

Multidimensional Poverty in Odisha: Some Recent Evidence

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Abstract

NITI Aayog has published 'National Multidimensional Poverty Index – A Progress Review 2023'. As per the progress review report, the share of India's population who are multidimensionally poor has declined from 24.85% in 2015-16 to 14.96% in 2019-21. Among states, Kerala has lowest poverty (0.55%) and Bihar has highest poverty (33.76%). This index is based on the NFHS Round 5 data (2019-21). As per the report, Odisha multidimensionally poor has declined from 29.34% in 2015-16 to 15.68% in 2019-21. Though there is significant reduction in multidimensional poverty still low nutrition, less access to safe cooking fuel, less sanitation coverage and less housing coverage are contributing towards 15.68% multidimensional poverty. Odisha's performance is noteworthy in comparison to neighbouring and comparable states. Though Odisha has performed well between NFHS – 4 and NFHS – 5, due to historical incidence of backwardness, there is broad gap to catch up with lowest MPI states. Odisha's poverty has precipitously decreased by 24.61 percentage points from 57.20% (2004-05) to 32.59% (2011-12). Average annual decline in poverty is 3.52 percentage points. This was highest reduction in poverty among major states in the country. The state has performed way better than nation and major states in terms of elimination of poverty over last two decades. The state has been largely successful in multi-dimensional development and eliminating poverty at a faster level than nation. Among other accomplishment in SDG, the achievements of the state is remarkable in the domain of elimination of poverty in last two decades. Several welfare measures with targeted interventions have lead to achievement of fastest poverty reduction and state is targeting to reduce poverty to 10% by the end of 2025 and end multidimensional poverty by 2030. Improvement in social sector indicators, elimination of all forms of poverty, hunger, malnutrition and provision of basic standards of living will lead to achievement of 2030 agenda of Sustainable Development in Odisha.

Keywords: Poverty, MPI, Multidimensional poverty, Odisha, India, Education, Health, Social Sector Development, SDG, Sustainable Development

Introduction

Poverty is pronounced deprivation in well-being. Poverty anywhere is a threat to prosperity everywhere. Since independence, defining a poverty line has been a debatable issue. During 1970s, first such poverty line concept in India was came into existence. Generally, poverty measures in India are money metric in nature and calculated according to a threshold level of MPCE. The connotation of poverty has changed over the years to adjust the measures of poverty line and poverty ratio. The constitution of a Working Group (1962), the Alagh Committee (1979), Lakdawala Committee

(1989), Tendulkar Committee (2005), and Rangarajan Committee (2009) contributed to redefining poverty in the country, particularly those of the poor (Government of India, 2009). Multidimensional poverty measures poverty from multiple perspective in terms of education, health, standard of living etc and also involves nonmetric measures in terms of access and deprivation of basic necessities of life (Alkire and Foster, 2011). The paper studies evolution of poverty and number of poor population since independence till date for Odisha and compares with recent multidimensional poverty statistics of Odisha with other states of India.

Poverty in Odisha

All round growth of Odisha Economy began in the 1940's and accelerated during the post-independence era in the 1950s, with the introduction of planned development. Odisha's paramount mineral reserves, flora and fauna, 484 km long coastline would lead to multidimensional development of all regions of Odisha and all sections of society with special focus on deprived population. Balanced regional development helps in poverty alleviation as fruits of growth reaches to all the section of population and gap between rich and poor diminishes gradually. Tendulkar Committee Report (2005) and several subsequent national Sample Survey Organisations survey results outlines estimates of poverty for state and nation. Poverty is denoted in terms of poverty line and head count ratio. The poverty lines for the state are estimated at Rs.695 for rural and Rs.861 for urban area by 2011-12. 32.59% of population (138.2 lakh people) were below poverty line in Odisha by 2011-12. Several welfare measures with targeted interventions have lifted 82 lakh people out of poverty. Poverty has declined by 24.61 percentage points from 57.20% (2004-05) to 32.59% (2011-12). Average annual decline in poverty is 3.52 percentage points. This was highest reduction in poverty among major states in the country (Economic Survey, 2022). It is worth noting that, India saw 15 percentage points poverty reduction and average annual decline in poverty for the country was 2.14 percentage points during the same period (Government of India, 2009). The state has performed way better than nation and major states in terms of elimination of poverty over last two decades. Several welfare measures with targeted interventions have lead to achievement of fastest poverty reduction and state is targeting to eliminate poverty in Odisha. Percentage of poor population in Odisha and India (Rural and Urban) from 1973 to 2012 is given in Table 1.

