

Research Note

Poverty and Deprivation in Manipur: An Analysis

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Abstract: The main objective of this present study is to examine the twin issues of poverty and deprivation in Manipur. Data on poverty and deprivation are based on a survey done on the estimation of poverty in Manipur (2019). Based on quantitative and qualitative data, we find that poverty as measured by the calorie-norm methodology is widespread in sixteen districts of Manipur reflecting a relative deprivation of consumption for minimum energy requirements. Poverty is found to be concentrated in the remote villages of hill districts. Lack of communication, exclusion of remote villages, unemployment, landlessness, low productivity, low income, and lack of healthcare facilities are contributing to poverty and deprivation. The study also observes high human poverty in rural areas of Manipur indicating a social deprivation in health, education and income. Social hierarchical order as a part of the social system may be considered a sharp social device to generate poverty and deprivation. The developmental gap between hills and valleys and the exclusion of remote villages in the hills are pushing people into the poverty trap and deprivation. The study suggests an inclusive development giving priority to remote villages of hill districts and other marginalised communities for the reduction of poverty and deprivation.

Keywords: Poverty, Deprivation, Social Exclusion, Hills, Valley and Marginalisation

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