

POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN HARYANA

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Abstract

Besides having the second highest per capita income (Rs. 1.09 lakh in 2012-2013) in India, the Haryana state has about 13 lakhs Below Poverty Line (BPL) families. However, the poverty ratio has been declining over the last 25 years because of centrally-sponsored poverty alleviation programmes but the state still has a poor status in regard to quality of life indicators like health, sex ratio etc. In this paper an attempt has been made by the authors to accentuate first, the current state of poverty level, second, to evaluate the various poverty alleviation programmes implemented by Haryana state and in third part of this paper various policy suggestions pertaining to the poverty alleviation has been suggested. Secondary data have been used in this study and the same has been analyzed using descriptive statistics.

Keywords: poverty, poverty alleviation programmes, Haryana state, Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), rural development and self-employment training institutes (RSETIs)

Introduction

In spite of years of planning, problem of poverty is still persisting in the country. It is a curse not only for an individual but for the entire nation also. It is the most crying economic problem of India. It deprives you of everything: food, clothing, shelter, yourself respect and your humanity, even your soul. In poverty you suffer not only hunger, nakedness, blind fury of nature's wild element, cruelty of cold and heat; you also suffer from humiliation loss of dignity. Poor people suffer from physical pain that comes with too little food and long hours of work; emotional pain stems from the daily humiliations of dependency and lack of power; and the moral pain comes from being forced to make choices such as to use limited funds to save the life of an ill family member, or to use the same fund to feed children.

Definition of poverty

World bank defines poverty as "the inability to attain a minimal standard of living."

It is the condition where people's basic needs for food, clothing and shelter are not met. Poverty is generally of two types:

1) Absolute poverty is synonymous with destitution and occurs when people cannot obtain adequate resources (measured in terms of calories or nutrition) to support a minimum level of physical health.

2) Relative poverty occurs when people do not enjoy a certain minimum level of living standard as determined by a government (and enjoyed by a bulk of government) that vary from country to country, sometimes within the same country. It is the poverty on the basis of comparison of per capita income of different countries.

Poverty Line

Initially the poverty line was defined on the basis of NSS Household Consumption Expenditure data for 1973-74. The poverty lines, defined as the basket of goods and services, have not been changed subsequently in order to preserve inter-temporal comparability, but the rupee value of the lines is regularly updated using the large sample consumer expenditure survey of the NSSO in order to reflect price increases that have taken place over the years. It is the line which indicates the level of purchasing power required to satisfy the minimum needs of a person. In other words, the income is necessary to purchase the minimum of caloric intake and essential non food elements of bare survival. The purchasing power can be in the average per capita monthly expenditure. If we have an idea of the minimum level of purchasing power required to keep a person at minimum level of living, a little below which he would be considered as poor, this "Purchasing Power" could then be called poverty line. This line divides the population in two groups, one of those who have this purchasing power or more and the other group of those people who do not have this much of purchasing power. The former group is regarded as living "Above the Poverty Line (APL)". These people are not regarded as poor. The latter group is considered as living "Below the Poverty Line (BPL)".

Poverty in Haryana

Despite the second highest per capita income in India, Haryana has about 13 lakh families living Below the Poverty Line (BPL) according to a survey by the rural development department and urban local bodies department. The number of BPL families in Haryana has reached 12.97 lakh, including 3.02 lakh Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. However, the per capita income of the state is Rs 1.09 lakh in 2012-13. Registering a per day average of 300, about 4,38,611 new BPL families have been identified in the state in the last four years. The Haryana Experience Sheila Bhalla In the prosperous state of Haryana, the poverty ratio has been declining continuously over the last 25 years to the point where the state now has the second lowest incidence of poverty in the country. In this process, centrally- sponsored programmes for poverty alleviation have been strictly peripheral. The Haryana experience suggests that sustained growth in agriculture plus a deliberate policy of income and occupational diversification is the most effective cure for poverty. While the strategy of investment in rural infrastructure, agriculture and industrial development appears to have worked, Haryana still has a poor record in regard to quality of life indicators such as health, mortality, and sex ratio.

According to Haryana food and supply minister Mahendar Partap, the number of BPL families has increased in Haryana as many eligible families had been kept out from the list due to some loopholes in the preparation of the lists in 2007. "With the introduction of the smart card system for the PDS, all the ineligible families, if there are any, in the current list, will not be able to get the benefit", he hoped. Also, a senior official in the Haryana food and

supply department said that after some complaints, the direction had been issued to all the deputy commissioners to prepare fresh lists of existing BPL families in their districts by deleting the names of ineligible families from the list.

