

Eradicating Poverty & Approach To Sustainable Development With Special Emphasis To Millennium Development Goal 1: An Indian Perspective

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Abstract: UN Millennium Deceleration before fourteen years specifically commenced a bold vision & concrete targets i.e. Millennium Development goals before introducing it into the world, which are probable at strengthening & saving the survival of each & single community approximately the world. India is in a race against time to achieve these goals. Member countries are facing challenges in their mission to achieve MDGs that are resource constraints, growth prospects, inadequate capacity development, lack of institutional reforms, global economic situation, uneven income distribution, lack of political commitment and will to the MDGs, lack of inclusive expansion, lack of enabling external environment to attract investment and persuade private sector development. This paper critically analyzed and identified the key contemporary challenges in eliminating poverty & approach to sustainable development with special emphasis to millennium development Goal 1, which eradicates poverty & extreme hunger. Further the paper empirically analyses the extent of benefit and prevailing concern in Allahabad district. This paper will also focus on the progress of the Allahabad district and to bring on the focal point to the major development concerns that India is probably going to tackle post 2015 in order to achieve sustainable development.

Keywords: India, MDG-1, Poverty, Hunger, Inclusive Growth, Sustainable Development

1. INTRODUCTION

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have playing a vital role in bringing out focus and pressure on basic development issues, which in turn ensures the government of nationwide to do better planning and implement more efficient & rigorous programmes and policies. Millennium Declaration is approved in September 2000 by the general Assembly of the United Nations and originates MDGs. The MDGs comprises of eight goals that speaks about important development issues. The eight (8) Goals are as following:

1. To eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.
2. To achieve universal primary education.
3. To promote gender equality and empower women.
4. To reduce child mortality.
5. To improve maternal health.
6. To combat HIV/ AIDS, malaria and other diseases.
7. To ensure environmental sustainability and
8. To develop a global partnership for development

The globe is approaching a landmark for world's development in 2015. As the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) reach their deadline i, e December 2015 deadline. Global leaders adopted a new set of transformative and entire sustainable development goals (SDGs) in September 2015 at the United Nations General Assembly as a part of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The latest sustainable development agenda gets to certify that the impetus created by the MDGs is approved forward beyond 2015 is not only just to reduce generous poverty, hunger, vulnerability and other deprivations but ultimately eliminate them to provide a life of integrity and dignity to all. At this critical juncture, the responsibility of routing development of the country has been passed on to a

new Government. It is now an appropriate moment to take stock of the accomplishment of the MDGs in India and lessons learned that can be included into the design and completion of the sustainable development goals to erect upon the fragmentary MDG agenda. There is now a remarkable meeting of vision underlying the precedence for the designed Sustainable Development Goals and those of the new Government in India. Building on the Millennium Development Goals, the Sustainable Development Goals recommend to eliminate poverty and deprivation in every form, leaving no one behind, though making development environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable. The Government of Nationwide has also focusing on the principle of Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas ("Together with All, Development for All"), and stated that the "first claim on development belongs to the poor." More than ever before, the Government is calling for better sanitation, health, education, security, financial inclusion and pride of all, mainly women. The Government is concurrently prioritizing improving ecological development with respect to water, air, soil and the biosphere by treating the challenge of environmental change adaptation as an opportunity rather than a predicament. In less than nine months since taking office, the central Government has announced a range of measures to accelerate the process of growth with equity and sustainability and shown its enthusiasm to learn from success stories in these areas in India and abroad. Yet an inclusive proposal of how to accomplish these goals in a time-bound manner is still a work in progress. The objective of this paper is to analyze and identified the progress, achievements & goal specific gaps of MDG-1 which is sought to eradicate poverty & hunger in Allahabad District of Uttar Pradesh.

