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## Poverty and the Social Issues in Rajasthan

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**Abstract** This concept paper discusses the issue of poverty in society. There are many factors that lead to this situation. In fact, unemployment is seen to contribute to this poverty problem. Statistics on unemployment rates among community are also increasing day by day. The paper also outlines the continuity between poverty and social problems among the society today, especially youth. Furthermore, the methods used for this study by using secondary data sources like census of Rajasthan and economic survey of Rajasthan. It is hoped that the findings of this study will contribute to the existing social literature, particularly in relation to studies on the issue of poverty from emerging socio-economic perspectives in Rajasthan.

**Keywords** Poverty, Social Problems, Social Issue, Unemployment

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### Introduction

In the era of globalization, which is increasingly challenging now, the modern trend is evolving in tandem with the sophistication of technology and the development of a country. However, the civilizational life of a society becomes uneven when we are often surprised by the news of moral depravity and social problems in society now. Undeniable, achievement in the aspects of economy, education, politics, sports and other fields are very boast and inspiring but we still fail in the social aspect. These problems are closely related to each other. The causes and factors that contribute to each of these things need to be emphasized and examined so that these symptoms can be adequately contained. All parties have a role to play together. This is because united we stand, divided we fall. According to the Census of 2011, 14.7% of Rajasthan's population lives below the poverty line. Rural poverty is higher than urban poverty, with 16% of the rural population and 11% of the urban population living in poverty. Rajasthan faces several social issues, including poverty, child marriage, rape cases, child labor, domestic violence, illiteracy, and female feticide.

### Poverty

Literally, there are some definitions and dimensions of poverty. Generally, the state of one who lacks a usual or socially acceptable amount of money or material possessions. Poverty is said to exist when people lack the means to satisfy their basic needs. In this context, the identification of poor people first requires a determination of what constitutes basic needs. Poverty has been defined, measured and investigated about the causes or factors that contribute from various aspects of life. Hence, programs to address poverty need to be implemented where it emphasizes on the economic, social and political contexts that are closely related to the poor. In addition, there are various views of economists on the dimensions of poverty. Wagle (2018) argues that economic prosperity is a measure of poverty to a poverty line based on the definition of absolute, subjective and relative concepts. Among the elements used are income, consumerism and welfare.



### **Social Problems**

Poverty is a social issue facing people in every country across the world. Poverty refers to a relative concept that is used to describe individuals in a society who lack the essentials taken for granted by most people. In Australia, people living in relative poverty are those whose living standards fall below an overall community standard. In most cases, people living below the poverty line in Australia have low-income levels; they lack the opportunities as well as resources such as education, housing, health care, employment opportunities, recreation, and food. Individual circumstances and major inequalities built-in society are the main causes of poverty. Poverty as well as other social miseries are mostly caused by social structures. Societal issues such as segregation, racism, cause disparities in employment, education as well as income for marginalized people.

Gender inequality is the most pervasive and oldest form of inequality in the globe. Women are denied their voices and make women unequal to men, from the household, national and international levels. Though there has been some progress towards changing this narrative in the modern world, women have not achieved economic equality hence women being more likely to live in poverty compared to men. Moreover, poverty is considered higher among black and minority ethnic groups compared to the white population. People from some ethnic groups get less pay than individuals from other groups with the same experience and qualifications.

In addition, poverty stereotypes have negative effects on people's performance across the world. Economic scarcity is one of the vital factors of poverty that makes poor people more vulnerable to poverty experience and life pressure. Also, low-income earners are more likely to experience poverty and stress.

Even though it is possible to moderate poverty by use of social transfers, it is not possible to mitigate the processes, which cause poverty under capitalism. The main effect of capitalism causes competition between states and spreads poverty among developing countries because of the individual interests of private firms rather than their workers' needs. Also, globalization reduces income inequality hence leading to poverty reduction. When states open up to trade, they grow faster and the living standards of their people tend to increase.

Poverty leads to social changes as poor individuals are more likely to experience different issues such as a divorce as well as family conflicts. Moreover, poor people are more prone to health problems. Children from poor families are less likely to get a quality education or go to college level, hence being more likely to engage in criminal activities. Moreover, issues such as poor sanitation, illness as well as hunger are the causes and also effects of poverty. Poor people are less likely to have adequate food and clean water.

In conclusion, sociology can provide a significant tool for thinking about poverty as a social issue that affects many people across the globe. Thinking sociologically can help people to better understand poverty and disentangle it from a range of associated concepts and pejorative discussions regarding a variety of social issues.

