



CHANGING PROFILE OF RURAL POVERTY IN INDIA: AN EXPLORATORY ANALYSIS

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Abstract

Rural India is Real India and hence rural development is the main pillar of the nation's development. Rural development is a strategy involves extending the benefits of development to the poorest, among those who seek a livelihood in the rural areas. It aims at increased employment, higher productivity, higher income as well as minimum acceptable level of food, clothing, shelter, education, health. It also aims at building up of a sound value system which is keeping in with the high cultural heritage of the country. More than two-third of the total population is living in rural areas. As a measure to strengthen the grass root level democracy, the government is constantly endeavoring to empower the Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) in terms of functions, powers and finance. Grama Sabha, NGOs, Self Help Groups (SHG) and PRIs are accorded adequate role to make participatory democracy meaningful and effective. In reducing the gap between rural and urban areas, various rural development programmes are implemented by the Central and State Governments to create infrastructure facilities that are required and to fill up the gaps in the existing ones. According to a World Bank report, India has the most number of people who live below the international poverty line of \$1.90 a day. The report, titled 'Taking on inequality' points out while taking about the distribution of the world's poor that while India is not the leader when it comes to the percentage of its citizens living in poverty, it leads in sheer volume due to the size of its population. Further the report pointed out that While half the world's poor live in Sub-Saharan Africa, four of the top 10 countries by the number of the poor are not in this region, namely, Bangladesh, China, India, and Indonesia, But unlike its Asian neighbours, India leads the pack in the sheer number of people living below the international poverty line. "Despite the relatively low headcount ratios, these four countries have large populations. India is by far the country with the largest number of people living under the international US\$1.90-a-day poverty line, 224 million, more than 2.5 times as many as the 86 million in Nigeria, which has the second-largest population of the poor worldwide," pointed out the report. According to the report, Sub-Saharan Africa has one in two of the poor worldwide, while India accounts for one in three. Further it adds that overall, 243.5 million people live in countries with poverty headcount ratios above 50%, while around 356. million live in economies where the ratio ranges from 30% to 50%. The present paper traced the trends in rural poverty in India; studied the interstate variation in the incidence of rural poverty in India; explored the rural poverty alleviation strategies in India; and also suggest possible suggestions to reduce the incidence of rural poverty in India

Keywords: Rural Poverty, Poverty Line, Poverty Ratio Head Count Ratio, Poverty Gap Index

Rationale

In India, out of total population of 121 crores, 83.3 crores live in rural areas (Census of India, 2011). Thus, nearly 70 per cent of the India's population lives in rural areas. These rural populations can be characterized by mass poverty, low levels of literacy and income, high level of unemployment, and poor nutrition and health status. The World Bank estimates that 456 million Indians i.e., 42% of the total Indian population at present live under the global poverty line of \$1.25 per day (PPP). This means that a third of the global poor now reside in India. However, this also represents a significant decline in poverty from 60 percent in 1981 to 42 percent in 2005, although the rupee has decreased in value since then, while the official standard of 538/356 rupees per month have remained the same. Income inequality in India (Gini coefficient: 32.5 in year 1999- 2000) is increasing. On the other hand, the Planning Commission of India uses its own criteria and has estimated that 27.5% of the population is living below the poverty line in 2004 -2005, down from 51.3% in 1977-1978, and 36% in 1993-1994. The source for this was the 61st round of the National Sample Survey (NSS) and the criterion used was monthly per capita consumption expenditure below Rs.356.35 for rural areas and Rs.538.60 for urban areas. 75% of the poor are in rural areas, most of them are daily wagers, self-employed householders and landless labourers. The Human Development Reports and other United Nations/World Bank reports identify South Asia as one of the most deprived regions in the World. South Asia has the largest number of people in the world living in absolute poverty which includes 46 per cent of the developing world's population. Sixty percent of these are women, with limited access to basic needs.

