

# Multidimensional poverty in Uttar Pradesh: trends and patterns

Irfana Unjum, P. K. Mishra

*Department of Economic Studies, Central University of Punjab, BATHINDA, India-151001*  
malikin16@gmail.com, pkmishra1974@gmail.com

## Abstract

**Objectives:** This paper makes a review of the previous studies concerning the multidimensional poverty in Uttar Pradesh, and analyses the incidence and intensity of poverty in the State.

**Methods/Statistical analysis:** This paper relies upon the secondary data collected from various published sources so as to examine the trend and patterns of the multidimensional poverty in the State. It basically focuses on two specific measures of multidimensional poverty – incidence and intensity. Incidence of poverty is the percentage of people in the State who are MPI poor whereas intensity of poverty is the proportion of indicators in which they are deprived.

**Findings:** It has been found from the review of extant literature that Uttar Pradesh ranks almost the lowest among the major States of India in terms of human development. The per capita income of the State continues to be lower in comparison to less developing States like ODISHA, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Such a slow growth performance of the economy of Uttar Pradesh has been reflected in high rate of illiteracy, high rate of infant mortality, gender disparity and growing burdens of unemployment among others. All these infer the presence of multidimensional poverty in the State which is dragging backward the real growth and development of the State. The problem of multidimensional poverty in the State is similar to that of India. The significant factors contributing to it are income, problematic occupational pattern, unhealthy fuel used for cooking purposes, unhealthy sanitation facilities, lack of proper nutritional intakes, and low level of education.

**Application/Improvements:** This finding is significant for the policy makers focusing on the socio-economic indicators which must be accorded priority for improving human well-being in the long-run.

**Keywords:** Poverty, Incidence, Intensity, MPI, Uttar Pradesh

## 1. Introduction

Poverty is characterized as a state of 'Protuberant denial in well-being' [1]. One of the first notions of poverty occurs in Wealth of Nations of Adam Smith (1776), where he links the concept of economic poverty to the want of necessities [2]. In nineteenth century, poverty was considered essential as a motivation for work efforts by labors [3]. The sub-culture concept of poverty suggests that poorest section of a society tend to form a special sub-group with distinctive traits [4] and therefore, need special attention of policy makers. In the literature, the term poverty is interpreted as a concept when there are insufficient resources available to a person to meet his/her minimum needs including social participation [5]. It is an income or resource driven concept. In other words, poverty refers to be hungry, lack shelter and clothing, not be cared for illness, be illiterate and social exclusion [6].

They are actually vulnerable to adverse conditions from which they are unable to evacuate themselves [7]. The powered establishments of the society treat these vulnerable people negligently and are socially excluded [1]. The vulnerable population appears to have grown susceptible [8]. In order to understand the perils posed by the poverty, the familiarity of the dimensions of poverty, and the process through which it excavates is necessary [9]. The fusing characteristic of poverty is lack of resources through which descent standard of living can be achieved [10]. The poor lack ownership of productive assets, high income levels, good health, clean water, voice etc [1]. Therefore, poverty is presently seen as multidimensional as all the dimensions in which people of either gender are deprived are included [11]. The most topical perception is that poverty is multidimensional in nature, as put forward by Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) in 2010 which has suppressed the traditional notion of poverty in terms of income or consumption/expenditure deprivations [12]. A multidimensional measure can incorporate a wide range of indicators to capture the complexity of poverty and better inform policies to exterminate it [13]. It measures both the incidence and the intensity of poverty [14]. The core of MPI is to capture the poverty nature and its intensity at the individual level,