A STUDY ON PEOPLE BELOW POVERTY LINE WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO PURAMOTTAM PANCHAYAT

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Abstract: Poverty as a multidimensional concept based on factors other than the per capita income or expenditure to estimate the number of poor along with its intensity. The multidimensional poverty index estimates the number and intensity of poverty in a place based on three main dimensions as a sum of ten indexes. Multi dimensional analysis of poverty is to specify a poverty line for each dimension of poverty and to consider that a person is poor if he or she falls below in anyone of these various lines. This paper estimates multidimensional poverty in Puramattom village in Pathanamthitta district by applying the UNDP methodology. Based on the primary sample data the results indicate in same direction of all other social indicators about the state of Kerala, such as the education standards, health standards, attainment of minimal social standards are keeping its higher standard. The subject under the study are BPL card holders. The procession of this BPL card enable them to seek all the services and facilities provided by the government for the welfare of the poor even though the actual or the multidimensionally poor are very less among them. It indicate the fact that the trickle down mechanism is working along with the misutilization of the welfare services by the state.

Key words : multi - dimensional poverty, BPL list, misutilization of government facilities

1. Introduction

Economic welfare broadly refers to the level of prosperity and living standards of either an individual or a group of persons. It specifically refers to utility gained through the achievement of material goods and services. The achievement of economic growth and the resultant economic development is the fundamental objective of the economic policy. Poverty is one of the main hurdles in the development path of any nation which ultimately affect economic welfare. Poverty is multidimensional; it is an economic as well as a social problem. In modern times every government try to provide everything that needed for a better life to its citizens. With this objective modern democratic government introduced poverty eradication programme and the development programmes are the major component of these actions.

In all the developing or underdeveloped countries one feature is very common it is poverty. The presence of poverty in a society is due to the inequalities in the distribution of income and wealth. The wealth distribution in a nation if it is in an unequal way then the chances of poverty is vary high.in most of the cases the intensity of poverty is increased because of the lack of wealth. The book *Capital in the twenty first century* Thomas Piketty mentioned the effect of wealth. The ancestral wealth, especially land holdings, of a person makes him wealthy than any income earner. In the case of income people always desired about high income and most of the private sector companies would like to hire those people who have better qualification and they are ready to pay high salary. At the same time there are some people who are not able to compete with this highly qualified people. So they are fall into a lower level of income group. The high income group always consume luxury commodities and they are ready to pay a higher price than the general price which means a producer surplus. Thus it a lead to an artificial inflation the economy. But the low income earner is able to adjust with this so they again fall into depth of poverty.

In 1997 United Nation Human Development Report introduced a concept of human poverty index to bring together a composite index the different features of deprivation in the equality of life to a judgement on the extent of poverty in a community. But it could not identify individuals, households or groups of people as jointly deprived. To solve this issue in 2010 a new index introduced by the Human Development Report; Multidimensional Poverty Index. Simply it is the product of the multidimensional poverty headcount and the average number of deprivations each multidimensionally poor household experiences. It has three dimensions to reflect HDI health, education and living standards which are reflected

in 10 indicators. The maximum score is hundred percentage with each dimensions equally weighted (33.33 %). The education and health dimensions have two indicators so each component is worth 16.7 %. The standard of living has six indicators so each component is worth 5.6 %.

2. Objectives of the study

The broad objective of the present study is to understand multi-dimensional poverty with a primary data perspective. The specific objectives of the study are the following.

- To evaluate the Multidimensional Poverty status of Puramattom Grama Panchayath
- To examine whether there is any significant difference between the national MPI and village MPI
- To compare result of multidimensional poverty analysis with the poverty line of Puramattom Grama panchayat

3. Significance of the Study

Poverty is a social and economic evil that prevails in every nation, from the wealthiest country like America to the poorest Africa. Every government in the world try to eliminate poverty from the world but there is always a group of people falls in depths of poverty. So 'poverty' have importance in any time.

Our world is so sophisticated and the concept of poverty too. Now we cannot judge a person whether he is poor, on the basis of his income alone. A focus on deprivation is fundamental to human development. The dimensions of poverty go far beyond inadequate income of the poor to meet health and nutrition, education and skills acquisition, adequate livelihoods, good housing conditions, social participation. Thus poverty is multifaceted and thus multidimensional.

