

# **Impact Of Poverty Elimination Programmes In India: With Special Reference To Bihar**

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Bihar is the poorest state of the country, with the exception of Orissa, and also ranks among the slowest growing regions of the country. The slow growth of the state along with the demographic pressure has led to its economic retrogression-the per capita income not only stagnated during the 1990s but actually showed a decline during some of the years. Bihar's per capita income, which was approximately 60 per cent of the Indian average during the 1960s, declined to approximately 40 per cent in 1993-94, and further to about 30 per cent during 2003-04. In respect of other social and human development indicators too, the state's performance has been poor. However, in recent years, there have been signs of change. The growth rate has started accelerating and there have been concerted and massive efforts during the last three years or so by the Bihar government to alleviate poverty and generate livelihoods for the poor. There have been signs of improvements on several fronts. However, Bihar's poverty is deep-rooted and overcoming it requires coordinated efforts not only from the state and central governments, but also from many other actors, including local and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), international agencies, and many others. Poverty is a very complex issue and there is a dire need to devise a focused strategy for poverty eradication and clearly defined roles for the various stakeholders in this regard.