

## Emerging Issues in Poverty and Slavery in India

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### Abstract

Since independence of India, one of the biggest challenges that the country has been facing is reduction in poverty. More than six decades have been passed out; poverty has been persisting in the country especially in rural India (the real India) popularly known as 'Bharat'. India contributes a third of the global poor. China contributes 13 per cent of the global poor. In respect of poverty China is better off than India. Time to time different studies have been carried out to measure the magnitude of Indian poverty, but correct picture has not been emerged out. The present paper tries to analyze emerging trends in Indian poverty on the one hand and on the other hand to discuss different issues which are coming up in regard to taking measures in reducing poverty. The paper further examines a comparison of India with China's poverty scenario.

**Keywords:** households, consumption growth, poverty line, rural poverty.

### 1. Introduction

Poverty can be defined as economic poverty, measured in terms of the average per capita consumption or as capability poverty, defined more in terms of outcomes (functioning and capabilities), and including other dimensions, other than economic poverty particularly health and education status (Srivastava, 2012). The IBRD (World Bank) also defines extreme poverty as those living on less than US \$ 1.25 per day and moderate poverty as less than US \$ 2 per day. This is based upon the purchasing power parity (PPP Theory) that compared the amount of currency needed to buy the same item in different nations (World Bank, 2013).

#### 1.1 Harsh Facts

It is pertinent to point out here that one-third of global deaths or nearly 18 million persons a year or nearly 50, 000 a day are because of poverty related causes. Every year 11 million children die before they turn five. Over 800 million people go to bed hungry every year (Sunday, Express, 2013). Today, there are still 1.2 billion people living in extreme poverty in African, South Asian and Latin American continents. Proportion of the developing world's population living in extreme poverty has gone down from 28 per cent in 1990 to 21 per cent in 2011. Sub-Saharan Africa still accounted for more than one-third (1/3) of the global extreme poor. There are more than twice as many as extremely poor people in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) i.e. 414 million than there were 30 years ago with a figure 205 million. China accounts for 13 per cent of the global poverty s compared to 22 per cent of India. From 1981 to 2010, China has taken out 680 million out of poverty, more than the entire population of Latin American region.

#### 1.2 How to Measure Poverty?

There two well defined concepts in respect of measuring poverty i.e. absolute poverty and relative poverty.

*Absolute poverty* means to set standard across economies, which is consistent over a period of time. In United States of America, absolute poverty measurement is based on agriculture Department's economy food plan multiplied by factor of three, adjusted for inflation. The multiplier always based on research indicating that food costs accounted for nearly one-third (1/3) of money income.

*Relative poverty* means poverty based upon social context. For example, relative poverty can be measured in terms of income inequality (Gini). The main poverty line used in the in the OECD and European Union (EU) based upon economic distance i.e. a level of income usually set at 60 per cent of median household income. Income inequality for world as whole is diminishing, driven by the income growth rate in China.

### 1.3 Poverty Indicators

*Incidence of poverty* means (headcount index) the share of the population whose income or consumption is below the poverty line, i.e. the share of the population that can not afford to buy basic goods for their survival.

*Depth of poverty* (poverty gap) provides data and information in respect to how far off households are from the poverty line. This measure captures the mean aggregate income or consumption shortfall relative to the poverty line across the whole population.

*Poverty Severity* (squared poverty) indicates accounts for the distance separating the poor from the poverty line, as well as inequality among poor.

### 1.4 Tracking the Line

Usually developed countries set their poverty lines in relative terms rather than absolute terms. This indicates that a rise in the income of the top rich results into more poverty if everything else remain the same. Also, a poverty line that is relative to the national average provides an idea of the inequality in society.

The United States of America unlike other Western economies uses an absolute poverty measure. The poverty line there was created in 1963-64. Every year this calculation is adjusted for inflation.

## 2. India Vs China in Terms of Poverty

India's poverty scenario is much better than China's and the level of poverty between the two economies are not very different. It is an undisputed fact that, Chinese economy has witnessed substantially faster growth than Indian economy which is being considered as 'sliver lining'. Accordingly, the welfare and quality of life of the poor people in china improved at a much faster rate than India. This has been due to the fact that Chinese GDP level and GDP growth are considerably high. Today Chinese forex reserves amounted at US \$3.5 trillion. It is pertinent to mention here that there is an important non-government household survey conducted in 2011-12.<sup>(9)</sup> According to the Survey, the Gini index of income inequality in China is 0.61, much larger than Chinese Government reported result of a Gini of 0.48 (Bhalla, 2013).

