

PARAMETERS OF POVERTY AMONG TRIBALS

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Acknowledgement

The list Below Poverty Line (BPL) people has been made afresh in the State. But when a survey was conducted for the purpose, the parameters of poverty were not properly understood by people and they didnot know what to declare and what not to declare. Therefore many poor people, though eligible to be enlisted in BPL list, couldnot be accomodated therein. It is necessary to take into consideration the factors like tribal cul- ture, the geographical conditions, their food, their traditional beliefs and the facilities in the area. Are the present Parameters of poverty suitable for people in tribal areas ? In fact, what should be considered for a poverty line ? There were some of the points in mind of members of Advisory Committee of Tribal Research and Training Institute; when they sug- gested to the Institute to conduct a study in this respect.

I am indebted to Dr. Chandrakantbhai Upadhyay, Director of the training institute to entrust me the responsibility to conduct this study as well as for providing me unique guidance throughout the process of this study.

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Arun Patel

PART-I

BACKGROUND

India a underdeveloped or developing country. The contribution of agriculture field is great in raw household products as well as in providing employment to people. In the countries or regions having economic progress or having attained higher per capita income, there is less significance and contribution of agriculture field. It could be said that significance of agricultural field in Indian economy is perhaps responsible for the prevailing rate of poverty, unemployment and inequality. Of course, there are different dimensions of poverty; but a common parameters can be said to be families or people with less income than the minimum level of income.

An unemployed person is one who is prepared to work at the prevailing market rate of wages but does not get work at that rate. Of course, an individual can be unemployed voluntarily also; but in economics, the above mentioned definition is accepted and only industrially unemployed people are included in it. The problem of unemployment is there in the developed countries also. The present global situation of unemployment is very serious and in our country it could create more serious issues due to higher rate of population. In short, the problem of poverty is very serious and it is necessary to study it from various dimensions.

Poverty could be of three types : (1) Absolute poverty, (2) Voluntary poverty and (3) Poverty which is created by self.

The Absolute poverty indicates the place of an individual in context of his/her standard of living. In other words, an absolute poverty indicates, standard of living of an individual or a family. The standard of living have also different norms such as, level of nutrition in one's food, expenditure on clothes, house, education, health etc. If a person cannot afford to have a minimum standard of living from his earning, he could be considered to be poor. According to a Committee, appointed by Planning Commission of India in the year 1962 to study the problem of poverty, the minimum level of income means the expenditure on consumption at the rate of Rs. 20/- per month, per an

individual, at the costs prevailing during those years. This expenditure on consumption does not include expenditure on health and education; because the responsibility of health and education belonged to the State as per constitutional provisions. In short, the expenditure on consumption means minimum level of income, which is termed as 'line of poverty'. The idea of poverty line is based on what level of income is required to get minimum level of nutritious food to live in decent way. The planning Commission had accepted that minimum level. But during that period, according to the opinions views, of some economists such as Dandekar and Rath, it was necessary to have different levels of minimum income for Urban and Rural areas; because they argued that the expenditure for living in Urban areas is higher compared to rural areas; and therefore the minimum level of income should be higher in Urban areas than in Rural areas. They also opined that minimum level of required calorie should be 22-50 per capita. According to P.K. Barda, the minimum food requirement for an individual is 150 gms. of cereals, 30 gms. of pulses, 40 gms. of milk; 1-5 gms. of sugar and jaggery, 1.250 gms. of edible oils, 10 gms. of ground nut and 60 gms. of vegetables. He mentioned that the above food will provide 2100 calorie and 55 gms. of protien in a day. The Planning Commission of India estimated a need for 2400 calorie in a day in rural areas and 2100 calarie in Urban areas as a parameters of poverty line.

The unequal distribution of assets make the problem of poverty rather complicated; because only assets make available income and services. It is not a required condition to have possession or acquisition of land for good economic conditions; but in rural areas, lack of possession of land is a root cause of poverty. In rural areas, a lot of farmer families have such a small piece of land that they cannot produce enough for their use and rest to sell in market to make minimum income for living. Therefore they remain poor. Besides, use of modern production techniques result in more production and that can bring higher income. This is clear from the experience and example of Pubjab. In Punjab, the use of modern production technology per an unit of land is higher than in any other State or region. If large number of our people cannot afford to have such modern techquincs, there is least possibility of increase in their income; and consequently they will remain poor for ever.

In the local Gujarati daily 'Divya Bhaskar' in its 1-2-09 issue, in the popular column 'Vicharona Vrindavanman' (in the beautiful garden of thoughts) the well known columnist Dr. Gunvant Shah has noted about his interview with late Prime Minister Narsinh Rao in the year 2003. In the interview, Narsinh Rao had expressed his views about poor people and problem of poverty in the following words : "The poor people in our country has no house to stay in; yet he is not unhappy. Even if he gets a house to stay in, there is no sureity that he will be happy. We have applied our thoughts about his happiness or unhappiness; but he is satisfied with whatever he has. We shall have to properly understand and assess this Indian philosophy. Then only we will be able to do something. In fact, our thought process is very much different; and this is not Indian one. We feel that we understand everything, but in reality, we donot understand any thing. The concept of happiness in Indian mind is quite different. We have made up our mind that the happiness and poverty are opposite to each other. But it is now time to think about all this; and perhaps to think very deeply." These are thoughts expressed by late Prime Minister Mr. Narsinh Rao. Only one question needs to be asked, "can we appreciate such Indian mind-set on poverty ?" I am afraid, no, we cannot appreciate it.

In our State, the list of BPL people has been prepared again afresh. But the parameters of poverty ascertainment are rather difficult to understand. Therefore when the survey to determine BPL people was undertaken; people didnot know what to declare and what not to declare. Consequently, many people, though eligible to be included in BPL list were not included due to lack of proper understanding. On other hand, there is a kind of conflicting situation between State Government and Central Government as to how many people to be included in BPL list. Of course, one can go in appeal if one is not included in BPL list though eligible to be included; but in most of the cases, the poor people are not aware.

In order to solicit assistance from Government of India, there are 13 parameters decided to determine poverty. All these 13 parameters have four marks. If a family obtains 1 to 16 marks, it automatically becomes eligible for central assistance as "very

very poor family". If a family obtains more than 16 marks; it also becomes eligible for assistance under schemes of State Government. But most of the poor people are not aware of such gymnics.

The above mentioned 13 parameters of determining poverty include land, type of house, common dress, security for food, means of livelihood, number of literate people in a family, status of child and its bringing up, type of debt, need for migration, rate of wages and employment, sanitation etc.

The Gujarat State had initially prepared a list of 23.5 lakhs of BPL people, but the Central Government agreed to provide assistance to only 12 lakh people. People though eligible to be included in BPL list have two chances for appeal; but the poor people do not have any information in this regard; nor are they able to afford the expenses.

The statistics of census since 1961 prove that number and percentage of tribal people engaged in agriculture has been declining day by day; whereas there is constant increase in number and percentage of people engaged in agriculture labour work and other labour work. In short, the people dependent on land farming is not able to earn his bread for the year.

