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Monday 5 April 2010

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31 per cent Muslims live below poverty line: NCAER survey

New Delhi, Mar 28 (PTI)

Nearly one third of Muslims in the nation survive on less than Rs 550 a month, economic think tank NCAER said, amid the ongoing debate on reservations in jobs and educational institutions for those belonging to the community.

A survey by the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER) said that three out of every 10 Muslims were below poverty line and lived on less than Rs 550 a month in the year 2004-05.

Even among the poor, urban Muslims were better off compared to those in villages, who survived on Rs 338 a month during the year under review, NCAER said last week. The survey comes around the time when Supreme Court, in an interim order, has upheld the validity of four per cent job and educational reservation provided to backward members of Muslim community in Andhra Pradesh.

Also, the report of Ranganath Mishra Commission, which has suggested reservation for Muslims and other minorities, and has sought scheduled caste status for dalits who adopted Islam and Christianity, is awaiting action by the government.

"The Adivasis are the most vulnerable group with nearly 50 per cent below the poverty line...(followed by) the Dalits and Muslims with poverty rates of 32 per cent and 31 per cent," said the Indian Human Development survey conducted by the NCAER and University of Maryland of the US.

The survey took the poverty line at Rs 356 per person per month in rural areas and at Rs 538 in urban areas for 2004-05. Besides, the survey said Muslims are at the bottom in terms of rural household income. However, in the country, Muslim households are slightly better off than dalits and adivasis as a whole.

"Adivasi and dalit households have the lowest annual income at Rs 20,000 and Rs 22,800, respectively. The other backward classes and Muslim households are slightly better off, with incomes of Rs 26,091 and Rs 28,500," the report said. As per the 2001 census, there were 13.8 crore Muslims, accounting for 13.4 per cent of the total population of India.

The survey said Muslims are most likely to generate income from small family businesses, partly because of educational differences across the community. It said social group differences in enrolment are striking. Dalit, adivasi and Muslim children are far less likely to enrol in schools and are slightly more likely to drop out than others, the survey said. "Consequently, while 94 per cent children from the forward castes, and 96 per cent from other religious groups were enrolled at the time of interview, the figures were 83 per cent for dalit children, 77 per cent for adivasi children and 76 per cent for muslim children," the survey said.

Overall, more than one-fourth of Indians lives below poverty line. "About 25.7 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line," said the survey, which is based on feedback of 41,000 households. The survey estimates rural poverty at 26.5 per cent and urban poverty at 23.7 per cent.

The incidence of poverty is highest in Chhattisgarh at 63.3 per cent, followed by Jharkhand (49 per cent), Madhya Pradesh (45.5 per cent) and Orissa (41.3 per cent). On the other hand, only 3.4 per cent population in Jammu & Kashmir lives below the poverty line, followed by 4.3 per cent in Himachal Pradesh and 4.9 per cent in Punjab.

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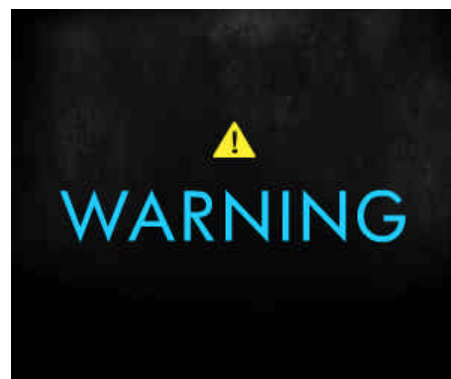


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By: Rraj
 On: 28 Mar 2010 09:44 pm

—Reservation and poverty lifting measures for Muslims should be extended for only those practicing family planning.(strictly 2 kids).Till then its like pouring water in to ocean.

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By: Hindustani
 On: 28 Mar 2010 10:25 pm

Till when? Why reservation should continue? We should not name any community, we have poor people in all religions, each and every poor people should benefit if there is any reservation or quota. Centre should implement a policy wherein all poor irrespective of religion should benefit. No need to name any one particular community. Our brainless politicians should understand this

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By: sudhir
 On: 28 Mar 2010 08:08 pm

There is nothing to be worried or have any sentiments on this. They believe in giving birth in gods hand..and he will take care as per holy book. Every muslim you will find many kids and one earning.. then how do expect to be poverty. They should come out of the wrong belief and be practical in thinking and give a good life to their kid.. rather brain wash them with kuran as a recipe book.

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By: Hindustani
 On: 28 Mar 2010 02:50 pm

There is poverty in each and every religion. No need to name any particular community. This is because of Step Motherly attitude of Congress / UPA and vote bank politics followed by them since past 60 years. Need of the hour, fix retirement age for politicians, scrap quota / reservation, give free education to poor irrespective of religion, Education should be made compulsory till 10th std, fix minimum qualification for contesting in election, Criminals, Goons should not be allowed to contest in election. Centre MUST and SHOULD implement above policies without further delay. if they donot implement, President should dismiss centre for their failure in administration and failure in providing security to common citizen.

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By: sudhir
 On: 28 Mar 2010 08:10 pm

—What do you have to blame on congress on this.. congress is not ruling muslims bed room. two hands make a clap...it is themselves to be blamed.

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By: adivasi A
 On: 28 Mar 2010 04:51 pm

There religion and blind systems are responsible for that. In their system if they put money in deposit and get the interest is against to their islam. If they send woman for work it is agaist to islam. So what one can do for this poverty. Indian gov should not spend any funds to them unless they improve their own blind believes

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By: sudama
 On: 28 Mar 2010 04:55 pm

It is true the blind believing of Islam like getting interest from Bank is anti Islam, sending girls to school is anti Islam and sending women to work is anti Islam, these system keep them poor. They should come out of this to fight poverty. Congress should not do anymore vote bank politics to appease them for vote

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By: vicky
On: 28 Mar 2010 04:58 pm

Add more things to list:Birth control is anti islam, having only one wife is anti islam

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By: Hindustani
On: 28 Mar 2010 10:22 pm

This is purely because of illiterates. Congress instead of using them for their vote bank politics since past 60 years, they should have tried to literate these people. But congress knows, if they educate, they wont get votes. Hence they are ruling Hindustan by fooling people since past 60 years, but still they want to encourage reservation / quota. First quota / reservation should be scrapped

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