

The Effectiveness of the 12th Five Year Plan to Elevate Poverty in India

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Abstract: The government intends to reduce poverty by 10 per cent during the 12th Five-Year Plan. Ahluwalia said, "We aim to reduce poverty estimates by 2 percent annually on a sustainable basis during the Plan period" Two-thirds of people (68.8%) in **India** live in relative **poverty** (lives on less than \$2 a day). Over 30 percent even have less than \$1.25 per day (living in absolute poverty) they are considered extremely poor. According to Achim Steiner, the Administrator, UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) India lifted 271 million people out of poverty in just a 10-year time period during 2005-06 to 2015-16. The World Bank has been revising its definition and benchmarks to measure poverty since 1990, with a \$2 per day income on PPP (purchasing power parity) basis as the definition in use from 2005 to 2013. Poverty has been described as a situation of "pronounced deprivation in well-being" and being poor as "to be hungry", to lack shelter and clothing, to be sick and not cared for, to be illiterate and not schooled...they are often treated badly by institutions of state and society and excluded from voice and power institutions"(IBRD,2000-2001:15).Using income as a measure of poverty, the World Development Report (2000 – 01:3)refers to the "deep poverty amid plenty" in the world and states that world's people live on the than \$1 a day, and 44 per cent of them are in South Asia. Poverty is one of the social evils in India, needs to be addressed seriously by the government of India (GOI). The central government of India has been taking considerable measures to address this issue since it dependence. In every five year plan the government deployed funds, various measures to elevate the poverty. In this article the researcher has made an attempt to study the effectiveness of the 12th five year plan to elevate poverty.

Keywords: Poverty Elevation, Economic Planning.

Date of Submission: 01-06-2020

Date of Acceptance: 15-06-2020

I. INTRODUCTION:

Poverty has been described as a situation of "pronounced deprivation in well-being" and being deprived as "to be hungry", to lack shelter and clothing, to be sick and not cared for, to be illiterate and not schooled...they are often treated badly by institutions of state and society and excluded from voice and power institutions"(IBRD,2000-2001:15). Economic 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 people. Poverty is one of the unrelenting and intractable problems facing governments and populations throughout the world. Using income as a measure of poverty, the World Development Report (2000 – 01:3) refers to the "deep poverty amid plenty" in the world and states that world's people live on the than \$1 a day, and 44 percent of them are in South Asia. Diminution of poverty in India is, therefore, critical for the attainment of national and international goals. To achieve sustainable economic development, developing nations should focus on meeting the basic needs of their inhabitants and be committed to ensuring stable political and economic environment. The GOI launched several poverty eradication programmes to create assets that benefit the poor and by raising the productivity of the poor through education, public health and other human resource related measures. Even though the Government plays a major role the implementation of the programmes the success yet vests with the public private partnership where the role and commitment of the private beneficiaries without whom the projects would not success. Recently the NGO's and other forms of the facilitators are playing major role in coordinating the programmes through formation of SHG's.Still the way to go is long and achievements to be made are immense.

Lack of access to resources to uselessness is a unifying characteristic of poverty in all its manifestations. The poor lack ownership or access to assets such as land, water, forest, dwelling units, credit, literacy, longevity, voice and capital-both physical and social.

Meaning of Poverty

Poverty is a social phenomenon in which a section of the society is unable to fulfill even its bare necessities such as food, shelter, and clothing. The Planning Commission of India has defined poverty on the basis of recommended nutritional requirements of 2,400 calories per person per day for rural areas and 2100 calories for urban areas.

Causes of Poverty in India

The following are the causes of poverty in India : 1)Increased growth rate of population, 2) Landless labour, 3) Low rate food production and productivity, 4) Low literacy rate , 6) in effective political system and corruption, 7) Lack of job opportunity and increased rate of unemployment, 8) Income inequalities and wealth distribution, 9) Migration, 10) Regional disparities, 11)Excessive population pressure on agriculture, 12) Lack of capital investment, and 13) Lack of vocational education and training.

Objectives of the Study

- To understand the meaning, concept, nature and the various causes of poverty in India.
- To study the effectiveness of the various measures taken by the GOI to elevate the poverty in India during the 12th five year plan (2012-2017)

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research is a systematic collection and analysis of information that is ultimately used in evolving decisions. All the stages in research process must be carried out in a logical manner it should also ensure objectivity in every step. Research must not be a mere collection of statistical information. One must justify the choice methodology of data collection analysis and research must not be too pre occupied with techniques, but instead convey the meaning of the results in human resource term even when some advance sophisticated or advanced tools is used. Our study considered all the above point and methodology of this study includes both present and historical information purely based on secondary data collection. The secondary data collected from 12th five yea planning reports of the planning commission, government of India.