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2. Issues & Challenges in Eradicating Extreme Poverty & Hunger

Socially prohibited and marginalized populace is often living in poverty or below poverty line. Segregation of poverty is much more than a compassionate issue because the rights of poor to participate efficiently in public affairs is repetitively ignored,

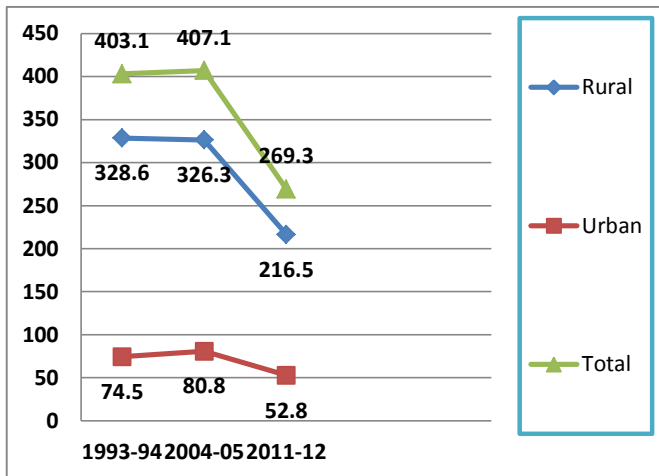
as it is an issue of a human rights. Therefore to achieve the overall development process, the total focus should be on eradication of poverty and hunger. MDGs have given significant preference to the development process, and the goal 1 along with other goals is on targeting.

2.1 Indicator (A-1): Poverty Headcount Ratio (percentage of population below the national poverty line)

2.1.1: Number of People below Poverty Line (in millions)

In the last two decades, India has shifted more than 10 crores of its inhabitants from extreme poverty. Still, very large numbers of populace falls under abject poverty. PHCR (Poverty Head Count Ratio) is the percentage of that populace whose consumer expenditure/per-capita income is underneath official thresholds, to be precise 'Poverty line' is set by the national government.

Graph 1: Number of People below Poverty Line (in millions)

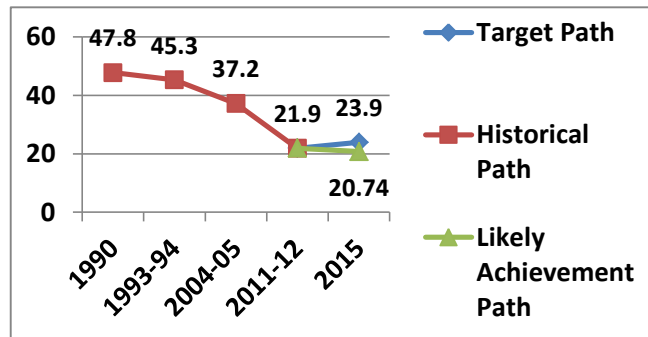


Source: Planning Commission (Now renamed as NITI Aayog)
 Interpretation- The definite decline in the facts of deprived occurred during 2004- 05 to 2011-12, when at all India level, approximately 138 million populace was lifted above the poverty line.

2.1.2: Trend in Poverty Head Count Ratio -All India

According to MDG goal 1 (target 1), the proportion of populace below national poverty line is bring down to half of its 1990 level. All India PHCR estimate in 1990 was 47.8 per cent & categorically to meet the conditions of indicator (A-1), by 2015 the PHCR level has to be decrease by 23.9 per cent. During 2011-12 total PHCR is 21.9 per cent, which illustrates that, country has previously attained the target in terms of Indicator (A-1) before 2015.

