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**GOVERNMENT CONCERNS ON POVERTY SINCE INDEPENDENCE**


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**Abstract:** The problem of poverty is one the important problems confronting the world at large especially developing countries such as India. The concept of poverty can be seen as broadly multi dimensional, partly subjective, and names over time, it comprises capabilities as well as welfare The concept varies from society to society. The poverty line measured in terms of monthly per capita consumption expenditure and head count ratios. It is defined as monthly per capita consumption expenditure of Rs 46.63 in rural sector in 1973-74. It increased to Rs. 327.56 by 1999-2000. The poverty line (monetary Value) among major states is shown in Table 1. It reveal that Orissa and West Bengal had the highest monthly per capital expenditure of more than Rs. 100, more than the national average of Rs.89.5 in 1983-84 in rural sector. States like Assam, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala and Tamil Nadu are just above the national average of monthly per capita expenditure. Expenditure groups obtained from the NSS rounds on consumer expenditures estimate poverty ratios from the state specific poverty lines and distribution of persons. The head count ratios as estimated by planning commission. Shows that there has been a decline from 44.48 per cent in 1983 to 26.10 per cent by 1999-2000. The whole period is divided into two phases indicating the period before and after the initiation of globalization i.e. from 1983 to 1993-94 and 1993-94 to 1999-2000. Head count ratios were showing a declining trend of poverty ratios by 8 points in the first phase i.e. before initiation of globalization and 10 points in the second phase i.e. after initiation of globalization. In rural India, the incidence has declined from 45.65 per cent in 1983 , 37.27 per cent in 1993 reduced to 27.09 percent by 1999-2000 and from 40.79 per cent in 1983, 32.36 per cent in 1993 and this reduced to 23.62 per cent for urban India. The annual percent point reduction or trend rate of decline is 1.85 for all India urban and 1.87 per cent for all India rural during 1993 to 1999-2000. The main objective of the present article is to examining the poverty in India since Independence.

**Introduction:** Poverty in India is widespread, with the nation estimated to have a third of the world's poor. In 2010, the World Bank reported that 32.7% of all people in India fall below the international poverty line of US\$ 1.25 per day (PPP) while 68.7% live on less than US\$ 2 per day. The problem of poverty is one the important problems confronting the world at large especially developing countries such as India. The concept of poverty can be seen as broadly multi dimensional, partly subjective, and names over time, it comprises capabilities as well as welfare The concept varies from society to society. It is the depreciation of basic requirements for a decent life in that particular society. Poverty has long been a tragic aspect of human society ever since the human society came into existence. The biggest threat to the spread of democratic values in most developing countries including India is poverty with various manifestations or dimensions that are interlinked to one another. The problem of poverty is the problem of growth and development.

**The main objectives of the present article are**

- a. To examine the Government Concerns on Poverty since Independence
- b. To examine the Income Parameters on poverty in India.
- c. To examine the Poverty lines for Major States and All India Time Series Analysis of Poverty:

**Source:** the present article is based on the secondary data

**Government Concerns on Poverty since Independence:** The government of India is trying its level best to eliminate poverty but could only achieve limited success. Even though it is able to reduce poverty in relative terms but in absolute terms the number of people living below poverty line had increased overtime. Hence, the problem of poverty occupies an important place in the Indian economy. Eradicating of poverty was the major objective of Indian Planning ever since 1950's. Pandit J. Nehru called upon the nation on eve of Independence to "end poverty, ignorance, disease and inequality of opportunity". In 1947, Planning Commission (1950) intended "to promote a rapid rise in the standard of living of the people by efficient exploitation of the resources to all for employment in the service of the country". The adoption of "Socialistic Pattern of Society" in 1954 shows our concern to poverty eradication in the country. The fifth plan adopted a growth strategy of Minimum Needs Program covering eight components such as elementary education, rural health, rural water supply, rural roads, rural electrification, rural housing, environmental improvement of urban slums and nutrition. These schemes that were expected to be beneficial to the poor. The Sixth Plan (1980-85) constituted a "Task Force on Projection of Minimum Needs and Effective Consumption Demand" estimated the minimum requirements of the individual for urban and rural areas. The Sixth Five

Year Plan's strategy of "Growth with redistribution" gave birth to income distribution and employment generation schemes. Sixth Plan assigns high priority to programmes of promotion of gainful employment; eradication of poverty, Population control and meeting the basic human needs as integral part of Human Resource Development Programmes.

