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THE INCIDENCE OF POVERTY AND INEQUALITY IN INDIA: AN EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

In this paper an attempt is made to find out the causes for poverty and inequality in the context of resource allocation. Conceptually poverty is different from inequality. At the same time inequality indirectly affects the size of poverty. Poverty measures head count ratio of people those who live below poverty line. On the other side inequality is focused to find out the gap between rich and poor in the distribution of resources, across the whole population. In this study, Indian states are classified as least developed states, less developed states and relatively developed states. The empirical findings show that the percentage of poor is more in the least developed states than the relatively developed states and less developed states and also within the states the percentage of poor is more in rural areas than the urban areas. Whereas inequality shows a different picture that it is more in urban areas than rural areas and also it is slightly more in least developed states than the relatively and less developed states. The regressions result show that in rural areas the causes for poverty are influenced by dependency ratio, unemployment, share of employment in agricultural sector and percentage of SC and ST population. The causes for inequality are closely associated with causes of poverty thereby it is directly influenced by factors like percentage of poor class, dependency ratio, household size and unemployment rate. At the same time the influencing factors of poverty in urban areas are unemployment rate, per capita income and share of employment in manufacturing, non-manufacturing and service sectors. The urban inequality is closely associated with percentage of poor, literacy rate, per capita income and the share of employment in manufacturing, non-manufacturing and service sector.

KEYWORDS

poverty, inequality, resource allocation.

INTRODUCTION

It has been observed that there is a substantial reduction in extreme poverty level over the past quarter century. However, it disguises large regional differences. The greatest reduction in poverty occurred in East Asia and Pacific, where the poverty rate had declined from 78 percent in 1981 to 17 percent in 2005 and the number of people living on less than 1.25 dollar a day has dropped to more than 750 million. Much decline was in China, where the poverty level fell from 84 percent to 16 percent, leaving 620 million people in poverty. But the number of people living on less than \$2 a day has remained nearly constant at 2.5 billion. The largest decrease both in number and in proportion, occurred in East Asia and Pacific, led by China. Elsewhere the number of people living on less than 2 dollar a day increased and the number of people living between 1.25 dollar and 2 dollar a day nearly doubled to 1.2 billion (World Development Indicators 2011: 65). According to the World Bank's revised global poverty line, previously pegged at \$1.25 a day to \$1.90 a day (approximately Rs. 130) estimate for 2012, shows that 12.8 percent i.e. 900 million live in extreme poverty.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Andres and Daniel (2015) in their study of "Addressing Poverty and Inequality in the Rural Economy from a Global Perspective", shows that the structural changes in developing and emerging economies are more mainstream. Therefore, this leads to increase in rural-urban disparities and exacerbate the incidence of poverty in rural areas. Facundo, and Leonardo (2015), in their study of 'Recent Trends in Inequality and Poverty in Developing Countries', show that average levels of national income inequality in the developing countries increased in the 1980s and 1990s and declined in 2000s. Particularly in China there has been a remarkable fall in poverty since the early 1980s. In 2000s, the overall improvement in living standards were also identified in all the regions of developing world. Gordon, Alessio, Maria, Roberto (2016) in their study of "A new approach to measuring and studying the characteristics of class membership: Examining poverty, inequality and polarization in urban China", reveal that the different income groups viz., poor class, middle class, upper middle class and rich class are related to household and regional characteristics. Unal and Yener (2016), in their study of "Does Financial Development reduce income inequality and Poverty? Evidence from Emerging Countries", identified that mere financial development promotes economic growth but failed to reduce poverty. Samarjit, Gouranga and Tushar (2010), in their study, "Regional Convergence of Growth, Inequality and Poverty in India- An Empirical Study", identified that there is regional convergence of per capita consumption, inequality and poverty across various states in India. Inequality and poverty indicators converge at both rural and urban levels. Further, per capita consumption converges at urban level but not at rural level. Furthermore, they found that two groups of states for rural sectors, viz., low-growth and high-growth states, for each of which per capita consumption converges. Arnab, Anindya, Asim, Anirban and Tushar (2016), in their study, "Invariant features of spatial inequality in consumption: The case of India", identified that inequality and growth are positively correlated in accordance with Kuznets' law.

The above literature reviewed shows that poverty and inequality are characteristics of developing countries. The structural changes would bring economic growth and eradication of poverty but not effectively removal of inequality. The present study aims to study the following objectives viz.,

1. To measure incidence of poverty and inequality in the distribution of MPCE among the states of India for both rural and urban area.
2. To study the distribution pattern of MPCE between rural and urban areas among the states of India.
3. To trace out the determining factors of poverty and inequality among the states of India both in rural and urban area.

METHODOLOGY

Poverty is both related and, is also different from inequality. Poverty can be studied in absolute or relative terms. In this study poverty is discussed in absolute terms. Poverty is defined as a percentage of people deprived in a society, in which they are not able to meet their minimum requirement for their wellbeing. Poverty measures head count ratio of people those who live below poverty line. On the other side inequality focuses the distribution of resources, across the whole population. Inequality is a broader concept than poverty. Inequality indicates the welfare of the individuals on the basis of economic position in a society related to others in the same society i.e. it indicates the gap between rich and poor. In the present study, poverty or population Below Poverty Line (BPL) is defined as those people who are not able to obtain 2400 calories for rural areas and 2100 calories for urban areas. The required nutritional level is estimated on the basis of Monthly Per capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) for all major states of India based on National Sample Survey Organisation's (NSSOs) 68th Round (2011-2012) 'Household Consumer Expenditure in India'. On the other side, inequalities in the distributions of resource (MPCE) are measured with the help of Lorenz curve and gini coefficient ratio. In order to measure inequality, the twelve MPCE classes of NSSOs Household Consumer Expenditure is grouped as four classes viz.,

Expenditure Class	MPCE (RS)	MPCE (RS)
	Rural	Urban
Poor class	< 825	<1090
Middle Class	825 – 1335	1090- 2070
Upper middle Class	1335- 2625	2070-6015
Upper Class	> 2625	> 6015

The poor class are referring to people whose expenditure falls below the poverty line. Thus, the poor class is grouped on the basis of Planning Commission's all India poverty line of rural Rs. 816 for rural area and Rs. 1000 for urban area for 2011-12. For analysis purpose, the all India poverty line of rural and urban areas are rounded based on NSSO's MPCE classes of rural as Rs.816 as Rs.825 and urban Rs.1000 as Rs. 1090.

