

## Deciphering Sub-Regional Dimensions of Household Level Poverty in Karnataka

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*The study, using 61<sup>st</sup> (2004-2005) and 68<sup>th</sup> (2011-2012) rounds of NSSO unit level household consumer expenditure data examines comprehensively the regional as well as disaggregated distributional patterns of poverty across socio-religious groups in Karnataka. The results reveal that during the study period a large proportion of the population is still under poverty and this proportion is higher in Kalaburagi division, which constitutes the entire Hyderabad Karnataka (HK) region. The poverty among SC, ST is higher in this region relative to other social groups in entire state as well as in all administrative divisions. The results provide a glimpse of spatial variation and concentration of poverty in the state, which helps to frame region specific policies for poverty reduction.*

### I Introduction

The relationships between economic growth, poverty and inequality are the most debated issues in development economics. In early 1950s the wisdom in economics was that investment in physical capital would lead to economic growth and as long as there is growth, the benefits of it would trickle down to the poor. In addition, it addressed the likely trade-off between growth and income inequality stating that inequality rises in the initial phase and declines thereafter (Kuznets 1955). In the early 1970s when the trickle-down effects and decline in inequality failed to materialize a new thought emerged, “Redistribution with growth”. It emphasized on basic needs and pro-poor policies, wherein attempts are made to identify the redistributive mechanisms aiding poverty reduction without impeding growth. The evolution of Indian economic policies<sup>1</sup> to address poverty and inequality followed this pecking order of development theory.

Generally, the concept of poverty is defined as deprivation in well-being, it is a multidimensional thought wherein people’s experience of poverty differs depending on the depth of poverty, as well as on endurance of it, thus experiencing persistent/chronic poverty (Hulme and Shepherd 2003), which has implications

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