

Calorie Deficiency, Poverty, and the Public Distribution System: A Household Level Analysis for 1993-94

Abstract

Poverty has been at the center of economic policy as well as economic development literature in India since independence. Poverty estimates by the planning Commission are used by the Finance Commission in deciding on grants and assistance to states where poverty incidence is higher. Economics literature has also for obvious reasons been highly concerned about poverty in India. Consequently poverty estimates are of great importance. The study estimates the incidence of calorie deficiency in India. It estimates the proportion of households and individuals that are calorie deficient using NSS data from its large sample survey in 1993-94. This focus allows the study to use a simpler methodology that is more direct, and does not require the use of various commodity and region specific price indices.