The greatest burden of human deprivation and poverty, illiteracy and health-related problems falls on women. Rural poverty arises from number of factors like low agricultural production, population increase, health hazards, low income, less adequate facilities, illiteracy, lack of accessibility to natural resources etc. Executive implementation of anti poverty programmes by both central and state governments will certainly reduce the incidence of rural poverty. According to the 2001 Census of India, scheduled castes and tribes comprise 16.2 percent and 8.2 percent, respectively, of India's population, yet 47.3 percent



of India's rural poor are concentrated in these groups. The incidence of poverty among scheduled caste and tribe households are much higher than for the rest of the population { in 1999-2000 the proportion of rural SC and ST households below the poverty line were 30.1 and 39.4 percent respectively, as compared with a poverty rate of 17.7 percent for rural non-scheduled households. The vast majority of the rural poor in India are engaged in agriculture including fishery and livestock either as agricultural wage laborers or marginal farmers and self-employed. The rural poor are primarily those with limited ownership of assets {including land. (Sundaram and Tendulkar 2000). They are also getting increasingly concentrated in certain parts of this country.

In order to tackle these specific problems, a number of rural development programmes are being implemented to create opportunities for improvement of the quality of life of these rural people. Poverty has become a general phenomenon that is perceived to mean different things to different people at different times and places. Poor infrastructure, difficult terrains, high population pressure on arable land, low coverage of irrigation, limited in-situ employment opportunities, social customs and traditions, natural calamities like drought are some of the factors that inflict poverty in the state. Poverty is basically a denial of a range of material needs such as nutritious food, safe drinking water, shelter, healthcare, education, etc. Further, no study has given a concrete observation over the incidence of poverty due to variation in their approach. Therefore, multi dimensional poverty measures provide better understanding of the nature of poverty-at local, regional, national, and world level. The present paper makes an attempt to explore the dimensions of rural poverty in India.

Earlier Studies

Researches on various dimensions of poverty including measurements, Factors for Poverty, Rural Urban variations, Impact and Incidences, Economic and Social Aspects, Poverty Alleviation strategies etc both at Micro level and Macro level witness that still there are gaps to study the incidence of poverty. Some studies focussed on the measurement of poverty (Dandekar and Rath, 1971a; Rath, 1996), while other studies have analysed the factors determining the incidence of poverty (Mundle, 1983; Bardhan, 1986; Sundaram and Tendulkar, 1988; Nayar, 1991; Dev, 1995; Ghosh, 1993 and 1996; Sharma, 1995; Datt and Ravallion, 1996). Some scholars have also studied the existence of trickle-down process in India relating rural poverty with the agricultural output as well as its gross domestic product (Ahluwalia, 1978; Ravallion and Datt, 1996). Very recently, some scholars have also attempted to explain the variation in rural poverty taking the availability of irrigation as an explanatory variable (Narayanamoorthy, 2001; 2007 and Bhattarai and Narayanamoorthy 2003; Shah and Singh, 2004; Hussain and Hanjra, 2003 and 2004; Hanjra et al., 2009). Though a large number of studies are available on various aspects of poverty, fewer studies focus on the disparity in the incidence of rural and urban poverty (Chaudhuri and Gupta, 2009; Palmer-Jones and Sen, 2006; Ravallion, (2002). Notable exceptions are some studies published in the special collection of EPW's July 10, 2009 issue (Chakraborty, 2009; Ghosh and Gupta, 2009; Gupta, 2009). Further, the literature on poverty in India is vast and many of the contributions or references to the contributions can be found in Srinivasan and Bardhan (1974, 1988), Fields (1980), Tendulkar (1998), Deaton and Dreze (2002), Bhalla (2002) (Ravallion, 2002). and Deaton and Kozel (2005). Panagariya (2008), Dehejia and Panagariya (2012), Bhagwati and Panagariya (2012a, 2012b), Mukim and Panagariya (2012), Cain, Hasan and Rana (2012), Hnatkovska and Lahiri (2012),

Objectives

The present study mainly aims to trace the trends in rural poverty in India; to study the interstate variation, if any, in the incidence of rural poverty in India; to explore the rural poverty alleviation strategies in India; and to suggest possible suggestions to reduce the incidence of rural poverty in India

Hypotheses

Based on these objectives the following hypotheses that there has been a continuous reduction in the incidence of rural poverty in India over the period of time; and there is significant variation among the states in the incidence of poverty in India have been formulated

Methodology

The present study has been purely based on secondary data. The data have been gathered from various sources viz, Economic Survey, RBI Bulletin, Documents of Planning Commission, Rural Statistics Report, etc. Further, web sites have also been utilized. The period of study covers, during 1983-84, 1993-94, 1999-2000, 2003-04, 2011-12 for the state wise extent of rural poverty in India and from 1956-57 onwards for analyzing year wise incidence of poverty in India.

