

# Multidimensional Poverty Index

## CASE STUDY



## EKNATH, India

Like a house in a children's story, Eknath's boyhood hut in Goa, made of bamboo and cardboard, would blow down in the slightest wind. His family had no assets and had to live off what little they earned collecting scrap. Food was scarce. Three sisters died from illness and malnutrition. Water was a 15–20 minute walk away.

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Eknath – Goa, India Like a house in a children's story, Eknath's boyhood hut in Goa, made of bamboo and cardboard, would blow down in the slightest wind. His family had no assets and had to live off what little they earned collecting scrap. Food was scarce. Three sisters died from illness and malnutrition. Water was a 15–20 minutes walk away.

Today, life for Eknath - now 15 - is hardly a fairy tale, but life has improved. About ten years ago, a scrap dealer offered his family housing in return for working



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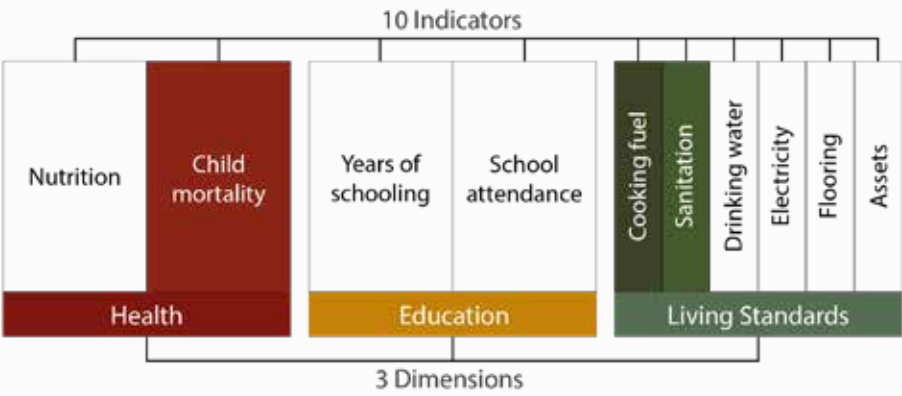
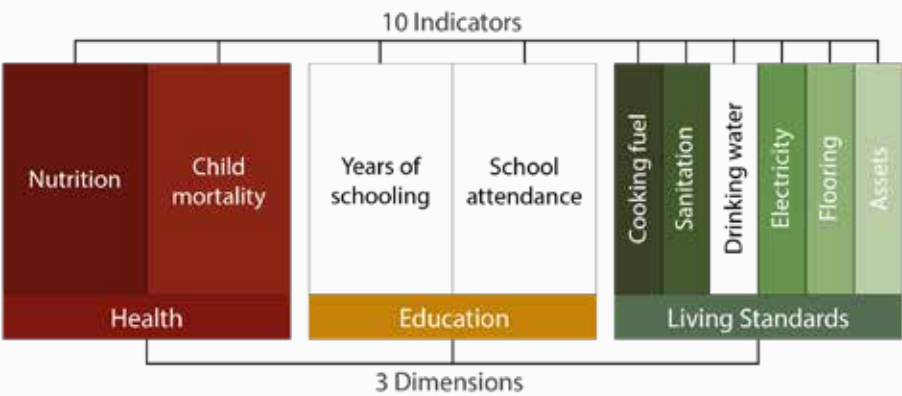
for him. At first it was just a hut, but it was later converted into two cement rooms, each about 6 feet by 6 feet in size. Eknath lives there with his mother, sister-in-law, and four brothers.

They still don't have a toilet and the roof leaks during the monsoon, but they do have electricity, a TV, and a water tap in front of their home. And, with the exception of perhaps a couple of days a year, they no longer go to bed hungry.

Though he is being pressured by his older brothers to quit and it is difficult to study in his cramped home, Eknath has persisted and remains in school. His school fees, books, and uniform are funded by a donor in the UK. He hopes to complete at least 10th grade.

Eknath earns money during the summer washing cars. He used to pick rags after school, but quit after being taunted by his classmates. Eknath and his younger brother are attending dance classes, also being paid for by his benefactor. Soon they will compete in a state level competition. Not exactly happily ever after yet, but Eknath's story is certainly better than it was once upon a time.

Ten years ago, Eknath was poor according to the Global MPI. The coloured boxes in the graphic on the top show the deprivations he faced. Today, Eknath is no longer identified as poor. The coloured boxes in the second graphic show the deprivations he still faces.



The coloured boxes show the deprivations that his household faces across the MPI.