Indian data are borrowed from NSS consumer and expenditure survey for the years 1999-2000 and 2011-12 and in case of China 1999-2000 and 2010-11 from the World Bank website. According to the analysis made out head count ratio of poverty for the World Bank's poverty line for developing countries including India and China in terms of PPP stood at US \$1.25, which also just happens to be India's official poverty line. The poverty level fro India in 1999-2000 and 2011-12 are 42.9 per cent and 21.9 per cent respectively. On the other side, China's poverty has declined from 35.6 percent in 1999-2000 to 11.6 per cent in 2010-11. In case of India the pace of decrease is stood at 1.8 percentage points per annum, while, China's pace of decline stood at 2.2 percentage point a year.

It is also pertinent to mention here that low level of household consumption growth observed in case of India just 2.8 per cent per annum. This means efficiency –inclusive index at 0.6, which twice of level witnessed in China. It is further to note that survey consumption growth in India i.e. 2.8 per cent per year is considerably below national accounts growth 4.8 per cent.

If nothing else is changed but just the mode of collection of data on household on consumption, and the result is that India indicates a pace of poverty fall almost identical of China means 2.1 ppt for Type 2 recall data compared to 2.2 ppt for China. This means an efficiency index for India one and half times higher than China i.e. 10 per cent growth in average consumption reduced poverty in China by 0.3 percentage points, in India by 0.74 percentage points.

### 2.1 Indian Scenario

One of the chronic issues which country has been facing since its dependence is poverty especially rural poverty wherein poverty line is Rs. 27 while Rs. 33 for urban areas at 2011-12 prices which unbelievable as no one can meet the expense and survive on such income per day per person. Even the rural rich spend just Rs. 105 per day (Bhalla, 2013).

Can a person survive on Rs. 30 a day? Table 1 indicates that the top ten per cent of rural people spend on an average Rs. 30.50 a day on main food whereas the marginal poor spend only Rs. 12 a day. Similarly, middle rural people spend only Rs. 4 a day more on basic food than poor India. Even the richest urbanities spend only Rs. 40 per person per day on basic food or in terms of rural prices Rs. 33. These above figures are nearly the same in regard to richest ruralites. The poor serving, and necessary food expenditure is not that separates the poor from the urban elite.

**Table 1:** Trends in Per Person Daily Expenditure on Selected Items in 2011-12 (Consumption in Percentile and Daily Expenditure in Rs)

Items	Rural 20-25	Rural 45-55	Rural > 91	Urban 20-25	Urban 45-55	Urban > 91
Cereals & Pulses	5.6	6.5	8.6	6.4	7.6	10.1
Milk, Oil & Spices	3.6	5.7	13.6	6.1	9.1	17.9
Vegetables & Fruits	2.0	2.5	5.0	2.6	3.8	8.0
Eggs, fish & meat	0.9	1.3	3.3	1.5	2.2	4.0
<b>Basic Food (Sum)</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>40.1</b>
Discretionary food (beverages, packaged, Served food)	1.6	2.1	5.9	2.2	3.7	20.0
Expenditure on all food	13.7	18.1	36.5	18.8	26.4	60.2
Expenditure (Food and Non-food)	26.0	35.6	105.0	39.4	61.7	249.8

Source: National Sample Survey Data; Kolkata; 2011-12.

## 2.2 Poverty Trends in India

There is no doubt that poverty in India has decline between 1973-74 and 2011-12 by a margin of 19. 2 percent (Table 2). Rural poverty went down by 0.17 per cent whereas urban poverty has decreased by a margin of 0.12 per cent. This indicates that rural poverty declined by higher margin as compared to urban poverty (Chart 1).

