

Özet/Abstract:

Income or expenditure data are collected at household level and are silent about within household inequalities. Moreover, income is a means to an end. As an alternative, Amartya Sen's capabilities approach is operationalized as multidimensional poverty index with counting-based double cut-off method. With this method, valued functionings [dimensions] such as being educated, healthy, decent household living conditions are measured separately and a deprivation score for each person is calculated based on pre-determined weights of each dimension. Individuals whose deprivation scores are above a pre-determined threshold are deemed multidimensionally poor. In this study, we calculate multidimensional poverty for Turkey in four equally weighted dimensions using Survey of Living Conditions 2006-2015: education, health, employment and household's living conditions. We employ individual level data for the first three dimensions and hence we shed light on gender inequalities in deprivation. Unlike most of the earlier studies, we choose employment as the fourth dimension i) because employment contributes significantly to self-respect and women's empowerment ii) fewer expected opportunities in the labor market result in less investment in girls' human capital iii) increased control over household resources lead to improvement in women's say within household. First, we find improvement in household's living conditions across the board. Second, including employment as a fourth dimension increases the gender gap in poverty from 8 percent to 33 percent in the study period. Third, including employment leads to a faster drop in gender poverty gap because increase in female labor force participation outpaced men in the study period.