

## CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF POVERTY ERADICATION INITIATIVES OF INDIAN ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM SINCE INDEPENDENCE

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### ABSTRACT

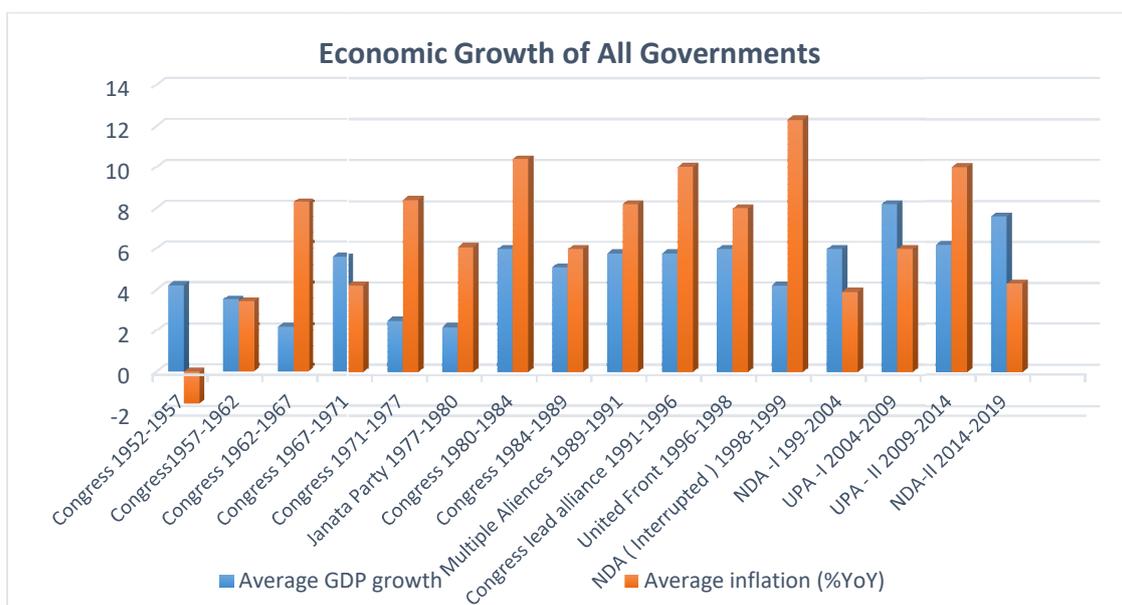
Poverty is a significant issue in India and Indian administrative system since Independence has been trying to overcome poverty. Despite the government implemented different programs in India for the eradication of poverty but poverty still is existing in the country. The researcher analyzed in this paper the causes of failure of Indian Administrative System in poverty eradication. Indian administrative system is focusing on launching schemes and policies for poverty eradication but its implementation and success rate is very low. Along with ensuring the strong implementation of the poverty eradication programmes government should focus on other areas such as the creation of employment opportunities, skill and education infrastructure, population control measures, affordable health infrastructure, etc. Since independence poverty eradication has been the most important aim of the successive governments. Some schemes have been implemented and there is an improvement also but India not yet achieved the targeted employment growth rate and Indian administrative system has failed to make India a poverty-free country.