During the Seventh Five Year Plan, some more elements like Rural Sanitation, Rural Domestic Energy, and Public Distribution System were added. Eighth Five Year Plan recognized human development as the core of all development efforts. This aimed at primary education and primary health care. Ninth Plan aimed at eradication of poverty, ensuring food security and lastly providing basic minimum services of safe drinking water, primary health care, universal primary education, etc. Planning Commission has for the first time included eradication of poverty in Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07) aiming to reduce poverty ratio by 15 per cent points by 2012

Thus, Poverty eradication and improvement in the quality of life have been the basic goals of our plans, Instead of relying on growth to percolate, efforts were initiated to directly attack the problem of poverty by endowing the poor with productive assets /skill to employ themselves to earn higher incomes to break the Neo-Vicious Cycle of poverty.

#### Income Parameters:

**Poverty in India:** The poverty line measured in terms of monthly per capita consumption expenditure and head count ratios. It is defined as monthly per capita consumption expenditure of Rs 46.63 in rural sector in 1973-74. It increased to Rs. 327.56 by 1999-2000. The same in urban sector was Rs. 56.76 in 1973-74 and it increased to Rs. 454.11 by 1999-2000. Rural-urban differential has shown a fast change between 1973-74 and 1999-2000 i.e. from 14.4 points to 38.6 points, which has nearly been more than double.

Sl. No.	States	Rural			Urban		
		1983-1984	1993-1994	1999-2000	1983-1984	1993-1994	1999-2000
1	Andhra Pradesh	72.66	163.2	262.94	106.43	278.14	457.4
2	Assam	98.32	232.05	365.43	97.51	212.42	343.99
3	Bihar	97.48	212.16	333.07	111.8	238.49	379.78
4	Goa	88.24	194.94	318.63	126.47	328.56	539.71
5	Gujarat	83.29	202.11	318.94	123.22	297.22	474.41
6	Haryana	88.57	233.79	362.81	103.48	258.23	420.2
7	Himachal Pradesh	88.57	233.79	367.45	102.26	253.61	420.2
8	Jammu and Kashmir	91.75	-	367.45	99.62	-	420.2
9	Karnataka	83.31	186.63	309.59	120.19	302.89	511.44
10	Kerala	99.35	243.84	374.79	122.64	280.54	477.06
11	Madhya Pradesh	83.59	193.1	311.34	122.82	317.16	481.65
12	Maharashtra	88.24	194.94	318.63	126.47	328.56	569.31
13	Orissa	106.28	194.03	323.92	124.81	298.22	473.12
14	Punjab	88.57	233.79	362.68	121.03	253.61	388.15
15	Rajasthan	80.24	215.89	344.03	113.55	280.85	465.92
16	Tamilnadu	96.15	196.53	307.64	120.30	296.63	475.6
17	Uttar Pradesh	83.15	213.01	336.88	110.23	258.65	416.29
18	West Bengal	105.55	220.74	350.17	105.91	247.53	409.22
19	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	88.24	194.94	318.63	126.47	328.56	539.71
20	Delhi	88.57	233.79	362.68	123.29	309.49	505.45
21	<b>All india</b>	<b>89.5</b>	<b>205.84</b>	<b>327.56</b>	<b>115.65</b>	<b>281.35</b>	<b>454.11</b>

Source: ERD, Asia Development Bank, Working paper, Series No. 51.