For tribal people, land is the main source of subsistence. As per survey conducted by District Rural Development Agencies (DRDA), the number of tribal BPL people was 6.89 lakhs in 1991-92 which increased to 7.46 lakhs (8.27% rise) in the year 1997-78 and in the year 2000, there are 8.64 lakhs of tribal people living in BPL status. Thus, since 1991, in one decade, we witness the increase to the tune of 25.40 per cent. In rural Gujarat, there are totally 57,66,738 families in rural areas, there are 23,29,378 families living in BPL Status. Thus, in rural areas of the State, the BPL percentage is 40.39 percent. Out of this 40.39 percent, 37.09 percent families are tribals. Thus, the picture of Schedule tribes in Gujarat, in context of poverty is very gloomy. It can also be seen that the percentage of BPL families in districts with tribal population is much higher than those in non-tribal districts. In short, if we view the poverty scenario in whole State of Gujarat vis-a-vis that in tribal areas, we can surely see the marked difference

between these two. The economic conditions in tribal areas are much more poor. Here in the following table, we have the figures of BPL people district-wise as well as scheduled tribe-wise.

**Number of families living Below Poverty Line
(1-4-2000)**

Sr. No.	Name of the District	No.of Rural families	No.of Families living BPL	per-cent	No.of S.T. families	Percentage of tribal families living BPL as against total families
1.	Ahmedabad	297533	78722	26.46	1756	2.23
2.	Amreli	187694	50761	27.04	54	0.11
3.	Kutch	221577	73225	33.05	13045	17.81
4.	Kheda	298090	108586	36.43	2640	2.43
5.	Anand	249789	73641	29.48	558	0.76
6.	Gandhinagar	160989	35457	22.02	50	0.14
7.	Jamnagar	176352	79671	45.18	894	1.12
8.	Junagadh	301774	75819	25.12	894	1.18
9.	Porbandar	59344	17581	29.63	539	3.07
10.	Dangs	39092	33968	86.89	33541	98.74
11.	Panchmahal	318224	222493	69.92	72052	32.38
12.	Dahod	238770	192920	80.80	151069	78.31
13.	Banaskantha	399061	135615	33.98	19535	14.40
14.	Bharuch	214140	109593	51.18	66413	60.60
15.	Rajpipla	88908	73494	82.66	58077	79.02
16.	Bhavnagar	243917	72444	29.70	70	0.10
17.	Mehsana	237722	46519	19.57	0	-
18.	Patan	163562	56228	34.38	483	0.86
19.	Rajkot	259770	78376	30.17	1	-
20.	Vadodara	346978	132053	38.06	75364	57.07
21.	Valsad	158898	85269	53.66	78564	92.14
22.	Navsari	149096	75512	50.65	63617	84.25
23.	Sabarkantha	334890	146455	43.73	43408	29.64
24.	Surat	406044	195761	48.21	178025	90.94
25.	Surendranagar	214524	79215	36.93	3454	4.36
	Gujarat State	5766738	2329378	40.39	864103	37.09

An attempt has been made to observe the news items from the daily news paper to assess the status of poverty in tribal talukas :

- (1) The Planning Commission of India has issued the index of backwardness. In this, the district of Dangs of Gujarat State ranked FIRST as the most poor district. It is surprising that though Bihar and Zarkhand are known as a poor states; but not a single district of these states appear in the list of first twenty most poor districts of India. In those first twenty most poor districts of India, there are 3 districts from Gujarat; 6 from Orissa, five from Zarkhand, 3 from Chhatisgarh, 2 from M.P. and one from Rajasthan. As per Planning Commission's list of most poor districts of India, No.1 is Dangs and no.2 is Vansvada district of Rajasthan, no.3 is Zabua district of M.P. It is worthwhile to note that for determining poverty, the Planning Commission had followed the standards such as no.of people of ST and SC, prevailing agriculture conditions, production per an agricultural labour etc. The list was prepared to identify the districts where the NAREGA should be implemented.
- (2) A pitiable person with dirty brief dhoti passes through a tar road. His body has become dark due to constant sun light. His bones can be counted. He is poverty incarnated. He is only 30 years of age; but looks old. He wears a single shirt because he doesnot have money to buy another one. This is not a discription of most extreme famiyl. This man is from Dhanpur taluka of Dahod District of Vibrant Gujarat and the period is early years of 21st Century. Dhanpur Taluka is on border of M.P. and is very poor taluka. The cases of migration for earning livelihood are maximum from this taluka only. The District Collector of Dahod District observes : "The most poor Dhanpur taluka of Gujarat also appears among most poor three talukas of India". The TDO also agrees that there is least development in this district. Due to hilly and rocky land, the development of agriculture also could not take place. Usually after Diwali, 70 percent of people from this taluka migrate to other places in search of employment."

The main objective of this study was to examine whether parameters for poverty are suitable and applicable to tribal population. The scope of the study is very wide; but

it is felt necessary that while deciding poverty, at least among the tribals; the factors like tribal culture, geographical conditions in which they live, their food, their traditional beliefs, the facilities and infrastructure available in the tribal areas etc. need to be considered and appropriate weightage to be given to these factors.

For the study, we have used a tool of Interview guide. We have also made efforts to study people, their houses, their land, their property, and last but not the least; their thoughts and thought process. We have also thoroughly discussed various important (key) issues with subject experts, tribal leaders etc. in a planned and purposeful meetings with them. We have learnt a lot from all the experiences. We attempt to share some of these thoughts.

PART II**PARAMETERS AND STATUS OF POVERTY**

Initially, a parameter of income was applied to determine poverty. Thereafter the parameter of monthly expenditure was applied to consider poverty of families. Now Government of India, have considered 13 different indices to determine whether a family is BPL. The Government of Gujarat have added 3 more indices in this. Out of those 13 indices of GOI, the State Government have deleted the index such as consumption articles in a family viz. TV, Radio, Fan, Cooker and such other cooking equipments etc. The State Government have not considered this aspect for determining poverty of a families. Instead, they have introduced an aspect of average monthly income. Among tribals also these same 13 indices are applied to determine poverty as could be seen from the BPL lists prepared by State Government.

A question arises as to why so many indices are necessary to determine poverty of a family. In my humble opinion, this could be a technique to make believe that there are not many poor people. In other words, it could be a hidden way to prove that there are really not many people BPLs and for the purpose, instead of genuine index, the not-so-appropriate indices are developed to artificially raise the index figure. Thus, many unnecessary indices have been introduced to raise the income level. e.g.

Reasons for migration :

A-1 (0 mark) casual labour

B-2 (1 mark) seasonal employment

C-3 (2 mark) other factor of subsistence

D-4 (3 mark) not migrated

E-5 (4 mark) other purpose.

In fact, there are cases where people are poor; but they donot migrate to other place in search of employment; because they have no money for transport. Now in above case, it will be recorded that no person has migrated from the family and that

family will be given 3 marks. Thus, such faulty marks will be added to such families. The higher marks will result in family to be declared as not belonging to BPL; whereas in actual practice, it is more poorer than other BPL families. In this way, many poor families are not included in BPL list.