Table 1 Percentage of Rural and Urban Poor in Odisha and India

Year	Odisha		India	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
1973-74	67.78	55.62	56.44	49.01
1977-78	72.38	50.92	53.07	45.24
1983-84	67.53	49.15	45.65	40.79
1987-88	57.64	41.53	39.09	38.2
1993-94	49.72	41.64	37.27	32.36
1999-00	48.01	42.83	27.09	23.62

2004-05	60.80	37.60	41.80	25.70
2011-12	35.69	17.29	25.70	13.70

Source: Planning Commission Reports

In 1973-74, 66.2% of people were poor, which increased to 70.1% (1977-78), declined to 65.3% (1983), to 55.6% (1987-88), to 48.6% (1993-94) and again declined to 46.6% (2004-05). Poverty started declining after the year 1978. Elimination was more prominent between 1977-78 and 1987-88 (14.5 percentage points). 67.2% of people were poor in rural area, which increased to 72.4% (1977-78), again declined to 67.5% (1983), to 57.6% (1987-88), and to 49.7% (1993-94) and finally declined to 46.8% (2004-05). Between 1993-2005, poverty in total has declined only 2 percentage points. In rural area, decline was 2.9 percentage points (Panda, 2015). The state has performed way better than nation and major states in terms of elimination of poverty over last two decades. Several welfare measures with targeted interventions have lead to achievement of fastest poverty reduction and state is targeting to eliminate poverty.

Multidimensional Poverty Index of India

Government of India's premier thinktank NITI Aayog, New Delhi has published 'National Multidimensional Poverty Index – A Progress Review 2023' in July 2023 (NITI Aayog, 2023). India's first ever multidimensional poverty index measure based NFHS Round 4 data (2015-16) was published in November 2021. The progress review report is based NFHS Round 5 data (2019-21). The multidimensional poverty index is popularly employed non-money metric poverty index in the world. The index covers overlapping deprivations in health, education and basic standards of living. The non-money metric measures complements money-metric poverty measurements because it measures and compares deprivations directly on the basis of several aspects of development (Alkire and Foster, 2011).

The Global Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development was signed on 25 September 2015 by 193 member nations of UN. The agenda established the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), 169 targets and 232 indicators. SDG 1 and Target 1.2 calls for Ending poverty in all its forms everywhere. The goal is multidimensional in its totality. Multidimensional poverty index has wide ranging application for any country in terms of development of schemes and targeted interventions which contribute towards elimination of poverty in all its form from everywhere in the world. The district-wise estimation of multidimensional poverty will help in identifying deprived districts based on these

indicators and accordingly policies can be planned and implemented for reaching the goal of Left No One Behind by the year 2030.

NITI Aayog has prepared this index with consultation with Ministries of Union Government. The index has 3 equally weighted dimensions namely health, education and Basic Living Standard. These three dimensions are measured by 12 indicators listed below.

- (i) Nutrition
- (ii) Child and adolescent mortality
- (iii) Maternal health
- (iv) Years of schooling
- (v) School attendance
- (vi) Cooking fuel
- (vii) Sanitation
- (viii) Drinking water
- (ix) Electricity
- (x) Housing
- (xi) Assets
- (xii) Bank account

As per the progress review report, the share of India’s population who are multidimensionally poor has declined from 24.85% in 2015-16 to 14.96% in 2019-21. Among states, Kerala has lowest poverty (0.55%) and Bihar has highest poverty (33.76%). This review report is based on NFHS Round V data (2019-21) (IIPA, 2021). Percentage of population who are poor in these 12 indicators in all states and union territories of India is given in Table 2.