THE CONCEPT, NATURE, FACTS OF POVERTY IN INDIA

Poverty is a state or condition in which an individual or society lacks the fiscal resources and essentials for a minimum standard of living. **Poverty** means that the income level from employment/job is so low that basic human needs can't be met. Households who live in absolute **poverty** tend to focus on day-to-day survival. Relative **poverty** refers to the economic status of a household whose income is insufficient to meet its society's average standard of living. Urban **poverty** occurs in metropolitan areas with populations of at least 50,000 people.

Poverty in India is not merely an economic phenomenon but a social one as well. The recent body of literature highlights the multidimensionality of poverty and the heterogeneity of the deprived. It also highlights the need to go beyond income poverty by using indices of human development and overall welfare. While defining poverty, it needs to take into account other aspects of life, employment, wages, assets, health, education and other basic needs, which are essential for a quality of life.

According to poverty Development Goals Report, 2011, as many as 320 million people in India and China are expected to come out of extreme poverty in the next four years, with India's poverty rate projected to drop from 51 percent in 1990 to about 22 percent in 2015. The report also indicates that in southern Asia, only India is on track to cut poverty by half by the 2015 target date. In 2015 according to United Nation Millennium Development Goals (MGD) programmes, India has already achieved the target of reducing poverty by half, with 24.7 percent of its 1.2 billion people in 2011 living below the poverty line or having income of less than \$1.25 a day, the U.N report said. The same figure was 49.9 percent in 1994. India had set a target of 23.9 percent to be achieved by 2015.

According to Global Wealth Report 2016 compiled by Credit Suisse Research Institute, India is second most unequal country in the world with the top one percent of the population owing 58 percent of total wealth.

India is estimated to have a one-third of the world's poor.

In 2012, 37 percent of India's 1.21 billion people fell below the global poverty line, which is \$1.25 a day, according to the Indian Planning Commission. According to World Bank data in 2010 India's labor participation rate (for the persons over the age of 15) total 55.6 percent; however, the percent of salaried workers of those employed only equaled about 18.1 percent.

Households can't grow enough crops to feed themselves each year due to lack of new farming techniques, difficult weather condition, poor storage conditions, misuse of insecticides and lack of water. According to the World Health Organization, it is estimated that 98,000 people in India die from diarrhea each year. The lack of adequate sanitation, nutrition and safe water has significant negative impacts.

A BRIEF NOTE OF 12TH FYP

The main objective of 12th FYP is 'rapid, sustainable and more inclusive growth' and some of the important growth indicators of the plan

Economic Growth indicators of the plan

- The actual GDP Growth Rate of 8.0 per cent.
- Agriculture Growth Rate of 4.0 per cent.
- Manufacturing Growth Rate of 10.0 per cent.
- Every State must have an average growth rate in this plan preferably higher than that achieved in the previous year.

Poverty and Employment indicators

- Head-count ratio of consumption poverty to be reduced by 10 percentage points over the preceding estimates by the end of this plan.
- Generate 50 million new job opportunities in the non-farm sector and provide skill certification to equivalent numbers during this plan.

Education growth indicators

- By end of this plan the 'Mean Years of Schooling' to increase to seven years.
- Enhance access to higher education by creating two million additional seats for each age cohort aligned to the skill needs of the nation.
- By the end of the plan eliminate gender and social gap in school enrollment (that is, between girls and boys, and between SCs, STs, Muslims and the rest of the population)

Health growth indicators

- Reduce IMR to 25 and MMR to 1 per 1,000 live births, and improve Child Sex Ratio (0–6 years) to 950 by the end of this plan.
- Reduce Total Fertility Rate to 2.1 by the end this plan.
- Reduce under-nutrition among children aged 0–3 years to half of the NFHS-3 levels by the end of this plan.

