

- To update the performance variations of pro-poor policies in practice by different stakeholders.
- To understand the most successful framework and the impact of pro-poor policies in practice.
- To evolve design principles for pro-poor policies

The Programme Design

The dialogue is structured around the following:

1. Lead Paper presentation and discussion on “Existing Policies for Poverty Reduction”
2. Dialogue on
 - * Impact of pro-poor policies – Ground Experience
 - * Role of different players in pro-poor policies in implementation
3. Dialogue synthesis and way forward
4. Concluding remarks

Invitees

State and Central Government Institutions, Academia, Banking Institutions, International Development Organisations, NGOs and People Organisations.

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Dialogue on Pro-poor Policies for Poverty Reduction

Madurai Symposium

Tamukkam Ground
 Madurai

September 28, 2007



DHAN Foundation

Building Institutions for Generations

Dialogue on Pro-Poor Policies for Poverty Reduction

Poverty in India is not simply a matter of inadequate income but also involves lack of opportunities, low literacy, lack of basic needs, low life expectation etc. According to UNDP's Human Development Report (2003), INDIA has the largest number of poor among the countries of the world and is home for one-fourth of the world's poor.

The growth in average level of income, reduction in poverty, and improvements in health and education indicators are still below the levels seen in the developed economies, and is evident that India is ranked low i.e., 126th rank of among 177 countries as per Human Development Report (HDR-2006).

Since Independence, Poverty Reduction has been one of the major goals of development planning. The planning process has been sensitive accordingly; policies schemes, guidelines and provision of services have been made for a better quality of life. The trends in poverty from 1950 to 2000 are in a declining line but it is not smooth.

Poverty reduction and employment generation objectives were pursued vigorously through a variety of approaches and policies. The 10th five-year plan 2002–2007 set a goal of 8% annual growth in GDP. It has achieved 9% in 2005–2006. The increasing concerns are our policies and approaches in programme implementation for poverty reduction.

The Government of India's policy interventions for poverty reduction are mainly designed to generate self-employment, wage employment and provide safety nets through food subsidy programmes. The major poverty alleviation schemes such as NREGA, SGSY has variation across states in implementation. There are a number of structure and design issues in NREGA and SGSY also failed to achieve significant penetration because of a range of problems in design and implementation at field level. Also social, cultural and political interventions have played a key role in poverty reduction. Hence, there is a need to relook at policies, approaches and operational issues at field level.

The development process, priorities, framework, strategies adopted in pursuing the objectives of pro-poor policies are to be discussed and reviewed. The 11th Five-year plan approach paper has given monitorable socio-economic targets to accelerate growth

rate of GDP to 10%, increased percapita income and reduce the headcount ratio of consumption poverty by 10% points. To achieve the targets critical issues needs to be identified in terms of pro-poor policies, structures in implementations i.e., conceptual shift, role of different actors (Centre, States and Civic bodies), resources, strategies in action etc.

The time is ripe to take up the challenges and issues in pro-poor policies in implementation and role of different actors in development. Hence DHAN Foundation's Centre for policy and planning (CPP) has planned to have a dialogue on pro-poor policies in implementation by inviting different actors in development. It is planned to have a one-day dialogue on September 28, 2007 at Madurai.

The objectives are

- To deliberate the importance of principles behind the policy making for poverty reduction.
- To discuss the effectiveness of pro-poor policies of state and central Government in implementation.