

## **An Analysis of Poverty in Karnataka: A Study.**

<sup>1</sup>Prabhavathi P.O, <sup>2</sup>Naveena .N

<sup>1</sup> *Research Scholar, Department of Economics and Co-operation, University of Mysore,*

<sup>2</sup> *Research Scholar, Department of Communication and Journalism University of Mysore....*

### **I. Introduction.**

Poverty is deprivation of the many and affluence for the few. Poverty may, therefore, be conceptualized as the socio-economic phenomenon where by the resources available to a society are used to satisfy the wants of the few while many do not have even their basic needs to meet. Poverty in India is a complex socio-economic phenomenon. It is neither a new nor it suddenly appeared, but there has been much awareness of the Problem within and outside the country (Ahluwalia, 1974). According to Lewis, "we come closer to describing what poverty is when we define it as the inability to satisfy one's material wants or needs." With about 19% of the state's population below the defined poverty line. Poverty is generally denoted by per capita real income but this does not fully describe the grimness, abjectness, or abysmalness of poverty. Of late, poverty has been identified with certain unsatisfactory results, e.g. - low expectancy of life, a low rate of literacy, a high infantile mortality rate, i.e.

Poverty is generally of two types Absolute poverty is synonymous with destitution and occurs when people cannot obtain adequate resources (measured in terms of calories or nutrition) to support a minimum level of physical health. And it refers to the deprivation of basic human needs, which commonly includes food, water, sanitation, clothing, shelter, health care and education. Relative poverty is defined contextually as economic inequality in the location or society in which people live. Relative poverty occurs when people do not enjoy a certain minimum level of living standards as determined by a government (and enjoyed by the bulk of the population) that vary from country to country, sometimes within the same country. Relative poverty occurs everywhere, is said to be increasing, and may never be eradicated. The world bank organization describes poverty in this way :

Poverty has many faces, changing from place to place and across time, and has been described in many ways. Most often, poverty is a situation people want to escape. So poverty is a call to action- for the poor and the wealth alike- a call to change the world so that many more may have enough to eat, adequate shelter, access to education and health, protection from violence, and a voice in happens in their communities."

### **II. Definitions Of Poverty.**

**According in to the United Nations** ,Fundamentally, poverty is the inability of getting choices and opportunities, a violation of human dignity. It means lack of basic capacity to participate effectively in society. It means not having enough to feed and clothe a family, not having a school or clinic to go to, not having the land on which to grow one's food or a job to earn one's living, not having access to credit. It means insecurity, powerlessness and exclusion of individuals, households and communities. It means susceptibility to violence, and it often implies living in marginal or fragile environments, without access to clean water or sanitation.

**World Bank Defined** ,Poverty is pronounced deprivation in well-being, and comprises many dimensions. It includes low incomes and the inability to acquire the basic goods and services necessary for survival with dignity. Poverty also encompasses low levels of health and education, poor access to clean water and sanitation, inadequate physical security, lack of voice, and insufficient capacity and opportunity to better one's life.

**Prof. Amartyasen opens** that "poverty is a deprivation of basic capabilities rather than merely low income... enhancement of substantive freedoms, which provide people with capabilities to choose a life they have reason to value should be the main objective and primary means of development."

Despite the many definitions, one thing is certain ; poverty is a complex issue. No matter how poverty is defined, it can be agreed that it is an issue that requires everyone's attention. It is important that all members of our society work together to provide the opportunities for all our members to reach their full potential. It helps all of us to help one another.

#### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY.**

The present study is carried out with the following objectives .

- To analyze the state wise Specific Poverty Lines for the year of 2011-2012.
- To analyze the poverty across southern states.
- To analyze the trends in incidence of poverty Karnataka and all – India.

### III. Methodology of The Study.

The present study is based on Secondary data, secondary data has been collected from Books , journals, Annual reports , and internet sources.

### IV. Review Literature.

- Sen.States 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.
- According to Townsend "Needs which are unmet, can be defined satisfactorily only in terms relative to the society in which they are found. "However, he does not accept the distinction between 'absolute' and 'relative' poverty or between 'basic' and 'cultural' needs, because he argues that the "need which are believed to be basic or absolute can be shown to be relative." He, therefore, says "Poverty must be regarded as a general form of relative deprivation which is the effect of misdistribution of resources" and "that section of the population whose resources are so depressing from the mean as to be deprived of enjoying the benefits and participating in the activities which are customary in that society can be said to be in poverty.
- Martin Rein states that "Three broad concepts of poverty can be identified. Poverty can be defined as subsistence, inequality and externality. Subsistence is concerned with the minimum provision needed to maintain health and working capacity.... Inequality is concerned with the relative position of the income groups to each other..... Externality is concerned with the social consequences of poverty for the rest of society rather than in terms of the needs of the poor."

