

## **Challenges in Measuring Poverty in Tanzania**

Gabriel K. Simbila, National Bureau of Statistics (Tanzania)

### **Abstract**

Current poverty measures are based on consumption and access to basic services, with Household Budget Surveys as sources of Data. However, there are bottlenecks in measuring poverty and this paper attempts to explain challenges in measuring poverty in Tanzania. In Tanzania Decentralization by Devolution has been adopted aimed at supporting a greater degree of popular participation to enhance service delivery for poverty reduction.

Poverty assessment for targeting usually relies on large scale consumption survey data (HBS). At Local Government Authority level HBS results can only be used as proxy due to small sample, the results are only applicable at national level where it is limited to rural/urban and gender desegregation. Therefore, poverty alleviation efforts at the Local Government Authority level remain fragile and weak due to lack of clear information that can lead to formulation of strategies/efforts to initiate poverty alleviation programmes. One of the crucial objectives of poverty statistics is to help the authorities make the right evidence-based decisions at the right moment. It is therefore desirable to have the most refined possible information regarding the poverty progress concurrently with government planning.

This paper proposes alternative way where subjective well-being is the base. The basic idea is to institutionalize monitoring so as to provide planners, policy makers and decision makers at the LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY level with feedback which is not possible with the existing range of results obtained from household surveys available (e.g HBS, ILFS, DHS, Agriculture. Surveys).

**Keywords:** Poverty, Household Budget Survey, Local Government Authority, subjective well-being, Decentralization by Devolution, poverty reduction.