



Institute for Social and Economic Change

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Golden Jubilee Lecture Series

On the Design of Anti-Poverty Policies

by

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Abstract

We will discuss two classes of transfer schemes for the poor, namely, asset transfer and income or consumption support policies. We will discuss their relative pros and cons in the light of recent research in terms of their ability to permanently push the poor out of poverty. We will argue that the design of transfer policies for the poor depends on our view about what causes poverty and whether it is a transitory state or a persistent state, as well as our policy objective of providing immediate subsistence relief versus helping the poor embark on a self-sustaining path out of poverty. We will also discuss whether a limited version of a universal basic income scheme is feasible or desirable in the context of India.