4. Methodology of the Study

Multidimensional Poverty Index have a general method of calculation and it is defined by the United Nations Human Development Report. MPI identifies multiple deprivations at the individual level in health, education and standard of living. It uses micro data from household surveys, and all the indicators needed to construct the measure must come from the same survey. Each person in a household is classified as poor or non-poor depending on the number of deprivations his or her household experiences. These data are then aggregated into the national measure of poverty.

5. Review of Literature

In 2010 the United Nations Development Programme in its Human Development Report identified that there are some improvements in the live every poor all round the world. Many countries have made great gains in health and education despite only modest growth in income. UNDP reviewed its initiatives in the past twenty years and in the Human Development Report 2010 they introduced three new indexes to measure the human development. The Inequality-adjusted HDI, Gender Inequality Index and Multidimensional Poverty Index, building on innovations in the field and advances in theory and data, are applied to most countries in the world and provide important new insights. Thus they try to says that the orthodox concepts in relation with poverty and poor is changed. Like the world it is also complicated too. human development report 2010, Foreword- Helen Clark, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme.

From the study conducted by Jean Bosco Ki, Salimata Faye, and Bocar Faye on the topic 'Multidimensional Poverty in Senegal: A Nonmonetary Basic Needs Approach', they express that because of the multidimensional nature of poverty, the monetary approach alone is not always sufficient to account for the multiple phenomena which compromise the ability of some populations to lead decent and happy lives. A multidimensional analysis therefore becomes necessary if we truly want to identify the poor, as well as the strategies more likely to combat this phenomenon more efficiently. As applied to the case of Senegal, the multidimensional approach to poverty, which is based on the calculation of a composite indicator of poverty derived from multiple correspondence analysis by taking into account other dimensions of poverty such as

education, health, drinking water, nutrition, housing, sanitation energy, communications, household durables, goods of comfort, and other assets, has permitted to draw important conclusions on poverty.

It should be noted that there exists a positive link between monetary and nonmonetary poverty, with a positive and significant correlation between the Composite indicator of poverty and expenditure per adult equivalent. The majority of the monetary poor are also poor on the multidimensional level and vice versa. From the economic policy standpoint, interventions of a general nature to increase labour productivity, in accordance with utilitarian theory, should be given priority in the urban area where poverty is more of a monetary nature, while for the rural area, which faces both forms of poverty though multidimensional poverty is relatively more pronounced there, an efficient combination of targeted interventions in accordance with the non-utilitarian approach, in addition to interventions of a general order, would rather be advisable. - Multidimensional Poverty in Senegal: A Nonmonetary Basic Needs Approach by Jean Bosco Ki, Salimata Faye, and Bocar Faye - Analysis of Multidimensional Poverty; Theory and Case Studies by Louis-Marie Asselin ; Springer publication 2009; Page no 79 to 115.

6. Analysis of Primary Data

Poverty is serious problem in every country. Even the developed county has poor people but it is very serious in every developing county. It is because of the intensity of poverty which is in the developing country. In the case of India, it trying to tackle the problem of poverty from the time of independence. After independence India adopted the planning which show a socialist pattern of development. In the planning procedure, initial plans where not directly address the problem of poverty. Planners believed in the trickle down mechanism. Thus the overall development of the economy will solve the problem of poverty. But the real picture was different. The trickle down mechanism doesn't work well. The level of poverty increased. Then there were many programs introduced and implemented by various government for solving the poverty issue. Government try to solve the problem of poverty by creating aggregate demand in the economy. Thus the government introduced many employment generating schemes. Most of them are focused on the rural poverty. Its true that our governments and their initiatives had made success, but even now we are still talking about to eliminate poverty.

There is methodological issue arise in the poverty studies. It is related with the level of inflation and the adoption of new methodologies for the poverty estimation. As a part of inflation the income of the people increases and their expenditure pattern also changes. Thus some of the poor families comes above the poverty line. They may be actually poor. This leads to a reduction in the level of poverty. In 2014 the Rangarajan committee submitted the report about the poverty status of India. They estimated that the 30.9% of the rural population and 26.4% of the urban population was below the poverty line in 2011-12. In the same period Tendulkar committee estimated that 25.7% of rural population and 13.7% of the urban population was below the poverty line. This difference arises because of the change in the methodology of calculating poverty.

