

## CHRONIC POVERTY IN INDIA



# Chronic Poverty in India

EDITED BY

Aasha Kapur Mehta  
Sourabh Ghosh  
Deepa Chatterjee  
Nikhila Menon



Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi



Chronic Poverty Research Centre

First Published 2003

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ISBN : .....

Price : .....

*Published by* Indian Institute of Public Administration  
I.P. Estate, Ring Road, New Delhi-110 002  
and  
Chronic Poverty Research Centre

*Printed in India*

Published by Sunil Dutt, Publication Officer, Indian Institute of Public Administration, I.P. Estate, Ring Road, New Delhi-110 002 and Printed at New United Process, A-26, Naraina Industrial Area, Phase-II, New Delhi-110 028.

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# Foreword

Poverty entails multiple deprivations. Development should effectively address such debilitating deprivations. However despite our best intentions, budgetary allocations and commitment, the grassroots reality makes it clear that we still have a long way to go in eradicating poverty and ensuring acceptable minimum standards of living for all our citizens. Poverty is one of the persistent and intractable problems facing governments and populations throughout the world. The Tenth Five Year Plan (2002 – 2007) rightly draws attention to the fact that at the beginning of the new millennium, 260 million people in the country did not have incomes to access a consumption basket that defines the poverty line. Of these, 75 per cent were in the rural areas. India is home to 22 per cent of the world's poor. Reduction of poverty in India is, therefore, critical for the attainment of national and international goals.

The Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) is a premier national institute that was set up in 1954 to enhance the leadership and managerial capabilities of officers in government, public sector enterprises and other public organizations. Through continuous programmes of research, training, consultancy, conferences and seminars in various fields the Institute has over the past almost five decades made a significant contribution to various dimensions of public administration at the central, state and local levels. Institutes like the IIPA, which are actively involved in Public Administration matters of the country, have an increasingly urgent and challenging role to play.

Given IIPA's commitment to making a difference, we accord the utmost priority to researching and drawing policy lessons from issues pertaining to Chronic Poverty and its significant reduction. The sharing of best practice experiences in sustainable poverty alleviation through the Chronic Poverty Research Centre (CPRC) partnership provides enormous opportunities for cross-country learning that will be helpful in refining and designing the efforts for reducing poverty at a rapid rate. The CPRC has already succeeded in focusing attention on Chronic Poverty and stimulating national and international debate on chronic or long duration poverty. We hope that the in-depth analysis will serve to deepen our understanding of the causes of Chronic Poverty and provide research, analysis and policy guidance that will contribute hugely to its reduction.

There are several important policy messages in the papers that are included in this book and that were presented at the "Research Design Workshop for Exploring Appropriate Solutions to Chronic Poverty" that was held at IIPA on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2002. Some of these are listed below so as to draw policy attention to them:

- Panel data studies for India show that more than half of the households who were poor at a given time remained in poverty over a decade later, thereby suffering long duration poverty.
- A significant proportion of people experiencing chronic poverty are severely poor, and that those suffering extreme poverty have a high probability of experiencing chronic poverty.
- A five-tiered categorization of poverty can be used to understand different types of situations in the context of the poverty line - always poor, usually poor, churning poor, occasionally poor and never poor.
- The 'drivers' of poverty, the 'maintainers' of poverty and potential 'interrupters' of poverty need to be identified.
- The causes of falling into poverty and staying in poverty trap are not necessarily the same.
- The results show that incidence and chronicity are associated with lack of education, absence of assets, especially land, belonging to



a scheduled caste or scheduled tribe and working as an agricultural labourer.

