



## An Impact of Poverty in Chhattisgarh State

### ORIGINAL ARTICLE



#### Author

**Dr. Firoj Kumar Sonwani**  
Assistant Professor of Economics  
Sant Guru Ghasidas Govt. P.G. College  
Kurud, Dhamtari, Chhattisgarh, INDIA

### Abstract

*This paper examines the impact of poverty in Chhattisgarh, analysing its effects on education, health, employment, and social stability. Utilizing Government-published data, the study highlights the current state of poverty, evaluates the effectiveness of interventions, and provides recommendations for improving poverty alleviation efforts.*

### Key Words

*Impact, Poverty, Effective, Improve.*

### Introduction

Poverty remains a significant challenge in India, with regional variations affecting its severity and impacts. Chhattisgarh, formed in 2000, is one of India's poorest states, facing unique obstacles in poverty alleviation. This study aims to explore how poverty

impacts various aspects of life in Chhattisgarh and assess the effectiveness of Government policies designed to mitigate these effects.

### Overview of Chhattisgarh

Chhattisgarh is located in central India and has a population of approximately 31.3 million as per the 2021 Census. The state's economy is primarily based on agriculture, mining, and manufacturing. Despite its natural resources, the state struggles with high poverty rates and slow economic development compared to the national average.

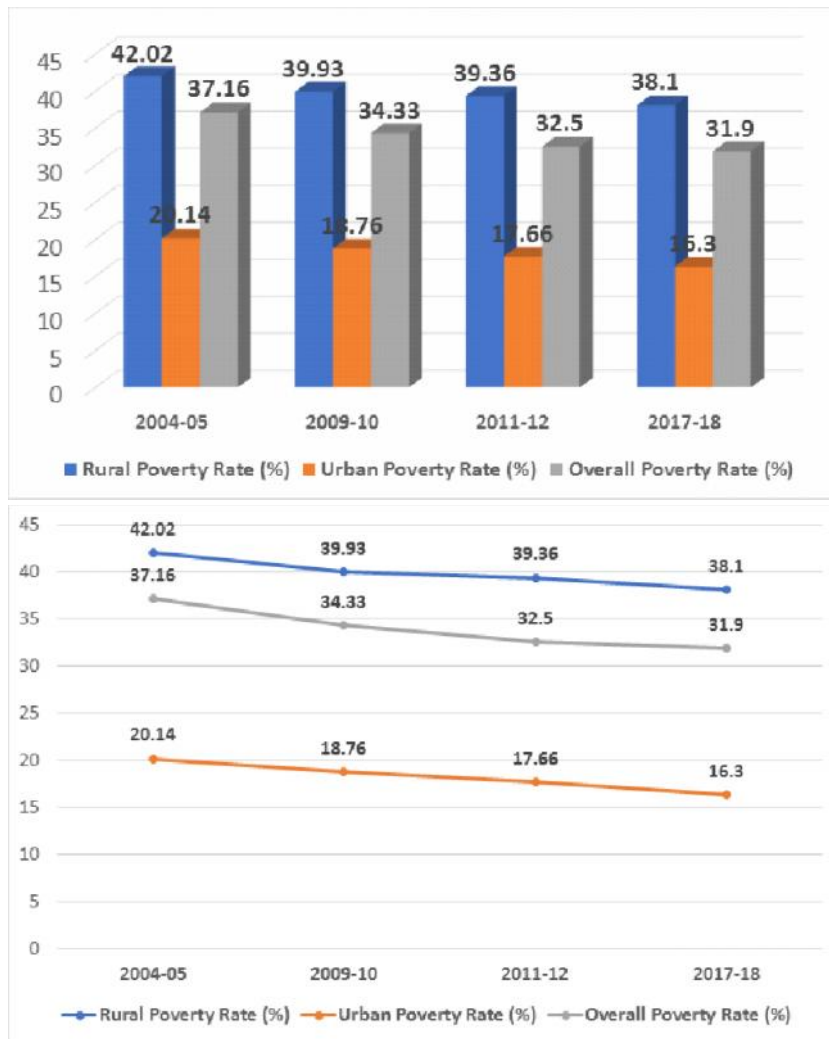
### Poverty in Chhattisgarh

- 1. Current Poverty Statistics:** Poverty rates in Chhattisgarh remain high. According to data from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI):

