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Inequality in Transition: A Four-Decade Analysis of India's Consumption Shifts using NSSO Data

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Abstract

This study investigates the shifting landscape of consumption expenditure inequality in India from 1983-84 to 2022-23, using data from the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO). The analysis reveals a significant shift from food to non-food expenditures, highlighting a socioeconomic transformation characterized by rising income levels and changing lifestyles. Despite increased spending on education and healthcare, high Gini coefficients in these sectors indicate persistent inequalities, necessitating targeted policy interventions for equitable access. Rural-urban inequalities remain pronounced, with rural areas still grappling with necessities while urban regions spend more on lifestyle-enhancing goods and services. The decomposition of the Gini coefficient underscores a reduced reliance on cereals and increased significance of other non-food items, such as durable goods and consumer services, contributing substantially to overall inequality. These findings suggest that while economic growth has spurred improved access to various goods and services, it has also exacerbated inequality. The study calls for comprehensive policy measures to address these inequalities, emphasizing inclusive growth that benefits all sections of society.

Keywords

Consumption Expenditure, Inequality, Gini Coefficient, Decomposition of Gini Coefficient, Rural-Urban Divide.

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Background

India, a nation steeped in cultural diversity and historical heritage, has undergone remarkable transformations in recent years. The accelerated urbanization, the surge of young individuals joining the workforce, and the waves of modernization sweeping through the country have substantially reshaped its social and economic fabric. Nonetheless, hidden under this dynamic narrative is a persistent concern that casts a shadow over India's socioeconomic progress – income and consumption inequality. The primary focus of world economic attention for the past four decades has undeniably been on accelerating the growth rate of national income. Economists and politicians from all nations, regardless of their economic systems – capitalist, socialist, or mixed have eagerly pursued economic growth. This pervasive search for "Growth Manship" has become deeply ingrained in our global economic discourse. Governments rise and fall based on their economic growth performance, which is closely scrutinized on the global scorecard (Smith & Todaro, 2005). However, amidst this fervour for economic growth, it is crucial to pause and reflect on the more profound meaning and implications of this growth. What is the true significance of growth if it does not translate into concrete improvements in people's lives? The growth that has occurred in recent decades has, regrettably, predominantly served to benefit only a selected few—the wealthiest 10 per cent of the population (Vitkovics, 2023). This glaring disparity in the distribution of economic benefits raises a critical question that demands our attention: How is inequality generated, and how does it persist and even worsen over time? The issue of inequality is not merely an academic concern; it is a billion-dollar question that has profound implications for the social fabric of nations, the well-being of their citizens, and the overall trajectory of their development. Economic growth, while undoubtedly essential for progress, should not be an end in itself. Instead, it should serve as a means to uplift the entire population and bridge the inequality gap. By exploring the variation in consumption expenditure inequality in India and considering the shifts in this landscape during the pre and post-reform period, this study contributes to understanding how economic growth can be connected to create a more equitable and inclusive society. It is a timely and pressing endeavour, considering that the implications of inequality extend far beyond economics, encompassing social, political, and moral dimensions that shape the destiny of nations and their people. Inequality in India has been a topic of extensive research and discussion for decades (Thorat & Dubey, 2012). It encompasses disparities in income, education, healthcare, and living standards (Deaton & Dreze, 2002). It is a multifaceted issue with complex determinants, and understanding it is crucial for policymakers and researchers alike(Atkinson & Brandolini, 2001). This paper delves into the heart of this issue, focusing on consumption expenditure inequality, a less explored but vital aspect of economic disparities in India (Krishnaswamy, 2012).

Income Inequality vs Consumption Inequality

It is essential to distinguish between income inequality and consumption inequality, as they play pivotal roles in shaping the socioeconomic landscape of a nation. Economic inequality, a central concern in our study, can be characterized as an uneven distribution of wealth and income among a society's citizens, resulting in some individuals being classified as 'poor'. In contrast, others are deemed 'not poor.' These disparities in economic

resources are intimately entangled with social inequalities, and they, in turn, continue and are continued by each other. This complex interplay of socioeconomic inequalities is a cause of existing poverty and a consequence, as highlighted by (G Myrdal, 1970). In economic analysis, several dimensions exist for measuring inequality, with income, consumption, and wealth inequality being some of the primary indicators. While income inequality primarily focuses on disparities in earnings and income, consumption inequality delves into differences in how individuals and households allocate resources to sustain their lifestyles. It is worth noting that income and consumption inequality are inherently linked; however, they may not always move in the same direction. Early studies in the United States, such as Kuznets' pioneering work, centred on income inequality, emphasizing the variations in earnings among individuals and households. However, it is crucial to recognize that inequality extends beyond financial metrics, encompassing disparities in status, power, and access to resources. Most inequality measures are based on household characteristics, although they often overlook inequality within the household itself, which is a significant real-world concern. Additionally, assessing inequality solely through income may not provide a comprehensive understanding of people's well-being, given its susceptibility to short-term fluctuations (Deaton & Zaidi, 2002). As an alternative perspective, some researchers argue that consumption could be a more appropriate indicator than income when evaluating well-being (Johnson & Shipp, 1999; McGregor & Borooah, 1992; Slesnick, 1994). The rationale behind this assertion is that utility, or satisfaction, is derived from the consumption of goods and services rather than the mere reception of income. In macroeconomics, consumption is often regarded as a proxy for welfare, reflecting the overall standard of living and quality of life. In the specific context of this paper, consumption expenditure assumes particular significance. It is a multifaceted phenomenon that influences and is influenced by various aspects of individuals' lives, including socioeconomic, cultural, religious, psychological, ethical, and environmental factors. The spending patterns of households transform in response to shifts in earnings and overall wealth, thereby reshaping the consumption basket. The significance of consumption extends to its role in human development. As the Human Development Report (1998) highlights, people allocate significant resources towards essential areas such as food, education, transportation, communication, and entertainment (Koichuyev et al., 1998). This global trend in consumption reflects changing lifestyles and preferences driven by advancements in technology and business management. However, it is essential to acknowledge a substantial disparity in consumption levels between developed and developing countries, underscoring the relationship between consumption and development. While increasing consumption standards offers households expanded choices and capabilities, they can also foster competitive spending and visible consumption pressures. In the context of less developed countries, rising consumption standards can have complex consequences, potentially worsening inequalities and deepening poverty and social exclusion. This complex interplay between consumption, inequality, and development is a central theme that this paper seeks to explore and dissect in India's evolving socioeconomic landscape. As this paper delves into the intricate web of consumption expenditure inequality in India, it aims to shed light on the mechanisms and dynamics underlying this disparity's persistence. By examining data from the National Sample Sur-

vey Office (NSSO) and categorizing consumption expenditure into essential components such as health, education, food, and other non-food items, this research offers valuable insights into diversifying consumption patterns and the evolving nature of inequality in India.

Rural-Urban Divide in Consumption Inequality

The rural-urban divide in India is not just a geographical distinction; it embodies profound differences in access to resources, employment opportunities, and living standards. Rural areas often face limited industrialization, lower income, and inadequate access to basic amenities and services. In contrast, urban areas, with their denser industrial and service sectors, generally exhibit higher income levels and a different consumption pattern (Datt & Ravallion, 2011; Deaton & Zaidi, 2002). However, this urban advantage in income does not necessarily translate into proportional consumption equality. The cost of living in urban areas, influenced by housing and utilities, often erodes the income advantage (Asra, 1999). Furthermore, rapid urbanization in India has led to the expansion of urban poverty and slums, where consumption pattern starkly contrasts with those of affluent urban neighbourhoods (Bag & Seth, 2018; Jha, 2011). This dichotomy with urban areas is often more pronounced than in rural settings, highlighting the heterogeneous nature of urban poverty and wealth. By analyzing the data from NSSO, this study will further unravel the multifaced nature of consumption expenditure inequality across rural and urban India, providing a distinct understanding of the inequality in consumption expenditure across the different sectors of India.

Data Source and methodology

Data Source

This study utilizes unit-level consumption expenditure data spanning four decades, from 1983-84 (38th round) to 2022-23 (the latest round) of the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO). These surveys, conducted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) under the supervision of a Director General, cover various socioeconomic topics. Each survey round typically spans one year, although some last six months. The surveys provide critical data on household consumption expenditure, offering insights into living standards, consumption patterns, well-being, and inequality. The analysis draws from sample sizes of 117,604, 128,019, 115,354, 124,644, 100,855, 101,622, and 261,746 households for the survey years 1983-84, 1987-88, 1993-94, 2004-05, 2009-10, 2011-12, and 2022-23, respectively. The household consumption expenditure schedules collected data on both the quantity and value of consumption. For most items, the reference period was the last 30 days. However, in the latest dataset (2022-23), the reference period for food items was reduced to the last 7 days. The reference period is extended to the last 365 days for less frequently purchased items. For consistency, all expenditure data were converted to a 30-day reference period. A comprehensive item classification system was employed, covering 146 food items, 15 fuel items, 28 items of clothing, bedding, and footwear, 22 items of educational and health expenses, 52 durable goods, and approximately 92 other items. This detailed categorization ensures a thorough understanding of consumption patterns across various household expenditure categories. .

