



RESEARCH ARTICLE

GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR IN INDIA: CONCERN AMONG GEN Z INDIVIDUALS

*Amrit Lal Ghosh

Assam University, India

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*Corresponding author:

Amrit Lal Ghosh

ABSTRACT

In this liberalise era the gap between the rich and the poor is widening, posing a threat for the social imbalance. Gen Z individuals are fully aware about the same and at the same time they are concern for the issue. Their concern and suggestions are summarized and analysed to draw the attention of the decision makers so that immediate steps may be taken to bridge the gap between the rich and the poor. If the gap is reduced now then probably the future social chaos and unrest can be avoided. The suggestions put forwarded by the Gen Z individuals are practical and feasible, hence the same must not be ignored.

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INTRODUCTION

Information and statistics from different sources show that the gap between the rich and the poor in India is alarming year after year. For instance, of course, some contrasting information are available in different sources over net world and also in the government sources, one source of information shows that over 57% of the national income of India is controlled by the top 10% rich people of the country and the bottom 10% people are having only 6.4% of share. Another report, citing Press Information Bureau (PIB) of India stated that Gini Coefficient of India has improved from 0.472 in 2014–15 to 0.402 in 2022–23 indicating that the income inequality in India has reduced over the period. At the same time NITI Aayog in its *National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023*, reported that Multidimensional Poverty Index of India has improved and the poverty condition on India has improved significantly and 135 million people have come out of poverty over the period between 2015-16 and 2019-21 (NITI, 2023).

Gini coefficient/index of India has decreased to 25.5 in 2022-23, from 28.8% in 2011-12, indicating the gap between the rich and the poor in the country (PIB, July 2025) has reduced over the period of time. The same press release by PIB reported that 171 million people of India moved out of abject poverty between 2011–23. At the same time one report of World Bank stated that top 1% people of India is in the control of over 40% wealth of the country. Total number of billionaires in India is peaking at 271, with 94 new billionaires added in 2023 alone. (Rajvanshi, 2024). This increase in the billionaires in the country is a welcome thing, but these must keep pace with the increase of income for the bottom 50% people of the country.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Objective of the Study: The objective of the study is to explore the concern of the Gen Z individuals about the gap between rich and poor and the socio-economic consequences there on. Aiming also to explore the probable measures in the eyes of the Gen Z individuals to reduce the gap between the rich and poor.

Research Questions: Keeping the broad objectives in view the following research questions are framed for the study:

- Whether the Gen Zs are aware about the economic divide in India?
- Whether Gen Z individuals are concern about the problem of the gap between rich and poor of India?
- How Gen Zs aspire to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor in India?

Data collection: Data and information for the purpose of the study are collected from different published sources and through 'questionnaire'. 'GoogleForm' is circulated by mail and WhatsApp. Questionnaire is circulated among different students' groups of PG/UG level, what app groups, social groups, Email groups, and the willing respondents responded. Therefore, a mixed method is used for data collection which comprises convenience, purposive, and random data collection method. It is convenience because, the questionnaire is sent to those groups which are available to the researcher. It is sent to those groups in which Gen Z individuals are involved; therefore, it is purpose. And any individual in the group may respond, so randomness is there.

Table: 1: Question* Wise Summary of Responses (in %)

