



## REVIEW OF LITERATURE ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION STRATEGIES IN SOCIETY

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**Abstract:** Poverty can be looked at in absolute or relative terms and using objective or subjective perspectives. Deprivations can be of a physiological nature or of a sociological nature. In any case the roots of poverty are situated in the “underlying structural inequities and inherent disadvantages” that are at work in any social make-up, and therefore is a socio-economic and political phenomenon. In the power play continuously taking place within any society, the perspective of the strongest often becomes the imposed norm. Definitions and approaches to poverty follow this rule, so that it is the perspective of the powerful that usually takes precedence over the perspective of the main actor in the poverty drama, i.e. the poor themselves. Homeless International and its local partners are concerned with community-led urban development. In view of what has just been said, it is not surprising to find that the ‘orthodox’ indicators compiled and used by state’s ministries and multi-lateral agencies do not reflect outlooks and priorities shared by the poor and their organisations. There is therefore a need for these organisations of locally specific indicators to help them in their work, to identify where to concentrate their efforts and to monitor the results of such policies they would have chosen.

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### Introduction:

Although poverty is a multi-dimensional phenomenon, poverty levels are often measured using economic dimensions based on income and consumption [1]. Amartya Sen’s capability deprivation approach for poverty measurement, on the other hand, defines poverty as not merely a matter of actual income but an inability to acquire certain minimum capabilities [2]. Contemplating this dissimilarity between individuals’ incomes and their inabilities is significant since the conversion of actual incomes into actual capabilities differs with social settings and individual beliefs [2–4]. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) also emphasises the capabilities’ approach for poverty measurement as propounded by Amartya Sen [5]. “Ending poverty in all its forms everywhere” is the first of the 17 sustainable development goals set by the United Nations with a pledge that no one will be left behind [6]. Development projects and poverty alleviation programmes all over the world are predominantly aimed at reducing poverty of the poor

and vulnerable communities through various participatory and community-demand-driven approaches [7,8]. Economic growth is one of the principal instruments for poverty alleviation and for pulling the poor out of poverty through productive employment [9]. Studies from Africa, Brazil, China, Costa Rica, and Indonesia show that rapid economic growth lifted a significant number of poor people out of financial poverty between 1970 and 2000 [1]. According to Bhagwati and Panagariya, economic growth generates revenues required for expanding poverty alleviation programmes while enabling governments to spend on the basic necessities of the poor including healthcare, education, and housing [9]. Poverty alleviation strategies may be categorised into four types including community organisations based micro-financing, capability and social security, market-based, and good governance.

Micro-finance, aimed at lifting the poor out of poverty, is a predominant poverty alleviation strategy. Having spread rapidly and widely over the last few decades, it is currently operational across

several developing countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America [2]. Many researchers and policy-makers believe that access to micro-finance in developing countries empowers the poor (especially women) while supporting income-generating activities, encouraging the entrepreneurial spirit, and reducing vulnerability [5]. There are fewer studies, however, that show conclusive and definite evidence regarding improvements in health, nutrition, and education attributable to micro-finance. For micro-finance to be more effective, services like skill development training, technological support, and strategies related to better education, health and sanitation, including livelihood enhancement measures need to be included [9].

### Review of Literature:

For the present research on poverty and poverty alleviation programs in India, the researcher has gone through the number of reference books, Journals, annual reports, press notes, as well as various kinds of publications. To study the concept of poverty was a very herculean task. It would not have possible us to study it without the previous material on this topic. There are many studies of poverty in India as well as overseas. This kind of research is essential for an analysis of poverty and its various aspects and effects on human life. As far as India is concerned Dadabhai Naoroji, V. M. Dandekar, Nilkanth Rath, M. Ahluwalia, C. Rangarajan, S. D. Tendulkar, Dr. Amartya Sen and so on presented their views and contributed to eradicate Indian poverty. Maharashtra is one of the progressive States in the country but still significant number of people is living below poverty line so the researcher found it necessary to study poverty in Maharashtra as well as poverty in Thane district. For which the researcher went through the Maharashtra Development reports, District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), Thane and various reports by the NGO's. Following are some of the significant review of literature on poverty; Amartya Sen(1984) The Nobel Prize winner (1998) in Economics, stated about poverty that "It is obvious enough; One does not need elaborate criteria, cunning measurement, or probing analysis, to recognize same poverty and to understand its antecedents".

Dandekar and Rath (1971): These economists have received the most attention towards their study and reports. They defined poverty line in terms of nutritional intake that was put at 2250 Kilo calorie per capita per day. The income equivalent of this calorie norm was Rs.170 per capita per annum at 1960-61 prices. On the basis of this poverty line, the authors estimated that about one third of the rural population was poor in India. Dandekar, V.M. and Nilakantha Rath are concerned with the writing of the problem of

poverty in India. It is a problem of low national income and its unequal distribution; of slow pace of development and inequitable distribution of the small gains of development.