Methods

Our study employed methods to analyze economic inequality, focusing on how people allocate their resources through Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE). To ensure comparability across time, we converted MPCE data from the National Sample Survey (NSS) rounds spanning 1983-84 (38th round) to 2009-10 (66th round)to the 2011-12 price level. This adjustment was achieved by applying an inflation factor based on the Wholesale Price Index (WPI), using 2011-12 as the reference year. Similarly, the MPCE data for the most recent year, 2022-23, was deflated to align with 2011-12 prices. These adjustments enable a consistent analysis of consumption patterns while controlling for inflationary changes. The WPI, compiled by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and sourced from the Office of the Economic Adviser (OEA), was chosen to reflect price variations across India and capture a broad spectrum of commodity prices. In contrast, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was deemed unsuitable for this dataset because it targets specific population groups, such as Agricultural Labourers and Industrial Workers. Moreover, the NSSO data does not classify individuals by occupation, complicating attempts to align rural residents solely with agricultural work or urban residents with industrial employment. The CPI's narrow focus limits its applicability because many rural residents are employed in industrial jobs and urban residents in non-industrial sectors. Additionally, its variation across states further restricts its utility for this study. Adjusting all data to the 2011-12 price level provides a unified framework for assessing consumption trends while accounting for inflation. To begin our analysis, we utilized the Gini coefficient—a widely used measure of inequality that quantifies how evenly income or spending is distributed within a population. The Gini coefficient ranges from 0, indicating perfect equality (where everyone earns or spends equally), to 1, representing extreme inequality (where a single individual accounts for all income or expenditure). In practical terms, Gini coefficients typically range from 0.3 to 0.7 (Fields, 1989). The coefficient is calculated using a formula that considers the covariance of total expenditure (X) with its cumulative distribution (F) and the mean of X (m).The Gini coefficient established based on these components is defined as,

$$G = \frac{2cov(X, F(X)}{m} \qquad (0.\ 1)$$

This conceptualization of the Gini coefficient is adapted from the work of (Lerman and Yitzhaki, 1984), who derived it from the calculation for half of the mean difference of the Gini. Further, our analysis involved a detailed examination of how people allocate their resources across various areas of life, which allowed us to understand people's financial priorities and choices comprehensively. We looked at spending in critical healthcare, education, food, and other non-food items. One of our goals was to pinpoint which specific spending categories contributed the most to economic inequality. By decomposing the Gini coefficient, we aimed to dissect the data and identify which areas of spending were making the inequality worse. Expenditure sources decompose the overall Gini coefficient in the following manner. Let $x_1, x_2, x_3, \ldots, x_k$ represent the expenditure levels for various sources of expenditure, with X being the sum of all xk. The term Fk is used to denote the cumulative distribution of each expenditure source x_k, while m_k represents its mean. The Gini coefficient for each component k, reflecting its concentration, is given by

$$G_k = \frac{2cov(X_k, F_k)}{m_k} \quad (0.\ 2)$$

It has been demonstrated (Lerman & Yitzhaki, 1985) that the overall Gini coefficient for total expenditures, when broken down into sources of expenditures, can be expressed as,

$$G = \frac{2\sum_{k=1}^{K} cov(X_k, F)}{m} \quad (0.\ 3)$$

Where, $cov(X_k, F)$ is the concentration index of expenditure for each sources k relative to the cumulative distribution of total expenditures, X. By multiplying and diving each component k in the formula by $cov(X_k, F_k)$ and m_k, we can decompose the sum of sources components into the formula,

$$G = sum_{k=1}^{K}\left[\frac{cov(x_k, F)}{cov(x_k, F_k)}.\frac{2cov(x_k, F_k)}{m_k}.\frac{m_k}{m}\right]$$

$$= \sum_{k=1}^{K} R_k G_k S_k \quad (0.\ 4)$$

Here, R_k represents the Gini correlation between expenditure component k and the ranking of total consumption expenditures, G_k is the relative Gini of component k (its index of concentration), and S_k is the share of component k in total expenditures, as defined by (Lerman & Yitzhaki, 1985) Finally, we used elasticity calculations to add a forward-looking dimension to our analysis. This technique allowed us to predict how changes in spending patterns might affect consumption inequality in the future. In other words, we assessed how sensitive inequality was to changes in spending behaviour. This is visualized using the formula given by (Yitzhaki & Thirsk, 1990),

$$n_k = \frac{R_k G_k}{G} \quad (0.\ 5)$$

This information is valuable for policymakers as it helps them anticipate the potential impacts of different economic policies and decisions.

Results

Trends in Monthly Per Capita Expenditure (MPCE)

Trends in MPCE at National level

Table 1 delineates the descriptive statistics pertinent to our study, encapsulating the trends in MPCE across diverse expenditure categories — Food, Other non-food, Education, and Health — at 2011-12 price levels. For the entire nation, a stagnant trend is visible in food expenditure, with a minor increment of 50.31% from 1983-94 to 2022-23. Contrastingly, the expenditure in other non-food categories rose substantially, amounting to 211.40% during the same timeframe. The education sector experienced the most pronounced growth among all categories, surging by 289.37% from 1983-84 to 2022-23. Health expenditure also witnessed a significant increase of 156.16% over the period. Collectively, the overall MPCE across all categories escalated by 120.55% from 1983-94 to 2022-23.

Rural and Urban Divergences in MPCE

In rural India, the MPCE on food grew 67.36% from 1983-84 to 2022-23, indicating an increase in relative expenditure in this sector. However, the expenditure on other non-food items in rural areas rose by 206.18% during the same period. Notably, the rural education sector marked the highest growth among all categories, with an increase of 316.36% from 1983-84 to 2022-23. Health expenditure in rural India also grew by 257.13%. Overall, the MPCE across all categories in rural

regions improved by 126.09%. In urban India, the scenario presents trends similar to those in rural India. The MPCE on food increased 121.91% from 1983-84 to 2022-23. The growth in other non-food items and education in urban settings was relatively higher, recording increases of 313.12% and 274.94%, respectively, over the same period. Urban health expenditure witnessed the highest rise of 426.72%. Overall, the overall MPCE in urban India increased by 213.04% from 1983-84 to 2022-23.

Overview of Consumption Inequality Dynamics

Trends in consumption expenditure inequality at the National level

Table 2 presents the Gini coefficient data for India, offering insights into the expenditure inequality dynamics within various expenditure categories from 1983-84 to 2022-23, evaluated at 2011-12 price levels. Nationally, the Gini coefficient for food expenditure exhibited a slight increase, suggesting a mild rise in inequality in food-related expenses, with coefficients ascending from 0.2674 in 1983-84 to 0.2707 in 2022-23. A different trend was observed in other non-food expenditures, with the coefficient initially rising from 0.4786 in 1983-84 to 0.5034 in 2009-10 before declining to 0.3842 in the last decade, indicating a fluctuation in inequality in non-food expenses. In education, the Gini coefficient remained consistently high, reflecting substantial inequality in educational expenditure throughout the years. The coefficient started at 0.6777 in 1983-84 and showed a fluctuating trend before reaching the peak at 0.7415 in 2011-12 and declined to 0.6905 in the last decade. Health-related expenditure inequality displayed a similar trend, with the Gini coefficient increasing from 0.6151 in 1983-84 to 0.7011 in 2011-12 before declining to 0.6705 during 2022-23. The overall national Gini coefficient increased from 0.3247 in 1983-84 to 0.3748 0.3748 in 2011-12, denoting a general rise in expenditure inequality before declining to 0.3181in the last decade.