### V. Incidence Of Poverty.

This is the share of the population whose income or consumption is below the poverty line, that is, the share of the population that cannot afford to buy a basic basket of goods. An analyst using several poverty lines, say one for poverty and one for extreme poverty, can estimate the incidence of both poverty and extreme poverty. For non monetary indicators, similarly, the incidence of poverty measures the share of the population which does not reach the defined threshold (e.g. percentage of the population with less than 3 years of education).

### VI. The Concept Of Poverty Line.

The Concept or poverty line has been derived from the definition of poverty, which is defined *in* absolute terms. The individual or family income of which is not adequate to ensure them the minimum requirements of life (e.g. nutrition, clothing and shelter) is stated to be the poverty line or more conservatively, only food, a yardstick for socially decent life being the ultimate goal. It has also been observed that the common man must be entitled to a minimum calorie intake to guarantee him bare survival. Poverty line concept is multi-dimensional (viz., income-poverty and non-income poverty). It gives not only levels of Income consumption But also health and education, vulnerability and risk; and marginalization exclusion of the poor from the mainstream of society. As mentioned by Druze and say (1995) the performance of India terms of non-income indicators (e.g., education and health) has not been satisfactory. It is true that the economic betterment of the poorer section cannot be achieved without social transformation involving structural changes, educational development, and growth in awareness, and change in outlook, motivation and attitudes. The policy framework based on these factors should be such as to provide opportunities for the poorer sections to display initiative and to stand on their own feet.

As pointed out by Tendulkar committee , the concept of poverty is associated with socially perceived deprivation with respect to basic human needs. For the year 2009-10, the planning commission has defined the poverty line as Rs.22.40 per day in rural areas and 28.60 per capita per day in urban areas. This translates to 672.8 per capita per month in rural areas and 859.60 per capita per month in urban areas. In 2004-05 the percentage of people living below poverty line was 33.3%.in 2009-10 it was 23.6%. the percentage of people living below poverty line in Karnataka has come down by 9.7% in the estimate of poverty for 2009-10, released by the planning commission. in 2004-05,the percentage of people living below poverty line was 33.3%.in 2009-10,it was 23.6%.in Karnataka, there were over 1.42 crore people living below poverty line in 2009-10,down from over 1.86 crore in 2004-05.while the poverty rate in rural area was 26.1%(97.4 lakh people).in urban areas ,it was 19.6% (44.9 lakh people). Rs 629.4 in rural areas and Rs 908 in urban areas of Karnataka .the state's poverty percentage in lower than the national average. The total number of people below the poverty line in the country has been estimated at 34.47 crore in 2009-10: it was 40.72 crore in 2004-05. The overall percentage of poverty across india also declined to 29.8%,from 37.2% in 2004-05.

## VII. Data Analysis And Discussion.

The following tables depicts the state wise Specific Poverty Lines for the year of 2011-2012

**Table-1 State Specific Poverty Lines for 2011-2012**

Sl.No	States	Monthly per capital(RS.)	
		RURAL	URBAN
1	Andhra Pradesh	860	1,009
2	Arunachal Pradesh	930	1,060
3	Assam	828	1,008
4	Bihar	778	923
5	Chhattisgarh	738	849
6	Delhi	1,145	1,134
7	Goa	1,090	1,134
8	Gujarat	932	1,152
9	Haryana	1,015	1,169
10	Himachal Pradesh	913	1,064
11	Jammu & Kashmir	891	988
12	Jharkhand	748	974
13	Karnataka	902	1,089
14	Kerala	1,018	987
15	Madhya Pradesh	771	897
16	Maharashtra	967	1,126
17	Manipur	1,118	1,170
18	Meghalaya	888	1,154
19	Mizoram	1,066	1,155
20	Nagaland	1,270	1,302
21	Odisha	695	861
22	Punjab	1,054	1,155
23	Rajasthan	905	1,002
24	Sikkim	930	1,226
25	Tamil Nadu	880	937
26	Tripura	798	920
27	Uttarakhand	880	1,082
28	Uttar Pradesh	768	941
29	West Bengal	783	981
30	Puducherry	1,301	1,309
	ALL India	816	1.00

**Note :** Computed as per Tendulkar Method on Mixed Reference Period(MRP)

**Source:** Government of India Planning Commission 2013.

The estimates of state wise poverty lines for rural and urban areas for 2011-12 are given in table. The all India poverty line is the per capital per month expenditure that corresponds to the all India poverty ratio. Poverty in India is a hurdle for economic prosperity. It also indicates the monthly per capita among rural and urban people in different states of India. The monthly per capita amongst urban people is highest i.e. 1,302 Rupees in Nagaland when compared to other states where as monthly per capita amongst rural people is least in Odisha when compared to other states. The Government s at the state levels should initiate measures to improve the income level of the people.

