

MDG-based Poverty Reduction Strategy for West Bengal

Funding Agency: IGIDR, Mumbai

Coordinators: Achin Chakraborty and Subrata Mukherjee

To help the planning processes in the states, UNDP, through the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), Mumbai, as the nodal agency, commissioned MDG-based poverty reduction strategy papers for different Indian states.

The paper on West Bengal, prepared by Achin Chakraborty and Subrata Mukherjee of IDSK, was submitted to IGIDR in 2009, and IGIDR shared it with the Department of Planning and Development, Government of West Bengal.

The paper examines the poverty and deprivation situation in West Bengal in a multidimensional framework and explores possible strategies towards reduction of poverty in the state, keeping in view the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs consist of eight objectives within which there are specific targets to be achieved by 2015, covering income poverty, hunger, primary education, gender equality, child and maternal mortality, HIV/AIDS and other diseases, and environment sustainability.

The MDG-based poverty reduction strategy therefore encompasses multiple dimensions of deprivation which include income poverty as only one of the dimensions of deprivation which include income poverty as only one of the dimensions. Based on the analysis of recent trends in various indicators of poverty, food adequacy, health and health care, education and rural employment generation, a number of policy suggestions have been made.