-7].

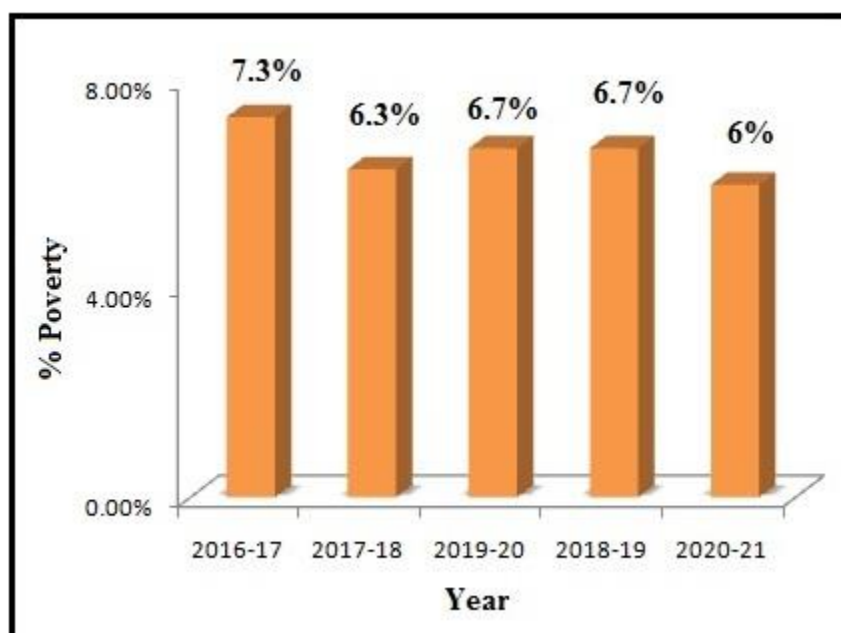


Fig.1 Plot of Last four Year (2016-2021) % Poverty VS Year

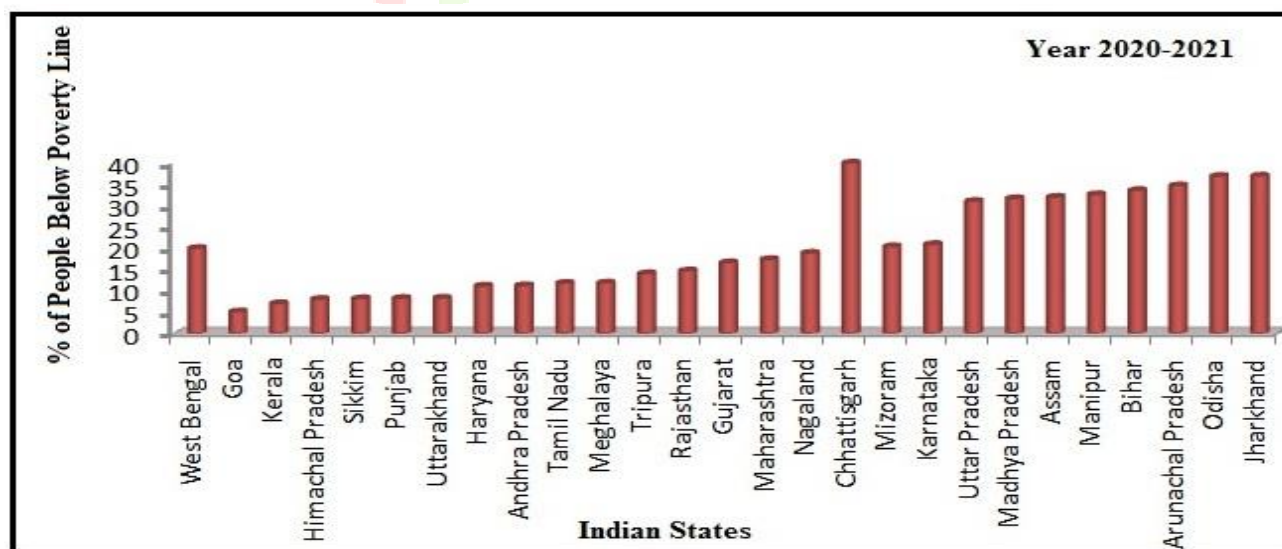


Fig.2 This is a list of and territories of Indian States ranked according to poverty as of 2021

IV. Steps Taken by Government to Reduce Poverty in India :

The overriding objective of a country's policy and planning is to raise the standard of living and enhance the productive capabilities of its people. With over a billion people, this challenge is particularly daunting for a developing country such as India. Government of India has planned poverty alleviation program to overcome this problem.

