



## Poverty Trends in India

Asst. Prof. Anil Y. Jawale & Principal Dr. S. S. Late

*A. T. College Bhor Tal. Bhor Dist Pune*

*Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune*

*Corresponding Author – Anil Y. Jawale*

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**Poverty** is a complex issue characterised by the lack of basic necessities such as food, shelter, education, and healthcare. Understanding poverty is crucial to addressing its root causes, mitigating its effects, and creating sustainable solutions for societal well-being. This article aims to study in detail the causes, impacts, challenges, and effective strategies to combat poverty worldwide.

### What is a poverty?

- **Poverty meaning,** It is a multidimensional phenomenon that reflects the inability of individuals to access essential resources for a basic standard of living.
- It encompasses lack of income, education, healthcare, and opportunities for economic and social mobility.
- Despite significant efforts at global, national, and regional levels, poverty remains a pressing issue, affecting billions worldwide.

### Classification of Poverty:

Types of Poverty can be broadly classified into two categories:

- **Absolute Poverty:** It is defined as a condition where individuals cannot meet the minimum requirements for basic

necessities such as food, shelter, and clothing.

- **Relative Poverty:** It reflects economic inequality, where individuals are poor in comparison to others in their society.

### Measurement of Poverty:

- **Poverty Line:** A threshold used to determine the minimum income or consumption level required to meet basic needs.
- **MPI:** It measures poverty based on factors like health, education, and living standards.
- **Gini Coefficient:** It assesses income inequality within a population.

### Causes of Poverty:

There are Several reasons for poverty as:

- **Economic Factors:** Low income and unemployment limit access to resources and opportunities.
  - Lack of industrialization and technological advancement hinders economic growth.
- **Social Inequalities:** Discrimination based on caste, gender, and ethnicity perpetuates poverty among marginalized groups.
  - Limited access to quality education exacerbates intergenerational poverty.

- **Health Challenges:** Poor health and lack of access to affordable healthcare prevent individuals from working productively.
  - High medical expenses push families into poverty.
- **Geographic and Environmental Factors:** Natural disasters, droughts, and resource depletion disproportionately affect poor regions.
  - Urban-rural disparities result in unequal access to infrastructure and opportunities.
- **Governance and Policy Gaps:** Corruption, inefficient policies, and inadequate social security systems fail to address poverty effectively.
  - Insufficient investment in infrastructure and public services perpetuates poverty cycles.

#### Impact of Poverty:

- **Health:** It increases vulnerability to diseases, malnutrition, and mental health issues.
- **Education:** It limits access to quality education, leading to low literacy rates and reduced employability.
- **Economic Growth:** It reduces human capital and productivity, hindering national development.
- **Social Stability:** It exacerbates social inequalities, leading to unrest and conflict.
- **Intergenerational Effects:** Poverty perpetuates itself, with children of impoverished families often lacking opportunities for upward mobility.

#### Global and National Efforts to Alleviate Poverty:

#### United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- Goal 1 aims to “end poverty in all its forms everywhere” by 2030.
- It promotes social protection systems, access to resources, and disaster resilience.

#### Government Initiatives in India:

- **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA):** It provides wage employment to rural households.
- **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY):** It promotes financial inclusion through bank accounts.
- **National Food Security Act (NFSA):** It ensures access to subsidized food grains for the poor.
- **Skill India Mission:** It enhances employability through vocational training.

#### International Organizations:

- **World Bank:** It implements poverty reduction strategies through loans and grants.
- **International Monetary Fund (IMF):** It provides financial assistance and policy advice to impoverished nations.

#### Challenges in Poverty Alleviation:

- **Population Growth:** It increases demand for resources and public services, straining existing systems.
- **Urbanization:** This leads to slum development and inadequate living conditions for the urban poor.
- **Climate Change:** It aggravates vulnerabilities of impoverished communities.
- **Global Economic Disruptions:** Events like recessions and pandemics disproportionately affect the poor.
- **Policy Implementation:** Corruption, inefficiency, and lack of accountability hinder poverty alleviation programs.

**Strategies to Address Poverty:**

- **Economic Development:** It promotes inclusive growth through industrialisation and technology adoption.
  - It provides microfinance opportunities to empower small entrepreneurs.
- **Social Interventions:** It strengthens education systems to improve literacy and skill development.
  - It ensures universal healthcare to reduce health-related impoverishment.

- **Infrastructure Development:** It enhances connectivity, housing, and public utilities in rural and underdeveloped areas.
- **Good Governance:** It promotes transparency, accountability, and participatory governance in policy implementation.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** It invests in climate-resilient infrastructure and renewable energy projects.

**Poverty Trends in India:**

Year	Official Poverty Rate (%)	Rural Poverty (%)	Urban Poverty (%)	Multidimensional Poverty Index (%)
2005-06	37.2	–	–	55.1
2011-12	21.9	25.7	13.7	41.1
2013-14	-	–	–	29.2
2015-16	12.4	–	–	32.6
2019-21	–	–	–	16.4
2022-23	2.3	2.8	1.1	11.3
2023-24	4.2–4.5	4.86	4.09	–

**Conclusion:**

Poverty is not merely an economic issue but a multidimensional challenge that affects the fabric of societies. Addressing it requires a holistic approach that integrates economic, social, and environmental dimensions. Governments, international organizations, and civil society must work collaboratively to ensure equitable access to resources, opportunities, and services. By doing so, we can create a world where every individual can lead a dignified and fulfilling life, free from the shackles of poverty.

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