



- ❑ Across 101 countries, 1.3 billion people (23.1%) are multidimensionally poor and two-thirds of multidimensionally poor people live in middle-income countries.
- ❑ In African countries such as Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Niger and South Sudan 90% or more children (under the age of 10) are multidimensionally poor.
- ❑ In South Asia 22.7% of children under age 5 experience intra-household inequality in deprivation in nutrition (where at least one child in the household is malnourished and at least one child in the household is not).
- ❑ There is wide variation across countries in inequality among multidimensionally poor people – that is, in the intensity of poverty experienced by each poor person.
- ❑ For example, Egypt and Paraguay have similar MPI values, but inequality among multidimensionally poor people is considerably higher in Paraguay.
- ❑ Ten countries viz. Bangladesh, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru and Vietnam have shown significant progress towards achieving SDG 1 i.e ending poverty in all its forms. Notably, India and Cambodia reduced their MPI values the fastest.

Poverty in India

Presently, in India, a person earning below or equal ₹ 27 in rural areas and ₹ 33 in urban areas is considered under poverty.

Causes

- ❑ **Unemployment:** Due to increasing unemployment, poverty has taken a more serious form. For example, the number of unemployed in the country at the beginning of the first plan was 35 million, which is around 31 million in 2017, according to a report published by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), a think-tank that tracks business and economic data.
- ❑ **Underemployment:** It is the cause as well as the result of poverty. Poverty has resulted in underemployment because of lack of education, where people do the jobs less than their ability and capacity.
- ❑ **Jobless Economic Growth:** The growth of Indian Economy has been jobless. Since 1990's, Indian economic growth is mainly based on manufacturing and services sector. The use of efficient technology in these sectors resulted in low levels of employment opportunity creation.
- ❑ The low level of economic growth in primary sector curtailed job opportunities at rural level. Thus, it resulted in jobless growth. Rapid growth of population enhanced this problem.
- ❑ **Dependency on Agriculture:** Too much dependency on agriculture (about 60%) of our working population depends on agriculture directly or indirectly. But the pressure on land has increased so much that productivity of land has decreased over time.
- ❑ **Political Causes:** The Zamindari system inherited from the colonial legacy started in the country exploited the farmers completely. Their agricultural policies gave birth to landless farmers and their exploitation. Poverty also increased their exploitation. This has resulted in large inequalities in the ownership of earning assets such as land, buildings, industry etc.
- ❑ **Inflation:** In India, inflation has taken an alarming shape. Due to this, people are unable to fulfil the basic requirements of their families. The income earned by the poor people is insufficient to buy them the basic necessities of life and get them even two meals a day. Due to the lack of nutrition they are unable to do any physical work and hence they remain poor. The prices of basic food items are so high due to high rate of inflation that the little income earned by them is just insufficient.

