

# **POVERTY AS A CHALLENGE**

## **MCQS QUESTIONS WITH ANSWERS**

**Choose the correct option:**

Question 1.

NFWP is stand for:

- (a) National Federation for Work and Progress
- (b) National Forest for Wildlife Protection
- (c) National Food and Wheat Processing
- (d) National Food for Work Programme

Answer: (d) National Food for Work Programme

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Question 2.

How many people in India live below the poverty line?

- (a) 30 crores
- (b) 26 crores
- (c) 28 crores
- (d) 24 crores

Answer: (b) 26 crores

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Question 3.

Which social group is most vulnerable to poverty in India?

- (a) Scheduled castes
- (b) Scheduled tribes
- (c) Casual labourers
- (d) All the above

Answer: (d) All the above

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Question 4.

Poverty line in rural areas is (As per 1999 – 2000 prices)

- (a) Rs 328
- (b) Rs. 370

(c) Rs 454

(d) Rs. 460

Answer: (a) Rs 328

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Question 5.

What is the poverty ratio in the state of Orissa?

(a) 50%

(b) 47%

(c) 60%

(d) 57%

Answer: (b) 47%

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Question 6.

In which state have the land reform measures helped to reduce poverty?

(a) Tamil Nadu

(b) Punjab

(c) West Bengal

(d) Kerala

Answer: (c) West Bengal

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Question 7.

In which state is the public distribution system responsible for the reduction in poverty?

(a) Andhra Pradesh

(b) Tamil Nadu

(c) Both (a) and (b)

(d) None of the above

Answer: (c) Both (a) and (b)

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Question 8.

Which of the following is responsible for high poverty rates?

(a) Huge income inequalities

(b) Unequal distribution of land

(c) Lack of effective implementation of land reforms

(d) All the above

Answer: (d) All the above

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Question 9.

Nutritional level of food energy is expressed in the form of

- (a) calories per day
- (b) wheat consumption
- (c) rice consumption per day
- (d) none of the above

Answer: (a) calories per day

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Question 10.

Poverty ratio in India as compared to Pakistan is

- (a) same
- (b) half
- (c) two times
- (d) two and a half times

Answer: (c) two times

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Question 11.

Which one from the following is considered as poor?

- (a) A rich landlord
- (b) A businessman
- (c) A landless labourer
- (d) A teacher

Answer: (c) A landless labourer

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Question 12.

Which state has the largest percentage of poors in India?

- (a) Bihar
- (b) Orissa
- (c) Kerala
- (d) Punjab

Answer: (b) Orissa

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Question 13.

Who advocated that India would be truly independent only when the poorest of its people become free of human suffering ?

- (a) Mahatma Gandhi
- (b) Indira Gandhi
- (c) Jawahar lal Nehru
- (d) Subhash Chandra Bose

Answer: (a) Mahatma Gandhi

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Question 14.

Who do not come under the category of urban poor?

- (a) The casual workers
- (b) The unemployed
- (c) The shopkeepe
- (d) Rickshawpullers

Answer: (c) The shopkeepe

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Question 15.

Which scheme was started in 1993 to create self-employment opportunities for educated unemployed youth in rural areas and small towns?

- (a) Prime Minister Rojgar Yojana
- (b) National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
- (c) Rural Employment Generation Programme
- (d) Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana

Answer: (a) Prime Minister Rojgar Yojana

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Question 16.

Which one of the social groups is vulnerable to poverty?

- (a) Scheduled caste
- (b) Urban casual labour
- (c) Rural agricultural households
- (d) All the above

Answer: (d) All the above

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Question 17.

Which one are not the major causes of income inequality in India?

- (a) Unequal distribution of land
- (b) Lack of fertile land
- (c) Gap between rich and the poor
- (d) Increase in population

Answer: (b) Lack of fertile land

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Question 18.

The calorie requirement is higher in the rural areas because:

- (a) they do not enjoy as much as people in the urban areas.
- (b) food items are expensive.
- (c) they are engaged in mental work.
- (d) people are engaged in physical labour.

Answer: (d) people are engaged in physical labour.

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Question 19.

Which of the following is not a valid reason for the poverty alleviation programme in India?

- (a) Lack of proper implementation
- (b) Lack of right targeting
- (c) Corruption at the highest level
- (d) Overlapping of schemes

Answer: (c) Corruption at the highest level

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Question 20.

Which one from the following states is above the national average of poverty ratio?

- (a) West Bengal
- (b) Tamil Nadu
- (c) Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Karnataka

Answer: (a) West Bengal

1. Which country of South-East Asia made rapid economic growth?  
(a) India (b) China  
(c) Nepal (d) Pakistan
2. NFWP is stand for:  
(a) National Federation for Work and Progress (b) National Forest for Wildlife Protection  
(c) National Food and Wheat Processing (d) National Food for Work Programme
3. Social exclusion denies certain individuals the  
(a) facilities (b) benefits (c) opportuniti(d) all the above
4. How many people in India live below the poverty line?  
(a) 30 crores (b) 26 crores (c) 28 crores (d) 24 crores
5. Which organization carries out survey for determining the poverty line?  
(a) NSSO (b) CSO (c) Planning Commission (d) None of the above
6. Which social group is most vulnerable to poverty in India?  
(a) Scheduled castes (b) Scheduled tribes (c) Casual labourers (d) All the above
7. Which two states of India continue to be the poorest states?  
(a) Madhya Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir (b) Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand  
(c) Orissa, Bihar (d) None
8. Poverty line in rural areas is (As per 1999 – 2000 prices)  
(a) Rs 328 (b) Rs. 370 (c) Rs 454 (d) Rs. 460

