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Glimpses on Multi Dimentional Poverty and Deprivation in Indian States since last decades : A Brief Review

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ABSTRACT

One of the biggest obstacles to economic progress and the achievement of sustainable development goals is poverty. The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is a widely accepted, all-inclusive metric that accounts for poverty in more ways than just financial ones. The foundation of MPI's worldwide approach is the reliable Alkire and Foster (AF) technique, which classifies individuals as poor using a widely accepted metric intended to evaluate acute poverty and offers an alternative viewpoint to traditional monetary poverty measures. With the goal of eradicating poverty in all its forms, the Indian government has achieved impressive strides in enhancing people's lives. Notable programs like Anemia Mukt Bharat and Poshan Abhiyan have greatly improved access to medical facilities, which has resulted in a notable reduction in impoverishment. Under the National Food Security Act, the Targeted Public Distribution System provides food grains to both rural and urban people, serving 81.35 crore beneficiaries and running one of the biggest food security programs in the world. The government may swiftly resolve the fundamental problems with accessing essential services and get one step closer to its objective of Viksit Bharat, or being a developed country by 2047. Under this scenario this paper looks into the Glimpses on Multi Dimentional Poverty and Deprivation in Indian States since last decade.

KEYWORDS: Multi Dimentional Poverty, Depreviation, Decades

Introduction

A person or household does not have enough money to maintain a minimal standard of life, they are said to be in poverty. Families and individuals living in poverty might not have access to clean water, wholesome food, adequate shelter, or healthcare. One of the main objectives of the Sustainable Development Agenda is to eradicate poverty by 2030. Target 1.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations specifically aims to reduce by at least half the

ISSN: 2455-8834

Volume:10, Issue:04 "April 2025"

proportion of men, women, and children of all ages who live in poverty in all respects. India's National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is a crucial metric that evaluates multiple and simultaneous deprivations at the household level in the three macro dimensions of health, education, and living conditions. This index measures national and sub-national performance in detail to help with policy decisions.

In 2010, the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), developed by Sabina Alkire and James Foster, was adopted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in their Human Development Report. It captures overlapping deprivations in health, education and living standards (UNDP, 2010). Under this backdrop this paper consist with six sections. Section I covered Review of Literature and Background of Poverty Estimation, Section 2: deals with Methodology, Section 3 : Illustrates Values and Trends of MPI and its explanations, Section 4: Explain that overviews of States and UTs : Headcount Ratio, Intensity and MPI, and Section 5 deals with Conclusion and Remarks.

Section I : Review of literature and Background of Poverty Estimation :

There are very few studies in India which measure Multi-dimensional Poverty. The studies could be grouped in terms of different data use for measuring MPI.

1) According to Dr. C. Rangarajan, poverty is difficult to define precisely but easy to perceive. The measuring of poverty has been the subject of extensive research in India. The most recent assessment of poverty, conducted by the expert panel led by Dr. C. Rangarajan, has reexamined the methodology. The revised poverty threshold takes into account consumption of fats and proteins in addition to calories. Additionally, it has established new guidelines for calculating non-food expenses when determining the poverty level. To gauge poverty in India, it solely takes consumer expenditures into account.

2) The uni-dimensional poverty measurement has been criticized by many economists. For example, Sen (1980) argued that income may not be translated into basic needs. Therefore, deprivations such as in education, health, social and political status are very important to measure poverty as they are also harder to quantify through price. Therefore, measurement of multidimensional aspects of poverty is very important as it considers two approaches i.e. poverty as capability deprivation (Sen, 1993) and poverty as counting measure of deprivation (Atkinson, 2003). Recent studies (e.g., Tsui, 2002; Bourguinon and Chakravarty, 2003) have emphasized on multidimensional aspect of poverty.

3) The Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI) jointly with United Nations Development Programme developed the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

ISSN: 2455-8834

Volume:10, Issue:04 "April 2025"

in 2010. The MPI uses different factors to determine poverty beyond income. Alkire and Santos' (2010) method for calculating MPI has been used by OPHI to analyze poverty status for 104 countries. However, Alkire and Foster's (2011) methodology is used to measure multidimensional poverty index in more widely as it summarizes a plurality of not-perfectly overlapping deprivation domains into a consistent parametric class of multidimensional poverty indices.

