

Redefining Poverty Line: An Analysis

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Abstract: According to the World Bank, Poverty is pronounced deprivation in well-being and comprises many dimensions. It includes low incomes and the inability to acquire the basic goods and services necessary for survival with dignity. Poverty also encompasses low levels of health and education, poor access to clean water and sanitation, inadequate physical security, lack of voice, and insufficient capacity and opportunity to better one's life. The main objective of the research is to analyse the current area included under poverty line, analyse if the present poverty class meets the calorie norm and analyse the criteria which has to be included in redefining poverty. The research method followed here is empirical research. The Total number samples collected are 200 which is taken through convenient sampling. The independent variable taken here age and gender. The independent variable is the age and gender. The dependent variables are Redefining, Food not a criteria, Living standard, Income level, Shelter and sanitation facility, Calorie norms, Basic needs. The statistical tool used for this research is correlation analysis and graphical representation. Along with the usage of inferential tools used here is chi-square. Health index of the people in the current scenario will play a crucial role in defining the poverty line. Health service accessible for every citizen of the country would be one of the major factors for defining the poverty line in our country. Through this research we conclude that the poverty-line should be redefined considering health, education, sanitation, education and other intangible factors of human life

Keywords: Calorie norm, poverty line, Sanitation, Living standard ,Income level

I. INTRODUCTION

According to the World Bank, Poverty is pronounced deprivation in well-being and comprises many dimensions. It includes low incomes and the inability to acquire the basic goods and services necessary for survival with dignity. Poverty also encompasses low levels of health and education, poor access to clean water and sanitation, inadequate physical security, lack of voice, and insufficient capacity and opportunity to better one's life. 'Poverty' on a global scale was discovered after the Second World War; before 1940 it was not an issue. In one of the first World Bank reports, dating from 1948-9, the 'nature of the problem' is outlined: 'Both the need and potential for development are plainly revealed by a single set of statistics. According to the UN Bureau of Statistics, average income per head in the United States in 1947 was over \$1400, and in another 14 countries ranged between \$400 and \$900. For more than half of the world's population, however, the average income was less - and sometimes much less - than \$100 per person. National Nutrition Mission (NNM), Poshan Abhiyan initiated Ministry of Women and Child Development to reduce the level of under-nutrition and also enhance the nutritional status of children in the country. Also, to improve the nutritional outcomes of adolescents, children, pregnant women and lactating mothers in 2018. Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) was initiated by Ministry of Labour and Employment It is a central government scheme that is introduced for old age protection and social security of Unorganised Workers (UW) Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi – PM SVanidhi in 2020 initiated Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) It aims to provide micro-credit facilities to street vendors affected due to COVID-19 pandemic. Factors affecting poverty are Inadequate access to clean water and nutritious food, Little or no access to livelihoods or jobs, Conflict, Inequality, Climate change. Recently Niti Aayog's SDG Index 2019, released on December 27, 2019, says that more Indians have fallen into poverty, hunger and income inequality in the past two years. This is after a remarkable reduction in poverty between 2005-06 and 2015-16. China and India account for much of the fall in the

number of people living below that threshold. But despite their progress, both countries are still marked by deep poverty. This statistic shows the poverty rate in the United States among all people from 1990 to 2019. In 2019, the poverty rate was 10.5 percent in the U.S. Only 84 million (8.4 crore) Indians are poor as on 2017 down from 270 million in 2011, claims a new study. It also states that poverty, as per the Tendulkar Poverty line, reduced from 14.9 per cent in 2011 to 7.0 per cent in 2017 in India

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the research is to analyse the current area included under poverty line, analyse if the present poverty class meets the calorie norm and analyse the criteria which has to be included in redefining poverty.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Poverty rates are highest in the most urban and most rural areas of the United States and are higher in nonmetropolitan than metropolitan areas. Yet perhaps because only one-fifth of the nation's 35 million poor people live in non metro areas, rural poverty has received less attention than urban poverty from both policy makers and researchers.(Jiang et al. 2021)

The present official poverty line is based on the norm that the average person in rural India should be able to consume 2,400 calories and the average person in urban India should be able to consume 2,100 calories(Jiang et al. 2021; Long et al. 2021)

Nutrition deficiency is also a leading cause for disease. According to UNICEF (2005), "malnutrition limits development and the capacity to learn. It also costs lives: about 50 per cent of all childhood deaths are attributed to malnutrition".(Wang et al. 2021)

No norms for non-food basic needs: The title of the 1974 Hindi movie – Roti, Kapda aur Makan (Bread, Clothing and Shelter) – captures very well the notion that man does not live by bread alone. The present poverty line not only ignores important nutritional needs, but also the other basic needs of life: shelter, clothing, healthcare, sanitation, drinking water and equal opportunity in education.(Lund et al. 2021)

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The past two decades have seen a big fall in the number of people living on less than US\$1.25 a day, the World Bank's international poverty threshold — down from 1.9 billion in 1990 to 1.4 billion in 2005. By this measure, the global poverty rate fell from 42 percent in 1990 to 25 percent in 2005, and may yet fall to 15 percent by 2015, or 900 million people.(Lund et al. 2021; "Poverty Rates and Poverty Gaps Trends in Poverty Rates," n.d.)