9. Who are the poorest of the poor?

- (a) Women                      (b) Old people                      (c) Children                      (d) All the above

10. What is the poverty ratio in the state of Orissa?

- (a) 50%                      (b) 47%                      (c) 60%                      (d) 57%

11. In which state has the high agricultural growth helped to reduce poverty?

- (a) Jammu & Kashmir      (b) West Bengal                      (c) Punjab                      (d) Gujarat

12. In which state have the land reform measures helped to reduce poverty?

- (a) Tamil Nadu                      (b) Punjab                      (c) West Bengal                      (d) Kerala

13. Which state has focused more on human resource development?

- (a) Gujarat                      (b) Madhya Pradesh                      (c) Maharashtra                      (d) Kerala

14. In which state is the public distribution system responsible for the reduction in poverty?

- (a) Andhra Pradesh      (b) Tamil Nadu                      (c) Both (a) and (b)                      (d) None of the above

15. What is the main cause of poverty in India?

- (a) High income inequalities      (b) Less job opportunities                      (c) High growth in population      (d) All of these

16. Which of the following is responsible for high poverty rates?

- (a) Huge income inequalities                      (b) Unequal distribution of land

(c) Lack of effective implementation of land reforms      (d) All the above

17. In rural areas, which of the following are not poor?

(a) Landless agricultural workers    (b) Backward classes    (c) Rural artisans    (d) Medium farmers

18. Nutritional level of food energy is expressed in the form of

(a) calories per day    (b) wheat consumption    (c) rice consumption per day    (d) none of the above

19. As per Planning Commission, minimum daily intake of calories for determining poverty line for rural area is

(a) 2100                                      (b) 2400                                      (c) 1500                                      (d) none of the above

Q.20. Poverty ratio in India as compared to Pakistan is

(a) same                                      (b) half                                      (c) two times    (d) two and a half times

21. What are accepted average calories required in India in urban areas?

(a) 2100                                      (b) 2400                                      (c) 2800                                      (d) 2500

22. Which one from the following is considered as poor?

(a) A rich landlord                      (b) A businessman                      (c) A landless labourer                      (d) A teacher

23. Which among the following is the method to estimate the poverty line?

(a) Investment method                      (b) Income method                      (c) Capital method                      (d) Human method

24. Which state has the largest percentage of poors in India?



- (a) Bihar (b) Orissa (c)  
Kerala (d) Punjab

25. When was National Rural Employment Guarantee Act passed?

- (a) September 2005 (b) August 2004 (c) May  
2009 (d) None of these

26. Who advocated that India would be truly independent only when the poorest of its people become free of human suffering ?

- (a) Mahatma Gandhi (b) Indira Gandhi (c) Jawahar lal  
Nehru (d) Subhash Chandra Bose

27. Which of the following programmes was launched in the year 2000?

- (a) National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (b) Prime  
Minister Rojgar Yojana  
(c) Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojna (d) Pradhan  
Mantri Gramodaya Yojana

28. Who do not come under the category of urban poor?

- (a) The casual workers (b) The unemployed (c) The  
shopkeepe (d) Rickshawpullers

29. How many percent of Indian people were poor in the year 2000?

- (a) 36% (b) 46% (c)  
26% (d) 29%

30. Which scheme was started in 1993 to create self-employment opportunities for educated unemployed youth in rural areas and small towns?

- (a) Prime Minister Rojgar Yojana (b) National Rural  
Employment Guarantee Act  
(c) Rural Employment Generation Programme (d) Swarnajayanti  
Gram Swarojgar Yojana

31. For how many days MNREGA provides employment?

- (a) 70  
100
- (b) 80
- (c) 90
- (d)

32. Which one of the social groups is vulnerable to poverty?

- (a) Scheduled caste (b) Urban casual labour (c) Rural agricultural households (d) All the above

33. By which year governments are aiming to meet the Millennium Development Goals including halving the rate of global poverty?

- (a) 2011 (b) 2015 (c) 2045 (d)  
2035

34. Which one are not the major causes of income inequality in India?

- (a) Unequal distribution of land (b) Lack of  
fertile land  
(c) Gap between rich and the poor (d) Increase in  
population

35. In which of the following countries did poverty actually rise from 1981 to 2001?

- (a) Sub-Saharan Africa (b) India (c)  
China (d) Russia

36. The calorie requirement is higher in the rural areas because:

- (a) they do not enjoy as much as people in the urban areas. (b) food  
items are expensive.  
(c) they are engaged in mental work. (d) people are engaged in  
physical labour.

37. Which of the following is an indicator of poverty in India?

- (a) Income level (b) Illiteracy level (c) Employment level (d)  
All of these

38. Which of the following is not a valid reason for the poverty alleviation programme in India?

(a) Lack of proper implementation  
right targeting  
(c) Corruption at the highest level  
Overlapping of schemes

(b) Lack of  
(d)

39. Which industry suffered the most during colonial period?

(a) Jute (b) Textile (c) Indigo (d) All  
the above

40. Which one from the following states is above the national average of  
poverty ratio?

(a) West Bengal (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Andhra  
Pradesh (d) Karnataka

## **ANSWER KEY**

1. (b), 2. (d), 3. (d), 4. (b), 5. (a), 6. (d), 7. (c), 8. (a), 9. (d), 10. (b), 11.  
(c), 12. (c), 13. (d), 14. (c), 15. (d),  
16. (d), 17. (d), 18. (a), 19. (b), 20. (c), 21. (b), 22. (c), 23.  
(b), 24. (b), 25. (a), 26. (a),  
27. (d) 28. (c), 29. (c), 30. (a), 31. (d), 32. (d), 33. (b), 34. (b), 35. (a),  
36. (d), 37. (d), 38. (c), 39. (a), 40. (a)

1. The country which has the largest single concentration of the poor  
people in the world is

a) China  
b) Pakistan  
c) India  
d) Nepal

2. Poverty as defined by World Bank implies living below

a) \$1 per day  
b) \$100 per month  
c) \$10 per day

d) \$100 per day

3. For the year 2000, the poverty line for a person in urban areas in India was fixed at

- a) Rs. 454 per month
- b) Rs. 500 per month
- c) Rs. 328 per month
- d) Rs. 1640 per month

4. Define the statement which suggests that calories requirements in rural areas are considered to be higher than urban areas.