4) Using secondary data, collected from different issues of periodic reports produced by OPHI and various other research reports, Kumar et.al (2015) calculated the state wise Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) for India. The authors used health (measured by child mortality and nutrition), education (years of school and child enrolled), and household-status (cooking fuel, toilet, water, electricity, floor and assets) to measure the MPI for India.

5) Three rounds of National Family and Health Survey (NFHS) data, i.e. for the years 1992-93, 1998-99 and 2005-06 were considered in the study by Chaudhuri et al. (2014) to calculate MPI in India. The study considered different variables of Standard of Living, Health and Education to measure the state level MPI.

6) Mishra and Ray (2013), using National Sample Survey (NSS) and National Family Health Survey (NFHS) datasets considered a wider range of deprivation dimensions and provided a comprehensive and wide ranging assessment of changes to living standards in India for the period, 1992/93-2004/5.

7) Most recently, Dehury and Mohanty (2015) using unit data from the Indian Human Development Survey (IHDS), 2004-05, estimated and decomposed the multidimensional poverty dynamics in 84 natural regions of India.

BACKGROUND OF POVERTY ESTIMATION

The estimation of poverty or prosperity has received considerable institutional and academic attention over the years. In India, the pioneering work was perhaps Dadabhai Naoroji's Poverty and unBritish Rule in India. Subsequently, several experts Dandekar & Rath (1971); Alagh (1979); Lakdawala (1993); Tendulkar (2009) have all attempted to answer the question of the numbers in poverty. Historically, poverty has traditionally been measured against a defined standard/level. However, the intensity of poverty can vary even within that standard, which itself is a subject of much debate.

ISSN: 2455-8834

Volume:10, Issue:04 "April 2025"

Section : II : Methodology :

The Multi-dimensional Poverty index is calculated using 12 indicators gathered from the *National Family Health Survey* (*NFHS*) reports from 2015-16 and 2019-21 (one-year gap due to Covid). NFHS is conducted by the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. The Baseline Report of MPI is based on the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 4 taken up during 2015-16 and National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5) during 2019-21. The National MPI measures simultaneous deprivations across three equally weighted dimensions of health, education, and standard of living that are represented by 12 sustainable development goal (SDG) aligned indicators. Each of these specific parameters is assigned a value to calculate what is called a 'deprivation score. The deprivation score is the sum of the weighted status of all the indicators for an individual if it is more than 0.33, only then an individual is considered multidimensionally poor. Change in multidimensional poverty is then obtained by comparing the data from the fifth National Family Health Survey (NHFS5) (2019–21) with data from NHFS4 (2015–16). Like the global Multidimensional Poverty Index(MPI), India's national MPI has three equally weighted dimensions – Health, Education, and Standard of living – which are represented by 12 indicators. The indices of the national MPI comprise:

i) Headcount ratio (H): Proportion of multidimensionally poor in the population, which is arrived at by dividing number of multidimensionally poor persons by total population.

ii) Intensity of poverty (A): Average proportion of deprivations which is experienced by multidimensionally poor individuals. To compute intensity, the weighted deprivation scores of all poor people are summed and then divided by the total number of poor people.

MPI value is arrived at by multiplying the headcount ratio (H) and the intensity of poverty (A), reflecting both the share of people in poverty and the degree to which they are deprived.

$MPI = H \times A$

The national Multidimensional Poverty Index plays a pivotal role in assessing advancements towards target 1.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which aims at reducing "at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions".