The geographical area where the study is conducted on 10th and 13th wards of Puramattom grama panchayath. In this study the data collected from those families which are listed in the BPL survey 2009. So the 60 sample households are randomly selected from the BPL list. Thus the families are poor as per the government records. Through this study I try to find out whether these poor people are multidimensionally poor. Thus the study focuses on the intensity of poverty among these families. Thus I am using the multidimensional poverty analysis. The MPI consist of three dimensions and the three dimensions include ten indicators. These indicators help to find out whether the households are deprived from the base line which is built on the millennium development goals.

The MPI is an index designed to measure acute poverty. Acute poverty refers to two main characteristics. First, it includes people living under conditions where they do not reach the minimum internationally agreed standards in indicators of basic functionings, such as being well nourished, being educated or drinking clean water. Second, it refers to people living under conditions where they do not reach the minimum standards in several aspects at the same time. In other words, the MPI measures those experiencing multiple deprivations, people who, for example, are both undernourished and do not have clean drinking water, adequate sanitation or clean fuel.
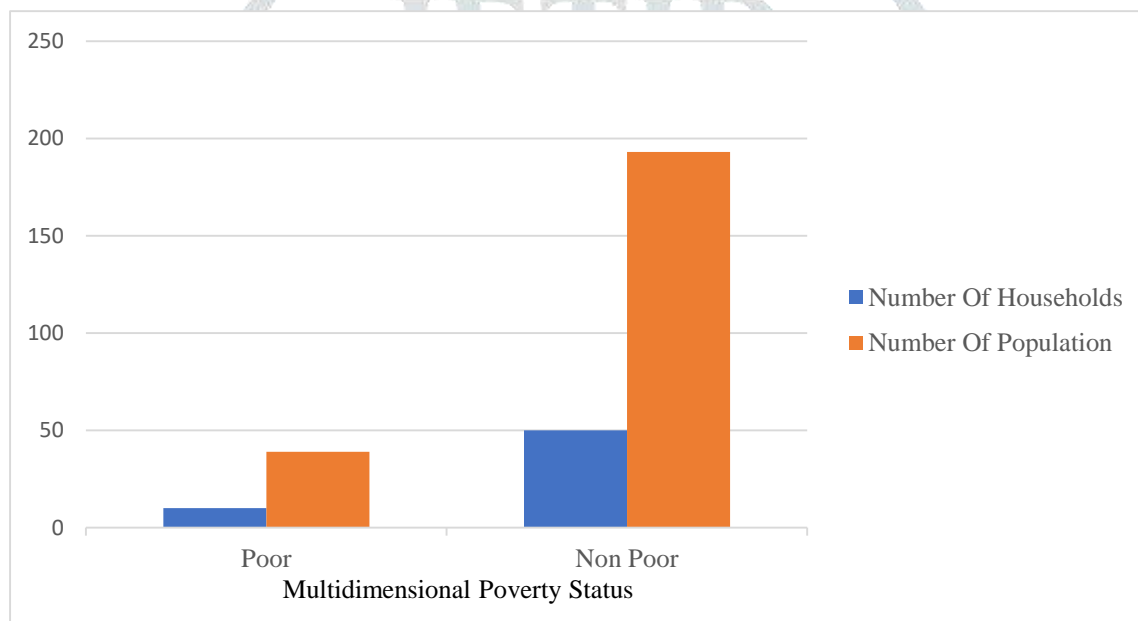
The MPI combines two key pieces of information to measure acute poverty: the incidence of poverty, or the proportion of people (within a given population) who experience multiple deprivations, and the intensity of their deprivation - the average proportion of (weighted) deprivations they experience.

Both the incidence and the intensity of these deprivations are highly relevant pieces of information for poverty measurement.

