

Unveiling Regional Disparities: A Multidimensional Analysis of Poverty in West Bengal and Rajasthan

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Abstract:

The paper on the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) in West Bengal and Rajasthan utilizes a comprehensive methodology that includes district-level MPI data sourced from the NITI Aayog's Report on the National Multidimensional Poverty Index, coupled with specific census-derived metrics such as SC/ST population, literacy rates, work participation rates, and the proportion of rural inhabitants. The analysis reveals significant disparities in MPI across districts within these states, highlighting a notable positive association between MPI and dependency on agriculture, literacy rate. The study recommends targeted interventions focusing on enhancing agricultural productivity, promoting sustainable farming practices, improving market access, and diversifying rural economies, alongside investments in education, healthcare, and infrastructure. These suggestions aim to address the root causes of poverty and elevate development outcomes in regions heavily reliant on agriculture, emphasizing the importance of evidence-based policy decisions to effectively combat multidimensional poverty and foster inclusive growth in West Bengal and Rajasthan.

Key words: Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), regional disparities, West Bengal, Rajasthan, socio-economic indicators.

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I INTRODUCTION:

In recent years, there has been a notable surge in scholarly and policy discourse surrounding intra-state regional disparities. Traditionally, per capita income served as the primary metric for assessing such inequalities, yet the Human Development concept has engendered a paradigm shift, expanding our evaluative framework beyond economic indicators. This shift underscores the imperative of considering diverse dimensions of well-being and development. Alongside the well-established Human Development Index (HDI), an array of indices—such as the hunger index, happiness index, gender development index, and the multidimensional poverty index (MPI)—has surfaced, offering insights into varied facets of regional disparities within nations.

The multidimensional poverty index (MPI) distinguishes itself through its comprehensive approach to poverty assessment. In contrast to income-based measures, the MPI accounts for multiple dimensions of deprivation, encompassing health, education, and living standards. This holistic perspective facilitates nuanced insights into poverty, enabling targeted interventions to address root causes. In the Indian context, the NITI Aayog has played a pivotal role in advancing the understanding of regional disparities through the dissemination of MPI reports encompassing all states and districts. These reports not only pinpoint areas of elevated deprivation but also provide actionable guidance for policymakers in formulating effective strategies to combat poverty and inequality.

However, notwithstanding these endeavors, a substantial gap persists in addressing intra-state disparities, particularly when examining more than one state concurrently. Many states have predominantly focused on internal disparities, potentially overlooking the broader regional context. This study seeks to address this research lacuna by scrutinizing intra-state disparities between West Bengal and Rajasthan, two states in India sharing similar socio-economic profiles. Through a comprehensive analysis of these states, the study aims to unveil the underlying factors contributing to regional inequalities and offer insights for more targeted policy interventions.

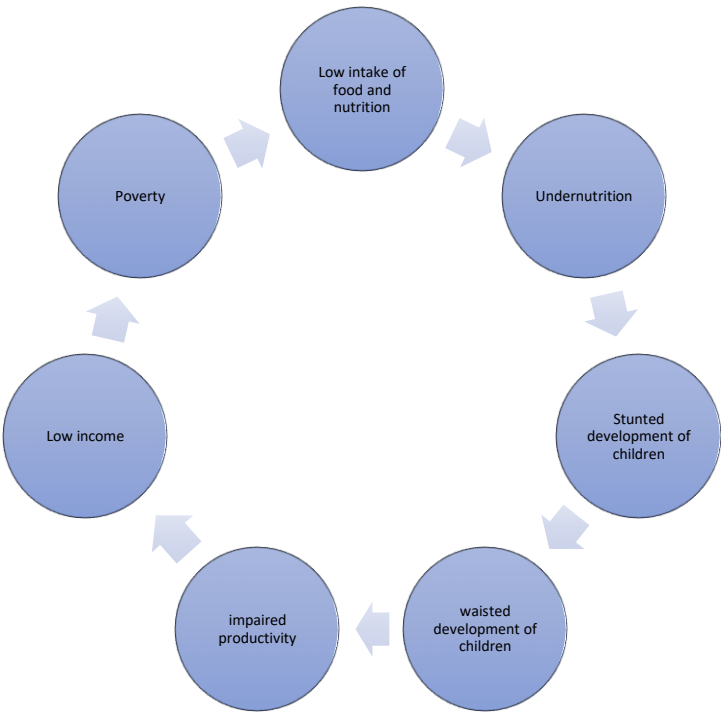
The paper unfolds across seven sections, each contributing significantly to the overarching investigation. Following the introduction, Section 2 explores Vicious cycle of poverty and Sustainable Development Goals, Section 3 undertakes a rigorous literature review, synthesizing existing studies on regional disparities, poverty indices, and socio-economic indicators. Section 4 meticulously delineates the data collection methods and methodology

employed for analysis, setting the foundation for subsequent sections. Sections 5 and 6 conduct detailed examinations of the district-wise Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) for West Bengal and Rajasthan, unravelling the intricate poverty landscapes within these states. Section 7 explores the association between MPI and various socio-economic indicators, utilizing statistical analyses to unveil underlying patterns and correlations. Finally, Section 8 provides a conclusive synthesis of findings, encapsulating key insights and potentially signalling directions for future research or policy interventions.

II Vicious cycle of Poverty and Sustainable Development Goals:

The vicious cycle of hunger is a complex phenomenon that results from a range of interconnected factors. One of the key contributors to this cycle is insufficient food intake, which can lead to malnutrition and stunting in children. This, in turn, can lead to child wasting, a condition in which a child's weight is significantly below the expected level for their height. Both stunting and wasting can have a significant impact on a child's long-term health and development. Insufficient food intake also leads to impaired productivity and lower income potential. As a result, families may struggle to access adequate nutrition, perpetuating the cycle of hunger and malnutrition. Ultimately, this cycle can have profound impacts on individuals, families, and communities, highlighting the urgent need for effective interventions to break the cycle and improve food security and nutrition.