Graph 2: Trend in Poverty Head Count Ratio -All India

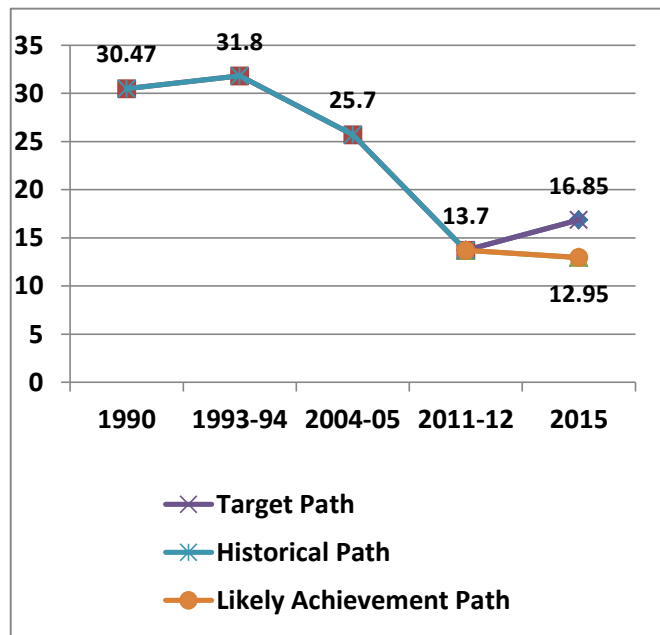


Source: Planning Commission (Now renamed as NITI Aayog)
 Interpretation- The historical trend shows that in India, the MDG target of purging of poverty is likely to be achieved by 2015.

2.1.3: Trend in poverty Head Count Ratio Rural & Urban India

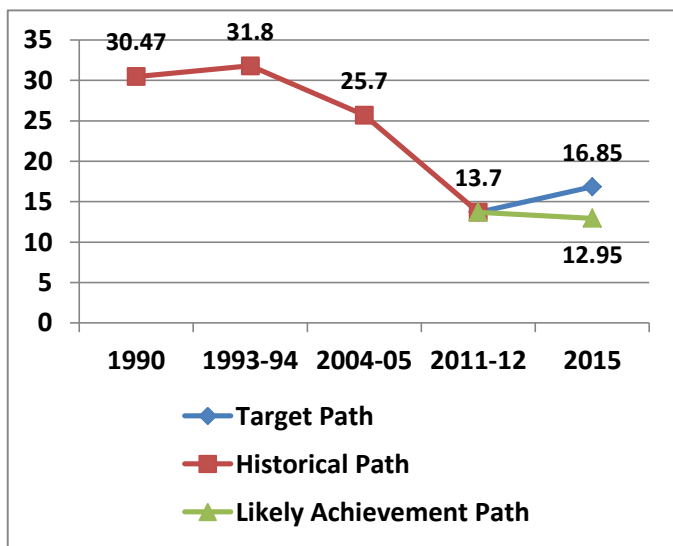
In 1990 the Urban and Rural PHCR estimate were 52.64 per cent and 30.47 per cent respectively. In 2011-12 the rural PHCR estimate is decreased by 25.7 per cent and urban PHCR approximation is decreased 13.7 per cent .which reflects that both urban and rural areas has already achieved the target in stipulations of Indicator (A-1) before 2015.

Graph 3: Trend in poverty Head Count Ratio Rural India



Source: Planning Commission (Now renamed as NITI Aayog)

Graph 4: Trend in poverty Head Count Ratio Urban India



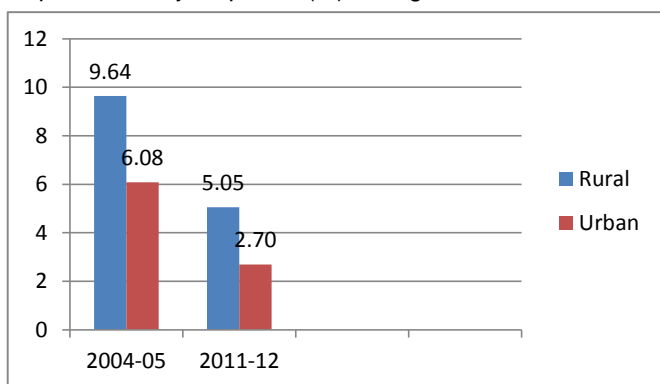
Source: Planning Commission (Now renamed as NITI Aayog)

Interpretation: The historical inclination illustrates that, both in rural and urban areas; the MDG target of eliminating poverty can be likely achieved by 2015.