### **Conceptual Framework**

Based on the discussion, there are conceptual framework proposed in this concept paper. The framework indicates that there are relationship between unemployment, poverty and social problems. Based on the framework, the root cause of poverty is the onset of rising unemployment issues. Subsequently, an increase in the level of poverty contributes to increasingly uncontrolled social problems. This is becoming more severe when this unstoppable social problems contributes to unemployment issues in the future. According to the Census of 2011, 14.7% of Rajasthan's population lives below the poverty line. Rural poverty is higher than urban poverty, with 16% of the rural population and 11% of the urban population living in poverty. The economic growth is also supplemented with improvement in various other social indicators, like infant mortality rate, life expectancy, etc. The most significant consequence of the sustained economic growth has been the steep reduction in the poverty rate. As per the Tendulkar Committee estimates, overall poverty rate in the state declined from 34% in 2004-05 to 15% in 2011-12, a near 20 percentage-point reduction compared to a national level drop of 15 percentage points. Micro-level analysis suggests a fair improvement in infrastructural facility development, with broad road network across the state providing good connectivity. Nevertheless, small pockets of high concentration of poverty are spread out over the entire state. For instance, even though the poverty rate in Jaipur is relatively low at only 10%, micro-level analysis of Jaipur district shows that more than 50% of the population in about 15% of the grid cells (15sq.km) is poor. Similarly, even districts with least poverty rate like Hanumangarh and Ganganagar also show high poverty concentration within a small area.



A closer look at these small pockets suggests that most of these areas are either forest areas or surrounded with barren land. The number of transportation hubs in these small pockets is also considerably less compared to other parts of the district. In contrast, poverty is spread out across the district in case of the densely populated districts. For instance, in Udaipur district, 50% of the poor population is concentrated in about 60% of the grid cells where density of population is high. Spatial analysis suggests that most of these densely populated areas do not have adequate support systems like business facilities and financial institutions necessary for fostering higher economic activities and to meet the needs of a large section of population. On the other hand, the segment of the district with low density of population has a large number of business facilities catering to the needs of the population. Undeniably, development of social sectors is the key to poverty alleviation. Various researchers are of the view that increasing government expenditure on health and the subsequent decrease in the debt burden on account of health-related expenses is one of the prime reasons for the declining poverty rate in the state. The positive impact of increasing government expenditure on health is evident from the increasing number of hospitals, declining infant mortality rate, etc.

However, on the flip side, our spatial analysis suggests that more than 60% of the hospitals are concentrated in only 25% of the grid cells. Further, these have come up in areas where poverty concentration is relatively low. A difficult access to hospitals not only increases the risk burden on health, but also increases the economic burden. Education is another aspect of poverty reduction. Spatial analysis also suggests lower poverty rate in areas with higher numbers of educational institutions. Another important aspect of Rajasthan is the large section of the scheduled tribe and scheduled caste population, which has for long been denied the benefits of development. Micro-level analysis shows the high poverty zones also to be characterized by larger concentration of scheduled tribe/caste population.

The Rajasthan government has launched a number of welfare schemes to promote the deprived community in the state. Financial well-being is key to empowerment and therefore, such welfare programmes need to be extended to these SC/ST dominated high poverty concentration zones.

Another common facet of micro-level poverty across all states in India is the dearth of economic activities in the high poverty zones. Evidently, our spatial analysis also shows high poverty concentration in the areas covered with barren land in rural Rajasthan, while fewer business facilities were seen in the high urban poverty zones of Rajasthan.

Policy initiative of the government requires a more focused and targeted approach to tackle poverty. This is possible through microscopic characterization of the poor and identifying where the poor live. Our concept of spatial poverty can identify these pockets of poverty and measure its extent via remote sensing. This can lead us to a far greater set of policy insight—the most important being its ability to link poverty with the environment that gives rise to it and sustains it.

## **Conclusion**

In the nut shell, there are many factors contributing to social problems, but the most one is poverty. Undeniable, poverty is a biggest issue today in this century. There are many approaches and theory used to understand and define it. To eliminate poverty is impossible, but we are able to reduce it regularly. Moreover, the high and uncontrolled unemployment rate also becomes the cause of this poverty issue. It is a great responsibility for the government to make greater efforts in providing various initiatives such as more job opportunities as well as financial assistance to start up a business. On the other hand, another alternative that can be applied is social protection which is giving a better life to the poor so that they can survive in the challenging world (Khairullina, Ustinova, Sadykova, Tretyakova & Bogdanova, 2016). Ironically, these problems are keep on relating to each other. Problems are interconnected and become a symbiosis in the lives of the people.

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