Major Findings

It is found that that the incidence of poverty expressed as percentage of people below the poverty line is observed to have declined from 56.4 per cent in 1973-74 to 21.8 in 2010-11 in rural areas and from 49.0 per cent in 1973-74 to 21.7 per cent in 2010-11 in urban areas. However, the number of poor in the country remained more or less stable at around 320 million due



to the rise in population. This fact should not over-shadow the 300 million persons who joined the non-poor group during the twenty year period between 1973-74 and 2010-11, but underlines the need for containment of the growth rate of population.

Further, the World Bank Report pointed out that , India accounted for the largest number of people living below international poverty line in 2013, with 30 per cent of its population under the \$1.90-a- day poverty measure and She accounts for one in three of the poor population worldwide, the world body said in its inaugural edition of the report 'Poverty and Shared Prosperity', according to which extreme poverty worldwide continued to fall despite the global economy's "under-performance". India is by far the country with the largest number of people living under the international USD 1.90-a-day poverty line, more than 2.5 times as many as the 86 million in Nigeria, which has the second-largest population of the poor worldwide. India had 30 per cent of its population living below poverty line at 224 million, it said. Nearly 800 million people lived on less than USD 1.90 a day in 2013.

It is also found that the state-wise poverty ratio and number of poor in rural and urban areas as well as for the state as a whole by Expert Group method witnesses that the decline in poverty ratio have been uneven among the states.

The pace of poverty reduction was relatively rapid in Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Punjab and West Bengal. The decline in poverty ratio, however, was not enough to reduce the number of poor in eight major states. These are Assam, Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh.

It is found that with regard to Rural poverty Kerala had the highest trend rate of decline in the head-count index at 2.4 percent per year. At the other end of the spectrum, Assam had a negative rate of decline in the incidence of poverty of about 0.5 percent per year. Apart from Kerala, the other good performers were Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana, West Bengal, and Gujarat. And amongst the other poor performers were the states of Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh. Generally, the states that had the highest trend rates of poverty reduction also tended to have the highest trend rates of growth in mean consumption.

With regard to the sociological aspects of poverty, it is found that that among the SC community the percentage of poverty has declined from 59 in 1983 to 37.1 in 2004-05 and it is from 63.9 to 44.7 to Scheduled Tribe community, 47.0 to 28.0 to All Hindus, from 51.2 to 33 to Muslims and from 30.2 to 17.9 for Other Minorities in India.

In the case of Gini Index of Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (in %) current Price has been slightly increased from 28.7 to 30.5 in rural area and it is from 31.9 to 37.6 in urban area and in the measure of Urban – Rural Disparity in Average Monthly per Capita Expenditure has also been slightly increased from 1.334 to 1.882 during the study period.

It is found that in the year 1957-58 the Sen Index value was the maximum in Tamil Nadu followed by Orissa and the minimum in Assam followed by Punjab and Haryana , Rajasthan and Karnataka . In 2010-11 the Index value was the maximum in West Bengal followed by Bihar and the minimum in Punjab and Haryana followed by Rajasthan and Gujarat.

Based on the Trend Annual Rates of Growth in Mean Consumption, Poverty measures, and Gini Indexes it is found that there is significant variation among the states in the incidence of poverty in India.

It is also found that the calculated Head Count Index is-0.86 Poverty Gap Index is -1.84 and Squared Poverty Gap Index is -2.65 over the period of time it is observed that there has been a continuous reduction in the incidence of rural poverty in India over the period of time.

There have been a number of poverty alleviation measures taken by the government since independence, the targeted programmes fall into four broad categories: (i) self-employment programmes (ii) wage employment programmes (iii) direct cash transfers to the targeted groups and (iv) Public distribution system (PDS).

It is observed from the study that So far, about 20 lakh units have been set up under the PMRY, creating 30.4 lakh additional employment opportunities. The targets for additional employment opportunities under the Tenth Plan and in 2004-05 are 16.50 lakh and 3.75 lakh, respectively. Since the inception of REGP, up to 31 March 2004, 1,86, 252 projects have been financed and 22.75 lakh job opportunities created. A target of creating 25 lakh new jobs has been set for the REGP during the Tenth Plan. 8.32 lakh employment opportunities have already been created during 2003-04. For 2004-05, a target of creating 5.25 lakh job opportunities has been fixed.