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Table- 2 Poverty Ratio's for Major States (1973-74 to 1999-2000)																		
States/ U.Ts	1973-74			1977-78			1983			1987-88			1993-94			1999-2000		
	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
Andhra Pradesh	48.41	50.61	48.86	38.11	43.55	39.31	26.53	36.3	28.91	20.92	40.11	25.86	15.92	38.32	22.19	11.05	26.63	15.77
Arunachal Pradesh	52.67	36.92	51.93	59.82	32.71	58.32	42.6	21.73	40.68	39.35	9.94	36.22	45.01	7.73	39.35	40.04	7.47	33.47
Assam	52.67	36.92	51.29	59.82	32.71	57.15	42.6	21.73	40.47	39.35	9.94	36.21	45.01	7.73	40.86	40.04	7.47	36.09
Bihar	62.99	52.96	61.91	63.25	48.76	61.55	64.37	47.33	62.22	52.63	48.73	52.13	58.21	34.5	54.96	44.3	32.91	42.6
Goa	46.85	37.69	44.26	37.64	36.31	37.23	14.81	27	18.9	17.64	35.48	24.52	5.31	27.03	14.92	1.35	7.52	4.4
Gujarat	46.35	52.57	48.15	41.76	40.02	41.23	29.8	39.14	32.79	28.67	37.26	31.54	22.18	27.89	24.21	13.17	15.59	14.07
Haryana	34.24	40.18	35.36	27.73	36.57	29.55	20.56	24.15	21.37	16.22	17.99	16.64	28.03	16.38	25.05	8.27	9.99	8.74
Himachal Pradesh	27.42	13.17	26.39	33.49	19.44	32.45	17	9.43	16.4	16.28	6.29	15.45	30.34	9.18	28.44	7.97	4.63	7.63
Jammu & Kashmir	45.51	21.32	40.83	42.86	23.71	38.97	26.04	17.76	24.24	25.7	17.47	23.82	30.34	9.18	25.17	3.97	1.98	3.48
Karnataka	45.14	52.53	54.47	48.18	50.36	48.78	36.33	42.82	38.24	32.82	48.42	37.53	29.88	40.12	33.16	17.98	25.25	20.04
Kerala	59.19	62.74	59.79	51.48	55.62	52.22	39.03	45.68	40.42	29.1	40.33	31.79	25.76	24.55	25.43	9.38	20.27	12.72
Madhya Pradesh	62.66	5.65	51.78	62.52	58.66	61.78	48.9	53.06	49.78	41.92	47.9	43.07	40.64	48.38	42.52	37.06	38.44	37.43
Maharashtra	57.71	43	53.24	63.97	40.09	55.88	45.23	40.26	43.44	40.78	39.78	40.41	37.93	35.15	36.86	23.72	26.81	25.02
Manipur	52.67	36.92	49.96	59.82	32.71	53.72	42.6	21.73	37.02	39.35	9.97	31.35	45.01	7.73	33.78	40.04	7.47	28.54
Meghalaya	52.67	36.92	50.2	59.82	32.71	55.19	42.6	21.73	38.81	39.35	9.97	33.92	45.01	7.73	37.92	40.04	7.47	33.87
Mizoram	52.67	36.92	50.32	59.82	32.71	54.38	42.6	21.73	36	39.35	9.97	27.52	45.01	7.73	25.66	40.04	7.47	19.47
Nagaland	52.67	36.92	50.81	59.82	32.71	56.04	42.6	21.73	39.25	39.35	9.97	34.43	45.01	7.73	37.92	40.04	7.47	32.67
Orissa	67.28	59.62	66.18	72.38	50.92	70.07	67.53	49.15	65.29	57.64	41.63	55.58	49.72	41.64	48.56	48.01	42.83	47.15
Punjab	28.21	27.96	28.15	16.37	27.32	19.27	13.2	23.79	16.18	12.6	14.67	13.2	11.95	11.35	11.77	6.35	5.75	6.16
Rajasthan	44.76	52.13	46.14	35.89	43.53	37.42	33.5	37.94	34.46	33.21	41.92	35.15	26.46	30.49	27.41	13.74	19.85	15.28
Sikkim	52.67	36.92	50.86	59.82	32.71	55.89	42.6	21.73	39.71	39.35	9.94	36.06	45.01	7.73	41.42	40.04	7.47	36.55
Tamilnadu	57.43	49.4	54.94	57.68	48.68	54.79	53.99	46.96	51.66	45.8	38.64	43.39	32.48	39.77	35.03	20.55	22.11	21.12
Tripura	52.67	36.92	51	59.82	32.71	56.88	42.6	21.73	40.03	39.35	9.94	35.23	45.01	7.73	39.01	40.04	7.47	84.44
Uttar Pradesh	56.53	60.09	57.07	47.6	56.23	49.05	46.45	49.82	47.07	41.1	42.96	41.46	42.28	35.39	40.85	31.22	30.89	31.15
West Bengal	73.16	34.67	63.43	68.34	3.2	60.52	63.05	32.32	54.85	48.3	35.08	44.72	40.8	22.41	35.66	31.85	14.86	27.02
Andman & Nicobar	57.43	49.4	55.56	57.68	48.69	55.42	53.99	46.16	52.13	45.8	38.64	43.89	32.48	39.77	34.47	20.55	22.11	20.99
Chandigarh	27.96	27.96	27.96	27.32	27.32	27.32	23.79	23.79	23.79	14.67	14.67	14.67	11.35	11.35	11.35	5.75	5.75	5.75
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	46.85	37.69	46.55	37.62	36.31	37.2	14.81	27	15.67	67.11		67.11	51.95	39.93	50.84	17.57	13.52	17.14
Daman&Diu	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	5.34	27.03	15.8	1.35	7.52	4.44
Delhi	24.44	52.23	49.61	30.19	33.51	33.23	7.66	27.89	26.22	1.29	13.56	12.41	1.9	16.03	14.69	0.4	9.42	8.23
Lakshadeep	59.19	62.74	59.68	51.48	55.62	52.79	39.03	45.68	42.36	29.1	40.33	34.95	25.76	24.55	25.04	9.38	20.27	15.6
Pondicherry	57.43	49.4	53.82	57.68	48.69	53.25	53.99	46.96	50.06	45.8	38.64	41.46	32.48	39.77	37.4	20.55	22.11	21.67
All India	56.88	49.01	54.88	53.07	45.24	51.32	45.65	40.79	44.48	39.09	38.2	38.86	37.27	32.36	35.97	27.09	23.62	26.11