- a) Because people in rural areas are poor.
- b) Because people in rural areas are adversely affected by natural calamities.
- c) Because people living in rural areas engage themselves in more physical work.
- d) Because people living in rural areas are engaged in agriculture.

5. The accepted average calorie requirement per person in urban areas in India is

- a) 2200 calories
- b) 2000 calories
- c) 2300 calories
- d) 2100 calories

6. The calorie requirement is higher in rural areas because

- a) they do not enjoy as much as people in urban areas
  - b) food items are expensive
  - c) they are unemployed
  - d) people are engaged in more physical labour
- Important Questions

7. The poorest states in India are:

- i) Orissa
- ii) Bihar
- iii) Punjab

iv) Haryana

a) (i) and (ii)

b) (iii) and (iv)

c) (ii) and (iii)

d) All (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv)

8. There is inequality of income within a family. Persons who are poorest of the poor in the family are \_\_\_\_\_ .

(i) Women

(ii) Girl

(iii) Children

(iv) Old people

a) (i) and (ii)

b) (i) and (iii)

c) All (i), (ii) and (iv)

d) All are irrelevant.

9. Antyodaya Anna Yojana was launched in

a) 2003

b) 1999

c) 2000

d) 2005

10. For making comparisons between developing countries, which uniform standard (per person per day) for the poverty line is used in terms of minimum availability?

a) \$1

b) \$2

c) \$3

d) \$5

11. Every \_\_\_\_\_ person in India is poor.

a) Third

- b) Fourth
- c) Fifth
- d) Tenth

12. In which of the following countries did poverty actually rise from 1981 to 2001?

- a) Sub-Saharan Africa
- b) India
- c) China
- d) Russia

13. Which of the following is a social indicator of poverty laid by social scientists?

- a) Increase in population
- b) Illiteracy level
- c) Caste
- d) Health club membership

14. Which one of the social groups is vulnerable to poverty?

- a) Scheduled caste
- b) Urban casual labour
- c) Rural agricultural households
- d) All of these

15. Which state has the largest percentage of poor in India?

- a) Bihar
- b) Orissa
- c) Kerala
- d) Punjab

16. What is accepted average calories required in India in urban areas?

- a) 2100
- b) 2400
- c) 2800
- d) 2500

17. Which one is a social group from amongst the following groups vulnerable to poverty?

- a) Rural agricultural labour households
- b) Urban casual labour households
- c) Scheduled caste and scheduled tribe households
- d) The female daily wagers

18. There has been a significant decline in poverty in the state of

- a) Assam
- b) Bihar
- c) Jammu & Kashmir
- d) Uttar Pradesh

19. Which among the following is the method to estimate the poverty?

- a) Investment Method
- b) Income Method
- c) Capital Method
- d) Human Method

20. Which scheme was started in 1993 to create self employment opportunities for educated unemployed youth in rural areas and small towns?

- a) Prime Minister Rojgar Yojna
- b) National Rural Employment Guaranty Act
- c) Rural Employment Generation Programme
- d) Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojna

21. Which one is not the major cause of income inequality in India?

- a) Unequal distribution of land
- b) Lack of fertile land
- c) Gap between the rich and the poor
- d) Increase in population

22. Which industry suffered the most during colonial period?

- a) Jute
- b) Textile
- c) Indigo
- d) All the above

## ANSWERS

- 1. c) India
- 2. a) \$1 per day
- 3. a) Rs. 454 per month
- 4. c) Because people living in rural areas engage themselves in more physical work.
- 5. d) 2100 calories
- 6. d) people are engaged in more physical labour Important Questions
- 7. a) (i) and (ii)
- 8. c) All (i),(ii)and(iv)
- 9. b) 1999
- 10. a) \$1
- 11. b) fourth
- 12. a) Sub-Saharan Africa
- 13. b) Illiteracy level
- 14. d) All of these
- 15. b) Orissa
- 16. b) 2400
- 17. c) Scheduled caste and scheduled tribe households
- 18. c) Jammu & Kashmir
- 19. b) Income Method
- 20. a) Prime Minister Rojgar Yojna
- 21. b) Lack of fertile land
- 22. a) Jute



Q.1: Describe how the poverty line is estimated in India.

Ans: In India poverty line is measured or calculated considering the following factors required for subsistence:

1. Minimum level of food requirement,
2. Clothing
3. Footwear
4. Fuel and Light
5. Education and
6. Medical requirement etc.

These physical quantities are multiplied by their prices. The present formula for food requirement is based on the desired calorie requirement. On the basis of these calculations in 1999 - 2000, the poverty line in the rural areas was fixed Rs.328 per capita per month and in urban areas, it was Rs.454. People earning more than this amount were considered above the poverty line and earning less than this amount were considered as living below the poverty line.