Rural Versus Urban Consumption Inequality

In rural India, the Gini coefficient for food expenditure showed minor fluctuations; in 1983-84, it was 0.2553, which decreased to 0.2284 in 2009-10, which again rose to 0.2337 in 2011-12 and further increased to 0.2570 in 2022-23, indicating a indicating an increase in inequality level in food-related expenses in the last two decades. Other non-food expenditures saw a fluctuating trend in inequality, with a substantial decline observed in the last decade. While still high, educational expenditure inequality in rural areas shows an increase in inequality from 1993-94, reaching the peak of inequality at 0.7120 in 2011-12 and then declining to 0.6651 in 2022-23. A notable increase in health expenditure inequality is observed, with the Gini coefficient increasing from 0.6151 in 1983-84 to 0.6985 in 2011-12 before declining to 0.6706 in 2022-23. The overall rural Gini coefficient fluctuated from 1983-84 to 2022-23 from 0.3035 to 0.2697 to 0.2798 to 0.3016 to 0.2986 to 0.3106 to 0.2828. Urban areas experienced a similar trend in food expenditure, with the Gini coefficient for food expenditure remaining small and almost the same over the period, indicating stable inequality in food expenses. Other non-food expenditures witnessed a rise in inequality, peaking at 0.5113 in 2009-10 before reducing substantially to 0.3797 in 2022-23. Education expenditure inequality in urban areas increased substantially over time, with the Gini coefficient reaching 0.7120 in 2011-12 from 0.6273 in 1983-84 and then slightly declining to 0.6246 in 2022-23. Health ex-

penditure inequality rose, with the Gini coefficient peaking at 0.6999 in 2009-10 and then declining to 0.6920 in 2011-12 to 0.6580 in 2022-23. After increasing from 0.3380 in 1993-94 to 0.3990 in 2009-10, the overall urban Gini coefficient showed a modest decline to 0.3188 in 2022-23, yet indicating a decline in overall inequality during the last decade.

Decomposition of Gini Coefficient by Source

Contribution of Items to consumption inequality at the National level

Table 3a provides an intricate picture of the Gini coefficient's decomposition by sources of expenditure in India from 1983-84 to 2022-23. The table segments the contribution of various commodities to the overall consumption inequality, as measured by their share of consumption, concentration coefficient, and the resulting impact on the Gini coefficient, alongside the elasticity, which signifies the sensitivity of the Gini coefficient to changes in expenditure on these commodities. During the initial period of 1983-84, cereals substantially contributed to consumption expenditure inequality at 11.70%, with a relatively low concentration coefficient of 0.161. This contribution dropped significantly to 1.05% by 2022-23, with a corresponding concentration coefficient 0.083. This change suggests a reduced reliance on cereals as a staple, in line with increased income diversification. The elasticity of Cereals also reflected a decreasing trend, moving from -0.155 to -0.029, which indicates a reduced impact on the Gini coefficient over time, suggesting a lessening influence of cereal expenditure on overall inequality. The consumption of Pulses and products revealed a consistent contribution, decreasing from 2.52% to 0.46% over the years. The concentration coefficient for these items remained stable, and the modest elasticity figures imply a relatively steady impact on the Gini coefficient. Milk & Milk Products saw a notable decrease in the contribution of consumption expenditure inequality from 9.75% to 4.04 %, with the concentration coefficient also reducing from 0.491 to 0. 254. This has a positive elasticity of 0.023 in 1983-84, which was reduced to a negative elasticity of -0.009 in 2022-23, suggesting a weakening influence on inequality. In contrast, Durable Goods displayed a slight increase in their contribution and a decrease in the concentration coefficient, from 9.47% to 9.72% and from 0.856 to 0.394, respectively. This underscores that while durable goods are now more widely purchased across different income groups, they still contribute significantly to consumption inequality. The elasticity for Durable Goods remained relatively high, though it reduced slightly from 0.053 to 0.021, indicating a slightly decreasing influence on the Gini coefficient. Entertainment Goods and Consumer Services Excluding Conveyance, also witnessed a rise in their contribution to the Gini coefficient, from 0.93% to 1.82% and from 1.77% to 5.66%, respectively, over the four decades. Elasticity values for entertainment goods remained consistent over the four decades, whereas Consumer Services Excluding Conveyance increased from 0.002 to 0.006, reflecting their growing impact on consumption inequality.

Rural-Urban divide in consumption expenditure inequality: Decomposition of Gini coefficient by source

Table 3b meticulously details the decomposition of the Gini coefficient by sources of expenditure in rural India, tracing the progression from 1983-84 to 2022-23. It provides a granular look at consumption patterns, highlighting how various commodities have contributed to consump-

tion inequality in rural areas. In 1993-94, Cereals contributed to consumption inequality at 13.26%, with a concentration coefficient of 0.140 and an elasticity of -0.173. Fast forward to 2022-23, and the contribution of Cereals had substantially decreased to 0.32%, with a concentration coefficient that had decreased slightly to 0.015. This marginal decrease in the concentration coefficient suggests a slight decline in inequality within cereal consumption. The elasticity had also lessened to -0.047, signalling a diminishing influence on overall inequality. Its contribution to the Gini coefficient grew from 3.97% in 1983-84 to 10.72% in 2022-23 for Beverages, Refreshments, and Processed food. The elasticity decreased from 0.009 to 0.005, indicating a reduced sensitivity of inequality to changes in expenditure within this category. For Rent, the concentration coefficient decreased from 0.650 to 0.426, indicating a reduction in disparity in housing expenses among rural households. This category's contribution to the Gini coefficient and its elasticity increased, indicating a more significant factor in overall consumption inequality. Similarly, Consumer Services Excluding Conveyance experienced a decrease in the concentration coefficient from 0.323 to 0.301, along with contribution reduction and elasticity increase from 1.34% to 6.08% and 0.000 to 0.013. Education and Health expenditure saw a decline in concentration, particularly in Education, which declined from 0.621 to 0.367, compared to Health care's increase from 0.497 to 0. 314. While the contribution and elasticity values of Education expenditure have increased from 3.49% to 6.07% and 0.017 to 0.021, the contribution and elasticity values of Health expenditure have decreased from 7.03% to 6.54% and 0.025 to 0.016, implying that Education expenditure has become more significant and widespread in contributing to inequality. In contrast, health expenditures' impact on inequality has slightly reduced despite becoming more evenly distributed. The concentration coefficient for Durable Goods substantially declined from 0.853 to 0.343, indicating that skewness in the consumption of Durable Goods towards wealthier rural households has substantially reduced. The contribution to the Gini coefficient from Durable Goods witnessed a slight increase, from 10.95 % to 11.24%, with the elasticity dropping from 0.068 to 0.034, marking a notable escalation in their contribution to overall inequality and reduced sensitivity to the changes in inequality. Table 3c highlights the results from the decomposition of the Gini coefficient by sources of expenditure in urban India. In 1983-84, Cereals comprised a concentration coefficient of 0.269, contributing 9.90 % to the Gini coefficient and having an elasticity of -0.079. By 2022-23, the concentration coefficient decreased to 0.128, and the contribution to the Gini went down to 1.44%, with elasticity also decreasing to -0.017. The decline in the concentration coefficient suggests a reduced impact of Cereals on consumption inequality over time. For the Beverages, Refreshment, and Processed Food categories, the concentration coefficient decreased from 0.552 to 0.294, and the contribution to the Gini coefficient increased from 7.37% to 10.23%. The elasticity also slightly decreased from 0.009 to 0.004, indicating a modestly reducing influence on inequality. The concentration coefficient of education changed from 0.689 to 0.393. In contrast, the contribution to the Gini coefficient rose from 6.93 % to 9.87 %, and the elasticity escalated slightly from 0.021 to 0.028, reflecting a more substantial impact of education expenses on inequality. The concentration coefficient of Health expenditure decreased from 0.563 to 0.341. Its contribution to the Gini coefficient grew from 4.12 % to 5.10 %, with an increase in elasticity from 0.006 to 0.009, showing a

heightened effect on inequality. For Rent, the concentration coefficient experienced a slight decrease from 0.617 to 0.400, and the contribution to the Gini coefficient jumped from 4.69% to 17.92%—a notable increase in elasticity from 0.010 to 0.053 over this period. The concentration coefficient of Durable goods decreased from 0.876 to 0.391, indicating that compared to 1983-84, durable goods are now more equitably distributed to the urban residents. The contribution to the Gini coefficient rose from 7.41 % to 10.52%, and the elasticity decreased from 0.033 to 0.030, showing its sensitivity to changes in urban inequality has slightly decreased.