Table 2 State/UT Wise Multidimensional Poor Population in India (2019-21)

SI No	State	Headcount Ratio (%)
1	Bihar	33.76
2	Jharkhand	28.81
3	Meghalaya	27.79
4	Uttar Pradesh	22.93
5	Madhya Pradesh	20.63
6	Assam	19.35
7	Chhattisgarh	16.37
8	Odisha	15.68
9	Nagaland	15.43
10	Rajasthan	15.31
11	Arunachal Pradesh	13.76
12	Tripura	13.11

13	West Bengal	11.89
14	Gujarat	11.66
15	Uttarakhand	9.67
16	Manipur	8.10
17	Maharashtra	7.81
18	Karnataka	7.58
19	Haryana	7.07
20	Andhra Pradesh	6.06
21	Telangana	5.88
22	Mizoram	5.30
23	Himachal Pradesh	4.93
24	Punjab	4.75
25	Sikkim	2.60
26	Tamil Nadu	2.20
27	Goa	0.84
28	Kerala	0.55
	Union Territory	
1	Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	9.21
2	Jammu & Kashmir	4.80
3	Ladakh	3.53
4	Chandigarh	3.52
5	Delhi	3.43
6	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	2.30
7	Lakshadweep	1.11
8	Puducherry	0.85
	India	14.96

Source: NITI Aayog National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023

Reduction of Multidimensional Poverty in Odisha

As per the progress review report, Odisha’s multidimensionally poor population has declined from 29.34% in 2015-16 to 15.68% in 2019-21 (NITI Aayog, 2023). Total MPI score of Odisha is 0.07 (Rural MPI score - 0.079 and Urban MPI score - 0.023). Poverty headcount ratio for the state is 15.68% (Rural – 17.72% and Urban – 5.42%) whereas intensity score is 44.5% (Rural – 44.58% and Urban – 43.15%). As per the report, Puri has lowest multidimensional poverty (3.29%) while Malkangiri has highest multidimensional poverty (45.01%). 16 districts of Odisha have lower multidimensional poverty than state average and 15 districts have lower multidimensional poverty than national average. Percentage of population

who are multidimensionally poor in each district is given in Table 3.

Table 3 District Wise Multidimensional Poor Population in Odisha (2019-21)

Sl No	District	Headcount Ratio (%)
1	Malkangiri	45.01
2	Rayagada	34.03
3	Koraput	33.54
4	Nabarangapur	33.45
5	Mayurbhanj	30.57
6	Gajapati	28.14
7	Kendujhar	26.76
8	Kandhamal	25.30
9	Nuapada	20.19
10	Kalahandi	19.47
11	Bhadrak	16.60
12	Deogarh	16.56
13	Boudh	16.27
14	Dhenkanal	15.98
15	Sundargarh	14.77
16	Balasore	14.21
17	Jajpur	14.10
18	Angul	13.87
19	Bargarh	11.51
20	Sambalpur	10.05
21	Balangir	9.52
22	Kendrapara	8.90
23	Sonepur	8.68
24	Jharsuguda	7.09
25	Nayagarh	6.63
26	Ganjam	6.31
27	Cuttack	6.31
28	Khordha	3.95
29	Jagatsinghapur	3.53
30	Puri	3.29
	Odisha	15.68

Source: NITI Aayog National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023

State has witnessed significant reduction in multidimensional poverty. Government of Odisha is targeting to multidimensional reduce poverty to 10% by the end of 2025 and end multidimensional poverty by

2030 as per SDG Target 1.2. State is adopting many pro-poor welfare measures and interventions like KALIA, Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana, Mamata, Balaram, Biju Pacca Ghar Yojana, MUKTA, BASUDHA, Sujal, Madhu Babu Pension Yojana, Vasundhara, Mission Shakti, Mo Ghara among others in this direction.

Table 4 Reduction of Multidimensional Poverty in Odisha and India (%)

Region	Odisha			India		
	Year	Headcount Ratio	Rural	Urban	Headcount Ratio	Rural
2015-16	29.34	32.64	12.32	24.85	32.59	8.65
2019-21	15.68	17.72	5.42	14.96	19.28	5.27

Source: NITI Aayog National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023

Among other accomplishment in SDG, the achievements of the state is remarkable in the domain of elimination of poverty in less two decades. Improvement in social sector indicators, elimination of all forms of poverty, hunger, malnutrition and provision of basic standards of living will lead to achievement of 2030 agenda of Sustainable Development in Odisha.