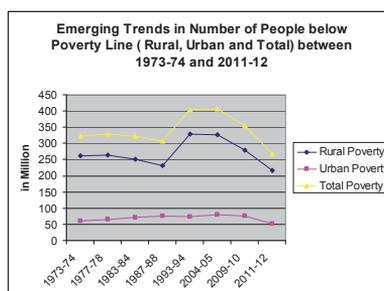
In relative terms, total poverty (poverty ratio) in India went down from 54.9 per cent to 21.9 per cent between 1973-74 and 2011-12. Rural poverty ration declined from 56.4 per cent to 25.7 per cent and urban poverty decreased from 56.4 per cent 13.7 per cent (Chart 2)

**Table 2:** Trends in Number of people (Rural and Urban below poverty line between 1973-74 and 2011-12 (in Million)

Year	Rural Poverty	Urban Poverty	Total Poverty
1973-74	261.3	60.0	321.3
1977-78	264.3	64.6	328.9
1983-84	252.0	70.9	322.9
1987-88	231.9	75.2	307.0
1993-94	328.6	74.5	403.7
2004-05	326.3	80.8	407.1
2009-10	278.2	76.5	354.7
2011-12	216.5	52.8	269.3

Source: The Indian Express; New Delhi; August 7, 2013; P. 13

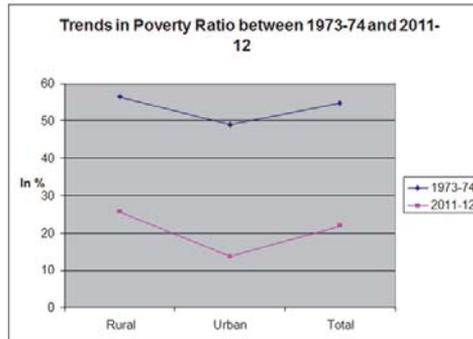
**Chart 1:** Emerging trends in number of people below the poverty line



The National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) has released the latest large sample survey for household consumer expenditure for the year 2011-12, which reveals that poverty rate drops by over three-times since the year 2003-04. Annual average decline in poverty from 1993-94 to 2004-05 stood at 0.74 percentage points for total poverty and the

figures for rural and urban poverty were 0.75 and 0.55 percentage points respectively. While total poverty, rural poverty and urban poverty figures between 2004-05 and 2011-12 stood at 2.18, 2.32, and 1.69 percentages point respectively.

**Chart 2:** Trends in poverty ratio



**Source:** Indian Express (2013).

Although poverty rate in the country declined since 2004-05, the new poverty line in rural areas in 2011-12 stood at Rs. 27.20 per day and for urban areas the poverty line comes to Rs. 33.33 per day. India's Planning Commission, has chosen to use a family of five people for calculating the all India poverty line in terms of consumption expenditure. This works out to Rs. 4,080 per month in rural areas and Rs. 5,000 per month in urban areas.

The national poverty line for rural areas is estimated at Rs. 816 per capita per month and Rs. 100 per capita per month in urban areas based upon the Tendulkar methodology. This means that a person subsisting over this level would not be counted as poor or living below the poverty line, though this marks a marginal improvement than the earlier poverty line of Rs. 22.42 per day for rural and Rs. 28.35 per day for urban people.

### 2.3 State-wise Trends

However, wide disparities are being persisting across states on the latest poverty projections. NSS data reveals that that the highest poverty is recorded in case of Chhattisgarh as high as 39.93 percent followed by Jharkhand with a figure of 36.96 per cent, Manipur with a figure of 36.89 per cent, Arunachal Pradesh's figure stood at 34.67 per cent and Bihar with a figure of 33.47 per cent (**Table 3**). This indicates that country's North-East region has the largest people who are poor and below the poverty line.

**Table 3:** State-wise Population below Poverty Line in 2011-12

States	Rural People in Lakh	Rural people in %	Urban People in Lakh	Urban people in %	Total people in Lakh	Total people in %
Rajasthan	84.19	16.05	18.73	10.69	102.92	14.71
Bihar	320.0	34.06	37.75	31.23	358.15	33.74
Chhattisgarh	88.9	44.61	15.22	24.75	104.11	39.33
Delhi	0.50	12.92	16.46	9.84	16.96	9.91
Gujarat	75.35	21.54	26.88	10.14	102.33	16.63
Jharkhand	104.09	40.84	20.34	24.83	124.33	36.96
Karnataka	92.80	24.53	36.96	12.25	129.76	20.91
Kerala	15.48	9.14	8.46	4.97	23.95	7.05
Madhya Pradesh	190.95	35.74	43.10	21.00	234.06	31.46
Maharashtra	150.56	24.22	47.36	9.12	197.92	17.35
Orissa	126.14	35.09	12.39	17.25	138.53	32.59
Goa	0.37	6.81	0.38	4.09	0.75	5.09
Uttar Pradesh	479.35	30.40	118.84	26.06	598.19	29.43
West Bengal	141.14	22.52	43.83	14.66	184.98	19.98
<b>All India</b>	<b>2,166.58</b>	<b>25.70</b>	<b>531.25</b>	<b>13.70</b>	<b>2,697.83</b>	<b>21.92</b>

