Changing Scenario of Poverty in India in the Framework of Sustainable Development Goal

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ABSTRACT

Development is a process that creates growth, progress, positive change or the addition of physical, economic, environmental, social and demographic components. Sustainable development that is likely to achieve long-term satisfaction of human needs and an improvement in the quality of life, it also includes: breaking the vicious circle of poverty and keeping the poor out of it. It contains the concept of 'needs', in particular the basic needs of the world's poor, to which overriding priority should be given; Over the years,the various types of poverty alleviation programs have been extended and resulted, a large number of such programs are functional in developing countries like India now the days. Poverty alleviation has been one of the key directorial doctrines of the economic planning of India.Various types of studies have been conducted to find out the impact of these programs and most of the findings suggest that financial help is the key 'Mantra' to come out with viable positive results. Consequently, India is an early achiever in decreasing income poverty and attaining the Millennium Development Goals.

Key Words: Poverty, Sustainable Development, SDG

Introduction

Development is a positive economic term that requires the use of certain economic and technical means to utilize existing resources in order to stimulate economic growth. Economic growth, which indicated a quantitative rather than qualitative change in economic performance, was often used in the 1950s and 1960s to describe development. As a result, development theories were created to activate and accelerate the process of economic progress, moving developing countries along the route blazed by the industrialised nations of the West, from a reliance on agricultural activity to a reliance on industrial production and commerce.

Development is a process that creates growth, progress, positive change or the addition of physical, economic, environmental, social and demographic components. The goal of development is to improve people's living standards and quality of life, as well as to create or expand local regional income and employment possibilities without damaging the resources of the environment. Development is apparent and beneficial and involves aspects of quality change as well as the establishment of conditions for that change to continue. The main aim of development strategies is to reduce and eventually eradicatepoverty.

Throughout the world more or less all countries are under the trap of the poverty. Poverty may be defined as the state in which low-income-group people cannot encounter the elementary requirements of ordinary life. This state lead to lessened well-being services, high illiteracy rate, declined quality of life etc. Poverty is defined by numerous scholars as it is the condition of having no adequate currency to encounter the elementary necessity of human beings. The poverty has been described as a situation of 'pronounced deprivation in well-being' and being poor as 'to be hungry, to lack shelter and clothing, to be illiterate and not schooled'**(World Bank, 2000-2001**). **Mehta and Shah (2001-02)** defines poverty asthe sum total of a multiplicity of factors that include not just income and calorie intake but also access to land and credit, nutrition, health and longevity, literacy and education and safe drinking water, sanitation and other infrastructural facilities. Poverty in India is common, and different types of methods have been suggested to compute it.

Methodology

This study is based on the secondary data published in various journals and the data published by NITI Aayog, Press Information Bureau (PIB), United Nations (UN), Reserve Bank of India(RBI) and other data issued by various agencies in respect of poverty, hunger, health, education and sanitation etc. The study is also in the frame work of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which are taken as extensions of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Objectives of the Study

The present study is based on the following objectives:

1. To analyse the performance of India on the scale of the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
2. To analyse theimpact of social protection mechanismin alleviation of poverty in India.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Member statesof United Nations gathered at New York (headquarter of United Nations) in September 2000 and approved the historic Millennium Declaration, in which they committed to achieving a set of eight measurable goals by the target date of 2015, ranging from halving extreme poverty and hunger to promoting gender equality and falling child mortality. In January 2015, the United Nations General Assembly activated the negotiating process on the post-2015 development agenda. The process finished at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015, when the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted, with 17 SDGs at its core, which will build on the MDGs' momentum and fit within a global development framework beyond 2015. However, the main concentration of this study is on eradication of poverty that is first goal of the 17 SDGs.The SDGs are a call to action to create a world where no one is left behind.

'End poverty in all its form everywhere,' says the first Sustainable Development Goal. It advocates for social protection, improved access to essential services, and increased resilience to the effects of natural catastrophes, which may destroy people's resources and lives. It's related to targets that include eradicating extreme poverty for all people everywhere, halving the proportion of men, women, and children of all ages living in poverty.The international community has agreed,

through the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, that economic progress must be inclusive, particularly of the poor and vulnerable, and that severe poverty for all people worldwide must be eradicated within the next 15 years.To study these cancersit becomes necessary to define the sustainable development.