Let us take another example of faulty calculation. This is Status of Child (between 5 to 14 years)

A-1 (0 mark) Not going to school and working

B-2 (1 mark) going to school and also working

C-3 (2 marks)

D-4 (3 marks)

E-5 (4 marks) going to school and not working

We have seen earlier that the responsibility of education and health is that of State Government; therefore these aspects need not be taken as parameters of determining poverty; but when they are also included in list, there is clearly a scientific and logical fault. One may agree to give it a weightage upto one mark (i.e. B2) but when we examine the respective weightage given to different factors, one surprises why no factor is assigned for 2 or 3 marks (i.e. C3 and D4) and then 4 marks are allotted (i.e. E5) for children attending school and not working. It is crystal clear that in each family there would be children being educated; and obviously when they attend the school, they would not be working, such families would be given 4 marks and obviously that would take them above poverty line whereas actually the family would be extremely poor, entitled to be considered as BPL. If we examine the lists of BPL and APL families, we can find that many families entitled to be considered as BPL have wrongly and wrongfully been assigned APL status, depriving them of a number of benefits of Government Schemes, for no fault of their own.

The Government could have worked out a simple 4 parameters formula to determine poverty instead of entering into complex and complicated 13 parameters formula.

One suspects that this could be intentional practice of applying wrong / unnecessary parameters under different category, to create more and many aspects of investigation, create artificial divisions between poors, declare some as non-poor and thereby conceal real poverty under false name. Otherwise four simple parameters (viz. (1) land (2) livelihood (3) status of family as labourers and (4) reasons for migration) would suffice to determine poverty and identify real poor people to be included in BPL list.

In present Government criteria, in a couple of parameters, the numbers have been attempted; but statistically they are not appropriate. When we make an use of numbers, the space between two numbers should be identical; i.e. an unique form needs to be maintained. This is simple requirement of statistical analysis. Besides, such space should be logical and intellectually acceptable. When such simple preliminary principles are not followed, the results would be misleading. e.g. if we take the average pairs of clothes, and if we want to display the results on graph, the graph should be a balanced one. But when the numbers are unevenly placed, the graph will not be straight but would be in a curve like position which is statistically incorrect. We have attempted to make a graphic presentation in support of our argument. Similar situation happens in case of land holding wherein the statistical standard is uneven. The reason why we put more emphasis on such statistical blunders, is because each factor is assigned marks and when the marks are to be assigned, the measuring norms should be even, just and statistically sound.

Average pairs of clothes

Mark	0	1	2	3	4
Pairs of clothes	Less than 2	3	4 to 5	6 to 9	10 and more

In each State the process of identifying families living below poverty line (i.e. preparing the lists of BPL families) had started since 1992. The expert group of Planning Commission recommended in the year 1993 that the poor families may be identified not simply on the basis of family income but on the basis of broad dimension of 'deprivation'. Accordingly, in 1997 and in 2002, the BPL lists were prepared based on several factors of poverty. As per this list, the number of BPL families are more than those identified in NSS. Nevertheless, there have been different opinions about clarity and precision of BPL criteria adopted by Government. All said and done, fact remains that when poverty is determined by factors other than income, the figures are quite different.

There could be several factors to determine or define poverty; such as basic necessities, health, education etc. The question is which factor should be given more weightage. Obviously, Food should get first priority in weightage. Even Government of India defined poverty in terms of availability of nutrition. As per Government definition, "The poverty line is a standard of expenditure incurred by a person to obtain daily minimum, necessary calorie from the food." According to this definition, one who could spend less than this, was considered poor. Thus we could find out percentage of poor people in the country, i.e. percentage of people who could not afford to spend on food which can provide minimum daily necessary calorie. The minimum daily necessary calorie for rural areas was fixed at 2400 and for Urban Areas it was fixed at 2100.

As per Government figures and as per claim made by State Government, Gujarat State is ahead of many States of India in terms of alleviation of poverty as well as rate of employment. But if we apply the criteria of expenditure on minimum necessary level of calorie (i.e. nutrition), the conditions are rather different. In 1983, the rate of poverty in rural areas was 28.9% which decreased to 19.5% in 2004-05. But in 1983, in rural areas of Gujarat, as many as 72% people were not able to spend on food which could get them 2400 calorie per day. Even in the year 2004-05, there is no decrease in this percentage of population; but rather it has increased to 88%. This means that in rural areas, the persons who could not afford to buy at least the minimum calorie of food has

increased by 16% in last 22 years. In the year 2004-05, the BPL income for rural people was decided at Rs. 353.93 per month per diem. At the prices prevailing in those days, Rs. 353.93 could buy only 1590 calorie which was even less (by 830 calories) than the minimum prescribed (i.e. 2400 calories).

It is true that food is not the only factor to determine poverty. There are other necessities also to live wholesome life. Besides, the geographical area, culture, age and physical structure of a person also affect the need for food and nutrition. In other words, the need for food is different among different individuals.

It is known fact that tribals in Gujarat are extremely poor. Therefore, while calculating poverty level, it is necessary that aspect of nutrition need not be overlooked. It is once again emphasised that a person is Poor if he cannot afford to buy absolute and minimum necessary nutrition for a family. The medical officers working in tribal areas and other health personnel repeatedly mention that most of the tribal people suffer from mal-nutrition. This is also proved by a number of research studies. That is why there is no equation between BPL and below nutrition level. In fact, lack of minimum level of nutrition should be given additional weightage in measuring poverty. That factor should get priority over other factors.

Food :

While considering Parameters for poverty, let us have a look at food among tribal people. Obviously, they take very simple food. It is obvious that they would consume those cereals which are grown/produced locally. They eat loaf with vegetable or Dal. (They cannot afford to have both vegetables and Dal). Of course, they consume Chatni. Likewise they use rice or consume hotch-potch (Khichadi). This is not true for all tribal families. Only fortunate few can afford rice / khichdi. Question remains whether they eat balanced food with all nutrition components, such as carbohydrates, protein, vitamin, calcium, fat, iron etc. We should consider whether they get enough nutrition from poor food. They may not afford oily substance such as edible oil and ghee. Can they buy nutritious and balanced food within Rs. 254 p.m. ? Besides, what about safe drinking

water ? The water they consume is pottable ? where do they get their drinking water ? I am afraid, they drink the same water, consumed by their animals because water sources in tribal districts are rare and scarce.

Again, one thing worth noticing is about food habits among educated or elite tribals. They do consume their traditional food but sometimes they also imitate their urban counterpart and occasionally consume say, wheat alongwith maize; or take breakfast with tea in the morning. Usually traditional tribal people donot take breakfast. They have two and only two meals a day with their traditional pattern. The poor tribals consume loaf with vegetable or chatni or bhaji or dal. Sometimes they consume Rab or Bhaidku made from Bajra. The Bhil people have a proverb, "Tanke Dalio, Tanke Mahuda", which means that in one meal they consume their traditional cereals like maize-loaf and in the evening they consume Mahuida-ful; which is a forest product. With increased irrigation, in some of the tribal areas, they produce wheat as winter product. When they produce food, they also consume wheat. Besides, Wheat and Rice are available from Fair Price shop. Therefore, they consume these items also. It also happens that they consume maize for some part of the year; and when wheat crop is ready, they consume wheat. But the tragedy comes in monsoon; when they donot have even seeds. There is another dimension of poverty. We know that fair price shop distributes wheat and rice; but there are some families who donot have money to buy it. There are several families who donot buy rice as well as edible oil even at discount rates from fair price shop; because they donot have money to buy. This was confirmed during personal interview when such ration, cards were shown. Sometimes, when they have money, they had bought kerosene or sugar but not consistantly.