China and India account for much of the fall in the number of people living below that threshold. But despite their progress, both countries are still marked by deep poverty. (Lund et al. 2021; "Poverty Rates and Poverty Gaps Trends in Poverty Rates," n.d.; Shildrick 2018b)

First, the Tendulkar Committee reported an observed calorie intake of 1,999 and 1,776 kilocalories per day for those near the new poverty line in rural and urban areas, respectively. These levels of calorie intake are regarded as low relative to the minimum dietary energy requirement recommended in the report of a joint Food and Agricultural

Organization/United Nations University/World Health Organization Expert Consultation published in 2004(Oecd and OECD 2009)

The new methodology did not consider the possibility of changes in consumer preferences, which means that the commodity bundle of 1973-74 does not now capture the current pattern of consumption in India.(Oecd and OECD 2009; Taylor 2017)

If social protection programmes in the two countries prove to be effective in facilitating poverty exit, this could lead to a significant reduction in global poverty, even if less progress is made in sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and the rest of East and South Asia. However, the two giants face important challenges in that process.(Shildrick 2018a)

Economic growth is a necessary condition to rising per capita income, but it is nonetheless insufficient to guarantee a steady trend towards poverty reduction. In China, for instance, the relationship between economic growth and poverty reduction is far from being linear, with episodes of high economic performance in the 1990s accompanied with increases in the poverty rates. In India, since the late 1990s the country has experienced the fastest economic growth, and yet the speed at which poverty is being reduced has decelerated.(Taylor 2017)

This highlights the importance of public interventions in making growth more inclusive. Indeed, it is now well understood that policies designed to maximize growth can only trickle down to the poor if they are accompanied by wealth redistribution, employment opportunities, investments in human capital and the provision of social protection for the most vulnerable groups in society.(Jefferson 2018)

Spatial inequalities are particularly evident across China, with western and interior rural communities experiencing much weaker effects from economic growth than the eastern coastal provinces. UNU-WIDER's World Income Inequality database shows that the Gini coefficients in China, which measure the income inequality ranging from zero for "perfect" equality to one for maximal inequality, have been consistently higher in rural areas than in urban areas, despite growing inequality in urban areas largely attributed to unregistered migration from the countryside to the cities.(Jefferson 2018)

Fiscal policies have a lot to do with wealth redistribution. Tax rates in China and India are low, with most revenues coming from indirect taxes. This also reflects the low share of government revenues as percentage of GDP, which oscillates around 20 percent. This is in contrast with the average of 50 percent observed in OECD countries. Tax systems in both countries remain limited to maximizing redistributive policies — and to a large extent, they will also limit the capacity of these countries to tackle extreme deprivation in the coming years.(Jefferson 2018; Shildrick 2018a) China and India also face significant challenges in terms of employment generation. Rising unemployment is a driving factor in the incidence of poverty in urban areas in China, which has been exacerbated by market-oriented structural reforms and large migration flows of unskilled workers from rural areas to the cities. Migrant workers face exclusion from formal employment arrangements and state benefits such as housing, health and school subsidies, as well as income support from social protection schemes.(Shildrick 2018a)

the capacity of China to continue absorbing a larger share of the global consumer goods markets is becoming increasingly limited, with other emerging markets, including India, aggressively competing for a share. By the same token, it is unclear the extent to which the growing IT industry in India will be able to catalyse sustained growth, given the large unskilled labour force that remains poor and disconnected from the booming economy.(Shildrick 2018a; Jefferson 2018)(Shildrick 2018a; Jefferson 2018)

In rural China, for instance, healthcare access is largely via out-of-pocket expenses that absorb a large share of household expenditure among poor households. In India, there are serious concerns about the quality of public services, which are very low by international standards.(Mehta and Pratap 2018)

In China, the Minimum Living Subsidy Scheme (also known as Di Bao) was introduced in 1997 to support the urban unemployed poor who had been affected by the market-based structural reforms. The programme remains limited, as it excludes those not registered with the civil affairs department office. As highlighted earlier, these are mainly migrant rural workers who move to the city in search of livelihoods.(Mehta and Pratap 2018; Barrientos 2018)

III. METHODOLOGY

The research method followed here is empirical research. The Total number samples collected are 200 which is taken through convenient sampling. The independent variable taken here age and gender. The dependent variable is the age

and gender. The dependent variables are Redefining, Food not a criteria, Living standard, Income level, Shelter and sanitation facility, Calorie norms, Basic needs. The statistical tool used for this research is correlation analysis and graphical representation. Along with the usage of inferential tools used here is chi-square.

