

DEMOGRAPHIC SCENARIO OF U.P. & POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMME

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ABSTRACT

Over fifty years of planned efforts to eradicate poverty have not succeeded, and India still suffers from high rates of poverty. Around 37% of rural Indians lived in poverty in 1993-94. This compares to about 32% of urban Indians. Rural areas saw 28% and urban areas 25% declines, respectively, by 2004-05. India has a large amount of poverty in 4 states, including Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh (UP). Among all BIMARU states, Uttar Pradesh has the highest proportion of people living in poverty, as well as the largest share of India's population. UP has sixty million poor people and 20% of the total population of India, according to estimates from the Government of India (GOI). According to an estimate by the World Bank, about 8% of world's poor lived in UP in 19982.

Keywords : India, Economy, Government, Poverty, Uttar pradesh

INTRODUCTION

Uttar Pradesh is the most populated state in India. According to the 2001 census, its population is 16.60 crores. The birth is 32.4 death rate of 85 in comparison to other states in India in regard to demographic scenarios. In other words, 16% of the total population of the country belongs to Uttar Pradesh only. It is also the fourth-biggest state regarding geographical area which has 9% of the total geographical area of the country.

Moreover, out of 100 poor, 19 of them live in Uttar Pradesh alone and the majority of its rural people belong to the rural area of the state. The state economy of the U.P. is heavily dependent upon agriculture accounting for 42% of total GDP and employing 72% of the total main workers of the state. The manufacturing sector contributor only 13% of the total GDP and employs only 7% of the total main workers.

The estimates of poverty based on minimum nutritional flows i.e. 2400 calories per capita per day in the rural areas and 2100 calories in the urban for the years viz 1973-74, 1977-78, 1983, 1987-94 and 1999-2000 as per view official methodology for the state viz-a-viz.

TABLE-1**Population below poverty line**

Year	Unit	U.P. population below poverty line	Increase/decrease over previous NSS round	Population below poverty line (All India)	Increase/decrease over previous NSS round
1	2	3	4	5	6
1973-74	Lakh No%	535.73 49.05	- -	3213.36 54.88	- -
1977-78	Lakh No. %	504.37 49.05	(-)31.36 (-) 5.9	3288.95 51.32	75.59 2.4
1983	Lakh No. %	556.74 47.07	52.37 10.4	3228.97 44.48	(-)59.98 (-)1.8
1987-88	Lakh No. %	536.53 41.46	(-) 20.21 (-) 0.6	3070.48 38.86	(-)158.49 (-)4.9
1993-94	Lakh No. %	604.45 40.85	67.92 12.7	8203.68 35.97	133.20 4.3
1999-2000	Lakh No. %	529.89 31.15	(-) 74.50 (-) 12.3	2602.26 26.10	(-) 601.18 (-) 18.11

It will be observed from **Table 1** that the incidence of poverty in the State during a span of 26 years (1973-99) has decreased from about 57% in 1973-74 to about 31% in 1999-2000, indicating a reduction about 26% i.e. on an average 1% each year. The corresponding reduction in urban and rural areas wor out to about 25% and 29% respectively. It is also evident from the table that reduction in the incidence of poverty has mainly registered in 1999-2000 over 1993-94 of about 12.3%. However, the pace of reduction is more prominent at the national level as the percentage of the population living below the poverty line declined from 54.88% in 1973-74 to 26.10% in 1999-2000 (about 29%) while the corresponding reduction at the state level is from 57.07% to 31.15% (about 26%). It may also be observed which was 16.67% of the corresponding population of all India, was higher at 20.36% in 1999-2000. This is indicative of deterioration in UP's relative poetry position over the years. Uttar

Pradesh is the only state among 14 major states of the country, which had a substantial proportion of the total poor population of the state has although decreased from about 84% in 1973-74 to 78% in 1999-2000. Poverty measured in terms of material deprivation is high in U.P. relatively to other Indian states and progress at poverty reduction has been uneven over the past two decades. The vast majority of the poor population lives in rural areas.

High poverty levels are synonyms with poor quality of life, deprivation, malnutrition, illiteracy, and low human resource development. The increasing population is a burning problem in India. India is passing population explosion, U.P. is the most popular state of India from 1901-1931, its population was about 15 crores. During 1951-91, the population increased by 12% against an increase of 134% for the country as a whole.

Uttar Pradesh's population is expected to double by 2021 as compared to 1991. Thus, double would be the magnitude of the socio-economic problem. During 1993-94, the percent of the population in poverty was 40.85 which is given in the table below (**Table 2**).

TABLE - 2
Percentage of Population in Poverty

STATE	1983	1987-88	1993-94
Bihar	55.22	52.18	54.96
Rajasthan	34.46	35.15	27.14
Uttar Pradesh	47.07	41.46	40.85
Odisha	65.29	55.58	48.56
Madhya Pradesh	49.78	43.07	42.52
Andhra Pradesh	28.91	25.86	22.19
Tamil Nadu	51.66	43.39	35.03
Kerala	40.42	31.79	25.43
Karnataka	38.24	37.53	33.16
West Bengal	54.85	44.72	35.66
Gujarat	32.79	31.54	24.21
Haryana	21.37	16.64	25.05
Maharashtra	43.44	40.41	36.86
Punjab	16.18	13.20	11.77
All 14 states	43.80	39.92	36.25
All India	44.48	38.86	35.97

The weight of poverty falls most heavily on certain groups women in general are disadvantaged. In poor households, they often shoulder more of the workload than men, are less educated, and have less access to remunerative activities children too suffer disproportionately and the future quality of their lives is compromised by adequate nutrition, health, and education.