Tribals are not fond of tea; but when some tribals take tea, it is black tea, without milk. Of course, educated and elite tribals take regular tea/coffee (with milk and sugar) but these are exceptions.

Coming to the point, the food among tribals lack adequate calorie and it is not balanced diet. It also lacks nutrition component. Most tribals are weak. At the age of 45-50, a tribal looks a person of 60. The children and women are anemic, suffering from

sickle cell anemia. Their average longevity is less than one in non tribal. All these factors need consideration. For any individual or a family in any society, food, clothing and shelter are primary necessities. And when there is an acute situation regarding food and clothing among tribals, I think there is hardly any need for any other consideration to determine poverty.

There are three distinct characteristics of Dangs district :

- (1) Very dense plantation of trees. Thus, there is natural treasury open; yet the people are most poor. There is very generous gift from God, yet people are in most pathetic conditions. One wonders why the district of Dangs is most poor and the people there are poor among poorest.
- (2) The rain in comparison to any other district is much more in Dangs. Not only that, the rainy days are more here than other districts. That means the duration of monsoon season is longer here. Yet, in summer, the drinking water is to be supplied to most of the villages in this district through tankers. Thus on one hand, Dangs is Cherapunji of Gujarat; but again there is acute Water scarcity.
- (3) Though Dangs have many trees throughout the district; there are no corresponding number of birds. Birds are very few though they have enough place in terms of large number of trees. This is a unique feature of Dangs. Let us not forget the central theme of this study that the economic conditions of tribal people of Dangs is very very pathetic. They do not get enough food to eat and often that try to satisfy their hunger by eating forest vegetables and root vegetables as well as fish and other animals whom they hunt. The people including children, when they move out, they carry a hunting instrument called 'Ghol' or 'Gophan' as well as arrow and hunt any small animal or bird while grazing their own animals. Some youth even go in group for hunting. Small birds are eaten there and there only, cooking them in open fire. Some people fish at the river or pond or a stream, and consume the fish to satisfy their hunger. Birds being less in number are rarely found. This is one of the reasons why there are very few birds in Dangs forest,

despite dense plantation of trees. What is true for Dangs to-day could also be true for other districts also in future. Because poverty is the main factor influencing their lives. In fact, tribals of other districts could be non-vegetarian in more number; the main reason being lack of food grains. e.g. Padhars of Ahmedabad and Surendranagar district. But, recently the influence of religious sects have brought a change in tribal people's life. Many tribals are followers of Swaminarayan or other Hindu Sects and under their influence, they gave up hunting and consuming fish or meat. The influence of such sects is gradually increasing in tribal belt and more and more tribal people have become vegetarian. While considering parameters of poverty, it is worthwhile to consider why people become non-vegetarian ?

Education :

Education is perhaps one single factor which could be attributed for bringing fast/speedy economic growth, technical progress, social reconstruction based on liberty, social justice, equal opportunities etc. Education is basic and fundamental right of an individual. This fact is accepted even among industrial and developed countries.

The Indian constitution stresses on Social Progress through education. It was categorically admitted in Articles 29,30,45 and 46 of the Constitution that the State will strive within 10 years of Republic to provide free and compulsory education to a child upto 14 years of age. Thus Right to education was incorporated in Directive Principles of State Policy (and very recently it is proposed to make it a Fundamental Right of Indian citizen.

We have accepted the principle of providing education to citizen at the lowest strata of society. The Article 46 mentions that State will make special endeavours to develop the educational, interests of scheduled Castes, Scheduled tribes, and weaker sections of society including women. In a report on a review of education, it has been mentioned that education for backward classes of people cannot be separated from their socio-economic and political conditions. It is also reaffirmed to give a new shape to

their entire life. In the UNESCO Report on concept of education for 21st Century (Education the internal treasure), the authors, while describing about strength of education observe that education is not a magic or mysterious solution to bring out change in a glimpse; but it has its strength in within which can educate the capacity for harmonious and nutritious development for mankind and thereby to ameliorate the quantum of poverty, ignorance, social exploitation and very dangerous effects of war.

As per 2001 census, the literacy rate in the nation is 64.8 percent; but that rate is only 47.1 per cent among tribals. If we look at the rate of literacy in all states including UTs centrally administered areas, Gujarat is no. of 17 in a list of 35 states / UTs. If we further compare the education/ literacy level among tribals in Gujarat vis-a-vis all other States including UTs. (Union Territories;) Gujarat is at no.19 among 30 States / UTs having S.T. Population. In short, Gujarat is far behind in literacy component; and tribals of Gujarat are also far behind their other counterparts in other states. Besides, tribals of Gujarat are behind in Gujarat also as compared to their non-tribal counterpart (69.14% and 47.74%). Of course, there is steady increase of literacy among tribals in last 50 years. In 1961, the general literacy rate of the State was 30.45% and that of tribals in the State was only 11.69% (there was a difference of 18.76%) gradually, in each decade literacy rate among non tribals and tribal continued to increase, but unfortunately the difference in these rates has constantly increased except in last two decades, where there is marginal difference. As on to-day, the difference between literacy among non-tribals vis-a-vis among tribals is as great as 22%. As per 2001 census, the literacy among non tribals is 69.14 percent; but among tribals it is 47.74% (A difference of 21.44 percent).

Several special facilities and special education system has been created especially in tribal areas. They include : Ashramshalas, Post basic schools, Hostels for tribal boys and girls, Model residential schools, Saraswati Cycle Scheme, Book bank etc. Despite all such amenities there is great inequality in education even after so many years ! This is indeed a matter of great concern.

Ratio of literacy in the State among non-tribals and Schedule tribes

Decade	Total Population of the State (in lakhs)	Total Population of S.T.s (in lakhs)	Percentage as against total Population of the State	Literacy among State Population (General)	Literacy among S.T. Population per cent	Difference between these two (in percent)
1961	206.33	27.54	13.35	30.45	11.69	18.76
1971	266.97	32.34	13.99	35.79	14.12	21.67
1981	340.86	48.49	14.23	43.70	21.14	22.56
1991	413.10	61.62	14.92	51.15	29.67	21.48
2001	506.71	74.81	14.76	69.14	47.74	21.40

It is also a fact that in some of the tribal talukas the effective literacy rate among women is even less than 30% as per 2001 census. e.g.

- (1) Amirgadh and Danta talukas of Banaskantha
- (2) Khedbrahma taluka of Sabarkantha district
- (3) Ghoghamba taluka of Panchmahal district
- (4) Garbada, Dahod, Devgadhi Bariya and Dhanpur talukas of Dahod District.
- (5) Chhota Udepur and Quant talukas of Vadodara district
- (6) Kaprada taluka of Valsad district.