**Table 1:** Poverty Rate in Chhattisgarh (Percentage of Population Below Poverty Line)

Year	Rural Poverty Rate (%)	Urban Poverty Rate (%)	Overall Poverty Rate (%)
2004-05	42.02	20.14	37.16
2009-10	39.93	18.76	34.33
2011-12	39.36	17.66	32.50
2017-18	38.10	16.30	31.90

[Source: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI), Poverty Estimates]



2. **Historical Trends:** The poverty rate in Chhattisgarh has seen some fluctuations. Although there has been a general decline, poverty remains significantly higher compared to the national average. This persistent issue can be attributed to slow economic growth, inadequate infrastructure, and social challenges.

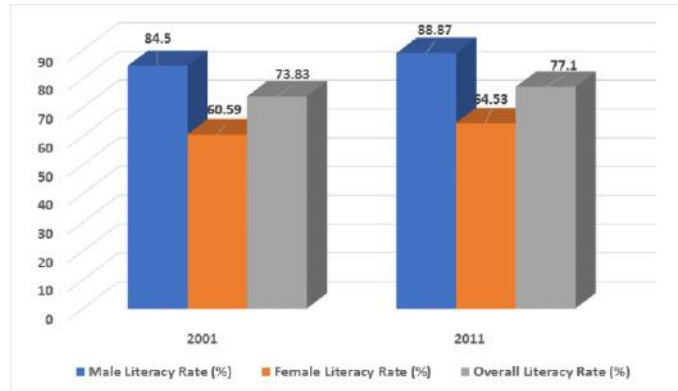
### Impact of Poverty

1. **Education:** Poverty has a profound effect on education in Chhattisgarh. The literacy rate, although improving, still lags behind the national average.

**Table 2: Literacy Rates in Chhattisgarh by Year**

Year	Male Literacy Rate (%)	Female Literacy Rate (%)	Overall Literacy Rate (%)
2001	84.50	60.59	73.83
2011	88.87	64.53	77.10

(Source: Census of India 2001 & 2011)



High dropout rates and low enrolment in rural areas hinder educational attainment. The lack of access to quality education contributes to the perpetuation of poverty, as educational attainment is closely linked to better economic opportunities.

- Health:** Poverty significantly impacts health outcomes in Chhattisgarh. High rates of malnutrition and poor health indicators are evident.

**Table 3: Health Indicators in Chhattisgarh**

Indicator	Value	Year
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	54	2022
Percentage of Children Under 5 with Stunted Growth	37.4%	2021
Percentage of Children Under 5 with Wasted Growth	21.1%	2021

[Source: National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5, 2021)]

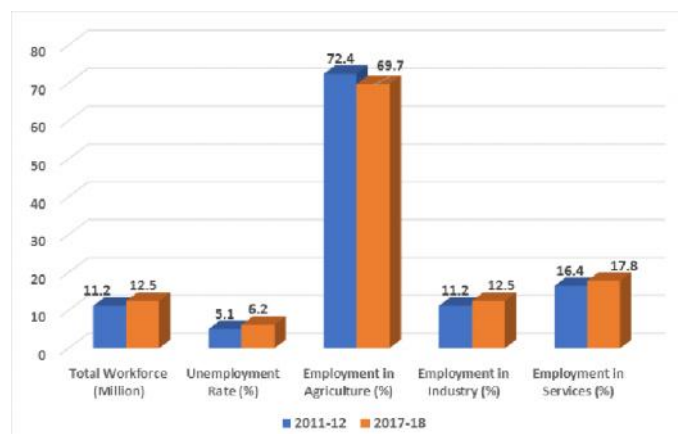
High infant mortality rates and high levels of stunting and wasting among children reflect inadequate nutrition and healthcare access. These health challenges are exacerbated by poverty and limit the overall quality of life.

- Employment:** Employment patterns in Chhattisgarh reflect a high dependence on agriculture and informal sector jobs.