IV. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Frequencies

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		Statistics								
		AGE	GENDER	POVERTYLINE	FOOD	LIVINGSTANDARD	SHELTER	ESSENTIALS	CALORIE	INCOME
N	Valid	199	199	199	199	199	199	198	199	199
	Missing	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Mean		1.86	1.42	2.76	1.53	1.79	1.82	2.52	1.39	2.00
Median		2.00	1.00	3.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	3.00	1.00	2.00
Mode		2	1	3	2	2	2	3	1	2
Std. Deviation		.349	.494	.797	.500	.597	.623	.804	.489	.586

Frequency Table

		AGE			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	18-25	28	14.1	14.1	14.1
	26-35	171	85.9	85.9	100.0
	Total	199	100.0	100.0	

		GENDER			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	MALE	116	58.3	58.3	58.3
	FEMALE	83	41.7	41.7	100.0
	Total	199	100.0	100.0	

		POVERTYLINE			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	STRONGLY DISAGREE	11	5.5	5.5	5.5
	DISAGREE	55	27.6	27.6	33.2
	NEUTRAL	107	53.8	53.8	86.9
	AGREE	22	11.1	11.1	98.0
	STRONGLY AGREE	4	2.0	2.0	100.0
Total		199	100.0	100.0	

		FOOD			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	YES	93	46.7	46.7	46.7
	NO	106	53.3	53.3	100.0
	Total	199	100.0	100.0	

LIVINGSTANDARD

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	YES	60	30.2	30.2	30.2
	NO	120	60.3	60.3	90.5
	MAYBE	19	9.5	9.5	100.0
Total		199	100.0	100.0	

SHELTER

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	YES	59	29.6	29.6	29.6
	NO	116	58.3	58.3	87.9
	MAYBE	24	12.1	12.1	100.0
Total		199	100.0	100.0	

ESSENTIALS

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SHELTER	18	9.0	9.1	9.1
	DRINKING WATER	79	39.7	39.9	49.0
	SANITATION	82	41.2	41.4	90.4
	HEALTH CARE	18	9.0	9.1	99.5
	CLOTHING	1	.5	.5	100.0
	Total		198	99.5	100.0
Missing	System	1	.5		
Total		199	100.0		

CALORIE

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	YES	121	60.8	60.8	60.8
	NO	78	39.2	39.2	100.0
Total		199	100.0	100.0	

Activate Win

INCOME

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	YES	34	17.1	17.1	17.1
	NO	131	65.8	65.8	82.9
	MAYBE	34	17.1	17.1	100.0
Total		199	100.0	100.0	

