

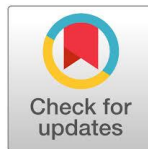
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METHODS OF POVERTY REDUCTION IN OUR SOCIETY

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Abstract: Poverty reduction encompasses a comprehensive set of economic, social, and humanitarian strategies aimed at enabling individuals and communities to achieve lasting improvements in their quality of life. It goes beyond merely increasing income levels to addressing multidimensional deprivations, including limited access to healthcare, education, clean water, sanitation, and sustainable livelihood opportunities. Effective poverty reduction requires targeted investments in human capital development, particularly in education and skill enhancement, alongside the promotion of gender equality and social inclusion. It also involves ensuring universal access to essential services, fostering inclusive and equitable economic growth, and strengthening systems of social protection to build resilience against economic and environmental shocks. At the global level, these efforts are closely aligned with frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals, which emphasize a coordinated, long-term approach to eradicating poverty in all its forms.

Keywords: Poverty, Education and skill training, Health, Economic development, Rural development, Social protection and Good governance, Government schemes

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INTRODUCTION

Poverty remains one of the most persistent and complex challenges confronting societies across the globe, particularly in developing economies. According to the World Bank, poverty extends beyond insufficient income and includes deprivation in access to basic needs such as education, healthcare, clean water, and dignified living conditions. These multidimensional aspects of poverty not only hinder individual well-being but also impede broader economic growth and social development.

In countries like India, rapid economic growth has coexisted with significant disparities in income distribution and access to opportunities, making poverty reduction a critical policy priority. Structural factors such as unemployment, low levels of education, gender inequality, and limited access to financial resources continue to trap vulnerable populations in cycles of poverty. Moreover, external shocks such as pandemics, climate change, and economic downturns further exacerbate these vulnerabilities.

Recognizing the urgency of addressing poverty in all its forms, the global community has committed to the United Nations's Sustainable Development Goals, with the first goal explicitly focusing on eradicating extreme poverty. These goals emphasize inclusive growth, social protection, and equitable access to resources as key pillars for sustainable development.

Against this backdrop, poverty reduction has evolved into a multidimensional and integrated approach that combines economic policies with social interventions. Understanding the nature, causes, and consequences of poverty is essential for designing effective strategies that not only alleviate immediate hardship but also create pathways for long-term human development and economic resilience.

OBJECT OF STUDY

To find out the causes of poverty and to emphasise the poverty reduction programme which are the Indian government implement.

METHODOLOGY

The study is completely based on the secondary data. The secondary data has been collected from the various books and Journals, Periodicals and so on.

DEFINITION OF POVERTY

Poverty is a state where individuals or communities lack the financial resources and essentials for a basic standard of living, meaning they can't meet fundamental needs like food, clean water, shelter, healthcare, and education, often leading to a sense of helplessness and deprivation in well-being. It's multidimensional, encompassing low income, poor health, limited education, and lack of opportunity, with measures like the poverty line defining a minimum income needed to survive.

CAUSES ASPECTS OF POVERTY:

- **Lack of Resources:** Insufficient income to afford basic goods, services, and necessities for survival with dignity.

- **Multidimensional:** Extends beyond money to include poor health, low education, and inadequate sanitation, lack of security, and limited voice or power.
- **Absolute Poverty:** Income falls below the amount needed for basic survival (food, clothing, shelter).
- **Relative Poverty:** Inability to meet the minimum living standards compared to others in the same society,
- **Social Exclusion:** Often involves being treated poorly, facing discrimination, and lacking opportunities for advancement, according to NCERT.

Measuring Poverty:

- **Poverty Line:** A benchmark income level set by countries to identify who is considered poor based on needs like calories or housing.
- **World Bank Definition:** "Pronounced deprivation in well-being," highlighting low income and lack of basic goods, health, education, and opportunities,

POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGIES

Poverty Reduction Strategies encompass a range of efforts aimed at alleviating the multiple dimensions of poverty that affect over a billion people worldwide. Poverty is not merely a lack of income; it also involves inadequate access to basic necessities like clean water, education, and healthcare. Various organizations, including the United Nations and the World Bank, actively engage in forming strategies that address the root causes of poverty, particularly in developing nations. These strategies typically emphasize sustainable development rather than just financial aid, advocating for education, vocational training, job creation, and entrepreneurship.

Extreme poverty, defined as living on less than one U.S. dollar a day, severely limits individuals' ability to meet their basic needs. Consequently, poverty reduction strategies often include specific goals, such as the Millennium Development Goals, which aim to eliminate extreme hunger and improve access to education and health services. Additionally, these strategies recognize the importance of gender equality, addressing barriers that disproportionately affect women in low-income situations. Measures such as microloans and support for small businesses are also crucial in helping impoverished individuals gain financial independence. Overall, the complexity of poverty and its interlinked causes necessitates a comprehensive approach to ensure effective and sustainable poverty alleviation.

POVERTY REDUCTION GOVERNMENT SCHEMES IN INDIA

The Government of India providing comprehensive support to peoples to transforming from immediate relief to long-term empowerment. India's poverty reduction schemes focus on livelihood, social security, housing, and skill development, with key programm skills.