Responses	Q1 in %	Q2 in %	Q3 in %	Q4 in %	Q5 in %	Q6 in %	Q7 in %
Strongly Disagree	2%	1.8%	2.7%	9.8%	2.5%	4.5%	2.2%
Disagree	2.3%	1.8%	3.8%	11.9%	2.0%	4.0%	4.0%
Moderate (so so)	6.1%	13.2%	19.0%	34.0%	11.9%	19.9%	17.0%
Agree	16.4%	28.0%	29.3%	20.6%	30.4%	26.8%	32.9%
Strongly Agree	73.2%	55.2%	45.2%	23.7%	53.2%	44.8%	43.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Responses	Q8 in %	Q9 in %	Q10 in %	Q11 in %	Q12 in %	Q13 in %	Q14 in %	Q15	Q16
Strongly Disagree	1.6%	3.1%	2.0%	1.8%	1.3%	1.3%	1.1%	Yes- 63.2% No.- 36.8%	open Ended Question Summarised separately
Disagree	1.8%	5.6%	2.9%	5.4%	2.0%	1.3%	3.4%		
Moderate (so so)	19.2%	29.9%	12.3%	24.4%	17.7%	12.5%	23.5%		
Agree	33.3%	29.3%	27.7%	28.9%	27.5%	27.3%	33.8%		
Strongly Agree	44.1%	32.1%	55.1%	39.5%	51.5%	57.6%	38.2%		
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Source: Table is prepared by the researcher taking percentage from the Google Sheet.

Sampling design: Generally, 100-200 sample size is used for this type of study (perplexity AI, 2025). To have better representation, since, population is large and infinite, the minimum required sample size is 384 (using sample calculator). For the purpose of the study, 400 sample was targeted and finally responses were collected from 447 respondents. It is also found through the literature review that studies in similar fields, for infinite and large population, are conducted with a sample size of about 400 respondents.

Analytical Design: All the responses were collected through google form and summarised in google sheet. Question wise responses are summarised in percentage form to have a better visibility of the responses. Summary table is prepared and presented to have an overall picture of all the responses. Percentage of responses of all the questions were taken from google sheet. The summary responses are again presented (Question wise) in pictorial form to have a quick and clear understanding of the responses of Gen Z individuals. An interpretation is added with every chart to clarify the facts demonstrated in the chart.

Analysis and Interpretation of Responses

*Questions 1 to 16 (Q1 to Q16) is given below

- There is Gap between Rich and Poor in the country
- Wide gap between rich and poor will have bad impact on the social harmony
- There may be some gap, but the gap needs to be lessened with empathetic approach.
- Gen Z are concern about the increasing gap between the rich and the poor.
- There is an urgent need to address the gap between rich and poor in India.
- If an honest Government wish, then the gap between rich and poor can be reduced
- Vicious cycle of poverty getting deeper because of increasing gap between rich and poor.
- 8. Government may increase minimum wages level for the bottom level working people, unorganised sector workers, outsourced workers etc.
- Present central Govt/State Govt. basic level salary gap, Level-1-- ₹ 18,000 and level -18-- ₹ 2,50,000, may be reduced by increasing lower level basic at least to 30,000, This will create an environment to reduce gap between the two groups.
- Quality education across the country, (primary, high school, college, university) will be helpful to reduce the gap.
- By improving social security net, like similar pension to all senior people, similar health service facility to all people, The gap between rich- poor may be reduced.

- To reduce gap between have and have-nots, Govt. must make more public investment in backward areas to improve rail, road, internet connectivity, and to improve other infrastructure.
- Govt. must start skill development and entrepreneurship development institution in every block of the country. This will motivate people to undertake activities and to generate income which in turn, will help to reduce gap.
- As Sridhar Vembu and Radha Vembu, of ZOHO Corporation started offices in rural areas and established university/institute to train rural talent, in the same way, if all the corporate houses, under Govt. policy, CSR activity and guided motivation from Govt. establish rural office and rural institute to train people, then certainly the gap will be reduced.
- Do you have any other suggestion to reduce the gap between rich and poor in India?
- If your answer in question no. 15 is 'Yes', then give one or two suggestion/s below.

Question Wise Analysis

Awareness of Gen Z individuals About the gap between the rich and poor in the society

Chart 1. Q1. Gap between Rich and Poor is there in the country.