- Individuals, households and social groups that are particularly likely to suffer chronic poverty include - those experiencing deprivation because of their stage in the life; those discriminated against because of their social position at the local, regional or national level, household members who experience discrimination within the household, those with health problems and impairments, people living in remote rural areas, urban ghettos, and regions where prolonged violent conflict and insecurity have occurred.
- The urban poor who live in slums face situations of conflict and contested claims on spaces that provide opportunities for earning a livelihood and escaping from chronic poverty.
- There are districts of India that reflect chronic and severe deprivation in multi-dimensional parameters. Strategic allocation of resources is needed to correct such imbalances.
- A large proportion of the poor in remote areas are both chronically and severely poor and the incidence of this is negatively associated with size of land holding and household population.
- It is important to look at intra-household allocation of resources. When we disaggregate the household, we find a number of intra-household inequalities with regard to division of labour, distribution of tasks, non-wage labour, decision making processes, allocation of resources, access to education, control over the means of production, time allocation and mobility.
- For promoting children's well-being and preventing inter generational poverty, policies that address the multi-dimensionality of poverty are required.
- There are increasing conflicts between the poverty affected social groups and others in the rural areas in recent decades. If there is deepening of disparities and destitution then there will be greater class-caste-tribe conflict.
- Casual agricultural labourers are the largest group and cultivators

the second largest among the chronically poor. Most of the chronically poor (over 79 per cent) are wage dependent.

- Ironically, several states with high incidence of income poverty have the worst record on multidimensionality indicators.
- Chronic poverty seems to be disproportionately high among historically marginalised groups such as scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, the elderly, women and the disabled. The multiple deprivations suffered by these groups make it harder for them to escape poverty as disadvantages are mutually reinforcing.
- Remote rural areas are likely to experience chronic poverty on the basis of agro-ecological and socio-economic factors.
- Unless efforts are made to develop the deprived areas, out migration from drought prone regions may only shift poverty from rural to urban or from dry land to agro-climatically better endowed regions.
- In the context of leakages and diversion of funds meant for poverty reduction, it may be underscored that state failure or governance failure can be corrected if empowered communities are willing to put in the time and effort needed to demand transparency, accountability and caring governance.

I am sure that the papers included in this book will be a rich addition to poverty related research and will contribute significantly to the awareness and understanding of Chronic Poverty in India and designing and customizing appropriate solutions for its alleviation. I wish to commend the Chronic Poverty Research Centre partnership for their pioneering effort in riveting attention on the various dimensions of chronic poverty.

**Dr. P. L. Sanjeev Reddy**

**Director**  
*Indian Institute of  
Public Administration*

# Acknowledgements

A large number of people provided tremendous support in organizing the research design workshop at which the papers included in this volume were presented and in the preparation of this manuscript. I am deeply grateful to:

- The Ministry of Rural Development, especially Shri Arun Bhatnagar, Secretary, Shri Lalit Mathur, Additional Secretary and Ms. A.K. Ahuja, Joint Secretary for readily accepting Director, IIPA, Dr. P.L. Sanjeev Reddy's request that they collaborate with IIPA and with the Chronic Poverty Research Centre, India, in organizing and co-funding this workshop.
- Shri G.C.L. Joneja, Vice President, IIPA and Chairman, Standing Committee, Shri T.N. Chaturvedi, Vice President, IIPA and Governor, Karnataka and Shri B.C. Mathur, Honorary Treasurer, IIPA, for always providing extremely valuable advice, insight and encouragement, especially in times of difficulty. And for unstintingly allocating time whenever it really mattered.
- Dr. P.L. Sanjeev Reddy, Director, IIPA for doing everything needed to ensure the success of the workshop and various tasks required by the project. This workshop was held within a few weeks of his joining IIPA. Despite paucity of time he proactively forged a partnership with the Ministry of Rural Development that raised the stature of the workshop. The quality of the deliberations was enhanced substantially by the involvement of the Ministry and of several eminent experts from various parts of India. His immense contribution towards strengthening the partnership with the

Chronic Poverty Research Centre is very gratefully acknowledged.