Gupta, S.P. In his book, "Structural dimensions of poverty in India", New Delhi, Mittal Publication, 1987, Pp.427. Deals with both theoretical and empirical aspects of Indian poverty. The problems inherent in conceptualization as well as various theories and ideologies of poverty have been discussed in detail. International Journal of Advanced Science and Technology Vol. 29, No. 5, (2020), pp. 11617-11626 ISSN: 2005-4238 IJAST Copyright © 2020 SERSC Various measures of poverty and their appropriateness form an important area of enquiry of the book. Also concerns with the perceptions by the poor, of themselves, of their lives, and of their roles in the society, deals with both theoretical and empirical aspects of Indian poverty. The problems inherent in conceptualization as well as various theories and ideologies of poverty have been discussed in detail. Various measures of poverty and their appropriateness form an important area of enquiry of the book. Also concerns with the perceptions by the poor, of themselves, of their lives, and of their roles in the society. Dandekar, V.M. and Nilakantha Rath In their study in 1971 concerned with the problem of poverty in India highlighted that poverty is problem of low national income and its unequal distribution; of slow pace of development and inequitable distribution of the small gains of development.

Since the 1990s, with the promotion of anti-poverty practices around the world and the widening income gaps in China, domestic scholars have continuously made the further study on relative poverty. The early definition of relative poverty was mainly limited to economic income and reproduction capacity. For example, Tong Xing and Lin Mingang (1994) believed that relative poverty was basically solved food and clothing, simple reproduction can be maintained, but it is lower than the basic living standard recognized by the society and lacks. The ability or ability to expand reproduction is very weak. Qin Jianjun and Rong Aiping (2012) believed that relative poverty refers to the living conditions of a person or family whose income is lower than the social average level to a certain extent. Liu Zongfei, Yao Shunbo, and Qu Mei (2013) believed that relative poverty refers to the social living conditions maintained when the income level is lower than the social average level to a certain extent, and the income difference between and within each social class. With the implementation and gradual completion of targeted poverty alleviation, the understanding of relative poverty has gradually deepened. Xing Chengju

and Li Xiaoyun (2019) believed that relative poverty in the new era refers to the legal income obtained by an individual or family which can maintain the basic survival needs of family members, but cannot meet other basic living needs of local conditions, under the specific local production, living conditions, and the specific economic and social development constraints.

The income method takes a certain proportion of social income as the relative poverty line, but there is no unified standard for the selection of its base and the determination of its proportion. The main countries that use income method to determine relative poverty are Britain, Japan, Singapore, and so on. Britain takes 60% of the national median household income as the relative poverty line; Japan was 50% of the middle-income household income; Singapore defines the lowest 20% of the household income; and the EU member countries take 50% or 60% of the median household income. While, the standard of relative poverty line proposed by the International Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is 50% - 60% of the middle-income or social median income of a country or region. Domestic scholars have also carried out some research on the determination of the relative poverty line. Some scholars like Xing Chengju, Li Xiaoyun, Xi Xuehong, Sun Jiuwen, and Xia Tian believe that the standard of relative poverty line should be determined by a certain proportion of the median income of permanent residents or urban residents after 2020. Xing Chengju and Li Xiaoyun (2019) believe that it is appropriate to set this ratio at 40%. While, Xi Xuehong (2012) and others think that it should be set as 50%. However, Sun Jiuwen and Xia Tian (2019) think that this proportion should be adjusted by a certain period of time as the adjustment cycle (such as 5 years, or 10 years). On the other hand, Chen Zongsheng and Zhang Qing proposed that the per capita net income should be taken as the base selection standard. Based on this standard, Chen Zongsheng et al. (2013) suggested the proportion of 40% - 50% was appropriate, but Zhang Qing (2012) thought that the ratio should be set at one third to 40%. Nevertheless, Yang Yang and Ma Xiao (2012) proposed that the standard of relative poverty line should be set by total assets rather than income expenditure. Conversely, Chi Zhenhe and Yang Yiyong (2013) suggested that the standard of relative poverty line should be set based on per capita consumption.

### Conclusion

The review highlights the poverty alleviation programmes of the government in the post-economic reform era to evaluate the contribution of these programmes towards reducing poverty in the country.

The poverty alleviation programmes are classified into (i) self-employment programmes; (ii) wage employment programmes; (iii) food security programmes; (iv) social security programmes; and (v) urban poverty alleviation programmes. The parameter used for evaluation included utilization of allocated funds, change in poverty level, employment generation and number or proportion of beneficiaries. The paper attempts to go beyond the economic benefit of the programmes and analyzes the social impact of these programmes on the communities where the poor live, and concludes that too much of government involvement is actually an impediment. On the other hand, involvement of the community, especially the poor has led to better achievement of the goals of the programmes. Such endeavours not only reduced poverty but also empowered the poor to find their own solutions to their economic problems. There is a need for decentralization of the programmes by strengthening the panchayat raj institutions as poverty is not merely economic deprivation but also social marginalization that affects the poor most.

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