

Poverty, Growth and Non-income Dimensions of Development: Indian Experience

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Abstract

The ongoing debate on the estimates of Indian poverty is focused on income poverty based on different rounds of National Sample Survey data on household consumer expenditure. Methodological issues involved in such estimates were raised and debated but little attention was paid to non-income indicators of poverty for cross-checking the results from expenditure-based estimates. The main object of this paper is to focus the non-income dimensions of poverty and disequalising effects of growth. Our empirical exercise covers both pre- and post-reform periods. The paper is organized in 5 sections. Section 2 sets out a brief narrative account of post-independence development the model of which, as the authors believe, failed to remove (structure-related) institutional bottlenecks that came along with colonialism. Section 3 dwells on components of deprivation, and the construction of social progress index and human poverty index at the state level. Section 4 shows how in rural areas Head Count Ratio (HCR) of poverty and per capita calorie consumption are statistically related to per capita Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) growth, Gini coefficient in land distribution and tenancy by using generalized least square in a panel data fixed effect model for the period 1983-2004. Cross section units are 15 major States. For the same exercise for urban areas, the regressors are per capita NSDP growth, manufacturing and services income growth and the incidence of urbanization. Section 5 concludes.