- All the eminent experts who led the discussions and gave us the benefit of their time and very valuable suggestions and comments, especially Prof G.S. Bhalla, Prof K.L. Krishna, Prof G.K. Chadha, Prof N.C.B. Nath, Prof Kamta Prasad, Prof K.N. Kabra, Prof S.K. Goyal, Prof T.K. Oommen, Prof Yogendra Singh, Dr Sarala Gopalan, Shri Gopal Reddy, Prof Saraswati Raju, Prof P.N. Mukherjee, Prof Gopal Sinha, Prof Bawa, Dr P. Sen, Dr Rohini Nayyar, Dr Rangacharyulu, Prof D.C. Sah, Dr M.H. Suryanarayana, Dr. Raja Ram, Shri Sunil Khatri, Prof. Gangadhar Jha, Dr. Renu Khosla, Dr Dolly Arora, Prof Seeta Prabhu, Dr Indira Tudawe, Ms Ratna Sudarshan and Ms Shubha Suneja. Many of the papers have been revised on the basis of their suggestions. Other comments will inform future research.
- Special thanks to all my faculty colleagues at IIPA, for the benefit of discussions and inputs especially Prof K.N. Kabra, Prof R.K. Tiwari, Prof Jaideep Singh, Dr. Sujata Singh, Dr. Dolly Arora and Shri N.C. Ganguli.
- Sincere support of Shri Naresh Kumar, Registrar, IIPA and the IIPA staff, especially Smt. Padma Bhambani, Shri B.D. Singh, Shri Sunil Dutt, Smt. Savita Mehta, Smt. Mythili, Smt. Alka Jindal and Shri Harish Chandra.
- Librarian and the library staff especially Shri B.K. Suri and Smt. Sunita Gulati for their cooperation and help.
- All the core team members of the Chronic Poverty Research Centre (India), Prof Amita Shah, GIDR, Prof Anand Kumar, JNU and Prof Shashanka Bhide, ISEC for their amazing team spirit and for always providing inputs and responding to sometimes unreasonable demands on their time despite other commitments.
- The partners of the Chronic Poverty Research Centre, especially Prof David Hulme, Dr Andrew Shepherd and Ms Kate Bird for the mutual respect, trust and friendship that have grown rapidly with each passing year.

- The authors who have collaborated on this project either directly with CPRC (India) or through CPRC (UK) partners.
- The co-editors of this book, Deepa Chatterjee, Nikhila Menon and Sourabh Ghosh, for sincere and valuable research assistance at various stages of CPRC work.
- My parents, husband, sister and brother and their families, for the caring and affection that always made time spent with them a source of joy and for their constant, cheerful encouragement and support. Time spent on work far exceeded “office hours” and this was time that was rightfully theirs, especially in situations of ill-health.
- My Father, Guru and Sadguru, Shri Shirdi Sai, for always being there for me and for the gift of knowledge that has changed my perspective on thoughts, action, inaction, suffering, life, death and beyond.

**Aasha Kapur Mehta**

# Introduction

The papers included in this book are based on ongoing research that is at different stages of completion. This work was presented at a workshop entitled “Research Design Workshop for Exploring Appropriate Solutions to Chronic Poverty” that was held at IIPA on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2002. Much of it was at initial stages of analysis. The workshop was organised by IIPA in partnership with Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India and Chronic Poverty Research Centre (CPRC). Approximately 100 delegates attended the inaugural session. A brief report of the inaugural session and the views expressed by Dr. P.L. Sanjeev Reddy, Director, IIPA; Shri Lalit Mathur, Additional Secretary (F&A), Ministry of Rural Development; Prof. G.K.Chadha, Vice Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Shri G.C.L. Joneja, Vice President, IIPA is given in section 2. Brief background about the CPRC is in section 3.