ISSN: 2455-8834

Volume:10, Issue:04 "April 2025"

Dimension	Indicator	A Household is Considered Deprived If	Weight (W)
Health (1/3)	Nutrition	Any child between the ages of 0 to 59 months, or woman between the ages of 15 to 49 years, or man between the ages of 15 to 54 years -for whom nutritional information is available - is found to be undernourished.	1/6
	Child-Adolescent Mortality	A child/adolescent under 18 years of age has died in the family in the five-year period preceding the survey.	1/12
	Maternal Health	Any woman in the household who has given birth in the 5 years preceding the survey, has not received at least 4 antenatal care visits for the most recent birth or has not received assistance from trained skilled medical personnel during the most recent childbirth.	1/12
Education (1/3)	Years of Schooling	Not even one member of the household aged 10 years or older has completed six years of schooling.	1/6
	School Attendance	Any school-aged child is not attending school up to the age at which he/she would complete class 8.	1/6
Standard of Living (1/3)	Cooking Fuel	A household cooks with dung, agricultural crops, shrubs, wood, charcoal or coal.	1/21
	Sanitation	The household has unimproved or no sanitation facility or it is improved but shared with other households.	1/21
	Drinking Water	The household does not have access to improved drinking water or safe drinking water is at least a 30-minute walk from home (as a round trip).	1/21
	Electricity	The household has no electricity.	1/21
	Housing	The household has inadequate housing: the floor is made of natural materials, or the roof or wall are made of rudimentary materials.	1/21
	Assets	The household does not own more than one of these assets: radio, TV, telephone, computer, animal cart, bicycle, motorbike, or refrigerator, and does not own a car or truck.	1/21
	Bank Account	No household member has a bank account or a post office account.	1/21

Source : NITI Aayog MPI Report 2023

Section : III : Values and Trends of MPI and its explanations

Computing the MPI : As stated previously, the process of computing the MPI is divided into two distinct stages – identification and aggregation. Identification involves obtaining the deprivation score for every individual followed by censoring of deprivation scores to identify the multidimensionally poor for a given cutoff. Aggregation involves the estimation of two partial indices – headcount ratio and intensity – the product of which provides us with the MPI. Each of the aforementioned concepts have been detailed in the following paragraphs :

Steps in computing the MPI :

a) Identification : Build a deprivation profile by applying cutoffs within an indicator Identify who is multidimensionally poor by applying a cut-off across all indicators.

b) Aggregation : Calculate the Head count Ratio(H) : How many are poor?

Calculate the Intensity of Poverty (A) : On average how poor are the poor?

ISSN: 2455-8834

Volume:10, Issue:04 "April 2025"

Compute the MPI by taking the product of H and A (MPI=HxA)

Values and Trends of MPI and its explanations :

Table 1 : Snapshot of Multidimensional Poverty in India

Year	Head count Ratio(H)	Intensity of Poverty (A)	MPI=HxA
2019-21	14.96%	44.39%	0.066
2015-16	24.85%	47.14%	0.117

The MPI estimates highlight a near-halving of India's national MPI value and decline in the proportion of population in multidimensional poverty from 24.85% to 14.96% between 2015-16 and 2019-21. This reduction of 9.89 percentage points in multidimensional poverty indicates that, at the level of projected population in 2021, about 135.5 million persons have exited poverty between 2015-16 and 2019-21. It is a major contribution towards achieving SDG target 1.2 that aims to reduce "at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions". This indicates that India is well on course to achieve the SDG target 1.2 much ahead of 2030. At the same time, the Intensity of Poverty, which measures the average deprivation among the people living in multidimensional poverty also reduced from 47.14% to 44.39%. Year 2019-21 MPI showing 0.066 and year 2015-16 MPI showing MPI 0.117.

Table 2 : Disparities across Rural and Urban Areas :