SOURCES OF DATA

This study is based on published NSSOs 68th round survey data and other secondary sources. The scope of this study has been confined to the analytical to find out the major causes for poverty and inequality within 15 major states of the country in respect to some key parameters. Firstly, the 15 major states have intrinsic value on their socio-economic development. And secondly, the remaining 13 other minor states, the new states and union territories are not included in the detailed analysis mainly due to their special characteristic. To find out the determinants of poverty and inequality household size, dependency ratio, proportion of expenditure for personal care and development (which includes expenditure on clothes and bedding, footwear, education, medical (includes both medical institutional and medical non-institutional), entertainment and toilet articles), percentage of unemployment and literacy rate. And the share of employment in agriculture and share of employment in manufacturing, non-manufacturing and service sector are also correlated with both poverty and inequality separately for rural and urban areas. Besides, percentage of poor also correlated with inequality to find out the relation in both rural and urban areas. Among these the best fitted variables have been taken for analysis by using multiple linear regression analysis. The gini coefficient ratio is also applied to find out inequality among the states in the distribution of MPCE.

In this study, Indian states are classified as least developed states or underdeveloped states, less developed states or developing states and relatively developed states or developed states based on the Raghuram Rajan Committee Report of 2013.

TRENDS IN THE OFFICIAL ESTIMATION OF POVERTY AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN INDIA

India is one of the largest and fastest developing economies in the world. However, rapid economic growth has not been evenly distributed which results inequality and regional disparities in removal of poverty. Table 1 shows the trends in the official estimates of poverty and GDP per capita growth for 1973-74 to 2011-12.

An Expert Group on 'Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor' was constituted under the Chairmanship of Professor D.T. Lakdawala, former Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission, to look into the methodology for estimation of poverty and re-define the poverty line. The Government of India accepted the recommendations of the Expert Group with minor modifications in 1997. The poverty estimates from 1973-74 to 2004-05 based on the methodology of Lakdawala Committee. And, in 2005 an expert Group headed by Professor Suresh D. Tendulkar was constituted to review the methodology for official estimation of poverty and recommend changes Lakdawala committee methodology. Based on this committee recommendations, the all - India HCR for both the rural and urban areas for the years 1993-94, 2004-05 and 2009-10. Thus, the percentage of poor estimated by using both the methodology are given in table 1 (Report of Perspective Planning Division, 2012:9).

TABLE 1: PERCENTAGE OF POOR BASED ON THE METHODOLOGY RECOMMENDED BY LAKDAWALA COMMITTEE AND TENDULKAR COMMITTEE

GDP PERCAPITA AT CONSTANT PRICE IN RS. (2004-05)				
Year	Poverty Ratio (%)			GDP PerCapita at constant price in Rs. (2004-05)
	Rural	Urban	Total	
Percentage of Poor based on Lakdawala Committee methodology				
1973-74	56.4	49.0	54.9	1071
1977-78	53.1	45.2	51.3	1175
1983	45.7	40.8	44.5	1226
1987-88	39.1	38.2	38.9	1390
1993-94	37.3	32.4	36.0	1707
2004-05	28.3	25.7	27.5	2729
Percentage of Poor based on Tendulkar Committee methodology				
1993-94	50.1	31.8	45.3	1707
2004-05	41.8	25.7	37.2	2729
2009-10	33.8	20.9	29.8	3860
2011-12	25.7	13.7	21.9	4366

Source: Tendulkar Committee Report and Press Note, Planning Commission

During 1973-74 about 55 percent of people were below poverty line. Out of this, about 56.4 percent are in rural areas and 49 percent are in urban areas. From table 1, it is observed that the percentage of people below poverty line is more in rural India than the Urban India. However, over the years it shows a declining trend for both rural and urban areas except for the year 2004-05 in rural areas.

The change in methodology leads to change in the percentage of people below poverty line. According to Tendulkar methodology the percentage of people below poverty line for rural and urban were 41.8 percent and 25.7 percent and 37.2 percent for the country as a whole in 2004-05. It was 50.1 percent in rural areas, 31.8 percent in urban areas and 45.3 percent for the country as a whole in 1993-9. In 2011-12, these has been reduced to 25.7 percent, 13.7 percent and 21.9 percent for rural, urban and all India level. This shows that continuous rise in GDP per capita income is the result of increase in real MPCE from 2004-05 to 2011-12 as compared to 1993-94 to 2004-05.

TABLE 2: OFFICIAL ESTIMATES OF POPULATION BELOW POVERTY LINE BY STATES FOR 2004-05 AND 2011-12

Sl.No	States	2004-05			2011-12		
		Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	32.3	23.4	29.6	10.96	5.81	9.20
2.	Assam	36.4	21.8	34.4	33.89	20.49	31.98
3.	Bihar	55.7	43.7	54.4	34.89	20.49	33.74
4.	Gujarat	39.1	20.1	31.6	21.54	10.14	16.63
5.	Haryana	24.8	22.4	24.1	11.64	10.28	11.16
6.	Karnataka	37.5	25.9	33.3	24.53	15.25	20.91
7.	Kerala	20.2	18.4	19.6	9.14	4.97	7.05
8.	Madhya Pradesh	53.6	35.1	48.6	35.74	21.00	31.65
9.	Maharashtra	47.9	25.6	38.2	24.22	9.12	17.35
10.	Odisha	60.8	37.6	57.2	35.69	17.29	32.59
11.	Punjab	22.1	18.7	20.9	7.66	9.24	8.26
12.	Rajasthan	35.8	29.7	34.4	16.05	10.69	14.71
13.	Tamil Nadu	37.5	19.7	29.4	15.83	6.54	11.28
14.	Uttar Pradesh	42.7	34.1	40.9	30.40	26.06	29.43
15.	West Bengal	38.2	24.4	34.2	22.52	14.66	19.98
	All India	41.8	25.7	37.2	25.70	13.70	21.92

Source: Press Note on Poverty Estimates of 2011-12 published by Government of India, Planning Commission, July 2013, pp.7

Table 2 gives the share of individual states in total count of those below the poverty line for 2004-05 and 2011-12. It is observed that in 2004-05 about 37.2 percent of people were below poverty line. Out of this, nearly 42 percent and around 26 percent of the poor are in rural and urban area respectively. According to state-wise distribution the highest percentage of people BPL was in Odisha (57.2 percent), followed by Bihar (54.4 percent), Madhya Pradesh (48.6 percent), Uttar Pradesh (40.9 percent) and Maharashtra (38.2 percent). Table 2 shows that based on the sector-wise distribution. The highest percentage of people BPL was found in rural areas than the in urban areas. The official estimates of poverty for 2011-12 shows that Odisha (32.59 percent) was placed in second place i.e. next to Bihar (33.74 percent) followed by Assam (31.98 percent), Madhya Pradesh (31.65 percent), Uttar Pradesh (29.43 percent) and West Bengal (29.40 Percent). On the other hand the lowest percentage of population, BPL was observed in the states of Kerala (19.6), Punjab (20.9) and Haryana (24.1) for 2004-05 and Kerala (7.05), Punjab (8.26), Haryana (11.16) and Tamil Nadu (11.28) for 2011-12.