The Indian Plan's main objection is to create employment opportunities. There are two basic problems for economic growth-employment and poverty. Both are related to one another. If a country is suffering from unemployment, naturally poverty crisis. To eradicate poverty it is necessary to establish employment opportunities.

Really unemployment is a chronic Indian problem. Unemployment cannot be solved in a short period of time. The solution of it is to control the increasing population development of agriculture and industries, reforms in educational policy, change in employment planning establishment of crash employment schemes, and various other programs.

World Development Reports 1990 suggests that rapid politically sustainable progress on poverty has been achieved by pursuing a strategy that has two equally important elements. The first element is to promote the productive use of the poor's most abundant asset labor. It calls for policies that harness market incentives social and political, institution infrastructure, and technology to the end. The second is to provide basic social success to the poor primary health care, family planning, nutrition, and primary education are especially important.

Aid has often been an effecting increment for reducing poverty but not always. Donors sometimes have other objections. In 1988 about 41% of external assistance was directed to middle and high-income countries of the major anti-poverty and employment generating program is given in **table 2**.

EMPLOYMENT GENERATION/POVERTY ALLEVIATION SCHEMES

Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) 1999: The program is implemented by Gram panchayats. The secondary objective, however, is the generation of wage employment for the rural unemployed poor.

Swarn Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) 1999: This scheme covers all aspects of self-employment like the organization of rural poor into SHG and their capacity building, training, planning of activity clusters, infrastructure development, financial assistance through bank credit and subsidy, and marketing support, etc.

Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) 1993: It was restricted in 1999-2000 to make it a single wage employment program and implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on a cost-sharing ratio of 75:25.

Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) 2001: The scheme aims at providing wage employment in rural areas as also food security along with the creation of durable community, social and economic assets.

National Social Assistance Program (NSAP) 1995: NASP was introduced on 15th August 1995 for social assistance benefit to poor households affected by old age, death of primary bread earner, and maternity care.

Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) 2001: PMGY was introduced with the objectives of focusing village level development in five critical areas i.e. health, primary education, drinking water, housing, and rural roads, with the overall objective of improving the quality of life in the rural areas.

Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) 1997: SJSRY replaced various programs operated earlier for urban poverty alleviation.

Samagra Awaas Yojana (1999-2000): This has been launched to provide for convergence of the existing housing, sanitation, and water supply schemes with a special emphasis on technology transfer, human resource development, and habitable improvement with people's participation.

Food for Work Programs (2001): The program aims at augmenting food security through wage employment in the drought-affected rural areas in eight states.

Annapurna 2001: It aims at providing food security to meet the requirement of those senior citizens.

Krishi Shramik Samaji Suraksha Yojana 2001: The scheme for giving social security benefits to agricultural laborers on hire in the age group of 18 to 60 years.

Shiksha Sahayog Yojana: The scheme has been finalized for providing an educational allowance of Rs. 100 per month to the children of parents living below the poverty line for their education from the 9th to 12th standard.

Poverty tradition and employment generation programs are operating in the country for several years. The specially designed anti-poverty programs for the generation of self-employment and wage employment in rural areas have been redesigned and restructured to improve their efficiency/impact on the poor.

The best way to eradicate poverty and unemployment is to industrialization. The basic fundamental challenge to reduce poverty in the U.P. is to give importance to the quality and effectiveness of governance.

Panchayati Raj Institutions must give proper emphasis to the decision-making of the poor people in rural areas which affects their lives. Political authorities need to be transparent. Anti-poverty policies should accelerate the growth rates U.P. is over populous so the labor force should be facilitated for employment and poverty can be reduced in the manner.

Statewise poverty nations have witnessed a secular decline from 1973-74 to 1999-2000. Though poverty has declined at the macro level, rural, urban and inter-state disparities are visible. The rural poverty rate is still relatively high in Orissa, Bihar, and the North Eastern States.

CONCLUSION

The western and eastern regions of UP that were the harbinger of growth in 1980s could not maintain the impetus and failed to development necessary complimentary infrastructure for agricultural growth. The infrastructural differences between the western and eastern regions created the wide difference in agricultural growth in these regions though they were once at par. The main problems in the state are stark inter-region and intra-region differences. A positive observation is that the poorest region in the state, the southern region or Bundelkhand, is making

progress in poverty reduction. The study also tried to highlight the way anti-poverty programmes are generally being implemented in the state. A brief discussion of the actual modus operandi of Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana as observed in a field study gives some indication of the development inertia. At the same time, programmes like Rajiv Gandhi Mahila Vikash Pariyojana are making a good impression without any visible support from state government. This highlights role of political will in development of an area.

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