**Table 4: Employment Statistics in Chhattisgarh**

Year	Total Workforce (Million)	Unemployment Rate (%)	Employment in Agriculture (%)	Employment in Industry (%)	Employment in Services (%)
2011-12	11.2	5.1	72.4	11.2	16.4
2017-18	12.5	6.2	69.7	12.5	17.8

[Source: National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) Employment-Unemployment Surveys]



The state experiences high unemployment rates, particularly in rural areas. A large proportion of the workforce is engaged in agriculture, which is often characterized by low productivity and income instability.

- Social Stability:** Poverty contributes to social instability in Chhattisgarh. Higher crime rates and social unrest are linked to economic deprivation. Poverty can lead to increased social tensions and reduced community cohesion.

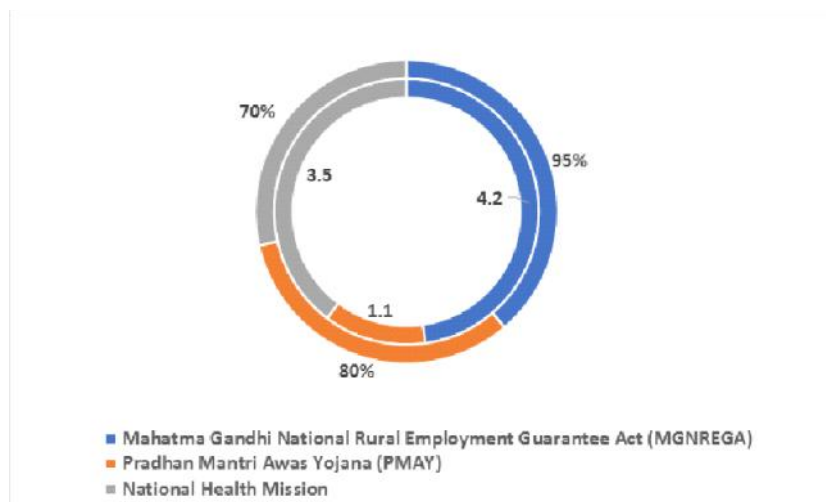
## Government Policies and Interventions

Several Government programs aim to address poverty in Chhattisgarh:

**Table 5:** Government Poverty Alleviation Program Coverage

Program	Target Beneficiaries (Million)	Coverage (%)
Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)	4.2	95%
Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)	1.1	80%
National Health Mission	3.5	70%

(Source: Government of India Reports on Schemes and Program)



- **MGNREGA:** Provides guaranteed employment in rural areas, improving income and infrastructure.
- **PMAY:** Focuses on providing affordable housing to low-income families.
- **National Health Mission:** Aims to enhance healthcare access and quality.

While these programs have had notable successes, challenges in implementation and coverage persist. Issues such as bureaucratic inefficiencies and corruption hinder the full potential of these interventions.

## Challenges and Gaps

- **Implementation Issues:** Program execution is often marred by inefficiencies and corruption, which affect the quality and reach of poverty alleviation efforts.
- **Data Limitations:** Incomplete data from remote areas complicates accurate assessment and policy formulation.
- **Policy Gaps:** Existing policies need better targeting and integration to address the needs of the most vulnerable populations effectively.

## Recommendations

- **Enhanced Targeting:** Improve mechanisms for identifying and assisting the poorest households to ensure that aid reaches those most in need.

- **Program Integration:** Coordinate different welfare programs to provide more comprehensive support and avoid duplication of efforts.
- **Strengthen Data Collection:** Invest in better data collection and monitoring systems to inform policy decisions more effectively.

## Conclusion

Poverty in Chhattisgarh has significant impacts on education, health, employment, and social stability. Although Government interventions have made progress, further improvements are necessary to effectively address the root causes of poverty. Enhanced targeting of policies, better coordination of programs, and improved data collection are crucial for better outcomes.

## References

1. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI): MOSPI Website
2. National Sample Survey Office (NSSO): Employment-Unemployment Surveys
3. Chhattisgarh State Government Reports: Economic Surveys and Annual Reports
4. Census of India 2001 & 2011: Census Data
5. National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5, 2021): Health Indicators
6. Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS): Reports on Child Nutrition
7. Nirmalkar Manisha, (2020-21). A study on poverty in India. MA Economics Dissertation.

---==00==---