Under Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) the expenditure during 2003-04 was Rs.103 crore for 2004-05, the allocation is Rs.103 crore, out of which Rs. 90.38 crore were utilized by December 31, 2004. In 2008-2009, 9.47 Lakh beneficiaries were covered under it. Rs. 541 crore was spent on this plan in 2008-09. From the Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) programme about 121 lakh self-employed persons were benefited upto 2009. Rs. 27183 crore was spent on this plan in 2008-09.

Under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) during 2003-04, under the AAY, against an allocation of 45.56 lakh tonnes of food grains, 41.65 tonnes were lifted by the State/UT Governments. Budget 2004-05 expanded the scheme further from August 1, 2004 by adding another 50 lakh BPL families. With this increase, 2 crore families have been covered under the AAY.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in 2008-09, Rs. 46807 crores were spent on this plan. About 2.14 Lakh kms road length was completed. According to this scheme, Rs. 60000 crores are to be spent in seven years. It is expected that by the end of this scheme, 10 crores of rural villagers will be uplifted from poverty line.

Under the National Food for Work Programme for 2004-05, Rs.2020 crore has been allocated for the programme in addition to 20 lakh tones of food grains. Under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) 56 Lakh people got employment in 2006-07. this scheme will be expanded from 200 in 2006-07 to 596 districts in 2008-09. in the budget of 2009-10 Rs. 30,100 crore has been fixed. According to the need budget can be exceeded.

MGNREGA provided employment to 5.45 crore households generating 253.68 crore person-days. Under NREGS 100 days employment were provided soon after the registration of 15 days; Besides, other initiatives undertaken to alleviate poverty include price supports, food subsidy, land reforms, Area Development Programmes, improving agricultural techniques, free electricity for farmers, water rates, PRIs, growth of rural banking system, grain banks, seed banks, etc. Such endeavours not only reduced poverty but also empowered the poor to find solution to their economic problems.

Suggestions

From the analysis it is observed that Poverty reduction in rural areas has been less impressive during the study period. Based on the findings of the study, some of the possible suggestions have been put forth to reduce the incidence of poverty in general and rural poverty in particular.

It is suggested that there is a need to increase public expenditure on rural health and education facilities, especially in remote areas. Special efforts should be made to reach the hard core poor.

Proper measures may be taken to increase the Public investment in agriculture and rural infrastructure and to promote growth in agricultural productivity and non-farm rural activities.

Measures may be taken for substantial and timely assistance of agricultural credit to the Targeted farmers. Further Credit policies to be strengthened to promote farm investment and rural micro enterprises

Proper measures may be taken for the Provision of access to waste lands to rural poor households and groups of the poor, with adequate financial support.

Employment policies including the EGS should be integrated with land and water and sustainable development programmes should be strengthened.

Measures should also be taken to strengthen the Self-Help Group Approach as it is a proven method of empowerment of the poor.

It is suggested that a comprehensive database for the poor based on BPL survey needs to be institutionalized. This database shall be used for the identification of the poor and categorization of the poor into hardcore and other poor.

Conclusion

To conclude, Poverty is an age old multi-dimensional problem. The rapid economic growth process should accelerate the access to services like education and health services for all, especially the marginalised citizens. The government should also aware the rural population about the importance of small family and mortality rate. Poverty give birth too many other problems. The link between ignorance and poverty and ill health and poverty are well-established. Poverty therefore is a complex phenomenon of many dimensions not merely the economic dimension. So government should provide better



medical facilities, drinking water facilities and education so that people living below poverty line can improve their lives and also suggested that Poverty alleviation programmes should also address the issue of poverty from broader social and economic perspectives. Moreover, greater degree of involvement of Lead Bank, DRDAs, NABARD, DMs and NGOs in the identification of potential cluster activities, design of plans to create the infrastructure under the umbrella of proposed State/District /Local level Social Mobilisation Mission. It is fond hope that the Government can alone not solve the problems on the incidence of poverty and hence the combined efforts of Govt, NGOs, and individual can reduce the incidence of poverty to the considerable extent in rural India. It is positively hoped that recently the programmes enunciated by the Central Government such as Make In India, Livelihood and Rural Poverty Alleviation Mission and State Governments programmes such as Individual Household Model of Gujarat; Andhra Pradesh District Poverty Initiatives Project (APDPIP), popularly known as Indira Kranthi Patham(IKP); Kudumbashree Model of Kerala Tamil Nadu Vision 2023 can considerably reduce the incidence of poverty as a whole.