2.2 Indicator (A-2): Poverty Gap Ratio

The Poverty Gap Ratio defines as the mean shortfall of the poor of the total population. It indicates the consumption of the poor and signifies their depth of poverty. If Poverty Gap Ratio is more, that means the condition of the poor is worsen. Poverty Gap Ratio indicates the intensity and specifies spread of poverty (number of poor people). Poverty Gap Ratio is decreased in urban & rural areas in the period of 2004-2005 to 2011-2012. In rural areas Poverty Gap Ratio is declined from 9.64% to 5.05% in the period of 2004-05 while in urban areas Poverty Gap Ratio is declined from 6.08% to 2.70% in the period of 2004-05.

Graph 5: Poverty Gap ratio (%) during 2004-2012



Source: Planning Commission (Now renamed as NITI Aayog)

Interpretation: In the period of 2004-05 to 2011-12, Poverty Gap Ratio is declined by 50% nearly in both urban and rural areas. It shows that condition of poor has improved in both rural and urban areas.

2.3 Indicator (A-3): Share of poorest quintile in national consumption

World Bank defines “The share of poorest quintile in national consumption is defined as the share of a country’s national consumption or income that accrues to the poorest quintile (fifth) of the population”. This pointer is articulated as a gain. Underneath 20% of the population is the poorest quintile which is rank by consumption or income levels. The pointer shows the allocation of income or consumption of the poorest (fifth) of the population because consumption of the poorest (fifth) is segmented as a proportion of total household incomes or consumption. This pointer shows ‘relative inequality measure’; while the circumstance arises where consumption or income is equally disseminated. 20% poorest quintile is the probable share. In both urban and rural areas, the ground authenticity fluctuates much in superlative situation. During 1993-2012, and over the years a declining inclination has been pragmatic because the share of countrywide consumption is always less than 10% from the share of poorest which is 20%.

Share of Poorest Quintile in National Consumption							
1993-94 (URP)		2004-05 (URP)		2009-10 (URP)		2011-12 (URP)	
Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
8.0	9.6	7.3	9.5	6.97	9.41	7.1	9.1

Table 1: Share of poorest quintile in national consumption

URP: Uniform Reference Period Source: National Sample Survey Organization

Interpretation: As per the table, the share of the poorest quintile in the countrywide consumption is lower in the urban areas than in rural areas. In urban areas, there is a decline from 8.0 per cent in 1993-94 to 6.97 per cent in 2009-10, and then showed a minor improvement of 7.1 per cent in 2011-12. In rural areas, the share of poorest quintile progressively declined from 9.6 per cent in 1993-94 to 9.1 per cent in 2011-12.

2.4 Indicator (B): Prevalence of Underweight Children under 3 years of age

In India malnutrition is extremely rigorous social problem, facing by each & single population of our Country. The problem of malnutrition is getting serious day by day in regard to women and children. Malnutrition has adverse affect in women’s health and her children’s health because a malnourished woman gives birth to malnourished child and that child will susceptible to disease and infection. Target 2 of indicator B is ‘Prevalence of underweight children Under 5 years of age’ which is set after considering the critical value of nutritional status of children. NFHS (National Family Health Survey is legally responsible to collect data in 1992-93 (NFHS-1) on 0 to 35 months and 0 to 47 months of age. In 1998-99 (NFHS-2) between 0 to 35 months and in 2005-06 (NFHS-3) between 0 to 35 months plus 0 to 59 months’. Nutritional status of children below 3 years is measured in target 2.