Here the literacy rate among women is the least.

As per 2001 census, several scheduled tribes of Gujarat have literacy rate at less than 40%. They include Bharwad (charan) of Gir area, Kathodi-Katkari, Kolgha, Nayak - Nayakda, Padhar, Rabari, Rathwa, Varli and Kotwalia etc. It is time that something is considered to bring their literacy level upward in given period of time. Of course, there have been some S.T.s having good literacy level such as Barda, Bawcha, Chaudhari, Dhodia, Gamit, Kunbi, Pateliya, Pomla, Siddi etc. where the literacy rate is as high as 50 percent.

Let us look at another dimension of education. Let us compare the number of post graduate students of Gujarat as a whole vis-a-vis those of scheduled tribes. The 2001 census report clearly indicates that number of post graduate students in scheduled tribe is just negligible. This is true in Commerce stream also. If we analyse the available data, the information becomes a matter of concern. Gujarat has scheduled tribe people at 14.76 percent; but there is no corresponding percentage of ST students in Post Graduate courses. The percentage of ST students in post graduate courses is half than the average; just 7.84 percent. Discipline-wise also, there is great discrepancy. There are sufficient number of S.T. students in P.G. courses in medicine, engineering, arts, education (B.Ed. & M.Ed.); but the number is very less, almost negligible in courses like Ph.D., M. Phil., Commerce, Science, Law (LL.M.) Agriculture and Forestry. Again those S.T. students in post-graduate courses are children of elite ST category - those living in towns and cities, and those whose parents are in Government sector or well placed in Private Sector. Has anybody made an effort to find out why the ST students with good rank at secondary education level in villages or small towns cannot pursue their studies further at graduate and post graduate level. They have potential but lack support on economic front. One should take up an independent study to highlight this aspect and bring out truth.

There is no doubt that Government have made most intensive and sincere efforts to upbring the conditions of S.T. People. It is also worth mentioning that a drive in tribal area has been initiated to get the children (including tribal girls) to get admitted in the school and to provide them free and compulsory, education till they attain the age of 14 years. (i.e. upto std VII minimum). The S.T. children are admitted to the schools and attain education level. But here, such cases have 4 marks attributed to school going children in the family, and consequently the family is considered to be above poverty line and they do not get BPL status and consequently they are deprived of number of benefits which, otherwise they are entitled to. Here, they seem to have been punished for sending their children to schools !! In fact, such system is basically wrong. On one hand you encourage a family to send their children to schools and on other hand you snatch away their BPL status; (because the family has school going chil-

dren). This is absolutely wrong practice and BPL parameters need thorough re-examination, and overhauling.

Health :

The health facilities provided by Government are indeed better; but how far they have been found useful in tribal areas is a point worth to be examined. We have an example - rather a case study. Dediypada is a taluka place. The village Mal Samot is about 42 kms. There is not a single Health Centre between these two places. Thus the people of the villages in between or at places around road side have to go to either Dediypada or to Mal Samot for health services. In the village Eksisa a girl had a snake bite. The family members rushed both to Mal Sanot PHC and Dediypada PHC; but no timely treatment could be provided to her and consequently the girl died. Same is the case with dog-bite, which may sometimes result in hydro-phobia, wherein the speedy treatment is the only cure. But often, injections are not available. There are number of health issues. There are some diseases peculiar to tribal areas only; such as Sickle Cell anemia, Leptospirosis, T.B., Leprosy, Mal-nutrition, water-generated diseases, etc. etc. when the speedy and adequate, expert treatment is not available, the situation becomes worse and people are struggling with life and death.

Clothing :

Mostly in tribal families, the purchase of cloths for the family members is made once or twice a year. Usually they are purchased either on Holi festival or on Diwali. More pairs of cloths are required on social function like marriage etc.

We know how tribal families are struggling with life. The poor tribals are solely dependent on labour. They donot get enough to eat. How to afford for new cloths? They make patches to cover the wear and tear. Their cloths are old, almost dirty and below standard. They may make multiple use of Saree / Dhoti - to wear as well as to cover a body in bed. They donot have cotch / cot for each member. Most of them lie down on floor. In rainy seasons, often water pour fram the cealing. There is real co-existence of men and animals in a house at least during night. There is no bathroom, no toilet. They

do not get potable drinking water. There is lack of electricity supply. In short, it is a pathetic story of sheer deprivation.

Let us have a look at a tribal village. Those who are extremely poor are totally deprived of everything. They do not have land, employment and enough food to eat. But the surveyors, applying the criteria prescribed from above, have considered them above poverty level. On the other hand, a really well-to-do family with a pucca house has been awarded BPL status. It can be transpired that there is something wrong with the survey. A few examples of lapses are possible; but should not have happened at the cost of genuine poor families.

Land :

There are several tribal families having no land holding on their own name. There could be several reasons. It could be due to ignorance or it could be due to negligence of Government machinery. Sometimes, a father has died but the land is not taken on the name of a son on record, sometimes, he does work on land; but the land belongs to somebody on Government record (and then, he is an encroacher !) Due to land being on someone's name, they do not get benefits of Government Schemes, including those of crop insurance. The land is also not so fertile. The tribal area is hilly, therefore the land is rocky, uneven. It cannot absorb moisture; therefore each crop needs fresh water. On fertile, moist land, the crop is easily taken but in tribal areas, it is not taken so easily. Just compare fertile land of Charotar area and rocky land of Sabarkantha area; and we can make out a difference. Tribal Land needs more water and water facilities in the area is scarce. It is less fertile and cannot give better crop. Land here, lacks fertility. Consequently, production cost is higher and production is low. Tribals cannot even produce enough for the requirement of a family. Consequently, they have to incur debt or have to migrate to find employment/labour. In towns and cities, we find hundreds of tribal youth, women and children looking for labour work. They may get or may not get. Even when they get, they have to work for more hours and are paid at lower rates. It is sheer exploitation. Thus, more holding of land cannot be

an absolute criteria of poverty or otherwise. It has to be related to fertility, irrigation facility and actual production. Quality of land is a prime consideration.

Traditionally, some groups in tribal areas or some people in those groups donot have land. Such landless people go for casual labour work, agricultural labour work or other labour work. Such people, irrespective of consideration of any parameter, should be classified as very poor. They may belong to primitive groups or other main stream tribes. It should suffice that they donot have any land and they are dependent on only labour work of any type.

Animals :

In tribal society, usually along with agriculture as main occupation, animal husbandry has been a supplimentary source of livelihood. Some people used to keep more animal traditionally, so that they may attain higher status in their tribal society. Initially they didnot consider animals to be a source of additional or supplementary income. They didnot consider them to be source of profit. It should also be noted that the tribals have taken benifits of State Government development schemes to purchase milch animals, bullocks, chicken etc. When we consider an issue of parameters for determining poverty, we have also to consider the conditions of their animals, their treatment, the need for grass and fodder, drinking water, the place to keep these animals/birds etc. In other words, we must consider what they benefit from animals and what they pay for their maintenance. More possesion of animals donot necessarilly make them APL.