PATTERN OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES

Welfare, living standards, poverty and inequality all are characteristics of individuals which are determined by the social, demographic and economic development of the state. The allocation of resources among individuals is a matter because education, health status and characteristics of population are strongly linked to well-being, economic efficiency and economic growth. These are unavoidable to reduce poverty and of inequality. Low level of education attainment and poor health and nutrition aggravate poor living conditions and reduce an individual's capacity to work productively. Such economic inefficiency represents a significant loss to society and hampers the future economic growth. Therefore per capita consumption expenditure on food and non-food items between the Indian states and among the rural and urban area provide a meaningful understanding of economic condition of the individual at large. Table 3 and table 4 revealed the average MPCE and its distribution on food and non-food for both rural and urban areas among the least developed, less developed and relatively developed states. The specified non-food expenditure of clothing and bedding, foot wear, medical (both institutional and non-institutional), entertainment and toilet articles are taken as important for individual's personal care and development. The interstate analysis of poverty and inequality is also helpful to understand the development policies of states.

TABLE 3: THE AVERAGE MPCE AND ITS DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD AND NON-FOOD EXPENDITURE AMONG THE MAJOR STATES OF INDIA: RURAL SECTOR (BASED ON MRP)

States	Food	Total Personal Expenditure							Other non- food exp	Total non- food	MPCE
		Clothing Bedding	Foot Wear	Education	Medical	Entertainment	toilet articles	Total			
Least Developed States											
Assam	597.5 (56.56)	103.59 (9.81)	69.12 (6.54)	20.96 (1.92)	29.05 (2.75)	12.21 (1.16)	23.59 (2.23)	286.90 (27.31)	123.75 (11.71)	459.48 (43.49)	1056.41 (100)
Bihar	524.98 (54.10)	74.56 (7.68)	10.24 (1.06)	10.24 (1.06)	53.91 (5.56)	6.91 (0.71)	21.99 (2.27)	231.76 (23.88)	213.68 (22.02)	445.44 (45.90)	970.41 (100)
Madhya Pradesh	498.24 (48.65)	66.91 (6.53)	13.09 (1.28)	13.09 (1.28)	65.97 (6.44)	8.15 (0.80)	27.17 (2.65)	260.35 (25.42)	265.55 (25.93)	525.9 (51.35)	1024.14 (100)
Odisha	470.3 (51.98)	67.08 (7.41)	7.79 (0.86)	7.79 (0.86)	59.61 (6.59)	8.88 (0.98)	22.4 (2.48)	233.16 (25.77)	201.33 (22.25)	434.49 (48.02)	904.78 (100)
Rajasthan	689.68 (47.70)	96.55 (6.68)	20.43 (1.41)	20.43 (1.41)	91.15 (6.30)	10.28 (0.71)	31.7 (2.19)	361.69 (25.02)	394.37 (27.28)	756.06 (52.30)	1445.74 (100)
Uttar Pradesh	530.52 (49.45)	73.31 (6.83)	12.51 (1.17)	12.51 (1.17)	104.51 (9.74)	5.85 (0.55)	23.43 (2.18)	336.63 (31.37)	205.78 (19.18)	542.41 (50.55)	1072.93 (100)
Average	551.87	74.59	12.41	34.64	67.37	8.71	25.05	222.76	304.53	527.30	1079.16
percentage	(51.14)	(6.91)	(1.15)	(3.21)	(6.24)	(0.81)	(2.32)	(20.64)	(28.22)	(48.86)	(100)
Less Developed States											
Andhra Pradesh	717.1 (45.85)	112.12 (7.17)	104.43 (6.68)	14.69 (0.94)	95.15 (6.08)	28.17 (1.80)	47.05 (3.01)	496.76 (31.76)	349.35 (22.34)	846.11 (54.10)	1563.98 (100)
Gujarat	713.67 (49.90)	82.56 (5.77)	15.65 (1.09)	15.65 (1.09)	85.24 (5.96)	20.6 (1.44)	31.39 (2.19)	336.33 (23.52)	380.11 (26.58)	716.44 (50.10)	1430.12 (100)
Karnataka	634.98 (45.52)	87.57 (6.28)	15.98 (1.15)	15.98 (1.15)	90.65 (6.50)	21.09 (1.51)	34.27 (2.46)	356.19 (25.53)	403.93 (28.95)	760.12 (54.48)	1395.1 (100)
West Bengal	639.92 (54.69)	75.11 (6.42)	9.29 (0.79)	9.29 (0.79)	93.49 (7.99)	10 (0.85)	26.86 (2.30)	317.53 (27.14)	212.88 (18.19)	530.41 (45.33)	1170.11 (100)
	676.42	87.42	13.90	46.28	100.63	19.97	34.89	303.08	410.19	713.27	1389.64
	(48.68)	(6.29)	(1.00)	(3.33)	(7.24)	(1.44)	(2.51)	(21.81)	(29.52)	(51.33)	(100)
Relatively Developed States											
Haryana	960.12 (49.85)	143.59 (7.46)	31.78 (1.65)	31.78 (1.65)	93.02 (4.83)	20.75 (1.08)	41.22 (2.14)	455.16 (23.63)	510.29 (26.50)	965.45 (50.13)	1925.96 (100)
Kerala	889.11 (37.75)	133.83 (5.68)	21.4 (0.91)	21.98 (0.93)	242.89 (10.31)	38.51 (1.63)	42.65 (1.81)	744.15 (31.59)	722.27 (30.66)	1466.42 (62.25)	2355.53 (100)
Maharashtra	671.13 (46.42)	101.68 (7.03)	17.23 (1.19)	17.23 (1.19)	124.79 (8.63)	16.83 (1.16)	37.98 (2.63)	440.53 (30.47)	334.24 (23.12)	774.77 (53.58)	1445.89 (100)
Punjab	894.22 (41.86)	139.73 (6.54)	30.92 (1.45)	30.92 (1.45)	197.71 (9.25)	21.94 (1.03)	47.69 (2.23)	666.62 (31.20)	575.56 (26.94)	1242.18 (58.14)	2136.39 (100)
Tamil Nadu	693.77 (44.17)	88.74 (5.65)	11.56 (0.74)	11.56 (0.74)	125.37 (7.98)	30.15 (1.92)	42.83 (2.73)	435.58 (27.73)	441.26 (28.09)	876.84 (55.83)	1570.61 (100)
	821.67	121.51	22.58	98.66	156.76	25.64	42.47	467.61	597.52	1065.13	1886.88
	(43.55)	(6.44)	(1.20)	(5.23)	(8.31)	(1.36)	(2.25)	(24.78)	(31.67)	(56.45)	(100)
India	621.96 (48.32)	86.78 (6.74)	14.7 (1.14)	14.7 (1.14)	94.83 (7.37)	14.24 (1.11)	30.67 (2.38)	350.75 (27.25)	314.46 (24.43)	665.21 (51.68)	1287.17 (100)

Source: Compiled from the Key Indicators of Household Consumer Expenditure in India, NSS 68th round, June 2011- July 2012, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, published in June 2013.