Source: Planning commission reports for various years

Poverty lines for Major States: The poverty line (monetary Value) among major states is shown in Table 1. It reveals that Orissa and West Bengal had the highest monthly per capita expenditure of more than Rs. 100, more than the national average of Rs.89.5 in 1983-84 in rural sector. States like Assam, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala and Tamil Nadu are just above the national average of monthly per capita expenditure. While Andhra Pradesh had the least monthly per capita expenditure level of Rs 72.66 in the year 1983-84. By 1999-2000, almost all the states have crossed Rs. 300/- States like Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala and Punjab have super crossed the national average of Rs. 327.56 in rural sector.

In the Urban Sector almost all states crossed Rs. 100 and were nearer to the national average of Rs.115.65 in terms of cut-off line in monetary terms except Assam and Jammu & Kashmir with Rs.97.51 & Rs 99.62 in the year 1983-84. By 1999-2000, almost all states including Jammu and Kashmir have reached nearly to the national average per capita consumption expenditure. While Assam, Bihar and surprisingly Punjab remained far below the average. Almost all states shown tripled and quadrupled monetary values of cut-off lines for the time period from 1983-84 to 1999-2000 in rural and urban sectors, especially in Andhra Pradesh, where rural monetary value is far below and nearly half of the urban monetary value of cut-off line of poverty and has shown a faster rise in urban sector than the rural.