Q.2: Do you think that present methodology of poverty estimation is appropriate?

Ans: The present methodology of poverty estimation does not look appropriate. It only takes one factor in view and that is the economic factor. Moreover it considers about a “minimum” subsistence level of living rather than a “reasonable” level of living.

Poverty has many dimensions. It is no longer confined to economic factors alone. With development, the definitions of what constitutes poverty also changes. Its concept has broadened to human poverty. A few persons may have been able to feed themselves but if they are without education, without shelter, without health-care, without job security, without self-confidence, without social equality, they are considered poor. If poverty is to be removed in real sense and the people are to be brought above the poverty line, not only that we need to increase their income but also, we have to provide the people with education, shelter, health-care, job-security, respect, dignity all.

Therefore, the present methodology of poverty estimation needs to be modified and broadened in order to make it an appropriate method.

Q.3: Describe poverty trends in India since 1973.

Ans: As per the data given in the book there is a substantial decline in poverty ratio in India from 55 percent in 1973 to 36 percent in 1993. There was further decline from 36 percent in 1993 to 26 percent in 2000. Although the number of poor people remained stable (about 320 million) in the earlier two decades (1973 to 1993), there was significant reduction in the number of the poor to about 260

million till 2000. If the present trend continues, the people below poverty line may come down to less than 20 percent in the next few years.

**Q.4: Discuss the major reasons for poverty in India.**

**Ans: There are various reasons for poverty in India which are outlined below**  
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**(1) Prolonged Colonial Administration**

The policies of British Colonial government shattered the Indian economy so much that it could not be revived until the 1980s.

**(2) Unabated Population Growth**

The failures to promote both the required economic growth and population control have been the main cause of poverty today.

**(3) Illiteracy**

Illiteracy is also an important cause of poverty in our country.

**(4) Disparity in the Ownership of Land-holdings**

The unequal distribution of land, lack of land resources and failure in the proper implementation of land reform policies have been the major causes of poverty in rural areas.

**(5) Unemployment**

Lack of job security and unemployment are other causes.

**(6) Widening Inequalities of Income**

This is a feature of high poverty. Money has been concentrating in fewer hands, thus rendering a majority of people poor.

**(7) Slow Growth of Employment Opportunities**

Despite the implementation of various employment generating programmes our government has failed to provide the necessary employment opportunities.

**(8) Socio-cultural Factors**

In order to fulfill social obligations such as marriage etc. and religious ceremonies people in India including the poor spend a lot of money which makes some people even poorer.

**Q.5: Identify the social and economic groups which are most vulnerable to poverty in India.**

**Ans: Social Groups vulnerable to Poverty in India**

**(1) Scheduled Castes households.**

**(2) Scheduled Tribes households.**

**Economic Groups vulnerable to Poverty**

**(1) Rural Agricultural labour households.**

**(2) Urban Casual labour households.**

**Q.6: Give an account of interstate disparities of poverty in India.**

**Ans:** Poverty in India is not the same in every state. The success rate of reducing poverty varies from state to state causing inter-state disparities in poverty level. Orissa, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh are the three poorest states in India with their people living below poverty line being 47, 42 and 37 percent respectively. Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh are the three better-off states in India as far as the poverty is concerned.

**Q.7: Describe global poverty trends.**

**Ans:** There have been substantial reduction in global poverty, but there are regional disparities described below -

(1) Poverty declined in China and South-East Asian countries as a result of rapid economic growth and huge investments in the development of human resources.

(2) In Latin America, the ratio of poverty remained almost the same.

(3) In sub-Saharan Africa, poverty saw an upward trend rather than a downward trend. It rose from 41% in 1981 to 46% in 2001.

(4) Poverty has surfaced itself in some of the former socialist countries like Russia, where formerly it was non-existent.

**Q.8: Describe current government strategy of poverty alleviation.**

**Ans:** Removal of poverty has one of the major objectives of Indian developmental strategy. The current government strategy of poverty alleviation is based on two planks:

(1) Promotion of Economic Growth

(2) Targeted Anti-poverty Programmes

Some of the anti-poverty programmes undertaken by government at present are discussed below:

**Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY)**

Started in 1993, this programme aims to create self-employment opportunities for educated unemployed youth in rural areas and small towns.

**Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY)**

Launched in 2000, this aims to create and improve basic services like primary health, primary education, rural shelter, rural drinking water and rural electrification.

**National Food for Work programme (NFWP)**

Launched in 2004 in 150 most backward districts of the country, this programme is open to all rural poor who are in need of wage employment and desired to do manual unskilled work.

### **National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA)**

**This act was passed in September 2005. The act provides 100 days assured employment every year to every rural household in 200 districts. Later, the scheme will be extended to 600 districts and also one third to the proposed jobs would be reserved for women.**

**Q.9: Answer the following questions briefly -**

**(i) What do you understand by human poverty?**

**(ii) Who are the poorest of the poor?**

**(iii) What are the main features of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005?**

**Ans:**

**(i) Poverty is multidimensional problem. As per the official concept of poverty, a person is considered poor if his or her income falls below a given 'minimum level'. But human poverty is not confined to economic factors alone. With development, the definitions of what constitutes poverty also changes. The official definition of poverty considers only a 'minimum' subsistence level of living rather than a 'reasonable' level of living. Many scholars advocate that the concept of human poverty must be broadened and should be looked through other social indicators like - illiteracy level, lack of general resistance due to mal-nutrition, lack of access to resources like health-care, safe drinking water, job opportunities, sanitation, lack of self-confidence without social equality etc.**