**Keywords:** *Economic growth, Poverty, Poverty eradication*

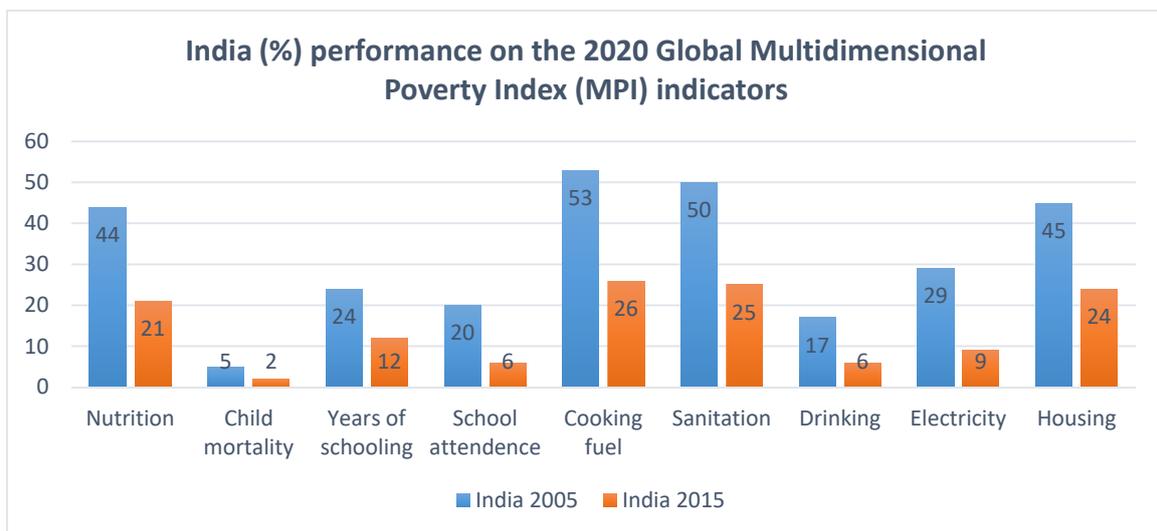
### Introduction

From 1947 Indian administrative system tried to reduce poverty by launching various schemes but these schemes failed to achieve the target because of many issues like economic, social, political, environmental etc. The Indian government has initiated many steps to tackle the issue of poverty the main step in this way is MGNREGA. MGNREGA is the scheme which provides employment guarantee to the poor and it makes them able to

earn some money and live a better life. In 1947 poverty rate was 70% and in 2020 poverty rate is 68.8% since the independent government parties fail to reduce the poverty rate. Poverty eradication is dependent on social, political, ethical, and economic factors. When government provides the basic needs for all people so that they will have access to productive resources, including credit, education, and training, then it is easy to reduce the poverty ratio.



Source: - RBI, CMIE, An Analysis Of Inflation in India 1950-75 by v Pandit, Indian Economic Review 1978, Mint calculations



Source: Poverty eradication in India: Successes and shortcomings of social protection, International Growth Centre

### Causes of Poverty in India

1. **Population Explosion:** Over the last few years, India's population has been growing at a rate of 2.2%, or 17 million people per year.
2. **Low Agricultural Productivity:** Poverty in agriculture is seen in India because of low productivity in the agricultural sector. The main reason for low productivity in agriculture sector is lack of knowledge about new technologies.
3. **Inefficient resource utilization:** In India, having a large number of unemployment is seen especially in the farming sector. Because of the insufficient resource utilization outcome from the agriculture field is low.
4. **Low Rate of Economic Development:** After the independence first 40 years before LPG reforms in India economic development was low.
5. **Price Rise:** Rising the price of any essential product it is also the big burden of economically poor people. Economically weaker sections people are not able to buy this product. Even they are not able to buy basic necessity products.
6. **Unemployment:** Unemployment is the most important cause of Poverty. In India, a large number of people are job seekers because of not enough job opportunities.
7. **Climatic Factors:** Climatic factors like floods, earthquakes are affecting the India's many states and it have impact on poverty.

### Literature Review

Virmani A. (2005) in his research paper titled "Policy Regimes, growth and poverty in India: lessons of Government Failure And Entrepreneurial success" he observed that government tried developing the nation using total expenditure or investment expenditure and also trying to improve the agricultural growth but not getting good results.

Basu R. (2012) in his research paper titled "Understanding the poverty amelioration programmes of the congress: the narratives from the Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi years" he observed that after Independence in Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi years, the poverty amelioration programs initiated by the Congress Party. In three decades, many strategies implemented to eradicate the high level of poverty mainly in rural areas in India.

Kamruzzaman P. (2016) in his research paper titled "A Critical Note on Poverty Eradication Target of Sustainable Development Goals" he observed that to eradicate poverty, government have to focus on socio-political obstacles, unfair economic structure, corruption etc. The researcher has also analyzed the outlines of some potential challenges in achieving the target.

Melkamu M. and Singh N. (2016) in their research paper titled "Poverty Trend in Seven Decades (1951–2011) in India using Semi-log Growth Model Approach" they observed that in India poverty reduction rate is very low. The Development of the economic field is

important to reducing the poverty ratio. To achieve the target of economic growth it is important to implement an effective Strategy. Saini R. (2017) in his research paper titled "The politics of poverty in India" he observed that since Independence India facing many economic problems.

### Research Methodology

The present research is based only on secondary data. The nature of the research design is descriptive. The researcher collected secondary data mainly through articles, journals, websites, newspapers, books etc.

### Objectives of the study

- To study the Poverty eradication initiatives taken by the Indian administration system.
- To study the causes of the failure of the Indian administrative system in poverty eradication
- To analyze the solutions implemented by the Indian administration system for the poverty eradication system

### Secondary Data Analysis

#### Poverty alleviation programs in India since Independence

##### 1. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)

This scheme was launched in 1978-79. This scheme focused on rural areas poor people by giving job opportunities, subsidy, etc. The IRDP programme failed mainly because of its project complexity.

##### 2. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana/Jawahar Gram Samridhhi Yojana

This scheme's main agenda is to reduce unemployment in rural areas and improve the economic condition of rural people. The main reason for JRY failure is institutional and not merely financial which has affected the sustainable development of the country.

##### 3. Rural Housing – Indira Awaas Yojana

This scheme helped rural areas poor people from SC/ ST categories, it provides their families free houses.