Table 3 shows that the average MPCE for an individual at national level is Rs.1287.17 in rural area. Out of this, about 48 percent (Rs.622) and 52 percent (Rs.665) spent on food and non-food items. When comparing the MPCE with the national level average, Rs. 1079.16 was the MPCE of least developed states. Out of this, major proportion spent on food items i.e. 51 percent (Rs. 552) and only 49 percent (Rs.527.30) spent on non-food items. The least developed states of Assam (56.56 %), Bihar (54.10 %), Odisha (52%), Uttar Pradesh (49 %) and Madhya Pradesh (49 %) allocate their major portions of MPCE on food items. Whereas in most

of the relatively developed states like Kerala (62 %), Punjab (58 %), and Tamil Nadu (56 %) spend largest percentage of MPCE on non-food items. Their average MPCE on personal care and development particularly on clothing and bedding is Rs. 75, followed by health Rs.67, education Rs. 35 and toilet articles Rs.25 are low when compared with the national level average of Rs.87, Rs.95, Rs. 15 and Rs.31.

Poverty line defines the level of consumption which is needed to meet both food and non-food requirements for an individual to escape from poverty. Every families/individual allocates a proportion of resources on both food and non-food items. But the proportion may vary between the state and between the rural and urban based on their development. Table 3 reveals that in rural area of developed states per capita investment on personal care and development is more and their percentage of allocation from total MPCE is also less when compared with the underdeveloped states and least developed states.

TABLE 4: THE AVERAGE MPCE AND ITS DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD, PERSONAL CARE AND DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER NON-FOOD EXPENDITURE AMONG THE MAJOR STATES OF INDIA: URBAN SECTOR (BASED ON MRP)

States	Expenditure on Food	Clothing bedding	Foot-wear	Educa-tion	Medical	Entertain-ment	toilet arti-cle	Total	Other non-food Ex-penditure	Total non-food expendi-ture	MPCE
Least Developed States											
Assam	880.67 (42.13)	117.33 (5.61)	22.05 (1.05)	133.38 (6.38)	82.69 (3.96)	44.81 (2.14)	50.14 (2.40)	533.09 (25.50)	676.43 (32.36)	1209.52 (57.87)	2090.19 (100)
Bihar	634.66 (45.44)	100.44 (7.19)	16.37 (1.17)	119.77 (8.58)	65.86 (4.72)	15.85 (1.13)	29.59 (2.12)	413.74 (29.62)	348.25 (24.93)	761.99 (54.56)	1396.65 (100)
Madhya Pra-desh	693.06 (37.62)	103.41 (5.61)	21.52 (1.17)	152.3 (8.27)	94.42 (5.12)	35.87 (1.95)	47.2 (2.56)	549.14 (29.81)	600.16 (32.58)	1149.3 (62.38)	1842.36 (100)
Odisha	718.65 (39.26)	114.74 (6.27)	16.53 (0.90)	110.21 (6.02)	124.8 (6.82)	30.73 (1.68)	35.44 (1.94)	557.25 (30.44)	554.45 (30.29)	1111.7 (60.74)	1830.35 (100)
Rajasthan	878.47 (39.80)	141.9 (6.43)	31.18 (1.41)	227.53 (10.31)	106.97 (4.85)	31.86 (1.44)	50.51 (2.29)	696.92 (31.58)	631.55 (28.62)	1328.47 (60.20)	2206.94 (100)
Uttar Pra-desh	758.97 (39.08)	121.68 (6.26)	23.02 (1.19)	165.1 (8.50)	134.01 (6.90)	28.27 (1.46)	41.35 (2.13)	647.44 (33.33)	535.84 (27.59)	1183.28 (60.92)	1942.25 (100)
Average	760.75 (40.36)	116.58 (6.19)	21.78 (1.16)	151.38 (8.03)	101.46 (5.38)	31.23 (1.66)	42.37 (2.25)	566.26 (30.04)	557.78 (29.59)	1124.04 (59.64)	1884.79 (100)
Less Developed States											
Andhra	939.05 (36.69)	158.78 (6.20)	26.75 (1.05)	200.28 (7.83)	150.52 (5.88)	50.71 (1.98)	65.02 (2.54)	802.58 (31.36)	817.69 (31.95)	1620.27 (63.31)	2559.32 (100)
Pradesh	1016.34 (41.11)	136.98 (5.54)	25.35 (1.03)	145.22 (5.87)	124.4 (5.03)	51.76 (2.09)	54.52 (2.21)	662.63 (26.80)	793.52 (32.09)	1456.15 (58.89)	2472.49 (100)
Gujarat	926.29 (31.95)	149.05 (5.14)	29.81 (1.03)	212.04 (7.31)	151.54 (5.23)	59.99 (2.07)	67.87 (2.34)	821.84 (28.35)	1150.8 (39.70)	1972.64 (68.05)	2898.93 (100)
Karnataka	989.16 (39.73)	149.9 (6.02)	21.08 (0.85)	193.59 (7.78)	211.35 (8.49)	36.09 (1.45)	53.4 (2.14)	876.76 (35.21)	623.98 (25.06)	1500.74 (60.27)	2489.9 (100)
West Bengal	967.71 (37.15)	148.68 (5.71)	25.75 (0.99)	187.78 (7.21)	159.45 (6.12)	49.64 (1.91)	60.20 (2.31)	790.95 (30.36)	846.50 (32.49)	1637.45 (62.85)	2605.16 (100)
Average	967.71 (37.15)	148.68 (5.71)	25.75 (0.99)	187.78 (7.21)	159.45 (6.12)	49.64 (1.91)	60.20 (2.31)	790.95 (30.36)	846.50 (32.49)	1637.45 (62.85)	2605.16 (100)
Relatively Developed States											
Haryana	1146.45 (34.26)	201.33 (6.02)	49.32 (1.47)	327.34 (9.78)	140.63 (4.20)	56.8 (1.70)	67.25 (2.01)	983.3 (29.38)	1216.57 (36.36)	2199.87 (65.74)	3346.32 (100)
Kerala	1033.49 (33.95)	180.18 (5.92)	28.46 (0.93)	208.46 (6.85)	269.31 (8.85)	43.77 (1.44)	53.3 (1.75)	1052.79 (34.58)	958 (31.47)	2010.79 (66.05)	3044.28 (100)
Maharashtra	1057.82 (36.02)	162.67 (5.54)	32.4 (1.10)	225.18 (7.67)	199.58 (6.80)	54.45 (1.85)	72.2 (2.46)	946.06 (32.21)	933.19 (31.77)	1879.25 (63.98)	2937.07 (100)
Punjab	991.97 (36.16)	165.71 (6.04)	36.94 (1.35)	254.03 (9.26)	181.11 (6.60)	40.99 (1.49)	61.3 (2.23)	921.19 (33.58)	829.92 (30.26)	1751.11 (63.84)	2743.08 (100)
Tamil Nadu	919.27 (36.27)	124.37 (4.91)	19.07 (0.75)	182.72 (7.21)	159.5 (6.29)	44.26 (1.75)	58.47 (2.31)	747.89 (29.51)	867.17 (34.22)	1615.06 (63.73)	2534.32 (100)
Average	1029.8 (35.25)	166.85 (5.71)	33.24 (1.14)	239.55 (8.20)	190.03 (6.51)	48.05 (1.64)	62.5 (2.14)	930.25 (31.85)	960.97 (32.90)	1891.22 (64.75)	2921.02 (100)
India	1531.6 (34.5)	259.68 (5.85)	37.1 (0.84)	197.26 (4.44)	157.65 (3.55)	54.94 (1.24)	114.87 (2.59)	979.15 (22.06)	1928.29 (43.44)	2907.44 (65.5)	4439.03 (100)

Source: Compiled from the Key Indicators of Household Consumer Expenditure in India, NSS 68th round, June 2011- July 2012, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, published in June 2013.

