



[Summary]

A. K. Sen's concepts of Absolute and Relative poverty

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Summary

Poverty is one of the most discussed topics in development economics. Poverty poses many impediments in macroeconomic planning and policy. The approach of poverty definitions has changed over time. Experts have presented various approaches to understand poverty. Some approaches used in earlier times were the income approach and the deprivation approach. Later experts introduced the material well-being approach, social exclusion approach and the participation approach. A. K. Sen introduced the entitlement and capabilities approach. Sen gave several types of entitlements and capabilities which are necessary for a respectable life.

The earlier discussions on poverty focussed more on the quantitative and subjective or direct definitions of poverty. The more recent developments in poverty use the qualitative and objective or indirect definitions of poverty.

Accordingly, various measures of absolute and relative poverty are also introduced. Sen gave the Precise Axiomatic Measure of Poverty. Sen and [Mahbub ul Haq](#) developed the Human Development Index which was used in the World Development Report of 1990.