Figure 1: Vicious cycle of Poverty



Breaking the vicious cycle of poverty requires a multi-faceted approach, including increasing access to nutritious food, improving healthcare, and providing education and resources to help families break out of poverty. Additionally, addressing the root causes of poverty, such as lack of access to education and employment opportunities, can help to create a more sustainable and equitable future for all.

Sustainable development goals:

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 goals established by the United Nations in 2015 to be achieved by 2030. The SDGs aim to address various economic, social, and environmental challenges facing the world and promote sustainable development.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS:

Figure 2: Sustainable Development Goals



Source: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

Each goal has specific targets and indicators to measure progress towards achieving it. The SDGs provide a framework for global cooperation and coordination towards sustainable development, and their achievement requires collaboration and action from governments, businesses, civil society, and individuals.

Zero Hunger:

Zero Hunger is one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations in 2015. Its aim is to end hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture by 2030.

To achieve this goal, it is essential to address the root causes of hunger, such as poverty, inequality, and lack of access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. Strategies to achieve Zero Hunger include increasing agricultural productivity and efficiency, supporting small-scale farmers, improving food distribution systems, promoting sustainable and resilient agricultural practices, and reducing food waste.

In addition to improving access to food, the Zero Hunger goal also aims to ensure that people have access to nutritious and safe food. This involves improving the quality of food and ensuring that it is free from harmful contaminants.

Achieving Zero Hunger is not only a moral imperative but also an economic one. Hunger and malnutrition can have severe economic consequences, including reduced productivity, increased healthcare costs, and lower economic growth. By investing in efforts to achieve Zero Hunger, countries can create more sustainable and inclusive economies that benefit everyone.

Zero Hunger goal is a critical component of the Sustainable Development Goals, as it addresses some of the most pressing global challenges of our time, including poverty, inequality, and climate change.

III. Brief Review of Literature:

The reviewed literature provides a comprehensive understanding of various socio-economic aspects pertaining to regions in India, with a particular focus on West Bengal and Rajasthan. Ali's study delves into the causes and consequences of out-migration in Murshidabad District, shedding light on the factors influencing migration patterns in the region. Additionally, economic data from the Bureau of Applied Economics and Statistics offers insights into the state and district-level economic landscape of West Bengal, aiding in the analysis of economic development trends. Bhagat's work explores internal migration patterns in India, particularly focusing on the mobility of the underclass, while Sarkar and Roy's study provides a localized analysis of socio-economic disparities in Jalpaiguri District, further contributing to the understanding of regional variations within West Bengal. Furthermore, Hanagodimath's

research expands the scope to inter-state and intra-state analyses of regional disparities in per capita income, offering a broader perspective on economic variations across India.

In another vein, the literature highlights the importance of understanding regional disparities beyond West Bengal. Shastri's historical perspectives on regional disparities in Rajasthan and the studies by Hanagodimath in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu provide valuable insights into intra-state variations in economic development. Additionally, reports such as "How States Are Doing" by Debroy and Bhandari offer a broader perspective on the performance of states in India, contributing to the understanding of inter-state variations in economic development.

Despite the extensive body of literature addressing regional disparities in India, a noticeable gap exists in the examination of the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) specifically tailored to the states of West Bengal and Rajasthan. While existing studies comprehensively explore various facets of regional imbalances, there is a limited focus on the analysis of MPI within the context of these two states. A thorough understanding of MPI variations at the district level in West Bengal and Rajasthan is imperative for designing targeted interventions and formulating policies that can effectively address poverty and foster inclusive development. This study aims to bridge this gap by conducting an in-depth analysis of MPI in West Bengal and Rajasthan, investigating inter-district disparities within these states. The primary objective is to examine regional variations in MPI and assess its association with key socio-economic indicators, contributing valuable insights to inform evidence-based policy decisions and interventions.

III Data and Methodology:

The study draws upon district-level Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) data sourced from the NITI Aayog's Report on the National Multidimensional Poverty Index, coupled with census-derived metrics including SC/ST population, literacy rates, work participation rates, and the proportion of rural inhabitants. West Bengal and Rajasthan are selected as focal points due to the paucity of intra-district disparity investigations in these contiguous states, notwithstanding their shared socio-economic milieu. Encompassing all districts within these states, the analysis employs the geographic mean method to stratify districts into four cohorts, facilitating nuanced examination. Visualization techniques such as bar diagrams, scatter diagrams, and thematic maps are harnessed to elucidate findings. Furthermore, correlation coefficients are computed to unravel the nexus between MPI and selected socio-economic variables. This methodological framework enables a rigorous exploration of intra-state

disparities, offering profound insights into the socio-economic dynamics characterizing both West Bengal and Rajasthan.

IV MPI in India- An Inter-State Analysis:

Prior to delving into the analysis of inter-district disparities in the Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) for West Bengal and Rajasthan, a comprehensive examination of the MPI across various states and union territories has been undertaken. The presented table elucidates Kerala's prominence as the top-performing state, boasting the most favorable MPI value of 0.002. In close pursuit are Goa and Puducherry, both securing the second position with an MPI of 0.003. Noteworthy are the notably low MPI values of Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands, securing the 4th and 5th positions with MPI values of 0.004 and 0.009, respectively. These figures accentuate the comparatively lower incidence of multidimensional poverty in these regions.