The presentations made at the workshop included ‘Meaning and Measurement of Chronic Poverty’ by Dr. Andrew Shepherd, ODI, UK; ‘Chronic Poverty in India: An Overview’ by Prof. Aasha Kapur Mehta, IIPA and Dr. Amita Shah, GIDR; ‘Conflict in India’ by Prof. Anand Kumar, JNU; ‘Urban Poverty: Results of a Panel Data based study’ by Dr. Phil Amis, University of Birmingham, UK, Dr. Solly Benjamin and Dr. Lalita. Methodological issues in the context of work in progress were discussed with regard to the study by Prof. Anand Kumar on Conflict, ‘Children in Poverty: Issues arising from Research Plans’ by Prof Kanchan Mathur, CHIP and IDS Jaipur; ‘Issues in Intra Household Allocation and Measurement’ by Ms. Kate Bird, ODI, UK; ‘Panel Data Studies’ by Prof. Shashanka Bhide and Prof. Aasha Kapur

Mehta; Qualitative Approaches to the study of Chronic Poverty by Dr. Lalita and Dr. Andrew Shepherd; and 'Identification of Districts for in-depth micro studies' by Prof. Aasha Kapur Mehta.

Most of the presentations made at the workshop have been developed further. Two of these papers have been published as CPRC working papers. Nine papers are included in this book. However, this is still work-in-progress. The purpose of bringing out this book is to make the work available to a wider audience so as to invite suggestions and comments to enable mutual learning.

## 1. The Papers

In '*Chronic Poverty: Meanings And Analytical Frameworks*', David Hulme, Karen Moore and Andrew Shepherd provide an overview of the meaning of 'chronic poverty', and identify frameworks for analysing it. While the analysis of money-metric and other quantitative indicators will continue to be important, the paper recognizes the importance of focusing on poverty in its broadest, multi-dimensional sense, as those who are chronically poor are likely to be poor in several ways and not only in terms of income.

Long duration is identified as both necessary and sufficient for poverty to be considered chronic though it is hypothesised that chronic poverty will also often be multi-dimensional and severe. It is proposed that a five-tiered categorisation of the poor be adopted – *always poor*, *usually poor*, *churning poor*, *occasionally poor* and *never poor* – and that transitions between different levels over time be closely monitored. The churning poor and occasionally poor together constitute the transient poor. It is suggested that the tightest possible definition of chronic poverty would be intergenerationally transmitted (IGT) poverty, which, while it may or may not be severe, is likely to be relatively intractable, and therefore is likely to escape current poverty reduction efforts.

The authors argue that there are several sets of people who are particularly susceptible to chronic poverty, and that they are likely to experience multiple and overlapping vulnerabilities. These groups include those experiencing deprivation because of their stage in the

life cycle, those discriminated against because of their social position in the community or household, those with health problems and impairments, and people living in remote rural areas, urban ghettos and regions where prolonged violent conflict and insecurity have occurred.

They explore the causes of chronic poverty at different levels of analysis and present the analytical frameworks for their understanding. These include quantitative panel data analysis; livelihoods analysis; freedoms; social and political exclusion; and policy analysis frameworks. The paper concludes with a discussion of the implications of this initial understanding of chronic poverty for future research.

*Aasha Kapur Mehta and Amita Shah's paper 'Chronic Poverty in India: An Overview',* provides an overview of the trends in incidence of income poverty in India and analyses chronic poverty in terms of severity, extended duration and multidimensional deprivation. States and regions that have a high incidence of people with incomes severely below the poverty line are identified so as to focus attention on areas that are spatial poverty traps. Attention is drawn to those unable to access even two square meals a day as they are the most severely deprived. The incidence of chronic poverty in the duration sense is studied on the basis of review of the literature using panel data sets. Casual agricultural labourers are identified as the largest group among the chronically poor.

The paper presents and analyses estimates of multidimensional indicators of poverty that reflect human and gender development and empowerment, as also infant mortality estimates and female literacy. The disproportionately high incidence of chronic poverty among historically marginalised groups such as scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, the elderly, women and the disabled is analysed. The multiple deprivations suffered by these groups make it harder for them to escape from poverty.

