

# **Growth, Inequality and Poverty in India**

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In this paper, we examine the impact of growth on level and changes of inequality and poverty in India. The motivation for this paper is the changed structure of the growth that has mainly come from growth in the non-primary sector activities after the changes in the economic policies that encouraged investment in some sectors, first since the early 1980s. Subsequent significant changes in economic policies have accelerated the growth during 1990s and 2000s. The paper covers the period 1983-2012, arguably the highest growth phase of the Indian economy. Given the heterogeneous socio-cultural and religious structure of the Indian society, in this paper we examine how different populations groups have benefited from the growth. Paper, also delves into the impact of growth on reduction of poverty across different geographical domains. We find that the growth rate achieved in recent times has been both more poverty reducing and inclusive. However, at the sub-national level the different socio-religious groups have not benefited equally from the higher growth.

**Keywords:** *Economic growth, Poverty incidence, Inequality, Socio-religious groups*