**Source:** Planning Commission; Government of India (2013).

Goa has the lowest percentage of people living below the poverty line at 5.09 percent. Next comes Kerala with a percentage of 7.05. Himachal Pradesh comes after Kerala with a figure of 8.06 per cent, followed by Sikkim with a percentage of 8.19 and Punjab has 8.26 per cent people below poverty line. The most surprising trend is that *poverty line for rural Orissa is much lower than national average at Rs. 695 per capita per month of Rs. 23.1 per person per day*. Chhattisgarh's poverty line for urban people was the lowest at Rs. 849 per person per month or Rs. 28.3 per day per person (Tendulkar).

Puducherry's poverty line was the highest above the national average at Rs. 1,301 per person per month in rural areas and Rs. 1,309 per person per month in urban areas. Similarly, Goa, Delhi, Punjab, and Haryana too have poverty lines well above the national average.

The Kerala state's poverty line for rural people is above the national average amounted to Rs. 1018 per person per month. For urban people it is lower than the national average at Rs. 987. This all indicates that poverty ratio least in Goa and the highest in Chhattisgarh.

#### 2.4 Education and Health as a means of Reducing Poverty

Growth is (typically) good for the poor people but it is no less true that inequality is (typically) bad for poor persons. It is undisputed fact that poverty reduction does tend to come with aggregate growth, although not always, and not to same degree. The same rate of growth (positive) can bring anything from rapid poverty reduction to little or no progress, depending upon initial inequality. The more inequality the pie is shared less the poor people gain from inequality in the size of pie (Ravillion, 2013).

It is true that just income inequality that matters. India's inequalities in Human Development are currently doing more harm. Equitable, broad-based education is the main contributory factor to assuring the gain from technical progress and economic growth is widely shared.

Inequalities in education attainments interact strongly with country's growth process in determining the impact of that growth on poverty. The more education, better fed to poor persons are, the better their choice of participation in the potential and opportunities created by an expanding non-farm market economy, and contributing to that expansion. In this regard, China's poor people had a huge initial advantage in education at the time its market-oriented reforms began in the later part of decade 70s.

#### 2.5 Spending less on Education

It is an undisputed fact that growth of country could not be materialized if sufficient expenditure is not spends on education. The present trends indicate that Indian households are earmarking less of their expenditure to education. These are spending more on eating and travel. Expenditure on education, in fact, has been on the decline since 2008-09 (Table 4).

**Table 4:** Pattern of Indian Spending between 2004-05 and 2011-12

Item	2004-05	2008-09	2010-11	2011-12
Food, beverages	40.0	37.2	36.4	35.7
Food	33.8	30.4	30.1	29.0
Hotels & estaur	2.0	2.3	2.3	2.6
Medical Care	5.0	4.3	3.9	3.7
<b>Education</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.3</b>
Cloth & footwear	6.6	6.8	8.3	7.5

Note: % distribution of Pvt Final consumption expenditure at (current Prices)

**Source:** The Times of India (2013).

Educational expenditure has remained stagnant in 2011-12 and 2010-11 at 1.3 per cent down from 1.4 per cent in 2009-10. IN 2004-05, expenditure on education was 1.7 per cent of the total consumption expenditure.

For most of the analysts, expenditure on education tends to go up, although not as fast as in sectors like durables. Whereas there has been a significant rise in public expenditure on public sector education i.e. from 3.3 per cent of the GDP to 4.0 per cent of the GDP for 2013-14, this should have been a reason for a decline in expenditure on private

education. [Sunday Times 2013] There has been an overall increase in consumer expenditure, the rise in expenditure on education has not been parallel. Expenditure on education as a percentage of the total consumption expenditure would only continue to decline. Spending on education too is unlikely to grow faster than overall expenditure. Despite an increase in cost of education, only a small section of the people is shifting from moderate level to high level of education.

## 2.6 India better but behind in Healthcare

Another significant challenge is that Indians living longer but not as long as other developing countries in South Asia. It is true that Indians are living longer lives, but illness, disability and relatively early death remain serious healthcare challenges. It is also astonishing that India seems to be lagging behind many of its neighbors including China on both life expectancy and death rates (Table 5).

