



INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH

University Enclave, University of Delhi (North Campus), Delhi-110 007, INDIA

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SEMINAR NOTICE

Topic: "The Rich, the Poor and the Middle Class in India: Re-engaging with Measurement for (All) Practical Purposes"


Speaker/s: Dr. William Joe
Assistant Professor
Institute of Economic Growth
Delhi-110007

Chair: **Prof. Manoj Panda, Director, Institute of Economic Growth**

The seminar details are as follows:

Date & time: Friday, December 7, 2018 at 3.30 p.m.
Venue: A.M. Khusro Room
Institute of Economic Growth,
University Enclave, North Campus, Delhi-110 007

All are welcome.


(Sabyasachi Kar)
Seminar Convenor

Abstract:

Measurement of poverty and identification of the poor is not only necessary for assessment of socioeconomic progress but has been integral part of policymaking for resource allocations and welfare programmes. Poverty in India is highly debated concern yet there is a need for alternative perspectives on comprehending the magnitude and varied dimensions of the problem. At the same time, the literature is less concerned about the corresponding distribution of the non-poor sections of the population. This paper re-engages with poverty measurement with two-fold objectives: one, to present an algorithm for identification of the rich, poor and the middle class in India and second, to associate the algorithm with potential strategies for beneficiary identification and targeting for developmental policies and programmes. The analysis is based on consumption expenditure survey data of the National Sample Survey, 2011-12. As per our estimates, 22% of the Indian population can be categorized as poor, 39% as lower middle class, 32% as middle class, 6% as upper middle class and 1% as the rich. In concluding, we outline the merits and potentials for engaging with the approach for various policy purposes.