Table 5 Reduction in Indicators of Multidimensional Poverty in Odisha (%)

Part A: Health and Education

Indicator	Health			Education	
	Year	Nutrition	Child & Adolescent Mortality	Maternal Health	Years of Schooling
2015-16	37.27	2.23	19.49	16.64	4.95
2019-21	30.77	1.57	14.83	13.44	3.92

Source: NITI Aayog National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023

Part B: Standard of Living

Indicator	Standard of Living						
	Year	Cooking Fuel	Sanitation	Drinking Water	Electricity	Housing	Asset
2015-16	80.94	70.32	20.61	13.36	55.80	19.22	10.94
2019-21	65.94	39.85	13.55	3.04	40.70	12.30	2.53

Source: NITI Aayog National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023

Region wise analysis of multidimensional poverty will enable to identify the deprived population. Undivided Koraput and Kandhamal region has historical incidence of poverty in Odisha. These region include districts

namely: Nabarangapur, Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Nuapada, Subarnapur and Balangir. The Kandhamal Balangir Koraput (KBK) region poverty is highlighted in several literature and

report (Panda, 2023; Government of Odisha, 2022; Panda, 2021). Percentage of population who are deprived in each indicator for undivided Koraput and undivided Kandhamal region is given in Table 6.

Table 6 Indicator Wise Score of Undivided Koraput and Undivided Kandhamal Districts

District	Nutrition	Child & Adolescent Mortality	Maternal Health	Years of Schooling	School Attendance	Cooking Fuel	Sanitation	Drinking Water	Electricity	Housing	Assets	Bank Account
Nabarangapur	53.72	4.06	33.56	34.15	15.40	90.73	83.31	26.92	29.89	80.22	33.74	19.31
Malkangiri	58.90	6.94	28.08	43.56	17.12	94.63	83.26	19.56	11.53	76.07	35.56	9.26
Koraput	47.60	2.56	24.91	38.82	15.58	81.10	82.22	20.06	22.62	59.13	39.72	16.35
Rayagada	46.62	5.50	25.96	36.80	12.98	83.60	76.90	16.26	19.18	59.51	36.58	15.80
Kalahandi	41.41	1.83	21.33	28.84	8.47	92.52	85.40	27.27	31.17	75.93	27.94	16.98
Kandhamal	42.69	3.57	27.12	19.50	5.43	93.88	83.95	52.94	20.93	63.14	45.09	6.69
Nuapada	49.05	2.52	16.59	21.37	7.34	90.56	80.02	18.59	16.83	71.33	17.54	5.85
Subarnapur	43.04	2.03	14.17	11.83	1.28	85.30	82.59	17.64	9.16	64.12	17.77	6.63
Balangir	44.84	2.19	10.63	16.15	4.01	90.57	85.50	22.09	15.62	65.84	16.75	6.08
Odisha	30.77	1.57	14.83	13.44	3.92	65.94	39.85	13.55	3.04	40.70	12.30	2.53
India	31.52	2.06	19.17	11.40	5.27	43.90	30.13	7.32	3.27	41.37	10.16	3.69

Source: NITI Aayog National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023

If we analyse indicator score for these districts, it can be said that low nutrition, less access to safe cooking fuel, less sanitation coverage and less housing coverage are contributing towards high multidimensional poverty. However, in indicators like child & adolescent mortality, school attendance, and bank account these districts are performing well in comparison to other indicators. Odisha has undertaken SDG Based Planning and Budgeting since 2020-21. State is putting utmost focus and allocating significant fund in concerned areas. State has achieved highest reduction in infant mortality rate and second highest reduction in maternal mortality ratio in the country. As per NFHS Round V data (2019-21), institutional birth in Odisha is 92% which is higher than national average and among many states of the country (IIPS, 2021). Data driven governance and real time monitoring of schemes and programmes will certainly be helpful in achieving required targets and objectives.