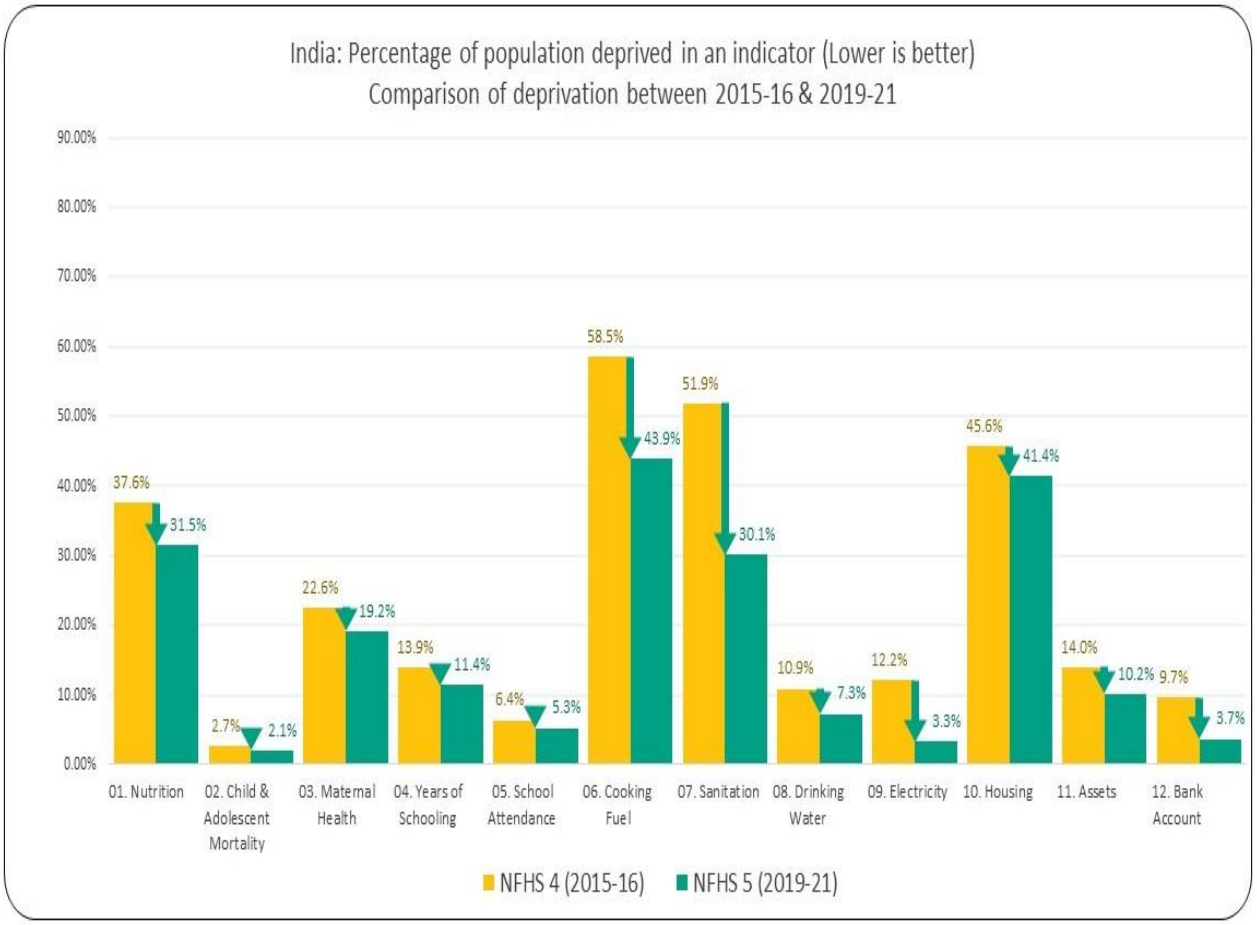
Year	Rural			Urban		
	MPI	Headcount Ratio (H)	Intensity of Poverty (A)	MPI	Headcount Ratio (H)	Intensity of Poverty (A)
NFHS -5 (2019-21)	0.086	19.28%	44.55%	0.023	5.27%	43.10%
NFHS -4 (2015-16)	0.154	32.59%	47.38%	0.039	8.65%	45.27%

ISSN: 2455-8834

Volume:10, Issue:04 "April 2025"

Above table showing disparities in multidimensional poverty still exist between rural and urban areas, with the proportion of multidimensional poor in 2019-21 being 19.28% in rural areas compared to 5.27% in urban areas, the reduction in the MPI value has been pro-poor in absolute terms. The estimates indicate that rural area showing a faster reduction in their MPI value, compared to urban areas. The incidence of poverty fell from 32.59% to 19.28% in rural areas compared to a decline from 8.65% to 5.27% in urban areas between 2015-16 and 2019-21.

