



## **Dimensions of Urban Poverty in Bihar A Case Study of Patna Municipal Corporation Area**

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*'Poverty' can be defined as a condition in which a substantial segment of a society is having insufficient resources or income. In its most basic form, 'poverty' is a lack of basic human needs such as adequate and nutritional foods, clothing, housing and clean water. Urban India has a high incidence of poverty despite hailed as an engine of growth and instrument of globalization. Eighty-one million people or 25.7 % people (2004-2005) subsist in urban areas on incomes that are below poverty line. Even in Bihar, growing urban population due to migration has enhanced the problem of urban poverty as 2.56 lakh people (32.9%) live below poverty line in Patna Municipal Corporation area (2004). The urban poor of this locality is vulnerable in all aspects of quality of life including economic, social, educational, health, living condition etc. Eighty per cent of their meager earnings go towards obtaining food and energy, leaving very little for meeting the costs of living in an increasingly monetized society. Deprivation of education has forced them to employment in informal sectors of low income which further worsen their situation. In urban areas, they work as street vendor, rag picker, vegetable seller, rickshaw puller, maid servant, construction worker etc. and are termed as 'blue collared workers'. In the backdrop of the above mentioned scenario, an attempt have been made in the present paper to study different dimensions of urban poverty in Bihar with special reference to Patna Municipal Corporation area. The study is mostly based on primary survey. Altogether different dimensions of hundred urban poor have been investigated with the help of questionnaire method and collected data was tabulated and analysed. At the end, government effort to ameliorate their conditions was examined and some suggestions have been given to improve their situation.*

**Key words:** Urban Poverty, Blue Collared Workers, BPL families, Nutritional dimension.

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