We know that a poor person is usually a weak person. Likewise, what are the facts about animals in tribal families ? There are at least three factors which diffentiate these animals from those in non-tribal areas.

- (1) The animals in tribal families have more time-span between two deliveries.
- (2) They give milk for less period of time. If an animal gives milk for 10 months, in non-tribal area; here they give milk, only for 6 months.
- (3) Not only that the quantum of milk is less but its quality is also poor. Meaning thereby,

the fat value of this milk is lower than one in non tribal areas.

The reason is obvious. The animals are neither of standard quality nor are they well-maintained. If one looks at them, it can reflect the conditions of their master. May be, milch buffalo or a pair of bullock could give an image of a well off family; but that cannot true in case of one having some cows, goat, sheep, chicken etc. Besides, here ownership of animal cannot tell the entire story. They are to be fed in Gochar land, which requires services of a full-time person ! Let us therefore look at the scenareo in its totality.

Defaulter Villages :

On Government record, some tribal vilages are declared as defaulter villages. The Government Scheme benefits are no longer available to these villages. There are several dimensions of this fact. The families in such villages have benefitted in past. The benefits could have added to their well being. They could have secured equipments or articles. There were indeed useful to them at the particular time. They could have also secured loan and the loan amount was perhaps utilised for their well-being. They could have and should have repaid the loan. But they didnot. On one hand they benifitted from the scheme; and the amount was perhaps useful to make the family self-reliant. Now despite all the benefits, they failed to repay the loan. Poverty was indeed a cause of non-payment of loan amount. Many tribal families have become victim of such circum stences. We know that there is no case for their default. We came across several families who could afford to repay, may be after sometime. Declaring the entire village as defaulter is an injustice to such honest families. The innocent people should not have been punished for fault of others. It is injustice in jurisprudence to punish the innocent. If a person has even partially repaid his loan, even a person has repaid his loan, may be after some lapse of time; but his honesty should be appreciated; and such families should continue to get the benefits of Government Scheme. They should not be kept deprived.

In a village BPL families get food grain, sugar, edible oil etc. at discount rates from a fair price shop; but so called APL families are deprived of this benefit. This also needs

reconsideration.

And lastly, if an entire village is declared defaulter, should not they be considered BPL en mass ? Why apply any other criteria. Is it not sufficient criteria for considering their poverty ? This arguement seems valid, because being defaulter means not having capacity to repay loans. Such inability to repay itself proves their poverty. Why to look for any other non-effective criteria when most sound criteria is just before our eyes.

Debt :

This Institute has conducted many Socio-anthropological studies of number of scheduled tribes. In all these studies, the aspect of debt is invariably covered. There have been many families found to have debts. Alright; those families who have not incurred debt are well off ? Certainly not. Even to incur debt, one has to give surrity / security in terms of articles, ornaments, animals, land etc. Without providing such security, neighter the money lender nor the relatives / friends nor even the Bank of Financial institution extend any amount of loan. And therefore, they donot get loans. Can they be considered better off than those who have incured debt ? Such persons, without debt are literaly to be considered as poor. Therefore, one has to probe in details to ascertain poverty among people of different categories.

Let us come to the aspect of Savings which is other side of debt. Most tribal families donot have considerable savings. When they struggle to survive; how could they save ? When they cannot make two end, meet (viz. income and expenditure) they have to incur debt. The simple formula is Annual Consumption expenditure - Annual total income = Amount of debt. They incur debt for several reasons viz. for development of agriculture, to meet expenses of livelihood, for social customs, for religious rituals, for superstitions, for medical treatment etc. At least those who have incurred debt for livelihood or for feeding their animals are genuinely poor. They indeed live below poverty line. Why therefore the criteria of some aspects of debt be not considered to determine poverty ? Here one belief need to be mentioned. Halpati is the second largest schedule tribe in Gujarat. It is said about the tribe that the child is born in debt, live in debt and die in debt. Even they give debt to their

successors. Debt is a vicious circle for the whole family.

Many tribals from the districts of Panchmahal, Dahod, Tapi, Dangs, Surat etc. migrate to various urban areas of Gujarat to repay their debt. Such poverty is not voluntary but it is associated firmly with their life.

Run-away Marriage :

It becomes difficult for children of poor families to easily get settled in marriage. Poverty is a stumbling block for them. Such children, when they donot get spouse so easily, they decide for a run-away marriage. Even after marriage, poverty doesnot end. They carry on their life in the atmosphere of sheer deprivation.

Often they find difficult to get a suitable match for the daughter in their society and they have to look for it from other society / community. There are several such incidents in tribal society, some people misuse this situation. The single persons coming from other States in GIDC or such other industrial units, pretend to be unmarried, make a good show of their wealth and property, entre into social and sexual relations with poor tribal girls, and after a couple of years, go back to their native place, leaving behind the tribal women in great dispair. Poverty of parents is only factor responsible for such tragedy and the poor women, often with their (illegitimate?) children survive the life of deprivation. They have nothing to survive except dependency on parents / brother etc.

Theft / Robbery / Fights :

Theft / Robbery / Fights are closely associated with poverty. When people have nothing to survive, they find an alternative in theft and robbery.

“What sin is not done by a hungry man?” Indeed, the poor people often become merciless.”

Often people across the State border also join such anti-social activities. Robbers / Thieves come during night hours and rob ornaments, money, food articles or even animals. Sometimes there is reactive struggle resulting into violence. If the thieves are from the village itself, the matter is resolved by mutual talks to come to an acceptable compromise. Often the outside robbers, wait for vehicles to come, block the road with some stones / bricks or tree - branches, and when the vehicle comes, they conduct robbery. Such incidents are found mostly on Ambaji - Virampar road in Danta taluka, border of Chakaliya village in Jhalod taluka, on internal roads of Garbada and Dhanpur etc. The main cause is poverty and lack of employment. This is another dimension of poverty.

PART - III

PARAMETERS OF POVERTY IN A DISTRICT

This is a story of people who are voluntarily working in poor area. The area is not a tribal one; but it is rural poor area. The name of the voluntary organisation is 'Lok Mitra'. They are active in at least 11 villages, with its H.Q. at Dhedhuki, Taluka Jasdan, Dist. Rajkot. Before extending any assistance to rural people, they conduct surveys of families in the villages. They have classified the families in four (4) categories and each category is assigned to the family in consultation with village people. The classification has been named in pure rural colloquial language as below :

(1) રોટલે દુઃખી

The family which is on verge of starvation.

(2) રોટલે સુખી

The family which doesnot have a problem in terms of food.

(3) રોટલે અને ઓટલે સુખી

The family which has no problem in terms of food or house.

(4) રોટલે, ઓટલે અને ખાટલે સુખી

The family which is better off in terms of food, clothing, shelter (house) and other amenities.

These are four broad titles but each criteria has 10 sub-issues on the basis of which poverty (deprivation) or otherwise (amenities) can be determined. Let us look into details of each criteria.

Category -1 : (The family which is on verge of starvation)

Sub-issues :

1. Water

Those who could store drinking water for a day or two.

2. Food

Those who could afford food only when labour work is done; or those who have real difficulties in getting food for square two meals.