Conversely, Bihar emerges as a standout state, grappling with the highest MPI value of 0.160, signaling substantial levels of deprivation and relegating it to the bottom of the rankings. Meghalaya and Jharkhand closely trail with MPI values of 0.133 and 0.131, underscoring persistent challenges in poverty alleviation endeavors. Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh also find themselves among the bottom five states, contending with MPI values of 0.103 and 0.090, respectively. These disparities underscore the imperative for targeted interventions and policy measures to address poverty and elevate development outcomes, especially in states characterized by higher MPI values. Additionally, there is a recognition of the need to glean insights from and replicate successful strategies implemented in states with lower MPI values, fostering a nuanced and informed approach to poverty reduction initiatives.

Table 1: State-wise Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index (MPI), 2019-20		
State	MPI 2019-20	Rank
Kerala	0.002	1
Goa	0.003	2
Puducherry	0.003	2
Lakshadweep	0.004	4
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.009	5
Tamil Nadu	0.009	5
Sikkim	0.011	7
Delhi	0.014	8
Ladakh	0.015	9
Chandigarh	0.017	10
Himachal Pradesh	0.020	11
Jammu & Kashmir	0.020	11
Punjab	0.020	11
Mizoram	0.024	14
Telangana	0.024	14
Andhra Pradesh	0.025	16
Haryana	0.031	17
Karnataka	0.031	17
Maharashtra	0.033	19
Manipur	0.034	20
Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	0.039	21
Uttarakhand	0.041	22
Gujarat	0.050	23
West Bengal	0.050	23
Tripura	0.056	25
Arunachal Pradesh	0.059	26
Rajasthan	0.065	27
Nagaland	0.066	28
Chhattisgarh	0.070	29
Odisha	0.070	29
Assam	0.086	31
Madhya Pradesh	0.090	32
Uttar Pradesh	0.103	33
Jharkhand	0.131	34
Meghalaya	0.133	35
Bihar	0.160	36

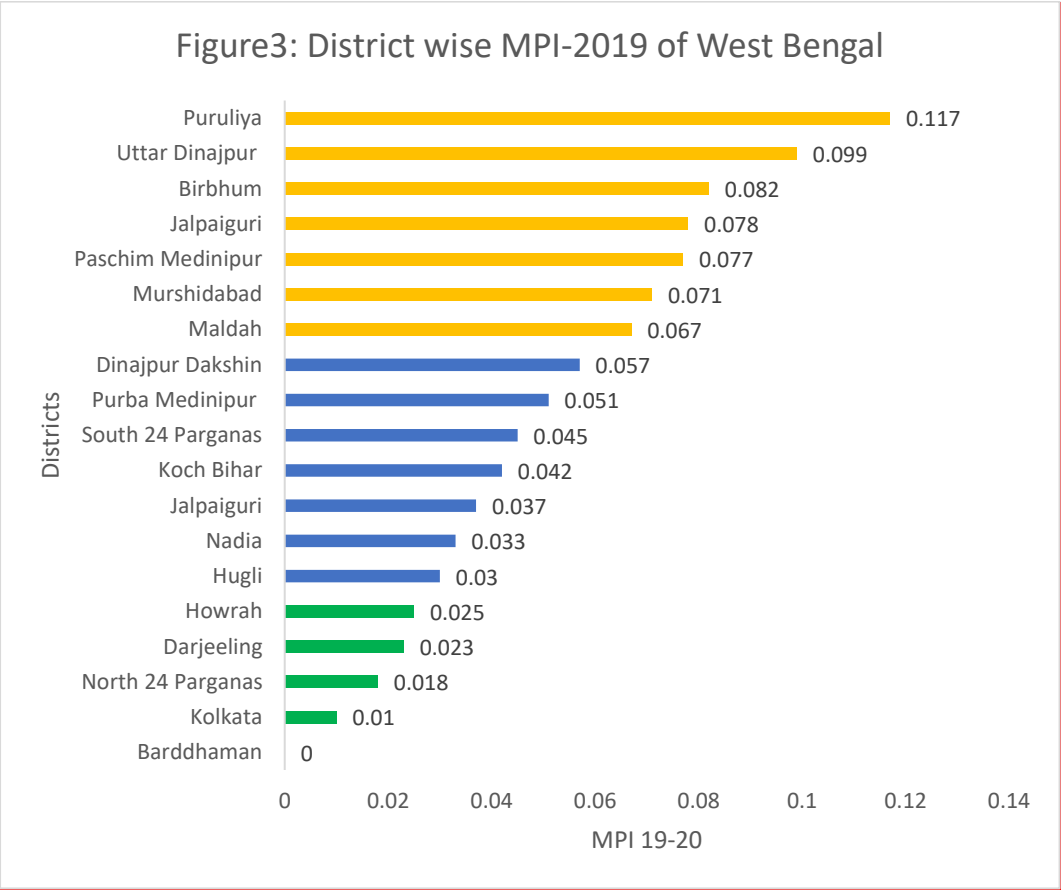
Source: India National Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index,2023

V Regional Imbalances in MPI in West Bengal:

In West Bengal, the existence of pronounced regional imbalances constitutes a substantial obstacle to achieving comprehensive state development. Despite the state's abundant natural resources and economic potential, persistent disparities are evident among its diverse regions. Particularly noteworthy are districts situated in the western part of the state, such as Purulia, Bankura, Birbhum, Paschim Medinipur and Maldah where elevated poverty rates and developmental discrepancies persist in contrast to more affluent areas like Kolkata, Howrah

and North Twenty-Four paragana in the eastern region. Contributing to the exacerbation of these imbalances are the uneven distribution of infrastructure, disparities in educational and healthcare access, limited employment opportunities, and a historical trend of neglect in specific regions.