**(ii) Women, children (especially the girl child) and elder people in a poor family are regarded as the poorest of the poor because they are systematically denied equal access to resources available to the family.**

**(iii) Main Features of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005**

**(a) NREGA provides 100 days assured employment every year to every rural household in 200 districts. Later, the scheme will be extended to 600 districts. One-third of the proposed jobs would be reserved for women.**

**(b) The central government will establish a National Employment Guarantee Fund. Similarly, state governments will establish State Employment Guarantee Funds for the implementation of the scheme.**

**Q.10: Explain four important anti-poverty measures undertaken by the Government of India.**

**Ans: Poverty Alleviation Programmes of India: The important poverty alleviation programmes which are in operation in rural and urban areas are:**

**(1) Prime Minister Rojgar Yojana (PMRY):** PMRY was launched on 2 October 1993. The aim of this programme is to create self-employment opportunities for educated youth in rural areas and small towns. They are helped in setting up small business and industries.

**(2) Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY):** SGSY was launched on 1 April, 1999. It aims at promoting enterprises at the village level. It helps the rural people to organise themselves into self-help groups. The objective of SGSY is to bring the existing poor families above the poverty line by providing them income generation assets through a mix of bank credit and government subsidy.

**(3) Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY):** PMGY was introduced in 2000. Its objective is to focus on village level development in five critical areas, that is, primary health, primary education, rural shelter, rural drinking water and rural roads. As a result of this, the quality of life of rural people will improve.

**(4) Sampoorna Grameen Rojgar Yojana (SGRY):** This programme was launched in September 2001. The objectives of this scheme are  
(a) to provide wage employment along with food security in the rural areas.  
(b) to create durable community, social and economic assets.

The ongoing Employment Assurance Scheme and JGSY would be merged with SGRY.

**(5) National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA):** NREGA was passed in September 2005. The Act provides for 100-days assured employment to every rural household in 200 districts. Later, the scheme will be extended to 600 districts.

However, the results of these programmes have not been very effective. One of the major reasons for their less effectiveness is the lack of proper implementation and right targeting.

Also, there has been overlapping of schemes. Therefore, the major emphasis in recent years is on their proper monitoring.

# **XTTTTRRRRAAAAAA AMMUNITION**

## **Very Short Answer Type Questions**

Question 1.

When the health of a person suffers due to deficiency of nutrients in food as per his daily requirement, he/she is said to be the victim of \_\_\_\_\_ .

Answer:

Malnutrition

Question 2.

What helped West Bengal in reducing poverty?

Answer:

Land reform measures.

Question 3.

How many people in India live below the poverty line?

Answer:

270 million.

Question 4.

In rural areas in India, the accepted average calories requirement per person per day is \_\_\_\_\_ .

Answer:

2400 calories.

Question 5.

What is the most difficult challenge faced by independent India?

Answer:

Poverty

Question 6.

PMRY was started in 1993, stands for \_\_\_\_\_ .

Answer:

Prime Minister Rojgar Yozana

Question 7.

SGSY was launched in 1999 for assisted poor families above poverty line by organising them into self-help groups.

Answer:

Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana

Question 8.

PMGY was launched in 2000 to provide rural shelter, rural drinking water, primary health, primary education and rural electrification. It stands for \_\_\_\_\_ .

Answer:

Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yozana

Question 9.

What is poverty?

Answer:

Poverty is a situation in which a person is unable to satisfy minimum basic necessities of life, i.e., food, clothing, education, shelter, health, etc.

Question 10.

What are the two methods of estimating the poverty line.

Answer:

There are two methods of measuring poverty line—

- Level consumption expenditure method and
- Income method.

Question 11.

What are the two main causes of poverty in India?

Answer:

- Low level of economic development under the British colonial administration.
- A high growth rate of population.

Question 12.

What is the full form of NSSO?

Answer:

National Sample Survey Organisation.

Question 13.

Which are the poorest states in India?

Answer:

Odisha and Bihar

Question 14.

How is poverty defined by the World Bank?

Answer:

Poverty is defined by the World Bank as living on less than \$ 1.90 per day.

Question 15.

What is the major reason behind huge income inequalities?

Answer:

It is the unequal distribution of land and other resources.

Question 16.

Which organisation carries out survey for determining the poverty line?

Answer:

National Sample Survey Organisation

Question 17.

How do you define vulnerability to poverty?

Answer:

Vulnerability to poverty is a measure, which describes the greater



probability of certain communities or individuals of becoming, or remaining, poor in the coming years.

Question 18.

How does a country measure its poverty?

Answer:

Each country uses an imaginary line that is considered appropriate for its existing level of development and its accepted minimum social norms.

Question 19.

How is the food requirement estimated in poverty line?

Answer:

The present formula for food requirement while estimating the poverty line is based on the desired calorie requirement. Food items, such as cereals, pulses, vegetable, milk, oil, sugar, etc., together provide these needed calories.

Question 20.

What is the accepted average calorie requirement in India?

Answer:

The accepted average calorie requirement in India is 2,400 calories per person per day in rural areas and 2,100 calories per person per day in urban areas.

Question 21.

Who advocated that India would be truly independent only when the poorest of its people become free of human suffering?

Answer:

Mahatma Gandhi

Question 22.

Which scheme was started in 1993 to create self-employment opportunities for educated unemployed youth in rural areas and small towns?

Answer:

Prime Minister Rozgar Yozana (PMRY).

Question 23.

For how many days MGNREGA provides employment?

Answer:

100 days

Question 24.

Which country of Southeast Asia made rapid economic growth resulting in a significant decline in poverty?

Answer:

China

Question 25.

Which social groups are most vulnerable to poverty?