Rural development department, Haryana

The Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India, conducted the door to door survey to identify the Below Poverty Line door to door households. The basic objective of Below Poverty Line Survey is to identify families living below poverty line who could be assisted under various ante poverty programmes. The basic objective of this survey is to identify the families living below poverty line and this survey is conducted by the DRDA on the basis of the guidelines and parameters issued by Ministry of Rural Development Govt of India. The Govt. of Haryana entrusted the BPL survey to an outside agency known as Haryana Ex-services League (HESL) who conducted door-to-door survey in all the villages. HESL designed the proforma to identify the status of the households and this proforma is filled by the HESL members. It was then verified by Sarpanch, Gram Sachiv and finally by Revenue Patwaris. On the basis of the survey, the data was compiled by the DRDAs for their respective districts and the same was consolidated at the State Headquarters. Village-wise draft BPL lists were sent to all the districts which had been displayed at every Panchayat Headquarter and these draft BPL lists have to be placed before the Gram Sabah's in the meetings specially convened for this purpose between 7th and 19th Decem07ber, 20 for approval. Based on the updated data received from all the districts, the district-wise number of BPL households has been finalized and the BPL Lists have been forwarded to all the districts and other user departments for implementation.

District-wise total number of households and BPL households in the state

Table 1

Sr. No.	District	Total No. of rural Households	Total rural population	Total No. of BPL households	%age of BPL H/holds (Col.5 with col.3)	BPL Households (Out of Col.5)		
						SC	BC	Landless
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Ambala	145934	727173	44185	30.28	24912	14043	42868
2	Bhiwani	260951	1259344	70009	26.83	34059	18321	58087
3	Faridabad	160314	766773	34807	21.71	15626	11315	32347
4	Fatehabad	137193	674713	48720	35.51	30168	13670	47753
5	Gurgaon	93130	495178	22211	23.85	10780	4606	19756
6	Hisar	237925	1186618	58737	24.69	37163	14573	56499
7	Jhajjar	130747	679752	29221	22.35	14974	7907	24990
8	Jind	183976	926386	61540	33.45	31551	17122	50691
9	Kaithal	173186	864179	52732	30.45	25498	17136	48301
10	Karnal	195597	920169	52355	26.77	25703	19518	50665
11	K/Shetra	140532	698186	46491	33.08	22448	19671	45895
12	M/Garh	145430	767954	38665	26.59	19425	13803	33514
13	Mewat	192388	1102494	53270	27.69	8956	16718	45271
14	Panchkula	41340	198362	13514	32.69	5216	4708	11526
15	Panipat	135938	649979	33402	24.57	14644	12888	32663
16	Rewari	136008	678259	34729	25.53	19349	10351	30277
17	Rohtak	120308	615965	22426	18.64	13249	5320	20512
18	Sirsa	184637	908329	47640	25.80	31008	12947	46929
19	Sonipat	183373	969673	48405	26.40	21275	18260	44959
20	Y/Nagger	160315	778836	45330	28.28	24901	14690	43359
	Total	3159222	15868322	858389	27.17	430905	267567	786862

Poverty alleviation programmes and strategies in Haryana

The state Government has been constantly making efforts to eradicate poverty in the state by assisting people living below poverty line through various schemes, in order to break the vicious circle of poverty.

1. Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)

To promote self employment a poverty alleviation programme is implemented in the rural areas in April 1999. Under this programme a large number of small enterprises are established in rural areas and organized as individual enterprises as well as on collective basis as self help groups (SHGs). Total funds are available in this fund to the tune of Rs. 3312.67 lakh. Against the available funds, an amount Rs. 1840.48 lakh has been utilized for assisting 11851 Swarozgaris upto the end of January, 2010. Out of the total assisted Swarozgaris, 5972 Swarozgaris belong to Scheduled Castes (SC) and 9058 are women.

2. Rural Development and Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs)

Under this, it is building has been established in 5 districts which is managed by public sector banks for training below poverty lines(BPL) youth for self employment. The government of India contributed Rs 1 crores for the construction of RSETI buildings.