Table 4 shows in urban area the individual's average monthly consumption on food and non-food items at national level was Rs.4439. Out of this nearly 35 percent (Rs.1532) was spent to consume food items and the rest i.e. about 65 percent (Rs.2907.44) was spent to meet the requirements of non-food items. The average MPCE between states varies according to their development. The average MPCE for urban area in least developed states Rs. 1885. Out of this they allocate / distribute about 40 percent (Rs.761) to meet the food requirements and the rest were distributed on non-food items i.e. nearly 60 percent (Rs.1124). Among the least developed states Bihar has very low level of MPCE of Rs. 1397. The average MPCE of less developed states (Rs.2605.16) is larger than the least developed states and it is slightly low when compared with the relatively developed states (Rs.2921). It is observed from table 4 that the distribution of resources varies to their size of development. Among the less developed states, Karnataka has the highest monthly per capita consumption of Rs.2899 for urban area followed by Andhra Pradesh(Rs.2559), West Bengal(Rs.2490) and Gujarat(Rs.2472). Both the least developed states and less developed states allocates same proportion from their MPCE on personal care and development. But in terms of actual amount, less developed states average resource allocation for personal care and development was Rs.791 and the least developed states allocate Rs.566. The relatively developed states allocate only 34 percent from their MPCE for food items and the remaining are spent on non-food items. Out of which, 22 percent for personal care and development and 44 percent was spent to meet other household expenditure. Among the developed states Haryana (Rs. 3346) followed by Kerala (Rs.3044) and Maharashtra (Rs.2937) has the highest MPCE. When compared with MPCE at national level all the states have low level of MPCE.

From table 4, it is observed that as in rural areas, the least developed states also allocate around 40 percent of their MPCE on food items, they spend around 30 percent on personal care and development and the rest has spent on other household purposes. But their proportion of expenditure on education and medical are less than the relatively developed states. It can be concluded that the existence of poverty and inequality is due to the improper allocation merit goods like

education, medical care and development. Least developed states are either still lagging to obtain the basic requirements or they are costlier for them based on their available resources for consumption.

INCIDENCE OF POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

The developing countries require vibrant and prosperous increase of middle class and upper middle class to remove stagnation in gross output and to drive the economic growth. A growing body of evidence suggests that the rising influence of the rich and stagnant income of the poor and middle class have a casual effect on crises, and thus directly hurt short and long-term growth (Era, Dabla-Norris, et al., 2015: 8). From table 5, it can be observed that in the least developed states comparatively larger percentage of poor class population was observed than the less and relatively developed states. It is observed that in the relatively and less developed states the percentage of middle class and upper middle class are larger than the least developed states. The relatively larger percentage of poor class population was observed in the least developed states which is one of the reasons for the larger inequality in the distribution of resources.

TABLE 5: INCIDENCE OF POVERTY AND INEQUALITY AMONG THE STATES OF INDIA: BOTH RURAL AND URBAN

States	Rural					Urban				
	Poor Class	Middle Class	Upper Middle Class	Upper Class	Gini Coef- ficient Ratio*	Poor Class	Middle Class	Upper Middle Class	Upper Class	Gini Coefficient Ratio*
Least developed States										
Assam	33.70	47.80	16.70	1.80	0.25	24.70	44.00	27.20	4.10	0.2
Bihar	42.30	43.70	13.00	1.00	0.23	41.16	45.15	13.29	0.40	0.36
Madhya Pradesh	42.20	39.30	16.60	1.90	0.23	33.33	31.64	20.56	2.50	0.4
Odisha	53.20	34.97	10.62	1.10	0.24	34.10	38.80	24.70	2.40	0.37
Rajasthan	11.00	41.50	42.60	4.90	0.28	13.23	50.60	33.37	2.81	0.28
Uttar Pradesh	37.60	43.50	16.70	2.20	0.23	37.50	42.40	20.53	6.55	0.35
Average	36.67	41.80	19.37	2.15	0.24	30.67	42.10	23.28	3.13	0.33
Less Developed States										
Andhra Pradesh	8.30	39.50	44.00	8.20	0.22	8.30	41.10	46.60	4.00	0.25
Gujarat	11.01	47.05	35.64	6.31	0.17	8.30	37.50	51.70	2.50	0.22
Karnataka	15.68	47.65	30.17	6.49	0.24	15.30	29.07	37.36	10.29	0.31
West Bengal	27.37	46.35	23.78	2.50	0.2	20.48	36.96	37.66	4.90	0.29
Average	15.59	45.14	33.40	5.88	0.21	13.10	36.16	43.33	5.42	0.27
Relatively Developed States										
Haryana	5.39	22.48	55.14	16.98	0.17	7.58	31.44	47.70	13.27	0.25
Kerala	3.50	25.07	47.85	23.58	0.19	7.91	40.14	42.24	9.71	0.25
Maharashtra	11.80	44.30	38.40	5.50	0.21	8	38	46.40	7.60	0.26
Punjab	1.60	21.72	54.45	22.22	0.17	7.4	36.1	52.40	4.10	0.22
Tamil Nadu	12.10	39.00	40.20	8.90	0.29	11.11	40.14	43.74	5.01	0.42
Average	6.88	30.51	47.21	15.44	0.21	8.40	37.16	46.50	7.94	0.28
All India	26.60	41.00	27.30	5.10	0.19	17.52	39.24	37.74	5.51	0.32

* - Gini coefficient ratio expressed in percentage in the analysis.

Source: Compiled from the Key Indicators of Household Consumer Expenditure (Based on MRP) in India, NSS 68th round, June 2011- July 2012, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, published in June 2013.

Small change in real MPCE can have a larger effect on head count ratio. But this does not help to visualize inequality. From table 5, the percentage of poor in relatively developed states like Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu have about 11.80 percent and 12.10 percent in rural and 8 percent and 11.11 percent in urban area. The widening MPCE inequalities in these states are 21 percent and 29 percent in rural area and 26 percent and 42 percent in urban area. This implies that that small change in real MPCE would not support to reduce the inequality. Thus, shrink in poverty leads to increase in the middle class and upper middle class population which leads to increase in inequality (i.e. the areas of Lorenz curve).