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Table.1 State wise Percentage of Population Below Poverty Line in India

Sl.No	States /U.T.s	1973-74	77-78	1983	87-88	93-94	99-00	04-05	2014-15
1	Andhra Pradesh	48.86	39.31	28.91	25.86	22.19	15.77	15.8	9.20
2	Arunachal Pradesh	51.93	58.32	4.88	36.22	39.35	33.47	17.6	34.67
3	Assam	51.21	57.15	40.77	36.21	40.86	36.09	19.7	31.98
4	Bihar	61.91	61.55	62.22	52.13	54.96	42.60	41.4	33.74
5	Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	40.9	39.93
6	Goa	44.26	37.23	18.90	24.52	14.92	4.40	13.8	5.09
7	Gujarat	48.15	41.23	32.79	31.54	24.21	14.07	16.8	16.63
8	Haryana	35.36	29.55	21.37	16.64	25.05	8.74	14.0	11.16
9	Himachal Pradesh	29.39	32.45	16.40	15.45	28.44	7.63	10.0	8.06
10	Jammu & Kashmir	40.83	38.94	24.24	23.82	25.17	3.48	5.4	10.35
11	Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	-	-	40.3	36.96
12	Karnataka	54.47	48.78	38.24	37.53	33.16	20.04	25.0	20.91
13	Kerala	59.795	52.55	40.42	31.79	25.43	12.72	15.0	7.05
14	Madhya Pradesh	61.78	61.78	49.78	43.07	42.52	37.43	38.3	31.65
15	Maharashtra	53.24	55.88	43.44	40.41	36.86	25.02	30.7	17.35



16	Manipur	49.96	53.72	37.02	31.35	33.78	28.54	17.3	36.89
17	Meghalaya	50.20	55.19	38.81	33.92	37.92	33.87	18.5	11.87
18	Mizoram	50.32	54.38	36.00	27.52	25.66	19.47	12.6	20.40
19	Nagaland	50.81	56.04	39.25	34.43	37.92	32.67	19.0	18.88
20	Odisha	66.18	70.07	65.29	55.58	48.56	47.15	46.4	32.59
21	Punjab	28.15	19.27	16.18	13.20	11.77	6.16	8.4	8.26
22	Rajasthan	46.14	37.42	34.46	35.15	27.41	15.28	22.1	14.72
23	Sikkim	50.86	55.89	39.71	36.06	41.43	36.55	20.1	8.19
24	Tamil Nadu	54.94	54.79	51.66	43.39	35.03	21.12	22.5	11.28
25	Tripura	51.00	56.88	40.03	35.23	39.01	34.44	18.9	14.05
26	Uttar Pradesh	57.07	49.05	47.07	41.46	40.85	31.15	32.8	29.43
27	Uttarakhand	-	-	-	-	-	-	39.6	11.26
28	West Bengal	63.43	60.52	54.85	44.72	35.66	27.02	24.7	19.98
29	Andaman & Nicobar	55.56	55.42	52.13	43.89	34.47	20.99	22.6	
	Chandigarh	27.96	27.32	23.79	14.67	11.35	5.75	7.1	1.0
31	Dadra & Nagar	46.55	37.20	15.67	67.11	50.84	17.14	33.2	
32	Daman and Diu	-	-	-	-	15.80	4.44	10.5	9.86
33	Delhi	49.61	33.23	26.22	12.41	14.69	8.23	14.7	9.91
34	Lakshwadeep	59.68	52.79	42.36	34.95	25.04	15.60	16.0	2.77
35	Puducherry	53.82	53.25	50.06	41.46	37.40	21.67	22.4	9.69
	All India	54.88	51.32	44.48	38.86	35.97	26.10	27.5	21.92