Table 6.1 Poor – Non Poor classification

Multidimensional Poverty Status	Number Of Households	Number Of Respondent
Poor	10	39
Non Poor	50	193

The above table gives a contradictory result. From this table it is very clear that out of the sixty below poverty line house only 10 families are multidimensionally poor. The 50 families cannot consider as poor. They may lack any of the indicator that comes under the study.

7.   Major findings

· The sample includes 64 school going students in which more than half, 52% are male and the females are 48%.

· From the sample of 232, total number of 168 are adults. In this 168 adults 89% of adults are educated. This result underline the fact that the literacy rates of Kerala are not only in figures. It is very visible in the lives of those people who are below the poverty line.

· The data reveals more than half, 67% of the people are not affected by any nutritional problems. Only 33% of the sample are not able to attain the prescribed nutritional status. Thus it means only 33% of the sample are considered as poor.

· The data reveals the fact that none of the household lacks the electricity connection. The governments in Kerala give much concern about the social upliftment of the poor and the marginalised people.

· It very clear that majority of the sample using sanitation facility with in their home. It is because of the penetration of education among these people. 88% of the sample have and using the sanitation facility. Here the 12% people don't have any sanitation facility but it doesn't mean that they are using 'open place'. They are using the sanitation facility from their neighbour houses.

- The data figure reveals that 97% of the sample takes water for drinking which they found safe.

- 21 households directly taking drinking water from their own well. Second major source of drinking water is the neighbour's well. Sharing well between households shows the good social relation of these people. 19 households depend on their neighbour for getting drinking water. Out of 60 families only 20 families depend on other source of water, like public water supply, tube well, public well for drinking water. In which 18 households use the water supplied by the government. Here only one household takes water from the public well. Thus, the people does not utilise the public well. It means the underutilisation of the water source is happening.

- It is evident from the figure that 85% of the households have a home with good flooring. Only 15% of the sample is not able to attain this flooring condition. In which some of the bad or unfinished households are taking measures to improve the flooring. The 85% households are able to have a good flooring condition with financial support from the government.

- It is very clear from the table that the most of the household use the good cooking fuel. The good cooking fuel using 43 households have either LPG or both LPG and wood for the cooking purpose. Bad cooking fuel households using only wood for cooking. Using wood for the cooking purpose is a part of the heritage of Kerala. Majority of the households have the facility to use wood as fuel for cooking.

- From the data it is evident that more 70% of the sample have the cooking fuel which can be considered as a good cooking fuel. The number of households who does not have a good cooking fuel is less than the half of those who have a good cooking fuel.

8. Conclusion

The study was conducted to identify that the multidimensional poverty status of these people who claim themselves as poor. Our government machinery conforms it and declare these people as poor. Therefore, the government provide the BPL card. The procession of this BPL card enable them to seek all the services and facilities provided by the government for the welfare of the poor. Kerala state apart from other states of India has almost all the features of a cultured and developed society having hundred percentage literacy and comparatively higher per capita income.

From the multidimensional poverty analysis, we get to know that only 10 families in the sample are multidimensionaly poor. The rest 50 families are multidimensionaly not poor. Even though the 60 household are below the poverty line and clime themselves as poor.

This difference appears because of some state specific reasons. Kerala have hundred percent literacy rate. Thus the government in Kerala give special interest in providing free and compulsory education up to the age of fourteen. The quality of the education is much better than any other states in India. Thus anybody can have a qualitative education in Kerala along with comparatively low price. Another aspect of Kerala is in the development of social infrastructures like hospitals, precisely the primary health centres. The government is able to provide the basic health care services to all people even though they are poor. So here, I Kerala people are more conscious about their health it is because of the awareness about health aspect from the knowledge they gained through our educational system.

From this analysis it is very clear that the so called poor or the below poverty line families are not that much poor we think. We can say that the trickle down is partially working here. The development achieved by the state are reaching at the lower level. Otherwise this contradictory result may not occur. Here, people have a better education along with health and minimum living standards. The important question here arises is that whether these people are try to misuse the services provided by the state?

When we relate the calculated multidimensional poverty in the village with the national multidimensional poverty status identified by United Nations Development Programme is far different. They identified that near to 55% of people are multidimensionally poor in this analysis it is clear that only 17% of the sample are poor in the real sense. The 83% of people are not multidimensionally poor.

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