**Table 5:** India better but behind in Healthcare of its neighbors 2010-11

Country	Life Expectancy 1990 2010	Death Rate (Ranking) 1990 2010
India	58.3 65.2	155 139
Nepal	58.8 69.2	142 108
Bhutan	58.8 69.4	141 107
Bangladesh	58.9 69.0	143 113
Pakistan	62.3 65.7	123 127
China	69.3 75.7	92 63
Sri Lanka	72.3 75.5	45 68

Note: Higher ranking (among 187 countries) signifies higher death rate; India's rate dropped from 1,447.43 per lakh (1990) to 1,096.92 (2010)

Indians' life expectancy at birth improved from 58.3 in 1990 to 65.2 in 2010, but most of the Indian neighbors remained ahead in both years. India has also improved its death rate during the same period, whereas its neighbors had a mixed record but remained ahead of India. These facts are the outcome of research completed at IHME in USA (Indian Express, 2013).

Researchers examined more than 300 diseases, injuries, and risk factors and have come to an inference that a limited number of distinct reasons are responsible for the major chunk of the Indian health burden. The most alarming cause is ischemic heart disease, followed by chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, stroke, diarrhea diseases lower respiratory infections, tuberculosis, and preterm birth complications, self-harm, road injury and diabetes. What is needed is to bring awareness about health policies and investments by the Government. The information must be up-to-date, comprehensive and accurate. With these new ways of making the data available, understandable, people everywhere for the first time could see the incredible performance being witnessed in health and the daunting challenges that remain.

Suicide rates for women aged from 15 to 49 increased from 5 per cent of deaths in 1990 to nearly 10 per cent by 2010. 60 per cent fewer young children have died of communicable diseases. Non-communicable diseases and injuries are creating more strains on health; communicable diseases and maternal health problems are less threatened. Strokes have increased as a cause of death, as have suicides (IHME, 2010).

During the last two decades, risk factors leading to major disease conditions in India have changed significantly, which have crucial implications for how the country should plan to improve population health in India.

## 2.7 A Case of Uttar Pradesh

A survey of 3,500 farm households in Uttar Pradesh paints out a grim scene or scenario in regard to expenditure on education (5.9 per cent) and healthcare (4.4 per cent) during 2011-12 (Indian Express, 2013a). The survey also reveals that in UP the householders are hands to mouth and they are struggling for basic amenities. Food items accounted for more than 48 per cent of the total expenditure (Table 6).

Annual household expenditure, including the value of home produced items; of an average farm household is Rs. 69,888. This comes to just Rs. 194 per day for a seven-member household. Out of this amount, Rs. 96 are spent on food; Rs. 25 on fuel, electricity and gas.

Breaking the figures mentioned above, further into per capita expenditure terms, the same comes to a meager Rs. 27.73 per day, of which a person spends Rs. 13.33 per day on food, including Rs. 6.83 on cereals and pulses and Rs.

6.50 on fruits, vegetables, milk and meat. The most pertinent thing to point out here that these figures are close to the NSSO's estimates of per capita daily expenditure of Rs. 30 in rural areas of UP in 2010-11.

**Table 6:** Annual and Monthly Household Expenditure in Uttar Pradesh in 2011-12

Item	Annual (in Rs)	Per Month (in Rs.)	Per Day (in Rs.)	% Share
<b>Total Food Items</b>	<b>33600</b>	<b>2800</b>	<b>93.3</b>	<b>48.48</b>
Electricity and fuel	8940	745	24.8	12.79
Education	4116	343	11.4	5.89
Health care	3048	254	8.5	4.36
<b>Total of other than food items</b>	<b>27348</b>	<b>2279</b>	<b>76.0</b>	<b>39.13</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>69888</b>	<b>5824</b>	<b>194.1</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Singh; A.K.; Giri Institute of Development Studies; Lucknow(2012)

Even out of this Rs. 13 expenditure on food, 55 per cent of the same spend on home produced products and remaining 45 per cent is monetary expenditure on market purchases. Nearly three-fourth (3/4) of cereals and pulse requirement, and one-third (1/3) of milk, fruits and vegetables consumption is met from home produce. Meat, fish and eggs are generally purchased (Singh, 2012).

