

# **Vulnerability- Poverty Profile**

**tool for  
poverty interventions management in  
North East Province**

- Provides an overview: baseline on poverty status of a village.
- Comparatively showing the **poverty levels of villages** within a district, poverty level ranges from 0 to 100 as absolute rank.
- All villages are **ranked between 5 (poorest) and 1 (least poor)** within a district by measuring their degree of vulnerability – poverty.
- Provides collective information to distinguish poor / vulnerable villages; supports selection of village for poverty intervention.
- Simple and manageable tool for planning, decision making and impact assessment; updating is essential.

## **What is vulnerability?**

People are exposed to sudden changes or continuous occurrence of a threatening event in their environment or society such as war, epidemic outbreak, drought, etc. This causes short-term shock or long-term deterioration and takes long periods to recover back to normal life.

## **What is Poverty Profile?**

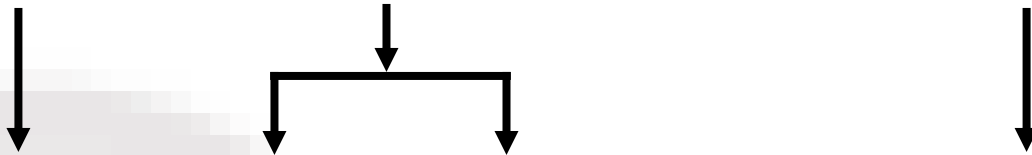
Comparatively showing the poverty levels of villages within a district; Villages are ranked by measuring the degree of poverty through different dimensions of selected indicators within specified limits.

- For GTZ-IFSP (IFSP Trincomalee 1998-2004), identifying target groups in rural and urban areas was a complex task.
- VPP was established in Trincomalee district by GTZ-IFSP in 1999-2000; VPP has been used intensively by IFSP, GO's, NGO's and donors for targeting and deciding on public sector investment.
- NEPC recognizes VPP as planning and impact assessment tool.
- CIRM expands VPP to all districts of NEP; so far covered are 2325 villages, 841 GN divisions and 34 DS divisions in 4 districts.
- VPP is modified to suit the broader geographical context and present needs of users.

- Definition and measurement of poverty is based on the “capabilities approach”.
- “Being not able to do something” is measured as lack of capabilities to function in a number of dimensions.
- Poverty is seen as a multidimensional phenomenon.
- Poverty is measured involving four dimensions:
  - 1) Vulnerability, 2) Health, 3) Economy, 4) Education.

## VPP adopts the capabilities approach

Economic + Human + Socio-cultural + Political + Protective



Village Economy Health Education Vulnerability

- Nine indicators contribute to the above dimensions.
- 61 questions focus on the indicators and dimensions.
- Administer at village level (cluster approach), not at household level.
- Assumption: no drastic changes in the present context of NEP.

## Poverty indicators

- Food insecurity
- Conflict affectedness
- Social vulnerability
- Lack of Infrastructure
- Livelihoods
- Educational services
- Educational level
- Health services
- Water and sanitation

## Poverty dimension

- Vulnerability
- Economy
- Education
- Health

Poverty level



Poverty Code

5 to 1

Ranking in % of poverty level (1 = lowest 20% to 5 = highest 20%)

## Analysing method of the data

- Dimensions and indicators are calculated by applying the HDI (Human Development Index) method.
- Dimensions weighs themselves according to the severity of capability deprivation to determine poverty level; it is facilitated by the usage of cubic method.

## Application oriented survey for practitioners:

- Step 1: Stakeholder workshops in each district for administrators, field staff from government organisations and NGOs.
- Step 2: Training of Samurdhi development officers / Grama Niladari from each GN division as enumerators in the villages.
- Step 3: Data collection is done by the enumerator using the village survey questionnaire.
- Step 4: Data entry and analysis programmed in MS Access and SPSS.
- Step 5: Output - one page report for each village in the district representing poverty code, poverty level, dimensions, indicators and village data; Vulnerability assessment map.

CIRM suggests to use the VPP as impact assessment tool

## 1. Compare the poverty level:

- Update the VPP in all villages of the district and then compare with the baseline information; This method is practicable through the official administrative system in regular intervals.
- Update the VPP in few key villages of the district and then compare the poverty level with the baseline information; This method would be practicable by individual organisations or projects who implement their programmes in selected villages.