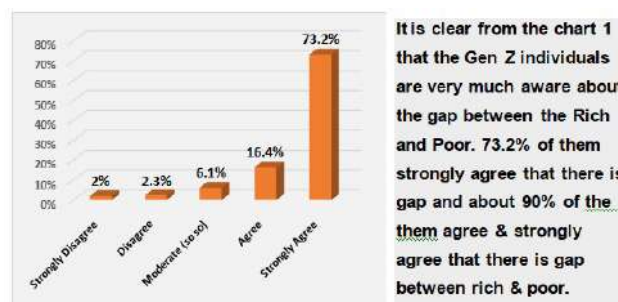


Chart:2. Q2. Wide gap between rich and poor will have bad impact on the social harmony.

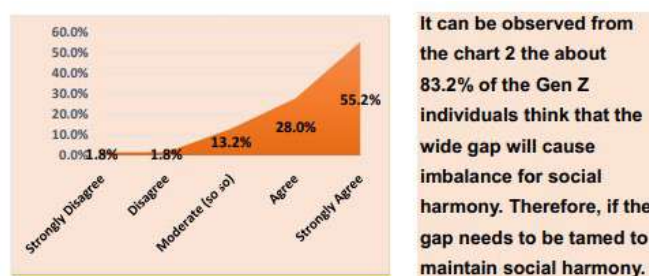
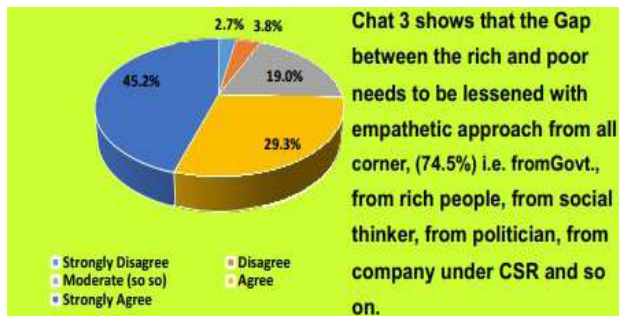


Chart:3. Q3. There may be some gap, but the gap needs to be lessened with empathetic approach.



It is an alarming bell for our decision makers, Government and all others to take urgent step, first to tame the gap and thereafter, to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor. It is very clear that the Gen Z individuals are fully aware about the gap and its likely impact on the society.

Concern of the Gen Z individuals about the gap between the Rich and the Poor in the society

Chart:4. Q4. Gen Z individuals are concern about the increasing gap between the rich and the poor.

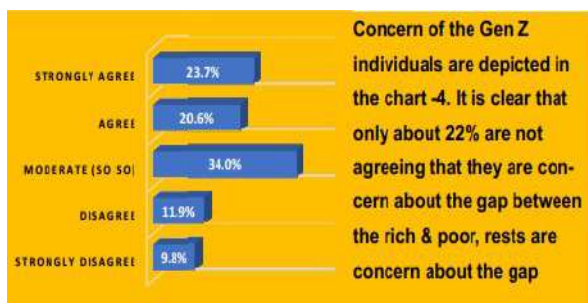


Chart:5. Q5. There is an urgent need to address the gap between rich and poor in India.

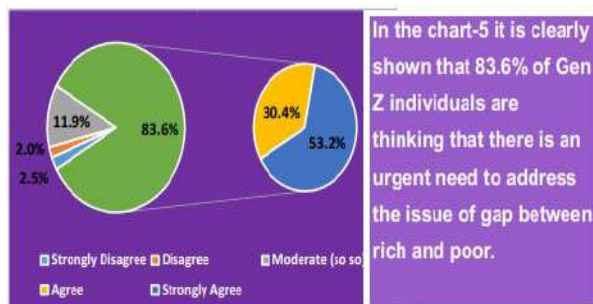


Chart:6. Q6. If an honest Government wish, then the gap between rich and poor can be reduced

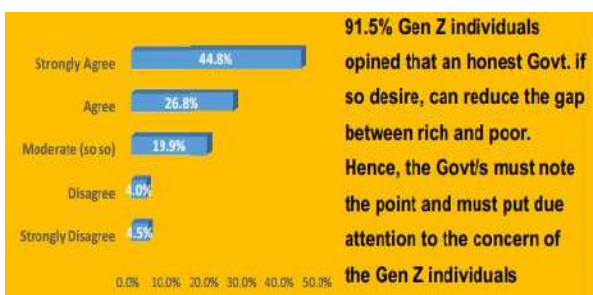


Chart:7. Q7. Vicious cycle of poverty getting deeper because of increasing gap between rich and poor.

