



# CONCEPT OF POVERTY AND ITS ESTIMATES IN INDIA

Dr. Vimlesh,

Associate Professor,

K.R (P.G.) College, Mathura.

## Abstract

Poverty is one of the biggest social issue in India. It affects a significant part of the Indian population. Poverty is a state or condition in which a person or community lacks the financial resources and essentials for a minimum standard of living. Poverty means that the income level from employment is so low that basic human needs can't be met. During the last few decades, economists have tried to find a solution to eradicate poverty, especially since the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, were launched. The target is to end poverty in all its forms everywhere. While income inequality and unemployment have played a major part in contributing to poor wellbeing in the world, other factors such as political instability, a lack of good investment opportunities, and living conditions have contributed to it as well. However, the general idea is that when an individual has lesser accessibility and affordability to certain essentials like food, clothes, a place to live, healthcare, education, etc., then he is said to be living in poverty. Pew Research Centre, using World Bank data, has estimated that the number of poor in India (with income of \$2 per day or less in purchasing power parity) has more than doubled from 60 million to 134 million in just a year because of the pandemic-induced recession. This means India is returned to a situation where it is called a "country of mass poverty" after 45 years.

**Keywords:** poverty, poverty estimates, challenges.

## Introduction

Poverty is the state of having little material possessions or income. Poverty can have diverse social, economic, and political causes and effects. When evaluating poverty in statistics or economics there are two main measures: Absolute poverty and Relative poverty. Relative poverty is defined varies from one country to another, or from one society to another. Statistically, as of 2019, most people on the planet live in poverty: (in Purchasing Power Parity dollars) 85% live on less than \$30 per day, two-thirds live on less than \$10 per day, and 10% live on less than \$1.90 per day

(extreme poverty) . According to the World Bank Group in 2020, more than 40 % of the poor live in conflict-affected countries. Even when countries experience economic development, the poorest citizens of middle-income countries frequently do not gain an adequate share of their countries' increased wealth to leave poverty. Since poverty has many facets, social scientists look at it through a variety of indicators. Usually the indicators used relate to the levels of income and consumption. But now poverty is looked through other social indicators like illiteracy level, lack of general resistance due to malnutrition, lack of access to healthcare, lack of job opportunities, lack of access to safe drinking water, sanitation etc. Analysis of poverty based on social exclusion and vulnerability is now becoming very common. India is the second densely populated country with about 1.2 billion people; India has enjoyed growth rates of up to 10% over many years and is one of the largest economies in the world. But a small percentage of the population has benefited from this economic boom with the majority of people still living in abject poverty.

## Review of literature

**Datt and Ravallion (2002)** consider whether India's economic growth leaves the poor behind. Their own estimates and their review of alternative estimates in recent literature have suggested that India maintained its 1980s rate of poverty reduction into the 1990s. Their results suggest that the incidence of poverty has been falling at slightly less than one 102 percentage point per year over the main post reform period. They emphasize the considerable diversity in performance between states, referring to large differences across states in the impact on poverty made by any given rate of growth in non-agricultural output. "States with relatively low levels of initial rural development and human capital development were not well suited to reduce poverty in response to economic growth.

**Radhakrishna and Ray (2005)** provide a comprehensive analysis of poverty in India. The authors cover poverty trends within India. These trends include higher poverty rates among rural people and scheduled tribes. They look in depth at the discrimination faced by scheduled tribes and how it reflects in their impoverished state. The authors go on to look at many different programs and solutions implemented in India to alleviate poverty. They provide statistical data showing the effectiveness of many of these programs. They also consider the relative impact of government spending on poverty.

**Barrientos et al. (2016)** examine ethics in relation to poverty reduction. They discuss the role of ethics in the decision-making process when reducing poverty as well as several ethical perspectives that are considered in poverty reduction. These perspectives are applied to the design and implementation of poverty reduction programs.