	NFHS-2 (1998-99)			NFHS-3 (2005-06)		
	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
Children Stunted (Height for age) %	41.1	54	51	37.4	47.2	44.9
Children wasted (Weight for height) %	16.3	20.7	19.7	19	24.1	22.9
Children Underweight (Weight for age) %	34.1	45.3	42.7	30.1	43.7	40.4

Table 2: Trends in Nutritional Status of Children

Source: NFHS-3 (2005-06) volume 1

Interpretation: The proportion of under-weight children below three year is 52% in 1990 and to meet the target which should decrease to 26% in 2015. National Family Health Survey (NFHS) shows that in 1998-1999, the proportion of underweight children below 3 years is 43% and which is declined to 40 in 2005-2006. And estimated at this rate the proportion of underweight children below 3 years is declined to 33% in 2015, which shows that India is unable to meet the target.

3. CASE STUDY ON VILLAGES OF ALLAHABAD DISTRICT

In order to study the challenges of eradication of extreme poverty & hunger through millennium development goals we have taken into consideration the following case study of Allahabad District & accordingly the interpretation have been done.

3.1 Objective of the study:

- To study the impact of people lives in villages of Allahabad.
- To analyze the relationship between MDG1 & eradication of poverty & extreme hunger.

3.2 Research Methodology:

The aim of the study is to measure variables distributed in a population so random sampling was carried out to collect primary data, that is, to study the contribution of MDG 1 in eradication of extreme poverty & hunger in Allahabad district with the equal chance of inclusion in the sample and further the sample would be clear representative of the population. Inductive approach is followed; therefore to study the total population we can generalize the findings obtained from a sample. A detail study and in-depth analysis was conducted to find out all the relevant data for this, basically the primary data was collected and analyzed.

3.3 Tools Used:

The tool used for primary data collection was a survey which was conducted on 200 respondents of different age-group, annual income, employment, risk bearing capacity etc. A questionnaire was framed which comprised of 35 open-ended questions. The responses to the survey were collected through personal interviews which required extensive field work, extensive surveys and frequent visit to the Villages of Allahabad.

3.4 Area of Study:

Study is conducted on 20 villages of each Block in Allahabad Namely, Amora, Ahirai, Byohara, Damagarha, Bilari, Kalyanpur, Majhiari, Kalan, Maghuwa, Bhagwatpur, Akodha, Bashara, Badouri, Sakra Mau, Silokhara, Atar Suiya, Bargaon, Deora, Kurgaon, Kotaha.

3.5 Geographical Layout:

Uttar Pradesh is one of the most densely populated state of India where Allahabad District is situated in the Southern Eastern part surrounded by the eastern side of Varanasi District, west side by Chitrakoot and kausambi district, North side by Pratappgarh and Jaunpur District, southern side by Rewa district of Madhya Pradesh state and South-Eastern side by Mirzapur district off Uttar Pradesh. Length is 117 kms from east to west and breath is 109 kms from north to south. The estimated geographical area of Allahabad district is 5437.2 sq.kms.

3.6 Socio-Economic Status:

The population of the Allahabad district is 4936105 as per census 2011 out of which the urban population is 1206785 and population or rural area is 3729320. 21.6% of the total population is scheduled Caste i, e 1065097.

3.7 Literacy:

In the villages of Allahabad District, the literacy percentage is 32.11% of 200 respondents.

3.8 Occupation: The major work force of Allahabad district is depend upon agriculture and allied agricultural activities as it is an agriculture oriented district

3.9 Major Findings:

- The poverty reduction level in villages of Allahabad is satisfactory but 70 per cent of the children examined are suffering from acute malnutrition which requires urgent attention.
- There is a shortage in food security related schemes and 35 per cent poor communities of Allahabad are deprived of their entitlements.
- Poor children are in a habit of eating mud which may have been developed due to deficiency of calcium and other vitamins due to living with starvation and hunger.
- 55 per cent of Women of rural communities of Allahabad are suffering from anemia and other deficiency as this situation is aggravated due to severe shortage of safe & pure drinking facilities
- 60 per cent of rural children are living in conditions of child labour due to acute poverty and situation leading to hunger.
- Only 40 per cent of rural children getting special health assessment for several deficiencies caused due to malnutrition
- The reduction in poverty level is satisfactory as rural women's are engaged in formation of Self Help Groups to overcome from poverty & hunger.
- Microfinance Institutions & Non-Government organizations playing a vital role in accessing rural women's of villages of Allahabad by providing them

training & making them self-sufficient through self-employment.

