**Inspite of all noise regarding India’s growth story**

**India has 32% of world’s poor kids**.

India has 217 million children and out of this almost 50% endure multidimensional poverty says the recently concluded oxford survey. The recent survey conducted by oxford poverty and human development initiative based on Noble laureate Amartyasen’s “Capability approach” has come out with these alarming findings. Please see below the summarized finding regarding India

* India alone is home to more destitute people than Sub-Saharan Africa (295 million vs 282 million) and about 31% of the world’s “multi-dimensionally poor” children live in India.
* In terms of absolute numbers, India accounts for both the highest and a staggering number of multi-dimensionally poor people. Sadly, more than 528 million (52.8 crore) Indians are poor.
* In terms of the number of such multi-dimensionally poor children as a proportion of the total population, India stood 37th among 103 countries. Out of India’s 217 million (21.7 crore) children, 49.9% were multi-dimensionally poor.

Another added alarming finding is of these multidimensionally poor children half are in “alert” level of fragile states. Out of 103 developing countries India stands at 37th position. In terms of absolute numbers India accounts for both highest and staggering numbers. Very sadly more then528 million Indians are poor which is more number of people than all the poor people living in Sub-Saharan Africa combined.

When you read these findings which are “Deeply disturbing” consider this as a wakeup call. I am often questioned by some so called development activists saying why Indian children need development funding in the context of India beeing one of the fastest growing economy. Our development activists friends should understand two fact clearly.

The number one problem is the sheer numbers. When we say 31% of Indian children are struggling in poverty it is 31% of 689 million Indian children which is 217 million children and this you can understand is an overwhelming number.

The number two problem is from where these Indian GDP growth comes form and who contributes to it. Maximum growth push comes from IT sector and service sector and the contribution from these sectors form more than 90% and population that contribute this is only 10%.

But what the poverty stricken children need is food, clothing, Shelter education and health. From where these children can get all these? It is the primary sectors such as agriculture which is almost dyeing in India.

We at St. Joseph’s Development Trust see and experience these poverty stricken children day in and day out. Every one of our 1500 children whom we sere has a sad story to share with us and by that demand our action.

We can proudly say that we (you & SJDT) as duty bearers have responded positively to this call. The above findings invite us to even more resolute in our commitment to these children.

**Thanks& Regards**

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