The average monthly household expenditure in the non food category is RS. 745. Nearly of half this, is spent on power and fuel, that is electricity, gas and fuel. Shockingly, 20 per cent of the non-food expenditure is on beedi, cigarettes and intoxicants and only 4.4 per cent on education, and health accounts for 6 per cent.

Even if one considered some downward bias due to response errors, the survey still pointed out 'stark poverty' in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh. The Survey also pointed out that the Planning Commission estimates are not far from reality. Landholdings of farmers in UP have become so small that they can hardly provide sustenance to the family (Planning Commission, 2013). No wonder, 40 lakh farmers have moved out of cultivation from 2004 to 2012. All claims of the State and Central Governments in regard to poverty alleviation fall flat in the face of these findings. Clearly, the benefits of Government programmes are not reaching the intended beneficiaries.

## 2.8 Another Case of Gujarat

Gujarat's growth under Modi Chief Ministership has been neither equitable nor inclusive(Bhalla 2013b). Poverty at national has declined by 7.7 percentage points whereas in case of Gujarat the same has gone down by 6.3 per cent between 2009-10 and 2011-12.

In Gujarat, the non-disadvantaged have poverty decline of 15 percentage points between 1999-2000 and 2011-12. For Schedule Cast and Schedule Tribes, the poverty declined by 28 percentage points during the period under review. Hence, the excess poverty decline for SC/STs is 13 percentage points, and this the third largest excess decrease in the country for SC/STs. In regard to Muslims, Gujarat is the second best performing state after West Bengal, as the State wherein Muslim has the biggest relative decline (Table 7).

**Table 7:** Trends in Performance Ranks of change in poverty from 1999-2000 to 2011-12

Item	Gujarat	Delhi	MP	Rajasthan	UP	West Bengal
SC/ST	4	11	13	12	10	5
Muslims	2	13	14	6	12	1
Disadvantaged	2	14	13	9	11	3
Average for Above	2	13	14	10	11	3

**Source:** NSSO Data; Government of India.

## 2.9 Slums are on the rise

The most astonishing fact is that 50.6 per cent of the global population now lives in the urban areas and most alarming thing is that two-thirds of the global sum dwellers in African continent (Table 8). There are 827.6 million is the total

number of slum dwellers in 2010-11 have been added to the urban population since 2000. 889 million have to live in slums by the end of 2020 (Sunday Express, 2013a).

**Table 8:** Region-wise Slums in the world 2011-12

Region	Total number of Slums	% of the total Slums
Sub-Saharan Africa	199.7	61.7
Southern Asia	190.7	37.0
Eastern Asia	189.6	28.2
West Asia	35	24.6
Latin America & Caribbean	110.7	23.0
Southeast Asia	88.9	31.0
North America	11.8	13.4

**Source:** UN Habitat's State of the World Cities (2012)

According to 2011 Census, there are 68 million Indians or one in six residents in urban India lives in a slum. There are 10 all slum towns in the country- There are 21,359 slums in the Maharashtra the largest one. The main concentration is in five states namely- Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu Kashmir, Sikkim and West Bengal. Nearly half the population of Visakhapatnam i.e. 44.1 per cent lives in slums, highest percentage wise in India. Most slum households are electrified i.e. 90.5 per cent only marginally less than all urban households 92.7 per cent. 72.7 households have phones, of which 63.5 per cent have only mobile phones and 10.4 per cent slum households have computers. Nearly 70 per cent of households own a television.

Literacy helps ensure that poor people can effectively access the public services that help them escape poverty. The significance of mass education has long been acknowledged in India. Indeed, free compulsory education to the age of 14 years is a 'directive principle of the Constitution'. However, implementation has been lagged considerably, with large geographic differences and often poor quality schooling across the states.

Addressing India's inequalities in education and healthcare are crucial for faster long-term progress against poverty, but it is not only thing that matters. Rural economic growth has long been crucial to more rapid poverty education, both from the agriculture and unskilled labor intensive services sectors. For many decades, there has been very low growth coming from rural sector, while the urban economic growth process has been disappointed in its impact on poverty.

There has been encouraging signs of noticeable change since the beginning of early years of the decade 90s, with urban growth processes starting to have more impact on overall poverty. While that is good trend, India still has a long way to go to assure that its poor people can participate in, and contribute to, the country's growth which the sine-quo-non.