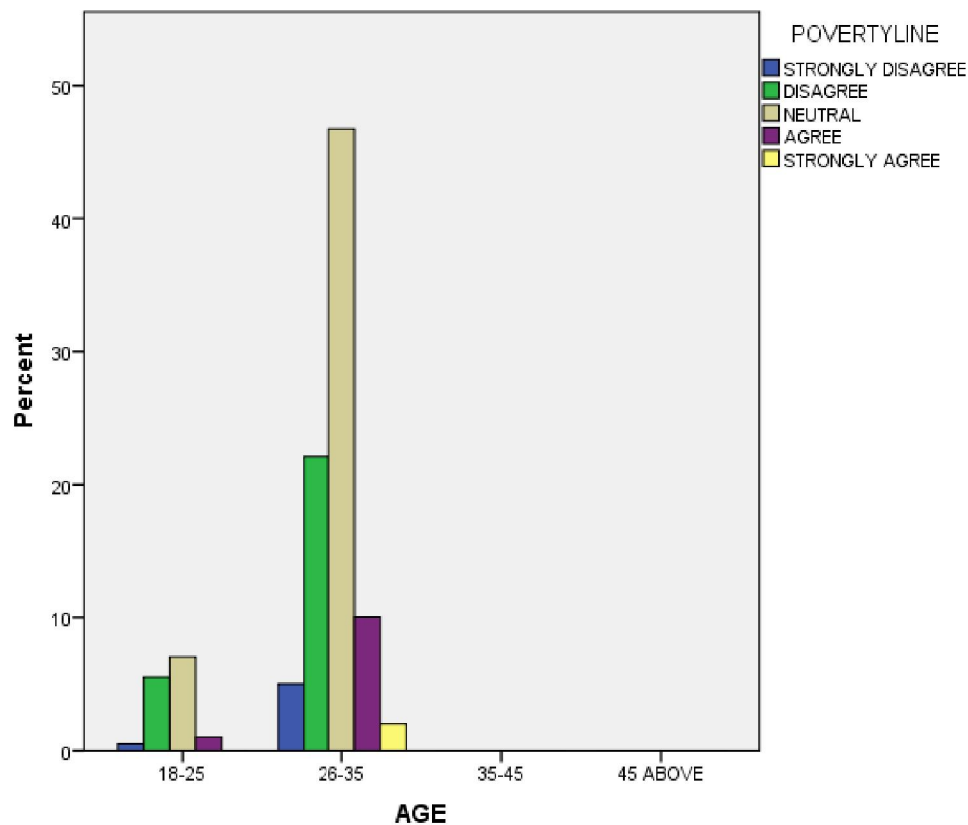


Descriptives

Descriptive Statistics					
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
AGE	199	1	2	1.86	.349
GENDER	199	1	2	1.42	.494
POVERTYLINE	199	1	5	2.76	.797
LIVINGSTANDARD	199	1	3	1.79	.597
FOOD	199	1	2	1.53	.500
INCOME	199	1	3	2.00	.586
CALORIE	199	1	2	1.39	.489
ESSENTIALS	198	1	5	2.52	.804
SHELTER	199	1	3	1.82	.623
Valid N (listwise)	198				

CLUSTER BAR GRAPH

Poverty line in India should be redefined, do agree with this?



LEGEND:

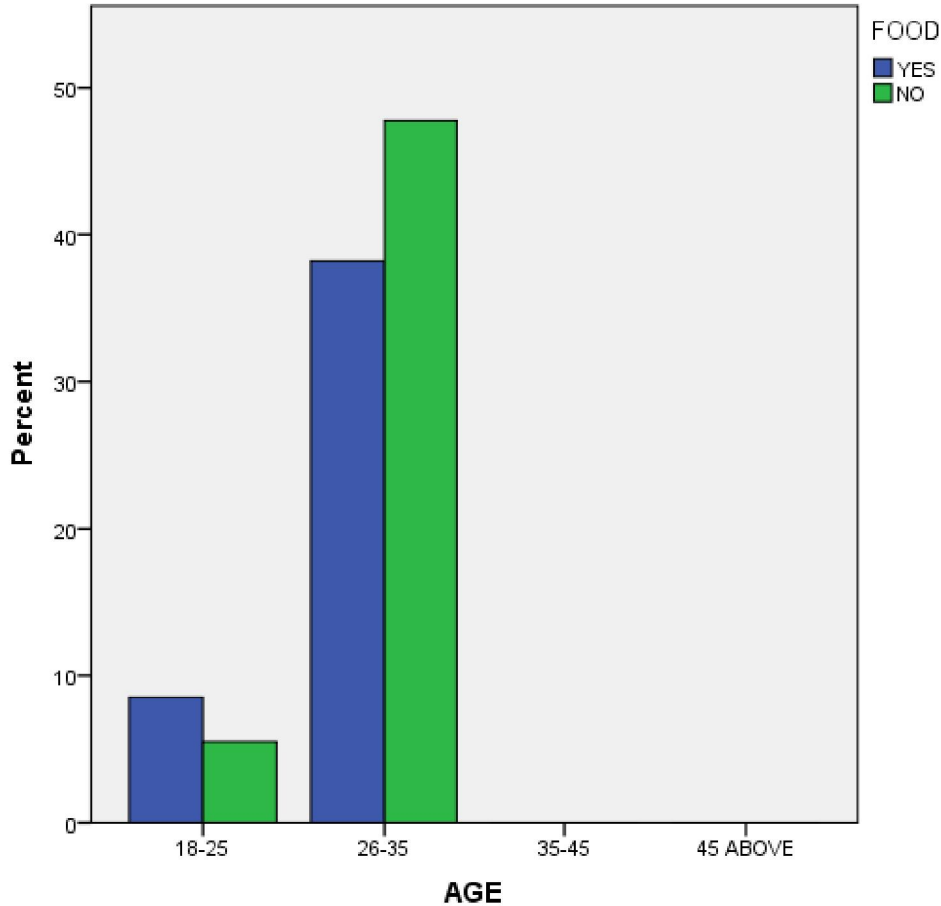
The fig 1 shows the respondents opinion with respect to age on Poverty line in India to be redefined



RESULT

The maximum no of participants of age group 18-25 opted for neutral ,age group 26-35 opted neutral. The respondents opinion was that poverty may or maynot be redefined

In the current scenario of our country food is not a criteria for defining poverty line.