9. 80 per cent of rural community of Allahabad district depends upon Agriculture & Horticulture such as cultivation Potato, Guava, Brinjal, Ladies finger, Tomato and the Pea, 20 per cent are engaged in Animal husbandry as farmers prefer to keep cows & buffalos whereas goat & sheep's are preferred in low-lying areas and 30 per cent of them are paid workers & wage labours.
10. Government provides assistance through directly funded central scheme to the BPL families of Allahabad District to cope up from vulnerability but there is a need for proper monitoring & evaluation for better results.

3.10 Results & Discussion:

Allahabad is one of the highly dense districts of the state of Uttar Pradesh where maximum population is living below poverty line. Allahabad district is still facing significant challenges in spite of recent signs of progress such as improving well being and security for all rural an urban poor, eradicating poverty in various fiscal and non-fiscal factors. The vulnerable belongs to heterogeneous group; they are poor in material terms, have low human development and lives in threatening environment and uncertain conditions where women and scheduled Caste face meticulous obscurity. Poverty is caused by low levels of belongings, no assets attached with low and uncertain returns (public goods & services, private & social capital). The three major challenges facing by Allahabad district in eliminating poverty are to increase economic opportunities, secondly to know whether the population living in below poverty line is capable to take benefit of new expanded opportunities in the current era and thirdly to ensure and provide safety net to decrease vulnerability and to protect the destitute and extremely poor.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. More investment in agriculture & diversification of agricultural activities such as Fishing, Animal Husbandry and market driven farming are required.
2. Creation of adequate jobs to rural as well as urban poor to eliminate poverty.
3. Expanding social safety nets to prevent the poor or those vulnerable shocks and poverty from falling below a certain poverty level.
4. Universalizing education by focusing on both urban & rural children living below poverty line.
5. Promoting gender equality & increase women empowerment by strengthening potential capabilities of them through proper formation of self-help groups.
6. Protecting vulnerability causes which is rising continuously due to trauma & tension of extreme poverty.
7. Proper implementation of MGNREGA can provide the required thrust to tackle the employment crisis and also helps in pushing the impact of socio-economic development and reducing poverty.
8. It is recommended that vulnerable group should be included in the "priority group" category to eliminate poverty & extreme hunger.

9. The quality of training programmes needs radical improvement; they should be made sensitive to special needs of Allahabad District.
10. Severely malnourished children and those adults suffering from severe illness should be immediately attended by the Gram Pradhan & district administration including hospitalization.
11. The government should insure to expand right to food due to poor implementation & monitoring of schemes which required special analysis so that the poor will gets the benefits.
12. Deprived farmers need to develop management techniques and specific skill so as to put up individual enterprises like fishery, piggery, Goatery & poultry, Dairy, & Nursery.

5. CONCLUSION

To eradicate poverty and hunger from nation the government has initiated various programmes and effective schemes. The country has succeeded in the up-lifting of a considerable number of poor by assorting proportions of causes of poverty and by multifaceted its ill effects but still the issue of increasing poverty is massive in India. One in every three children is underweight below the age of 3 years and every five person in India is below the poverty line. To achieve the economic and sustainable development, elimination of poverty and decreasing hunger continues to be a precedence area of development. The framework of millennium development goals gives a mechanism to encourage development community and government of India to focus on improving human development and poverty eradication moderately only focusing on expansion of trade and industry. Though one critique of millennium development goal (MDG) '1' is specifically that the primary solution of eradicating poverty is to promote economic growth (Fukuda-Parr 2010; Vandemoortele 2011)

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