3. Fuel

Those who have to seek to collect fuel.

4. House

Those whose house is just a hutment . It is without proper amenities and facilities.

5. Employment

Will be engaged in casual labour work, or will be working as bonded labour on a farm.

6. Household Kit

- ★ would find it difficult to obtain household kit.
- ★ where there would be difficulties in treating even minor illness / diseases.
- ★ would not afford to send children even in a local school.

7. Vehicle / faciities

- ★ would possess only a Bi-cycle or a hand cart.
- ★ would have very inadequate facilities

8. Animals and fodder / graas

- ★ would have only 1 to 3 big animal,
- ★ would find it difficult to buy grass, even while doing labour work
- ★ the grass/fodder will be inadequate
- ★ would need to feed animals in Gochar

9. Land

would have non-irrigated waste land upto 5 Bighs

10. Debt / Hypothecation / Loans

- ★ would take money on interest
- ★ would require to hypothecate land, ornaments etc.
- ★ would take loans from relatives / friends

Category - 2.

Criteria (Families not having problems in terms of food).

1. Water :

would be able to arrange for a week's supply of drinking water or would be able to store

2. Food :

would be able to get food grains, enough for year's requirements from agriculture

3. Fuel :

would have inadequate fuel

4. House :

would have a single house for self requirement.

5. Employment :

would be earning around Rs. 2,000/- to Rs. 3,000/- p.m.

6. Household Kit :

- ★ would be finding it difficult to afford necessities such as ghee, edible oil etc.
- ★ would be finding it difficult to arrange for treatment in major diseases/illness

7. Vehicle and facilities :

would have a bi-cycle.

would have B/W TV, Radio, Tape recorder

8. Animals and fodder :

- ★ Would have 4 to 5 big animals,
- ★ Would have grass / fodder for at least 8-10 months
- ★ would be getting grass from field on 50% basis.

9. Land :

- ★ would have irrigated land about 2 to 4 bighas
- ★ would have waste / non irrigated land about 6 to 8 bighas

10. Debt / Hypothication / Loans :

- ★ would need to incur debt on interest
- ★ would need to hypothicate ornaments or land to get loan / advances.

Category - 3**Criteria for those who have no problems in terms of food and shelter :****1. Water :**

Those who can afford to collect and store drinking water for over a week.

2. Food :

- ★ Those who can afford to collect food articles / cereals for a year
- ★ Those who can get food / cereals during weak period also.

3. Fuel :

Those who cannot get fuel easily except from waste of crops.

4. House :

Those who have one or two houses with proper facilities (RCC slab and plaster)

5. Employment :

- ★ Those who have one or two sources of income.
- ★ Those who have employment / job as main source of income
- ★ Those who have been earning atleast Rs. 3,000/- to Rs. 4,000/- p.m.

6. Household kit :

Those who can afford the provision and food articles like edible oil, chilli powder, soap, clothes, shoes, milk, ghee etc.

7. Vehicle and other facilities :

- ★ Those who have a car or rikshaw
- ★ Those who have a colour TV, VCD etc.

8. Animals and fodder :

- ★ Those who can provide grass and fodder for 6 - 7 big animals during good years.
- ★ Those who have stable for animals with roof of tiles.

9. Land :

- ★ Those who have irrigated land 5 to 7 bighas.
- ★ Those who have waste / non-irrigated land 10 to 15 bighas.

10. Debt / Hypothication :

Those who are able to extend loans to others on interest basis

Category - 4**Criteria for families which are better off in terms of food, clothing, shelter (house) and other amenities :****1. Water :**

Can store drinking water as much as required or even can buy. Those having their own motor pump or hand pump.

2. Food :

- ★ Can have food as much as required.
- ★ Can buy from market for annual requirement and could store it.

3. Fuel :

- ★ Can get fuel without any hardship.
- ★ Can also afford to have fuel other than firewood or cow-dung cakes. (Such as Kerosene, Gas (LPG) etc.

4. House :

- ★ A family having two or more houses.
- ★ The houses would be with RCC roofing and tiles or stone flooring
- ★ The houses with bath and toilet
- ★ Those having a plot of land for construction of a house, preferably in a city.

5. Employment :

- ★ Would have two or more sources of income.
- ★ Someone in a family in Government job.
- ★ Monthly income of the family exceeds Rs. 4,000/-.
- ★ Can have self-employment venture from one's property.
- ★ Would have good image in the family regarding financial condition.

6. Household kit :

- ★ Would have facility to buy household requirements without any hardship.
- ★ Can afford to educate one's children.

7. Vehicle and facilities :

- ★ Those who are in possession of vehicles like Tempo, Jeep, Loader, and equipments like GCB; also those who have facilities like T.V. & Refrigerator.

8. Animals and Fodder :

- ★ Those who can afford more than 7 animals;
- ★ Those who can provide them with fodder and cattle food;
- ★ Those who have shelter accommodation for animals with RCC slab or with mangalore tiles roof.

9. Land :

- ★ Those who have irrigated land about 7 bighas or more;
- ★ Also those having non-irrigated land / waste land for about 20 bighas or more; and
- ★ Those having plot of land in a village or outside.

10. Debt, hypothication and Credit :

- ★ Those who lend the money on higher rates of interest,
- ★ Those who keep land and ornaments from loanee on hypothication.

PART IV

CONCLUSION

Government had implemented number of employment, oriented and poverty alleviation schemes ever since Vth five year plan. Nevertheless, the problem of poverty is still very serious as on to-day also. It is very imperative to tackle the issue at the earliest. For the purpose, it is still more essential to identify real poor people. In the process, it becomes inevitable to redefine the concept of poverty; because the present concept of poverty and its criteria seem most irrelevant in many ways.

Usually poverty is defined from an isolated angle; but one should not forget that poverty is multi-dimensional, multi-farious and multi-level issue.

There has been a great gap between poverty and wealth. The gap is so wide that perhaps it shall never be bridged. The tribal people have traditionally been living in poverty. They are born in poverty; they are brought up in poverty; whole life they live in poverty and at last they die in poverty. The problem of poverty is never separated from them. They have been consuming very less items in very less quantity. We have made an effort to examine several issues concerning poverty; but it can be best illustrated by a concrete example. The tribal people cannot afford to buy a towel to dry their body after taking a bath. Now if they can not afford a single towel, how can we think of having a separate towel for each member of the family. Even if there is one towel in a family; it is found to be deployed for multipurpose use. It can be worn as dhoti; it can be tied on a head to be used as a turban; it can be used to carry vegetables or food grains etc etc. The utensils in a house are just for name's sake; and they too are used for several purposes. These matters indicate poverty among them.

Issues :

Due to application of false parameters, several persons have been categorised as APL and some wrong people have been identified as poor. This situation has created number of problems of vast magnitude.