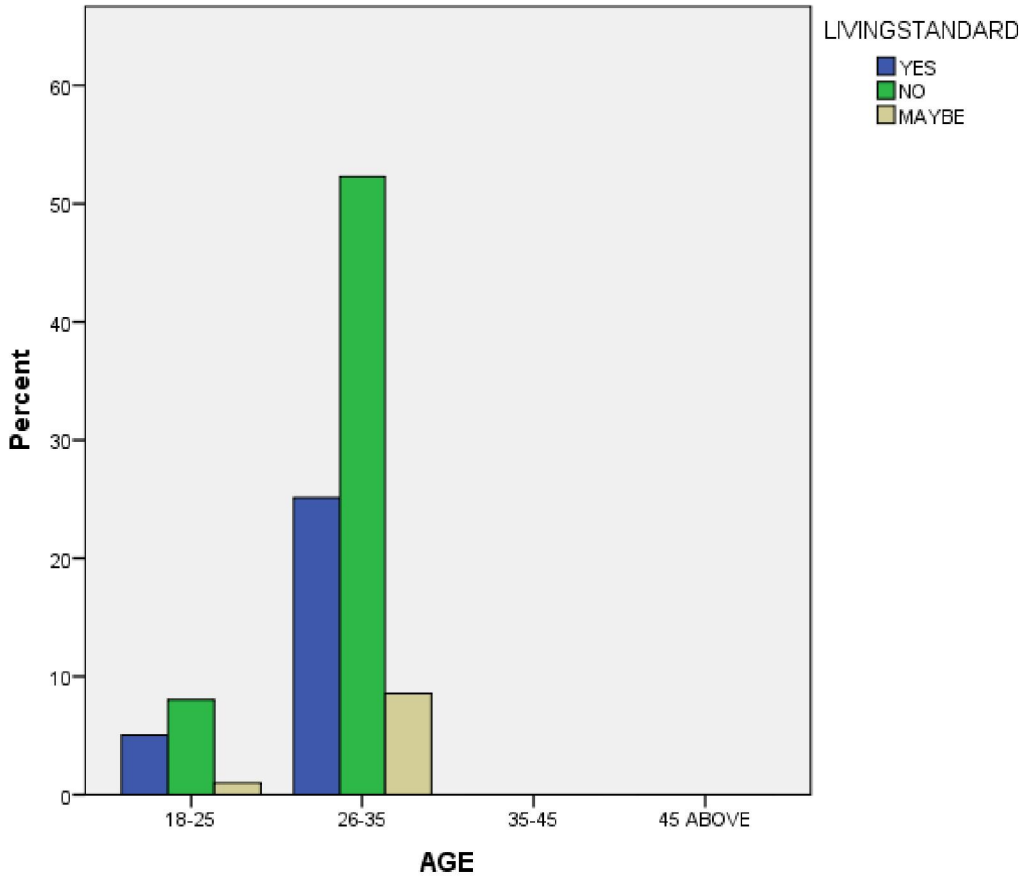
LEGEND:

The fig 2 shows the respondents opinion with respect to age on the current scenario of our country's food not being a criteria for defining the poverty line.

RESULT

The maximum no of participants of age group 18-25 opted for yes ,age group 26-35 opted no. The respondents opinion was that the current scenario of our country's food should not be a criteria for defining the poverty line.

Living Standards of the citizens should define the poverty line in the new age of India.



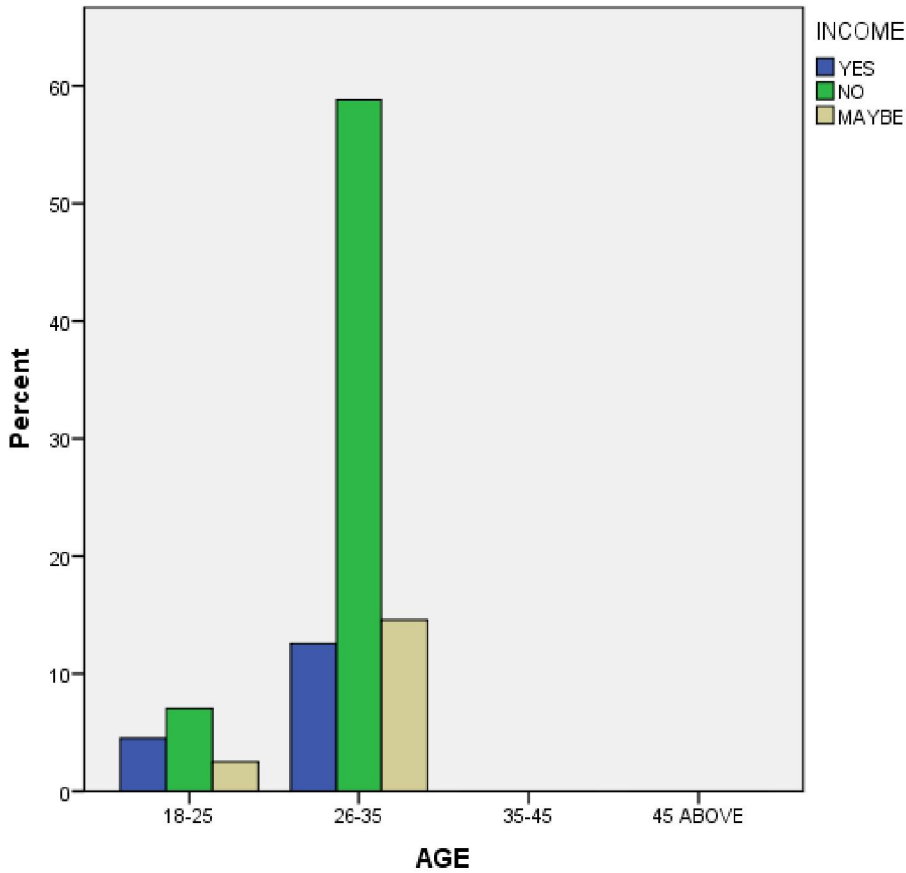
LEGEND:

