
POVERTY AS FUNCTIONING FAILURE: THE CASE OF KASARAGOD DISTRICT IN KERALA

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Abstract: This paper applies the capability approach by selecting basic incapacities of the people living in the district of Kasaragod in Kerala. The specific region of the study is Manjeshwar Community Development Block (CD Block). Living in the Manjeshwar CD Block itself imposes a sizeable discount on people's functioning. The people living in the region may not be income poor, they are nonetheless very poor in freedom. In addition to that stereotyped as Endosulfan affected region which interferes negatively with people's well-being and opportunities for collective action. So the social capital of the people in the region is backlogged in functioning.

Keywords: Capability, Functioning, Poverty, Index of Freedom (IF).

Introduction: In this paper the analysis applies the concept of poverty as 'Deprivation of freedom' in measuring the living condition of the residents of Manjeshwar CD Block found as the most backward region in the reviews. Three CD Blocks of Kasaragod except Manjeshwar block shows resemblance to the 'Kerala Model of Development'. Here the study reveals the discrepancy between the 'Kerala Model of Development', who consider Kerala shows a high Human Development, and those of as this study indicated in last chapter, a severe inequality in development status of people in Kasaragod especially in Manjeshwar CD Block.

Capability – Functioning Approach: Capability means different opportunities to choose among different functioning on the other hand functioning are constitutive elements of individual well being. The set of opportunities for choice available for an individual is his 'capability set'. The study applies the concept of poverty as insufficiency of basic capabilities in measuring the limiting factors of the choice and nature of deprivation of the people of Manjeshwar CD Block where consist of vast area of Endosulfan affected region. Even though the people in this region may not be income poor, they are nonetheless very poor in choice of freedom. As a deteriorated region and stereotyped by other people in the state of Kerala as notorious Endosulfan affected region imposes sizeable discount on the people's functioning in the region. According to Sen (Sen, 1999), poverty can be considered as "deprivation of basic capabilities", instead of mere lack of income or insufficient access to resources. Index of freedom used to operationalize the Sen's capability approach to demonstrate the deprivation of the People in the Manjeshwar CD Block.

Functioning: Functionings can be defined as a set of actions and states valuable to human life, reflecting the quality of life actually lived. The value attached to a state or action may vary among groups and societies nevertheless, there should be a group of functioning that are universally important, and thus basic, in the sense that a worthy life is only achieved if they are achieved (Celia L Kerstenetzky et. Al, 2009). A life without choices and genuine opportunities for choice will inevitably be a poor life (Sen, 1992).

When analysing the well-being of individual members of the people in Manjeshwar CD Block, the main hypothesis is that the social circumstance of 'living in a negatively stereotyped region' significantly compresses the freedom of choice of individuals. Thus, 'living in negatively stereotyped region' (WDR 2015), affects individuals' well-being in the three senses people enjoy less freedom, fewer opportunities for realization and fewer opportunities for collective action (Sen, 1992).

Index of Freedom: This study operationalize Sen's approach to poverty focuses on basic functionings of people. This is a consequence of the greater difficulty of measuring individuals' set of capabilities directly so that functionings are indirect indicators of the freedom to choose, assumed that if an individual has not managed to realize a functioning prepared a questionnaire aiming to estimate, through the answers to the questions, to what extent families in Manjeshwar CD Block are attaining important functionings.

The study identified 14 relevant functionings which able to cover universal and context-dependent aspects like Have Quality House, Be Healthy, Do Gratifying work, Enjoy good schooling level, No Distress by Endosulfan incidence, Enjoy access to public services, Do not discriminated as Endosulfan victims, Active in social life, Participate in the associate life of the State, Live without identity crisis, Have good status and dignity, Have a happy life in the region and Well known about government policies. Each functioning had a different number of indicators, depending on its scope but not its importance.

Based on the questionnaire, calculate an index of well-being for the population of sample of Manjeshwar CD Block, which is the 'Index of Freedom' (IF). Calculation of this index starts from a methodology in many ways similar to that used by Celia L Kerstenetzky et al, 2009. The IF is based on 14 functionings, measured by 54 indicators obtained from the questionnaires, including the aspects referred to above. Following the calculation procedure used by Kerstenetzky et al, 2009, estimated the IF through the following steps

1. Each indicator is in reality a question posed to a household. If the response indicates a limitation to the realization of a functioning, a value of zero is attributed to this indicator. A zero is assigned to this indicator (the question), and a one if the answer is NO.
2. The IF is then calculated for each household. First the IF of each functioning for that household is obtained by adding the scores of the questions composing that functioning and dividing by the number of questions. To find the household IF, it is simply a matter of taking the average of the functionings' IFs.
3. After calculating the IFs of each household, the next step is to compute their simple average to find the IF of the population sample from the Manjeshwar CD Block. The result obtained will be between zero and one. If it is near to 1, the greater is the degree of household freedom, and hence, the lower the level of poverty.