Sustainable Development

Beginning in the second half of the twentieth century, the international agenda began to focus on economic development. Economic development and economic growth were always considered synonym to each other, however, in present time these two terms are well defined. Economic growth did not always imply a gain in the level and quality of life for people. There is a prerequisite of specific policies that would channel available resources and promote social and economic welfare of various sections of the society. Professionals and scholars have come up with a variety of definitions and emphases for the term "development" over the years. For example, Nobel laureate, Amartya Sen developed the "Capability Approach," which defined development as a tool enabling people to reach the highest level of their ability, through granting freedom of action, i.e., freedom of economic, social and family actions, etc. At the similar line, the sustainable development is one of the longest continuously running arguments in the sphere of economics, politics, and human development. Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It contains the concept of 'needs', in particular the essential needs of the world's poor, to which overriding priority should be given. Sustainable development is likely to achieve long-term satisfaction of human needs and an improvement in the quality of life.

Concept of Poverty

The traditional method of calculating poverty involved the purchase of a basket of goods and services to meet basic human needs. This minimum level of spending is called poverty line and the poverty ratio, often known as the headcount ratio (HCR) i.e. is the percentage of the people living below poverty line.Poverty is defined as more than a lack of income or resources, as well as a lack of educational opportunities, social prejudice, and the inability to participate in decision-making processes. In underdeveloped nations, for example, children from the poorest families are four times less likely to attend school than those from the wealthiest. Extreme deprivation, on the other hand, isn't simply about happiness and opportunity; it's a matter of life and death. The poorest children in the Latin America and East Asia are three times more likely than the richest to die before the age of five.

Over the previous 25 years, the World Bank has reviewed its poverty definition and computation techniques multiple times. The World Bank began reporting poverty statistics for all countries in November 2017 using two new worldwide poverty lines. The lower-middle income countries live on less than $3.20 a day and the upper-middle income countries live on less than $5.50 a day. These are addition to the previous poverty line of $1.90 per day. Using the $3.20 per day poverty line, the percentage of the people in India (2011) living in poverty was 60 percent. This

indicates that in 2011, 763 million people in India were living below the poverty line. India falls in the lower middle-income category.Poverty is one of the greatest challengesthat are faced by human being since the start of human race. According to the World Bank, 10 percent of the World's population makes less than $1.90 in U.S. dollars compared to the 1990 statistic of nearly 36 percent; however, the 10 percent still accounts for nearly 736 million in 2015 people who are living under extreme poverty. Half the world's population, 3.4 billion, still struggles to meet basic needs like health, education, and access to drinking water and sanitation.

Poverty in India

The Indian Economy is a middle income developing economy. It is the world's sixth-largest economy by nominal GDP and the third-largest by purchasing power parity (PPP), however, due to its large size of population, the country has become a home to one-third of the world's poor.Furthermore, in India,the states name; Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Orissa have highest rate of poverty. About the poverty among social groups of population, it isfounded that the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) are more trapped in poverty rather than other groups.

If talk about the India's performance in targeting the poverty, it is found that in post-reform period, poverty declined faster in 2000s than in 1990s. According to the Government estimates based on Tendulkar poverty lines, poverty decreased at a rate of 0.74 percentage points per year from 1993-94 to 2004-05. However, from 2004-05 to 2011-12, poverty declined by 2.2 percentage points each year. Further the poverty performance is traced in the following table.

Table: Poverty Estimates:

		Headcount Ratio (percent)				Number Below Poverty Line (Lakhs)		
Sr. No.	State	1993-94	2004-05	2009-10	2011-12	2004-05	2009-10	2011-12
1	Andhra Pradesh	44.6	29.9	21.1	9.2	238.8	176.6	78.8
2	Arunachal Pradesh	54.5	31.1	25.9	34.7	3.6	3.5	4.9
3	Assam	51.8	34.4	37.9	32	97.3	116.4	101.3
4	Bihar	60.5	54.4	53.5	33.7	485.6	543.5	358.2
5	Chhattisgarh	50.9	49.4	48.7	39.9	109.9	121.9	104.1
6	Goa	20.8	25	14.2	9.9	3.6	23.3	17.0
7	Gujarat	37.8	31.8	8.7	5.1	172.2	1.3	0.8
8	Haryana	35.9	24.1	23	16.6	55.1	136.2	102.2
9	Himachal Pradesh	34.6	22.9	20.1	11.2	14.6	50.0	28.8