TABLE 2 POVERTY ACROSS SOUTHERN STATES

2004-05						
States	Rural		Urban		Combined	
	% poor	Number of poor (million)	% poor	Number of poor (million)	% poor	Number of poor (million)
Andhra Pradesh	11.2	6.47	28.0	6.14	15.8	12.61
Karnataka	20.8	7.51	32.6	6.38	25.0	13.89
Kerala	13.2	3.24	20.2	1.72	15.0	4.96
Tamil Nadu	22.8	7.65	22.2	6.91	22.5	14.56
All India	28.3	220.9	25.7	80.79	27.5	301.72
2009-10						
Andhra Pradesh	6.5	3.92	16.4	3.81	9.3	7.77
Karnataka	15.8	5.87	23.5	5.09	18.5	10.87
Kerala	6.6	1.68	12.4	1.09	8.1	2.78
Tamil Nadu	11.7	3.67	14.3	5.09	12.9	8.61
All India	22.42	184.95	19.27	67.33	21.57	253.28

Sources; Karnataka economic survey

The above table shows that poverty across southern states. Poverty in Karnataka continues to be highest among the southern States. Incidence of poverty based on the Planning Commission's poverty line yields poverty ratio of 15.82% with 5.87 million poor in rural areas and, 23.54% with 5.09 million poor in urban areas and, 18.52% with 10.87 million poor for Karnataka as a whole in 2009-10. Karnataka had targeted a goal of achieving 12.4% poverty ratio in the eleventh plan period from the level of 24.9% (2004-05)

Although the State has not been able to achieve the target, it has made good progress towards poverty reduction by Achieving an overall reduction of about 6.5%.

Tablet.3: Trends in Incidence of Poverty: Karnataka and All-India

Karnataka						
Year	Rural Sector		Urban Sector		Combined	
	%of poor	No of poor (million)	poor	No of poor (million)	%of poor	No of poor (million)
1973-74	55.14	12.84	52.01	4.19	54.34	17.03
1993-94	29.88 (56.60)	9.60	40.14 (34.20)	6.05	33.16 (49.50)	15.65
2004-05	20.80 (37.50)	7.51	32.60 (25.90)	6.38	25.00 (33.40)	13.89
2009-10	15.82 (30.81)	5.87	23.54 (18.34)	5.09	18.52 (26.46)	10.87
All India						
1973-74	56.44	261.29	49.23	60.31	54.93	321.60
1993-94	37.27 (50.10)	244.03	32.36 (31.80)	76.34	35.97 (45.30)	320.37
2004-05	28.30 (41.80)	220.90	25.70 (25.70)	80.79	27.50 (37.20)	301.72
2009-10	22.42 (36.50)	184.95	19.27 (19.80)	67.33	21.57 (31.99)	253.28

Sources; Karnataka economic survey

The above table shows that changes in status of poverty during the period of 1973-74 to 2009-10 Rural poverty in Karnataka has declined by 39% during 1973-74 to 2009-10, which is higher by 5% as compared to the decline at the all-India level. The number of rural poor also declined over the period. The decline in number of rural poor in Karnataka between 1973-74 and 2009-10 was 54% which is almost double that of the all-India decline of 29%. Incidence of poverty has always been less in rural Karnataka than the corresponding estimate for the Country as a whole. Deprivation in the urban sector too declined but at a lesser extent (as compared to rural sector) both in Karnataka (28 %) and India as a whole (30 %) between 1973-74 and 2009-10. The decline in the poverty ratios was not sufficient to neutralise the growth in urban population. Hence, the number of urban poor has increased both in Karnataka and all-India between 1973-74 and 2004-05. However between 2004-05 and 2009-10, a decline is seen in the number of poor and decline is greater in Karnataka (20%) as compared to All-India (17%). Incidence of urban poverty is much higher in Karnataka than in India as a whole for all the years. The extent of deprivation as measured by headcount ratio in Karnataka is 31% in rural areas, 18% in urban areas and 26% for the State as a whole. The corresponding figures for all India are 37% in rural, 20% and 32% for the Country as a whole.

### **VIII. Conclusion**

Karnataka has initiated various poverty alleviation programmers in both rural and urban areas. While these programmers have resulted in a marked decline in the number of the state's poor, much remain to be done to address regional and social variations in poverty. Towards ensuring food security to its citizens, the state operates an extensive food distribution system to provide basic foods with a focus on those who are below the poverty line. The state has also recently completed an elaborate exercise to weed out fake ration cards and to enhance the targeting of the public distribution system. The state has also established institutions to provide affordable housing to the poor. Having attained a reasonable decline in poverty estimates in spite of the 2009 floods, sustaining this growth of reduction of poverty and tackling urban poverty should be the main areas of concern in the forthcoming Plan. In order to sustain the existing growth in the reduction of poverty, proper implementation of different schemes is necessary. Promotion of livelihoodopportunities through modernizing agriculture, establishing rural industries, and skill up gradation be considered as effective strategies.

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