Poverty Ratio's for Major States: Expenditure groups obtained from the NSS rounds on consumer expenditures estimate poverty ratios from the state specific poverty lines and distribution of persons. The ratios obtained are called state-specific poverty ratios. State-wise percentages of poverty ratios are shown in table.2.

Table 2 further reveals that percentage of population below poverty line has reduced from 56.88 per cent to 26.11 during 1973-74 and 1999-2000. There has been wide disparity of per cent population living below poverty line among states where Orissa having 47.15 per cent which is about 8 times that of Punjab's per cent poor proportion. Almost half of the populations of Orissa, followed by Bihar live below poverty line.

States like Kerala, West Bengal etc have performed very good especially Kerala which is with highest poverty ratios at the initial stage i.e. 1973-74 has recorded a steep decline with low percentage of population below poverty line by 1999-2000. States like Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab have also shown a reduced poverty ratios less than 10 per cent. On the whole a point wise compound rate of decline of every six years was -13 per cent and was considerable uniform in both rural and urban sectors. The top five good performing states are Jammu & Kashmir, Goa, Chandigarh, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. While bottom five states that are worst in reducing poverty levels are Assam, Sikkim, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa.

The head count ratios as estimated by planning commission. Shows that there has been a decline from 44.48 per cent in 1983 to 26.10 per cent by 1999-2000. The whole period is divided into two phases indicating the period before and after the initiation of globalization i.e. from 1983 to 1993-94 and 1993-94 to 1999-2000. Head count ratios were showing a declining trend of poverty ratios by 8 points in the first phase i.e. before initiation of globalization and 10 points in the second phase i.e. after initiation of globalization. In rural India, the incidence has declined from 45.65 per cent in 1983, 37.27 per cent in 1993 reduced to 27.09 percent by 1999-2000 and from 40.79 per cent in 1983, 32.36 per cent in 1993 and this reduced to 23.62 per cent for urban India. The annual percent point reduction or trend rate of decline is 1.85 for all India urban and 1.87 per cent for all India rural during 1993 to 1999-2000. i.e. after initiation of globalization, but before initiation, declining annual trend rate was only 0.84 per cent and 0.85 per cent in rural and urban sector i.e. from 1983 to 1993-94. The same is depicted in Table 2.2

**All India Time Series Analysis of Poverty:** The Table.3 shows Poverty through NSS Rounds that shows the emerging key features of the evolution of poverty in India over the period. Table 2.3 shows the average poor person's standard of living fell by about 25 per cent short of the poverty line of Rs. 49 per capita per month at October 1973 - June 1974 at all India rural prices.