Source: Perspective Planning Commission, GOI, New Delhi

Table .2. Year Wise Incidence of Poverty Gap in India

Sl. No	Year	Head Count Ratio		Gini Co-efficient		All India
		Poverty Gap	Square	Poverty Gap	Square	
1						
2	1956-57	51.45	18.16	8.51	0.402	0.3417
3	1957-58	47.75	15.96	7.00	0.359	0.3536
4	1958-59	44.76	13.75	5.87	0.348	0.3446
5	1959-60	49.17	15.83	6.75	0.357	0.3664
6	1960-61	44.65	1.84	5.83	0.350	0.3259
7	1961-62	43.55	13.79	6.05	0.357	0.3308
8	1963-64	44.83	13.29	5.17	0.360	0.3073
9	1964-65	48.78	15.24	6.38	0.349	0.3105
10	1965-66	52.90	16.82	6.98	0.339	0.3114
11	1966-67	52.24	16.81	7.19	0.337	0.3106
12	1967-68	52.91	16.93	7.22	0.332	0.3055
13	1968-69	49.59	15.54	6.54	0.329	0.3166
14	1970-71	44.98	13.35	5.35	0.346	0.3038
15	1971-73	45.67	13.46	5.26	0.345	0.3185
16	1973-74	47.96	13.60	5.22	0.317	0.2917
17	1977-78	40.50	11.69	4.53	0.337	0.3214
18	1983-84	35.65	9.52	3.56	0.334	0.3149
19	1986-87	34.29	9.10	3.40	0.356	0.3222
20	1987-88	35.65	9.31	3.25	0.356	0.3182
21	1988-89	36.40	9.54	3.29	0.356	0.3182



22	1989-90	33.40	8.51	3.29	0.356	0.3115
23	1990-91	32.76	8.51	2.12	0.340	0.2969
24	1995-96	33.23	8.24	2.90	0.351	0.3253
25	2000-01	33.73	8.82	3.19	0.356	NA
26	2010-11	30.03	7.62	2.76	0.345	NA

Source: Various Issues of Economic Survey, GOI.

Table. 3. Region Wise Percentages of People Living Below Poverty Line

Sl.No	Year	Rural	Urban	Total
1	1973-74	56.4	49.0	54.9
2	1977-78	53.1	45.2	51.3
3	1983-84	45.7	40.8	44.5
4	1987-88	39.1	38.2	38.9
5	1993-94	37.1	32.4	38.9
6	2004-05	27.1	23.6	26.1
7	2010-11	21.8	21.7	21.8
8	2014-15	25.7	13.7	21.9

Source: Various Issues of Economic Survey, Govt. of India.

Table..4. Poverty and Inequality in Rural and Urban India

Sl. No	Year	Poverty Ratio		Gini Index of Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (in % current Price)		Urban – Rural Disparity in Average Monthly per Capita Expenditure (URP)
		Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	
1	1973-74	56.4	49.0	28.7	31.9	1.334
2	1977-78	53.1	45.2	29.5	33.7	1.396
3	1983-84	45.7	40.8	30.0	34.1	1.458
4	1987-88	39.1	38.2	29.4	34.5	1.585
5	1993-94	37.1	32.4	28.5	34.4	1.628
6	2004-05	27.1	23.6	30.5	37.6	1.882
7	2010-11	21.8	21.7	--	--	--
8	2014-15	25.7	13.7	NA	NA	NA

Source: Various Issues of Economic Survey, Govt of India.

Table. 5 Consumption Expenditures (Rupees per month per person) Rural Areas

No.	State	1973-74	1977-78	1983	1993-94	1999-00	2004-05
		53.01	68.89	112.45	281.40	486.16	558.8
1	Andhra Pradesh	50.67	69.66	115.40	288.70	453.61	585.55
2	Assam	52.03	58.95	113.00	258.11	426.13	543.18
3	Bihar	56.01	57.45	93.75	218.30	385.09	417.11
4	Gujarat	54.49	70.30	122.72	303.32	551.33	596.10
5	Haryana	72.45	92.44	151.78	385.01	714.38	862.90



6	Himachal Pradesh	70.62	81.39	150.81	350.63	684.53	798.10
7	Jammu & Kashmir	53.17	72.86	129.27	363.31	677.60	793.20
8	Karnataka	52.32	64.34	116.84	296.38	499.78	508.50
9	Kerala	55.35	74.40	145.20	390.41	765.70	1013.20
10	Madhya Pradesh	50.39	59.93	100.52	252.01	401.50	439.10
11	Maharashtra	52.27	76.87	110.44	272.66	496.77	567.80
12	Orissa	42.66	52.47	98.75	219.80	353.17	398.89
13	Punjab	75.51	114.39	170.52	433.00	742.82	846.75
14	Rajasthan	64.01	108.74	127.00	322.39	548.88	590.80
15	Tamil Nadu	47.74	63.33	112.23	293.62	514.07	602.20
16	Uttar Pradesh	51.32	67.31	104.49	273.83	466.64	1532.60
17	West Bengal	47.50	59.27	104.59	278.78	454.80	562.10
18	Delhi	60.99	95.85	217.14	605.22	917.21	918.50