The extent and nature of chronic poverty within the spatial poverty traps or remote rural areas is examined. Two sets of remote rural regions are considered: dryland regions characterised by frequent failure of



crops and employment opportunities, leading to high level of unprotected risks of livelihood security among the poor; and the 'forest based' economies, especially in hilly regions with predominance of tribal population with limited access to natural resources on the one hand, and information as well as markets on the other. Factors affecting chronic poverty in these regions are analysed, the relationship between chronic poverty and agro-climatic conditions, agronomic features, human capabilities, social structure and infrastructure studied and variations in the dynamics of poverty across the two sets of regions are identified.

The paper briefly looks at policy interventions in the context of poverty reduction as also attempts by communities to demand accountability and transparency in government spending in the name of the poor. It concludes with a summary of the key findings and agenda for further research.

*Anand Kumar's paper* entitled '*Political Sociology of Poverty in India: Between Politics of Poverty and Poverty of Politics*' points out that political sociology of poverty requires analytical understanding of the relationship between polity and society. In the context of India such an analysis has to pay attention to the meaning of the caste system, economic gradations and the imperatives of colonial and post-colonial polity. It recognizes the heuristic value of caste, gender, class and tribe as separate social categories as well as identifies the dynamics of conversions between them in the domain of chronic poverty.

The paper draws attention to the historical context, constitutional content, the unfolding of anti poverty mobilizations and their results, politics of poverty and conflict on the lines of class, caste and tribe and political limits of poverty related measures. It also provides examples of the relationship between poverty, politics and conflicts by looking at the cases of West Bengal and Bihar and underlines the changing relationship between the state and poverty alleviation processes in the era of liberalization.

The paper concludes that there has been a decline in the role of politics in the context of poverty eradication in the last several years;

conflicts between the poverty-affected social groups and the rest in the rural areas have increased in recent decades; and poverty related conflicts have positive and negative potential in the context of political and economic reforms.

*Solomon Benjamin's paper* entitled *From Income to Urban Contest in Global Settings: Chronic Poverty in Bangalore* focuses on chronic poverty among the urban poor. It draws on interviews with households and individuals in different locations and situations within Bangalore. A grassroots view shows poor groups as active agents who attempt to influence both the economy and politics. The city is characterized by economic and political settings that influence the extreme ups and downs which the poorest face – a main contributing factor to chronic poverty. Individuals take on complex alliances as part of coping and other strategies. The paper also highlights the importance of children in the working age group. Such 'internal' factors are influenced by larger developmental projects closely related to Bangalore's global connections and the emerging urban politics. A key issue relates to access to locations which provide multiple employment opportunities. However these spaces are highly contested. Evictions place poor groups in conflict situations including with other poor groups. Although Bangalore is seen as a showcase of "civic initiatives", preliminary indications are that these actually dilute the claims of the poor on resources, and those in chronic poverty may lose out to an increasingly aggressive and assertive elite.

In their paper *'Chronic Poverty in South West Madhya Pradesh: A Multidimensional Analysis of Its Extent and Causes'*, *Amita Shah and D.C. Sab* argue that Chronic Poverty in a less favoured area such as South West Region in Madhya Pradesh (SWMP) originates from a logjam of natural, economic, social and political marginalisation. This often gets reflected in the apathy of the state and stunted market development.

Population pressure only aggravates the situation culminating in severe and long duration poverty among a large proportion of the rural population in regions like SWMP. Based on a micro-study of two villages in SWMP, the paper examines the nature and extent of poverty and tries to understand the processes that lead to situations of chronic

poverty. The analysis is based on primary data collected through participatory methods as well as a simple survey of households. This is an exploratory exercise and identifies issues for future research.

In the paper *'Issues in Chronic Poverty: Panel Data based Analysis'*, Aasha Kapur Mehta and Shashanka Bhide point out that the distinction between chronic or extended duration poverty and transient poverty is rarely made in the substantial literature on poverty in India. Determination of poverty as chronic or temporary requires that the same households be tracked over time through a panel data set and/or use of life or event history and other qualitative approaches. The paper reviews the limited panel data based literature on chronic poverty in India as also of the literature on other countries. It then uses panel data that longitudinally track 3,139 households in rural India to try to provide an initial identification and understanding of the characteristics of households that exhibit mobility out of poverty and of those that simply stay poor.