From table 5 it is observed that distribution of poverty and inequality of the state are closely associated with their development. The incidence of poverty was more in least developed states. The largest percentage of poor class (37 percent) was found in the rural areas and nearly 31 percent of people below poverty line were observed in urban areas of least developed states. The percentage of poor was low based on the economic development of the states that is whether relative development and less development of the states. There were widening inequality was observed in urban area than the rural area and also in all the states in spite of their development. From the analysis of table 5 shows that fall in poverty would not support to reduce inequality. Inequality affects growth drivers. Why would widening income disparities matter for growth? Higher inequality lowers growth by depriving the ability of lower-income households to stay healthy and accumulate physical and human capital (Galor and Moav 2004; Aghion, Caroli, and Garcia-Penalosa 1999). Highest inequality is due to the distribution of majority of population in similar economic positions.

Mere reduction of poverty leads to increase in inequality. Table 5 reveals that in India as per the analysis the percentage of people in poor class was around 27 percent in rural areas and 17.52 percent in urban areas. This is due to fall in percentage of poor leads to pull down the majority of population in a particular expenditure class instead of even distribution of population in all the expenditure classes. This results widening the inequality in urban area than the rural area. That is the observed inequality for all India level was 19 percent in rural areas and 32 percent in urban area. This is due to majority (nearly 77 percent) of the population are placed in two expenditure classes and the remaining 17.52 percent and 5.51 percent are placed in poor and upper class. It is indicated that in rural areas the incidence of poverty and middle class population are more which means majority of the population live in the same economic position. Therefore decreasing poverty leads to larger inequality in the developing countries like India.

CAUSES FOR POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

The following factors are considered as highly possible determinants of poverty and inequality among the states of India.

TABLE 6: INFLUENCING FACTORS OF POVERTY AND INEQUALITY AMONG THE STATES (Percentage)

Factors	Least Developed States		Less Developed States		Relatively Developed States	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Poor class (BPL)	39.7	30.67	15.60	13.10	6.84	8.4
Inequality (Gini Coefficient Ratio)	0.24	0.33	0.21	0.27	0.21	0.28
Percentage expenditure on Personal care and development from MPCE	285.08 (26.46)	566.26 (30.05)	376.70 (26.99)	790.95 (30.43)	548.41 (28.92)	930.25 (31.85)
Literacy**	69.3	83.42	67.8	86.65	78.96	89.5
Household size *	4.78	4.37	4.18	3.75	4.28	3.88
Dependency ratio*	38.12	33.9	30.85	29.1	32.58	29.6
Unemployment Rate*	53.67	60.67	48.5	49	87.2	64.2
Percentage of SC and ST population***	29.61	15.49	29.05	12.97	23.29	13.46
Share of employment by agriculture sector****	60.23	-	51.03	-	43.32	-
Share of employment in manufacturing, non-manufacturing and service sector****	-	39.60	-	48.98	-	56.66
Per capita income (in Rs.) for 2010-11 (at constant price 2004-05)****	21015.50		41150.75		53700.60	

Source: Computed from secondary sources

* - Key indicators of Employment and Unemployment in India, NSS 68th Round (June 2011-July 2012), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India.

** - Status of Education and Vocational Training in India, NSS 68th Round (June 2011-July 2012), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India.

*** - Census of India 2011. www.censusindia.gov.in

****- Data and Statistics, Planning Commission, Government of India. <http://planningcommission.nic.in/>

1. PROPORTION OF EXPENDITURE ON PERSONAL CARE AND DEVELOPMENT

It is difficult to determine household characteristics based on food expenditure. This leads to individuals' income determined by his affordability to obtain the requirements of personal care and development. Among the non-food items, expenditure on clothes and footwear, education, medical, entertainment and toilet articles are directly influenced by individual welfare. For instance, the relationship between poverty and education is important particularly because of the key role played by education in raising economic growth and reducing poverty. The educated have higher incomes and are less likely to be poor (Jonathan et. al., 2009:5). Therefore, the proportion of expenditure on non-food items from total MPCE are important to differentiate poor class, middle class and upper middle class. This varies from state to state dependence on their economic development (Refer table 6). The states which have highest poverty and inequality, their expenditure on personal care and development was less and vice versa. Therefore, an inverse relation is expected between expenditure on personal care and development and poverty and also with inequality.

2. LITERACY RATE

The human development index depending upon per capita Gross National Product(GNP), literacy rate and life expectancy is a better indicator of the level of development for a particular country. The existing research shows that in most of the developed countries there is a gap between human development and the policy implication for removal of these problems. Literacy is important not only for enhance earning potential of poor but also necessary to stimulate the labour force participation rate. The states which have highest literacy rate that is relatively developed states, poverty is very low (Refer table 6). Therefore literacy rate has an inverse relation with poverty and inequality.

3. HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Inequality is different from poverty but related to it because of its demographic characteristics of a country particularly, the household size. The existing studies show that household size is important to show a possible correlation between the level of poverty and inequality. Table 6 also reveals that the household size of the least developed states are larger (around 4.5) than relatively developed states (around 4). Adding household members has a negative effect on consumption which confirming that the larger the household size there are more likely to be poor. This leads to increase in the proportion of poor and middle class which leads to increase in inequality. Thus size of a household is positively correlated with poverty and also with inequality.

4. DEPENDENCY RATIO

The welfare is measured on per adult equivalent rather than a per capita basis. The dependency ratio is the proportion of population not in the labour force which consists of the age group of less than 15 years and above 59 years. This ratio helps to measure the burden weighing on members of the labour force within the household. From table 6, it is observed that the dependency ratio is larger in least developed states (rural 38 percent and urban 34 percent) than the less developed states (rural 31 percent; urban 29 percent) and relatively developed states (rural 33 percent; urban 30 percent). Thus one might expect that a high dependency ratio will be associated with greater poverty. (Understanding the Determinants of Poverty: http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPA/Resources/429966-1259774805724/Poverty_Inequality_Handbook_Ch08.pdf)

5. SHARE OF EMPLOYMENT IN AGRICULTURE / MANUFACTURING, NON-MANUFACTURING AND SERVICE SECTOR

Mere labour force is not sufficient to eradicate poverty. The share of employment across different sectors is necessary to remove poverty and inequality. The incidence of poverty is more in rural areas compared with urban areas. Generally, the majority of the rural population is engaged with agriculture sectors. These are characterised by low wage rate, underemployment, etc. Hence, if the share of employment in agricultural sector is more it leads to more of poverty and inequality among the rural people. Therefore, a positive correlation is expected between employment in agricultural sector, poverty and inequality in rural areas. Since the industrial revolution, manufacturing sector plays an important role in improving employment opportunities and standard of living. Followed by manufacturing, non-manufacturing and service sectors also helped to raise gross output and overall demand. The development of these sectors also offers the potentialities to improvement wages in non-agriculture and urbanisation. It is observed, in table 6 that in the relatively developed states, the share of employment in these sectors are more compare with the least developed states. The share of employment in these sectors is important to reduce poverty and also inequality in urban areas. Thus an inverse relation is expected.

6. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Paid work is the principal source of income of majority of the households in developing countries like India. Unemployment in any type would drive people to poverty and inequality. Since, majority of the people in developing countries come under middle class, it is necessary to reduce unemployment rate in both rural and urban areas. Table 6 reveals that unemployment is more in relatively developed states than the least and less developed states. According to table 6, poverty and inequality in relatively developed states is mainly unemployment. Therefore, a positive relation is expected between unemployment rate and poverty and inequality in both rural and urban areas.

7. PROPORTION OF SC AND ST POPULATION

A growing body of research shows that there is a significant disparity between SC/ST and non-SC/ST population regarding the incidence of poverty and inequality. The disparity between SC/ST and non-SC/ST population increased during the period of liberalisation in India, especially after 1990s. The classification of population

by means of livelihood pattern brings out the fact that among SC/ST and all population, both in 1993-94 and in 1999-2000, the incidence of poverty was highest among the agricultural labour households (Kuri, 2010:91). In India, majority of the land less labours belong to the SC/ST community. Therefore, positive correlation is expected between SC/ST population and both poverty and inequality.

8. PER CAPITA INCOME

Economic growth is not explicitly targeted in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), yet income per capita measures are highly correlated with widely used indicators of poverty, health, and education. As countries become richer, poverty rates generally fall. Thus, the raise in per capita income leads to increase in standard of living. Therefore, an inverse relation is expected between per capita income and poverty and inequality.

9. PERCENTAGE OF POOR

The widespread economic growth has not been shared by all the states. This results in widening the gap between rich and poor. According to Sen (1973), given the average level of income level, a higher level of inequality (reflected by the usual measures) will tend to be associated with a higher level of poverty. Furthermore, the so called "poverty line" may sometimes be drawn in the light of the latter (inequality) and can be influenced by the average income level, so that poverty measures, thus defined, may have an aspect of relative inequality as well. In this paper, inequality is analysed in the context of poverty with the assumption of if higher level of poverty (i.e. poor class) leads to higher level of inequality.

The Best Fitted Regression Results: Causes for Poverty and Inequality in both Rural and Urban Area

TABLE 7

Rural Area: Dependent Variable – Poverty				
Independent Variable	Beta	t – Value	Significant	
Dependency Ratio	0.231	2.416*	0.036	R = 96 % R ² = 89 %
Expenditure on personal care and development	-0.111	-1.162	0.272	
Unemployment	0.634	5.532**	0.000	
Share of employment in agriculture Sector	0.965	8.198**	0.000	— R ² = 89 % F = 25.29
Percentage of SC and ST population	0.242	2.619**	0.026	
Rural Area: Dependent Variable - Inequality Sector				
Percentage of Poor Class	-0.676	-4.193**	0.002	R = 93 % R ² = 86 %
Dependency Ratio	-0.566	-2.122*	0.060	
Household size	0.824	3.077**	0.012	
Unemployment	0.723	4.323**	0.002	— R ² = 79 % F = 12.20
Percentage of SC and ST population	0.189	1.307	0.220	
Urban Area : Dependent Variable – Poverty				
Dependency Ratio	0.365	2.291**	0.032	R = 94 % R ² = 87 %
Per capita income	-0.494	-2.752**	0.022	
Literacy	0.281	1.792	0.107	
Share of employment in manufacturing, non-manufacturing and service sector	-0.339	-2.097*	0.065	— R ² = 80 % F = 12.51
Percentage of SC and ST population	0.167	1.240	0.246	
Urban Area: Dependent Variable - Inequality				
Percentage of poor	1.549	4.032**	0.002	R = 83% R ² = 70 %
Literacy Rate	-0.452	-2.157*	0.056	
Per capita income	0.725	2.112*	0.061	
Share of employment in manufacturing, non-manufacturing and service sector	0.621	2.179*	0.054	— R ² = 57 % F = 5.69

* - Significant at 1 percent level, ** Significant at 5 percent level.

The best fitted regression results show that in rural areas the poverty (poor class) is influenced by dependency ratio, which is statistically significant at 1 percent with expected sign. The other factors of unemployment, share of employment by agriculture sector and percentage of SC and ST population are also significant at 5 percent level with expected sign. The expenditure on personal care and development has expected sign but not statistically significant. Besides the inequality is influenced by largest percentage of poor class (population BPL) and dependency ratio are statistically significant at 1 percent and 5 percent level but do not have expected sign. The remaining factors of household size and unemployment rate are significant at 5 percent level with expected sign. The percentage of poor class is statistically significant but do not have expected sign.

The best fitted regression result for urban area shows that poverty is caused by the dependency ratio, and per capita income that are statistically significant at 5 percent level and the share of employment in manufacturing, non-manufacturing and service sector is significant at 1 percent level with expected sign, whereas inequality is associated with percentage of poor people at 5 percent level. The remaining factors of literacy rate, per capita income and share of employment in manufacturing, non-manufacturing and service sector are statistically significant at 1 percent level but the last two factors do not have expected sign.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above analysis it can be concluded that the percentage of poverty level in rural and urban area has been reduced in most of the states particularly developed states where as the inequality still dominating one in all the states irrespective of their development. But both in rural and urban areas, the factors influencing poverty of which most of the factors influencing inequality also but exhibits opposite relation. It indicates that mere reduction of poverty would not meant reduction of inequality. The destination is nearer to poverty in terms of absolute terms but not inequality.

