

## Preface

The recent past has seen enormous interest and developments in multidimensional poverty measurement. Capitalizing on these recent developments, this book proposes an innovative and comprehensive operational framework and applies it in specific contexts. The successful application of the framework to measure and examine poverty in Nepal and the United States, two very different contexts, provides an impetus for a more general discussion with its universal applicability. The aim of the book is to provide a theoretical and operational framework to accurately measure poverty so that the poverty measurement enterprise can improve from the deeply flawed, traditional attempts with purely economic measures to more ‘humane’ and ‘policy conscious’ attempts with utilization of comprehensive information. I expect the concepts and applications included in this book to be useful to researchers as well as makers of public policies relating to poverty and redistribution.

I have greatly profited from many people and organizations in transforming an abstract idea into this final product. I would like to express my gratitude to Randy Albelda, Alan Clayton-Matthews, Maria E. Letona, Arthur Goldsmith, and Miren Uriarte, who provided critical support of the framework and its application during its formative stage. I must also acknowledge the valuable contributions emanating from formal and informal discussions with my colleagues including Caroline Coscia, Jen Douglas, Barbara Liggett, Robert McConnell, Matthew Mingus, Robert Peters, Victoria Ross, and James Visser. I have taught at many universities/colleges at the time in which this book project was in progress. I am particularly thankful to the direct and indirect research supports I have received from Marist College, University of Massachusetts, Boston, and Western Michigan University.

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Data for the application of the multidimensional approach in the United States came from the General Social Survey. I am grateful to the National Opinion Research Center for providing these data through widely accessible open sources.

Parts of the content in this book have appeared in various journals. I am particularly appreciative of the opportunity provided by the editors of the *Journal of Human development* and *Social Science Research* which helped push the ideas forward and obtain meaningful feedback. I must also acknowledge the highly positive experience I have had while working with the editor at Springer, who quite impressively streamlined all my editorial and publishing concerns. This book has also benefited greatly from the insightful comments received from the three anonymous referees assigned by the editor.

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