MPI of Odisha and Comparable States

It is very interesting to study multidimensional poverty of comparable states namely Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. This will help us in understanding where the Odisha stands in terms of these 12 indicators compared to other states of the country.

In all indicators, progress of Odisha is visible between NFHS-4 and NFHS-5 (IIPS, 2021). In Stunting Children

indicator, Odisha’s performance is better than West Bengal and Chhattisgarh but lagging behind Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. In Underweight Children indicator, Odisha is doing well in comparison to West Bengal but lagging behind Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. In Women BMI indicator, Odisha’s performance is ahead of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh but falling short of West Bengal and Rajasthan. In Men BMI indicator, all neighbouring states are performing well in comparison to Odisha. Overall in Nutrition component, Odisha’s performance is better than neighbouring and comparable states.

In Child and Adolescent Mortality category, Odisha’s performance is lagging behind all neighbouring and comparable states in all 3 indicators (neonatal mortality rate, infant mortality rate and under-five mortality rate). In at least 4 antenatal care visits of Mother indicator, Odisha’s progress is noteworthy and way ahead of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and West Bengal. In Institutional Birth indicator and Births attended by skilled health personnel indicator, Odisha’s performance is lagging behind all neighbouring and comparable states. Overall in Health component, Odisha’s performance is lagging behind neighbouring and comparable states.

In Years of Schooling – Women indicator, Odisha is performing better than Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh but lagging behind Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan. In Years

of Schooling – Men indicator, Odisha’s performance is better than Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. In School Attendance indicator, Odisha is performing better than Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal. Overall in Education component, Odisha’s performance is better than neighbouring and comparable states.

In Cooking Fuel indicator, Odisha’s performance is better than all neighbouring and comparable states. In Sanitation indicator, Odisha is performing better than West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh but lagging behind Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Rajasthan. In Drinking

Water indicator, Odisha’s performance is better than West Bengal but lagging behind Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. In Electricity indicator, Odisha is performing better than Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Rajasthan and only lagging behind Jharkhand. In Bank Account indicator, Odisha’s performance is better than Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan but lagging behind Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal. Overall in Standard of Living component, Odisha’s performance is better than neighbouring and comparable states. Indicator wise score of Odisha and other comparable states between two latest rounds of NFHS is outlined in Table 7.

Table 7 Indicator Wise Score of Odisha and Comparable States between NFHS 4 and 5

Sl No	State	Indicator	Odisha		Chhattisgarh		Jharkhand		West Bengal		Madhya Pradesh		Rajasthan	
			NHFS 4	NHFS 5	NHFS 4	NHFS 5	NHFS 4	NHFS 5	NHFS 4	NHFS 5	NHFS 4	NHFS 5	NHFS 4	NHFS 5
1	Nutrition	Stunted Children	34.1	31.0	37.6	34.6	45.3	39.6	32.5	33.8	42.0	35.7	39.1	31.8
		Underweight Children	34.4	29.7	37.7	31.3	47.8	39.4	31.6	32.2	42.8	33.0	36.7	27.6
		Women BMI	26.5	20.8	26.7	23.1	31.5	26.2	21.3	14.8	28.4	23.0	27.0	19.6
		Men BMI	19.5	15.3	24.1	17.4	23.8	17.1	19.9	15.1	28.4	20.8	22.7	14.0
2	Child & Adolescent Mortality	NNMR	28.2	27.0	42.1	32.4	33.0	28.2	22.0	15.5	36.9	29.0	29.8	20.2
		IMR	39.6	36.3	54.0	44.3	33.0	28.2	27.5	22.0	51.2	41.3	41.3	30.3
		U5MR	48.1	41.1	64.3	50.4	54.3	45.4	26.8	22.3	64.6	49.2	50.7	37.6
3	Maternal Health	Antenatal care	61.9	78.1	59.1	60.1	30.3	38.6	76.4	75.8	35.7	57.5	38.5	55.3
		Institutional births	85.3	92.2	70.2	85.7	61.9	75.8	75.2	91.7	80.8	90.7	84.0	94.9
		Skilled Home Birth	3.3	1.9	8.4	5.8	8.0	8.4	6.8	2.6	2.3	2.5	3.2	1.4
		Skilled Birth	86.5	91.8	78.0	88.8	69.6	82.5	81.6	94.1	78.0	89.3	86.6	95.6
4	Years of Schooling	Women years of schooling	26.7	33.0	26.5	36.9	28.7	33.2	26.5	32.9	23.2	29.3	25.1	33.4
		Men years of schooling	37.1	38.6	36.0	41.5	40.2	46.6	33.8	34.7	34.3	39.9	43.8	51.9
5	School Attendance	School Attendance	67.8	71.5	67.6	69.3	61.1	64.5	74.0	76.8	64.0	67.5	57.2	63.5
6	Cooking Fuel	clean fuel for cooking	19.2	34.7	22.8	33.0	18.9	31.9	27.8	40.2	29.6	40.1	31.8	41.4
7	Sanitation	Improved sanitation	30.0	60.5	34.8	76.8	25.0	56.7	52.8	68.0	34.8	65.1	46.1	77.1
8	Drinking Water	Improved drinking-water source	89.1	91.1	91.3	95.5	78.1	86.6	97.2	97.5	85.2	89.0	93.7	96.5
9	Electricity	households with electricity	86.6	97.0	96.3	98.8	81.2	94.3	94.3	97.5	90.9	98.4	91.2	98.1
10	Bank Accounts	Women having a bank or savings account	56.2	86.5	51.3	80.3	45.1	79.6	43.5	76.5	37.3	74.7	58.2	79.6