Effectively mitigating these regional disparities necessitates targeted interventions that prioritize inclusive growth, equitable resource allocation, and strategic investments in infrastructure, education, healthcare, and livelihood opportunities across all districts of West Bengal. An imperative aspect involves recognizing and comprehending these regional dynamics for the formulation of policies and initiatives geared towards fostering balanced and sustainable development throughout the state. The integration of an analysis of the district-wise Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) becomes crucial in providing nuanced insights into the specific dimensions of poverty and development challenges faced by distinct districts in West Bengal. Such insights, derived from a comprehensive MPI analysis, can serve as a foundation for informed and targeted interventions, facilitating the promotion of more inclusive development strategies tailored to address the unique needs of each region within the state.

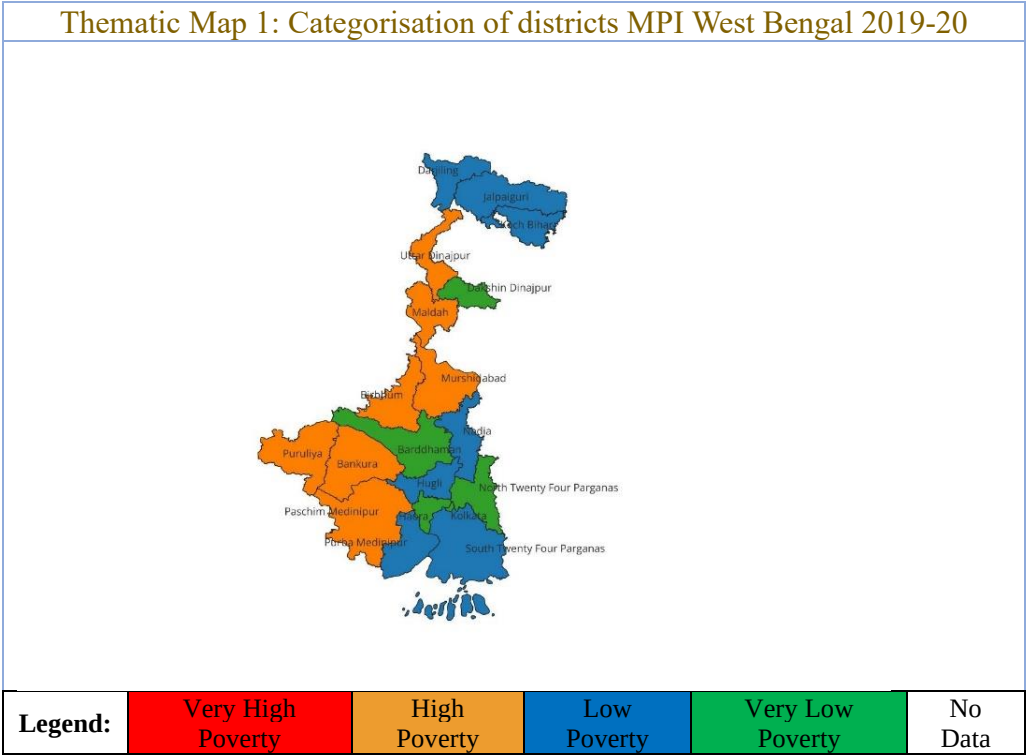


In Figure 3, the district-wise Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) for West Bengal in the year 2019-20 is depicted. The data highlights that Bardhaman boasts the lowest poverty rate at 0.0, while Puruliya registers the highest poverty rate at 0.117 among the 19 districts in the state. The MPI underscores a notable inter-district disparity, exemplified by the substantial gap between Bardhaman and Puruliya. Specifically, Puruliya exhibits a poverty rate around eleven times higher than that of Bardhaman.

The figure further illustrates that district like Barddhaman (0.0), Kolkata (0.01), North 24 Parganas (0.018), Darjeeling (0.023) and Howrah (0.025) occupy the top positions with lower poverty rates. Conversely, districts such as Paschim Medinipur (0.077), Jalpaiguri (0.078), Birbhum (0.082), Uttar Dinajpur (0.099) and Puruliya (0.117) find themselves in the bottom positions with higher poverty rates. It is important to note that a mere ranking analysis may not convey a comprehensive picture of the diverse statuses of districts in terms of MPI.

To address this limitation, an effort has been made to categorize the districts into four groups – Very High Poverty, High Poverty, Low Poverty, and Very Low Poverty – utilizing the geographic mean method. Thematic Map 1 visually represents this categorization, offering a more nuanced understanding of the poverty landscape across different districts in West Bengal.

Chart 1: Intra State disparities in multi-dimensional poverty index in West Bengal



- Bardhaman district secures the foremost position within the state and the nation, boasting an exemplary MPI value of 0.00. Conversely, Purulia district ranks at the bottom with an MPI value of 0.117, earning an all-India rank of 597.
- Among the districts, five, namely Bardhaman, Darjeeling, Howrah, Kolkata, and North 24 Parganas, are categorized as Very Low Poverty, representing 26.32% of the total districts.
- A significant majority of districts, encompassing nine out of nineteen (47.36%), fall into the Low Poverty category.
- Only five districts, constituting 26.32% of the total, are classified under the High Poverty category, signifying elevated poverty levels in these regions.
- The inter-district multi-dimensional poverty disparity is calculated at 58.45%. The Burdwan division exhibits the highest poverty disparity, reaching 70.53%, while the Maldah division displays the lowest disparity at 24.48%.

Division wise analysis of poverty: West Bengal is demarcated into five distinct divisions—Burdwan, Maldah, Jalpaiguri, Presidency, and Medinipur—each comprising a set of districts with diverse poverty classifications, reflecting the intricate socio-economic landscape of the state.

Division wise analysis of MPI:

Burdwan Division (03 Districts):

- ❖ Bardhaman district is characterized by Very Low Poverty.
- ❖ Hugli district falls within the Low Poverty category.
- ❖ Birbhum district is designated as High Poverty.

Malda Division (04 Districts):

- ❖ Dinajpur Dakshin is recognized as Low Poverty.
- ❖ In contrast, the remaining districts—Maldah, Murshidabad, and Uttar Dinajpur—are all delineated as High Poverty.