3. Mahatama Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)

This scheme was launched in the district of Mahendergarh and Sirsa by Govt. of India during February, 2006 and was extended to districts Ambala and Mewat during 2007-08 and in same year this scheme is implemented to 330 districts of India. Under this schemewages are paid at statutory minimum wage and every household in rural areas living below poverty line has right to atleast 100 days of guaranteed employment to atleast one adult member of the family in each year. Employment is provided for generating productive assets in rural areas like constructing roads, irrigation projects.

4. Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)

Under this, employment opportunities are provided Scheduled Castes and also Non- Scheduled Castes rural poor living below the poverty line by giving them the construction work of dwelling units. The Govt. of India has raised the unit cost of IAY house from Rs. 25000 to Rs. 35000 w.e.f. 1st April, 2008. Under this 15604 houses were constructed and 6309 houses were in progress at the end of January, 2010. During this period, an expenditure of Rs. 5099.25 lakh had been incurred.

5. Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF)

In 2007-08 this scheme was started in districts of Mahendergarh and Sirsa. The objective of the scheme is to fill up the critical infrastructural gaps in various sectors identified by the local bodies. Under this scheme, an amount of Rs. 2165.72 lakh has been spent and 788 works have been undertaken in the districts and 253 works have been completed up to the month of January, 2010.

6. Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP)

Under this, severity of drought and desert conditions is controlled through watershed development approach. Implemented through the Panchayati Raj Institutions, An amount of Rs. 1924.33 lakh has been spent on various

activities of on-going Watershed Projects under DDP in January 2010. The Schemes namely Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP) have been merged into Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) from the financial year of 2008-09.

7. Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)

Under this scheme, Govt. of India provides to each MP an amount of Rs. 2.00 crore per annum for the development works. Under this scheme, an amount of Rs. 1064.73 lakh has been spent and 706 works have been completed upto the month of January, 2010 and 312 works were under progress.

8. Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana

This plan was started on December 1, 1997 and was introduced by Government of India and is funded in the ratio of 75:25 by the Govt. of India and State Government. It aims at providing self-employment or wage employment to urban unemployed and under employed persons. It consists of two programmes:

- **Urban self employment programme:** In this, the person starts his own work and earns profit.
- **Urban wage employment programme:** In this, the person takes employment as employee with some other person and gets wages/salary for his work.

9. Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP)

Under this scheme, adequate shelter and basic infrastructure Facilities are provided to the slum dwellers in urban areas. The scheme is funded in the ratio of 80:20 by the Govt. of India and State Govt. The Govt. of India has approved 18 projects of 15 towns with a total outlay of Rs. 262.12 crore, out of which Central Share is Rs. 209.70 crore. There is a provision for the construction of 16608 dwelling units besides providing infrastructure facilities to the slum dwellers. Upto December, 2009, an amount of Rs. 8953.35 lakh has been utilized. So far the construction of 2696 dwelling units are in progress and the work for providing infrastructure facilities to the slum dwellers has also been started.

10. Wage Employment Programmes

Under these programmes, villagers worked to improve the village infrastructure such as deepening the village ponds, constructing village schools and improving the rural roads during the lean agricultural season as well as during drought and floods.

11. National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

This Scheme was launched district Mahendragarh and Sirsa on 2nd February, 2006. In this scheme minimum 100 days of employment is generated in a year at minimum wage rate of Rs 60 per day. Scheduled castes and other rural people who live BPL are employed in the development works like water conservation, water harvesting, drought proofing, a forestation, tree plantation, canals irrigation, irrigation facilities.

Conclusion

Poverty is defined as the inability to attain a minimum standard of living. Based on the survey conducted by the rural development dept. in 2007, the total no of BPL in Haryana is 858389. Eradication of poverty has been the overriding objective since the beginning of economic planning in India. The institution of DRDA at district level was established to implement the poverty alleviations programmes in the state like IHSDP, SJSRY, MPLADS,

IWDP, IAY, MGNREGS etc. To improve the quality of benefits of the target groups and the functioning of different schemes, it is suggested that:

1. Only the needy people should be identified for providing benefits under various poverty alleviation schemes and programmes.
2. The Government should adopt an effective system for monitoring and evaluation of functioning and implementation of different schemes and programmes at all level.
3. Prospective training should be provided to the entrepreneur before taking loan. The training should be must for all beneficiaries before taking loan assistance.
4. Government should provide the financial and technical help to the BPL to increase their productivity and cultivate their land.
5. The government should make efforts to aware the people about the bad effect of the higher population growth and should motivate the people.

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