

Collection

Addressing Poverty in Post-Pandemic Society


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Societies around the world are rapidly transforming and experiencing various unprecedented social challenges such as – globalization, poverty, hunger, inequality, unemployment, health crisis, gender disparity, climate change, land dispossession, war, etc. Global poverty is considered one of the most important social evils. In 2015 United Nations adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be achieved by 2030 and eradication of poverty is the very first goal as a tagline “Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere” within it. However, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has jeopardized the very first sustainable development goal and resulted in a negative impact. The COVID-19 pandemic has been an added disadvantage to contemporary social issues. Societies across the globe have not only been in tremendous health crises but encountered several challenges as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic and amid-lockdown in 2019-21 spans. Estimation suggests that the declining rate of poverty reduction has been moving in the reverse direction in the last 25 years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, while the number of extreme poverty has been increasing for the first time ever in the last 25 years. United Nations (2022) reported that the global poverty rate increased sharply by 0.9 percent (8.3 percent in 2019 and 9.2 percent in 2020) between 2019 and 2020. It was estimated that the COVID-19 pandemic pushes an additional 75 million to 95 million people into extreme poverty. Lockdown restricted human mobility, and increasing healthcare costs have been the reasons for increasing poverty. The impact of poverty has been reportedly a geographic concentration, worst in the case of developing countries, especially in South Asia and the sub-Saharan Africa region. Furthermore, studies have reported that marginalized section people have been exacerbated in response to the global pandemic. Poverty cannot be analyzed through the income dimension only; while the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) includes both social and economic dimensions. The nuance analysis of poverty through the lens of the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) has revealed that the policy responses (lockdown, strict human mobility, closure of schools, etc.) lead to 8 to 9 years of set-back in MPI, and around 5 years (approximately) of set-back in educational attendance due to global pandemic hit. However, ascertaining the incidence of poverty for policy implication has been a difficult task due to the lack of household survey data and constantly changing social realities. Moreover, the global pandemic has added a different dimension to global poverty. In this context, the editors are keen to include the following themes as a part of this topical collection: — [show all](#)

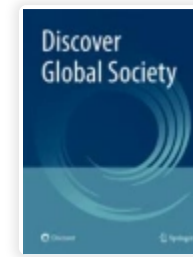
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