

Poverty Assessment in Rural Area of Jodhpur District in Western Arid Region of Rajasthan

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Abstract—An attempt has been made to assess the poverty status in rural area of Jodhpur district of western Rajasthan. Two villages were randomly selected fall in the radius of 20 km from the Jodhpur city whereas another two villages were selected 60 km far from Jodhpur city with poor infrastructure facility and poor non-farm employment. 30 respondents were randomly selected from each selected village. A total of 120 respondents were selected from four village for the study. Simple tabulation method was used. For determining the poverty status, income method was used. From the study, it is revealed that agriculture, livestock, non-farm-labor activities are the main factor for poverty assessment. Size of land holding is a crucial factor. Marginal and small land holding couple with low income, are the main reason for poverty. The percentage of earners in the family size groups and percentage of dependents is inversely proportionate.

Keywords— *Poverty, Rural Area, Rajasthan.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Poverty is very complex and complicated problem and faced by various developing and under-developing countries. A simple meaning of poverty is the inability to secure minimum requirement for life, health and efficiency. These requirements include minimum human needs in respect of food, clothing, housing, education and health. The planners have been using a term 'Poverty line'. Those who can fulfill their minimum needs are 'above poverty' line and those who cannot are 'below poverty line (BPL)'. In 1987-88, 30% population was below poverty line; therefore large number of people in our region, particularly in the rural area is extremely poor as compared to the urban inhabitants. Poverty affects the general health and efficiencies of the people and resulted into low productivity. This inadequate economic development causes more poverty and it continues, ultimately forms the vicious civil. Problems of poverty, hunger, malnutrition, illiteracy, unemployment and poor medical facilities are enhancing the economic inequality. It means vast disparities in the income

of different sections of people and it's also mean different levels of standard of living in rural as well as in urban areas. There are several definitions of poverty, and scholars disagree as to which definition is appropriate for India. Inside India, both income-based poverty definition and consumption-based poverty statistics are in use. Outside India, the World Bank and institutions of the United Nations use a broader definition to compare poverty among nations, including India, based on purchasing power parity (PPP), as well as nominal relative basis. Each state in India has its own poverty threshold to determine how many people are below its poverty line and to reflect regional economic conditions. These differences in definition yield a complex and conflicting picture about poverty in India, both internally and when compared to other developing countries of the world.

There is a wide difference exists in estimate of poverty because of the differences in methodologies, data adjustments and pre-deflation used. Studies on poverty in India began with Dadadhai Naoroji in the 19th Century (Naoroji 1962). The major work on poverty estimates during the pre-independence period is that of V.K.R.V. Rao (1936) who revised Naoroji estimates of per capita income. Mukherjee (1969) updated the poverty estimate of Naoroji and Rao at 1948-49 prices than laying the foundation of further work on this subject in independent India. Further, in-depth studies on poverty in independent India are by Charan Singh (1964) and Tirlok Singh (1969 ab.). After the publication of Myrdal's *Asian Drama* in 1969 when stalwarts like Dandekar and Rath (1971) and Dandekar (1980) took up the burden of the theme.

It is an accepted fact that there are large disparities both in the income and assets distribution. All over the country there is glaring evidence of concentration of wealth. Considerable interest had been shown in equalities in India. Besides the government and other research bodies such as Reserve Bank of India, The National Council of Applied Economic Research. National Sample Survey organization and several scholars Bapana (1975); Bapana and Shah (1973), Phukan Umanuda (1975), Bhattacharya Pranab

(1979) and Varghese (1987) have made significant contribution in this regard.

II. METHODOLOGY AND SAMPLE DESIGN

A two stage stratified sampling procedure is adopted to select the sample households. The sample included adequate proportion of social class and their working status to ensure comparison for ascertaining the effects of inequality and poverty. Sample selection is done in two stages; stage one refers to selection of villages and urban blocks of Jodhpur city and households were selected in stage two.