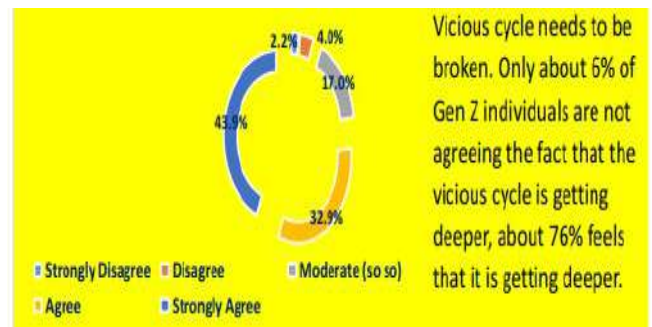
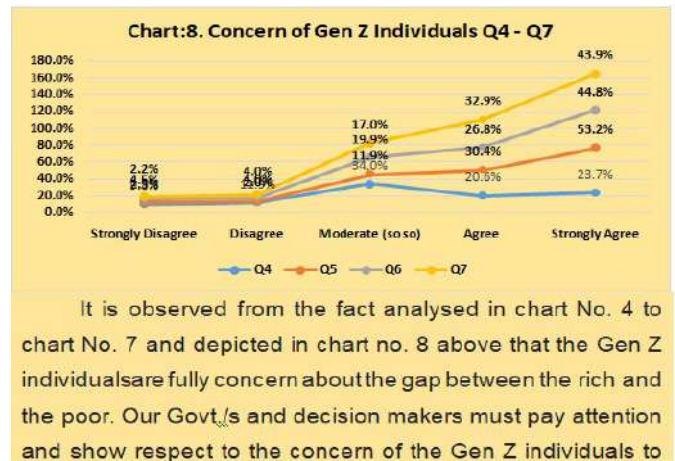


Chart:8. Q4-Q7. Concern of Gen Z individuals. (all Q4 to Q7)



Aspirations of Gen Z individuals to reduce gap between rich and poor

Chart:9. Q8. Government may increase minimum wages level for the bottom level working people, unorganised sector workers, outsourced workers etc.



Chart:10. Q9. Present central Govt/State Govt. basic level salary gap, Level 1 ₹ 18,000 and level 18 ₹ 2,50,000, may be reduced by increasing lower level basic at least to 30,000, This will create an environment to reduce gap between the two groups.

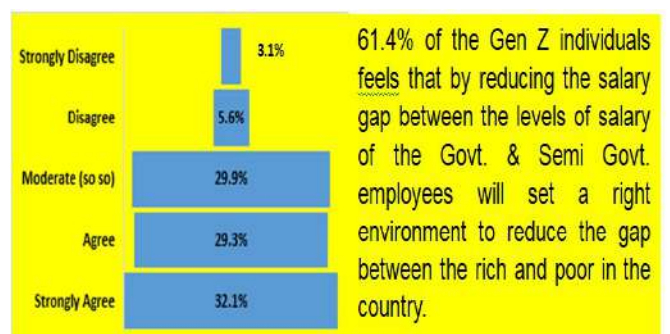


Chart:11. Q11. Quality education across the country, (primary, high school, college, university) will be helpful to reduce the gap.

