

**FEMALE SPECIFIC ALTERNATE MPIs:
AN ASSESSMENT FOR 2019-21**

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ABSTRACT

The analysis sheds focus on the channels of non-monetary deprivation faced by women, modelled using the multidimensional poverty index (MPI). This alternate MPI employs 20 indicators, double the conventional number of 10 indicators, of which some exclusively capture the deprivations that women disproportionately face, viz. use of dirty cooking fuel, lack of a ventilated kitchen, use of rudimentary menstrual hygiene products etc. Some other indicators like roofing and flooring material, toilet facility etc. which are shared resources that derive their value from use by all members in a household to understand the effect of economies of scale in household consumption and whether it makes any difference to deprivations among women.

The inference from the index scores resulting from the analysis proposes that the magnitude of MPI score from female specific alternate MPI, of 0.225 is substantially higher than the magnitude of MPI from shared goods specific MPI (of 0.144) or the alternate MPI which combines all indicators (0.046). nevertheless, the rankings and patterns across states and union territories are retained, essentially implying that while general patterns may be similar, it is still a useful exercise to delve into the gap left by the lack of focus of interpersonal inequality by MPI.

Its flexibility as an index, though not without concerns, provides ample potential for exploration of disaggregated channels of deprivations.

Keywords: Women, Multidimensional poverty, private and shared household commodities

JEL Classification: J16, I32, D10