Jalpaiguri Division (03 Districts):

- ❖ Darjeeling district stands out with its Very Low Poverty classification.
- ❖ Jalpaiguri and Koch Bihar districts share the categorization of Low Poverty.

Presidency Division (05 Districts):

- ❖ Howrah, Kolkata, and North 24 Paragana districts exhibit a commendable status of Very Low Poverty.
- ❖ Conversely, Nadia and South 24 Paragana districts are positioned in the Low Poverty category.

Medinipur Division (04 Districts):

- ❖ Purba Medinipur is characterized by Low Poverty.
- ❖ In contrast, the remaining three districts in this division are marked by High Poverty.

This intricate division-wise breakdown serves to illuminate the diverse poverty scenarios across West Bengal, providing valuable insights for crafting targeted interventions and development strategies. Understanding the nuanced variations within each division is crucial for formulating policies that address the specific socio-economic challenges faced by districts in the state.

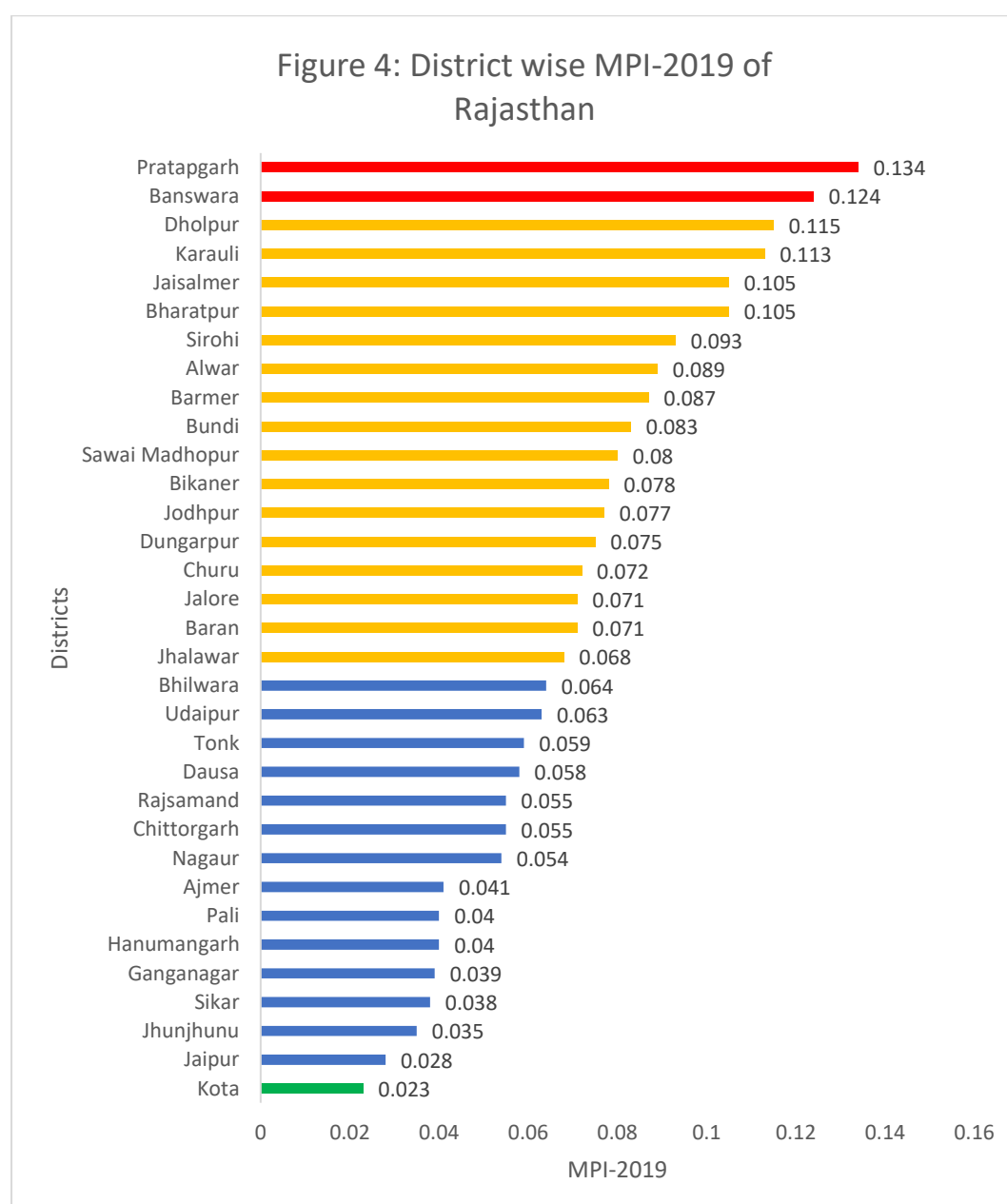
The West Bengal government has implemented a series of initiatives focused on addressing hunger and malnutrition, aligning with the Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) framework. The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme, a key component, targets the nutritional needs of pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children below the age of six, contributing to the reduction of multidimensional poverty. Another vital program is the Annapurna Scheme, providing a daily cooked meal to destitute senior citizens, directly impacting their well-being and addressing specific dimensions of poverty within the MPI.

Furthermore, the Khadya Sathi Scheme operates as a strategic intervention, supplying subsidized food grains to economically weaker sections, aligning with poverty reduction efforts and MPI indicators. Additionally, the Sabuj Sathi Scheme, with its emphasis on promoting the consumption of fruits and vegetables, plays a crucial role in improving the nutritional status of children, thereby positively influencing MPI dimensions related to health and well-being.