The fig3 shows the respondents' opinion with respect to age on the Living Standards of the citizens defining the poverty line in the new age of India.

RESULT

The maximum no of participants of age group 18-25 opted for no ,age group 26-35 opted no. The respondents opinion was that the Living Standards of the citizens should not define the poverty line in the new age of India.

Current income level fixed to define poverty should be redivided



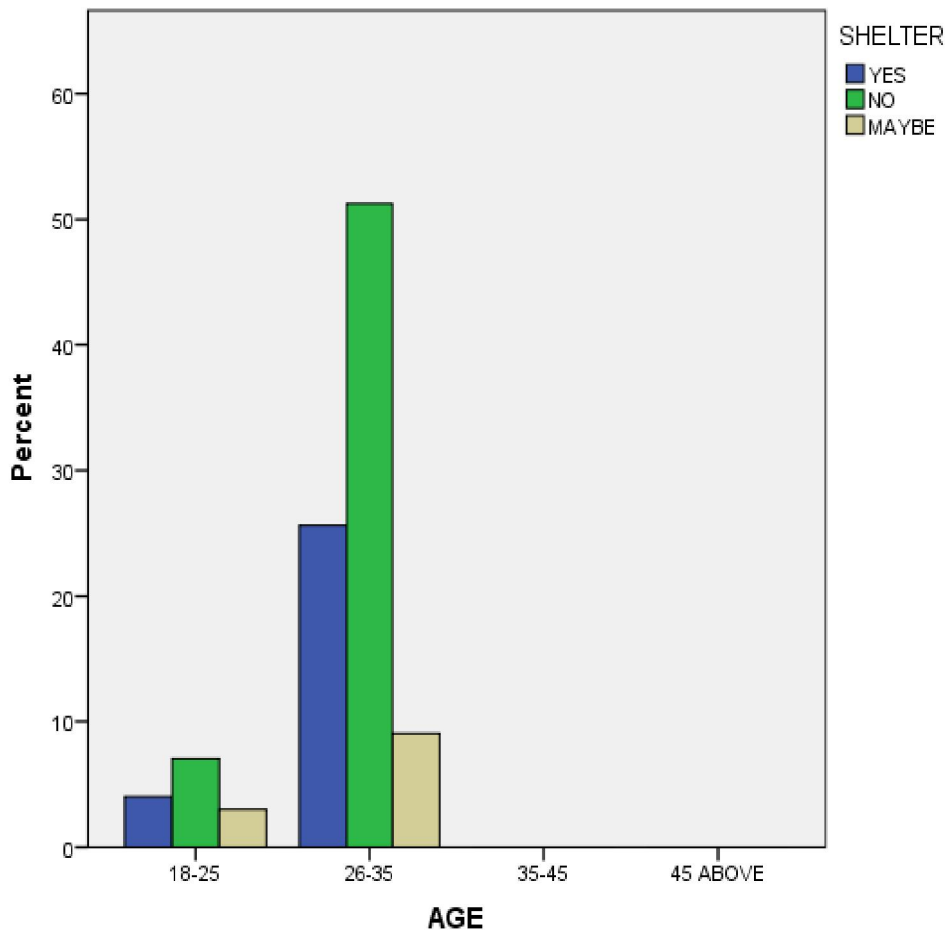
LEGEND:

The fig 4 shows the respondents' opinion with respect to age on the Current income level fixed to define poverty to be redivided

RESULT

The maximum no of participants of age group 18-25 opted for no ,age group 26-35 opted no. The respondents opinion was that the Current income level fixed to define poverty should be redivided

Do you think access to shelter and sanitation facilities must be included under the definition of poverty