Discussion and Conclusion

In analyzing consumption expenditure inequality in India, our study reveals a critical shift from food to other non-food expenditures, indicating a broader socioeconomic transformation in the country. This trend, indicative of rising income levels and changing lifestyles, poses a challenge for policymakers who now must address food security and the increasing importance and inequality in education and healthcare expenditures (Deaton, 1997). The persistent rural-urban disparities, as evident in the differing growth patterns of these sectors, further underscore the necessity for targeted rural development initiatives to close this gap (Bhattacharya & Chatterjee, 1970; Bhattacharya & Mahalanobis, 1967). Moreover, the high Gini coefficients in Education and Healthcare suggest significant inequalities, calling for policy interventions that ensure equitable access, particularly for marginalized and lower-income groups (Basole & Basu, 2015; Rajan et al., 2013; Römmele et al., 2014). The study highlights significant growth in expenditure across various categories, especially Education and Health, from 1983-84 to 2022-23. Nationally, the Gini coefficient trends indicate a mixed pattern with a general increase in inequality in the initial decades followed by some reduction in recent years, particularly in non-food expenditures(Martínez-Navarro et al., 2020). However, education and health remain sectors with high inequality, necessitating focused policy measures to enhance accessibility and affordability for lower-income groups. Rural areas exhibit a notable increase in education and health expenditures, indicating improved access and highlighting persistent inequalities in these sectors. The rising inequality in health expenditure is particularly concerning, calling for comprehensive healthcare policies. Urban areas, while showing higher overall expenditure growth, reflect similar patterns of inequality, with durable goods and consumer services emerging as significant contributors to consumption inequality. The decomposition of the Gini coefficient by sources of expenditure provides further insights. The reduced reliance on cereals and the increased significance of non-food items, particularly durable goods and consumer services, underscore the changing consumption patterns. The declining concentration coefficients for many categories suggest broader access, but the rising contributions to the Gini coefficient indicate that inequality in these areas remains substantial. The analysis of India's socioeconomic progress through NSSO data reveals a complex narrative of growth and inequality, marking a shift in household expenditure patterns. While urban areas exhibit increased spending on lifestyle-enhancing goods and services, indicative of higher disposable incomes, rural regions struggle with necessities, emphasizing a stark rural-urban divide. This dichotomy is not just an economic issue but a reflection of the varied access to resources and opportunities across different parts of the country (Ahluwalia, 2002; Deaton

& Dreze, 2002). The increased spending on education and healthcare, while indicative of changing priorities and rising living standards, also highlights the growing inequality in access to these essential services. The high Gini coefficients in these sectors point towards a concentration of benefits among the affluent, leaving the lower-income groups behind. This scenario necessitates a rethinking of policy focus from merely boosting Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth to ensuring equitable distribution of the fruits of economic development. Policies must be tailored to address the specific needs of different regions, focusing on enhancing accessibility and quality of essential services in both rural and urban areas. The emphasis on inclusive growth becomes crucial, where development strategies are designed to benefit all sections of society, bridging the gap between the rich and the poor (Banerjee & Duflo, 2011; Drèze & Sen, 2013; Riedel & Sachs, 2005; Stiglitz et al., 2010). In addition, the impact of economic reforms on poverty and inequality calls for a careful examination. The liberalization of the Indian economy has spurred growth, but it has also exacerbated economic disparities, particularly affecting rural poverty (Patnaik, 2007). The need for sustainable and equitable economic policies is evident, which drive growth and ensure a fair distribution of wealth among the diverse Indian populace (Piketty, 2014; Riedel & Sachs, 2005). Moreover, the environmental impact of economic progress cannot be ignored. Sustainable development, where economic advancements are balanced with environmental conservation, is imperative for India's future. Policymakers must integrate economic planning with environmental stewardship to ensure long-term sustainability (Dasgupta, 2007; Gupta & Goldar, 2005; Riedel & Sachs, 2005). Thus, the narrative of India's economic journey is about achieving high GDP numbers and addressing the multidimensional aspects of development. The challenge lies in formulating and implementing policies that harmonize economic growth with social equity and environmental sustainability, aiming for a holistic development model that uplifts all sections of Indian society while preserving the nation's ecological balance.

Availability of data and materials

The dataset supporting the conclusions of this article is available in the National Data Archive. The data can be downloaded from www.microdata.gov.in.

Abbreviation

CPI: Consumer Price Index
GDP: Gross Domestic Product
MOSPI: Ministry of Statistics and Program implementation
MPCE: Monthly Per Capita Expenditure
NSSO: National Sample Survey Office
WPI: Wholesale Price Index

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Appendix

Table 1. Change in MPCE from 1983-84 to 2022-23

India								
	1983-84	**1987-88**	**1993-94**	**2004-05**	**2009-10**	**2011-12**	**2022-23**	**Percentage change in MPCE**
MPCE	1009.69	1090.29	1180.38	1274.28	1492.86	1599.03	2226.83	120.55
MPCE on Food	594.37	697.28	706.68	661.13	693.88	707.95	893.39	50.31
MPCE on Other Non-Food	345.37	336.26	389.45	492.75	654.67	723.51	1075.51	211.40
MPCE on Education	26.54	19.39	26.98	44.70	59.65	67.24	103.36	289.37
MPCE on Health	43.40	37.37	57.26	75.70	84.67	100.33	154.58	256.16
Rural								
MPCE	957.90	971.82	1023.98	1044.08	1188.75	1278.95	2165.71	126.09
MPCE on Food	582.52	642.87	641.76	592.91	616.58	621.96	974.88	67.36
MPCE on Other Non-Food	314.18	281.10	315.90	356.40	465.21	529.47	961.94	206.18
MPCE on Education	17.42	11.88	13.96	27.22	35.55	39.84	72.53	316.36
MPCE on Health	43.78	35.97	52.36	67.54	71.41	87.67	156.36	257.13
Urban								
MPCE	1187.63	1498.50	1654.98	1953.37	2313.12	2399.23	3717.72	213.04
MPCE on Food	635.08	884.74	903.68	862.38	902.37	922.91	1409.29	121.91
MPCE on Other Non-Food	452.56	526.30	612.67	894.97	1165.68	1208.61	1869.64	313.12
MPCE on Education	57.90	45.26	66.50	96.27	124.63	135.73	217.07	274.94
MPCE on Health	42.10	42.19	72.13	99.74	120.43	131.98	221.72	426.72

Source: Author's estimate at 2011-12 prices.

Table 2: Gini coefficient from 1993-94 to 2011-12

India							
	1983-84	**1987-88**	**1993-94**	**2004-05**	**2009-10**	**2011-12**	**2022-23**
MPCE Overall	0.3247	0.2976	0.3200	0.3607	0.3754	0.3748	0.3181
MPCE on Food	0.2674	0.2651	0.2565	0.2582	0.2592	0.2658	0.2707
MPCE on Other Non-Food	0.4786	0.4205	0.4665	0.5020	0.5034	0.4900	0.3842
MPCE on Education	0.6777	0.6623	0.7131	0.7017	0.7221	0.7415	0.6905
MPCE on Health	0.6151	0.6303	0.6352	0.6985	0.6993	0.7011	0.6705
Rural							
MPCE Overall	0.3035	0.2697	0.2798	0.3016	0.2986	0.3106	0.2828
MPCE on Food	0.2553	0.2498	0.2333	0.2321	0.2284	0.2337	0.2570
MPCE on Other Non-Food	0.4574	0.3653	0.4233	0.4235	0.4121	0.4147	0.3365
MPCE on Education	0.6795	0.6453	0.6695	0.6829	0.6900	0.7120	0.6651
MPCE on Health	0.6151	0.6336	0.6264	0.6987	0.6883	0.6985	0.6706
Urban							
MPCE Overall	0.3411	0.3164	0.3380	0.3740	0.3990	0.3901	0.3188
MPCE on Food	0.2743	0.2498	0.2632	0.2673	0.2671	0.2712	0.2788
MPCE on Other Non-Food	0.4770	0.4360	0.4698	0.4940	0.5113	0.4951	0.3797
MPCE on Education	0.6273	0.6257	0.6727	0.6608	0.6937	0.7177	0.6246
MPCE on Health	0.6147	0.6178	0.6478	0.6859	0.6999	0.6920	0.6580

Source: Author's calculation at 2011-12 prices.