These well-structured programs, tailored to MPI considerations, have proven instrumental in mitigating hunger and malnutrition in the state, contributing significantly to the enhancement of overall health and well-being within the population.

VI Regional Imbalances in MPI in Rajasthan:

In Rajasthan, despite abundant natural resources, comprehensive state development is hindered by noteworthy regional imbalances. The central part, including districts like Jaipur, Kota, Sikar and Jhunjhunu has witnessed substantial development, while districts in the southern, western, and eastern regions grapple with heightened poverty rates and developmental disparities. Uneven infrastructure, educational and healthcare gaps, limited employment opportunities, and historical neglect contribute to these pronounced imbalances.

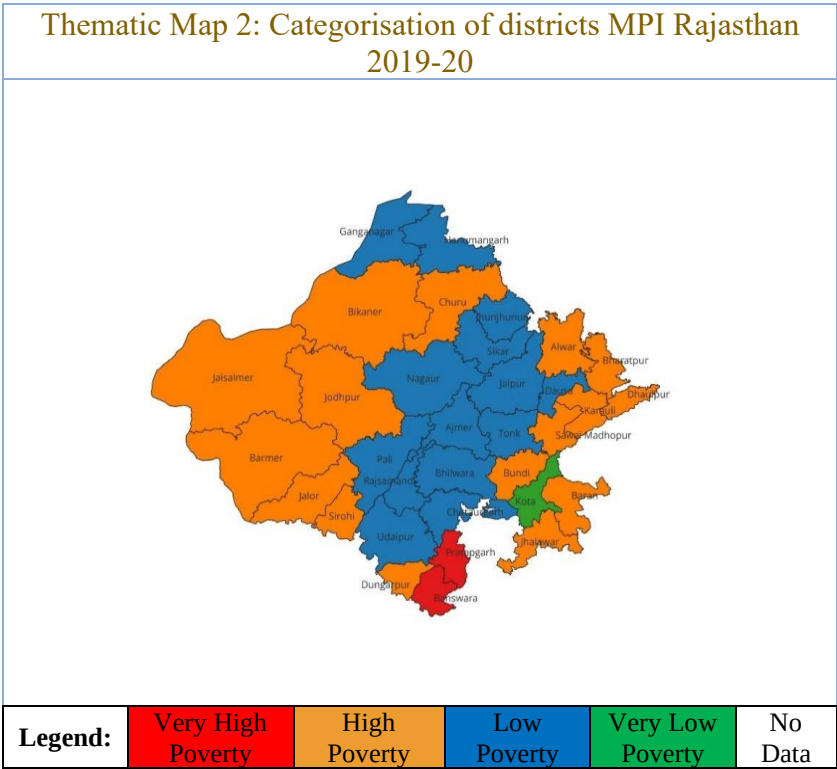


In Figure 4, the district-wise Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) for Rajasthan in the year 2019-20 is presented. The data underscores Kota as having the lowest poverty rate at 0.023, while Pratapgarh records the highest poverty rate at 0.134 among the 33 districts in the state. This MPI analysis reveals a substantial inter-district disparity, notably highlighted by the significant gap between Kota and Pratapgarh. Specifically, Pratapgarh exhibits a poverty rate approximately nearly six times higher than that of Kota.

The figure further delineates that district like Kota (0.023), Jaipur (0.028), Jhunjhunu (0.035), Sikar (0.038) and Ganganagar (0.039) occupy the top positions with lower poverty rates. In contrast, districts such as Jaisalmer (0.105), Karauli (0.113), Dholpur (0.115), Banswara (0.124) and Pratapgarh (0.134) find themselves in the bottom positions with higher poverty rates. It is imperative to recognize that a mere ranking analysis may not encapsulate the comprehensive picture of the diverse statuses of districts concerning MPI.

To mitigate this limitation, an endeavor has been made to categorize the districts into four groups – Very High Poverty, High Poverty, Low Poverty, and Very Low Poverty – employing the geographic mean method. Thematic Map 2 visually represents this categorization, providing a more nuanced comprehension of the poverty landscape across different districts in Rajasthan.

Chart 2: Intra State disparities in multi-dimensional poverty index in Rajasthan



- Kota district (**MPI-0.023**) is in the first position in Rajasthan with all India rank 193 and it comes under **Very Low Poverty** category. And Kota is the Only districts of Rajasthan which comes under the category of **Very Low Poverty**. Whereas, Prathapgarh (**MPI-0.134**) is in the last position with all India rank 625 and it is in the category of **Very High Poverty**.
- 14 districts (42.42%) out of 33 districts are observed in the **Low Poverty** category.
- 16 districts (48.48%) are found in the category of **High Poverty**.
- Only two districts namely Banswar and Pratapgarh fall under the category of **Very High Poverty** category.
- 40.18% is the inter district poverty disparity in Rajasthan. Highest poverty disparity is in the Jaipur division (49.77%) and Lowest disparity is in the Bharatpur division (15.58%).

Division wise analyses of Poverty:

Rajasthan comprises seven divisions, namely Ajmer, Udaipur, Jaipur, Kota, Bikaner, Jodhpur, and Bharatpur.

Ajmer Division (04 Districts):

All four districts—Nagaur, Tonk, Ajmer, and Bhilwara—are categorized as Low Poverty.

Udaipur Division (06 Districts):

Dungarpur falls under High Poverty, while Banswara and Pratapgarh are classified as Very High Poverty. The remaining three districts in this division are categorized as Low Poverty.

Jaipur Division (05 Districts):

Alwar is designated as High Poverty, while the remaining districts in this division fall into the category of Low Poverty.

Kota Division (04 Districts):

Except for Kota, categorized as Very Low Poverty, the remaining three districts in this division are classified as High Poverty.

Bikaner Division (04 Districts):

Ganganagar and Hanumangarh are classified as Low Poverty, whereas the other two districts are categorized as High Poverty.

