

Poverty In The Face of Human Development: Are Urban Poor Really Poor?

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Abstract

Poverty has conventionally been defined in economic terms focusing on an individual's or household's available financial capacity, either absolute or relative. The notion of poverty has extended to include vulnerability to risk, lack of voice in society and voicelessness. It is the capability to function in a society which comprises of not only adequate resources like food, clothing and shelter but also access to other needs. Given these key capabilities it is said that lack of these will lead to poverty. The relationship between poverty and other social indicators shows that poverty is multi-dimensional in nature. It is in this context the study objectives are towards understanding the socio-economic profile of the urban slum dwellers, the relationship between productivity and factors determining poverty such as employment, education, etc and implications of poverty for the national policies in the process of aiming to achieve higher human development. The study is based on primary data analysis in the urban slum of Mumbai namely Kherwadi, Maharashtra. The results of the study showed that there is widespread inequality in the distribution and access to various services. Considering that, this paper suggests that the government should provide access to services in an equitable manner atleast to the residents within the same locality; ensure that better access to sanitation, water supply, education and healthcare services are provided. Also the government with the help of voluntary organizations should take initiatives to generate more awareness about various initiatives and programmes among the people.

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