



Poverty Among Weaker Sections And Initiatives Taken By The Central Government To Achieve The Sustainable Development Goal 1

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1. Introduction:

Poverty is a deeply rooted problem in India. It is a challenge for all defenders of social justice and all seekers of sustainable growth. From pre-independence to 70 years of independence, India could not be free from poverty. It is a stain which could not be removed from our country after having so many Yojanas, planning, special schemes and many more visions, it remains a special issue in every budget and five year plans.

In the one side, India is experiencing high economic growth over the last two decades with 7.5 percent to 8.0 percent per annum.(1) The term, “**Inclusive Growth**” was introduced during the 11th five year plan which means that , inclusive development is viewed in term of economic and social inclusion reflection in poverty reduction, better health outcomes, increased access to education and improved access to basic amenities. But the large population of backward classes specially SCs and STs are still struggling for their survival.

1.1. Sustainable Development Goals: (2015 – 2030)

The concept of sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was born at the UN conference on sustainable development, Rio+20, in 2012. These Goals are nothing new but expansion of Millennium Development Goals (2005 – 2015) and therefore, these goals are based on Millennium Development Goals (MD Gs) 2000. The objective of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was to produce a set of universally applicable goals that balance the three dimensions of sustainable development, environment and economic. The SDGs must finish the job that the MDGs started and leave the no one behind.

All the sustainable Development summit on 25 Sep. 2015, UN Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for SDGs which includes a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice and tackle climate changes by 2030.(2)*

UNDP Administrator Helen Clark noted that , *“This agreement marks an important milestone in putting our world on an inclusive and sustainable course. If we all work together, we have a chance of meeting citizen’s aspirations for peace, prosperity and wellbeings, and to preserve our planet.”*

The new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the broader sustainability agenda, go much or all farther than the MDGs, addressing the root causes of poverty and the universal need for development that works for all people.

1.2 Sustainable development Goals 1 is No Poverty:

Eradicating poverty in all its forms remains one of the greatest challenges facing humanity while the number of people living in extreme poverty has dropped by more than half- from 1.9 billion in 1990, to 836 million in 2015 –too many are still struggling for the most basic needs. Globally, more than 836 million people are still living than on less than \$ 1.25 a day, many lacking access to adequate food clean drinking water and sanitation. About in five persons in developing –regions lives on less than \$ 1.25 per day. Rapid economic growth in countries like china and India has lifted million out of poverty, but progress has also been uneven, women are disproportionality more likely to live in poverty than men due to unequal access to paid work, education and property. South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, accounts for 80 percent of the global total of these living in extreme poverty.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) commitment is to end poverty in all forms and dimensions by 2030 involving vulnerables. Ending poverty is one of 17 Global Goals that make up the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development. An integrated approach is crucial for progress across the multiple goals.(3)*

2. Poverty in India :

Poverty in India is an important issue, India is a fastest growing country with 7.6percent growth rate in 2015. But according the Deutsche Bank Research, nearly 300 million people estimated in middle class. India’s share of world GDP will significantly increases from 7.3 percent in 2016 to 8.5 percent of the world share by 2020.(4)* In 2011, less than 22percent of Indians lived under the global poverty line, nearly a 10 percent reduction from 29.8 percent in 2009. In 2012, the Indian Government stated, 22 percent of its population is below its official poverty limit. The World Bank , in 2011 based on 2005; Purchasing Power parity (PPP)s International comparison programme, estimated 23.6 percent of India population or about 276 million people, lived below \$1.2 per day on PPP. According to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) programme, 207 million or 21.9 percent people out of 1.2 billion of Indians lived below poverty line of \$ 1.20 in 2011-1.

2.1. Poverty Among Backward Classes Social Groups :

Poverty reduction has been a major concern among policymakers in India and it has been reflected in various policy documents including the eleventh five years pan (2007-12), which clearly stated that ‘the persistence of poverty on the scale in which it still exists is not acceptable.*

According to the NSSO survey, the population of SCs 19.59percent, STs 8.63percent, OBCs 40.94 percent and Others 30.80percent in India. According to this survey STs 91.5percent, SCs 79.8percent and 78.0percent OBCs living in rural areas while STs 8.6percent , SCs 20.2percent and OBCs 22.0percent living in urban areas.

Across social groups, the incidence of poverty was much more pronounced among the SCs and STs and the percentage of STs declined in 2004-5 as compare to 1993-94, it was much higher than the national average. (see Table 1)*

Table 1: Incidence of poverty by social Groups during 1993-1994 and 2004-2005.

(Percent)

Year	Rural			Urban		
	SC	ST	All	SC	ST	All
1993-1994	48.3	52.0	37.3	48.8	40.1	32.4
2004-2005	36.8	47.7	28.3	39.8	33.9	25.7

Source : India, Human Development Report 2011 (Pg. no. 116)

The high incidence of poverty among SCs and STs could be observed in 2007 – 08 as well, the estimates of which are based on MRP (see Table 2)

Table 2 : Incidence of poverty among social groups during 2007 -2008 (Percent)

Social Group	Rural	Urban
Scheduled Castes	20.6	22.8
Scheduled Tribes	25.3	20.5
Other Backward classes	12.0	19.0
Others	6.3	7.3
All Social Groups	14.3	14.5

Source : India HDR 2011 (pg.116).