Table 3a. Decomposition of Gini by Source of Expenditure, India

	Commodity	Share of Consumption	Concentration Coefficient	Percentage Contribution	Elasticity
1983-84	**Cereal**	27.17	0.161	11.70	-0.155
	Pulses & Products	3.24	0.291	2.52	-0.007
	Milk & Milk Products	7.41	0.491	9.75	0.023
	Edible Oil	3.35	0.304	2.73	-0.006
	Meat, Egg & Fish	2.95	0.414	3.27	0.003
	Vegetables	4.48	0.289	3.46	-0.010
	Fruits (Fresh)	1.23	0.532	1.75	0.005
	Fruits (Dry)	0.25	0.526	0.35	0.001
	Sugar	2.54	0.364	2.47	-0.001
	Salt	0.15	0.136	0.05	-0.001
	Spices	2.13	0.256	1.46	-0.007
	Beverages, Refreshments and Processed Food	3.98	0.506	5.39	0.014
	Tobacco	2.11	0.287	1.62	-0.005
	Intoxicants	0.66	0.386	0.68	0.000
	Fuel & Light	10.04	0.258	6.93	-0.031
	Entertainment	0.59	0.584	0.93	0.003
	Goods For Personal Care	0.31	0.800	0.66	0.004
	Toilet Articles	1.61	0.397	1.71	0.001
	Sundry Articles	1.43	0.369	1.41	0.000
	Consumer Services Excluding Conveyance	1.53	0.433	1.77	0.002
	Conveyance	2.44	0.561	3.67	0.012
	Rent	1.11	0.723	2.14	0.010
	Consumer Taxes and Cesses	0.11	0.717	0.21	0.001
	Clothing	7.10	0.608	11.55	0.045
	Footwear	1.04	0.602	1.68	0.006
	Education	2.63	0.687	4.84	0.022

	Health	4.30	0.505	5.82	0.015
	Durable Goods	4.13	0.856	9.47	0.053
1987-88	**Cereal**	24.12	0.091	6.96	-0.172
	Pulses & Products	3.97	0.220	2.79	-0.012
	Milk & Milk Products	9.28	0.462	13.65	0.044
	Edible Oil	5.30	0.288	4.87	-0.004
	Meat, Egg & Fish	3.51	0.358	4.00	0.005
	Vegetables	5.46	0.241	4.20	-0.013
	Fruits (Fresh)	1.67	0.496	2.64	0.010
	Fruits (Dry)	0.32	0.496	0.50	0.002
	Sugar	2.82	0.304	2.74	-0.001
	Salt	0.16	0.105	0.05	-0.001
	Spices	2.65	0.199	1.68	-0.010
	Beverages, Refreshments and Processed Food	5.00	0.461	7.34	0.024
	Tobacco	1.45	0.193	0.89	-0.006
	Intoxicants	0.66	0.323	0.68	0.000
	Fuel & Light	10.26	0.202	6.61	-0.036
	Entertainment	0.52	0.523	0.86	0.003
	Goods For Personal Care	0.13	0.469	0.19	0.001
	Toilet Articles	1.82	0.325	1.89	0.001
	Sundry Articles	1.47	0.297	1.39	-0.001
	Consumer Services Excluding Conveyance	2.13	0.475	3.23	0.011
	Conveyance	2.12	0.556	3.75	0.016
	Rent	1.25	0.721	2.88	0.016
	Consumer Taxes and Cesses	*	*	*	*
	Clothing	4.95	0.569	8.97	0.040
	Footwear	0.81	0.561	1.45	0.006
	Education	1.79	0.588	3.35	0.016

	Health	3.44	0.458	5.02	0.016
	Durable Goods	2.94	0.791	7.42	0.045
1993-94	**Cereal**	8.59	0.073	2.25	-0.063
	Pulses & Products	2.23	0.192	0.86	-0.014
	Milk & Milk Products	9.49	0.429	8.44	-0.011
	Edible Oil	3.62	0.242	1.87	-0.018
	Meat, Egg & Fish	2.61	0.321	1.36	-0.013
	Vegetables	4.66	0.213	2.95	-0.017
	Fruits (Fresh)	2.51	0.490	2.32	-0.002
	Fruits (Dry)	0.73	0.483	0.86	0.001
	Sugar	1.71	0.262	0.59	-0.011
	Salt	0.10	0.107	0.05	-0.001
	Spices	1.35	0.176	0.54	-0.008
	Beverages, Refreshments and Processed Food	6.67	0.449	6.44	-0.002
	Tobacco	1.13	0.197	0.80	-0.003
	Intoxicants	0.51	0.325	0.87	0.004
	Fuel & Light	6.30	0.220	3.88	-0.024
	Entertainment	1.56	0.506	1.61	0.001
	Goods For Personal Care	1.19	0.497	1.26	0.001
	Toilet Articles	2.63	0.337	2.03	-0.006
	Sundry Articles	2.30	0.291	1.55	-0.008
	Consumer Services Excluding Conveyance	4.26	0.469	6.01	0.018
	Conveyance	6.85	0.598	9.06	0.022
	Rent	8.94	0.720	13.01	0.041
	Consumer Taxes and Cesses	0.67	0.600	0.70	0.000
	Clothing	4.81	0.597	6.85	0.020
	Footwear	1.09	0.565	1.57	0.005
	Education	5.64	0.618	7.39	0.018

	Health	3.12	0.464	3.76	0.006
	Durable Goods	4.73	0.773	11.11	0.064
2004-05	**Cereal**	15.49	0.080	3.45	-0.120
	Pulses & Products	2.93	0.182	1.48	-0.015
	Milk & Milk Products	8.53	0.402	9.52	0.010
	Edible Oil	4.30	0.197	2.35	-0.020
	Meat, Egg & Fish	3.19	0.313	2.77	-0.004
	Vegetables	6.00	0.184	3.06	-0.029
	Fruits (Fresh)	1.67	0.467	2.16	0.005
	Fruits (Dry)	0.42	0.493	0.57	0.002
	Sugar	2.10	0.212	1.24	-0.009
	Salt	0.18	0.135	0.07	-0.001
	Spices	1.70	0.163	0.77	-0.009
	Beverages, Refreshments and Processed Food	5.37	0.447	6.66	0.013
	Tobacco	1.54	0.178	0.76	-0.008
	Intoxicants	0.69	0.305	0.58	-0.001
	Fuel & Light	9.14	0.258	6.54	-0.026
	Entertainment	1.09	0.632	1.91	0.008
	Goods For Personal Care	0.20	0.474	0.26	0.001
	Toilet Articles	2.61	0.289	2.09	-0.005
	Sundry Articles	2.25	0.294	1.83	-0.004
	Consumer Services Excluding Conveyance	4.96	0.556	7.65	0.027
	Conveyance	4.74	0.605	7.95	0.032
	Rent	2.45	0.773	5.26	0.028
	Consumer Taxes and Cesses	0.43	0.598	0.71	0.003
	Clothing	4.24	0.519	6.10	0.019
	Footwear	0.71	0.492	0.97	0.003
	Education	3.51	0.603	5.86	0.024

	Health	5.94	0.546	9.00	0.031
	Durable Goods	3.61	0.843	8.44	0.048
2009-10	**Cereal**	12.49	0.097	3.23	-0.093
	Pulses & Products	3.28	0.193	1.68	-0.016
	Milk & Milk Products	7.98	0.376	7.99	0.000
	Edible Oil	3.11	0.164	1.36	-0.018
	Meat, Egg & Fish	3.03	0.287	2.32	-0.007
	Vegetables	5.19	0.170	2.35	-0.028
	Fruits (Fresh)	1.38	0.478	1.75	0.004
	Fruits (Dry)	0.37	0.478	0.47	0.001
	Sugar	1.99	0.201	1.06	-0.009
	Salt	0.18	0.100	0.05	-0.001
	Spices	1.80	0.160	0.77	-0.010
	Beverages, Refreshments and Processed Food	5.69	0.392	5.94	0.003
	Tobacco	1.24	0.163	0.54	-0.007
	Intoxicants	0.64	0.305	0.52	-0.001
	Fuel & Light	8.80	0.226	5.30	-0.035
	Entertainment	1.30	0.529	1.84	0.005
	Goods For Personal Care	0.27	0.438	0.32	0.001
	Toilet Articles	2.59	0.294	2.02	-0.006
	Sundry Articles	2.20	0.297	1.74	-0.005
	Consumer Services Excluding Conveyance	6.01	0.495	7.93	0.019
	Conveyance	5.26	0.579	8.12	0.029
	Rent	3.18	0.793	6.71	0.035
	Consumer Taxes and Cesses	0.54	0.579	0.83	0.003
	Clothing	5.01	0.479	6.39	0.014
	Footwear	1.01	0.456	1.23	0.002
	Education	4.00	0.614	6.53	0.025

	Health	5.67	0.547	8.26	0.026
	Durable Goods	5.81	0.825	12.75	0.070
2011-12	**Cereal**	10.11	0.097	2.61	-0.075
	Pulses & Products	2.88	0.161	1.24	-0.016
	Milk & Milk Products	8.47	0.355	8.02	-0.005
	Edible Oil	3.32	0.152	1.35	-0.020
	Meat, Egg & Fish	3.21	0.275	2.40	-0.008
	Vegetables	4.23	0.152	1.70	-0.025
	Fruits (Fresh)	1.62	0.449	1.95	0.003
	Fruits (Dry)	0.50	0.485	0.66	0.002
	Sugar	1.58	0.182	0.77	-0.008
	Salt	0.16	0.090	0.04	-0.001
	Spices	1.97	0.177	0.93	-0.010
	Beverages, Refreshments and Processed Food	6.34	0.384	6.46	0.001
	Tobacco	1.24	0.167	0.56	-0.007
	Intoxicants	0.71	0.326	0.62	-0.001
	Fuel & Light	8.56	0.206	4.64	-0.039
	Entertainment	1.40	0.491	1.84	0.004
	Goods For Personal Care	0.34	0.425	0.39	0.000
	Toilet Articles	2.39	0.286	1.82	-0.006
	Sundry Articles	2.14	0.305	1.74	-0.004
	Consumer Services Excluding Conveyance	5.27	0.469	6.51	0.012
	Conveyance	5.82	0.564	8.77	0.030
	Rent	3.21	0.786	6.78	0.036
	Consumer Taxes and Cesses	0.54	0.571	0.81	0.003
	Clothing	5.90	0.435	6.88	0.010
	Footwear	1.25	0.410	1.37	0.001
	Education	4.11	0.609	6.69	0.026

