



Viewpoint: India's poverty challenge

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The recent release of the UNDP's annual report on multidimensional poverty is an appropriate point to evaluate India's progress on poverty reduction. Multidimensional indicators recognize that poverty is about more than just a lack of income: it is also about human capital development and access to resources for improving individual prospects. India's performance in the decade to 2015-16 is impressive for not just the scale of the achievement but also about how all-encompassing it is, as India was one of the few countries to show an improvement on all the ten indicators. However, complacency can be our worst enemy. Much more still remains to be done, both quantitatively and qualitatively. India still has more multidimensional poverty than anywhere else in the world. The secret to poverty alleviation is high and sustainable growth. Growth can be sustainable only when it is inclusive and when those at the bottom of the pyramid are at the top of the policymakers' priorities.

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