After finding the IF, it remains to discover whether or not the result obtained indicates a situation of poverty. For this established a poverty line, drawing inspiration from the methodology of the Kerstenetzky et al, 2009. Like Kerstenetzky et al, and his co-authors, arbitrarily considered that an extreme poverty line will be 0.5 (1/ 2) and the poverty line will be 0.67 (2/3). Those falling below these values will be extremely poor and poor, respectively. Although arbitrary, the 0.67 line is partially justified by the fact that the indicators utilized to calculate the functionings are, in general, basic indicators.

Index for Freedom per Functioning: Here present the results of the indexes of freedom obtained for each functioning of the sample. The functionings are divided into separate tables. The lines contain the questions that made up each functioning, but they have been modified in relation to the questionnaire, they have been abbreviated and rewritten so that a YES always denotes 'well-being' and a NO indicates 'poverty'. The IF of each indicator also can be interpreted as the percentage of people answering YES to that item.

Health is the vital determinant of human development indicator. All the human development indexes like HDI (Human Development Index), MPI (Multi dimensional Poverty Index) and other such indexes are insufficient without considering health aspect of human being. Healthy life enrich the freedom of functioning and choice of an individual in different agent. So the health indexes as the functioning 'Be Healthy' which denote an average IF of 0.57 which is below the poverty line (IF< 0.67 is poor) as per the methodology followed in the study. Analysing the human poverty through capability approach it is essential to adapt the indicators like hunger and undernourishment. Only two indicators were used to

find the average IF of the people in the Manjeshwar CD block. IF of the functioning is 0.51 which lies in the category below the poverty line. 61% people in the region tend to switch to cheaper foods which probably lead to undernourishment. Hence even the necessities of the people in the Manjeshwar CD Block is badly affected.

Education is the most important indicator of 'Kerala Model of Development'. Here the average IF of the region is 0.63 which clearly indicate the deprivation in education. In the higher education, the region has least IF of 0.15. Only 6 children in the region is not being to school in their age between 5 to 10 is a large level of freedom of functioning to primary education. To understand the quality of house of the people in Manjeshwar CD Block, consider 8 indicators, each indicator denote the basic requirement for a quality house. The average of the functioning 'Have quality House' represent different dimension of a quality house. Index of freedom of housing quality of the people in the region is 0.83 which shows a household not poor in the indicator of housing quality and greater the degree of household freedom. Among the indicators electrification of house has the highest index of freedom with 0.96 almost all the houses in the region are electrified. Own source of drinking water discount the household freedom with least indicator of 0.68.

Employment status commonly seen as a indicator of economical standard of the people whereas the functioning itself has made a change in the dimension as 'do gratifying work'. The functioning of employment expand the freedom hence the average IF is less than the deprivation line by having an index of 0.52. The work satisfaction is the least in the indicators of employment status.

Whether the incident of Endosulfan deteriorated the life of the people in the region is a prominent functioning to concern so the functioning title 'No distress by Endosulfan incidence'. Severe distress has shown in the region by the impact of Endosulfan hence it has 0.43 of average IF seems to be extremely deprived of welfare and well being. 68% of the people in the affected region are negatively affected by reducing their value of land by the mindset of people towards the region is a distress to the functioning of choice. Endosulfan victims are a crucial part of the Manjeshwar CD Block. Major share of Endosulfan victims are seen in the particular region so their functioning adversely affected by the incidence of Endosulfan. So the marginalization of the people in the region is closely analysed by the functioning as 'Do not discriminated as Endosulfan victims'. The average IF of the household is 0.47 which is clearly stated people are extremely deprived as Endosulfan victims.

Social life of an individual by the result of his opportunities for the functioning, in this regard the active social life of the people of Manjeshwar CD Block. A poor status of the people in the active social life with an average IF of 0.62 which reflect a marginalization of the people in the region. With the IF indicator with 0.69 reveals that people are active in NGOs and SHGs (Not deprived IF > 0.67). People in the region are incapable to enjoy the functioning to partake in cultural festivals and other activities in the social life. Another core functioning discussed in the study is the cultural belongingness of people in the Manjeshwar CD Block to Kerala state. By describing the functioning 'participate in the associate life of the state' which has obtain extreme deprivation with an IF of 0.43. Treatment are taken mainly from Mangalore and other parts of Karnataka state so the IF for the treatment taken with in the state is 0.31. Accessibility and medical care infrastructure facilities are the main attraction of people to depend Karnataka for the treatment. Higher education and work within the state has a much better IF of 0.57 and 0.41. Identity crisis is a phenomenon may be seen in the boarder areas of districts which share border with other state. So the cultural, social and linguistic multiplicity would perpetuate to the identity crisis which definitely leads to the deprivation of freedom of functioning. The functioning 'Live without identity crisis' is clearly shows an IF of 0.53, that is below the poverty level of the functioning. The sole crisis is cultural belongingness with an IF of only 0.36, that is 64% of people in the Manjeshwar CD Block deprived freedom or functioning.

