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Do Exports Reduce Multidimensional Poverty? Evidence from Indian States

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Abstract: Conventional income-based poverty measures often fail to capture the multiple dimensions of deprivation. This study examines whether state-level exports contribute to reducing multidimensional poverty in India using the National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). Drawing on a non-annual panel of 30 states/UTs covering 2005–06, 2015–16, 2019–20, and 2022–23, the analysis employs fixed effects and pooled OLS models. The results indicate that higher exports are associated with significant reductions in both the incidence and depth of multidimensional poverty, although the impact is stronger on poverty incidence. The findings highlight the role of export-led growth in promoting inclusive development.

Keywords: Exports, Multidimensional Poverty, Trade–Poverty Nexus, Inclusive Growth, NITI Aayog MPI

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