Source: Author’s Calculation

Odisha and Lowest MPI States

It is very interesting to study Odisha's performance in comparison to lowest multidimensional poverty states namely Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Punjab. Though Odisha has performed well between NFHS – 4 and 5, due to historical incidence of backwardness, there is broad gap to catch up with lowest MPI states (IIPS, 2021). In Stunting Children indicator, Odisha's performance is better than Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Punjab. In Underweight Children indicator, Odisha is doing well in comparison to Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Punjab. In Women BMI indicator, Odisha's performance is ahead of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Punjab. In Men BMI indicator, Odisha's performance is ahead of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Punjab. In neonatal mortality rate indicator, Odisha's performance is better than Kerala and Punjab but broad gap to catch up. In infant mortality rate indicator, Odisha's performance is better than Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Punjab but broad gap to catch up. In under-five mortality rate indicator, Odisha is performing better than Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Punjab but broad gap to catch up. In at least 4 antenatal care visits of Mother indicator, Odisha's progress is noteworthy and way ahead of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Punjab. In Institutional Birth indicator and Births attended by skilled health personnel indicator, Odisha's performance is better than Kerala,

Tamil Nadu and Punjab. In Institutional Birth indicator, Odisha's performance is better than Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Punjab. In Home births by skilled health personnel indicator, Odisha's performance is lagging behind Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Punjab. In Years of Schooling – Women indicator, Odisha is performing better than better than Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Punjab.

In Years of Schooling – Men indicator, Odisha's performance is better than Punjab and Tamil Nadu but lagging behind Kerala. In School Attendance indicator, Odisha is performing better than Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Punjab.

In Cooking Fuel indicator, Odisha's performance is better than Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Punjab. In Sanitation indicator, Odisha's performance is substantial and better than Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Punjab. In Drinking Water indicator, Odisha's performance is better Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Punjab. In Electricity indicator, Odisha's performance is substantial and better than Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Punjab. In Bank Account indicator, Odisha's performance is substantial and better than Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Punjab. Indicator wise score of Odisha and other lowest MPI states between two latest rounds of NFHS is outlined in Table 8.

