

Reply

We thank to the reviewers for detailed and useful suggestions. It may be reiterated that this is the first ever study that provide estimates of multi-dimensional poverty for 84 regions of India and include true economic dimension in measuring multidimensional poverty. We put forward our reply to each of the comments/suggestion

- **Limited review:** We will update the review and include the references suggested by referee. It may be mentioned that the literature on multidimensional poverty is extensive and growing. Our review covered studies across the globe on different methods and indicators used in multidimensional poverty measurement.
- **Selection of country:** Reviewer acknowledge the data base and variability in India and also suggested to use data from another country. Our primary interest is in India and we are familiar with Indian data and context. At present we do not have access to the data sets from other countries which have similar indicators in one data set. So we are unable to do a cross country comparison study.
- **Rationale:** We have provided rationale of the study. We will elaborate in the final version of the paper. We will discuss in detail the rationale of selecting indicators in final paper.
- **Critical on Official estimates and MPI:** We have brought out the short coming of official poverty estimates and MPI. That is the reason we have started the paper and extended the pertinent dimension and indicators. We will elaborate on this aspect in final paper
- **Justification of household environment dimension:** Access to safe drinking water, basic sanitation and clean cooking fuel are considered as most important determinants of health. In developing countries like India, majority under five deaths are directly attributed to the infectious diseases which are mainly caused from poor access to sanitation and use of dirty cooking fuel. Because of this, we have used these variables in household environment dimension.
- **Weight of Economic Dimension:** It may be mentioned that the MPI disseminated by UNDP is misleading because it does not have any direct economic variables. The assets are proxies and does not truly capture economic gradient. While the multidimensional poverty is a revolution to include other dimension, the variables chosen for economic dimension in Indian context is completely missing. Hence, we attempted to bridge the gap by including direct economic variable. Though the economic dimension has only one indicator and gets comparatively higher weights than other indicators, it gets only one-fifth of the total weighted deprivation score. So if a household/individual deprived only in this dimension is not necessarily will be automatically multidimensional poor. One more thing, if we look the contribution of dimensions to the MPI it is also found that in majority of the states and regions the economic dimension compared to other dimensions. .
- **Separate monetary and non-monetary space:** It is a valuable suggestion to compare alternative measures of poverty (economic vs non-economic poverty measures). We

are working on this issue and this will be a separate research paper and a big exercise. Further studies can be done to compare the alternative measures of poverty.

- Typo errors: Typo error will be corrected in the final paper.