Targets of Millennium Development Goals:

- To attain the 'eradication of extreme poverty and hunger' in India, the proportion of population below poverty line must be reduced from nearly 27.5 percent in 2004-05 to about 18.75 by 2015.
- To aim at ensuring environmental sustainability.
- Reduction of educated unemployment to below 5 percent.
- Raising real wage rate of unskilled workers by 20 percent.
- Reducing the headcount ratio of consumption poverty by 10 percent.
- The proportion of population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation is to be halved by 2015 and India is on track to achieve these targets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF 12TH FYP ON POVERTY ELEVATION

The effectiveness of the 12th FYP is based on Health, Education, Employment and Skills Development, Women's Agency and Child Right, and Social Inclusion

Health

The 12th FYP seeks to strengthen initiatives taken in the previous plan to expand the reach of health care and work towards the long term aim of establishing a system of UHC (Universal Health Coverage) in the nation. This means that each person would have guaranteed access to a defined necessary range of medicines and treatment at an affordable price, which should be totally free for a large percentage of the population of the country. Inevitably, the list of guaranteed services will have to be limited by budgetary constraints. But the aim should be to expand coverage steadily over time. Based on the recommendations of the HLEG (High Level Expert Group) and other stakeholder discussions, it is possible to outline the key rudiments of the strategy that should be followed in the 12th FYP. These rudiments should be seen as a part of a longer term plan to move towards UHC, which is a process that will unfold over two or three FYPs periods.

Health sector expenditure by the Centre and States, both Plan and Non Plan, will have to be substantially increased by the end of this plan. It has already increased from 0.94 per cent of GDP in the 10th FYP to 1.04 per cent in the 11th FYP. The provision of clean drinking water and sanitation as one of the principal factors in the control of diseases is well established from the history of industrialized nations and it should have high priority in health related resource allocation. The percentage for this broader definition of health sector related resources needs to be increased to 2.5 per cent by the end of the 12th FYP. Since expenditure on health by the State Governments is about twice the expenditures by the Centre, the overall targets for public sector health expenditure can only be achieved if, along with the Centre, State Governments

expand their health budgets appropriately. A suitable mechanism should therefore be designed to incentivize an increase in State Government spending.

During the plan period the target of IMR 25, MMR 100, and Anaemia 28, whereas the present status IMR 44, MMR 212, and Anaemia 55.3.

The 12th FYP faces a huge task of putting in place a basic architecture for health security for the country. It must build on what has been achieved through the NRHM (National Rural Health Mission) and expand it into a complete NHM (National Horticulture Mission). Since the main responsibility for health care rests with the States, the strategy needs to effectively incentivize State Governments to do what is needed to improve the public health care system while regulating the private health care system, so that together they can work towards addressing the management of delivery of preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitatory health interventions.

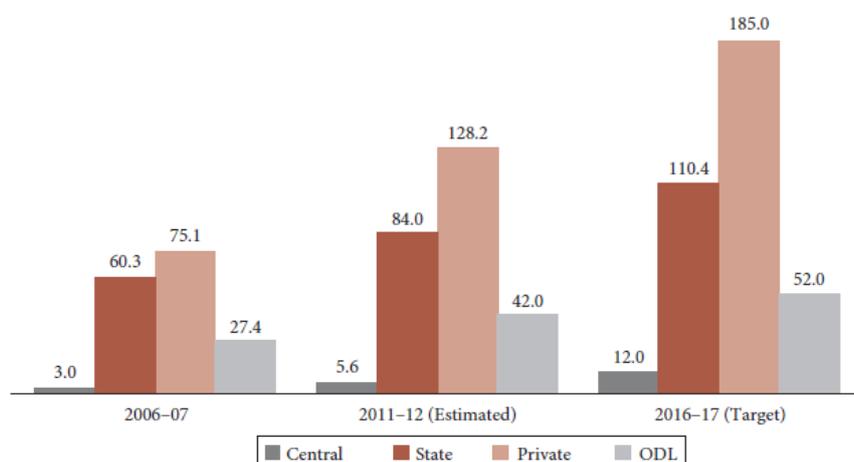
Education

During the 11th FYP, enrollment in higher education (including enrollment in open and distance learning) grew by 9.3 million from 16.6 million in 2006–07 to 25.9 million in 2011–12. Target for the 12th FYP is to increase enrollment capacity by another 10 million. Of this, 1 million will come from ODL(Open and Distance Learning), 3.3 million through large scale expansion of skill-granting diploma programs and remaining 5.7 million will come from further expansion of degree programs with accelerated expansion of postgraduate and doctoral programs (see Table 1). This additional enrollment capacity of 10 million students would enable roughly 3 million more students in each age cohort to enter higher education and raise the GER (Gross Enrollment Ratio) broadly in line with the present international average from 17.9 per cent (estimated for 2011–12) to 25.2 per cent by 2016-17. Enrollment capacity of Central institutions would be doubled from 0.6 million to 1.2 million. In the State institutions, it will increase from 8.4 million to 11 million. The bulk of growth would be in the private institutions. In private institutions, the enrollment capacity would increase from 12.7 million now to 18.5 million by the end of the Twelfth Plan period (see Figure 1).