The data shows that more than half (52.61 per cent) of the households who were poor in 1970-71 remained in poverty over a decade later. In other words a large number of households have not been able to escape from poverty despite the many existing policy interventions.

This paper explores the patterns that emerge in the context of incidence and persistence of poverty and poverty correlates. The authors point out that policy should focus on the determinants of entries and exists rather than only on the correlates of poverty status, as in the past.

Kate Bird's paper *'Chronic Poverty and Understanding Intra-household Differentiation'* draws attention to the importance of exploring issues pertaining to intra-household differentiation and various forms of intra-household inequalities. Until recently the household was taken to be an undifferentiated entity for the purposes of data collection and social and economic analysis. Within the household there is differential access to and control of resources and when we 'break open' the household we may find a number of intra-household inequalities with regard to division of labour, distribution of tasks, non-waged labour, decision

making processes, allocation of resources, access to education control over the means of production, time allocation and freedom of movement.

The paper also analyses household models in microeconomic theory and splits decision-making models into two sets: (i) Unitary models and (ii) Collective models that comprise two sub-groups - co-operative and non-cooperative models.

*Kanchan Mathur, Shobhita Rajagopal and Pradeep Bhargava's* paper '*Understanding Childhood Poverty in Rajasthan*' stresses the fact that childhood is a precious stage in a life-course and deprivation during this period can have long-term adverse impacts on the well-being of children. The paper attempts to analyze the key factors that contribute to childhood poverty in the context of the ongoing primary research in two regions of Rajasthan. Some of the factors which have been highlighted are education, health and nutrition, gender disparities, livelihoods, migration and indebtedness. Identifying the process that can help children break poverty cycle is extremely pertinent. The paper mentions the various programmes, addressing health, nutrition and educational needs of children, being implemented in the State – Integrated Child Development Scheme, Mid-day Meal Scheme, Immunisation Programme and other educational schemes. While most of these programmes have been in place since long, development indicators pertaining to children's health and nutrition reflect that both poor nutrition and health continue to play a crucial role in terms of poverty transfer. For promoting children's well-being and preventing inter generational poverty transfer, policies that address the multi-dimensional aspects of poverty have to be implemented.

In the paper '*Multidimensional Poverty in India: District Level Estimates*', *Aasha Kapur Mehta, Deepa Chatterjee and Nikhila Menon* try to identify chronic poverty at the district level by using multi-dimensional indicators that reflect persistent deprivation, such as illiteracy, infant mortality, low levels of agricultural productivity and poor infrastructure. Comparing the ranks of 15 large states on the basis of population in poverty with values of the human development index, shows that income based poverty incidence and performance on human

development indicators seem to follow a similar pattern in most cases. Disaggregated estimates at the regional level, indicate that the severest concentration of poverty in India is in 12 rural and 21 urban regions. Between 20 percent and 43 percent of the population living in these regions suffer severe poverty i.e. income of 75 percent or less than the poverty line.

Multi-dimensional indicators were estimated for about 379 districts in 15 large states of India, based on data for the early 1990s. Variables reflecting long duration deprivation, such as illiteracy, infant mortality, agricultural productivity and poor infrastructure, were used to compute the indicators. The 52 to 60 most deprived districts in India, out of 379 districts in 15 large states are in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa and Assam.

## **2. The Inaugural Session of the Workshop: A Brief Report**

The Director of IIPA, **Dr. P.L. Sanjeev Reddy** welcomed all the distinguished participants of the workshop. He said that IIPA valued the partnership with the Chronic Poverty Research Center (CPRC) UK and the Ministry of Rural Development in organizing the workshop. He extended an especially warm welcome to the collaborating partners from Overseas Development Institute, UK, University of Birmingham, UK, Institute of Policy Studies, Sri Lanka, the Indian partners from GIDR, JNU and NCAER and the many senior academics and experts present at the workshop. The CPRC was established in October 2000. It is funded by DFID, UK and headquartered at the University of Manchester.