Table - 3 Poverty in India (1951 - 1998) through NSS Rounds					
Sl. No.	NSS round	Survey period	Head Count Index		
			Rural	Urban	National
1	3	Aug 51 - Nov 52	47.37	35.46	45.31
2	4	Apr 52 - Sep 52	43.87	36.71	42.63
3	5	Dec 52 - Mar 52	48.21	40.14	46.8
4	6	May 53 - Sep 53	54.13	42.77	52.15
5	7	Oct 53 - Mar 54	61.29	49.92	59.3
6	8	July 54 - Mar 55	64.24	46.19	61.07
7	9	May 55 - Nov 55	51.83	43.92	50.44
8	10	Dec 55 - May 56	48.34	43.15	47.43
9	11	Aug 56 - Feb 57	58.86	41.45	57.55
10	12	Mar 57 - Aug 57	62.11	48.88	59.71
11	13	Sep 57 - May 58	55.16	47.75	53.84
12	14	July 58 - June 59	53.26	44.76	51.75
13	15	July 59 - June 60	50.86	49.17	50.58
14	16	July 60 - Aug 61	45.4	44.65	45.27
15	17	Sep 61 - July 62	47.2	43.55	46.54
16	18	Feb 63 - Jan 64	48.53	44.83	47.85
17	19	July 64 - June 65	53.66	48.78	52.75
18	20	July 65 - June 66	57.6	52.9	56.71
19	21	July 66 - June 67	64.3	52.24	62.0
20	22	July 67 - June 68	63.67	52.91	61.6
21	23	July 68 - June 69	59.0	49.29	57.11
22	24	July 69 - June 70	57.61	47.16	55.56
23	25	July 70 - June 71	54.84	44.98	52.88
24	27	Oct 72 - Sep 73	55.36	45.67	53.37
25	28	Oct 73 - June 74	55.72	47.96	54.1
26	32	July 77 - June 78	50.6	40.5	48.36
27	38	Jan 83 - Dec 83	45.31	35.65	43.0
28	42	July 86 - June 87	38.81	34.29	37.69
29	43	July 87 - June 88	39.23	36.2	38.47
30	44	July 88 - June 89	39.06	36.6	38.44
31	45	July 89 - June 90	34.3	33.4	34.07
32	46	July 90 - June 91	36.43	32.76	35.49
33	47	July 91 - Dec 91	37.42	33.23	36.34
34	48	Jan 92 - Dec 92	43.47	33.73	40.93
35	50	July 93 - June 94	36.66	30.51	35.04
36	51	July 94 - Jan 95	38.0	33.5	NA
37	52	July 95 - June 96	38.3	28.0	NA
38	53	Jan 97 - Dec 97	38.5	30.0	NA
39	54	Jan 98 - June 98	45.3	NA	NA

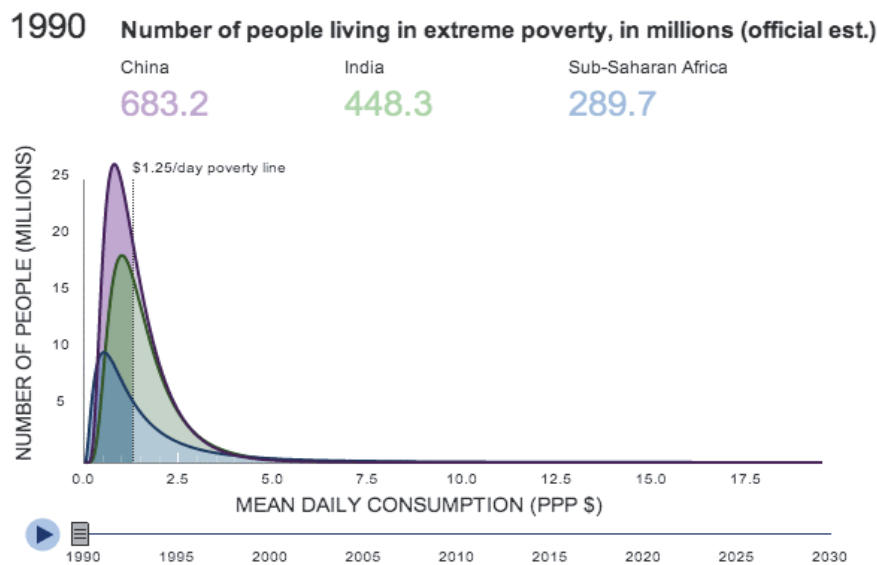
**Note:** Fro 1951-1994 rounds - were with correction for CPIAL, **Source:** Datta, Gourav (1998), "Poverty in India and Indian states: An update", The Indian Journal Of Labor Economics, Vol.41, No.2, P.191- 212.

The average head count index was 53 per cent in 1951-55 and remained nearly the same even by 1971-75. It took over 20 years for the poverty ratio to finally fall down and stay below than their values in early fifties. The decline of poverty incidence since 1970 has occurred again by 1986-87 and there has been further modest decline by 1989-90. The trend rate declines

over the period 1951-94 it was 0.88 per cent per year. The reduction in poverty since the early seventies has been sizable between 1969-70 and 1993-94 as the national head count index declined from 56 per cent to 35 per cent and by 1999-2000 to 26 per cent. Similarly, in rural sectors, head count index has declined from 47.37 to 27.09 from 1951 to 2000. The

incidence of rural poverty was higher than that of urban poverty throughout the period i.e., in general rural poverty declined faster than urban poverty. Despite faster decline of rural poverty, Poverty in

India predominately remains to be a rural phenomenon where three out of every four persons lived in the rural areas.



