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Title: Consumption, Welfare, and Inclusive Growth: Evidence from India's National Sample Surveys

The concept of inclusiveness has emerged as a central goal in the pursuit of equitable growth in recent times. With the poverty alleviating and inequality diminishing roles of economic growth being frequently debated, inclusive growth has been highlighted as growth marked with a concern for distributional outcomes. We construct two metrics to assess inclusive growth for an inequality-averse society. We define inclusivity under different inequality aversions using the canonical `equally distributed equivalent consumption (EDEC)'. The first metric simply estimates the distributive efficiency i.e. the ratio of EDEC and mean consumption expenditure. The second metric, inclusivity index, measures the elasticity of the gap between normative inclusivity (EDEC) and actual growth in consumption expenditure. These metrics are necessary but not sufficient condition for inclusive growth and can easily be adapted for a society's inequality aversion. These metrics also circumvent the problems of poverty line. We assess consumption expenditure in India from 1983 to 2012 using these two metrics and find limited evidence of inclusive growth.