Dr. Reddy said that CPRC's objective is to produce policy relevant research which focuses on the people for whom poverty is intractable and often passed on from one generation to another. These are people who, are least likely to benefit from the current development policy and all its programmes. Therefore, the objective of the research is to deepen understanding of various dimensions and facets of chronic poverty and to use that understanding for the benefit of vulnerable groups for designing appropriate policy mix. He mentioned that the poverty alleviation strategy of India had undergone several paradigm

changes from mere community development programmes to those based on asset building and skill building. He pointed out that a significant part of India's total budgetary expenditure is earmarked for various poverty alleviation programmes. Hence it is important that these programmes are effectively focused and well targeted. He mentioned that a substantial allocation has been made for rural development programmes and this should be accompanied by appropriate changes in policy and implementation to be able to achieve the desired result. He drew attention to the Ministry's four-pronged strategy for empowering the rural people that includes enhancing the level of awareness about schemes, transparency in implementation, and people's participation and ensuring accountability through social audit. Leakages, diversion and abuse of funds have made many poverty alleviation schemes redundant. Mass-based organisations that can facilitate the empowerment of the community and help achieve transparency and accountability are needed.

Dr. Reddy said that through the Research Programme on chronic poverty many questions, as to who are the chronically poor, their spatial location, their social security options, their livelihood strategies, etc. would be raised and solutions would be explored during the course of the research. He also said that IIPA is strategically positioned in leveraging its resources towards forging strategic partnerships between government, academia, civil society and the poor to jointly explore enduring solutions to poverty, illiteracy, hunger and disease.

*Sbri Lalit Mathur*, Additional Secretary (F&A), Ministry of Rural Development, welcomed the partnership with IIPA in organizing the workshop and said that the research would definitely contribute towards better understanding of what the government should be doing in terms of modification of schemes and interventions towards poverty alleviation. Referring to the several independent studies that have been carried out at the state level and by international organizations like ADB and DFID with focus on poverty in specific regions, he stressed the need to pool the inputs from these studies to help in evolving better and more appropriate strategies for interventions by the Ministry. He categorised the interventions made through India's poverty

programmes into four areas. The first category deals with wage employment and the employment guarantee system. The second category focuses on poorly endowed regions, drought-proofing, fragile ecological regions and watersheds and how they can be developed. The third category is related to self-employment where there has been a shift from pure bank loan kind of strategy to a group oriented approach with empowerment as the focus. Finally the fourth category relates to the basic needs comprising of drinking water, housing, electrification, rural roads, etc.

Shri Mathur suggested that it would be worthwhile for the research on chronic poverty in India to look at the caste factor, in addition to income. He also suggested inclusion of sustainable sources of empowerment as another priority area for the research. He reiterated the willingness and support of the Ministry towards the research and said that the Ministry is looking forward to the results of the study.

*Prof. G.K.Chadha*, Vice Chancellor, JNU, praised the use of the word “chronic poverty” instead of “poverty” and said that the deficiency of calorie intake works as the operational parameter to distinguish between people who can be called chronically poor, desperately poor or moderately poor. He was more interested on understanding poverty within the framework of macroeconomic policy than going into the already existing debate about process of measuring poverty. He said that since India is part of the global economic system, certain compulsions and stresses are bound to crop up.

Prof. Chadha raised several issues that affect the earning capabilities of the people. The first issue was with regard to public and private investment. He questioned whether the nature of investment in the 1990s was pro-poor and said that more importance should be given to the sectoral pattern of public investment. It has been found that the share of public investment has been declining. This is a very disturbing trend since public investment helps to reduce the stress on the poor. The agricultural sector has been affected the most by the decline in public investment. He referred to the paper by IFPRI, which states that if a larger share of investment is coming through public investment in agricultural research, it is focused towards

promoting employment avenues, not only in agriculture, but also in areas allied to agriculture and non-agriculture.