Two villages were selected fall in the radius of 20 km from the Jodhpur city whereas another two villages were selected 60 km far from Jodhpur city with poor infrastructure facility and poor non-farm employment. 30 respondents were randomly selected from each selected village. A total of 120 respondents were selected from four village for the study.

III. TOOLS AND TECHNIQUE

Income method was used to find out the poverty status of selected respondents. Income from different sources were collected. The data for the study was collected using a well-structured exhaustive schedule through personal interview of adult male/female covering all the aspect of the study. Simple tabulation method was used. The selected respondents were categories in four different groups as follows and same are presented in the Table 1.

- Category I: Income from farming comprises agriculture, livestock and allied activities (farming).
- Category II: Income from agricultural and non-agricultural labourers, collies, hand-card puller, horse/bullock cart driver, vendor, hawker, masonry etc. The wages included cash and kind (Wage earners).

Category III: Income from occupations consists of, paltry/tea shop, owner, artisans, black smith, gold smith, carpenter, tailoretc (Business and crafts).

Category IV: Income includes occupation, college, school/university teacher etc in government and private official, who get regular services from public or private institutions.

Table.1: Distribution of sample household according the main occupation of income

Occupation	Rural
Category-I	41(34.2)
Category-II	31(25.8)
Category-III	29 (24.2)
Category-IV	19(15.8)
Total	120(100.00)

Note: Figures in percentages are percentages
 From the table 1, it is observed that maximum respondents belongs to first category followed by second, third and fourth.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results based on income method for determining the poverty status of rural population in Jodhpur district of western arid region of Rajasthan. The income of rural sample household from different sources are shown in the Table 2. From the table 2, it is revealed that agriculture is the main source of household income (75%) followed by livestock, non-farm-labor activities, business and craft. Similarly, income from agriculture accounts maximum (31.96%) followed by business and craft, non-farm-labour, salary and livestock.

Table.2: Composition of income of the rural sample household

Income Source	Percentage of household having income source	Income (Rs.) household	Percentage of total income
Agriculture	75.00	19751	31.96
Livestock	59.62	5,424	8.78
Farm-labour	29.17	2,836	4.59
Non Farm-labour	38.33	9,798	15.85
Business and craft	35.83	14,028	22.70
Salaries	24.17	8,708	14.09
Other	14.17	1,256	2.03
Total		61,801	100.00

Distribution of rural sample household according to operational land holding and share of income from different sources was estimated and same are shown in Table 3. From the table 3, it is observed that land less respondent earning from non-agricultural activities contributed nearly 97 per

cent. As the size of holding increases, the income from agriculture and allied activities increases except the medium farmers (4 to 7.5 ha) who received less income from agricultural and allied activities and also from non-farm-labour.

Table.3: Household income by size of operational holding

Holding group (Hectares)	Percentage of household to total household	Percentage share of income	Average/Household		
			Agricultural & Allied activities	Non-Agricultural activities	Total
Land less	20.83	16.16	1264	46784	48048
<1.00	9.17	6.32	8305	34417	42722
1.00-2.00	5.83	5.08	8766	45186	53952
2.00-3.00	7.50	6.57	12411	41850	52261
3.00-4.00	12.50	15.06	34450	40121	74571
4.00-5.00	15.84	11.74	22958	22950	45908
5.00-7.50	10.00	7.89	16271	32604	48875
7.50-10.00	7.50	8.34	50433	18389	68822
10.00-20.00	9.17	17.80	88221	32036	120257
20.00-30.00	0.83	1.99	100500	47000	147500
30 and above	0.83	3.05	167000	60000	227000
All classes	100.00	100.00	18372	43195	61927

Distribution of the rural sample households into different income groups based on the annual income is presented in Table 4. From the table 4, it is pointed out that maximum 17.5 per cent household are in the income group of Rs.50,000 – 70,000 and Rs.70,000 – 1,00,00 (having 23.10 per cent income) i.e., average annual earnings from all the sources are Rs.60,989 and Rs.81738, respectively. The minimum 0.51 per cent household are in the income group

of Rs. 25,000 – 30,000 (having 2.21 per cent income) with average income Rs.27,350/-. The non – farm-activities contributed more than agricultural and allied activities. In this group, allied activities is the main source of income from agricultural and allied activities. The contribution of non – farm- activities is more than agricultural and allied activities.