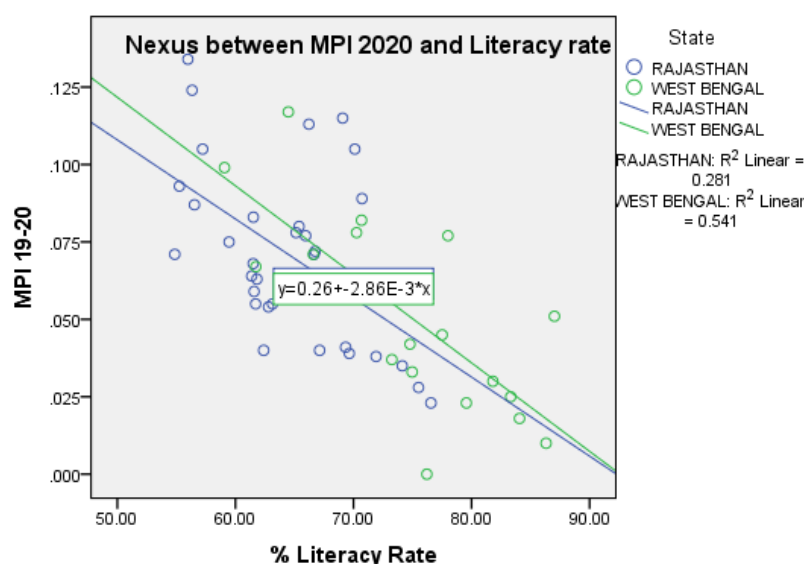
Jodhpur Division (06 Districts):

Except for Pali, categorized as Low Poverty, the remaining districts in this division are designated as High Poverty.

This division-wise breakdown provides a concise overview of the poverty classifications across districts in Rajasthan, offering a nuanced understanding of the varied economic landscapes within each division

Despite Rajasthan's abundant natural resources and rich cultural heritage, the state grapples with a pronounced prevalence of hunger and malnutrition, particularly among women and children. Addressing this challenge within the framework of the Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) demands sustained efforts and strategic investments to enhance the nutritional well-being of the population, with a specific focus on improving the multidimensional aspects affecting children.

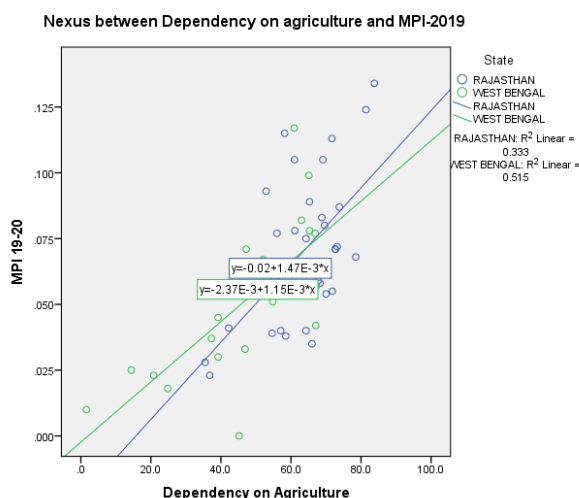
VII Nexus Between MPI Literacy Rate and Dependency on Agriculture:



In Scatter Diagram 1, we examine the correlation between the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) and Literacy Rate for the selected districts. The scatter diagram visually depicts a negative association between these variables,

indicating an inverse relationship. Simply put, the data suggests that regions or populations characterized by lower literacy rates tend to exhibit higher levels of multidimensional poverty, whereas those with higher literacy rates tend to experience lower levels of multidimensional poverty. This observation underscores the interplay between educational attainment and poverty, highlighting the potential impact of literacy on the overall well-being and development of a given area or population.

Scatter Diagram 2 illustrates a significant positive association between the Multidimensional



Poverty Index (MPI) and dependency on agriculture in the selected districts. This suggests that regions heavily reliant on agriculture tend to have higher levels of multidimensional poverty. The findings highlight the vulnerability of agricultural livelihoods to factors like climate change and market fluctuations. Rural communities, where agriculture is a primary income source, face challenges reflected in elevated poverty

rates compared to urban areas. Addressing this correlation requires comprehensive strategies, including efforts to enhance agricultural productivity, promote sustainable farming practices, improve market access, and diversify rural economies. Moreover, investments in education, healthcare, infrastructure, and social protection programs are essential to uplift agricultural communities and bolster their resilience against economic uncertainties.

VIII Findings, Suggestion and Conclusion:

- The substantial inter-district disparities in poverty rates within states like, exemplified by the significant gap between districts such as Bardhaman and Puruliya.
- The positive association between the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) and dependency on agriculture in selected districts, highlighting the vulnerability of agricultural livelihoods to poverty. The substantial inter-district disparities in poverty rates within states like West Bengal, exemplified by the significant gap between districts such as Bardhaman and Puruliya.
- Regions or populations with lower literacy rates tend to have higher levels of multidimensional poverty, while areas with higher literacy rates experience lower levels of poverty.

Suggestions:

- Enhance access to quality education and educational resources in regions with high poverty levels to empower individuals and communities to break the cycle of poverty.
- Diversify income sources and livelihood opportunities in agricultural-dependent regions to reduce vulnerability to poverty and enhance economic resilience.

- Launch targeted literacy programs in high-poverty districts like Purulia, Bankura, Birbhum, Paschim Medinipur, and Maldah in West Bengal to improve educational outcomes and empower residents.
- Implement targeted skill development programs in high-poverty districts like Pratapgarh, Banswara, Dholpur, Karauli, and Jaisalmer in Rajasthan to enhance employability and income opportunities for residents.