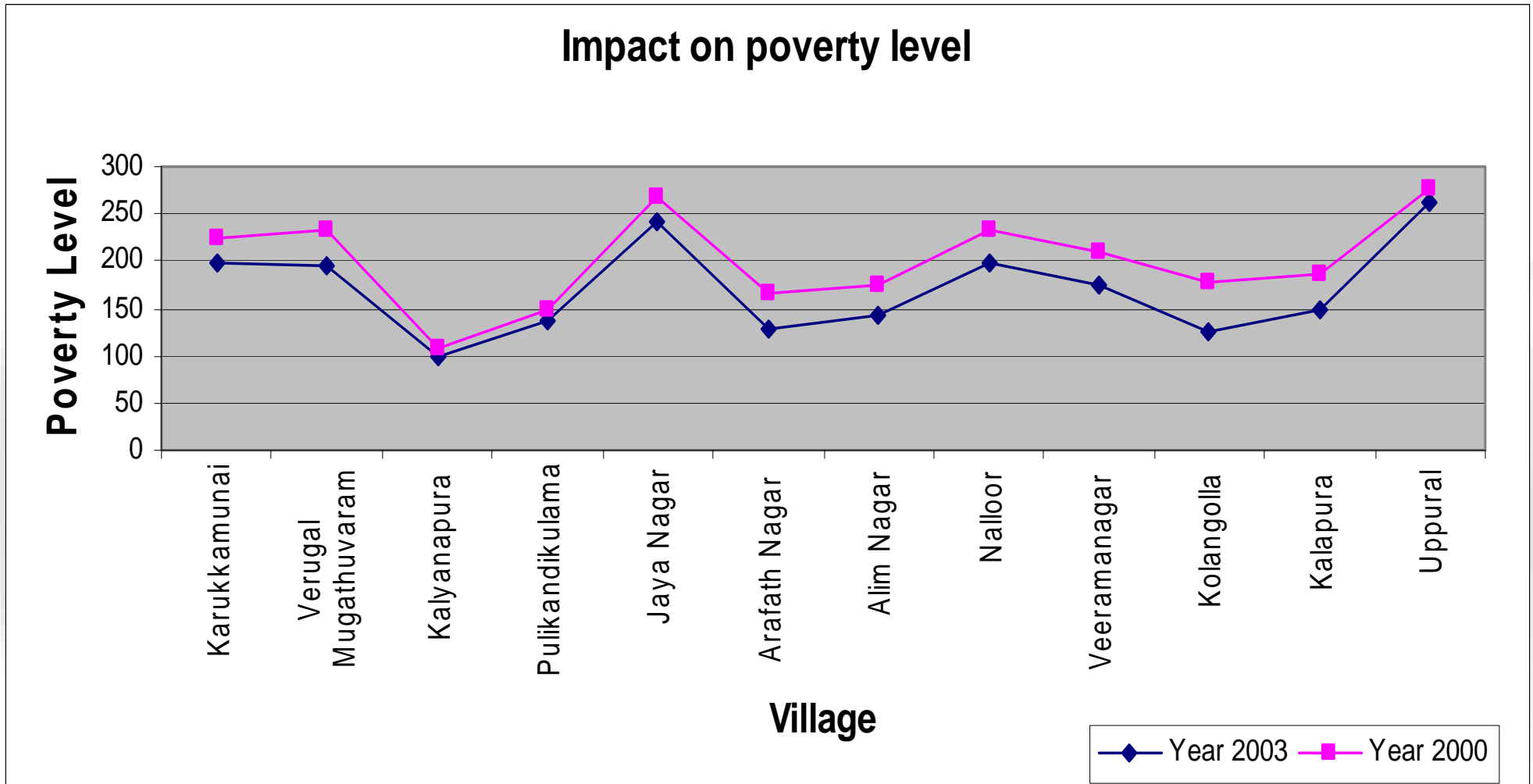
## **2. Compare the poverty dimensions, indicators and sub-indicators:**

This method is useful for assessing programmatic and sector specific interventions.

## **3. Compare the raw data:**

Example: Number of families who cannot afford three meals a day;  
Time it takes for villagers to travel to the nearest town / market,  
dispensary / hospital or primary school.

## Poverty levels at the beginning and after the interventions of IFSP in the focal villages



# Thank You

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