Answer:

The social groups, which are most vulnerable to poverty are Scheduled caste and Scheduled Tribe households.

Question 26.

Which states of India have seen a significant decline in poverty?

Answer:

Kerala, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and West Bengal

Question 27.

On which two planks does the current anti-poverty strategy of the government is based upon?

Answer:

- Promotion of economic growth.
- Targeted anti-poverty programmes.

Question 28.

What are the biggest challenges before India?

Answer:

Providing healthcare, education and job security for all and achieving gender equality and dignity for the poor are the bigger challenges before India.

## **Short Answer Type Questions**

Question 1.

What are the indicators used by social scientists to understand poverty?

Answer:

The indicators used by social scientists to understand poverty are :

- Levels of income and consumption
- Lack of general resistance due to malnutrition
- Lack of access to healthcare
- Lack of job opportunities
- Lack of access to safe drinking water, sanitation, etc.

Question 2.

What do you understand by vulnerability to poverty?

Answer:

Vulnerability of poverty means some communities or social groups are more prone to poverty than other sections of the society. Members of a backward caste or individuals such as a widow or a physically handicapped person of becoming, or remaining, poor in the coming years. Vulnerability is determined by the options available to different communities for finding an alternative living in terms of assets, education, health and job opportunities. Further, it is analysed on the basis of the greater risks these groups face at the time of natural disasters (earthquakes, tsunami), terrorism, etc.

Question 3.

How were the British policies responsible for the increase in poverty in

India?

Answer:

There were a number of causes for the widespread in India. One of the historical reasons is the low level of economic development under the British colonial administration. The policies of colonial government ruined traditional handicrafts and discouraged development of industries like textiles. The low rate of growth persisted until the nineteen-eighties. This resulted in less job opportunities and low growth rate of incomes. This was accompanied by a high growth rate of population. The two combined to make the growth rate of per capita income very low. The failure at both the fronts : promotion of economic growth and population control perpetuated the cycle of poverty.

Question 4.

What does social exclusion mean?

Answer:

- According to this concept, poverty must be seen in terms of the poor having to live only in poor surrounding with other people, excluded from enjoying social equality of better-off people in better surroundings.
- Social exclusion can be both a cause as well as a consequence of poverty in the usual sense.
- Broadly, it is a through in which individuals or groups are excluded from facilities, benefits and opportunities that others enjoy.

Question 5.

How is economic growth linked with poverty reduction in India?

Answer:

Till the early eighties, there were little per capita income growth and not much reduction in poverty. Afterwards the growth rate jumped from the average of about 3-5 percent a year in the 1970s to 6 per cent during the 1980s and 1990s. The higher growth rates have helped significantly in the reduction of poverty. There is a strong link between economic growth and poverty reduction. Economic growth widens opportunities

and provides the resources needed to invest in human development. This also encourages people to send their children, including the girl child, to schools in the hope of getting better economic returns from investing in education.

Question 6.

How are socio-cultural and economic factors responsible for poverty?

Answer:

Many socio-cultural and economic factors are responsible for poverty. In order to fulfil social obligations and observe religious ceremonies, people in India, including the very poor, spend a lot of money. Small farmers need money to buy agricultural inputs like seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, etc. Since poor people hardly have any savings, they borrow. Unable to repay because of poverty, they become victims of indebtedness. So, the high level of indebtedness is both the cause and effect of poverty.

Question 7.

Explain the principle measures taken in Punjab, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh to reduce poverty.

Answer:

The measure taken in Punjab, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh to reduce poverty are :

- The principal measures taken in Punjab to reduce poverty is increasing the agricultural growth rates.
- Kerala has focused more on human resource development to reduce poverty.
- Andhra Pradesh focused on public distribution of food grains to reduce poverty.

Question 8.

Illustrate the seriousness of poverty in India?

Answer:

In our daily life, we come across many people who we think are poor.

They could be landless labourers in villages or people living in overcrowded jhuggis in cities.

They could be daily wage workers at construction sites or child workers in dhabas. They could also be beggars with children in tatters. We see poverty all around us. In fact, every fourth person in India is poor.

This means, roughly 270 million (or 27 crore) people in India live in poverty 2011-12. This also means that India has the largest single concentration of the poor in the world. This illustrates the seriousness of the challenge.

Question 9.

Is it correct that poverty line may vary with time and place?

Answer:

- A person is considered poor if his or her income or consumption level falls below a given “minimum level” necessary to fulfill the basic needs. What is necessary to satisfy basic needs is different at different times and in different countries.
- Therefore, poverty line may vary with time and place. Each country uses an imaginary line that is considered appropriate for its existing level of development and its accepted minimum social norms.

Question 10.

Explain how the low level of education of the poor people can be held responsible for poverty in India.

Answer:

- Low level of education of the poor is a major cause behind their poverty. Poor people do not have access to education.
- Because of illiteracy, the Indian farmers have failed to learn new methods of cultivation. Even the village moneylenders succeed in cheating them quite easily.

- Moreover, poor parents are not able to send their children to schools. So, the poor people are employed as unskilled workers and are paid low wages due to low level of education.

Question 11.

Describe the aims of Swarnajanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana and the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yozana.

Answer:

Swarnayanti Gram Swarozgar : Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) was launched in 1999. The programme aims at bringing the assisted poor families above the poverty line by organising them into self-help groups through a mix of bank credit and government subsidy.

Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yozana : The Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yozana (PMGY) was launched in 2000. Under this scheme, additional central assistance is given to states for basic services such as primary health, primary education, rural shelter, rural drinking water and rural electrification.

Question 12.