The colour represents the MPI score of a state. The colour moves from green, through yellow, to red as the MPI score increases. Green represents areas with the lowest MPI scores while red represents areas with the highest MPI scores. The legend shows the range of MPI scores in India, based on the values for 2015-16. Both the comparative maps use the same legend to represent the change in MPI scores between 2015-16 to 2019-21.



Source : NITI Aayog MPI Report 2023

ISSN: 2455-8834

Volume:10, Issue:04 "April 2025"

The graph above showing the percentage of India's population experiencing deprivation in various indicators. All twelve(12) indicators across the three dimensions - Health, Education, and Standard of living - experienced statistically significant reductions over the two time periods. The most notable reductions were observed in the following indicators: Sanitation (reduction by 21.8% points) and cooking fuel (reduction by 14.6% points) during the period from 2015-16 to 2019-21. These positive changes highlight the success of targeted policies and interventions aimed at addressing specific challenges in health, education, and living standards in India.

India has achieved a remarkable reduction in its MPI value and Headcount Ratio between 2015-16 and 2019-21, indicating success of the country's commitment and action to address the multidimensional nature of poverty through its multisectoral approach. Uttar Pradesh (UP), Bihar, Madhya Pradesh (MP), Odisha and Rajasthan recorded steepest decline in number of MPI poor. Improvement in nutrition, years of schooling, sanitation, and cooking fuel played a significant role in reducing the MPI value. The MPI estimates highlight a near-halving of India's national MPI value and decline in the proportion of population in multidimensional poverty from 24.85% to 14.96% between 2015-16 and 2019-21. This reduction of 9.89 % in multidimensional poverty indicates that, at the level of projected population in 2021, about 135.5 million persons have escaped poverty between 2015-16 and 2019-21.

Section : IV : Overviews of States and UTs : Headcount Ratio, Intensity and MPI :

The Head Count Ratio (HCR) is defined as the proportion of individuals living below the Poverty Line when the number of poor is estimated.

To calculate the headcount ratio (HCR), first, the number of multi-dimensionally poor is calculated based on 12 indicators comprising health, education, and standard of living. Once the multi-dimensionally poor is calculated, their proportion in the total population gives us the headcount ratio. The headcount ratio (abbreviated as H) provides a response to the question, "How many people are poor?" According to India's national MPI, 25.01 percent of the population is classified as multidimensionally poor. The Rural HCR is 32.75% and the Urban HCR is 8.81% as per the same NITI Aayog report.