Table 1: Enrollment Targets by Level/Type for the Twelfth Plan

Level/Type of Education	2011-12 (estimates)	2016-17 (targets)	Growth Rate (%)
PhD	1	3	24.6
PG General	17.3	33.2	13.9
PG Technical	5	12.2	19.5
UG General	116.6	128	1.9
UG Technical	45	66	8.0
Sub Total	184.9	242.4	5.6
Diploma	33	65	14.5
Total	217.9	307.4	7.1
ODL	42	52	4.4
Grand Total	259.9	359.4	6.7
Population 18-23 years	1451.21	1427.4	-0.1
GER (%)	17.90	25.20	

Source: 1) Planning Commission Estimates/Targets, and 2) Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17) report published by SAGE Publications India Private Ltd, New Delhi, 2013



Source: 1) Based on figures drawn from UGC, AICTE, NCTE, MHRD and INC, and 2) Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17) report published by SAGE Publications India Private Ltd, New Delhi, 2013

Figure 1: Enrolments in Higher Education (in lakh): 2006–07 to 2016–17

The outcome of 12th FYP has been established that enrollment targets of the plan period towards higher education at state and central are achieved

Employment and Skills Development

Table 2 has been describing various flagship employment development programmes initiated during the 12th FYP. The total funds allotted on these programmes Rs. 691976 crores. The highest funds allotted to MGNREGA is Rs.156301 and least funds allotted to Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana Rs.18,550. Most these programmes are pertaining to rural development, followed by School Education and Literacy, Health and Family Welfare, Women and Child Development, Urban Development, Water Resources, Power, Drinking Water Supply, and Agriculture and Cooperation.

Table 2: Flagship Development Programmes of 12th FYP

Unit: Rs. In Crores

Sl. No	Programme	Ministry/ Department	2007-08 Actual Expenditure	2011-12 BE	Total 12 th Plan
1	MGNREGA	Rural Development	12661	40000	156301
2	Indira Awas Yojana (IAY)	Rural Development	3886	10000	41486
3	National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)	Rural Development	3104	6158	23536
4	Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)	Rural Development	6500	20000	65002
5	NRHM	Health and Family Welfare	10509	18115	69214
6	ICDS	Women and Child Development	5193	10000	38980
7	Mid Day Meal (MDM)	School Education and Literacy	5832	10380	38602
8	Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA)	School Education and Literacy	11477	21000	77576
9	JNNURM	Urban Development	5508	13700	48485
10	Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) and Other Water Resources Programme	Water Resources	5446	12650	46622
11	Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Viduyati Karan Yojana (RGGVY)	Power	3913	6000	25913
12	Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission (Rural Drinking Water) – NRDWP and Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC)	Drinking Water Supply	7320	11000	46722
13	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana	Agriculture and Cooperation	1200	7811	18550
Grand Total			81217	186539	691976

Source: Draft Faster, Sustainable and More Inclusive Growth – An Approach to the 12th FYP, Planning Commission, 2011.

When we observe the Sectoral employment based on business as usual scenario, this would lead to a reduction in unemployment rate, and when adjusted for labor force participation rates, the employment in agriculture is expected to decline from 241.7 (2009-10) to 237.4 (2016-17). Even with business as-usual growth rates, the farm sector share in employment is expected to drop from 51.8 per cent in 2011–12 to 47.3 per cent in 2016–17. This also shows that shift from the farm to non-farm sector would be small, if the skill up-gradation and expansion of employment opportunities in manufacturing and services does not take place. In case of manufacturing sector it was increased from 50.6 percent (in 2011-12) to 52.2 percent (in 2016-17). The total employment had also increased from 468.0 million (in 2011-12) to 502.4 million (in 2016-17).