- (1) Those who were genuinely BPL were wrongly identified as APL. Now they cannot get benefit of getting food-grain on ration card from Fair Price Shop. They can get only kerosene. They are also deprived of number of benefits of Government schemes which are meant for BPL people. Thus, the real BPL people, the real 'poor' become poorer, being deprived of benefits of schemes which are meant to bring people above poverty level.
- (2) There has been also a psychological set-back. They are genuinely poor; but they are deprived of benefits for which they are really eligible. On the other hand, they see that those who are well-off, who are not poor in any sense of the term, are categorized as 'poor' (BPL) due to political backing, due to influence with some leading people; and they get all the benefits which they do not deserve. This creates the feelings of jealousy, pain and revenge. In short, this is not a healthy atmosphere.
- (3) Due to such situation, there have been internal conflicts, violent attacks and unhealthy relationship.

Remedies :

- (1) The criteria of poverty needs to be redefined. The calorie input of tribal people could be considered for inclusion in criteria for poverty.
- (2) Another criteria also could be considered in terms of facility for drinking water. How far is it available from the place of residence ? Do they get potable drinking water round the year ? Where is it available ? What is the storage system, if any ? What quantity of water is available ? All these factors could be considered.
- (3) When the landless tribals are solely dependent on any type of labour work; they can easily be classified as 'poor' and should invariably given BPL status. No other criteria is necessary to be applied.
- (4) Even those people in possession of land are also not in a position to make both ends meet. They incur debt for maintenance. Such people also could be classified as BPL.

- (5) When Government agency declares the entire village as defaulter; all the people of the village are deprived of loans etc. Therefore all of them automatically should fall in BPL.
- (6) If a member or two migrate for labour work; the family should be considered poor one.
- (7) If a family has a kutcha house or just a hutment; if they do not have adequate facility in it i.e. no bathroom or toilet etc. or no electricity connections; then the family is poor.
- (8) Similarly, the families having no house of their own are extremely poor families. No other criteria is required to be applied.
- (9) Those persons with torn off clothes or having patches on their clothes; or having just a single pair of clothes or two pairs of clothes; having most inadequate facility for bedding and/or blanket etc, having no pair of shoes etc. are members of poor families.
- (10) There is no objection of considering those families BPL having members suffering from Sickle Cell Anemia, which is almost an incurable and hereditary disease.
- (11) It is good that the Government is trying to make education compulsory. But on one hand, the Government provides benefit of education to the children, and on other hand, it considers those families APL whose children attend schools ! This seems to be a wrong practice, on part of Government to consider those families APL whose children attend school as part of measure of compulsory education.
- (12) What is harm in considering a family poor when they can hardly afford primary education of their children in their own village or when they cannot afford their education as per their wish ?
- (13) As far as income level is concerned, it is almost uncertain for tribal families and number of factors are responsible in that aspect. It could not be equated at par

with non-tribal area. The history, culture and geographical conditions of tribal areas should never be lost sight of.

- (14) Those entrusted with work of determining number of BPL families must be oriented with above considerations. When inexperienced and inconsiderate people are deployed for this work, it should be seen by the authorities that no injustice is done to real genuine poor people. The persons must have proper orientation about tribal people, their life style and their socio-cultural milieu.

APPENDIX**A. Family Background****(a) Educational Status**

1. Illiterate
2. Studied upto Std.V
3. Studied upto Std VIII
4. Studied upto STd X
5. Studied upto Std. XII
6. Graduation and above

(b) Average Monthly income (Rs.)

- A1 Upto 250/-
- B2 251/- - 499/-
- C3 500/- - 1499/-
- D4 1500/- - 2499/-
- E5 2500 and above

(c) Land ownership / holding

- ★ Owner of land
- ★ Working on some one's land (Ganotiya)
- ★ Both the owner as well as Ganotiya
- ★ Neither

(d) Facilities for drinking Water

- ★ Even area / plain area
- ★ no source of water upto 1.6 kmt
- ★ source of water within 1.00 to 1.59 kmt.

- ★ source of water within 0.50 to 0.99 kmt.
- ★ source of water within 0.50 kmt.
- ★ source of water within the house itself.

In hilly areas :

- ★ no source of water within 100 mts. height
- ★ source of water within 51 - 100 mts. height
- ★ source of water within 50 mts. height
- ★ source of water within house itself

(3) Social Group

SC / ST / BC / other

(B) Parameters for determining poverty :

(1) Land

- A1 No land holding
- B2 Having non-irrigated land less than 1 hectre or having irrigated land less than 0.5 hectre
- C3 Non-irrigated land 1 to 2 hectres or irrigated land 0.5 to 1 hectres
- D4 Non irrigated land 2.0 to 5.0 hectres or irrigated land 1 to 2.5 hectres
- E5 Non-irrigated land more than 5 hectres or irrigated land about 2.5 hectre

(2) House :

- A1 Not having one's own house (houseless)
- B2 Having only a kutcha house (Hutment)
- C3 Having a kutcha - pucca house
- D4 Having a pucca house
- E5 Having a house with Urban life facilities

(3) Clothes :

- A1 Having less than 2 pairs of clothes
- B2 Having less than 3 pairs of clothes
- C3 Having less than 4-5 pairs of clothes
- D4 Having less than 6-9 pairs of clothes
- E5 Having more than 10 pairs of clothes

(4) Food :

- A1 Less than one meal a day most of the time during the year
- B2 Usually one meal a day but sometimes even less than that
- C3 One meal a day through a year
- D4 Two meals a day through a year but sometimes less than that
- E5 Adequate food round the year

(5) Sanitation :

- A1 No toilet in a house / defecation in open
- B2 Public / Community latrine with inadequate water facility
- C3 Public / Community latrines with adequate water facility
- D4 Public / Community latrines with regular cleanliness by a sanitation worker
- E5 Personal latrine in a own house

(6) Education Level :

- A1 Illiterate
- B2 Upto Std Vi
- C3 Upto Std X
- C4 Graduate / Diploma holder (vocational)
- E5 Post-graduation / Graduation in Vocation.

(7) Family Status in labour work

- A1 Bonded labour
- B2 Woman labour / child labour
- C3 Craftman
- D4 Job/employment
- E5 Other

(9) Status of child (Between 5 to 14 yrs)

- A1 Not attending school and working
- B2 Attending school and working
- C3
- D4
- E5 Attending school and not working

(10) Debt - its type and purpose

- A1 For day to day consumption from irregular source
- B2 For production purpose from irregular source
- C3 For other purpose from irregular source
- D4 For loans from organizational agencies
- E5 No debt; has property on one's name

(11) Purpose of migration from family

- A1 For casual labour work
- B2 For seasonal labour work
- C3 For other purpose of livelihood
- D4 Not migrated
- E5 Other purpose

(12) Need for loan / subsidy / assistance

A1 Wages / Employment

B2 Self Employment

C3 Training and skill improvement

D4 House building

E5 No more loan or subsidy required exceeding Rs. 1.00 lakh.

(13) Goods and Equipments like T.V. Radio, Fan, cooker etc.

★ Nil

★ Any one item

★ Only two items

★ Any three items or all items

★ All items and / or ownership of at least one 1 Computer 2 Telephone 3 Refridgerator, 4 Colour TV, 5 Electric equipment in kitchen, 6 Costly furniture items, 7 Vehicles, 8 Tractor, 9 Vehicles / 2 or 3 wheelers, 10 Thrasher.