

Participatory Poverty Assessment through Livelihood Analysis: An Indian Case

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ABSTRACT Analysis of poverty and its dimensions are various as the ways in which poverty affects the daily sustenance of the poor. Poverty, many a times is simply viewed as an issue of income. What poverty means for the poor is a wide range of dynamic aspects. This paper presents results of analysis that emanate from Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA) which was conducted in Sohenkhera village, Chittorgarh district of Rajasthan. Using a mixture of qualitative and quantitative methods, entire households of the village were covered for the study. Results revealed the indicators of wealth as land ownership, livestock and possession of agricultural machinery. While categorising rich and poor, a 'Very poor' category emerged representing a whopping 62 per cent of village population. Livelihood analysis exposed the highly skewed patterns of housing, land holding, livestock ownership patterns and income sources and expenditure patterns. Further, crisis analysis revealed that the poor and medium farmers are perpetually indebted to moneylenders. The exercise provided data on the otherwise hidden and side lined indicators of poverty and crisis management in villages which are otherwise unavailable through official surveys.