**Thorat et al. (2017)** examine statistics pertaining to shifts in and out of poverty within India as poverty has fallen in the nation. They pay particular attention to the disadvantages faced by some marginalized groups, like the Dalits, and compare the level of poverty faced by these marginalized groups to the nation's level of poverty. They cover the amount of people who have risen above poverty as well as those who have fallen backwards into poverty. They also provide a statistical analysis of some factors that prevent and cause movements into poverty.

## Research Methodology

Information for research paper have been retrieved from secondary data like reading articles related to poverty ,its estimates and anti-poverty measures from secondary sources such as newspaper, journals, textbooks and internet .

## Objectives of study

The specific objectives of the research concept of poverty and its estimate in India:

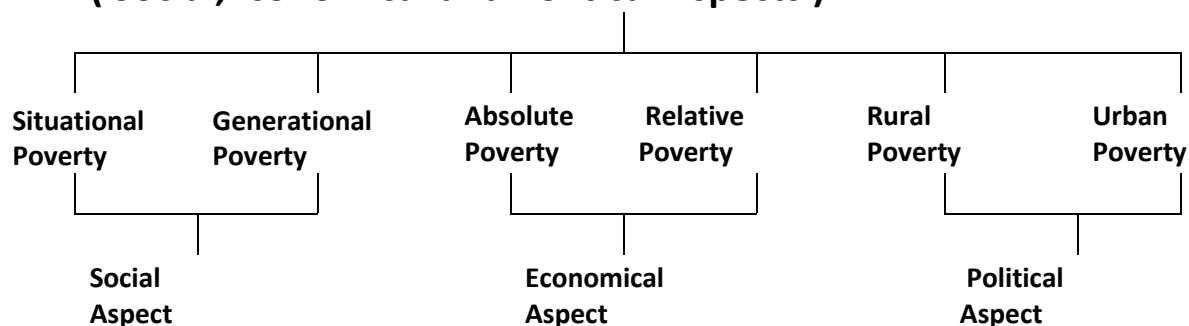
- 1.) To study the concept of poverty
- 2.) To Find out the causes and its impact
- 3.) To study the National and states wise poverty estimates in India
- 4.) To Study Anti-poverty measures taken by government.
- 5.) Conclusion

## 1.0) Concept of poverty

According to World Bank, Poverty is pronounced deprivation in well-being, and comprises many dimensions. It includes low incomes and the inability to acquire the basic goods and services necessary for survival with dignity. Poverty also encompasses low levels of health and education, poor access to clean water and sanitation, inadequate physical security, lack of voice, and insufficient capacity and opportunity to better one's life. In India, 21.9% of the population lives below the national poverty line in 2011. In 2018, almost 8% of the world's workers and their families lived on less than US\$1.90 per person per day (international poverty line). On the basis of Social, Economic and Political aspects, there are different ways to identify the types of poverty

## Types of Poverty

### ( Social,Economical and Political Aspects )



## Social Aspects

### i) Situational Poverty

Situational Poverty is a temporary type of poverty based on occurrence of an adverse event like environmental disaster, job loss and severe health problem. People can help themselves even with a small assistance, as the poverty comes because of unfortunate event.

### ii). Generational Poverty

Generational Poverty is handed over to individual and families from one generation to the one. This is more complicated as there is no escape because the people are trapped in its cause and unable to access the tools required to get out of it.

## Economical Aspects

### i). Absolute poverty

Absolute poverty refers to a condition where a person does not have the minimum amount of income needed to meet the minimum requirements for one or more basic living needs over an extended period of time. It involves the scarcity of basic food, clean water, health, shelter, education and information. Those who belong to absolute poverty tend to struggle to live and experience a lot of child deaths from preventable diseases like malaria, cholera and water-contamination related diseases. Absolute Poverty is usually uncommon in developed countries.

### ii). Relative Poverty

Relative poverty is the condition in which people lack the minimum amount of income needed in order to maintain the average standard of living in the society in which they live.. People are said to be impoverished if they cannot keep up with the standard of living as determined by society .Usually, relative poverty is measured as the percentage of the population with income less than some fixed proportion of median income.

