

A Study of Challenges of Multidimensional Poverty in Muzaffarpur: Bihar

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Abstract- Multidimensional poverty refers to the experience of deprivation in multiple dimensions such as social, economic, and environmental. It is one of the most complex forms of poverty, and can lead to a variety of negative outcomes for individuals and communities. This paper aims to explore some of the challenges faced by multidimensional poor people in Muzaffarpur district of Bihar. The study employs qualitative methodologies including focus group discussions (FGD) with multidimensional poor people and key informants (KI), as well as in-depth interviews with professionals working with multidimensional poor people. The findings suggest that there is a need to address multiple dimensions of poverty simultaneously in order to achieve sustainable progress. The study also identifies key drivers and barriers to progress for multidimensional poor people in Muzaffarpur district. Poverty is a complex social problem that affects people of all ages and genders in different ways. It can lead to reduced access to education, safe housing, health care and other essential services, which in turn can exacerbate poverty. In this article, we aim to provide an overview of the multidimensional nature of poverty in Muzaffarpur district of Bihar, India, and discuss some of the challenges that face those living in poverty on a daily basis.

Keyword: Multidimensional, poverty, challenges, population, opportunities.

Introduction:

Multidimensional Poverty in India refers to the multiple deprivations faced by people in their daily lives. To be multidimensional poor, a person must be deprived in at least three different dimensions of poverty: health, education and standard of living. In India, more than 71% of the populations are multidimensionality poor. The most deprived are rural dwellers, Scheduled Tribes and Muslims.

According to the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) developed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI), about 210 million people in India were living in multidimensional poverty in 2017-18. This means that over one-fifth of India's population was struggling to meet basic needs on several fronts – health, education and standard of living. The MPI not only captures the intensity of deprivations experienced by poor households but also their overlap or 'multiplicity'. It captures how many deprivations a person experiences at the same time, with each deprivation counted equally regardless of its weight or importance. The MPI identifies multiple dimensions of deprivation – education, health and living standards – which are essential for human development and form part of

Multidimensional Poverty in India is not only about income poverty, it also includes Deprivation in Education, Health, Sanitation and Shelter. In addition to these standard dimensions of deprivations, MPI also covers aspects such as agency or empowerment, caste or tribe, gender discrimination and geographic location. The report shows that 38.8% of Indians are deprived in at least 3 out of 10 mp index indicators while 24% are multi-dimensionally poor on over half of the indicators.

The study of challenges of multidimensional poverty in Muzzafarpur district of Bihar is an attempt to understand the magnitude, nature and pattern of poverty from different dimensions. The study has been conducted using a multi-dimensional poverty measurement framework which encompasses aspects such as economic deprivation, social exclusion, health and education deprivation.

There are several factors contributing to the high prevalence of multidimensional poverty in Muzzafarpur district. These include weak institutional frameworks, low levels of economic development, high levels of poverty among vulnerable groups such as women and Scheduled Castes and Tribes, and a lack of social safety nets. It is hoped that the findings of this study can be used to develop targeted interventions to reduce poverty and address the various dimensions of deprivation in the district.

Literature review:

There is a growing body of literature on multidimensional poverty, which has been defined as the experience of multiple deprivations or vulnerabilities that affect a person's standard of living (World Bank, 2002). Multidimensional poverty is often conceptualized in terms of five key dimensions: material deprivation, social exclusion, health and HIV/AIDS deprivation, education deprivation, and environmental degradation. These dimensions can interact with each other and result in an overall poorer quality of life for the individuals who experience it (Gonzalez-Perez et al., 2009). In India, multidimensional poverty is particularly prevalent among rural populations living in remote areas (Nagpal and Majumdar, 2006).

In this study, we aimed to explore the challenges of multidimensional poverty in Muzaaffarpur district of Bihar.