	Health	6.41	0.517	8.94	0.025
	Durable Goods	6.33	0.796	13.53	0.072
2022-23	**Cereal**	3.94	0.083	1.05	-0.029
	Pulses & Products	1.28	0.112	0.46	-0.008
	Milk & Milk Products	4.93	0.254	4.04	-0.009
	Edible Oil	2.38	0.052	0.40	-0.020
	Meat, Egg & Fish	5.22	0.174	2.94	-0.023
	Vegetables	3.58	0.110	1.27	-0.023
	Fruits (Fresh)	2.47	0.257	2.05	-0.004
	Fruits (Dry)	1.51	0.190	0.92	-0.006
	Sugar	0.44	0.089	0.13	-0.003
	Salt	0.07	0.078	0.02	-0.001
	Spices	1.95	0.155	0.97	-0.010
	Beverages, Refreshments and Processed Food	9.96	0.312	10.01	0.000
	Tobacco	2.06	0.161	1.07	-0.010
	Intoxicants	4.28	0.310	4.27	0.000
	Fuel & Light	4.84	0.235	3.66	-0.012
	Entertainment	1.56	0.362	1.82	0.003
	Goods For Personal Care	0.17	0.339	0.18	0.000
	Toilet Articles	2.49	0.295	2.37	-0.001
	Sundry Articles	1.91	0.325	2.00	0.001
	Consumer Services Excluding Conveyance	5.03	0.349	5.66	0.006
	Conveyance	8.25	0.417	11.09	0.028
	Rent	8.50	0.585	16.02	0.075
	Consumer Taxes and Cesses	0.24	0.413	0.32	0.001
	Clothing	4.33	0.222	3.10	-0.012
	Footwear	0.69	0.238	0.53	-0.002
	Education	5.74	0.491	9.09	0.034

	Health	4.52	0.332	4.84	0.003
	Durable Goods	7.66	0.394	9.72	0.021

Source: Author's calculation at 2011-12 prices.

Note: '' implies data is not available.*

Table 3b. Decomposition of Gini by Source of Expenditure, Rural

	Commodity	Share of Consumption	Concentration Coefficient	Percentage Contribution	Elasticity
1983-84	**Cereal**	30.55	0.140	13.26	-0.173
	Pulses & Products	3.36	0.260	2.70	-0.007
	Milk & Milk Products	7.01	0.465	10.08	0.031
	Edible Oil	3.28	0.252	2.55	-0.007
	Meat, Egg & Fish	2.78	0.369	3.17	0.004
	Vegetables	4.44	0.231	3.17	-0.013
	Fruits (Fresh)	1.07	0.476	1.57	0.005
	Fruits (Dry)	0.22	0.457	0.31	0.001
	Sugar	2.66	0.354	2.91	0.003
	Salt	0.16	0.092	0.05	-0.001
	Spices	2.22	0.219	1.50	-0.007
	Beverages, Refreshments and Processed Food	3.08	0.416	3.97	0.009
	Tobacco	2.19	0.241	1.63	-0.006
	Intoxicants	0.72	0.369	0.83	0.001
	Fuel & Light	10.18	0.202	6.37	-0.038
	Entertainment	0.38	0.509	0.61	0.002
	Goods For Personal Care	0.31	0.799	0.76	0.005
	Toilet Articles	1.43	0.327	1.45	0.000
	Sundry Articles	1.34	0.309	1.29	-0.001
	Consumer Services Excluding Conveyance	1.34	0.323	1.34	0.000
	Conveyance	2.21	0.507	3.46	0.013

	Rent	0.18	0.650	0.35	0.002
	Consumer Taxes and Cesses	0.05	0.542	0.08	0.000
	Clothing	7.33	0.589	13.35	0.060
	Footwear	0.99	0.573	1.76	0.008
	Education	1.82	0.621	3.49	0.017
	Health	4.57	0.497	7.03	0.025
	Durable Goods	4.15	0.853	10.95	0.068
1987-88	**Cereal**	27.69	0.108	10.54	-0.172
	Pulses & Products	4.15	0.213	3.11	-0.010
	Milk & Milk Products	8.98	0.465	14.74	0.058
	Edible Oil	5.17	0.261	4.75	-0.004
	Meat, Egg & Fish	3.39	0.342	4.09	0.007
	Vegetables	5.42	0.205	3.92	-0.015
	Fruits (Fresh)	1.42	0.452	2.27	0.009
	Fruits (Dry)	0.27	0.436	0.41	0.001
	Sugar	2.98	0.322	3.38	0.004
	Salt	0.18	0.086	0.05	-0.001
	Spices	2.80	0.193	1.91	-0.009
	Beverages, Refreshments and Processed Food	4.03	0.392	5.58	0.016
	Tobacco	1.56	0.179	0.99	-0.006
	Intoxicants	0.72	0.328	0.83	0.001
	Fuel & Light	10.53	0.175	6.52	-0.040
	Entertainment	0.36	0.463	0.59	0.002
	Goods For Personal Care	0.13	0.474	0.22	0.001
	Toilet Articles	1.64	0.270	1.57	-0.001
	Sundry Articles	1.42	0.263	1.32	-0.001
	Consumer Services Excluding Conveyance	1.90	0.399	2.68	0.008

	Conveyance	1.69	0.483	2.89	0.012
	Rent	0.21	0.686	0.50	0.003
	Consumer Taxes and Cesses	*	*	*	*
	Clothing	4.99	0.564	9.92	0.049
	Footwear	0.75	0.546	1.45	0.007
	Education	1.23	0.504	2.19	0.010
	Health	3.72	0.479	6.29	0.026
	Durable Goods	2.67	0.770	7.27	0.046
1993-94	**Cereal**	10.47	0.085	8.12	-0.023
	Pulses & Products	2.44	0.183	1.81	-0.006
	Milk & Milk Products	9.30	0.432	8.94	-0.004
	Edible Oil	3.05	0.209	1.60	-0.015
	Meat, Egg & Fish	2.85	0.303	-0.55	-0.034
	Vegetables	4.33	0.177	4.02	-0.003
	Fruits (Fresh)	2.44	0.443	1.20	-0.012
	Fruits (Dry)	0.61	0.414	0.68	0.001
	Sugar	1.68	0.282	0.57	-0.011
	Salt	0.12	0.083	0.09	0.000
	Spices	1.72	0.170	1.06	-0.007
	Beverages, Refreshments and Processed Food	10.52	0.357	11.50	0.010
	Tobacco	1.03	0.189	0.53	-0.005
	Intoxicants	0.27	0.328	0.19	-0.001
	Fuel & Light	6.73	0.190	5.35	-0.014
	Entertainment	1.45	0.411	1.38	-0.001
	Goods For Personal Care	0.83	0.437	1.21	0.004
	Toilet Articles	2.67	0.299	2.07	-0.006
	Sundry Articles	3.21	0.254	3.11	-0.001
	Consumer Services Excluding Conveyance	3.67	0.386	4.81	0.011

	Conveyance	5.83	0.513	8.13	0.023
	Rent	3.12	0.702	3.20	0.001
	Consumer Taxes and Cesses	0.80	0.404	0.72	-0.001
	Clothing	7.58	0.609	10.14	0.026
	Footwear	0.90	0.567	0.63	-0.003
	Education	4.70	0.490	3.88	-0.008
	Health	2.08	0.471	0.08	-0.020
	Durable Goods	5.59	0.753	15.54	0.100
2004-05	**Cereal**	18.65	0.082	5.06	-0.136
	Pulses & Products	3.31	0.171	1.87	-0.014
	Milk & Milk Products	8.73	0.401	11.57	0.028
	Edible Oil	4.75	0.173	2.72	-0.020
	Meat, Egg & Fish	3.43	0.314	3.57	0.001
	Vegetables	6.69	0.158	3.48	-0.032
	Fruits (Fresh)	1.56	0.430	2.21	0.007
	Fruits (Dry)	0.37	0.432	0.52	0.002
	Sugar	2.45	0.233	1.89	-0.006
	Salt	0.21	0.120	0.08	-0.001
	Spices	1.96	0.158	1.03	-0.009
	Beverages, Refreshments and Processed Food	4.69	0.359	5.56	0.009
	Tobacco	1.84	0.199	1.21	-0.006
	Intoxicants	0.79	0.313	0.82	0.000
	Fuel & Light	9.20	0.191	5.81	-0.034
	Entertainment	0.61	0.544	1.09	0.005
	Goods For Personal Care	0.20	0.435	0.29	0.001
	Toilet Articles	2.62	0.228	1.97	-0.007
	Sundry Articles	2.28	0.237	1.78	-0.005
	Consumer Services Excluding Conveyance	3.71	0.404	4.95	0.013