10	Jammu & Kashmir	26.3	13.2	9.5	8.1	14.2	6.4	5.6
11	Jharkhand	60.7	45.3	9.4	10.3	130.7	11.5	13.3
12	Karnataka	49.5	33.4	39.1	37	185.7	126.2	124.3
13	Kerala	31.3	19.7	23.6	20.9	65.0	142.3	129.8
14	Madhya Pradesh	44.6	48.6	12	7.1	316.9	39.6	23.9
15	Maharashtra	47.8	38.1	36.7	31.6	393.3	261.8	234.1
16	Manipur	65.1	38	24.5	17.4	8.7	270.8	197.9
17	Meghalaya	35.2	16.1	47.1	36.9	3.9	12.5	10.2
18	Mizoram	11.8	15.3	17.1	11.9	1.4	4.9	3.6
19	Nagaland	20.4	9	21.1	20.4	1.9	2.3	2.3
20	Orissa	59.1	57.2	20.9	18.9	220.2	4.1	3.8
21	Punjab	22.4	20.9	37	32.6	53.8	153.2	138.5
22	Rajasthan	38.3	34.4	1.2	8.3	210.3	0.1	23.2
23	Sikkim	31.8	31.1	15.9	14.7	1.8	43.5	102.9
24	Tamil Nadu	44.6	28.9	24.8	8.2	186.8	167.0	0.5
25	Tripura	32.9	40.6	13.1	11.3	13.7	0.8	82.6
26	Uttar Pradesh	48.4	40.9	17.1	14	735.5	121.8	5.2
27	Uttarkhand	32	32.7	17.4	29.4	29.7	6.3	598.2
28	West Bengal	39.4	34.3	37.7	11.3	289.1	737.9	11.6
29	A & N Islands			18	20		17.9	185.0
30	Chandigarh			26.7	9.7		240.3	1.2
31	Dadra & Nagar Haveli			0.4	1		0.0	0.0
32	Daman & Diu			9.2	21.8		1.0	2.3
33	Delhi	15.7	13.1	39.1	39.3	20.4	1.3	1.4
34	Lakshadweep			33.3	9.9		0.8	0.3
35	Puducherry	30.9	14.1	6.8	2.8	1.5	0.0	0.0
36	India	45.3	37.2	29.8	21.9	4,076.1	3,546.8	2,697.8

Source: Planning Commission of India.

Note:

1. Poverty line of Tamil Nadu is used for Andaman and Nicobar Island.
2. Urban Poverty Line of Punjab is used for both rural and urban areas of Chandigarh.
3. Poverty Line of Maharashtra is used for Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
4. Poverty line of Goa is used for Daman & Diu.
5. Poverty Line of Kerala is used for Lakshadweep.

It is exhibited that according to the criteria used in the Suresh Tendulkar Committee, India's population below the poverty line was 407 million (37.2 percent of the population) in 2004-05, 354 million (29.8 percent of the population) in 2009-2010 and 269 million (21.9 percent) in 2011–2012..But, this estimate was widely criticised, causing the Rangarajan Committee to be formed in 2012, which suggested rising the daily per capita spending in urban and rural regions to Rs. 47 and Rs. 32, respectively, at 2010-11 prices. According to the Rangarajan Committee, the number of people living in poverty in 2009–2010 was 454 million (38.2 percent of the population) and 363 million (29.5 percent of the population) in 2011–2012. The government has yet to make a decision on the Rangarajan Committee's findings. Hence, the Tendulkar poverty line remains the official poverty line, and the official poverty estimates for 1993-94, 2004-05, and 2011-12 are based on it.In India, no official poverty estimates were issued after 2010-211.The results show that India is on its way for the fastest pace of poverty reduction and meeting its poverty eradication goals by 2030. India is an early achiever in decreasing income poverty and attaining the Millennium Development Goals.

Now poverty is widely recognised as a multi-dimensional problem globally as well in India. The route out of poverty has not always been smooth. In India, the SDG strategy should not only be to reduce national poverty, but also to reduce poverty in some of the poorest states, Schedule Caste (SCs) and Schedule Tribes (STs), and give equality of opportunity. Between 2005-06 and 2015-16, the number of poor people in India has decreased by more than 271 million (from 635 million to 364 million), traditionally disadvantaged groups including rural residents, scheduled castes and tribes, Muslims, and young children remained the poorest. However, the major reduction in multidimensional poverty has been observed among the poorest and traditionally underprivileged groups – across states, castes, religions and age-groups.In November 2021, the NITI Aayog released the baseline report for the National Multidimensional Poverty Index. The report was based on the Fourth National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4), which was conducted between 2015 and 2016 with the goal of measuring progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which aim to reduce 'at least by half the proportion of men, women, and children of all ages living in poverty in all of its dimensions.' According to the Global MPI 2021, India has 66[th]rank in the list of 109 nations.The country has made significant progress in the field of SDGs, according to the report. Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Goa, Sikkim, Chandigarh, and Pondicherrystates are the leading runners. Overall, it's good to see the country's remarkable progress toward attaining the SDGs.