What are the major reasons for less effectiveness of anti-poverty measures?

Answer:

The major reasons for less effectiveness of anti-poverty measures are :

- One of the major reasons for less effectiveness is the lack of proper implementation and right targeting.
- Moreover, there has been a lot of overlapping of schemes.
- Despite good intentions, the benefits of these schemes are not fully reached to the deserving poor.
- Therefore, the major emphasis in recent years is on proper monitoring of all the poverty alleviation programmes.

# Long Answer Type Questions

Question 1.

How does rapid growth rate of population increase poverty in a country?

Answer:

- Rapid growth of population in comparison to the rate of growth of resources hampers the process of economic development.
- Increase in population reduces the per capita income and lowers the standard of living in an economy.
- In India, rapid growth of population has put in more stress on its economic and social infrastructure and thereby, aggravating the problem of poverty and unemployment.
- Due to enormous population, a large portion of national income is used on consumption and less is left for saving which, in turn, reduces the capital formation.
- As a result of low capital formation, enough employment opportunities cannot be created which further aggravate the problem of poverty. Poor people in India are ignorant, illiterate and has very less means of entertainment. So, they end up adding more to the population.

Question 2.

What is poverty? What are the dimensions of poverty?

Answer:

Poverty is a situation in which a person is unable to get the minimum necessities of life.

Due to poverty poor people are in a situation in which they are ill-treated at almost every place.

The dimensions of poverty are :

- Poverty means hunger and lack of shelter.
- It is a situation in which parents are not able to send their children to school or a situation where sick people cannot afford treatment.



- Poverty also means lack of clean water and sanitation facilities.
- It also means lack of a regular job at a minimum decent level. :
- Poor people are in a situation in which they are ill-treated at almost every place, in farms, factories, government offices, hospitals, railway stations etc.

### Question 3.

Discuss the various groups that are vulnerable to poverty.

Answer:

The following groups are vulnerable to poverty :

- **Social Groups:** Social groups, which are most vulnerable to poverty are Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households. Although, the average for people below poverty line for all groups in India is 22, 43 out of 100 people belonging to Scheduled Tribes are not able to meet their basic needs.
- **Economic Groups:** Among the economic groups, the most vulnerable groups are the rural agricultural labour households and the urban casual labour households.
- **Inequality of incomes within a family:** There is also inequality of incomes within a family. In poor families, all suffer, but some suffer more than others. In some cases, women, elderly people and female infants are denied equal access to resources available to the family.

### Question 4.

How can poverty be reduced in future in India?

Answer:

Poverty can be reduced in the following ways :

- Increasing stress on universal free elementary education
- Increasing empowerment of the women and the economically weaker sections of society.
- Declining population growth.
- Avoiding caste and gender discrimination.

- Improving healthcare, education and job security.
- Removing inequality of wealth among people.

## **POVERTY AS A CHALLENGE**

### ***1) What is poverty?***

**Poverty is a situation in which a section of the population is unable to secure the minimum basic requirements of life such as food, shelter, clothing, education and medical facilities**

### ***2) What is poverty line? How is poverty line estimated in India?***

**Poverty line refers to the minimum income required for person to satisfy his basic necessities of life.**

**The minimum food needed for a person is calculated in calories. Then it is converted into equivalent money value. A minimum amount is added for shelter, clothing and the other necessities .The total amount is called poverty line. If a family's income is lower than poverty line, it is Below Poverty Line Family. Similarly, if the expenditure is lower than poverty line, it is BPL family. In India, poverty line is estimated periodically by conducting sample surveys. These surveys are conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO)**

### ***3) Identify the social and economic groups which are most vulnerable to poverty in India? Who amongst them suffers more than others do?***

**Social groups which are most vulnerable to poverty are scheduled caste and scheduled tribe households. Rural agricultural labour households and the urban casual labour households are the economic groups which are vulnerable to poverty.**

**Women, female infants and the old people amongst them suffer the most.**

### ***4) Give an account of inter-state disparities of poverty in India?***

**Poverty is a serious problem in Orissa, Bihar, Assam, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh. Orissa and Bihar are the poorest states of India. Poverty has declined significantly in Kerala, Jammu and Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and west Bengal. Punjab and Haryana are the richest states of India.**

### ***5) Describe global poverty trends?***

**One dollar per day is global poverty line fixed by the World Bank. The proportion of people below poverty line in developing countries has decreased**

from 28% in 1990 to 21% in 2001. Poverty declined considerably in China and Southeast Asian countries. In South Asian countries like India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan poverty is still a major problem.

In sub-Saharan Africa, poverty increased from 41% in 1981 to 46% in 2001. Poverty has reappeared in the former socialist countries.

**6) Discuss the major reasons for poverty in India.**

**(i) Colonial Exploitation:** Policies of the British government in India led to the decline of Indian handicrafts. Economic growth rate was very low during the British rule.

**(ii) Rapid growth of population:** Indian population grows at the rate of more than 2% per annum. It leads to poverty and unemployment.

**(iii) Drawbacks of the Green Revolution:** Green Revolution was limited to few states and few crops. It did not take place in states like Bihar and Orissa.

**(iv) Economic Inequality:** Most of the resources of India are owned by a small group of rich people. Inequality between the rich and the poor is one of the main causes of poverty.

**Indebtedness:** Many people have taken loans from moneylenders for unproductive purposes. They are not able to repay the loans. So, they are in debt trap.

**7. How the policies of the colonial government were responsible for poverty in India?**

**(i) The British rule resulted in the decline of Indian cottage industries.** Indian goods could not compete with British goods.