Pal said Indira Awas Yojana failed because of deficiency in houses such as concrete Structure, Smokeless Cooking stove, and because of lack of supervision.

##### 4. Food for Work Programme

This scheme helped by giving food through the wage employment. This scheme supplied the food grains free of cost from the food corporation of India.

Food for the work programme failed because of financial irregularities, and overall economic environment in villages.

##### 5. National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS)

The government gave pensions to old people through this scheme. They provide 60-79 age people 200rs per month and 80 years age people 500rs per month. This scheme failed because of its lengthy process.

##### 6. Annapurna:

Annapurna scheme was launched in 1999-2000 to provide food for old age people. Providing the Ten kg of free food per month. The Department of food and public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, The Food and Public Distribution Releases allotment of food grains, but this is failed to provide funds and food grains.

##### 7. Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)

SGRY scheme's main objective is reducing unemployment and improve the quality of life in rural areas people and providing the healthy food for the poor. SGRY failed the main reason is low female participation, and common problems such as ineffective targeting, poor quality asset creation, etc.

##### 8. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 5. (MGNREGA) 2005

Under this scheme central government establish national employment guarantee funds for reducing unemployment. MGNREGA failed because of the low wage rate, insufficient budget, banking puzzle, faulty MIS data, non-payment of unemployment allowance, too much centralization etc.

##### 9. National Rural Livelihood Mission: Ajeevika (2011)

This mission helps rural areas poor people by this scheme providing jobs. Also, they created self-help groups for village area people. This mission failed because of fulfilling its primary objective of improving economic conditions of rural women living under the poverty line. To developing the

village area having difficulties because of lack of guidance and training.

#### 10. National Urban Livelihood Mission

The NULM scheme focuses on forming urban poor groups for these people creating opportunities to develop the skills and helps them to set up self-employment ventures. This mission failed because of a lack of co-ordination in the departments and a non-integrative approach and Also not reaching the beneficiary line.

#### 11. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana

It is focused on the fresh entrant to the labour market and class X and XII dropouts. This yojana failed because of lack of sensitization like linkage, lack of awareness, too many training partners, poor employment linkage, the poor monitoring mechanism, the franchise model.

#### 12. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana

Under this scheme govt is providing subsidies, pension, insurance, etc. The scheme particularly targets the unbanked poor. This yojana failed because of financial irregularities, many people don't have bank accounts, this yojana needs to be kept alive by encouraging the account holders through door-to-door campaign and follow-up.

### **Poverty alleviation initiatives as per government's five-year plan**

Since independence from 1947 to 2020, the Indian economy was based on the concept of planning. The poverty eradication schemes were officially started in 1947 by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and new schemes are still coming up to achieve this objective by the present government. All fourteen Prime Ministers tried to reduce the poverty ratio, but poverty is still existing.

#### 1. 1951 – 1956 first plan

The first plan launched by Jawaharlal Nehru in 1951 -1956. The First, Five-Year Plan focused on the development of the primary sector such as agriculture.

This Plan failed because investment during this plan duration was insufficient to launch new technology in the labour market. In this duration, India Faced many problems related to poverty and unemployment.

#### 2. 1956 – 1961 Second Plan

During this Period economic development help to become a better society. The second year plan adopted various strategies of the government to control the poverty ratio.

This plan failed because creating job opportunities was the main focus of this plan, but this issue is not solved, unemployment was still prevailing.

#### 3. 1961-1966 Third Plan

The third plan was completely failed because of India-Pakistan War and drought. The target growth was 5.6% while the achieved growth was 2.4%.

#### 4. 1966 – 1969 Plan Holidays

The government announced 3 years annual plan because the previous plan is failed this plan aims to continue the unfinished plan in the duration 1966 -69.

This plan is not successful because of a lack of resources and increased inflation.

#### 5. 1969 - 1974 Fourth Plan

This plan was launched by Indira Gandhi. This Plan's Main focus was on growth with stability. In this duration green revolution was started and Govt. also launched family planning related programmes. This plan failed because growth rate was 3.3% and target growth rate was 5.7%.

#### 6. 1974 - 1978 Fifth Plan

Fifth plan was launched under the leadership of D.D. Dhar. It was mainly focused on Garibi Hatao and attainment of self-reliance. This plan focused on rural and urban areas poor people. This plan failed because during these years International economy came into trouble.

#### 7. 1978 – 1990 Rolling Plan

After the fifth plan failed, government announced 1978-1990 is rolling plan, but this plan was not successful because of Janta government rejected this plan and launched the sixth plan. Poverty is not reduced in this duration.

#### 8. 1980 - 1985 Sixth Plan

After the rejected rolling plan sixth plan was launched under the leadership of Indira Gandhi. This plan's main objective was to remove poverty in India and elimination of unemployment, self-sufficiency in technology, improvement in undeveloped areas, raising the lifestyle. This Plan also

didn't attain the goal of poverty eradication.