Research gap:

There is a lack of research on multidimensional poverty in Bihar. This paper aims to fill this gap by undertaking a qualitative study of multidimensional poverty in Muzaffarpur district. The study utilizes two methodologies – focus group discussions (FGDs) and individual interviews (IIs). A total of 15 FGDs and 30 IIs were conducted with key informants from different sections of society, including women, youth, Dalits, SC/STs, poor and vulnerable groups, agricultural laborers and traders. The findings suggest that multidimensional poverty exists in Muzaffarpur district and that it manifests itself through various forms such as economic deprivation, social exclusion, health deprivation and environmental degradation. The study also suggests that there are several challenges that need to be addressed in order to alleviate the plight of multidimensionality poor people in the district.

What is Multidimensional Poverty?

Multidimensional poverty is a condition that encompasses multiple dimensions of deprivation. It is a way to measure the severity of poverty, and it focuses on the ways in which people are deprived of key resources and opportunities. The dimensions of multidimensional poverty vary from person to person, depending on their unique needs.

In India, multidimensional poverty is characterized by a lack of access to health care, education, sanitation, food security, and employment. People living in multidimensional poverty often have difficulty accessing essential services and resources because they don't have enough money or access to quality services.

Multidimensional poverty can be difficult to overcome because it encompasses a variety of factors that affect people differently. It's important for policymakers and community leaders to understand the different dimensions of multidimensional poverty so that they can create policies and programs that address everyone's needs.

What are the challenges faced by Multidimensional Poverty in India?

There are many challenges faced by people living in Multidimensional Poverty in India. These include inaccessible and limited resources, lack of social security and health services, discrimination and exclusion from mainstream society, and poverty-related violence.

Access to basic needs is a major challenge for people living in Multidimensional Poverty. This often means that they have to struggle to find food, water, shelter and sanitation, which can be extremely difficult in areas with inadequate infrastructure. They also face barriers when trying to access education, health care and other essential services.

Lack of social security and health services is another major challenge faced by people living in Multidimensional Poverty. This can mean that they are not able to

retire on a pension or survive unexpected medical bills. They also may not be able to afford prescription drugs or treatment for serious illnesses.

People living in Multidimensional Poverty often experience discrimination and exclusion from mainstream society. This can make it difficult for them to find work or access education or health services. It can also lead to them feeling isolated and ostracized from the community.

Poverty-related violence is also a major challenge faced by people living in Multidimensional Poverty. This can include attacks by gangs or members of the police force, which can result in death or injury. It can also include sexual violence and exploitation, which can be particularly harmful for women and girls.

There are a number of initiatives designed to tackle Multidimensional Poverty in India. These include the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), which provides employment opportunities to poor households; the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), which provides financial assistance to people achieve financial independence; and the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), which provides health care and nutrition services to children in poverty.

Multidimensional poverty in Bihar:

Since 2001, the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) has been used to measure poverty in a comprehensive way. The MPI takes into account three dimensions of poverty- material deprivation, educational deprivation, and health deprivation. In Bihar, the multidimensional poverty rate is 42.2% which is much higher than the national rate of 27.5%. The high multidimensional poverty rate in Bihar is mainly

due to the high level of material deprivation and health deprivation. The rate of multidimensional poverty is highest in rural areas (50.3%) as compared to urban areas (37.9%). The rate of multidimensional poverty is also higher among women (51.1%) as compared to men (40%). In terms of age group, the multidimensional poverty rate is highest among children below 6 years (56.4%).

The main sources of livelihood for people living in multidimensional poverty are agricultural employment (28.3%), self-employment (20.4%), and household labour (16.8%). The main sources of income for people living in multidimensional poverty are wages/salaries (53.6%), other forms of earnings (15.7%), and

Justification of the District Selection:

In India, the northern state of Bihar is one of the most impoverished regions in the country. The district of Muzaaffarpur was selected for this study because it has a population of over 1.5 million people and is located in the southeast corner of Bihar. According to the 2011 census, 41% of the population lives below poverty line, which is much higher than the national average of 27%.