## Political Aspects

### i.) Rural Poverty

It is the area where there are less job opportunities, less access to services, less support for disabilities and quality education opportunities. People are tending to live mostly on the farming and other menial work available to the surroundings.

### ii.) Urban Poverty

It occurs in the metropolitan areas with population over 50,000. There are some major challenges faced by the Urban Poor :-

- Limited access to health and education.
- Inadequate housing and services.
- Violent and unhealthy environment because of overcrowding.

- Little or no social protection mechanism.

A common method used to measure poverty is based on the income or consumption levels. A person is considered poor if his or her income or consumption level falls below a given "minimum level" necessary to fulfil basic needs. What is necessary to satisfy basic needs is different at different times and in different countries. Therefore, poverty line may vary with time and place. Each country uses an imaginary line that is considered appropriate for its existing level of development and its accepted minimum social norms. While determining the poverty line in India, a minimum level of food requirement, clothing, footwear, fuel and light, educational and medical requirement etc. are determined for subsistence. These physical quantities are multiplied by their prices in rupees. The present formula for food requirement while estimating the poverty line is based on the desired calorie requirement. Food items such as cereals, pulses, vegetable, milk, oil, sugar etc. together provide these needed calories. The calorie needs vary depending on age, sex and the type of work that a person does. The accepted average calorie requirement in India is 2400 calories per person per day in rural areas and 2100 calories per person per day in urban areas. Since people living in rural areas engage themselves in more physical work, calorie requirements in rural areas are considered to be higher than urban areas. The monetary expenditure per capita needed for buying these calorie requirements in terms of food grains etc. is revised periodically taking into consideration the rise in prices. On the basis of these calculations, for the year 2011-12, the poverty line for a person was fixed at Rs 816 per month for the rural areas and Rs 1000 for the urban areas. Despite less calorie requirement, the higher amount for urban areas has been fixed because of high prices of many essential products in urban centres. In this way in the year 2011-12, a family of five members living in rural areas and earning less than about Rs 4,080 per month will be below the poverty line. A similar family in the urban areas would need a minimum of Rs 5,000 per month to meet their basic requirements. The poverty line is estimated periodically (normally every five years) by conducting sample surveys. These surveys are carried out by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). However, for making comparisons between developing countries, many international organisations like the World Bank use a uniform standard for the poverty line: minimum availability of the equivalent of \$1 per person per day.

## 2.0) Causes of poverty in India

### **Colonial exploitation:**

India under the colonial hegemony was forced to de-industrialize resulting in increased raw material production and a decrease in the export of value-added goods like traditional handicrafts and textiles. The natives were forced to buy British goods, thus discouraging them from manufacturing indigenously. This led to massive unemployment. The droughts, diseases, and others increased the plight of the Indians during that time.

### **Increase in the population:**

The rapid increase in the population due to a decrease in the mortality rate and an increase in the birth rate can be an asset for the Indian economy. However, in the present scenario, this is turning out to be a liability due to massive unemployment and an increase in the dependence on those working



populations. The massive population must be converted to human capital to promote the growth of the economy.

### **Natural Calamities:**

In India, the maximum of the population who belong to BPL is from states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Odissa, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. The reason behind this is that these states are prone to natural disasters and also most of the population in these states are from SC/STs thus making them unrepresented. The natural calamities in these states hamper the agricultural progress and economic development of these states.

### **Rise of unorganised sectors:**

Many sectors in the Indian economy are unorganised. This brings in the problem of labour exploitation. The increase in demand for work also causes job insecurities.

### **Failing Agricultural sector:**

The agricultural sector is one of the most vulnerable sectors of the Indian economy. Farmer suicides and protests are on the rise due to the increasing debt and decrease in production. This, in the long run, would result in them suffering from poverty. This sector employs a maximum of the Indian population but provides little profit.