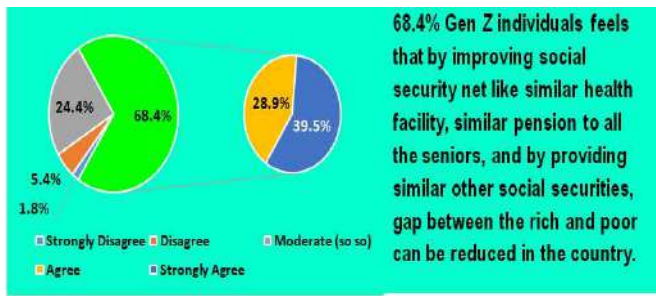


Chart:12. Q11. By improving social security net, like similar pension to all senior people, similar health service facility to all people, the gap between rich- poor may be reduced.

Chart:13. Q12. To reduce gap between have and have-nots, Govt. must make more public investment in backward areas to improve rail, road, internet connectivity, and to improve other infrastructure.

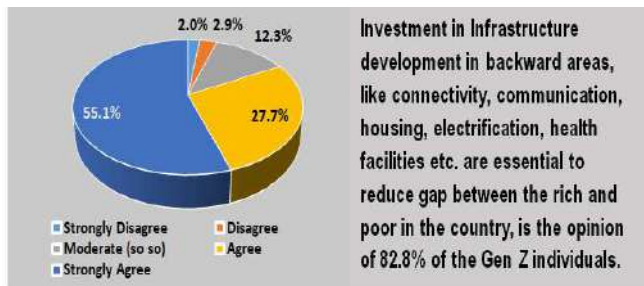


Chart:14. Q13. Govt. must start skill development and entrepreneurship development institution in every block of the country. This will motivate people to undertake activities and to generate income which in turn, will help to reduce gap.

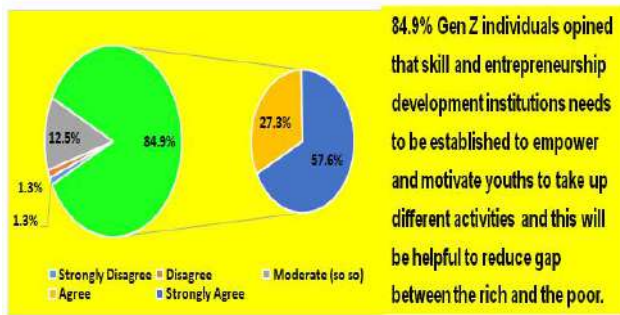


Chart:15. Q14. As Sridhar Vembu and Radha Vembu, of ZOHO Corporation started offices in rural areas and established university/institute to train rural talent, in the same way, if all the corporate houses, under Govt. policy, CSR activity and guided motivation from Govt. establish rural office and rural institute to train people, then certainly the gap will be reduced.

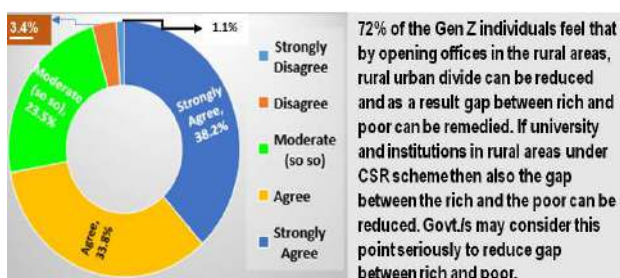


Chart:16. Q15. Do you have any other suggestion to reduce the gap between rich and poor in India?

