

A STUDY ON POVERTY (WITH REFERENCE TO WESTERN RAJASTHAN)

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Abstract

Poverty is the main obstacle in the development of any nation, but it actually exists in the maximum countries. Poverty is defined differently in every country. Basically, poverty is the scarcity or the lack of a certain amount of material possessions or money. Poverty is a multifaceted concept, which may include social, economic and political elements. Absolute poverty, extreme poverty or destitution refers to the complete lack of the means necessary to meet basic personal needs such as food, clothing and shelter. In this paper, we discuss about the poverty especially in reference to the western Rajasthan. The economy of Rajasthan has registered many ups and downs in its growth trajectory. It was concluded that after a slow progress during the 1980s, the 2004-05 to 2012-13 period has been fairly stable with positive growth. Rajasthan government has made many policies and programmes to benefit the poor class of the society. But still government is not successful to eradicate it completely.

Keywords: Poverty, Employment, Development and Rajasthan



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• Introduction

Poverty refers to a situation when people are deprived of basic necessities of life. It is often characterized by inadequacy of food, shelter and clothes. In other words, poverty refers to a state of privation where there is a lack of essential needs for subsistence. There has been poverty in all societies over a long period. In India, however poverty is a major problem. In recent times there has been an acceptance of poverty as a social problem. India with the coming of independence has made some efforts to raise the level of income of people living in poverty. Situation in Rajasthan is not different from rest of India. Poverty in Rajasthan is also a social problem. In western Rajasthan, most of the area is covered by the villages. Rural population is highly seen in western Rajasthan. Rural

development itself involves not only higher investment and growth of agriculture and activities allied to farming such as dairying, animal husbandry, poultry, and forestry, but also the development of infrastructure, social and other services of the tertiary sector and industries both resource-based as also foot-loose. Planning for rural development should take into account all these possibilities depending upon the local physical resources and human skills.

The tertiary sector is the most dynamic sector in the creation of new employment. This sector includes services such as electricity, water, sanitary services, commerce, banking, insurance, transport, communication, public administration and so on. Apart from employment, these services also provide better conditions of living and incentives to the farming community to raise production and productivity.

Cottage and village industries have traditionally provided substantial employment opportunities, especially in the off-season for agricultural work. These are traditional occupations of various artisan classes in the Indian villages. Modernization of agriculture itself has created a group of new industries for manufacturing and maintaining agricultural machinery and implements, mixing of fertilizers and animal feeds, etc. Industries having forward linkage with agriculture provide considerable scope for increased production and employment. As is well known, in the traditional pattern of production and trade, the middleman took a large proportion of the total price paid by the consumer. This can be diverted to the advantage of the farmer and the rural producer if processing of agricultural produce is undertaken by the villages themselves. Even sophisticated goods and services can be located in rural areas for producing processed foods, dairy products, malts etc.

For a sustained growth of the rural economy, the National Commission on Agriculture finds it necessary to implement an integrated development policy for crop production, poultry etc., and adoption of modern technology in all these agricultural and allied activities. Mixed farming and subsidiary occupations will not only increase production and income but also make available protective and nutritious food both to the rural and urban population.

- **Scenario of Poverty in Rajasthan**

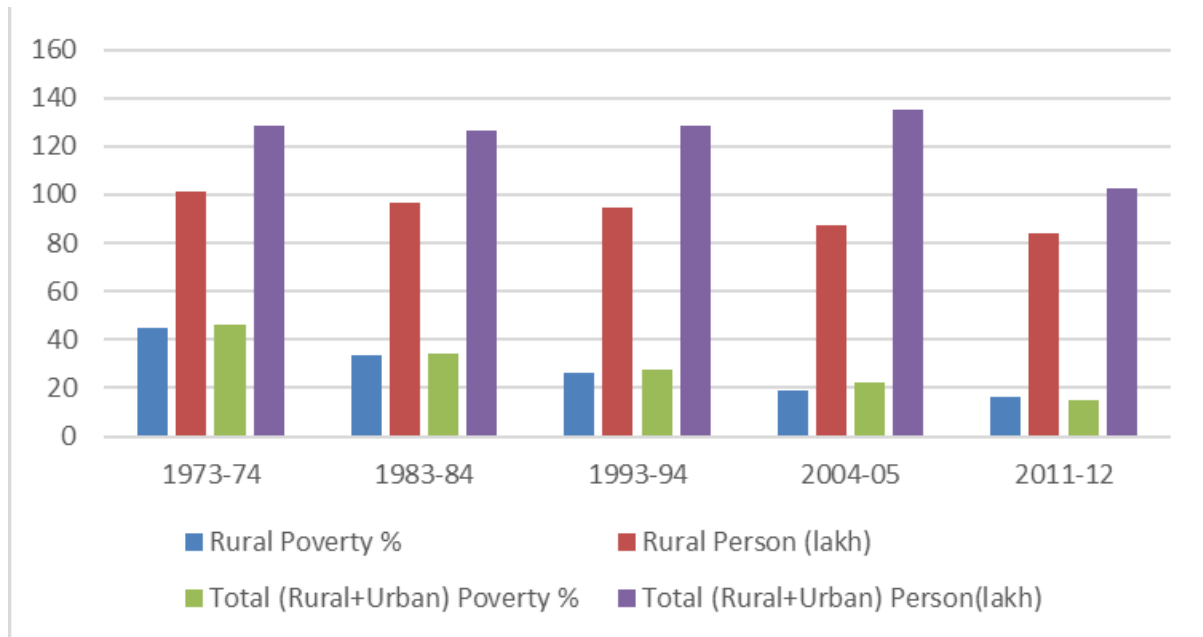
Rajasthan is 7th most populous state in India. Since 2005, the state has made progress in poverty reduction supported by faster growth. In addition, consumption inequality increased only marginally in this period. As a result, Rajasthan stands out among India's low-income states.

