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THE TIMES OF INDIA

31% Muslims live below poverty line: NCAER survey

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NEW DELHI: Nearly one third of Muslims in the nation survive on less than Rs 550 a month, economic ongoing debate on reservations in jobs and educational institutions for those belonging to the comm

A survey by the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER) said that three out of every 10 Muslims and lived on less than Rs 550 a month in the year 2004-05.

Even among the poor, urban Muslims were better off compared to those in villages, who survived on under review, NCAER said last week.

The survey comes around the time when Supreme Court, in an interim order, has upheld the validity reservation provided to backward members of Muslim community in Andhra Pradesh.

Also, the report of Ranganath Mishra Commission, which has suggested reservation for Muslims and scheduled caste status for dalits who adopted Islam and Christianity, is awaiting action by the govern

"The Adivasis are the most vulnerable group with nearly 50% below the poverty line...(followed by) tribal rates of 32% and 31%," said the Indian Human Development survey conducted by the NCAER and U

The survey took the poverty line at Rs 356 per person per month in rural areas and at Rs 538 in urban survey said Muslims are at the bottom in terms of rural household income.

However, in the country, Muslim households are slightly better off than dalits and adivasis as a whole

"Adivasi and dalit households have the lowest annual income at Rs 20,000 and Rs 22,800, respectively Muslim households are slightly better off, with incomes of Rs 26,091 and Rs 28,500," the report said

As per the 2001 census, there were 13.8 crore Muslims, accounting for 13.4 per cent of the total population

The survey said Muslims are most likely to generate income from small family businesses, partly because of the community. It said social group differences in enrolment are striking.

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