Fight Against Poverty in India: Social Protection Mechanism

In recent years, Government of India has implemented many progressive schemes to bring overall improvement in the quality of life of poor and deprived households of rural areas, including food security, nutrition support, housing for all with basic services, education for all, universal health coverage, road connectivity, social security, employment, livelihood diversification, skill development, etc. The Pradhan Mantri Jan DhanYojana (PMJDY) ensures poor households'

financial inclusion by giving general access to banking, credit, and insurance coverage. The Pradhan Mantri Jan ArogyaYojana (PMJAY), also branded as the Ayushman Bharat Yojana Scheme, seeks to offer common health coverage to the poor and disadvantaged. Under the Pradhan Mantri Aawas Yojana (PMAY), quality housing with essential facilities such as LPG gas, electricity, and drinking water are provided to the poor.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) for needy households, one of the world's largest individual beneficiary program, has a vital role for quicker poverty reduction. The initiative, which went into force on February 2, 2006, is one of the government of India's best practices for reducing poverty. The MGNREGA is a government-sponsored program that guarantees a minimum of 100 days of employment to any adult seeking unskilled work in rural areas. MGNREGA, according to the Ministry of Rural Development, is unique in its scope and delivery manner, and has shown to be a successful tool for inclusive growth, women's empowerment, and livelihood stability.With effect from April 1, 2013, the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) of the Government of India brought out the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) by reorganising the Swarnajayanti Gram SwarojgarYojana (SGSY). With effect from March 29, 2016, NRLM was renamed DAY-NRLM (DeendayalAntyodayaYojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission). The DAY-NRLM is the Government of India's flagship initiative for promoting poverty reduction. The DAY-NRLM has mobilized over 6 crore families into Self Help Groups, resulting in large-scale social capital building across rural India. The use of Social Economic Caste Census (SECC)-2011 data for beneficiary selection, as well as Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) and other governance and financial reforms, has improved the delivery of benefits to the poor. The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), which disbursed INR 200 billion to 243 million beneficiaries in 2018-19, provided pension to the underprivileged and vulnerable, including the aged, widows, and those with disabilities. For employees in the unorganised sector, initiatives have been made to make life insurance, personal accident insurance, and pensions more accessible.

However, contrast this with the situation in 2020: the highest global poverty increase happened in India. The COVID-19 issue threatens to reverse decades of progress in the battle against poverty. According to new study published by the United Nations University's World Institute for Development Economics Research estimated the number of poor in the country to be 364 million in 2019, or 28 per cent of the population. The economic consequences from the worldwide pandemic may raise global poverty by as much as half a billion people, or 8percent of the global population. This would be the first time in thirty years, since 1990, that worldwide poverty has risen.

Conclusion and Suggestions

The present study is an attempt to analyse the changing scenario of poverty. To reduce poverty, which is at the core of India's national development plan, an inclusive approach is at work.The poor in India are experiencing transformational changes in the way they live and access

various services through digital means. Perhaps it is for the first time in living memory, the world is discussing 'eradication' rather than'reduction' of poverty, as assigned by the Millennium Development Goals. Indeed, for the first time in human history, poverty will be driven into the past tense.Government of India has implemented many progressive schemes refers to a set of policies and programmes to bring overall improvement in the quality of life of poor and deprived households of rural areas. Over the last 15 years, India has observed a growth in rights-based entitlements and systemic reforms to build a more inclusive system.

Apart from these positive implications, these programs are facing a variety of challenges, including rigidity, non-adaptability to local conditions, late release of money, reallocation of funds to unrelated recurrent spending. In many circumstances, less than half of the cash are sent to the designated recipients. MGNREGA's average yearly performance has been less than 55 days, despite the promise of 100 days of paid employment to one person in each rural family.This could be because of information about public welfare schemes and initiatives rarely reaches vulnerable groups. Women occasionally obtain information about the existence or knowledge of schemes and initiatives due to low literacy rates, restricted access to internet resources, and immobility.

But at the times of crisis, such programs provide a 'safety net' for rural households. In 2020-21, the government nearly increased the MGNREGS budget, from INR 61,000 crores to INR 101,000 crores, and the program has already created 1.25 billion days of work in the first quarter. However, due to insufficient distribution methods and capacity, high demand is delayed to be supplied. Four crucial phases would guarantee that social protection programs like as MGNREGS are capable of dealing with future crises, especially those related to climate change.Therefore the Government of India should run these programs with more strength and commitment to cope-up the future challenges

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