

Q Describe how the poverty line is estimated in India?

A person is considered poor if his/her income or consumption level falls below a given "minimum level" ~~is called the poverty~~ ^{necessary to fulfil the basic} needs. The minimum level is called the poverty line. In India, the poverty line is estimated by multiplying the prices of physical quantities like food, clothing, footwear, fuel, light, education, etc in rupees. The numbers involved in determining the poverty line vary for different years. Also, the poverty line for rural areas is different from urban areas because the work, lifestyle & expenses are different for rural & urban areas.

Q. Do you think that present methodology of poverty estimation is appropriate?

No, the present day methodology of poverty estimation doesn't seem to be completely appropriate. This is because the only factor taken into consideration is the economic status and moreover, it considers a minimum subsistence of living instead of a reasonable status of living. Poverty, today is a larger concept than only the economic status of the people. With advancements & development, the definition of poverty has also changed. People may have been able to feed themselves and their family but education, shelter, health, job security & dignity are still at a threat. To overcome poverty entirely all the above mentioned factors also need to be kept in consideration. To completely remove poverty from the country, the methodology to estimate poverty should also be changed.