Functioning itself called as an access to public service so it is the apt functioning indicated as 'Enjoy access to public service'. Average IF of the functioning of people towards public services are revealed a extremely poor status (Extremely poor $0.50 < IF$). Whereas the public transportation much better

standard while comparing to other indicators of public service. As an Endosulfan affected region Manjeshwar CD Block were in the limelight for last 20 years does this affected their freedom and functioning is the basis of analysis of this functioning 'have good status and dignity'. The controversies which directly or indirectly affected the dignity and status of the people is an important variable to concern in the functioning of freedom. Media concern on the Endosulfan incidence has discount the dignity and status to a poor status, that is represented by IF of 0.55. Average IF of the media impact in the region is 0.58 also indicated that the attention of media deteriorated their status.

Functioning of the people on their life has to be positive in order to have freedom for the well-being. This functioning(Have a happy life in the region) in the in Table 13 is purely qualitative statement or opinion still for the assessment of the IF has to include such indicator along with the functioning. IF of the average functioning is 0.51 which clearly under the poverty line fixed in this study so the people in the Manjeshwar CD Block deprived of happiness to live in the region.

Generally Government policies are influencing the functioning of the people, whether it is negatively or positively. So the policies of the government is known to the people who are the beneficiaries is crucial. So the study reveals the knowledge of the people about policies as a functioning of freedom. 0.56 is the IF of the people, therefore household of Manjeshwar CD Block is below the poverty line. Region has deadlock in knowing the policies for well functioning their life.

Index of Freedom of People of Manjeshwar CD Block: There are two ways of calculating the IF for the sample of the Manjeshwar CD Block population take the average of the indexes for each functioning and take the average of the indexes found for each household. Both forms of calculation obviously lead to the same result an IF equal to 0.54, indicating that the people of Manjeshwar CD Block are poor, on the verge of extreme poverty. Table 15 summarizes the main results. Only 37 families obtained an IF above 0.67, meaning only 12.33% of the households in the sample are not poor. 62% scored between 0.5 and 0.67, and the remaining 25.67% obtained an IF under 0.5, classifying them as extremely poor.

Table.15 Synthesis of the IFs by Functioning:

	Functioning	IF	Degree of Poverty
1	Be Healthy	0.57	Poor
2	Be free from hunger and undernourishment	0.51	Poor
3	Enjoy good schooling level	0.63	Poor
4	Have Quality House	0.83	Not Poor
5	Do Gratifying work	0.52	Poor
6	No Distress by Endosulfan incidence	0.43	Extremely Poor
7	Do not discriminated as Endosulfan victims	0.47	Extremely Poor
8	Active in social life	0.62	Poor
9	Participate in the associate life of the State	0.43	Extremely Poor
10	Live without identity crisis	0.53	Poor
11	Enjoy access to public services	0.41	Extremely Poor
12	Have good status and dignity	0.58	Poor
13	Have a happy life in the region	0.51	Poor
14	Well known about government policies	0.56	Extremely Poor
	Average of the functioning	0.54	Poor

Source: Primary Survey

Comparison of IF with Income: Capability approach states that there no need to have a correlation between insufficient income and lack of freedom to choose. At the final stage of the analysis in comparing the 'income poverty' with 'freedom poverty', found an equivalent result in 79 families, representing 26.33% of the sample. Also noted that the final averages demonstrate that the Manjeshwar CD Block depicted in the sample is not poor in income, but it is poor in freedom. For this analysis find out the percentage of household in below poverty line (BPL) from the primary sample data. It is reliable as it is the division of government of India in find out the people in below poverty line or the people

under income poverty. While by the criterion of freedom poverty 87.67% of the families were classified as poor or extremely poor, while the income criterion only 57% of the families were below the poverty line. In comparing the 'income poverty' with 'freedom poverty', the study found an equivalent result in 148 families, representing 49.33% of the sample.

Conclusion: The result of the analysis shows that while people in Manjeshwar CD Block may not be income poor, they are nonetheless very poor in freedom. Living in a Endosulfan affected region itself imposes a sizeable discount on people's functioning. The common feature of the region as cultural diversity, identity crisis, linguistic minority, historically significant and belong to the boarder area of the state interferes negatively with the people's well-being and opportunities for collective action, so the social capital of the people in the region is deteriorated by this functioning.

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