Review of the Paper entitled
“The Focus Axiom and Poverty: On the Co-existence of Precise Language and
Ambiguous Meaning in Economic Measurement”

This paper is a kind of review paper centering on focus axioms in the measurement of
poverty. This is a well written paper. However, it needs to be shortened a lot
especially the introduction and concluding observations. It is not an essay; it is a
scientific paper and should be written accordingly.
I do not know why maximality axiom should be given so much weight in the
literature. Consider, for example, the following situations:
x = (0,0), and y = (0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,w), where 0 < z < w and w is very close to z.
The maximality axiom says that P(x:z) > P(y:z). It may be a bit difficult to accept.
These types of examples along with the authors view should be given along with other
examples.
Modifications of the maximality axiom by imposing n(x) = n(y) seems to be difficult.
Because in that case it contradicts income focus directly.
In the example 4, I do not see any difference between x, y and u. After all we are
measuring poverty and not the potential for relieving poverty through redistribution.
I think the author, while interpreting poverty through examples, takes poverty as the
opposite of affluence. This is precisely what happened in interpreting in example 2,
by saying that y is poverty wise worse than x. But poverty should not be viewed as
opposite to that of poverty.
The author should revise his paper in the light of the above discussions and resubmit.