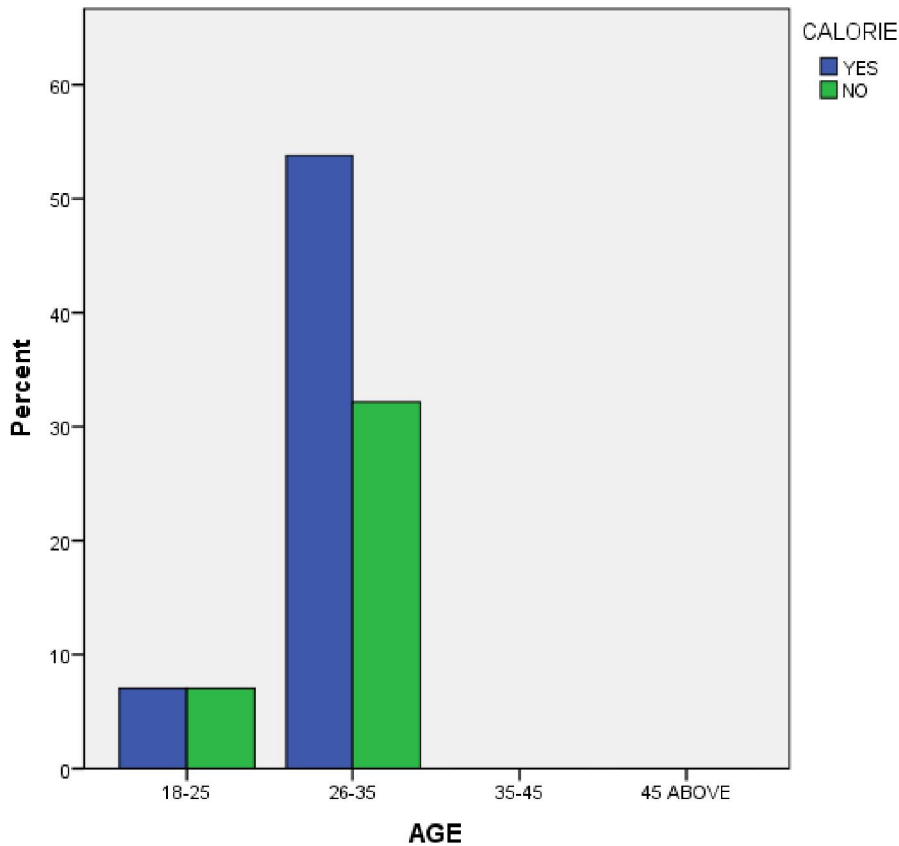
LEGEND:

The fig 5 shows the respondents' opinion with respect to age on access to shelter and sanitation facilities to be included under the definition of poverty

RESULT

The maximum no of participants of age group 18-25 opted for no ,age group 26-35 opted no. The respondents opinion was that the access to shelter and sanitation facilities should not be included under the definition of poverty

The current calorie norms of India (2,400 calories per person per day for rural poor and 2,100 calories for urban poor) is insufficient nutritional norm



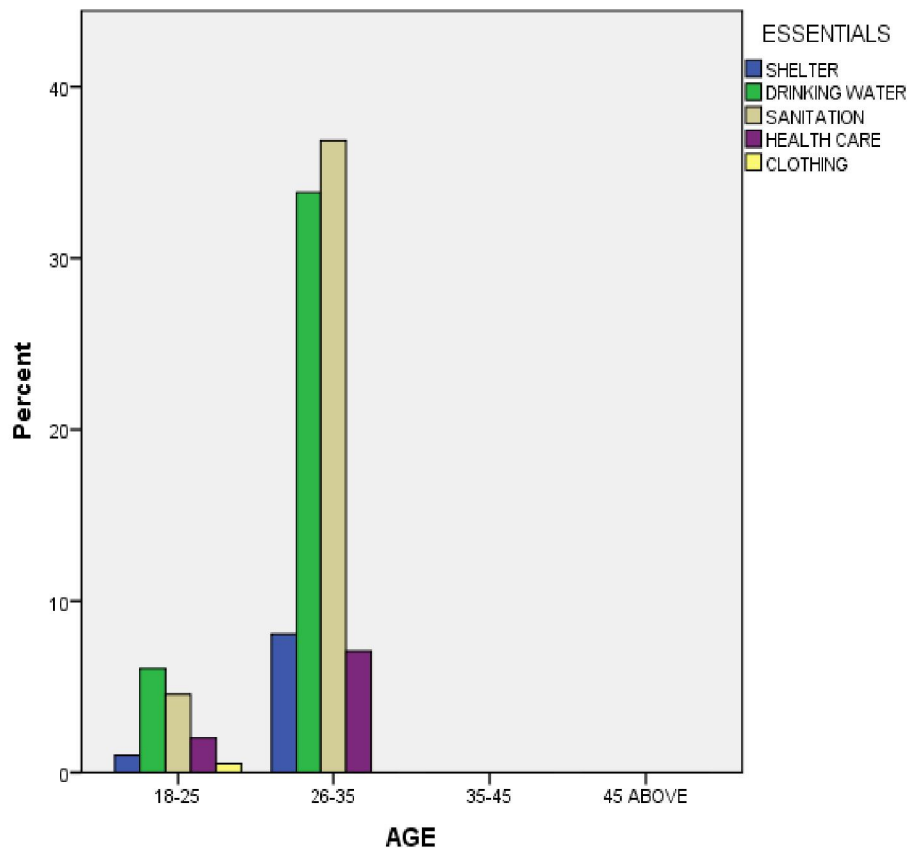
LEGEND:

