Addressing Poverty to Achieve Well-being: Reflecting from Indian Experience

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Poverty?

A material definition for poverty views it as a lack of basic essential goods of food, safe drinking water and shelter in addition to well-being indicators of employment, health care availability and effective governance systems. It is described as a deficiency of economic, social and political resources.

Measurement

Common: Poverty line

*Extreme Poverty:* when People live on less than US$ (PPP)1 per day or less than 2400 calories per day
Well-being?
An adequacy of economic, socio-cultural and political resources

Indicators?
Economic: access to basic necessities, healthcare

Social-cultural: ability to engage in social groupings, cultural activities

Political: ability to make political choices, contribute to decision making
Poverty in India

17.4% of world’s population
Rural (21%) / Urban poverty (15%)

Reasons
High dependence on uncertain agriculture
Migration
Poor implementation of policies

Is there a way to address??
Adivasi Munnetra Sangham and Just Change Producer Company

Location: Tribals in the forests of The Nilgiris, South India

How were they? Plantation Labour, in debt, low standard of living

What did they do? With help of NGOs and supporters: Land rights, plantation owners, tea marketing co-op, hospital, school

How are they now? Articulate, quite confident, new program development
Aharam

Location: dryland areas in Madurai, Tamilnadu

How were they?
Mixed economy, farmers, housewives, labour

What did they do?
With assistance of NGOs-Financial self-help groups, collection of medicinal herbs, focus on dryland crops, innovative marketing of products

How are they now?
Articulate, confident, business-savvy
So, what can we say now?

- Diversify risk- alternative economic activities
- Enable participatory decision-making
- Ensure equity
- Encourage Endogenous development
- Link practices to policy measures
Questions? Comments? Suggestions
Thank you for your attention