

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad – 500 030

Press Release

**Webinar on “Multidimensional Poverty in India” – inaugural webinar of the
“Evidence Based Policy and Action Roundtable: Consultations and Dialogues
for Holistic Rural Development”**

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The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Delhi started a project titled “Evidence Based Policy and Action Roundtable: Consultations and Dialogues for Holistic Rural Development” to facilitate cross learning, sharing of evidence to help plan actionable interventions and develop strong monitoring framework. The webinar series started with a fundamental and highly contested working area of rural development i.e., *Poverty Reduction*. For the first event of this project *Dr. Sabina Alkire*, Director, Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, UK delivered a talk on the “Policy Lessons from Multi-Dimensional Poverty Analysis in India”.

The event started with a welcome address by Director General, Dr. G Narendra Kumar, IAS who pointed to the history of India’s poverty-identification policy which has been using multiple deprivations to identify destitution or Antyodaya.

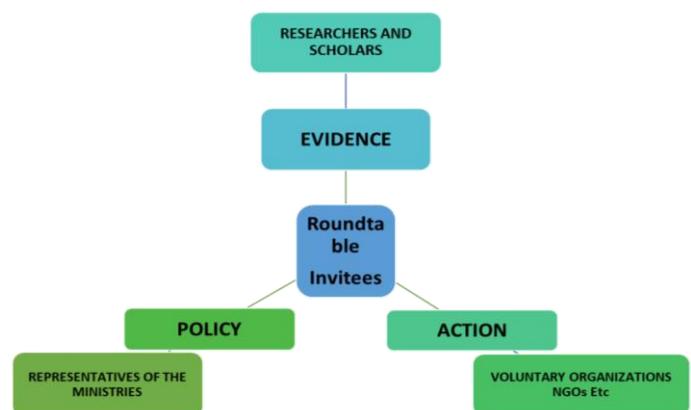
Followed by the welcome address, Dr. Sabina Alkire presented the evidence and trends of poverty as a multi-dimensional construct. Her address was followed by interactions with many dignitaries from the states and other Rural Development organizations. Dr. Alkire has been measuring and monitoring the multi-dimensional poverty issues in India and has published several results in the subject. Some of her work can be read in World Development journal (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2021.105454>). Dignitaries present at the webinar deliberated on how the existing MPI can be oriented to measure rural development outcomes aligned with interventions.

At a time when the world faces the unprecedented humanitarian crisis from the COVID19 Pandemic and related economic crises, Governments, and policy implementors are looking for innovative and effective solutions to foster development. In this context, the National Institute of Rural Development aims to bring existing research, and evidence on the strategic areas of sustainable development and create synergetic dialogue between institutions and experts working on evidence based critical research towards policy action and sustainable development. The Project **“Evidence Based Policy and Action Roundtable: Consultations and Dialogues for Holistic Rural Development”** intends to facilitate cross learning, evidence sharing, plan actionable interventions, develop strong monitoring framework, and generate critical policy and concept notes to empower development practitioners and policy makers in advancing the cause of human development. This initiative is unique in its convergent design between stakeholders at both sides of development: the researchers, evaluators and the implementors.

Any development action – voluntary or through institutionalised-policy and programme, needs to be informed by realities of society and economy it is working on to be effective and sustainable. Despite similar goals, those working on scientific research and evidence of social and economic phenomena, often work separately from those working to build and implement policies. The lack of convergence between academic research, implementational outfit and policy making puts developmental process at the risk of being unsustainable and not delivering the desired outcomes. This unsustainability manifests itself at every shock such as the Pandemic of COVID19. This project aspires to create a free platform of cross-domain knowledge and idea exchange from researchers to the policy makers and voluntary organizations. We plan to bring out both sides of the story of rural development in a systematic manner, strengthen communication from researchers to implementers and create a document of these ‘policy-evidence-action’ conversations, which will continue to inform and empower stakeholders in similar situations.

There are three distinct objectives to this ‘roundtable’ project:

1. Inform and empower the policy makers and stakeholders by fostering dissemination of scientific **evidence** from ongoing academic and scientific research works.
2. Strengthen the stakeholders at the higher end of **policy**-design and implementation chain through providing a platform to share their expectations, experience, and requirements directly with the researchers and Organizations engaged in policy action.
3. Bring the voluntary organizations, NGOs and individuals with mandate of **action** on underdevelopment to the roundtable for fostering a synergy between the voluntary actions, scientific evidence and policy actions.



The initiative comprises of a series of webinars, consultations, lectures, and dissemination workshops linked to identified areas of development. Following each of the consultation, dialogue and discussion in the series, an outcome document will be prepared by NIRDPR for dissemination. It is expected that the policy and impact network created through this initiative will also lead to larger and more coordinated space for policy design, implementation, analysis and evaluation.

For the working area of “Poverty Reduction” we have invited Dr. Sabina Alkire, Director, Oxford Poverty, and Human Development Initiative, and the lead researcher behind Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index to deliver a lecture on the recent evidence of Multi-dimensional Poverty in India. Dr. Alkire has been measuring and monitoring the multi-dimensional poverty issues in India and has published several results in the subject. Some of her work can be read in World Development journal (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2021.105454>).

The project is being coordinated from NIRDPR Delhi in collaboration with NIRDPR Hyderabad by Dr. Ruchira Bhattacharya (ruchirab.nird@gov.in), Dr. Partha Pratim Sahu (ppsahu.nird@gov.in) and Dr. Rajesh Sinha (rajeshksinha.nird@gov.in)

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