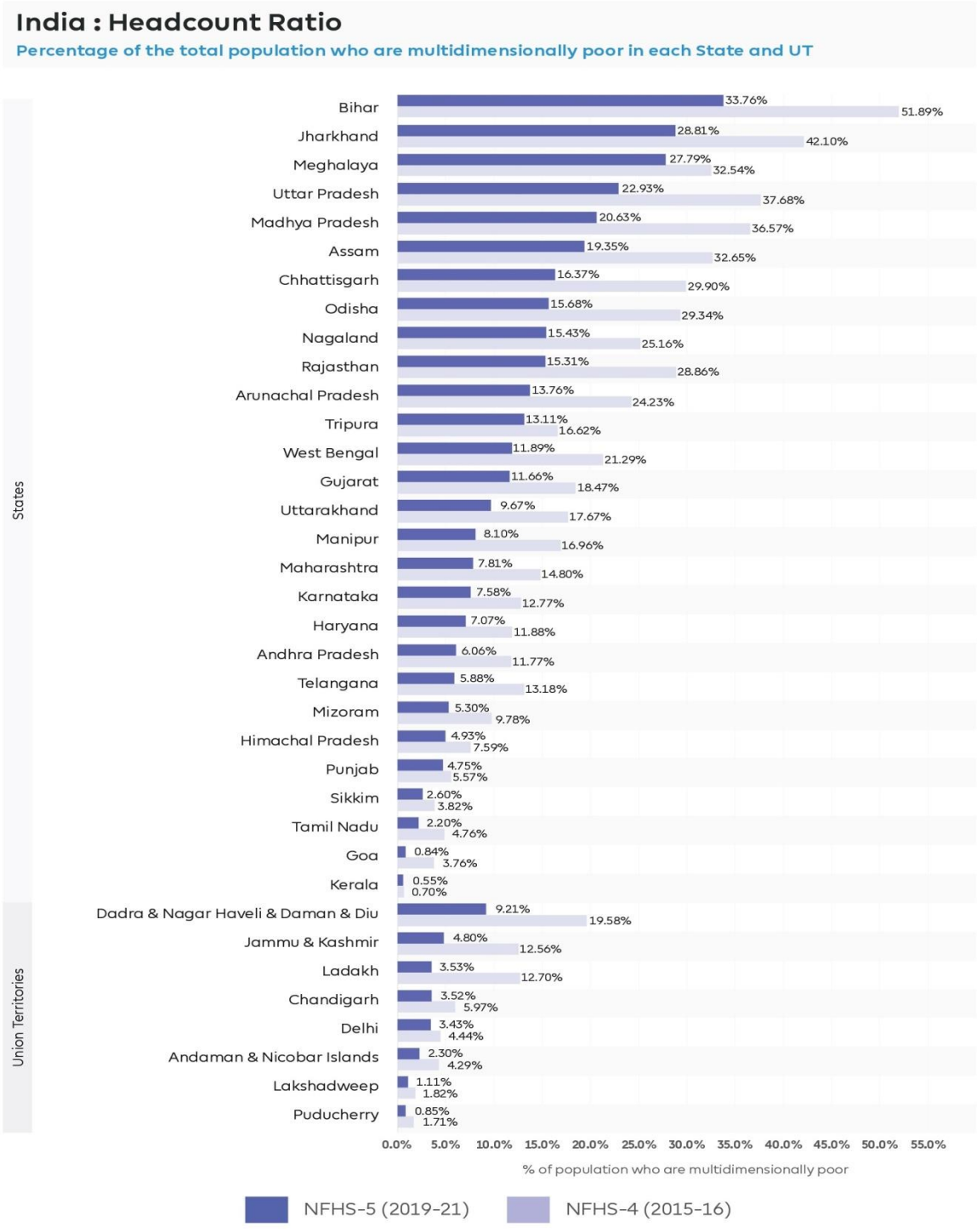
Mathematically it can be calculated using the formula: $H = q/n$; where

q = total number of multi-dimensionally poor individuals identified

n = the total population

ISSN: 2455-8834

Volume:10, Issue:04 "April 2025"



Source : NITI Aayog MPI Report 2023

ISSN: 2455-8834

Volume:10, Issue:04 "April 2025"

The above graph highlights the percentage point change in the incidence of poverty between 2015-16 and 2019-21. Notably, Bihar (reduction by 18.13 % points) experienced the most substantial decline in the incidence of poverty between the two time periods, followed by Madhya Pradesh (reduction by 15.94 % points) and Uttar Pradesh (reduction by 14.75 % points).