Table.4: Distribution of rural sample household by annual income

Annual Household income group	Percentage of household	Percentage of income	Average/Household		
			Agricultural & Allied activities	Non-Agricultural activities	Total
Less than 25,000	-	4.50	4806	12783	17589
25,000-30,000	-	2.21	12767	14583	27350
30,000-35,000	-	3.12	4651	28447	33098
35,000-40,000	10.83	6.54	14242	23154	37396
40,000-50,000	15.00	11.14	15992	29994	45986
50,000-70,000	17.51	17.24	20522	40467	60989
70,000-100,000	17.51	23.10	29070	52668	81738
100,000-150,000	8.33	16.51	46525	76200	122725
150,000-200,000	0.83	2.10	4800	151600	156400
More than 200,000	3.33	13.54	21900	229700	251600

Annual Household income group	Percentage of household	Percentage of income	Average/Household		
			Agricultural & Allied activities	Non-Agricultural activities	Total
All classes	100.00	100.00	18732	43195	61927

The relative per cent contributions of different sources of gross income in different categories of sample households are shown in the table 5. From the Table 5, it is observed that in the category I, 62.12 per cent income from agriculture followed livestock, non – farm – activities and salaries. In case of category II, the main source of income is non – farm –activities (29.82 per cent) followed by agricultural wages and agricultural. However, in the

category III, the main source is business and craft (80.11) followed by agriculture. The remaining activities contributed nearly 9 per cent only. The IV category, salaries (71.89 per cent) is the main source of income followed by business and craft. The overall income is from agriculture followed by business and craft, non – agriculture wages and salaries.

Table.5: Percentage Composition of income under different occupational rural categories of sample households

Income Sources	Category				Overall
	I (Farm household)	II (Wage earners)	III (Business & Craft)	IV (Salary earners)	
Agriculture	62.12	13.46	10.89	3.92	32.29
Livestock	14.94	5.10	2.82	5.21	8.78
Agricultural Wages	3.01	13.93	1.39	2.47	4.59
Non Agricultural Wages	6.83	59.82	2.75	5.16	15.54
Business & Craft	5.29	1.99	80.11	7.14	22.71
Salaries	6.02	3.11	1.36	71.89	14.09
House-Property & money lending	1.56	0.35	0.00	1.65	0.98
Pension	0.23	2.24	0.68	2.56	1.06
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Distribution of sample household into different family size groups based on number of earners and their dependents are presented in Table 6. It is observed that highest per cent dependents (77.67 per cent) is found in household having 11 and above family size groups. The family size of 1 – 2 have maximum earners (62.50 per cent). The percentage of

earners in the family size groups and percentage of dependents is inversely proportionate. It indicated as earners are decreases dependents increases. The dependency ratio is increasing with increase in family size. The average dependency ratio is 2.41.

Table.6: Percentage distribution of economic status and dependency ratio rural sample household

Family size	Earners	Dependents	Dependency ratio
1 – 2	62.50	37.50	0.60
3 – 4	43.20	56.80	1.31
5 – 6	32.05	67.95	2.12
7 – 8	30.33	69.67	2.97
9 – 10	28.45	71.55	2.52
11 & above	22.33	77.67	3.48
Total	32.25	77.75	2.41