As per the poverty estimates released by Govt. of India for 2011-12, Punjab has the lowest poverty ratio followed by Kerala and Andhra Pradesh amongst the select 15 states, Madhya Pradesh has the highest poverty ratio followed by Orissa & Bihar, Rajasthan with 16% of the rural population has monthly per capita expenditure below Rs. 905 (Poverty lone of rural Rajasthan = Rs. 905) which makes it a non BIMARU State.

Table :1 Poverty status in Rajasthan

Year	Rural		Total (rural + urban)	
	Poverty %	Poor(in lac.)	Poverty %	Poor(in lac.)
1973-74	44.8	101.4	46.1	128.5
1983-84	33.5	96.8	34.5	126.8
1993-94	26.5	94.7	27.4	128.5
2004-05	18.7	87.4	22.1	134.9
2011-12	16.05	84.19	14.71	102.92

Source – planning commission of India



In table 1, the poverty data of Rajasthan with reference to the rural and total poverty is given. As given, the rural poverty as well as the total poverty is decreasing in every subsequent decade. In the year 1973-74, the rural poverty percentage was 44.8 per cent, which was 33.5 per cent in the year 1983-84, 26.5 per cent in 1993-94 and it remains at the level of 16.5 per cent in 2011-12.

Table: 2 Districtwise poverty in westren Rajasthan

Sr. no.	Name of district	Poverty in %
1	Jaisalmer	18.8
2	Badmer	18.2
3	Jalore	17.2
4	Pali	15.1
5	Nagour	14.4
6	Jodhpur	13.7
7	Bikaner	12.2
8	Churu	10.9
9	Sikar	10.2
10	Jhunjhunu	10.1
11	Shri ganganagar	8.0
12	Hanumangarh	6.8

Source- BPI census report of Rajasthan 2011-12

- **Elimination of Poverty in Rajasthan**

These are the following programs specially in western Rajasthan:

- Mitigating Poverty in Western Rajasthan (MPower)
- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA)
- Swarn JayantiGram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY)
- Rajasthan Rural Livelihood Project (RRLP)- World Bank

- **Effects of poverty:** These are the following effects of the poverty:

- Illiteracy: Poor people constitutes greater share of illiterate population. Education becomes extremely difficult when people are deprived of basic necessities of life.
- Child labor: In rajasthan, we have seen illiteracy at a higher stage and because of this reason no of child labors increases. Even parents engage their child in labor because of their poor condition.
- Nutrition and diet: Poverty is the leading cause of insufficient diet and inadequate nutrition. The resources of poor people are very limited, and its effect can be seen in their diet.
- Poor living condition and housing problems: The don't get proper living conditions. They have to fight the hardship of poverty to secure food, clothes and shelter. A large number of poor families live in houses with one room only.
- Unemployment : Poor people move from villages to towns and form one town to another in search of employment/work. Since, they are mostly illiterate and unskilled, there is 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.
- Social tensions: Poverty is often characterized with income disparity and unequal distribution of national wealth between the rich and the poor. Concentration of wealth in the hands of few rich people leads to social disturbances and revolts. Fair or even distribution of wealth leads an overall improvement in general standard of living of people.

Solutions: Poverty is a major problem and we have to solve this problem. These are the following solutions for this problem.

- Farmers must get all facilities for irrigation.
- They should be trained and educated.
- Agriculture must be made profitable.
- The ever-rising population should be checked.
- Family planning schemes should be introduced.
- More and more industries should be set up to meet the needs of the people.
- Corruption must end. Our offices should work efficiently.

Conclusion:

Poverty is a concept that has many dimensions. In brief, poverty means poor living conditions. Its many symptoms include inadequate provisions of food, housing, nutrition, health and education etc. Mitigating poverty in Western Rajasthan (MPOWER) is a poverty reduction Initiative that is supported by IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development) which focuses to alleviate poverty in the six districts of western Rajasthan by targeting the BPL households (86,880 in 1040 villages) by linking them with livelihood opportunities. Rural aquaculture contribution towards food security involves three components- employment, production and value addition. Government has implemented several policies and programmes to eradicate the poverty.

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