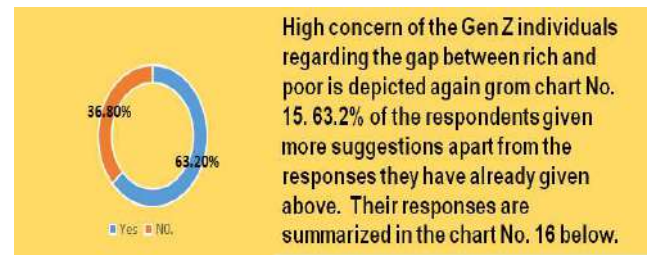
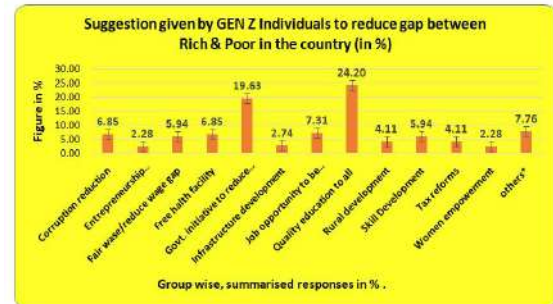


Chart:17. Q16. Other Suggestions given by Gen Z Individuals



Source: Analysis and grouping of suggestions given by Gen Z individuals and Chart drawn with the help of MS Excel by the researcher.

*Others include—creating knowledge bank to be freely accessible to budding entrepreneurs can get idea and mentoring; work very hard; honesty in govt.; proper implementation of schemes; stop free bias; financial literacy to rural people; etc.

From chart- 17 above it is clear that most of the suggestions given by the Gen Z individuals are about imparting quality education to all (24.2%), Govt. must take initiative to reduce gap between rich and the poor (19.63%), reduction of corruption (6.83%), Free health facility to all

and fair wages to be provided (5.94%), rural development and skill development (4.11%, 5.94%), Tax reforms (4.11%). Responses in other category is 7.67%. Decision makers must consider all these suggestions with due regards and must take some decisive action so that the gap between the rich and the poor can be reduced.

Summary of Findings

All the findings are summarised here to understand the concern of the Gen Z individuals over the prevailing gap between the rich and poor in the country along with the view point of the Gen Z individuals regarding the probable solutions to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor.

- Gen Z individuals are fully aware about the problem of wide gap between the rich and the poor in the country. Only 4.3% of them disagree on the point that there is gap between rich and poor. 89.6% of them agree on the point, that there is gap.
- 83.2% of the Gen Z individuals think that the wide gap will cause imbalance in the society.
- Gap between the rich and the poor needs to be reduce is the opinion of the 74.5% of Gen Z individuals.
- 83.6% of Gen Z individuals are expressing viewsthat the gap between rich and poor needs to be addressed urgently.
- An honest Govt. can reduce the gap is the sentiment of 91.5% of Gen Z individuals.
- Because of the gap between the rich and poor in the society, vicious cycle of poverty is getting deeper is the feeling of the 76.8% Gen Z individuals.
- 77.4% Gen Z individuals stated that by increasing minimum wage level the gap can be reduced.
- 82.8% of the Gen Z individuals think that by providing quality education to all across India, irrespective of urban or rural areas, will reduce gap between rich and poor.

- Government investment for infrastructure development in rural and backward areas will reduce gap between rich and poor is the opinion of 82.8% of the Gen Z individuals.
- Solution to reduce gap is to start skill development and entrepreneurship development institution in every block of the country, according to 84.9% Gen Z individuals.
- 72% Gen Z individuals agree (agree + strongly agree) and 23.5% think may be, that by opening university/institute under CSR scheme in rural areas and also by opening offices in rural areas, like Zoho Corporation did, the gap between rich and poor can be reduced. Govt. must make appropriate policy for the same and must motivate the corporate houses in this direction.
- In addition to the above solutions offered by the Gen Z individuals, some of them have also given suggestions to reduce corruption, offer free health facility to all, tax reforms, increase in job opportunity etc. which are highlighted in the chart no.17 above.

CONCLUSION

The issue of increasing gap between the rich and the poor needs to be addressed with care and empathy and with a broad vision for social harmony.

The fact that there is a huge gap between the rich and the poor in the country cannot be denied. Gen Z individuals are fully concern about the same. Their view point is analysed in the discourse above. Their practical and relevant suggestions, if implemented then the gap may be reduced significantly.

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