

Abstract

The measurement of poverty in a multidimensional frame is a matter requiring nascent attention in the developing countries. This multidimensional picture of poverty includes lack of income along with inadequacy of absence of education, health, proper living standard and physical capabilities to achieve all these. In this research work, the trend of poverty in multidimensional aspect has been estimated in the backdrop of MDGs and poverty reduction strategies of Government of the Punjab. For measurement of trend of multidimensional poverty in Punjab, Alkire and Foster Methodology, 2007 has been employed on the data sets of MICS, Punjab conducted in 2007-08, 2011 and 2014. The Multidimensional Poverty incidence has been estimated against 3 dimensions and 12 indicators selected in the context of MDGs. On the basis of estimation of MPI value for data set of each of 3 rounds of MICS, Punjab, the trend of MPI for overall Punjab and all the 36 districts of Punjab has been estimated from 2007 onwards and poverty rankings of districts has been made. Overall, the multidimensional poverty in Punjab has declined from 36% in 2007-08 to 26% (declined by 10%) in 2011 and has further declined by 1% in 2014 (25%). Over the years from 2007-08 to 2014, the trend of multidimensional poverty has declined in most of the districts with few exceptions like Muzaffargarh, Rahim Yar Khan, Bahawalnagar, Lodhran, Mandi Bahauddin and Lahore where poverty increased slightly from 2011 to 2014. None of the district has shown rise in poverty from 2007-08 to 2011. Generally, a declining trend in multidimensional poverty is noticed in all regions of Punjab (Northern, Central, Southern and western) from 2007-08 to 2014 but the percentage decline is very trivial from 2011 to 2014 in contrast to significant decline in multidimensional poverty percentage from 2007-08 to 2011.