The per capita monthly expenditure of people living in urban areas was Rs. 1052.36 a month as against Rs.558.78 of those in rural areas. According to the NSSO survey, the all India average spending by rural STs was the lowest at Rs. 426.91, followed by rural SCs at Rs. 474.72, OBCs Rs.556.72 and other Rs. 685.31, it shows that the capability of spending of Others is higher than SCs and STs.

In Urban India, STs spend Rs. 857.46, sc Rs. 758.38, OBC Rs.870.93 and others Rs.1306.10. a month on an average.* In urban India, the Proportion of population located in regular wage/ salary earning households was almost the same (42.05 percent to 42.9 percent) for all social groups, except OBCs (34.3percent) .Dependence of self-employment was more prevalent among OBC (46.4percent) as well as the residual class (45.3percent) than the SCs(30.9percent) and STs (27.4 percent)

2. Projects & Initiatives taken by the Indian Government to End Poverty.

Following programmes have been taken up to end poverty from India. These are:

i) **Disha** :Creating employment and entrepreneurship opportunist for women in India (2015-17)

A three year partnership between the India Development Foundation, UNDP and Xynteo, supported by KEA foundation seeks to positively impact the lives of one million women in India through training, entrepreneurial skill development and employment, as well as to develop a new model of public-private collaboration that can be adapted and replicated across India.

ii) **Strengthening Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NUKS) and National service Scheme (NSS)-(2014-2017):**

In partnership with Ministry of youth affairs and sports, Government of India, the project aims to provide catalytic support to the youth volunteer schemes in the country and facilitate greater youth participation and voice in peace and sustainable Development programmers.

iii) Governances and Accelerated Livelihoods support (GOALS) :

The project aims to strengthen the effectiveness of key programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development with a particular focus on livelihoods and employment in 12 districts of chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha with US \$ 6,000,000 funding support by Government of India and US \$ 370,000 by Ford Foundation with National and State levels with partial at focus in 12 districts of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha of geographic coverage to meet the SDGS goal 1.

iv) Strengthening National Capacities in Tribal Areas :

In partnership with the Ministry of Tribal Areas, Government of India, the project aims to ensure that excluded groups benefits from the inclusive agenda of the Gov. of India through strengthening capacities of communities to demand and access entitlements of ensuring decentralized institutionalize deliver timely and stigma- free services with the funding support by UNDP of US \$ 3,200,000 with National level geographic coverage to implement by Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

v) Partnership with UNDP to Rehabilitate Manual Scavengers :

UNDP's partnership with civil society group Jan sahas is demonstrating that it is possible to create decent livelihoods free from discrimination and which ensures dignity for former manual scavengers. But the challenge ahead is for society and government to replicate these models across the country.

vi) Breaking Free: From manual scavenging to fish farming :

Manual scavenging refers to the practice of manually cleaning, carrying, disposing, or handling in any manner, human excreta from dry latrines and sewers. Since 1993, key legislations have been enacted prohibiting employment of people as manual scavengers, banning the construction of dry latrines and providing rehabilitation. Yet a dry latrines in India continue to be cleaned manually. Manual scavengers belong to some of the poorest, most vulnerable and marginalized groups. Many of them are Dalits , a group of people traditionally regarded as untouchables. In 2013, the UNDP supported the collective in leasing out a pond from the local authorities to start fish farming.

4) Top Nine measures to Reduce poverty in India:

Here are some measures to reduce poverty in India to achieve the Goal 1 of sustainable Development Goals:

- i) Accelerating economic growth,
- ii) Agricultural growth & poverty Alleviation,
- iii) Speedy development of infrastructure,
- iv) Accelerating Human Development,
- v) Growth of nine –farm employment,
- vi) Access to Assets,

- vii) Access to credit,
- viii) Public Distribution System,
- ix) Direct Attack to Poverty : special employment schemes for the poor.

5) Conclusion :

The sustainable development goals (SDGS) have the potential to create a world where no one is left behind. MDGS achievement in global level was good but there were substantial differences between regions and nations in achievements. As talking about Sustainable Development Index (SDI), India ranks 110th of 149 national assessed on where they stand with regard to achieving the ambitions Sustainable Development Goal. Although rapid economic growth in countries like China and India has lifted millions out of poverty, but progress has also been uneven; women are disproportionately more likely to live in poverty than men due to unequal access to paid work, education and property.

Suggestions:

- i) Accelerate rural poverty reduction, progress will need to focus on the rural poor. Capitalize on growing connectivity between rural and urban areas and between the agriculture, industry and service sectors will be effective to hold promise for the future.
- ii) Create more and better jobs: Efforts Should be done to address job creation in more productive sectors which will offer stability and security.
- iii) Focus on women and scheduled Tribes, more and more women as well as scheduled tribe women should be brought in a work force for India's growth & prosperity and poverty reduction among social groups.
- iv) Create more 'good' locations-concentration should be done in the poorest States.
- v) Improve human development outcomes for the poor especially for social groups. Special attention should be done to improve their quality of life and income-earning opportunities.

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