#### 9. 1985 - 1990 Seventh Plan

This plan was under the leadership of Rajiv Gandhi. It was focused on poverty reduction. Its growth target was 5.0% and it achieved 6.01%. but still because of political instability in India, and problems related to foreign exchange reserves this plan also didn't become successful to remove poverty from the country.

#### 10. 1990 – 1992 Annual plan

After the seventh plan eighth plan wasn't launched because of volatile political situation Govt. launched two-year annual programmes in the period of 1991-1992. This plan failed because of implemented wrong growth strategy and many reasons such as the loss of momentum, the deficiency of execution, lack of alignment, and not enough time to prepare a proper plan.

#### 11. 1992 - 1997 Eighth Plan

Eighth Plan was launched by Narsimharao Govt. This plan was achieved annual growth rate is 6.8% and target growth rate was 5.6%. so, this was a successful a plan but still a large number of unemployment was there in country, at the end of the eight plan unemployed people 350 lakh.

#### 12. 1997 - 2002 Ninth Plan

This plan was under the leadership of Atal Bihari Vajpayee. This plan was focused on Small-Scale sector industries labour development. The plan's thrust areas were agriculture, employment, poverty. The ninth plan failed because of sustainable economic growth not improved because of unemployment and increase in inflation rate.

#### 13. 2002 - 2007 Tenth Plan

This plan was under the leadership of Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh. In this duration poverty rate was reduced by 26-21 %.

#### 14. 2007 - 2012 Eleventh Plan

This plan was launched when Manmohan Singh was prime minister. Eleventh plan failed because the increasing rate of unemployment, less growth in the productive sector, inequality in the

distribution of income and, wealth department.

#### 15. 2012 – 2017 Twelfth Plan

This plan also under the leadership of Manmohan Singh. During this plan, the government intends to reduce poverty by 10%. This plan focus on "Faster, More Inclusive and Sustainable Growth and this plan's growth rate was 8%. The reason the twelfth plan failed because the inadequate growth rate not achieved a target growth rate of the Indian economy and big challenges facing developing the new technology.

#### 16. 2017 – 2022 Thirteenth Plan

Narendra Modi Govt. Planning Commission with Niti Aayog. And the old plan is rejected by the new government and launched new action plan. The thirteenth plan objective was maintaining economic growth, optimizing the industrial structure.

### **Solutions for the poverty eradication system by the Govt.**

To reduce the poverty rate government launched various methods.

#### 1. Agricultural growth and poverty alleviation

Agricultural growth is very helpful in reducing poverty so the government tries to improve agricultural field growth.

#### 2. Accelerating economic growth

The government tried various ways to accelerate economic growth of the country.

#### 3. Accelerating the growth of non-farm employment

The reduction of poverty mainly focuses on rural areas and the growth of non – farm opportunities.

#### 4. Giving access to assets

After 1947 rapidly increased population and deficiency of job opportunities, poverty rate also increased.

#### 5. Giving access to credit

The government gives credit availability to the poor and underprivileged to help their economic condition. Government is providing good quality seeds and fertilizers to the farmers at very low price etc

### Why poverty still exist despite attempts by the government to eradicate it?

1. Lack of ground-level penetration  
These schemes failed to achieve the growth target of poverty eradication because of wrong implementation of this schemes, low awareness about ground reality, failure by lower officials to reach these schemes to people.
2. Corruption  
Because of corruption most of the Indian people are under the poverty line. It is seen because of bribes or kickbacks at Upper levels of Administration. This has created an environment where people are led to believe that to available government benefits, money has to be spent.
3. Lack of technological advancement  
If the government makes good use of technology, it can bring a lot of benefits to the government and make all the work easier and faster. The employment growth rate was not achieved because of lack of good technology.
4. Administrative apathy  
The major reason was the failure of the administrative institution to respond positively to public empathy.

### Conclusion

One of the most challenging issues facing India today is poverty. Every year a large number of India's population pool is increasing. This renders the poverty eradication schemes ineffective. India Facing extreme poverty in rural areas as compared to urban areas. Poverty alleviation programmes failed in the country because of improper implementation of the schemes. There is no systematic method to observe people who are under the poverty line, so Government has to determine their needs, and has to take initiative to overcome their difficulties.

Even after launching many programmes Poverty is not reduced in India and the main reasons are Lack of implementation and right targeting. At the time of launching anti-poverty programmes, it is important to understand the target according to fund availability. Govt should have to take more initiative towards launching schemes only for the below poverty line people. Govt. have to focus that the needy people will get the benefits of the schemes. Along with present schemes Indian administrative system have to launch new and more effective programmes for poverty eradication and with strong strategic implementation

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