Prof. Chadha pointed out that India's economic policy regime has been unable to encourage human capital formation. No country in the world can think of emerging victorious in the international arena, unless the quality of its workforce is enhanced. He said that the public distribution policy has been one of the important instruments through which the country has tried to alleviate the severity of poverty especially in the urban areas. However, it is positively biased in favour of those who are producers of food, rather than those who are consumers of food. As a result the country has been trapped in the paradox of plenty existing side by side with hunger and poverty. The issue of food subsidy requires careful examination with regard to the regions and sections of society that are having the lion's share of such subsidies.

He highlighted the relationship between assetlessness and poverty and stressed the need to encourage the policy of land distribution. If a little bit of land is given to the landless, they can enter the market in a stronger position as borrowers. Lending agencies will also view their requests for loans more favourably. Additionally, they can grow crops on their own land and hence meet their consumption requirements. He stressed the importance of the employment policy and creation of productive employment opportunities, especially since the employment sector is in a precarious position after India's entry into the global economic regime in the 1990s.

Between 1993-94 and 1999-2000, out of the 17 major states, the rate of growth of employment in agriculture has declined in as many as 15 states. The rate of overall employment in rural areas has declined in about 12 states. A similar situation exists in the non-farm and manufacturing sectors as well. He suggested that for a more meaningful examination of issues such as employment elasticity in various sectors, one has to adopt a 3-sector classification rather than a 2-sector one. The sectors that are in rural areas are facing competition both at home and abroad. Knowledge intensive techniques of production have a competitive advantage.



Finally as far as urban poverty is concerned, he said that special attention has to be devoted to the urban informal sector, which contributes 60 per cent of the national income, and nearly 90 per cent of the work-force. Moreover, 99.9 per cent of the poor come from the informal sector. Hence caring for the poor implies that policy has to be designed to help the informal sector.

*Shri G.C.L. Joneja*, Vice President, IIPA and former Chief Secretary, Orissa and former Secretary, Food, Government of India, referred to the proliferation of schemes and introduction of new programmes, and finding out the lacunae in the existing programmes and overlaps between programmes. He therefore suggested that the research should try to examine the various governmental schemes, their objectives, and their performance and also find solutions for rationalising and simplifying programmes and making them more administratively workable.

He stressed the importance of finding out whether people at the Panchayat level were able to dispense justice and help poor people and whether they were conversant with the complicated accounting procedures required for various government programmes.

In the context of the huge buffer stock of foodgrains, Shri Joneja pointed out that the cost of holding stocks had become unaffordable. Production of cereals has been encouraged for which Minimum Support Price has been fixed. This results in a piquant situation where even when the quality of grain is unacceptable to consumers, it has to be purchased by the state.

### **3. About the Chronic Poverty Research Centre**

The Chronic Poverty Research Centre (CPRC) is an international partnership of universities, research institutes and NGOs which exists to focus attention on Chronic Poverty; to stimulate national and international debate; to deepen understanding of the causes of Chronic Poverty; and to provide research, analysis and policy guidance that will contribute to its reduction. The CPRC was established in 2000 with funding from the Department for International Development, UK. Further details are available on the website: [www.chronicpoverty.org](http://www.chronicpoverty.org).

### *Introduction*

The CPRC is headquartered internationally at the Institute for Development Policy and Management (IDPM), University of Manchester and in India, at the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), New Delhi. Other CPRC India core team partners include faculty at Gujarat Institute of Development Research, Jawaharlal Nehru University and National Council of Applied Economic Research/Institute for Social and Economic Change.

Work under the CPRC in India includes a country overview paper published as CPRC Working Paper No. 7 on the CPRC website, development of work in a remote rural area of Madhya Pradesh; work on the political sociology of chronic poverty; analysis of panel data and analysis of district level indicators. The CPRC is concerned with building and strengthening networks and partnerships with individuals and institutions interested in reduction of chronic poverty and related issues and with those who are committed to making a difference.