### **Lack of investment:**

The investment provides more job opportunities. For this, the Indian economy must be favourable for foreign investment. However, some parts of India remain unfavourable due to corruption, political instability, militancy etc.

### **Education and illiteracy:**

Lack of education and growing illiteracy is majorly responsible for poverty in India. Due to the increase in the illiteracy rates, unemployment rises and resultantly poverty rates increase.

### **Out-dated Social Customs:**

Social customs like the caste system cause segregation and marginalization of certain sections of the society also play a major role in spreading poverty.

### **Lack of skilled labour:**

The population can be an asset to the economy if it is utilized efficiently. This can be done through human capitalization. Measures to improve the literacy of the population are very slow. Some, due to the lack of sufficient skills are not accepted in the workforce. This results in unemployment and poverty.

### **Corruption:**

Many measures have been taken by the government to eliminate poverty. However, there is still a lack of political will. The corruption by those in power also contributes to poverty.

### **Inefficient use of resources:**

India is a country that has abundant natural resources which, if utilized efficiently, without wastage, can be turned into an asset.

### **Lack of entrepreneurship:**

There are many activities in India that can be of asset to the economy. For example, some tribes have rich art and culture which can be utilized for the tribes' growth and development through proper entrepreneurship. However, due to a lack of leadership and entrepreneurial skills, they go to waste. The tribes remain one of the most vulnerable sections of Indian society.

### **Lack of infrastructure:**

Many parts of India still remain isolated despite the rapid economic growth. There are several villages in India that still don't have access to basic commodities like electricity, thus resulting in poor standards of living. They don't even have proper roads or railways. Their contribution to the economy goes to waste due to inaccessibility

2.1) **The impact of poverty in India** is more on children, families, and individuals in different ways:

#### **\* High Infant Mortality**

Each year around 1.4 million children die in India before their 5th birthday; India is one of the countries with the highest child mortality rates. The causes of death are pneumonia, malaria, and diarrheal diseases, and chronic malnutrition.

#### **\* Malnutrition - Not even a bowl of rice a day**

India is on top when it comes to malnutrition; more than 200 million people lack to get sufficient food, including 61 million children.

#### **\* Child Labour - No time to play and learn**

Child labour under the age of 14 is prohibited by law in India; but as per the official figures, 12.5 million children between the ages of 5 and 14 are working. Also, 65 million children between the age of 6 and 14 years do not go to school instead they work in fields, factories, quarries, private households, and also in prostitution.

#### **\* Lack of Education**

As per UNICEF, about 25% of children in India do not get an education. Girl's percentage is higher than boys in excluding from school. Although there is Indian law to treat women and

men equally they, especially in the lower social caste, are considered inferior. With a lack of education, their chances of finding a living wage from employment in India are hopeless.

### \* **Child Marriage**

As minors are banned to marry; still it is practiced in many Indian regions. Young girls, who are still children, become mothers too early. Many die at birth. Because of poverty, many parents encourage early marriages in hopes of better lives.

### \* **Unemployment:**

Poor people move from villages to towns and from one town to another in search of employment/work. Since, they are mostly illiterate and un-skilled, there are very few employment opportunities open for them. Due to unemployment, many poor people are forced to live an unfulfilled life.

### \* **Hygiene and sanitation:**

These people have little knowledge about hygiene and proper sanitation system. They are not aware of the harmful consequences of not maintaining proper hygiene. The government is taking initiatives to make available clean and safe water, and proper sanitation system to them.

\* **Feminization of poverty:** Women are the worst victims of poverty. Poverty affects greater number of women than men. The total of poor women outnumbers the total population of poor men. The causes include low income, gender-inequality, etc. They are deprived of proper-diet, medicines and health treatment

## 3.0) **Poverty Estimation in India**

The percentage of the population living below the poverty line in India decreased to 22% in 2011-12 from 37% in 2004-05, according to data released by the Planning Commission in July 2013.