The fig 6 shows the respondents' opinion with respect to age on The current calorie norms of India (2,400 calories per person per day for rural poor and 2,100 calories for urban poor) being insufficient nutritional norm

RESULT

The maximum no of participants of age group 18-25 opted for yes ,age group 26-35 opted yes. The respondents opinion was that the The current calorie norms of India (2,400 calories per person per day for rural poor and 2,100 calories for urban poor) is insufficient nutritional norms

Which is the most essential basic need to be included in poverty definition



LEGEND:

The fig 7 shows the respondents' opinion with respect to age on the most essential basic need to be included in the poverty definition.

RESULT

The maximum no of participants of age group 18-25 opted for drinking water ,age group 26-35 opted sanitation. The respondents opinion was that sanitation is the most essential basic need to be included in poverty definition.

V. DISCUSSION

Participants in the survey mostly disagreed with the idea of redefining the poverty line, but there were also a substantial number of participants who wanted to redefine the poverty line. Therefore, this research is for redefining the poverty line, and its relevance. The World Bank has been revising the definition and benchmark of the poverty line periodically. In sink with that poverty line definition in India has to be revisited periodically in the changing scenario and fast growing economy of the country. One of the statistics says that every minute 18 people escape poverty in India. Poverty is on decline in the country. All the above facts give a strong indication for redefining the poverty line in India.

For the question of considering food as criteria for defining the poverty line in this survey, there were almost equal numbers for and against it. This is a strong coincidence of this in our country; the government of India had successfully implemented the ration system in India through Civil supplies. wherein the basic food needs are fulfilled for the citizens of the country viz., rice, wheat, oil, and other food items are either given at very subsidised rates or free of cost. Therefore, considering food as major criteria for defining poverty is not relevant in the current scenario and it has to be redefined.

For the question on living standard as a factor for defining the poverty line, most of the participants did not consider that as important, but this cannot be completely ignored as there was a good number of participants who vouched for this. In many western countries the standard of living is one of the important factors for defining the poverty line. In India living standard and poverty line connection is not a distant reality anymore. If not now Standard of living would be a major factor in defining the poverty line.

For questions on correctness of income for fixing the poverty line, most of them said the current level is fine. There were a substantial number of people who had disagreed on this. Fixing income for defining the poverty line is still a debate in the country. Only if the poverty line is rightly defined considering all the factors, the income limit can be fixed. Until then the poverty line and income can not be assigned a right number.

VI. LIMITATIONS

The major limitation of my study is the sample frame. The sample frame is the specific online survey which has no root for educated samples. The awareness about the present poverty line in India among the general public is at the minimal range, it is one among the major drawbacks. Their restrictive draw area of sample size is also another major drawback. The physical factors are the most impactful and a major factor limiting the study.

VII. CONCLUSION

According to the World Bank, Poverty is pronounced deprivation in well-being and comprises many dimensions. It includes low incomes and the inability to acquire the basic goods and services necessary for survival with dignity. Poverty also encompasses low levels of health and education, poor access to clean water and sanitation, inadequate physical security, lack of voice, and insufficient capacity and opportunity to better one's life. The main objective of the research is to analyse the current area included under poverty line, analyse if the present poverty class meets the calorie norm and analyse the criteria which has to be included in redefining poverty. Poverty line in India will no longer fit into "income" and "food". Definition of the poverty line goes beyond this - Standard of living, health, sanitation etc. Special mention has to be made on the sanitation, where the government has taken enormous measures in achieving this. Reaching the ambitious milestone of this would go a long way in reducing the poverty line of the country men. Health index of the people in the current scenario will play a crucial role in defining the poverty line. Health service accessible for every citizen of the country would be one of the major factors for defining the poverty line in our country. Through this research we conclude that the poverty-line should be redefined considering health, education, sanitation, education and other intangible factors of human life.

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