The education and health care of poor persons must have greatest preference if country wants to witness the accelerated poverty reduction, as well as for human development more broadly. That is not there that has been seen historically. The history reveals that in the past the major emphasis has gone to more on education and health of non-poor persons. What is required today is that fixing the public delivery systems to assure better education and health for country's poor persons must be put center stage so that equitable distribution could be possible which the need of hour.

Direct intervention in terms of transfer of cash or kind could play an effective role in the reduction of poverty in the country. There must be balance between promotion and protection in respect of poverty reduction.

## 2.10 Slavery

The globe has 29.8 million people in slavery and India tops the list for nation-wise figures having nearly 14 million slaves which are trapped in different types of slavery (Table 5). This practice has been a crime for nearly years, but the laws against slavery are poorly enforced.

Mauritania comes out worst, with an estimated 4 per cent of the total population enslaved. Most are born into slavery- a deeply rooted practice. Children are owned by the same people who own their parents, to be used or sold (Indian Express, 2013).

Europe slavery rate are the lowest in the world. But most surprising thing is that the UK one of the lowest ranked country in GSI, Survey reckons up to 4,600 people are still slaved. They include trafficked women and people, who are coerced into working in construction gangs (The Economist, 2013).

**Table 5:** Major Countries having largest Slaves in the world in 2013

Name of the Country	Number of Slaves
India	13,956,010
China	2,949,243
Pakistan	2,127,132
Nigeria	701,032
Ethiopia	651,110
Russia	530,121

**Source:** Global Slavery Index (2013)

The shocking figures given in table 5 are released in a recent Global Slavery Index (GSI). The index has taken into account variables/indicators namely- debt bondage, forced marriage, sale or exploitation of children, human trafficking and forced labour across the globe.

The GSI puts India fourth in regard to prevalence of slavery (as a proportion of country's population) (Grono, 2013). Mauritania, Hatti and Pakistan are placed above India as first, second, and third ranking respectively. The most shocking as well as alarming issue is the exploitation of people within the country itself from severe forms of inter-generational bonded labour to child labour to commercial sexual exploitation and forced marriage.

There are 10 nations who are the home of more than 3 quarters trapped in modern slavery. These countries must be focus of global efforts. Many of the India's enslaved have not been moved from one place to another as they are enslaved in their own place either city or village. According to Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP), in the early part of 2013, the number of persons in some sort of forced labour are estimated between 20-65 million; men, women and children mainly in debt bondage to a local land owner ; forced to work in industries (TIP, 2013).

Pakistan has the highest 1,187 person per 100,000 and India comes next to Pakistan, has 1,129 persons per 100,000 people which largest number among 10 ten top enslaved nations (Table 6). China has the lowest figure just 218 per son per 100,000 people.

It is pointed out by the Walk Free Foundation that in coming year 2014, another survey is being undertaken which aims at sharpen the existing data on Slavery. But without more concerted and committed efforts from countries Governments and lawmen, it is unlikely to paint a better and happier picture about the slavery in the world.

**Table 6:** Trends in Number of Slavery people per 1 Lakh Persons in major economies in 2013

Country	Number of Slaves per 100,000 people
Pakistan	1,187
India	1,129
Myanmar	727
Ethiopia	710
Thailand	708
Congo	704
Nigeria	415
Russia	360
China	218

**Source:** Walk Free Foundation; Australia (2013)

The major industries wherein forced labour is very common in India and other nations are brick kilns, rice mills, embroidery factories and agriculture. The TIP Report has further opined many instances wherein women and girls from the northeastern states and Orissa have been sold or coerced into forced marriage in states with low female-to-make gender ratios including Haryana and Punjab, forced them in prostitution.

For instance, in Meghalaya, extraction of coal in private coal mines in the Jaintiya hills region exclusively undertaken by bonded manual labourers who have come to work in the mines from neighboring states to beat acute poverty (NHRC, 2012).<sup>1</sup>

The major and vital reasons for large number of persons caught in slavery in the country are the difficulty in

accessing protections and Government entailments, like the food ration card, corruption or non-performance of safety nets and practices of land grabbing and asset domination by high caste group.

### 3. Conclusion

It is clearly evident from the above analysis; poverty has been declined over the years, but the same has been still persisting despite efforts made out by the Indian Government. India contributes a third of the global poor. China contributes 13 per cent of the global poor. In respect of poverty China is better off than India. What is immediately required that Indian Government must spend on Education and health care. In case of Muslims Gujarat is the second best forming state after West Bengal

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