### 3.1) **National and State-wise poverty estimates**

The Planning Commission estimates levels of poverty in the country on the basis of consumer expenditure surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The current methodology for poverty estimation is based on the recommendations of an Expert Group to Review the Methodology for Estimation of Poverty (Tendulkar Committee) established in 2005. The Committee calculated poverty levels for the year 2004-05. Poverty levels for subsequent years were calculated on the basis of the same methodology, after adjusting for the difference in prices due to inflation. Table 1 shows national poverty levels for the last twenty years, using methodology suggested by the Tendulkar Committee. According to these estimates, poverty declined at an average rate of 0.74 percentage points per year between 1993-94 and 2004-05, and at 2.18 percentage points per year between 2004-05 and 2011-12.



**Table 1: National poverty estimates (% below poverty line) (1993 - 2012)**

Year	Rural	Urban	Total
1993 – 94	50.1	31.8	45.3
2004 – 05	41.8	25.7	37.2
2009 – 10	33.8	20.9	29.8
2011 – 12	25.7	13.7	21.9

Source: Press Note on Poverty Estimates, 2011 – 12, Planning Commission; Report of the Expert Group to Review the Methodology for Estimation of Poverty (2009) Planning Commission; PRS.

State-wise data is also released by the NSSO. Table 2 shows state-wise poverty estimates for 2004-05 and 2011-12. It shows that while there is a decrease in poverty for almost all states, there are wide inter-state disparities in the percentage of poor below the poverty line and the rate at which poverty levels are declining.

**Table2: State-wise poverty estimates (% below poverty line) (2004-05, 2011-12)**

State	2004-05	2011-12	Decrease
Andhra Pradesh	29.9	9.2	20.7
Arunachal Pradesh	31.1	34.7	-3.6
Assam	34.4	32.0	2.4
Bihar	54.4	33.7	20.7
Chhattisgarh	49.4	39.9	9.5
Delhi	13.1	9.9	3.2
Goa	25.0	5.1	19.9
Gujarat	31.8	16.6	15.2
Haryana	24.1	11.2	12.9
Himachal Pradesh	22.9	8.1	14.8
Jammu and Kashmir	13.2	10.4	2.8
Jharkhand	45.3	37.0	8.3
Karnataka	33.4	20.9	12.5
Kerala	19.7	7.1	12.6
Madhya Pradesh	48.6	31.7	16.9
Maharashtra	38.1	17.4	20.7
Manipur	38.0	36.9	1.1
Meghalaya	16.1	11.9	4.2
Mizoram	15.3	20.4	-5.1
Nagaland	9.0	18.9	-9.9
Odissa	57.2	32.6	24.6
Pondicherry	14.1	9.7	4.4
Punjab	20.9	8.3	12.6

Rajasthan	34.4	14.7	19.7
Sikkim	31.1	8.2	22.9
Tamil Nadu	28.9	11.3	17.6
Tripura	40.6	14.1	26.5
Uttar Pradesh	40.9	29.4	11.5
Uttarakhand	32.7	11.3	21.4
West Bengal	34.3	20.0	14.3
<b>All India</b>	<b>37.2</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>15.3</b>

Source: Review of Expert Group to Review the Methodology for Estimation of Poverty

(2009) Planning Commission, Government of India; Press Note on Poverty Estimates, 2011 – 12 (2013) Planning Commission, Government of India;

As of 2011, 21.9% of the Indian population belongs below the poverty line. According to World Poverty Clock, close to 44 Indians are escaping from extreme poverty each minute. The 2019 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index published by the UN Development Program has estimated that multidimensional poverty in India has fallen by 27.5% between 2005-06 and 2015-16. Multidimensional poverty means the estimation of poor not only based on income but also several factors such as poor health, poor working conditions, etc. The unemployment rate as of April 2021 is 7.1%. This is a huge problem as unemployment is the direct cause of poverty in the country. The recent years saw a rapid increase in infrastructural developments like roads and housing projects for the alleviation of the poor. This might help boost investments in the country increasing job opportunities.

