



## Multidimensional Poverty in Kashmir: A Comparative Study of Anayat Pora and Sangam Villages

Irfana Unjum and P.K.Mishra

<sup>1</sup>Doctoral Research Scholar and <sup>2</sup>Associate Professor in Economics, Central University of Punjab, Bathinda, India-151001

*The purpose of this paper is to assess the nature and extent of multidimensional poverty in rural Kashmir. Being a multidimensional phenomenon, poverty warrants the keen attention of policy makers to envisage it in non-conventional ways. An ominous need has been felt to swing the research exertion from mere unidimensional valuation to multidimensional estimation so as to lure proper and applied policy inputs. Multidimensional approach lodges all such dimensions which are ignored by money metric approaches and offers broader picture of economic development. The study is based on the primary data collected during the first quarter of 2016 from randomly selected two sample villages, namely, Anayat Pora and Sangam. This study is unique in considering eight dimensions having twenty-nine indicators of human well-being. The use of Alkire-Foster method provides the evidence of prevalence of multidimensional poverty in rural Kashmir. It would help policy makers focusing on the dimensions in respect of which people are relatively more deprived in Kashmir region of J&K.*

**Keywords:** poverty, alkire-foster, Jammu & Kashmir, headcount, poverty gap.

Paper/Article Info: Received on: 10-19-2016  
Accepted on: 05-12-2016

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Poverty is spiteful to the concept of sustainable development and inclusive growth (Bano, 2013). It has been the concern to each nation of the world as its eradication was listed at the top of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and now in the objectives of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) formulated by United Nations<sup>1</sup>. Poverty has widespread manifestations in the forms of hunger, malnutrition, limited access to education and other services, social exclusion and discrimination, and lack of social participation<sup>2</sup>. Although the World has been succeeded in reducing the rate of extreme poverty by more than half since 1990, but still one-in-five in developing countries is living on less than \$1.25 a day along with millions who live on little more than this (Sembene, 2015). Southern Asia and Sub-Saharan economies hosts more than 70 per cent of those living on less than \$1.90 a day (ILO, 2016; Stuart *et al.* 2016). Countries

including China, India, Nigeria, and Indonesia are home to about more than half of global poor (Sumner, 2012). Developed nations also face the problems of poverty, as 30 million children are growing up poor in world's richest nations right now (OPHI, 2016).

Poverty has always been at the centre of the discourses concerning socio-economic policies so as to unveil its causes, and prescribe appropriate eradication measures (Bradshaw, 2007). The Classical economists contended that individuals perform an imperative role in influencing their output or outcomes with no role for the political or social environment (Esping-Andersen, 1990), and also argued that poverty begets poverty and thus, were against the provision of subsidies for eradication of poverty (Blank, 2010). Neo-classical economists believed that poverty could be measured by consumption or income (JRF, 2015). They believed that households with adequate assets are likely to be affected less by negative income shocks, and their handsome