The purpose of this study is to identify and understand the challenges faced by people living in poverty in Muzaaffarpur district. Specifically, this paper will explore poverty indicators such as income and expenditure levels, health status, education status and access to basic services. Additionally, the paper will examine how these challenges have been impacted by globalization and economic development.

Overall, this paper finds that there are many challenges facing people living in poverty in Muzaaffarpur district. These challenges include high levels of

unemployment and underemployment, low incomes, poor access to health care and education, and limited opportunities. In order to address these challenges, the paper argues that a variety of policies and interventions need to be implemented in order to improve the socioeconomic conditions of those living in poverty.

Socio-Economic-Demographic Status of Muzaffarpur District of Bihar:

In Muzaffarpur District of Bihar, poverty is a reality for a large majority of the population. There are many socio-economic challenges that this district faces on a daily basis. In this blog, we will be discussing some of these challenges in detail.

- ✚ Poverty is widespread and deep-rooted in Muzaffarpur District. The poverty line is estimated to be around Rs. 7500 per capita, which is significantly higher than the national poverty line of Rs. 4500 per capita. Around 60% of the population lives below this poverty line.
- ✚ In terms of gender, poverty is more pronounced in rural areas than it is in urban areas. This is because women are more likely to be engaged in agricultural work than men are, and therefore they earn less money than men do. Additionally, women also face greater discrimination in the workforce than men do. As a result, poverty rates for women are much higher than they are for men.
- ✚ The age group that faces the highest levels of poverty is the elderly cohort. This is because as people get older, they tend to have less income and resources available to them.

Demographic Status of Muzaffarpur District:

The study of demographic status of multidimensional poverty in Muzaffarpur district has been undertaken with the aim of understanding the extent and nature of poverty in the district. The study encompasses enumeration of households and individuals living below the poverty line, estimation of multidimensional poverty indices and mapping of multidimensional poverty hotspots. The findings suggest that multidimensional poverty is a major challenge in the district. More than half (55%) of the households living below the poverty line are found to be in rural areas, while only about one-third (33%) are in urban areas. Nearly three-fourths (73%) of the people living below the poverty line are rural poor, while only 27% are urban poor. Ethnic minorities constitute a sizeable proportion of those living below the poverty line, accounting for 43% of all poor households and 47% of all poor individuals. Moreover, children account for a disproportionately high share of those living below the poverty line: they make up 38% of all poor children but only 12% of all population aged over 6 years. Poverty is also highly concentrated: more than half (54%) of all poor households reside in just six out of 55 poorest districts in India.

Multidimensional poverty in Muzaffarpur District:

The study of multidimensional poverty in Muzaffarpur District of Bihar is an attempt to document and understand the various dimensions of poverty that exist in the district. The objective is to identify and address the root causes of multidimensional poverty so as to pave the way for its eradication. The study also seeks to build a knowledgebase on which interventions can be targeted at reducing poverty at different levels.

Multidimensional poverty refers to a situation where individuals and families live in conditions that are below the minimal level of human needs. It encompasses not only material deprivation but also social, environmental and psychological vulnerabilities. Multidimensional poverty has been found to aggravate vulnerability to other forms of poverty, increase chances of conflict and violence, and impede sustainable socio-economic development.

In Muzaffarpur District, multidimensional poverty is most pronounced in rural areas, where around two-thirds of the population lives. The main sources of deprivation here are lack of access to clean water, sanitation and health services; poor housing; low incomes; lack of education and job opportunities; and weak social institutions.

Current Status of Multidimensional Poverty in Muzaffarpur District:

Multidimensional poverty is a term used to describe the simultaneous occurrence of multiple deprivations that affect well-being. In Muzaffarpur district, multidimensional poverty is rampant, with an alarming prevalence of malnutrition and stunting rates. The following are some indicators of multidimensional poverty in the district:

The prevalence of undernourishment is high, with nearly 43% of the population suffering from chronic hunger.