### 3.2) Niti Aayog's First Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) Report 2021

According to Niti Aayog's first Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) report released in November 2021, Kerala has turned out to be the state with the lowest rate of poverty in India. As per the index, only 0.71 per cent population of Kerala is poor. Kottayam of Kerala is the only district in India without poverty. This district has registered a zero in the recently released poverty index. Kerala is followed by states like Goa (3.76%), Sikkim (3.82%), Tamil Nadu (4.89%) and Punjab (5.59%).

States like Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh have registered the highest poverty rate across India. These states have emerged as the 'poorest states' in India. 51.91% of the population in Bihar classified as poor, followed by Jharkhand (42.16%), Uttar Pradesh (37.79%) Madhya Pradesh (36.65%) and both Meghalaya & Assam (32.67%)

### 3.3) India Poverty Statistics 2021

Total Population	1,392,506,368
People living in extreme poverty	97,697,747
Males	44,806,455
Females	52,891,292

According to World Poverty Clock, the number of people who are living in poverty is 97,697,747 (97.7 million) or roughly 6% of the population. There are 44,806,455 males and 52,891,292 females impacted by poverty in India. Females are more affected than males.

### 3.4) According to Pew report:

**Poor people:** The poverty rate in India likely increases to 9.7% in 2020, up sharply from the January 2020 forecast of 4.3%. From 2011 to 2019, the number of poor in India was estimated to have decreased to 78 million from 340 million. In 2020, the number increased by 75 million. Poor People with incomes of USD 2 or less a day.

**Middle Class:** The middle class in India is estimated to have shrunk by 3.2 crores in 2020. People with incomes of around Rs. 700-1,500 or USD 10-20 per day. The middle-income group is likely to have decreased from almost 10 crores to just 6.6 crores.

**Low Income Group:** The huge majority of India's population falls into the low-income group. People earning about Rs.150 to 700 per day. This group shrank from 119.7 crores to 116.2 crores per day, with about 3.5 crores dropping below the poverty line.

### .The Challenges Ahead Poverty

Despite the progress, poverty reduction remains India's most compelling challenge. Wide disparities in poverty are visible between rural and urban areas and among different states. Certain social and economic groups are more vulnerable to poverty. Poverty reduction is expected to make better progress in the next ten to fifteen years. This would be possible mainly due to higher economic growth, increasing stress on universal free elementary education, declining population growth, increasing empowerment of the women and the economically weaker sections of society. The official definition of poverty, however, captures only a limited part of what poverty really means to people. It is about a "minimum" subsistence level of living rather than a "reasonable" level of living. Worldwide experience shows that with development, the definition of what constitutes poverty also changes. Eradication of poverty is always a moving target. Hopefully we will be able to provide the minimum "necessary" in terms of only income to all people by the end of the next decade. But the target will move on for many of the bigger challenges that still remain: providing health care, education and job security for all, and achieving gender equality and dignity for the poor.

### 4.0) Measures taken by the government to alleviate poverty

#### Prime Minister Rozgar Yozana (PMRY)

This scheme was started in 1993. The aim of the programme is to create self-employment opportunities for educated unemployed youth in rural areas and small towns. They are helped in setting up small business and industries.

#### Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP)

It was launched in 1995. The aim of the programme is to create self-employment opportunities in rural areas and small towns. A target for creating 25 lakh new jobs has been set for the programme under the Tenth Five Year plan.

### **Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana:**

It was launched on April 1, 1999. This program merged Integrated Rural Development Program, Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Million Wells Scheme (MWS), Supply of Improved Toolkits to Rural Artisans (SITRA) and Ganga Kalyan Yojana. Its objective is to alleviate the beneficiaries from BPL. It helps promote the self-employment of the rural poor. The fund sharing between the Centre and the State is at the ratio of 75:25. This scheme aims at working in clusters to provide inclusive and effective aid to the rural poor. The rural poor are organized into SHGs to provide training, capacity building and providing assets to generate income. This scheme was renamed as National Rural Livelihood Mission in 2011. This was finally merged to Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Antyodaya Yojana to provide skills training for the poor. This scheme also provides subsidies and shelters for the homeless.