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ANNEXURE

FIG. 1

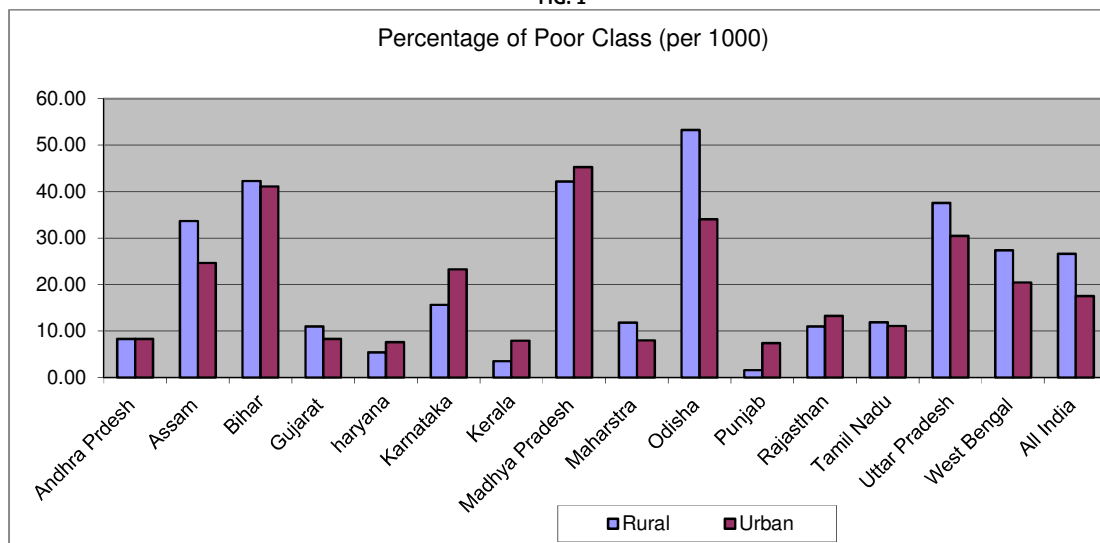


FIG. 2

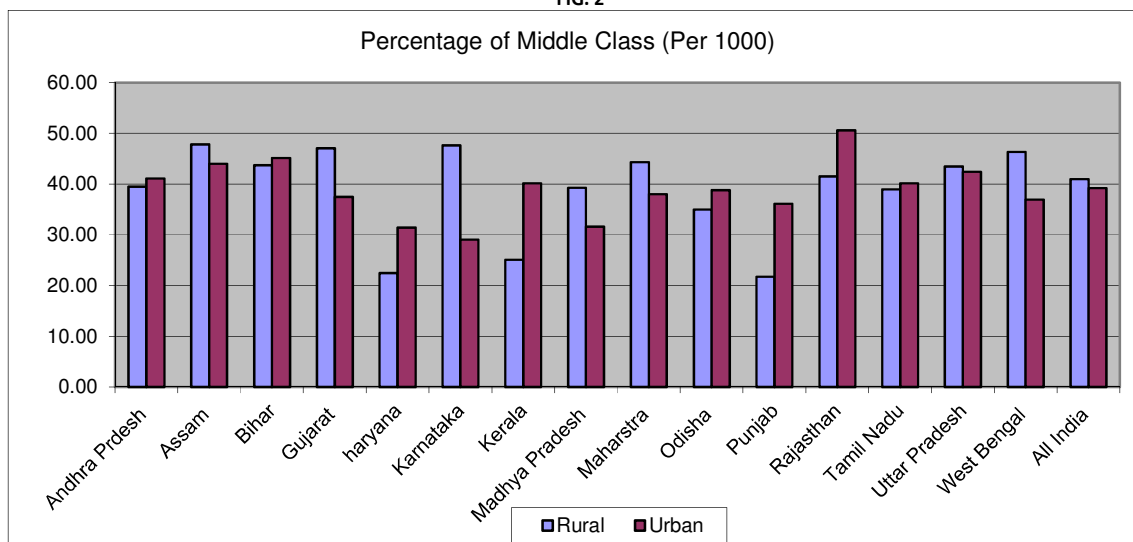


FIG. 3 : DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION IN DIFFERENT EXPENDITURE CLASS

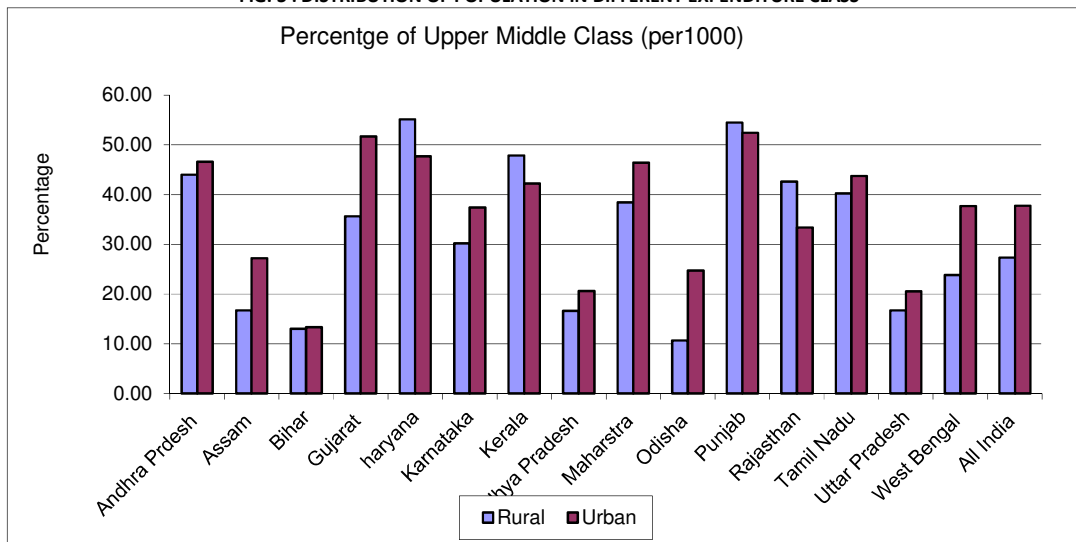
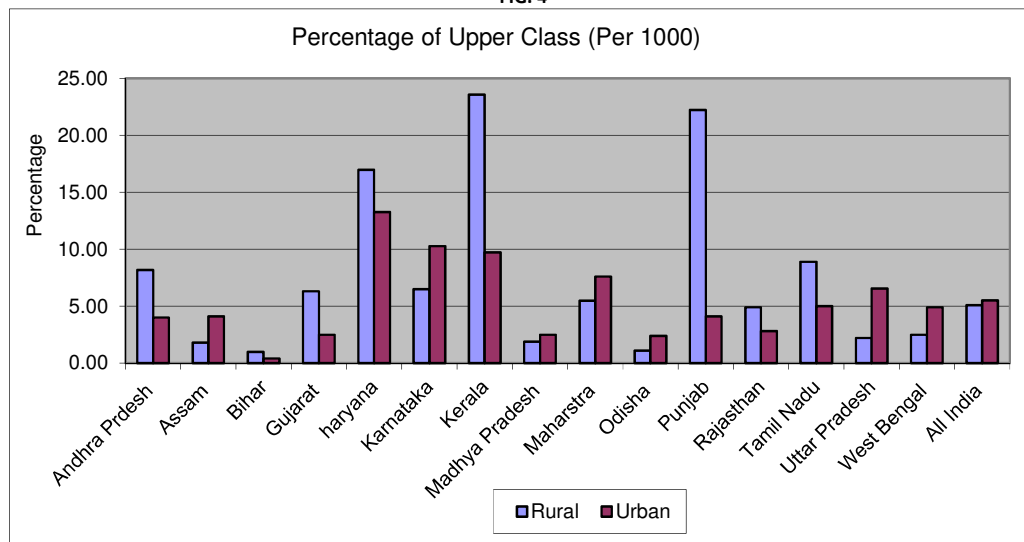


FIG. 4



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