Table 3: Sectoral Employment (in million): Business-as-usual Scenario

Year	Farming	Mining and Quarrying	Production	Utilities	Construction	Trade, Transport, Hotels, and so on	Finance, Banking, Real Estate, and so on	Community, Personal and Social Services	Total
2009-10	241.7	2.7	50.0	1.4	43.6	68.6	9.5	37.2	454.7
2011-12	242.3	2.8	50.6	1.4	51.1	71.2	10.9	37.7	468.0
2016-17*	243.9	3.1	52.5	1.4	75.8	78.2	15.4	39.0	508.9
2016-17**	237.4	3.1	52.2	1.4	75.8	78.2	15.4	39.0	502.4

Projected Share of Employment in percent									
2011-12	51.77	0.60	10.81	0.29	10.91	15.22	2.34	8.06	100.0
2016-17	47.25	0.61	10.38	0.28	15.09	15.57	3.06	7.77	100.0

*pure demand side

** adjusted for labour force participation rates

Source: Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17) report published by SAGE Publications India Private Ltd, New Delhi, 2013

When we observe the sector employment based 12th FYP, as more skilled people coming back to the labor force after completing their education and training to join the work force, those under-employed in agriculture will be drawn out to fill the employment opportunities created by the non-farm sector. This could, in the planned scenario, bring down the projected share of employment in farm sector to about 45 percent of the total. The details are summarized in Table 4. The total employment opportunities of farm sector have been reduced from 242.4 million (2011-12) to 226 million (in 2016-17). In case of non-farming sector during the period from 2011-12 to 2016-17 has been 226.1 to 276.4.

Table 4: Sectoral Employment (in million): 12th FYP Scenario

Year	Farming	Mining and Quarrying	Production	Utilities	Construction	Trade, Transport, Hotels, and so on	Finance, Banking, Real Estate, and so on	Community, Personal and Social Services	Total
2011-12	242.4	2.8	51.0	1.4	51.1	71.2	10.9	37.7	468.6
2011-12	Farm	Non-farm							
	242.4	226.1							
2016-17	226.0	3.1	63.5	1.4	75.8	78.2	15.4	39.0	502.4
2016-17	Farm	Non-farm							
	226.0	276.4							
Projected Share of Employment in percent									
2011-12	51.74	0.60	10.88	0.29	10.91	15.20	2.33	8.06	100.0
2016-17	44.99	0.61	12.65	0.28	15.09	15.57	3.06	7.77	100.0

Note: the sector employment projections are based on the initial growth rate of 9% and would undergo change if based on 8%

Source: Source: Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17) report published by SAGE Publications India Private Ltd, New Delhi, 2013

Women's Agency and Child Right

The 12th FYP has made the fulfillment of women's rights an unchallenged condition to achievement of rapid and sustainable economic development. According the highest priority to eliminate gender based dissemination, inequities, and violence faced by girls, children, and women is the prerequisite to the objective of this plan. Satisfying children's rights to survival, growth, protection and participation is a critical development imperative that must be realized in the plan. Connecting with the move toward to Universal Health Care, converging the child care and education systems, health, ensuring a continuum of care and development, the 12th FYP strategy for inclusive development is unique.

The 12th FYP reiterates that Nutrition is vital for the fulfillment of human rights—particularly those of the most susceptible children, girls and women, locked in an inter-generational cycle of numerous deprivations. Critical priority is accorded to stop under-nutrition as early as possible, across the life cycle, to turn away irreversible cumulative development shortfalls that concession motherly, child and teenager health and survival, achievement of optimal learning outcomes in education and gender equality. It is envisaged that this synergy of multisectoral action, led by panchayats in partnership with societies—will enable the 12th FYP to realize our vision of Nutrition safety for all for faster, more inclusive and sustainable growth – the main objective the plan.

Convergent action will make the important dissimilarity to the lives of women and children particularly for reaching the most susceptible among them. The 12th FYP commitments into effective policies and programs that touch the lives of children and women—in the households and communities, where they live, grow and develop. The total outlay for the Women and Child Development Sector (including Nutrition) is Rs.1,17,707 crore which includes an outlay of Rs.1,08,503 crore for the ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services) flagship programme. The indicative action of 12th FYP under this head – Women's Agency and Child Rights have been furnished in Box 1 under the head of a call for Multisectoral Action for Children and Women.

Box 1: A Call for Multisectoral Action for Children and Women	
Indicative Action : Ministry of Women and Child Development	
•	Lead and convene Multi-sectoral Action for Children, Women and Nutrition with multi-sectoral commitments to Children embodied in the Results Framework Documents and Five year Strategic Plans of concerned ministries, Programme Implementation Plans and reviewed.