- **What is Poverty Alleviation?**

Poverty Alleviation is the set of steps taken in an economic and humanitarian way for eradicating poverty from a country. According to the World Bank, if a person is living on \$1.90 a day or less, then he/she is living in extreme poverty, and currently, 767 million people of the world fall under that category. Schemes like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and Housing for All by 2022 were developed to provide housing to the rural and urban poor. The latest government schemes like Start-Up India and Stand Up India focuses on empowering people to earn their livelihood.

V. Impact of Poverty Alleviation Program on sustainable development in India

“Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life.”

— Nelson Mandela, Former President of South Africa

Sustainable development of developing countries like India is affected by poverty and high growth rate of population. Therefore, the major problems in India are poverty and overburdened population, amongst these two; one, is a disease whereas another one is a menace and jointly they are annoying energetic organs of the society. These problems are adversely effects the environment and scarce resources which result into pathetic situation of natural life support system. One of the most important goals of Indian Government is to end poverty and for this Government of India is executing a widespread development strategy. Since last two decades various plans and policies has been implemented by Government of India for the reduction of poverty basically in rural area. 21.92% people live below poverty line in India and such a high prevalence of poverty is a matter of anxiety. In order to overcome this issue, one of the major objectives of the developmental process is poverty eradication. Therefore, poverty eradication is considered integral to humanity's mission for sustainable development. The employment generation programmes will be more effective by better targeting, reducing waste and corruption, making the programmes more meaningful in term of relevance to local needs and priorities and creating institutional conditions for greater accountability and transparency. A participatory approach involving villagers, NGO's and women in poverty alleviation programmes will help to decentralize these schemes to the grass-root level where the poor would themselves decide what suits them the most⁹.

1.Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA):

This scheme came in to force on 2nd February 2006. Its entire purpose is to safeguard the interest of rural households by ensuring 100 days of wage employment in a financial year, whose grown-up members volunteer to do unskilled labour-intensive work. It also helps in improving the livelihood security of people. It was introduced with an aim of bridging the gap between rich and poor. According to government data, total availability of funds under NREGS has been Rs 58,403.69 crore (2018-19), Rs 68,107.86 crore (2017-18), Rs 57,386.67 crore (2016-17), Rs 43,380.72 crore (2015-16) and Rs 37,588.03 crore (2014-15). The total expenditure has been Rs 51,510.82 crore (2018-19), Rs 63,646.41 crore (2017-18), Rs 58,062.92 crore (2016-17), Rs 44,002.59 crore (2015-16) and Rs 36,025.04 crore (2014-15)[9].According to an India Spend analysis, MNREGA will provide work to at least 52 million people. Under this scheme, total workers are 26.77 crore and amongst them only 12.01 crore are under the category of active workers³. In 2017-18, nearly 4.7 lakh disabled workers were provided employment and thus generating 1.57 crore person days [11].

2. Deendayal Antayodaya Yojana -National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM):

It is a modernized description of Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) which was launched in 1999. In June 2011, it was renamed as National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) by the efforts of Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD). At last, they were merged into DDU-AY (replaces Aajeevika). By providing skill training to the poor, this scheme provides help to the poor. This scheme would be implemented in rural areas of entire India except two union territories viz; Delhi and Chandigarh. Out of 1.03 crore houses sanctioned till 8.7.2019 under this scheme, 62.92 lakh landless beneficiaries (who derive major part of their income from manual casual labour) have been sanctioned houses[12]. For differently able persons, 5682 houses were approved out of these 1655 have been completed[11].

3. Deendayal Antayodaya Yojana -National Urban Livelihoods Mission(DAY-NULM):

In 12th five year plan, this scheme implemented on 24 September, 2013 in all district headquarters (irrespective of population) and in all the cities with population of 1 lakh or more as per Census 2011. In 1997, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) was implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation. Later on SJSRY has been revamped as DAY-NULM in 2013.It's solely aim is to provide self-employment to unemployed youth of urban areas. Mission of NULM is to scale back poverty and vulnerability of the urban poor households by enabling them to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities, leading to considerable development in their livelihoods on a sustainable basis, through building strong grassroots level [8]. The scheme also deal with the livelihood concern of the urban street vendors by facilitating with suitable space, institutional credit, & social security and skills to the urban street vendor for accessing emerging market opportunities

[8]. Now a days, 790 cities are under this scheme and in exceptional cases, other towns could also be allowed but on the appeal of the states.

4. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Rural) :

In rural area, it is a major scheme for the deprived section of society in the construction of houses. It is a major scheme for the construction of houses basically in rural areas. This scheme was ratified during March 2016 and earlier, it was popularized as Indira Awas Yojana (rural housing scheme). This scheme would be implemented in rural areas of entire India except two union territories viz; Delhi and Chandigarh. Out of 1.03 crore houses sanctioned till 8.7.2019 under this scheme, 62.92 lakh landless beneficiaries (who derive major part of their income from manual casual labour) have been sanctioned houses [12]. For differently able persons, 5682 houses were approved out of these 1655 have been completed [11].

5. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)

This scheme was initiated by Government of India on June 2015 and its primarily purpose is to provide reasonably priced houses to the urban poor by 31st March 2022 with a target of constructing 20 million affordable houses. Its focus is to provide house for all by 2022. Under these components, central assistance will be in the range of 1 lakh (US\$1,400) to 2.30 lakh (US\$3,300)[13].

6. National Social Assistance Programme:

This scheme was launched on 15th August 1995 for providing assist to aged persons, widows, disabled persons and bereaved families on death of primary breadwinner, belonging to below poverty line households. These programme works for the enlightenment and welfare of the society. At present, it comprises five schemes viz; Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS), Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS), National Family Benefit Scheme NFBS) and Annapurna [16]. An amount of Rs.9975 crore has been distributed to this scheme for the year 2018-19, which is 38% more than the budget allocation of 2014-15 which stood at Rs.7241 crore [11].

7. Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY):

It is a social security scheme pertaining to insurance and it was launched by Prime Minister of India on 9th May, 2015 in city of joy of India (Kolkata). It is a life insurance scheme for a period of one year (1st June to 31st May) & it is renew from year to year. For availing this scheme, age of people should lie between 18-50 year, and they have their bank account. Amount of annual premium is 330 rupees and this amount is repeatedly debited from the holder's account. At the time of bereavement of insured due to any reason, amount of risk coverage or payment to the nominee will be 2 lakh [13]. As of 30 May 2018, 5.33 crore people have already enrolled for this scheme and 60,422 claims has been disbursed against 63,767 claims received [13].

8. Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY):

In India, PMSBY is a government backed insurance scheme and it was launched on 9th May 2015 in Kolkata. Just like a PMJJBY, it is also a one-year insurance scheme (1st June to 31st May) & it is renewed from year to year. This scheme provides help to those people whose age is between 18 to 70 years and for availing the benefits of this scheme, people should have their bank accounts. Amount of annual premium is 12 rupees (exclusive all taxes) and this amount is routinely debited from the holder's account. An amount of 2 lakh will be paid to the nominee, in case of accidental death or full disability (as loss of both eyes, hands or feet) while in case of partial Permanent disability (loss of use in one eye, hand or foot); the amount will be 1 lakh.

9. Atal Pension Yojana (APY):

It is a government assisted pension scheme in India and earlier, it is popularized as Swavalamban Yojana. It purposes is to support the unorganized sector of the society. This scheme was launched by Honourable Prime Minister of India on 9th May 2015 in Kolkata.

10. Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) :

This scheme is sponsored by Government of India in order to provide highly subsidized food to the millions of the poorest families. It was launched on 25th December 2000 under NDA government. After identifying the "poorest of the poor" (the 10,000,000 poorest families in the Below Poverty Line category) through extensive surveying, the government began providing them an opportunity to purchase up to 37 kilograms of rice and wheat at a highly subsidized cost of 3 rupees per kilogram of rice and 2 rupees per kilogram of wheat[14]. A unique "Antyodaya Ration Card" is given to those families who are eligible for AAY and this card is called the PDS yellow card.

11. National Food Security Mission(NFSM):

On the recommendations of National Development Council, a centrally sponsored scheme (NFSM) was launched in 2007. Main areas of this scheme includes sustainable increase in the production of targeted crops through area expansion and productivity enhancement, restoration of soil fertility & productivity at the individual farm level and rise in farm level net income [10]. Main crops of NFSM are rice, wheat, pulses, Nutri cereals, coarse cereals, commercial crops and oilseeds. Under this programme, total beneficiaries are 412508 in 2018-19 and registered farmer are 415666 during 2018-19 & 2019-20[15].

Conclusion:

Despite of all government efforts and policies, still poverty remains widespread in India and the overall number of poor people is still growing which results into an obstacle for economic growth.. The incidence of poverty affects the deprived sections of the society and forces them to live in a very pathetic situation which results into a many health problems. Still the challenge for India is really to grow at high rates over a 3-decade period. It's not just about a \$5 trillion economy till 2024, or a \$10 trillion economy by 2030. The challenge for India is to grow at 8% to 9% per annum, year after year, for three decades or more. Only then can life of people leaving in India will change.

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