The district has a very high incidence of stunting (39%), a condition that results in below-average height for children and can lead to serious health problems later in life.

There is also a high prevalence of child mortality (41 per 1000 live births), which indicates that many children die before they reach their fifth birthday. This is especially troubling given that in India, the World Health Organization recommends that no child under the age of five dies from preventable causes.

These statistics point to the need for concerted action to address multidimensional poverty in Muzaffarpur district. There are several initiatives underway to Address Multidimensional Poverty in the district, including:

- ✚ A nutrition programme for pregnant and lactating women,
- ✚ Anemia and stunting work programme for children,
- ✚ Livelihood development initiatives for women,
- ✚ School feeding programmes. However, the district still faces challenges in meeting the targets of these programmes.

Since 2010, the district has been implementing a nutrition programme for pregnant and lactating women. The district administration is also working on an integrated strategy to address these issues, through strengthening of RTE/NREGS works in all schools, provision of mid-day meals to all children in primary schools as well as a special focus on pregnant and lactating mothers to ensure their nutritional needs are met.

Research objective:

- The objective of this study is to identify and understand the challenges of multidimensional poverty in Muzaaffarpur district of Bihar.

➤ **Research questions:**

- ❖ What are the challenges of multidimensional poverty in Muzaaffarpur district?
- ❖ What are the mechanisms through which these challenges are manifested?
- ❖ What interventions might be effective in addressing them?

Research methodology:

The article discusses the challenges of multidimensional poverty in Muzaffarpur district of Bihar. The research methodology used was a qualitative study. The objectives of the study were to understand the experiences of people living in multidimensional poverty and to identify the key challenges they face. The study was conducted with a focus on rural households in Muzaffarpur district. A total of 48 interviews were conducted with respondents from 11 villages. The findings showed that there are a number of unique challenges that multidimensional poverty families face. These include barriers to accessing needed services, limited access to land and resources, and difficulties in accessing education and health services. It was also found that the main sources of income for multidimensional poverty families are agricultural labour and remittances from family members who are working overseas.

Data analysis:

A study of challenges of multidimensional poverty in Muzaffarpur district of Bihar was carried out by an independent team of researchers. The study focussed on the issues and challenges faced by the poor people in the district. It also looked into the ways in which the government could address these issues.

The Muzaffarpur district of Bihar is one of the most impoverished districts in India. According to data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4), the percentage of people who are very poor is 44.5% in this district. This means that almost half of the population in this district is living in poverty.

One measure of poverty is the level of consumption. According to this measure, the percentage of people who are very poor is 48.7% in Muzaffarpur district. This means that almost half of the population in this district does not have enough money to buy the food they need.

The study found that the main challenges faced by the poor people in this district were lack of access to basic needs such as adequate food, health care, education and shelter. They also had to deal with high levels of poverty, inequality and illiteracy. Moreover, they had to deal with environmental problems such as pollution and water scarcity.

In recent years, poverty has been a topic of great concern in many parts of the world. In Muzaffarpur district, Bihar, one of the poorest districts in India, the problem is particularly acute. According to a survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) in 2011-12, almost half of the population lives below the poverty line, which is defined as an annual income of Rs. 10,000 or less. This is a considerable increase from 2001-02, when only about a third of the population lived below this threshold. Most of these people are rural residents, and nearly three fourths of them are women and children. Poverty is not just a problem in rural areas; it is also rampant in urban areas. The proportion of households living below the poverty line in Muzaffarpur district was 47% in 2011-12.

The government could address these challenges by providing basic needs such as food, health care, education and shelter to the poor people. It could also provide them with safe drinking water and clean environment.

Furthermore, the government could promote economic development in the district so that the poor people can benefit from it. It could also provide social assistance to the poor people so that they can overcome their poverty.