Conclusion:

Addressing regional disparities and multidimensional poverty in states like West Bengal and Rajasthan requires targeted interventions tailored to the unique challenges faced by different districts. By implementing specific programs in high-poverty districts such as Purulia, Bankura, Birbhum, Paschim Medinipur, and Maldah in West Bengal, and Pratapgarh, Banswara, Dholpur, Karauli, and Jaisalmer in Rajasthan, significant progress can be made towards sustainable development and poverty alleviation. Initiatives focusing on education, agriculture, healthcare, and community-driven projects can empower residents, improve livelihoods, and foster inclusive growth. By collaborating with local stakeholders and leveraging the strengths of each district, policymakers can create targeted solutions that address the root causes of poverty and promote holistic well-being. Through strategic investments and sustained efforts, West Bengal and Rajasthan can pave the way for a more equitable and prosperous future for all their residents.

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APPENDIX:

State	Divisions	District	MPI 19-20	MPI 19-20_CAT	Rank to Nation	Rank within the state
RAJASTH AN	ajmer	Ajmer	0.041	Low Poverty	310	8
RAJASTH AN	Jaipur	Alwar	0.089	High Poverty	519	26
RAJASTH AN	Udaipur	Banswara	0.124	Very High Poverty	607	32
RAJASTH AN	Kota	Baran	0.071	High Poverty	451	17
RAJASTH AN	Jodhpur	Barmer	0.087	High Poverty	515	25
RAJASTH AN	Bharatpur	Bharatpur	0.105	High Poverty	570	28
RAJASTH AN	Ajmer	Bhilwara	0.064	Low Poverty	414	15
RAJASTH AN	Bikaner	Bikaner	0.078	High Poverty	479	22
RAJASTH AN	Kota	Bundi	0.083	High Poverty	503	24
RAJASTH AN	Udaipur	Chittorgarh	0.055	Low Poverty	365	10
RAJASTH AN	Bikaner	Churu	0.072	High Poverty	458	19
RAJASTH AN	Jaipur	Dausa	0.058	Low Poverty	379	12
RAJASTH AN	Bharatpur	Dholpur	0.115	High Poverty	592	31
RAJASTH AN	Udaipur	Dungarpur	0.075	High Poverty	466	20
RAJASTH AN	Bikaner	Ganganagar	0.039	Low Poverty	302	5
RAJASTH AN	Bikaner	Hanumangarh	0.04	Low Poverty	305	6
RAJASTH AN	Jaipur	Jaipur	0.028	Low Poverty	232	2
RAJASTH AN	Jodhpur	Jaisalmer	0.105	High Poverty	570	28
RAJASTH AN	Jodhpur	Jalore	0.071	High Poverty	451	17
RAJASTH AN	Kota	Jhalawar	0.068	High Poverty	434	16
RAJASTH AN	Jaipur	Jhunjhunu	0.035	Low Poverty	276	3
RAJASTH AN	Jodhpur	Jodhpur	0.077	High Poverty	472	21
RAJASTH AN	Bharatpur	Karauli	0.113	High Poverty	587	30
RAJASTH AN	Kota	Kota	0.023	Very Low Poverty	193	1
RAJASTH AN	ajmer	Nagaur	0.054	Low Poverty	360	9
RAJASTH AN	Jodhpur	Pali	0.04	Low Poverty	305	6

RAJASTH AN	Udaipur	Pratapgarh	0.134	Very High Poverty	625	33
RAJASTH AN	Udaipur	Rajsamand	0.055	Low Poverty	365	10
RAJASTH AN	Bharatpur	Sawai Madhopur	0.08	High Poverty	488	23
RAJASTH AN	Jaipur	Sikar	0.038	Low Poverty	298	4
RAJASTH AN	Jodhpur	Sirohi	0.093	High Poverty	530	27
RAJASTH AN	ajmer	Tonk	0.059	Low Poverty	385	13
RAJASTH AN	Udaipur	Udaipur	0.063	Low Poverty	409	14
WEST BENGAL	Medinipur	Bankura	0.078	High Poverty	479	18
WEST BENGAL	Burdwan division	Barddhaman	0	Very Low Poverty	1	1
WEST BENGAL	Burdwan division	Birbhum	0.082	High Poverty	498	19
WEST BENGAL	jalpaiguri	Darjeeling	0.023	Very Low Poverty	193	4
WEST BENGAL	Malda	Dinajpur Dakshin	0.057	Low Poverty	373	13
WEST BENGAL	Presidency	Howrah	0.025	Very Low Poverty	213	5
WEST BENGAL	Burdwan division	Hugli (Hooghly)	0.03	Low Poverty	247	6
WEST BENGAL	jalpaiguri	Jalpaiguri	0.037	Low Poverty	289	8
WEST BENGAL	jalpaiguri	Koch Bihar (Coochbehar)	0.042	Low Poverty	317	9
WEST BENGAL	Presidency	Kolkata	0.01	Very Low Poverty	71	2
WEST BENGAL	Malda	Maldah	0.067	High Poverty	429	15
WEST BENGAL	Malda	Murshidabad	0.071	High Poverty	451	16
WEST BENGAL	Presidency	Nadia	0.033	Low Poverty	268	7
WEST BENGAL	Presidency	North 24 Parganas	0.018	Very Low Poverty	154	3
WEST BENGAL	Medinipur	Paschim Medinipur (Medinipur West)	0.077	High Poverty	472	17
WEST BENGAL	Medinipur	Purba Medinipur (Medinipur East)	0.051	Low Poverty	349	12
WEST BENGAL	Medinipur	Puruliya	0.117	High Poverty	597	21
WEST BENGAL	Presidency	South 24 Parganas	0.045	Low Poverty	326	10
WEST BENGAL	Malda	Uttar Dinajpur (Dinajpur Uttar)	0.099	High Poverty	552	20

Source: India National Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index,2023