- Mainstream the rights based approach and gender perspective in Policies and Programmes.
- Harmonisation of child-related legislative provisions and child-sensitive jurisprudence.
- Updation of the National Policy For Children in harmony with the Twelfth Plan and National Policy for Nutrition.
- Development and implementation of National/State/District Plans of Action for Children, with monitor able outcomes, based on the updated policy, building on the Twelfth Plan.
- Focused interventions to improve the Child Sex Ratio, within an overall National Strategy for Care and Protection of the Girl Child and longer term interventions for gender equality.
- Designing a strategic approach to respond holistically to the emerging needs of children of excluded socio-religious community groups such as SC, ST, particularly vulnerable tribal groups, Minorities, other disadvantaged communities, including urban poor communities.
- Development of National ECCE Policy, curricular framework and standards.
- ICDS Restructuring as per framework evolved.
- Strengthening the early care, development and learning continuum.
- Strengthening the protective environment for all children—with a focus on prevention of vulnerability to abuse and exploitation, including in conflict and disturbed areas.
- Ensuring fulfillment of children’s rights to achieve full development potential and quality education-including the one in ten differently-abled child.
- Institutionalizing child participation through incorporation of children’s views into mainstream policy and programme formulation, implementation and monitoring processes.
- Valuing and recognizing the work of AWWs and AWHs—demonstrating the commitment to gender equality that is being advocated.
- Strengthening institutional capacity and partnerships between government sectors, civil society, panchayati raj institutions, families and communities for fulfilling children’s rights.
- State and district level nutrition multi-sectoral action plan framework for 200 high burden districts, especially linking with NRHM 264 high focus districts.
- State and District level Nutrition Councils to be set up in the above, along with inter-departmental coordination committees, thematic working groups.
- Institute mechanisms to ensure that infant and young child feeding and nutritional support interventions are free from commercial influence and conflict of interest.
- Roll out of RGSEAG SABLE and IGMSY, with an evaluation framework, with likely scaling up of IGMSY, as linked to the Draft National Food Security Bill 2011.
- Mandating an Impact Assessment of relevant sectoral policies and programmes on children as a part of the Mid Term Appraisal of the Twelfth Plan.

Social Inclusion

Scheduled Castes (SCs): Strategy for the 12th FYP

The 12th FYP must struggle harder to achieve the overall development in socio-economic conditions of the weaker sections by extending a well balanced prioritization of efforts made for social development and economic empowerment based on the actual needs and problems of these societies. The principal goals for the 12th FYP, towards empowerment of the SCs , have been given below:

- 1 Given the security and dignity of all persons belonging to the SCs, especially women and put a complete end to all forms of ‘untouchability’ and discrimination against them.
- 2 The SCs—both men and women—at par, to the maximum possible extent, with their non-SC/ST counterparts, in terms of all developmental indices such as education, health, nutrition, housing, income generation and employability.
- 3 Empower SCs to take part in society and in nation-building, on an equal basis with others.
- 4 Effectively implement SCSP as the necessary instrument for accomplishing inclusive growth.
- 5 The pre-matric scholarship scheme extend to SC students studying in Class 1 to 10
- 6 Special attention needs paid not only to retention in schools but also to provide the children with quality education through incentives like free supply of books, mid-day meals, hostels, and so on to SC children especially the SC girls.
- 7 Post-Matric Scholarships for SCs students provided to pursue higher education in various courses. Through this SCs students who have completed 10th Class or 12th Board Examination, got a provision for a laptop or other suitable computing device
- 8 RGNF (Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship) for SC was increased more than 2000 students in this plan.

Scheduled Tribes (STs): Strategy for the Twelfth Plan

The maintenance of socio-economic backwardness among the STs, in spite of the efforts made so far, presents a formidable challenge demanding effective and result-oriented steps in every developmental sector in the 12th FYP. The approach of the plan to achieve overall improvement in the socio-economic conditions of the STs got success, with the help of the following key elements:

- Relaxed the normative recommendations about taking up a programme or a scheme in the SCs majority regions.

