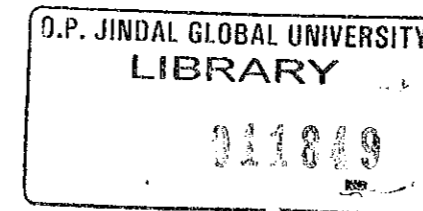


# India Public Policy Report 2014

tackling poverty, hunger and malnutrition

RAJEEV  
MALHOTRA



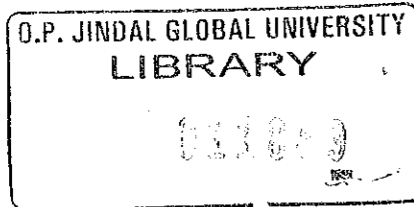
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# Foreword

The Jindal School of Government and Public Policy (JSGP) of O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) was established with the objective of creating India's first public policy school devoted to interdisciplinary study of public policy in all its aspects. The vision of JGU is to promote world-class education in India by establishing and building international standards in higher education. The university is committed to pluralism of ideas and has developed into a multidisciplinary institution of higher learning with five schools teaching law, business, international affairs, public policy, and liberal arts and humanities. These schools have a symbiotic relationship with each other that informs the teaching, research and institution-building at JGU.

The heart of the taught masters degree programme on public policy at JSGP is the amalgamation of qualitative and quantitative methods for preparing public policy professionals; study of economics, sociology and anthropology, which is critical to the understanding of economic, social and cultural development; and appreciation of the importance of law, ethics and governance, which are relevant for ensuring the transparency and accountability of institutions that are responsible for public policymaking. JSGP also conducts a range of training programmes on public policy and capacity building initiatives for civil servants and, in particular, for IAS officers, and other officials from the Government of India as well as the state governments.

JSGP's vision is to become a leading institution that contributes to a rigorous understanding of policymaking and its implementation in all aspects. Unfortunately, policymaking in India suffers from a lack of adequate attention to evidence in the policy formulation process. The expertise that is currently available within the government and the limited opportunities of requisitioning expertise from outside the government has resulted in a rather indifferent and, at times, a cavalier approach to policymaking. Public policy affects and impacts the lives of millions of Indians. There is so much good that a sound policy can achieve, just as there is substantial harm that a bad policy can cause. Policymaking is a serious exercise and cannot be left with people who may not fully appreciate the need for developing expertise and rigour in the process. There is also a lack of public participation in the policymaking process in the form of public debates that discuss issues in a threadbare manner with informed knowledge and understanding.

It is in this context that JSGP has embarked on an ambitious journey to develop an independent platform for free thinking and analysis of the factors that are influencing policymaking in India and examining policy effectiveness. This exercise has never been undertaken in India, or elsewhere, in the form and substance by which it is being done through this initiative. Indian universities are rarely engaged in intellectually rigorous, empirically grounded and methodologically sound analysis of public policy. The space that the JSGP has sought to occupy through this effort is a critically important space, where independent analysis of policymaking and its outcomes will provide valuable guidance to the policymakers