The relationship between annual household income and number of earners in different category is given in table 7. From table 7, it is clear that among the category I (farming), single earners take lead (36.36 per cent) followed by 2 earners (29.55 per cent), 3 earners (20.45 per cent) and more than 3 earners (13.64 per cent). In case of category II, it is found that household having annual income up to Rs. 30,000, 61.54 per cent families have one earners followed by 2 earner earn Rs.30.000 – 50,000. Among category III (business and craft) household, maximum 6 number of

household (50.00 per cent) having two earners belonging to Rs.50,000 – 100,000 followed by 3 earners (41.67 per cent) in the same income group, income up to Rs.30,000 by 1 earners. However, in case of category IV, maximum income of household (1) is more than Rs.100,000 have 3 earners followed by having two earners belonging to Rs. 50,000 – 100,000 followed by 1 earners (75.00 per cent) in income up to Rs.30,000 and annual income group Rs.30,000 – 50,000.

Table.7: Distribution of households by annual income and number of earners in rural sample household

Groups	With one earner	With two earner	With three earner	With more than three earner	Total
Category – I (Farming)					
Less than 30,000	8 (100.00)	0	0	0	8 (100.00)
30,000-50,000	6 (50.00)	3 (25.00)	2(16.67)	1 (8.33)	12 (100.00)
50,000-1,00,000	1 (7.14)	6 (42.86)	7 (50.00)	0	14 (100.00)
1,00,000 and above	1 (10.00)	4 (40.00)	0	5 (50.00)	10 (100.00)
Total	16 (36.36)	13 (29.55)	9 (20.45)	6 (13.64)	44 (100.00)
Category – II (Wage earner)					
Less than 30,000	8 (61.54)	2 (15.38)	3 (23.08)	0	13 (100.00)
30,000-50,000	1 (20.00)	3 (60.00)	1 (60.00)	0	5 (100.00)
50,000-1,00,000	0	2 (33.33)	2 (33.33)	2 (33.33)	6 (100.00)
1,00,000 and above	1 (33.33)	0	1 (33.33)	1 (33.33)	3 (100.00)
Total	10 (37.04)	8 (29.63)	6 (22.22)	3 (11.11)	27 (100.00)
Category – III (Business and Craft)					
Less than 30,000	4 (57.14)	3 (42.86)	0	0	7 (100.00)
30,000-50,000	3 (37.50)	3 (37.50)	1 (12.50)	1 (12.50)	8 (100.00)
50,000-1,00,000	0	6 (50.00)	5 (41.67)	1 (8.30)	12 (100.00)
1,00,000 and above	1 (33.33)	0	1 (33.33)	1 (33.33)	3 (100.00)
Total	8 (26.67)	12 (40.12)	7 (23.33)	3 (10.00)	30 (100.00)
Category – IV (Salaries)					
Less than 30,000	3 (75.00)	1 (25.00)	0	0	4 (100.00)
30,000-50,000	3 (75.00)	0	1 (25.00)	0	4 (100.00)
50,000-1,00,000	2 (20.00)	6 (60.00)	2 (20.00)	0	10 (100.00)
1,00,000 and above	0	0	1 (100.00)	0	1 (100.00)
Total	8 (42.11)	7(36.74)	4 (21.05)	0	19 (100.00)
Overall					
Less than 30,000	23 (71.88)	6 (18.75)	3 (9.37)	0	32 (100.00)
30,000-50,000	13 (44.82)	9 (31.04)	5 (17.24)	2 (6.90)	29 (100.00)
50,000-1,00,000	3 (7.14)	20 (47.62)	16 (38.10)	3 (7.14)	42 (100.00)
1,00,000 and above	3 (17.65)	4 (23.52)	3 (17.65)	7 (41.18)	17 (100.00)
Total	42(35.00)	39 (32.50)	7 (22.50)	12 (10.00)	120 (100.00)

From the above discussion, it is revealed that agriculture, livestock, non-farm-labor activities are the main factor for poverty assessment. Size of land holding is a crucial factor.

Marginal and small land holding couple with low income, are the main reason for poverty. The percentage of earners

in the family size groups and percentage of dependents is inversely proportionate.

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