	Conveyance	3.68	0.525	6.38	0.027
	Rent	0.48	0.746	1.19	0.007
	Consumer Taxes and Cesses	0.20	0.453	0.29	0.001
	Clothing	4.43	0.518	7.59	0.032
	Footwear	0.74	0.492	1.21	0.005
	Education	2.61	0.522	4.50	0.019
	Health	6.47	0.563	12.03	0.056
	Durable Goods	3.36	0.839	9.33	0.060
2009-10	**Cereal**	15.21	0.090	4.50	-0.107
	Pulses & Products	3.73	0.172	2.11	-0.016
	Milk & Milk Products	8.36	0.372	10.22	0.019
	Edible Oil	3.56	0.140	1.64	-0.019
	Meat, Egg & Fish	3.37	0.282	3.12	-0.003
	Vegetables	5.97	0.142	2.78	-0.032
	Fruits (Fresh)	1.23	0.415	1.67	0.005
	Fruits (Dry)	0.33	0.403	0.43	0.001
	Sugar	2.36	0.218	1.69	-0.007
	Salt	0.21	0.093	0.07	-0.002
	Spices	2.12	0.155	1.08	-0.010
	Beverages, Refreshments and Processed Food	5.43	0.286	5.11	-0.003
	Tobacco	1.56	0.192	0.98	-0.006
	Intoxicants	0.77	0.319	0.81	0.000
	Fuel & Light	9.45	0.170	5.29	-0.042
	Entertainment	0.92	0.450	1.37	0.004
	Goods For Personal Care	0.29	0.385	0.36	0.001
	Toilet Articles	2.61	0.223	1.91	-0.007
	Sundry Articles	2.29	0.244	1.84	-0.005
	Consumer Services Excluding Conveyance	5.02	0.374	6.17	0.012

	Conveyance	4.24	0.505	7.03	0.028
	Rent	0.54	0.773	1.37	0.008
	Consumer Taxes and Cesses	0.26	0.406	0.34	0.001
	Clothing	5.14	0.448	7.56	0.024
	Footwear	1.04	0.429	1.47	0.004
	Education	2.99	0.539	5.30	0.023
	Health	6.01	0.541	10.68	0.047
	Durable Goods	5.01	0.795	13.10	0.081
2011-12	**Cereal**	12.06	0.087	3.29	-0.088
	Pulses & Products	3.30	0.148	1.58	-0.017
	Milk & Milk Products	9.07	0.358	10.48	0.014
	Edible Oil	3.79	0.134	1.63	-0.022
	Meat, Egg & Fish	3.50	0.270	3.05	-0.005
	Vegetables	4.85	0.124	1.91	-0.029
	Fruits (Fresh)	1.51	0.411	2.00	0.005
	Fruits (Dry)	0.44	0.430	0.62	0.002
	Sugar	1.88	0.201	1.23	-0.007
	Salt	0.19	0.087	0.05	-0.001
	Spices	2.27	0.174	1.27	-0.010
	Beverages, Refreshments and Processed Food	5.85	0.259	4.86	-0.010
	Tobacco	1.52	0.193	0.95	-0.006
	Intoxicants	0.82	0.333	0.88	0.001
	Fuel & Light	9.27	0.154	4.54	-0.047
	Entertainment	1.10	0.425	1.50	0.004
	Goods For Personal Care	0.33	0.335	0.36	0.000
	Toilet Articles	2.40	0.220	1.69	-0.007
	Sundry Articles	2.21	0.260	1.85	-0.004
	Consumer Services Excluding Conveyance	4.49	0.333	4.79	0.003

	Conveyance	4.68	0.487	7.32	0.026
	Rent	0.47	0.752	1.14	0.007
	Consumer Taxes and Cesses	0.28	0.424	0.38	0.001
	Clothing	6.27	0.417	8.39	0.021
	Footwear	1.28	0.380	1.53	0.003
	Education	3.05	0.533	5.22	0.022
	Health	6.97	0.523	11.80	0.048
	Durable Goods	6.15	0.793	15.69	0.095
2022-23	**Cereal**	5.02	0.015	0.32	-0.047
	Pulses & Products	1.61	0.084	0.57	-0.010
	Milk & Milk Products	5.38	0.223	5.04	-0.003
	Edible Oil	3.29	0.047	0.65	-0.026
	Meat, Egg & Fish	6.31	0.122	3.22	-0.031
	Vegetables	4.62	0.085	1.65	-0.030
	Fruits (Fresh)	2.62	0.193	2.12	-0.005
	Fruits (Dry)	1.72	0.077	0.56	-0.012
	Sugar	0.57	0.080	0.19	-0.004
	Salt	0.10	0.087	0.04	-0.001
	Spices	2.45	0.162	1.67	-0.008
	Beverages, Refreshments and Processed Food	10.22	0.250	10.72	0.005
	Tobacco	2.72	0.186	2.12	-0.006
	Intoxicants	4.58	0.313	6.01	0.014
	Fuel & Light	5.11	0.218	4.68	-0.004
	Entertainment	1.46	0.321	1.97	0.005
	Goods For Personal Care	0.18	0.392	0.30	0.001
	Toilet Articles	2.50	0.246	2.59	0.001
	Sundry Articles	1.81	0.307	2.33	0.005

	Consumer Services Excluding Conveyance	4.81	0.301	6.08	0.013
	Conveyance	7.63	0.414	13.26	0.056
	Rent	2.85	0.426	5.10	0.023
	Consumer Taxes and Cesses	0.18	0.332	0.25	0.001
	Clothing	4.84	0.201	4.09	-0.008
	Footwear	0.73	0.200	0.62	-0.001
	Education	3.94	0.367	6.07	0.021
	Health	4.97	0.314	6.54	0.016
	Durable Goods	7.80	0.343	11.24	0.034

Source: Author's calculation at 2011-12 prices.

Note: '' implies data is not available.*

Table 3c. Decomposition of Gini by Source of Expenditure, Urban

Commodity		**Share of Consumption**	**Concentration Coefficient**	**Percentage Contribution**	**Elasticity**
1983-84	**Cereal**	17.79	0.269	9.90	-0.079
	Pulses & Products	2.91	0.361	2.17	-0.007
	Milk & Milk Products	8.53	0.516	9.09	0.006
	Edible Oil	3.53	0.386	2.81	-0.007
	Meat, Egg & Fish	3.45	0.464	3.31	-0.001
	Vegetables	4.58	0.397	3.76	-0.008
	Fruits (Fresh)	1.68	0.578	2.00	0.003
	Fruits (Dry)	0.35	0.596	0.43	0.001
	Sugar	2.21	0.382	1.74	-0.005
	Salt	0.11	0.294	0.06	0.000
	Spices	1.87	0.347	1.34	-0.005
	Beverages, Refreshments and Processed Food	6.47	0.552	7.37	0.009
	Tobacco	1.88	0.411	1.59	-0.003
	Intoxicants	0.48	0.482	0.48	0.000

	Fuel & Light	9.63	0.379	7.53	-0.021
	Entertainment	1.17	0.560	1.35	0.002
	Goods For Personal Care	0.30	0.808	0.50	0.002
	Toilet Articles	2.10	0.458	1.99	-0.001
	Sundry Articles	1.68	0.445	1.54	-0.001
	Consumer Services Excluding Conveyance	2.06	0.585	2.48	0.004
	Conveyance	3.09	0.635	4.06	0.010
	Rent	3.68	0.617	4.69	0.010
	Consumer Taxes and Cesses	0.29	0.704	0.43	0.001
	Clothing	6.47	0.697	9.31	0.028
	Footwear	1.18	0.657	1.60	0.004
	Education	4.87	0.689	6.93	0.021
	Health	3.54	0.563	4.12	0.006
	Durable Goods	4.10	0.876	7.41	0.033
1987-88	**Cereal**	16.16	0.080	3.86	-0.123
	Pulses & Products	3.57	0.194	2.06	-0.015
	Milk & Milk Products	9.96	0.393	11.66	0.017
	Edible Oil	5.61	0.258	4.32	-0.013
	Meat, Egg & Fish	3.78	0.313	3.53	-0.003
	Vegetables	5.53	0.251	4.15	-0.014
	Fruits (Fresh)	2.22	0.466	3.09	0.009
	Fruits (Dry)	0.43	0.482	0.62	0.002
	Sugar	2.48	0.220	1.63	-0.009
	Salt	0.13	0.152	0.06	-0.001
	Spices	2.33	0.174	1.21	-0.011
	Beverages, Refreshments and Processed Food	7.14	0.439	9.35	0.022
	Tobacco	1.20	0.239	0.85	-0.004
	Intoxicants	0.53	0.328	0.52	0.000