Source :statistics on poverty in India

The number of poor people has grown in South Asia, but that's partly because the total population has grown. The proportion of poor people in the total population has come down recently, after decades of stagnation.

According to 2010 data from the United Nations Development Programme, an estimated 29.8% of Indians live below the country's national poverty line. A 2010 report by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) states that 8 Indian states have 421 million poor people more poor people than Sub-Saharan Africa. A 2013 UN report stated that a third of the world's poorest people live in India. According to a 2011 poverty Development Goals Report, as many as 320 million people in India and China are expected to come out of extreme poverty in the next four years, with India's poverty rate projected to drop from 51% in 1990 to about 22% in 2015. The report also indicates that in Southern Asia, only India is on track to cut poverty by half by the 2015 target date.

Defining the poverty line is itself a subjective matter, and many feel that it should be raised further. Indian journalist Ravi S Jha suggests measuring poverty by segregating India's poor in different groups; those living in abject poverty, those who are vulnerable to poverty and those who are lifted out of poverty through government welfare. The urban areas where India's middle and upper classes make their living have seen the greatest degree of economic growth, while the rural areas have lagged further behind.

Since 1991, India has undergone a great deal of liberalisation internally and externally, but its benefits have mostly gone to the middle and upper classes.

The latest UNICEF data shows that one in three malnourished children worldwide are found in India, whilst 42% of the nation's children under five years of age are underweight. It also shows that a total of 58% of children under five surveyed were stunted. Rohini Mukherjee, of the Naandi foundation – one of the NGOs that published the report – stated India is "doing worse than sub-Saharan Africa."<sup>[8]</sup> However, the main cause for this malnourishment is dietary practices, and not economic poverty. To quote the same Rohini Mukherjee "It is very clear that in Africa (malnutrition) is a result of absolute poverty. They are starving... In our case, to me it seems it is about eating and feeding practices... Most children we measured have never been hungry, but what the child is eating is almost all carbohydrate." Too many women underestimate the need to breastfeed an infant during its first six months. People often consider Colostrum—a vital high-protein milk-form produced just before birth—as being impure and discard it.

The 2011 Global Hunger Index (GHI) Report places India amongst the three countries where the GHI between 1996 and 2011 went up from 22.9 to 23.7, while 78 out of the 81 developing countries studied, including Nepal, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Kenya, Nigeria, Myanmar, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Malawi,

succeeded in improving hunger conditions.

**Suggestion:** Based on the analysis the following suggestions are made to improve the living condition of the poor. Micro level planning should be encouraged towards poverty alleviation to address and deliver basic services to the poor. Slums are the pockets of poverty; let each of the pockets be dealt separately for poverty alleviation by local authorities by allocating specific budget and relevant mode of action in tune with local requirements. Encourage the locale industries and business houses to adopt each slum or pockets of poverty or few families in alleviating and eradicating poverty.

Functional capability building programs in fields of sanitation, safe drinking, shelter health and

education should be encouraged massively and apart from self –employment and wage employment programs in a major way.

Smart Cards or food debit cards be given to the poor such that they access at any time at 24 x 7 basis, with reduced amounts and to increase frequency of ration issuing. Fair prize shops should be located only in poor areas.

Let the morbidity of the poverty groups be dealt especially under poverty alleviation programs for diseases like aids, cancer, pneumonia, etc. A center for disease control be established or by strengthening the existing institutions to control epidemics such as Chicken Guinea, Plague, Cholera, Dengue, etc.

### References:

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