- Preferred people from the tribal community itself in the areas predominantly inhabited by STs for government efforts at spreading education, healthcare and extension services, nutrition, public distribution system, and so on. For example, engaging a +2 student from the nearby locality for teaching ST students in primary classes.
- Sensitized government officials detailed for serving in the tribal regions so that they become empathetic to the sensitivities of tribal lives and their traditions.
- Reorganized the fundamental services such as nutritional interventions, education, healthcare services, public distribution system, employment generating activities under MGNREGA with posting adequate staff with surety of tenure and assurance of funds to implement various programmes.
- No post in the implementing agencies in regions, where STs majority should be left vacant; every post must be filled up and wherever necessary, additional posts should be created for effective implementation.
- Implementation of the schemes must be monitored closely and should not be made to suffer on account of problems associated with transfer of funds.
- Better coverage in roads for tribal areas (population of 500–1,000) and railways, with population up to 100 being covered in LWE (Left Wing Extremism) to be connected.
- Land acquisition of tribal land to be addressed as required under PESA (Panchayat Extension to Schedule Area) Act and displaced ST population to be resettled and rehabilitated.
- Plan within a plan of the 12th FYP: Suitable programmes for Central Indian Tribal Belt, border and backward regions and those who suffered discrimination like DNTs(Denotified Tribes)
- Better and speedy implementation of PESA and FRA (Forest Right Act) Institutional Mechanism of Conflict Resolutions.

The 12th FPY has given an utmost importance of educational empowerment assumes special importance in the context of minorities, especially Muslims, who have been lagging behind the rest. The reports of the Sachar Committee and the Ranganath Mishra Commission have dealt at length with the educational status of the minorities; particularly Muslims have been focused during the plan period. As shown in table 5 the literacy rate among the Muslims is significantly lower than among other communities although it is higher than among SCs and STs.

Table 5: The Literacy Rate of various communities in India

Community	Secondary Level	Sr. Secondary Level	Graduation	Unclassified
All Religions	14.13	6.74	6.72	0.02
Hindus	14.25	6.92	7.01	0.01
Muslims	10.96	4.53	3.60	0.05
Christians	17.48	8.70	8.71	0.01
Sikhs	20.94	7.57	6.94	0.02
Buddhists	14.09	7.65	5.70	0.01
Others	11.24	4.55	4.35	0.01

Source: 1) Working Group Report on the Empowerment of Minorities, 12th FYP, and 2) *Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17) report published by SAGE Publications India Private Ltd, New Delhi, 2013*

III. CONCLUSION

The 12th FYP commenced at a time when the global economy was going through a second financial crisis, precipitated by the sovereign debt problems of the Eurozone which erupted in the last year of the 11th FYP. The crisis affected all nations including India. Our growth slowed down to 6.2 percent in 2011-12 and the deceleration continued into the first year of the 12th FYP, when the economy is estimated to have grown by only 5 percent. The 12th FYP emphasized on achieve the main objective economy. During the plan period distributional distresses have traditionally been viewed as ensuring an adequate flow of benefits to the deprived and the most marginalized. It is worth noting that the record in this dimension of inclusiveness is encouraging. The percentage of the population below the official poverty line has been falling but even as that happens, the numbers below the poverty line remain large. The 12th FYP lays special emphasis on the development of social sectors in view of their impact on human development and quality of life. Unlike the case with other infrastructure, experiments with public private participation in the social sector have been more limited. Many States have experimented with public and private participations in health and education. The Central Government has approved setting up of 2,500 Model Schools in public private participation mode and a proposal for setting up 3,000 ITIs through public private participation is under consideration. These initiatives will be strengthened during the 12th FYP. Numerous poverty alleviation programmes have been taken to improve standard of living SCs and STs during the plan period. Steps have been taken to create more employment opportunities, provide free education and scholarship for such people. Credit facilities are provided

to them so that they can establish their business. With the support of various anti-poverty programmes, rural population in India had a great opportunity influence on the social structure and moved up the social ladder.

During the 12th FYP, the problem of poverty addressed seriously, however the reforms have been conservative and incomplete while something more direct and ‘‘beefy’’ was needed. Consistent poverty reduction in India has failed, especially in largely farming states such as Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh because investments in rural literacy, education, technology and infrastructure were insubstantial. This explains the structure of the Indian economy: as agriculture develops, it frees labor for industrialized and commercial industries, but since this hasn’t happened the nation has focused on the service sector instead, which employees for fewer people and the rural poverty in our nation has subsisted up until today while at the same time the services sector account for the most country’s GDP.

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M. Prathyusha, et. al. "The Effectiveness of the 12th Five Year Plan to Elevate Poverty in India." *International Journal of Business and Management Invention (IJBMI)*, vol. 09(06), 2020, pp 01-09. Journal DOI- 10.35629/8028