	Fuel & Light	9.64	0.216	6.20	-0.034
	Entertainment	0.86	0.438	1.13	0.003
	Goods For Personal Care	0.11	0.486	0.16	0.001
	Toilet Articles	2.23	0.303	2.02	-0.002
	Sundry Articles	1.59	0.278	1.32	-0.003
	Consumer Services Excluding Conveyance	2.64	0.557	4.39	0.018
	Conveyance	3.06	0.561	5.11	0.021
	Rent	3.59	0.530	5.68	0.021
	Consumer Taxes and Cesses	*	*	*	*
	Clothing	4.87	0.581	8.44	0.036
	Footwear	0.93	0.539	1.50	0.006
	Education	3.04	0.539	4.88	0.018
	Health	2.83	0.413	3.49	0.007
	Durable Goods	3.55	0.830	8.79	0.052
1993-94	**Cereal**	8.19	0.070	1.31	-0.069
	Pulses & Products	2.18	0.168	0.70	-0.015
	Milk & Milk Products	9.54	0.366	8.35	-0.012
	Edible Oil	3.74	0.216	1.81	-0.019
	Meat, Egg & Fish	2.55	0.277	1.67	-0.009
	Vegetables	4.73	0.227	2.70	-0.020
	Fruits (Fresh)	2.52	0.439	2.53	0.000
	Fruits (Dry)	0.75	0.491	0.88	0.001
	Sugar	1.72	0.178	0.56	-0.012
	Salt	0.10	0.135	0.04	-0.001
	Spices	1.28	0.150	0.48	-0.008
	Beverages, Refreshments and Processed Food	5.85	0.426	6.19	0.003
	Tobacco	1.15	0.207	0.87	-0.003
	Intoxicants	0.56	0.341	0.98	0.004

	Fuel & Light	6.21	0.218	3.62	-0.026
	Entertainment	1.58	0.455	1.67	0.001
	Goods For Personal Care	1.26	0.542	1.21	-0.001
	Toilet Articles	2.62	0.285	2.02	-0.006
	Sundry Articles	2.10	0.280	1.41	-0.007
	Consumer Services Excluding Conveyance	4.39	0.527	6.14	0.018
	Conveyance	7.07	0.578	9.24	0.022
	Rent	10.18	0.511	14.15	0.040
	Consumer Taxes and Cesses	0.64	0.490	0.73	0.001
	Clothing	4.22	0.598	6.23	0.020
	Footwear	1.12	0.544	1.75	0.006
	Education	5.85	0.569	8.07	0.022
	Health	3.34	0.452	4.36	0.010
	Durable Goods	4.55	0.805	10.32	0.058
2004-05	**Cereal**	10.49	0.082	2.30	-0.082
	Pulses & Products	2.33	0.154	0.96	-0.014
	Milk & Milk Products	8.22	0.337	7.40	-0.008
	Edible Oil	3.59	0.178	1.71	-0.019
	Meat, Egg & Fish	2.81	0.246	1.85	-0.010
	Vegetables	4.93	0.186	2.44	-0.025
	Fruits (Fresh)	1.84	0.414	2.03	0.002
	Fruits (Dry)	0.50	0.460	0.61	0.001
	Sugar	1.57	0.140	0.59	-0.010
	Salt	0.14	0.115	0.04	-0.001
	Spices	1.30	0.140	0.48	-0.008
	Beverages, Refreshments and Processed Food	6.44	0.432	7.44	0.010
	Tobacco	1.07	0.154	0.44	-0.006
	Intoxicants	0.53	0.289	0.41	-0.001

	Fuel & Light	9.05	0.256	6.20	-0.029
	Entertainment	1.85	0.469	2.32	0.005
	Goods For Personal Care	0.20	0.507	0.27	0.001
	Toilet Articles	2.60	0.281	1.95	-0.007
	Sundry Articles	2.20	0.296	1.74	-0.005
	Consumer Services Excluding Conveyance	6.94	0.577	10.71	0.038
	Conveyance	6.42	0.567	9.73	0.033
	Rent	5.56	0.558	8.29	0.027
	Consumer Taxes and Cesses	0.80	0.419	0.89	0.001
	Clothing	3.94	0.512	5.39	0.015
	Footwear	0.67	0.462	0.83	0.002
	Education	4.93	0.541	7.12	0.022
	Health	5.11	0.501	6.84	0.017
	Durable Goods	4.00	0.841	9.00	0.050
2009-10	**Cereal**	8.72	0.104	2.27	-0.065
	Pulses & Products	2.67	0.169	1.13	-0.015
	Milk & Milk Products	7.44	0.308	5.74	-0.017
	Edible Oil	2.47	0.154	0.95	-0.015
	Meat, Egg & Fish	2.58	0.233	1.51	-0.011
	Vegetables	4.11	0.178	1.84	-0.023
	Fruits (Fresh)	1.58	0.431	1.71	0.001
	Fruits (Dry)	0.42	0.459	0.48	0.001
	Sugar	1.48	0.138	0.51	-0.010
	Salt	0.13	0.092	0.03	-0.001
	Spices	1.35	0.138	0.47	-0.009
	Beverages, Refreshments and Processed Food	6.06	0.439	6.66	0.006
	Tobacco	0.81	0.142	0.29	-0.005
	Intoxicants	0.46	0.319	0.37	-0.001

	Fuel & Light	7.58	0.221	4.22	-0.034
	Entertainment	1.82	0.403	1.88	0.001
	Goods For Personal Care	0.35	0.503	0.45	0.001
	Toilet Articles	2.37	0.280	1.70	-0.007
	Sundry Articles	2.05	0.290	1.52	-0.005
	Consumer Services Excluding Conveyance	6.35	0.511	8.18	0.018
	Conveyance	7.40	0.531	10.06	0.027
	Rent	6.98	0.601	10.82	0.038
	Consumer Taxes and Cesses	0.89	0.441	0.97	0.001
	Clothing	5.38	0.453	6.30	0.009
	Footwear	1.21	0.414	1.29	0.001
	Education	5.57	0.550	7.86	0.023
	Health	5.64	0.493	7.16	0.015
	Durable Goods	6.59	0.789	13.34	0.068
2022-23	**Cereal**	3.15	0.128	1.44	-0.017
	Pulses & Products	1.04	0.116	0.43	-0.006
	Milk & Milk Products	4.60	0.210	3.44	-0.012
	Edible Oil	1.72	0.101	0.62	-0.011
	Meat, Egg & Fish	4.43	0.202	3.19	-0.012
	Vegetables	2.83	0.127	1.28	-0.016
	Fruits (Fresh)	2.37	0.231	1.95	-0.004
	Fruits (Dry)	1.35	0.231	1.11	-0.002
	Sugar	0.34	0.101	0.12	-0.002
	Salt	0.06	0.064	0.01	0.000
	Spices	1.58	0.134	0.75	-0.008
	Beverages, Refreshments and Processed Food	9.78	0.294	10.23	0.004
	Tobacco	1.58	0.163	0.91	-0.007

Intoxicants	4.06	0.243	3.51	-0.006
Fuel & Light	4.65	0.157	2.61	-0.021
Entertainment	1.64	0.296	1.73	0.001
Goods For Personal Care	0.16	0.250	0.14	0.000
Toilet Articles	2.48	0.238	2.10	-0.004
Sundry Articles	1.98	0.227	1.60	-0.004
Consumer Services Excluding Conveyance	5.18	0.298	5.49	0.003
Conveyance	8.70	0.345	10.68	0.020
Rent	12.59	0.400	17.92	0.053
Consumer Taxes and Cesses	0.28	0.296	0.29	0.000
Clothing	3.96	0.180	2.54	-0.014
Footwear	0.66	0.178	0.42	-0.002
Education	7.05	0.393	9.87	0.028
Health	4.19	0.341	5.10	0.009
Durable Goods	7.56	0.391	10.52	0.030

Source: Author's calculation at 2011-12 prices.

Note: '' implies data is not available.*