Table 8 Indicator Wise Score of Odisha and Lowest MPI States between NFHS 4 and 5

Sl No	State	Indicator	Odisha		Kerala		Tamil Nadu		Punjab	
			Detailed Indicators	NHFS 4	NHFS 5	NHFS 4	NHFS 5	NHFS 4	NHFS 5	NHFS 4
1	Nutrition	Stunted Children	34.1	31.0	19.7	23.4	27.1	25.0	25.7	24.5
		Underweight Children	34.4	29.7	16.1	19.4	23.8	22.0	21.6	16.9
		Women BMI	26.5	20.8	9.7	10.1	14.6	12.6	11.7	12.7
		Men BMI	19.5	15.3	8.5	10.0	12.4	12.1	10.9	12.5
2	Child & Adolescent Mortality	NNMR	28.2	27.0	4.4	3.4	14.0	12.7	21.2	21.8
		IMR	39.6	36.3	5.6	4.4	20.2	18.6	29.2	28.0
		U5MR	48.1	41.1	7.1	5.2	26.8	22.3	33.2	32.7
3	Maternal Health	Antenatal care	61.9	78.1	90.1	78.6	81.1	89.9	68.5	59.3
		Institutional births	85.3	92.2	99.8	99.8	98.9	99.6	90.5	94.3
		Skilled Home Birth	3.3	1.9	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.2	4.5	2.6
		Skilled Birth	86.5	91.8	99.9	100.0	99.2	99.8	94.1	95.6

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4	Years of Schooling	Women years of schooling	26.7	33.0	72.2	77.0	50.9	56.6	55.1	56.0
		Men years of schooling	37.1	38.6	70.5	73.3	58.3	59.1	59.8	58.7
5	School Attendance	School Attendance	67.8	71.5	95.4	95.5	77.2	80.4	76.0	77.2
6	Cooking Fuel	clean fuel for cooking	19.2	34.7	57.4	72.1	73.0	82.9	65.9	76.7
7	Sanitation	Improved sanitation	30.0	60.5	98.2	98.7	52.5	72.6	82.7	86.6
8	Drinking Water	Improved drinking-water source	89.1	91.1	94.8	94.9	97.7	98.6	99.6	98.8
9	Electricity	households with electricity	86.6	97.0	99.2	99.6	99.0	99.3	99.6	99.7
10	Bank Accounts	Women having a bank or savings account	56.2	86.5	70.6	78.5	77.0	92.2	58.8	81.6

Source: Author's Computation

Conclusion

Odisha's multidimensionally poor population has declined from 29.34% in 2015-16 to 15.68% in 2019-21. Puri has lowest multidimensional poverty (3.29%) while Malkangiri has highest multidimensional poverty (45.01%). 16 districts of Odisha have lower multidimensional poverty than state average and 15 districts have lower multidimensional poverty than national average. Though there is significant reduction in multidimensional poverty still low nutrition, less access to safe cooking fuel, less sanitation coverage and less housing coverage are contributing towards 15.68% multidimensional poverty. Odisha's performance is noteworthy in comparison to neighbouring and comparable states. Though Odisha has performed well between NFHS – 4 and NFHS – 5, due to historical incidence of backwardness, there is broad gap to catch up with lowest MPI states. Odisha's poverty has precipitously decreased by 24.61 percentage points from 57.20% (2004-05) to 32.59% (2011-12). Average annual decline in poverty is 3.52 percentage points. This was highest reduction in poverty among major states in the country. The state has performed way better than nation and major states in terms of elimination of poverty over last two decades. The state has been largely successful in

multidimensional development and eliminating poverty at a faster level than nation. In indicators like child & adolescent mortality, school attendance, and bank account, Odisha is one of the front runner and performing well in comparison to national average and many states in the country. Odisha has undertaken SDG Based Planning and Budgeting since 2020-21. State is putting utmost focus and allocating significant fund in concerned areas. State has achieved highest reduction in infant mortality rate and second highest reduction in maternal mortality ratio in the country. Institutional birth in Odisha is 92% which is higher than national average and among many states of the country. Data driven governance and real time monitoring of schemes and programmes will certainly be helpful in achieving required targets and objectives. Among other accomplishment in SDG, the achievements of the state is remarkable in the domain of elimination of poverty in last two decades. Several welfare measures with targeted intervention have lead to achievement of fastest poverty reduction and state is targeting to reduce multidimensional poverty to 10% by the end of 2025 and eliminate it by 2030. Improvement in social sector indicators, elimination of all forms of poverty, hunger, malnutrition and provision of basic standards of living will lead to achievement of 2030 agenda of Sustainable Development in Odisha.

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