- **EMPLOYMENT & LIVELIHOODS:**
 - **MGNREGS (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme):** Guarantees 100 days of wage employment in rural areas, focusing on livelihood security.
 - **DAY-NRLM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - NRLM):** Promotes poverty reduction by organizing rural poor women into Self-Help Groups (SHGs) for financial access.
 - **DDU-GKY (Deendayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana):** Skill development for rural youth to improve employability.
- **Social Security & Welfare:**
 - **PMGKAY (PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana):** Ensures food security by providing free food grains.
 - **Ayushman Bharat:** Aims for Universal Health Coverage (UHC).
 - **Ujjwala Yojana:** Provides free LPG connections for clean cooking fuel.
 - **NSAP (National Social Assistance Programme):** Provides social security for the elderly, widows, and disabled.
- **Housing & Infrastructure:**
 - **PMAY-G (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin):** Provides affordable housing to the rural poor.
 - **PMGSY (Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana):** Connects rural areas with all-weather roads.
- **Skill Development & Empowerment:**
 - **PM-DAKSH:** Aims to skill-up marginalized groups for better livelihoods.

EVOLUTION OF APPROACH

India's strategy has shifted from general poverty alleviation to targeted, multi-pronged approaches focusing on empowerment, building human capital, and creating durable social infrastructure for sustainable poverty reduction, as seen with programs like Jal Jeevan Mission (water) and Saubhagya (electricity).

POVERTY REDUCTION GOVERNMENT SCHEMES IN TAMILNADU

Tamil Nadu tackles poverty through integrated approaches, blending central schemes like DAY-NULM (Urban) and MGNREGA (Rural) with state-specific initiatives such as the TN Urban Livelihood Mission (TNULM) for urban poor and Chief Minister Solar Powered Green House Scheme (CMSPGHS) for housing, alongside infrastructure & rural development programs (like THAI, CSIDS) focusing on holistic upliftment for both rural and urban poor by providing livelihoods, housing, and basic amenities.

Key Programs & Initiatives:

- **Urban Poverty:**
 - **DAY-NULM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihood Mission):** Central government scheme for urban poverty alleviation, supplemented by the state.
 - **TNULM (Tamil Nadu Urban Livelihood Mission):** State's own initiative to boost urban livelihood opportunities.
- **Rural Poverty:**
 - **MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act):** Provides guaranteed wage employment in rural areas for poverty reduction.
 - **Tamil Nadu Village Habitation Improvement Scheme (THAI):** Focuses on improving basic infrastructure in rural areas.
 - **Chief Minister Solar Powered Green House Scheme (CMSPGHS):** Aims to provide housing to the needy.
- **Integrated & Sectorial Schemes:**
 - **Comprehensive School Infrastructure Development Scheme (CSIDS):** Enhances school facilities, impacting long-term human capital.
- **MLACDS (Member of Legislative Assembly Constituency Development Scheme):** Allows local development projects.

Focus Areas:

- **Livelihoods:** Creating income-generating opportunities.
- **Housing:** Providing shelter, especially green housing.
- **Infrastructure:** Improving basic amenities in villages.
- **Social Security:** Ensuring basic needs through targeted schemes. These programs work together to create a multi-pronged strategy, addressing both immediate needs and long-term empowerment for vulnerable populations in Tamil Nadu.

PEOPLE PART FOR POVERTY REDUCTION

Poverty reduction for people involves a multi-pronged approach focusing on sustainable livelihoods, social protection, empowerment, and inclusive growth, using methods like skill training, microfinance, direct cash transfers (DBT), better infrastructure (housing, sanitation, water), healthcare access, and ensuring rights-based governance, enabling people to move from temporary relief to self-sufficiency through economic opportunities and participation.

Focus & Approaches

- **Economic Empowerment:**
 - **Skill Development & Employment:** Providing training for self-employment or skilled wage jobs.
 - **Microfinance & Credit:** Access to microloans for small businesses and managing debt wisely.
 - **Inclusive Growth:** Encouraging private sector growth that creates opportunities for the poor.

- **Social Protection Systems:**
 - **Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT):** Using digital payments for transparent cash aid.
 - **Welfare Programs:** Food, housing, health insurance, and basic essentials.
 - **Health & Nutrition:** Medical assistance and improved sanitation/hygiene to reduce health risks.
- **Empowerment & Governance:**
 - **Community-Based Organizations (CBOs):** Building strong local groups for collective action.
 - **Human Rights Approach:** Focusing on people's capacity to claim their rights and ensuring participation in policy.
 - **Good Governance:** Enhancing transparency, access to justice, and local government capacity.
- **Infrastructure & Basic Needs:**
 - Investing in roads, electricity, water, and sanitation to improve living standards and economic activity.

Conclusion

The conclusion to poverty reduction is that it's an **unfinished, dynamic journey**. While technical and policy successes demonstrate it's achievable, global efforts must move beyond mere economic metrics to address deep-seated inequalities, ensuring that development is truly inclusive, equitable, and sustainable for everyone, recognizing poverty's multi-dimensional nature. Poverty reduction is a complex, on-going process, concluding that while significant progress is possible through economic growth, inclusive policies, targeted social safety nets, and empowerment (especially for women and marginalized groups), complete eradication requires sustained, multi-sectorial efforts focusing on education, health, property rights, and tackling inequality, using evidence-based governance and holistic, multi-dimensional strategies for true, lasting change.

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