Jean-Bosco Ki argues that the monetary approach to poverty analysis does not always capture the multiple phenomena that may impede a decent life, as poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon. Hence the necessity to carry out a multidimensional analysis to better identify the poor, as well as the strategies likely to help fight poverty efficiently.

Applied to the case of Senegal, multidimensional analysis reveals that all the households are not affected by same types of poverty. The forms of poverty which are the most prevalent are those linked to the vulnerability of human existence (inadequacy of human capital, unsatisfactory living conditions), the shortage of basic infrastructure and the lack of elements of comfort and equipment.

The incidence of multidimensional poverty is estimated to be 58.4%, as compared to 48.5% for monetary poverty. Whether it is on the monetary or non-monetary level, rural areas are more affected by poverty than urban areas. But it should be noted that in urban areas households face monetary problems more than non-monetary ones, whereas it is the opposite situation in rural areas. Despite the presence of human capital and infrastructure, urban households always struggle to overcome monetary problems. This may lead us to question market efficiency, especially that of the labor market.

Ki also notes a positive link exists between monetary and non-monetary poverty. Among the monetary poor, he finds 72% are also non-monetary poor, and among the non-monetary poor there are 60% who are monetary poor.

Given this facet of poverty, general interventions to increase labor productivity, in accordance with “Welfarist” theory, must be prioritized in urban areas where monetary poverty is prevalent. In contrast, for rural areas, which face both types of poverty, an efficient combination of targeted and general interventions is advisable.

Based on PMMA working paper 2005-05