Abstract:

A recent study in Andhra Pradesh, India, concluded that achieving the poverty-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015 is possible. Nonetheless, a considerable proportion of households will be left behind. Who are these poor left behind? Are they chronically poor? This paper focuses on the Chronic Poverty Framework (CPF) which links childhood poverty with household poverty. Chronic poverty describes the condition of people who are poor for significant periods of their lives, who may pass their poverty onto their children, and for whom finding exit routes from poverty is difficult.

Childhood poverty in Andhra Pradesh is currently being analyzed through the Young Lives study, a multi-country, longitudinal research effort based at the University of Oxford. In India, the study is being implemented through the Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad, and follows the lives of 2000 young people, from the time they are around six months old until they reach the age of fifteen. Children and their primary caregivers will be administered questionnaires every three to four years, encompassing a range of topics in relation to the children – their care, health, nutrition, schooling, labour, mental health, networks, and livelihoods. With the first round of interviews already completed (2002) and the second round scheduled for July 2006, this paper will draw on the child and caregiver questionnaires to discuss how the Chronic Poverty Framework sheds lights on child poverty in India.