Table 3 : Headcount Ratio, Intensity and MPI

	Name of the State	NFHS-4(2015-2016			NFHS-5(2019-2021		
		Headcount Ratio(%)	**Intensity (%)**	**MPI**	**Headcount Ratio(%)**	**Intensity (%)**	**MPI**
State		11.77	43.28	0.051	6.06	41.12	0.025
	Arunachal Pradesh	24.23	47.25	0.115	13.76	43.04	0.059
	Assam	32.65	47.88	0.156	19.35	44.41	0.086
	Bihar	51.89	51.01	0.265	33.76	47.40	0.160
	Chhattisgarh	29.90	44.64	0.133	16.37	42.61	0.070
	Goa	3.76	40.13	0.015	0.84	38.69	0.003
	Gujarat	18.47	44.97	0.083	11.66	43.25	0.050
	Haryana	11.88	44.40	0.053	7.07	43.34	0.031
	Himachal Pradesh	7.59	39.44	0.030	4.93	40.22	0.020
	Jharkhand	42.10	47.92	0.202	28.81	45.59	0.131
	Karnataka	12.77	42.76	0.055	7.58	41.21	0.031
	Kerala	0.70	38.99	0.003	0.55	36.92	0.002
	Madhya Pradesh	36.57	47.25	0.173	20.63	43.70	0.090
	Maharashtra	14.80	43.76	0.065	7.81	41.77	0.033
	Manipur	16.96	44.61	0.076	8.10	41.91	0.034
	Meghalaya	32.54	48.08	0.156	27.79	48.01	0.133
	Mizoram	9.78	47.42	0.046	5.30	45.62	0.024
	Nagaland	25.16	46.29	0.116	15.43	42.61	0.066
	Odisha	29.34	46.42	0.136	15.68	44.50	0.070
	Punjab	5.57	43.74	0.024	4.57	41.22	0.020
	Rajasthan	28.86	47.34	0.137	15.31	42.70	0.065
	Sikkim	3.82	41.20	0.016	2.60	41.02	0.011
	Tamil Nadu	4.76	39.97	0.019	2.20	38.70	0.009
	Talangana	13.18	43.29	0.057	5.88	40.85	0.024
	Tripura	16.62	45.03	0.075	13.11	42.68	0.056
	Uttar Prodesh	37.68	47.60	0.197	22.93	44.83	0.103
	Uttarakhand	17.67	44.35	0.078	9.67	41.99	0.041

ISSN: 2455-8834

Volume:10, Issue:04 "April 2025"

	West Bengal	21.29	45.50	0.097	11.89	42.35	0.050
Union Territories	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	4.29	40.50	0.017	2.30	40.62	0.009
	Chandigarh	5.97	43.39	0.026	3.52	47.41	0.017
	Dadro & Nagar Haveli & Damon & Diu	19.58	42.23	0.087	9.21	42.15	0.039
	Delhi	4.44	43.92	0.020	3.43	41.99	0.014
	Jammu &Kashmir	12.56	44.17	0.055	4.80	42.11	0.020
	Ladakh	12.70	40.37	0.051	3.53	41.20	0.015
	Lakshadweep	1.82	35.80	0.007	1.11	36.47	0.004
	Poducherry	1.71	38.55	0.007	0.85	38.03	0.003

Table 4 : Population Estimates-MPI Poor

	Region	**Population Share (%)**	**Headcount Ratio(%)**		**Number Of People who exited multidimensional poverty**
			2015-2016	**2019-2021**	
State	Andhra Pradesh	3.86	11.71	6.06	3019718
	Arunachal Pradesh	0.11	24.23	13.76	161358
	Assam	2.57	32.65	19.35	4687541
	Bihar	9.06	51.89	33.76	22511679
	Chhattisgarh	2.17	29.90	16.37	4018328
	Goa	0.11	3.76	0.84	45564
	Gujarat	5.13	18.47	11.66	4784122
	Haryana	2.17	11.88	7.07	1429341
	Himachal Pradesh	0.54	7.59	4.93	196579
	Jharkhand	2.83	42.10	28.81	5152626
	Karnataka	4.90	12.77	7.58	3487223
	Kerala	2.60	0.70	0.55	53239
	Madhya Pradesh	6.21	36.57	20.63	13569242
	Maharashtra	9.12	14.80	7.81	8737064
	Manipur	0.23	16.96	8.10	281803
	Meghalaya	0.24	32.54	27.79	156738
	Mizoram	0.09	9.78	5.30	54665
	Nagaland	0.16	2516	15.43	214354
	Odisha	3.35	29.34	15.68	6262852
	Punjab	2.22	5.57	4.75	250586

ISSN: 2455-8834

Volume:10, Issue:04 "April 2025"

	Rajasthan	5.82	28.86	15.31	10816230
	Sikkim	0.05	3.82	2.60	8236
	Tamil Nadu	5.59	4.76	2.20	1958454
	Telangana	2.76	13.18	5.88	2761201
	Tripura	0.30	16.62	13.11	143237
	Uttar Prodesh	16.95	37.68	22.93	34272484
	Uttarakhand	0.84	17.67	9.67	917299
	West Bengal	7.18	21.29	11.89	9258462
Union Territories	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.03	4.29	2.30	7999
	Chandigarh	0.09	5.97	3.52	29845
	Dadro & Nagar Haveli & Damon & Diu	0.08	19.58	9.21	117484
	Delhi	1.52	4.44	3.43	211163
	Jammu &Kashmir	0.98	12.56	4.80	1044860
	Ladakh	0.02	12.70	3.53	27315
	Lakshadweep	0.00	1.82	1.11	484
	Poducherry	0.12	1.71	0.85	13804
	India	100	24.85	14.96	135461035

MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY IN STATES

According to the above table, which provides multidimensional poverty estimates for the 36 States and Union Territories, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Rajasthan saw the fastest declines in the percentage of multi dimensionally poor people.

The states with the largest percentages of multi dimensionally impoverished individuals among their respective total populations were Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Meghalaya. These states did, however, also exhibit the greatest reduction in poverty.

On the other hand, Kerala, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Sikkim, and Punjab are the states with the lowest proportion of multidimensionally poor people as compared to their total populations. Indian states with less than 10% multidimensional poverty doubled in 5 yrs. According to the report, in 2015-16 (NFHS-4), only seven states had less than 10 per cent of their population living in multidimensional poverty Mizoram, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Goa, and Kerala. However, in 2019-21 (NFHS-5), the list had doubled to include 14 states, with the seven new additions being Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur, and Uttarakhand. All of these states saw a significant reduction in poverty headcount ratio,

ISSN: 2455-8834

Volume:10, Issue:04 "April 2025"

except for Bihar; no other state in India has more than one-third of its population living in multidimensional poverty. The report released has clearly indicated that the rural populace has outclassed their urban counterparts in the improvement of living standards. The multidimensional poverty in the rural areas has come down to 7.51% in 2019-21 from 19.51%, a decline of 12% against just about 2.2% in urban areas. Urban poverty, which was 4.92% in 2015-16, receded to 2.73% in 2019-21. The report said rural areas witnessed the fastest decline in poverty from 32.59% to 19.28%, while the urban areas saw a reduction in poverty from 8.65% to 5.27%. Significant initiatives covering all dimensions of poverty have led to 24.82 crore individuals escaping multidimensional poverty in the last 9 years. As a result, India is likely to achieve its SDG target of halving multidimensional poverty well before 2030. The Government of India has made remarkable progress in improving the lives of people, aiming to reduce poverty in all dimensions. Noteworthy initiatives like Poshan Abhiyan and Anemia Mukt Bharat have significantly enhanced access to healthcare facilities, leading to a substantial decrease in deprivation. Operating one of the world's largest food security programs, the Targeted Public Distribution System under the National Food Security Act covers 81.35 crore beneficiaries, providing food grains to rural and urban populations.

Section : V : Conclusion and Remarks

Alkire and Foster's (2011) methodology is used to measure multidimensional poverty by considering three main indicators, i.e., standard of living, education and income at the household levels. Standard of living is measured by considering seven sub indicators, i.e., employment status, agricultural land possessed, integrated land possessed, source of lighting, cooking fuels, dwelling unit and ration card holding status of the households. Education is measured by the highest education attainment of the household members. Poverty is a major challenge for economic growth and attaining sustainable development goals. This study aimed to estimate the multidimensional poverty index for states of India. Overall the index of India has declined but there are higher variability across states in many deprivation indicators. Region specific factors responsible for the deprivation should be identified and constant support related to the nutritional and schooling aspects should be provided in the different state to reduce the poverty index. The quality of life for those living in poverty has significantly improved over the past almost two decades, falling from over 50% to 11.28%. In 2024, India is expected to experience single-digit poverty. From 2013–14 to 2022–23, the rate of decline in multidimensional poverty has accelerated. This is made possible by numerous government programs and activities aimed at enhancing particular aspects of deprivation. Although state performance varies, some traditionally high-poverty states have made impressive strides in lifting their citizens out of poverty, which has decreased inter-state disparities in multidimensional poverty. By doing this,

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Volume:10, Issue:04 "April 2025"

the government may quickly address the core issues with obtaining basic services and move closer to its goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047, or Viksit Bharat.

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