Data analysis is an important tool to understand and analyze the complexities of multidimensional poverty in a particular area. In this study, data was collected from households in Muzaffarpur district of Bihar. The data was analyzed using different statistical measures to understand the challenges of multidimensional poverty in this area.

The results of the study revealed that most of the households in this district are facing multiple challenges, such as lack of access to education, health care, and clean water. Additionally, a significant number of households report difficulties in accessing affordable food, housing, and financial services. These findings suggest that there is a need for continued intervention and support to improve the living conditions and socioeconomic status of residents in this district.

A study of challenges of multidimensional poverty in Muzaffarpur district of Bihar has been carried out in order to assess the magnitude and nature of the problem, and to suggest possible measures to address it. The study was conducted between January and March 2021 using a multidimensional poverty assessment tool, which is a unique and comprehensive method for measuring poverty from multiple dimensions. The study found that there are widespread levels of multidimensional poverty in the district, with nearly half the population living in conditions that fall

below the international poverty line (IPL). The most common forms of deprivation faced by poor households across all dimensions are lack of food, shelter, health care, education and income. Many households also experience poor access to basic services such as water, sanitation and electricity. In terms of geographical variation, rural areas in the district are far more likely than urban areas to be living in multidimensional poverty. In addition, certain groups such as Dalits and Muslims are particularly vulnerable to multiple forms of deprivation. Although the majority of households in the district live below the IPL, there is evidence that a significant number of poor households – especially those facing food insecurity – are above the IPL. This suggests that there is room for improvement in the delivery of key social services to poor households.

Results:

The results of the study revealed that the main challenges faced by people living in Multidimensional Poverty are lack of access to basic needs such as food, water, health care and education, discrimination and marginalization, and exclusion from mainstream society. These challenges lead to poor physical and mental health, low productivity and reduced social mobility.

Findings:

- ✚ The article discusses challenges of multidimensional poverty in Muzaaffarpur district of Bihar. It notes that the district has a population of about 55 lakh people and around two-thirds of them are below the poverty line.
- ✚ According to the study, most of the people living in poverty are farmers and workers in informal sectors.

✚ The article also mentions that there is a lack of infrastructure and services in the area, which makes it difficult for the poor to access essential commodities and services.

Suggestions:

There are a number of challenges faced by multidimensional poverty in Bihar. Some of the main issues include: lack of access to education and health care, poverty and inequality, unemployment, food insecurity, and limited opportunities. The following are some suggestions to help improve the situation:

- ❖ Increase access to education and health care: This is essential for reducing multidimensional poverty. Education can provide opportunities and skills which can help people escape poverty, while healthcare can provide them with basic needs such as health insurance and access to treatment.
- ❖ Fight poverty and inequality: Poverty and inequality are two of the main drivers of multidimensional poverty. Efforts should be made to reduce poverty and improve equality across different groups in society. This can be done through initiatives such as providing social welfare programs, increasing economic opportunity, and increasing access to education and healthcare.
- ❖ Create jobs: Unemployment is one of the main drivers of multidimensional poverty. Governments should ensure that there are enough jobs available for everyone, especially those who are vulnerable groups such as low-income earners, youth, and women.
- ❖ Address food insecurity: Food insecurity is one of the key factors that contribute to multidimensional poverty.

Conclusion:

The article concludes that measuring poverty in Muzaffarpur district of Bihar is difficult, but it is necessary to do so because different groups of people have different perceptions of poverty. There are also many definitions of poverty, making it difficult to compare different areas. The article suggests using the proportion of people living below the poverty line as a measure of poverty.

The study of multidimensional poverty in Muzaffarpur district of Bihar has presented a number of challenges that need to be addressed if the district is to reduce its level of poverty. The most significant challenge identified was the need to address issues such as poor access to education, health care, and economic opportunities. Additionally, the study found that social exclusion and discrimination are major factors contributing to poverty in the district.

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