### **Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yozana (PMGY)**

It was launched in 2000, additional central assistance is given to states for basic services such as primary health, primary education, rural shelter, rural drinking water and rural electrification.

### **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA), 2005:**

It aims to provide 100 days of wage employment to every household to ensure livelihood security in rural areas. It also aimed at sustainable development to address the cause of draught, deforestation and soil erosion. One-third of the proposed jobs have been reserved for women. The scheme provided employment to 220 crores person days of employment to 4.78 crore households. The average wage has increased from 65 in 2006-07 to 132 in 2013-14.

### **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (2015)**

launched by the Ministry of Skills Development and Entrepreneurship in 2015. It is a scheme aimed at the enhancement of skills based on the demand of the economy. This scheme is implemented through Nation Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) The training provided under this scheme is based on National Skill Qualification Framework and industry-level standards. The beneficiaries include college graduates and school/ college dropouts.

### **Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (2015):**

It has two components: Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Grameen) and Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Urban) It was launched in 2015. It unites schemes like Ujjwala yojana (provides LPG to BPL), access to toilets, water, drinking water facilities and Saubhagya Yojana (electricity).

### **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi:**

This scheme aims to provide financial assistance to provide working capital support to all the landholding farmers. This brings in the idea of universal basic income for the farmers in India.

## Suggestions:

- The government must provide transparency and accountability to various organizations that are responsible for the implementation of the Welfare Schemes.
  - Infrastructure development and skills development must be made a top priority
  - More government expenditure in health, nutrition, and education.
  - The problem of the inability to determine the poverty line must be resolved to help the target population.
  - Direct income transfer to the needy is an immediate solution. Universal Basic Income should also be considered.
  - Investment in Agriculture by the government is necessary to decrease rural poverty. Subsidies address only short-term issues. Also, there is a need to develop technologies, with the help of which farmers can practice all-weather agriculture.
  - Employment-oriented growth creates jobs in modern sectors and promotes labour-intensive industries.
  - Reduce corruption for efficient service delivery.
  - Resilience for poor households to withstand major shocks through holistic, multi-faceted intervention designed to help people lift themselves from extreme poverty by providing them with the tools, skills, and resources required to deal with the challenges that keep them trapped in a state of destitution.
- In addition to providing assets such as livestock, the government should also provide livelihood and financial skills training to make these assets productive; personal coaching to instill confidence and hope; basic health care for families, and more.

## 5.0 Conclusion

Poverty is a national problem and it must be solved on a war footing. The government is taking a number of steps to mitigate poverty. Eradication of poverty would ensure a sustainable and inclusive growth of economy and society. We all should do everything possible and within our limits to help alleviate poverty from our country. Through this concept of poverty we analysed main global and national trends in poverty. But in recent years, analysis of poverty is becoming rich through a variety of new concepts like social exclusion. Similarly, the challenge is becoming bigger as scholars are broadening the concept into human poverty. But the sudden outbreak of the novel coronavirus in early 2020 pushed many into poverty in India. It is estimated that 150-199 million additional people will fall into poverty at the end of 2021. Due to the pandemic, there were job cuts on a large-scale. The poverty rate of India is set to rise. According to the CMIE report, around 7 million jobs were lost in a year. The consumption expenditure has come down and the public spending on development was sluggish. India's first-ever national MPI measure is based on utilizing 12 key indicators like nutrition, child and adolescent mortality, antenatal care, years of schooling, school attendance etc. which cover areas such as health and nutrition, education and standard of living. As per NITI Aayog Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) report, the states like Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Meghalaya have turned out to be the 'poorest states' in India. Indian government's spending on rural welfare schemes was helping in a big way



to reduce national poverty. By 2030, the target of government is to eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day.

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