Source: Various Issues of Annual Reports of RBI Bulletin, RBI, Mumbai

Table 6. Poverty in Rural India – 1951-2011

NSS Round	Survey Period	Head-Count-Index		Poverty Gap index		Squared Poverty Gap Index	
		Rural	National	Rural	National	Rural	National
3	Aug 51- Nov 52	47.37	45.31	16.050	15.199	7.531	7.062
4	Apr 52 –Sep 52	43.87	42.63	14.637	13.990	6.705	6.306
5	Dec 52- Mar 53	48.21	46.80	16.290	15.760	7.562	7.282
6	May 53- Sep 53	54.13	52.15	19.030	18.123	9.118	8.624
7	Oct 53 – Mar54	61.29	59.30	21.946	21.123	10.263	9.822
8	July 54- Mar55	64.24	61.07	25.041	23.413	12.503	11.542
9	May55- Nov 55	51.83	50.44	18.443	17.775	8.804	8.381
10	Dec55–May 56	48.34	47.43	15.646	15.240	6.710	6.481
11	Aug56 –Feb 57	58.86	57.55	19.449	19.221	8.496	8.498
12	Mar57 –Aug58	62.11	59.77	21.685	20.732	10.005	9.516
13	Sep 57–May 58	55.16	53.84	19.011	18.467	8.778	8.462
14	July 58–June 59	53.26	51.75	17.736	17.025	7.882	7.524
15	July 5 – June 60	50.89	50.58	15.289	15.386	6.129	6.240
16	July 60 –Aug61	45.40	45.27	13.601	13.644	5.532	5.585
17	Sep 61– July 62	47.20	46.54	13.601	13.635	5.314	5.447
18	Feb63 –Jan 64	48.53	47.85	13.883	13.774	5.486	5.429
19	July 64 –Jun 65	53.66	52.75	16.083	15.926	6.602	6.561
20	July 66 –Jun 66	57.60	56.71	17.968	17.751	7.603	7.486
21	July 66 –Jun 67	64.30	62.00	22.010	21.018	10.010	9.472
22	July 67 –Jun 68	63.67	61.60	21.802	20.863	9.852	9.345
23	July 68 –Jun 69	59.00	57.11	18.956	18.291	8.165	7.849
24	July 69 –Jun 70	57.61	55.56	18.237	17.466	7.729	7.362
25	July 80 –Jun 81	54.84	52.88	16.545	15.910	6.798	6.510
27	Oct82 – Sep83	55.36	53.37	17.348	16.548	7.328	6.903
28	Oct 83 – Jun 84	55.72	54.10	17.175	16.430	7.128	6.730
32	July 90 –Jun 91	50.60	48.36	15.025	14.284	6.057	5.717
38	Jan 91 – Dec 91	45.31	43.00	12.649	11.901	4.841	4.534
42	July 96 –Jun 97	38.81	37.69	10.013	9.787	3.700	3.625
43	July 00– Jun 01	39.23	38.47	9.275	9.237	2.982	3.000



44	July 05 –Jun 06	39.06	38.44	9.504	9.512	3.291	3.292
45	July 06 –Jun 07	34.30	34.07	7.799	7.979	2.575	2.693
46	July 09 –Jun10	36.43	35.49	8.644	8.609	2.926	2.976
47	July 09 –Dec 09	37.42	36.34	8.288	8.277	2.680	2.737
48	Jan 10 - Dec11	43.47	40.93	10.881	10.345	3.810	3.649
50	July 10 –Jun 11	36.66	35.04	8.387	8.128	2.792	2.693
Trend rate of Growth During 1951-2011(% per year)		-0.86	-0.88	-1.84	-1.79	-2.65	-2.56

Notes: All Poverty measures are expressed as percentages. The consumer price index for Agricultural Laborers was adjusted for the price of firewood. The poverty line equals Rs. 49 per capita per month at October 1973 to June 1974 rural Prices.