**(ii) They did not encourage the industrial development of India.**

**(iii) The land revenue systems of the British denied the real tiller the ownership of land.**

**(iv) They took away India's wealth to their country.**

**8. Examine the current government strategy of poverty alleviation.**

**i) Promotion of Economic Growth:** India's economic growth is one of the fastest in the world. Economic Planning is adopted for achieving quick

**economic growth. Economic growth will create employment opportunities and reduce the problem of poverty.**

**ii) Anti-Poverty Programmes:**

**a) National Rural Employment Guarantee Act [ NREGA] 2005.**

**It was passed in 2005. It provides 100 days assured employment every year to every rural household in 200 districts.**

**b) National Food for Work Programme (NFWP).**

**It was launched in 2004 in 150 most backward districts. Unskilled workers are given employment. Wage is paid in the form of food grains.**

**c) Prime Minister's Rozgar Yozana**

**It was launched in 1993. It aims at creating self employment for educated unemployed youth in rural areas.**

**d) Rural Employment Generation Programme**

**It was launched in 1995. It aims at creating self employment in rural areas.**

**e) Swarna jayanti Gram Swarozgar yojana (SGSY):**

**It was launched in 1999. It aims at helping the BPL families to come above poverty line. Bank credit and government subsidy are made available to them through the self help groups.**

**f) Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY): It was launched in 2000. States are given help to provide basic services like health, education, drinking water e.t.c. to the poor people.**

**9. Describe any two current government strategy of Poverty alleviation in rural areas.**

**(i) Swarna jayanti Gram Swarozgar yojana**

**It was launched in 1999. It aims at helping the BPL families to come above poverty line. Bank credit and government subsidy are made available to them through the self help groups.**

**(ii) Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana:** It was launched in 2000. States are given help to provide basic services like health, education, drinking water e.t.c. to the poor people.

10 . What do you understand by human poverty?

Ans. human poverty is a situation in which a section of population is unable to lead a decent life. If people are not able to get adequate food, shelter, health care ,education ,job security and equal treatment in the society, we say that there is human poverty.

11. Who are the poorest of the poor?

Ans. Women, children and old people from poor families are the poorest of the poor.

12. What are the main features of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005?

Ans. NREGA was passed in September 2005.It provides 100 days assured employment every year to every rural households in 200 Districts. One third of the jobs would be reserved for women. The Central government would set up National Employment Guarantee Fund. If the government fails to provide employment to a person he would be given unemployment allowance.

13. Do you think that present methodology of poverty estimation is appropriate?

Ans. No, the present methodology of poverty estimation is not appropriate. It takes only food, shelter and clothing into consideration. However, the modern man cannot lead a decent living without education, healthcare, job security and good treatment in the society.

14.Why is Poverty considered as a big challenge in India even today?

Ans. (I) India has the largest number of poor people in the world.

(II) Wide disparities in poverty are visible between rural and urban areas among different states.

(iii) Some social and economics groups are more vulnerable to poverty.

15. ``Poverty reduction is expected to make better progress in the next ten to fifteen years''. why?

Ans.(i) Economic growth rate is high. This will create job opportunities.

- (ii) Population growth rate has declined.
- (iii) Importance is given to education.
- (iv) Steps are being taken to empower women and weaker sections of the society.

**16. Describe poverty trends in India since 1973.**

**OR**

**Describe in three points the poverty trends in India since 1973.**

Ans. The proportion of people below poverty line decreased from 55% in 1973 to 36% in 1993. It again came down to 26% in 2000. The number of poor people remained stable (320 million) for a long period of time. Now the number has come down to 260 million.

**17. How is regular growth of population a major cause of poverty in India?**

- (i) Indian population grows at the rate of 2% per annum and the population doubles in every 35 years.
- (ii) Total food production increased in India but the per-capita food availability is very low due to rapid increase in population.
- (iii) Rapid growth of population causes unemployment. Unemployed people suffer from poverty.
- (iv) Basic facilities remain insufficient due to increase in population.
- (v) Parents find it difficult to provide education to children in large families.

**18. How is illiteracy responsible for poverty in India?**

- (i) Illiterate farmers do not use modern methods of farming. So their production is very low.
- (ii) Illiterate workers are paid very low wages. They are unskilled workers.
- (iii) It is difficult for an illiterate to find a job.
- (iv) Illiterates and ignorants are exploited by others.

**19. Suggest some steps to remove poverty?**

**OR**

**How can poverty be reduced in future India?**

- (i) Steps should be taken to provide education and health care to the children of poor families.
- (ii) Promote cottage and village industries. Technical and financial help should be given to them.
- (iii) Help the farmers to adopt modern methods of farming.
- (iv) Take steps to protect the workers in the unorganized sector.
- (v) Implement the Poverty Alleviation Programmes properly.

**20. Why the results of Poverty Alleviation Programmes have been mixed up?**

**Or**

**Why were the poverty alleviation programmes not successful in most parts of India?**

**OR**

**In spite of various poverty alleviation programmes Poverty continues in India. Why?**

- (i) Poverty Alleviation Programmes are not properly implemented in India. Many of the programmes are only in paper.
- (ii) There are several schemes for poverty alleviation. We find an overlapping of schemes.
- (iii) Corruption at the political level and also at the officers' level makes these schemes ineffective. The real poor are not benefited.
- (iv) Over population is also affecting the success of these schemes.

**21. What is Social Exclusion? Give one example.**

It is a situation in which some people are denied some facilities and privileges which others enjoy. For example, caste system. In India the poor people live together in an area. They do not enjoy the basic facilities. The rich live together in posh areas with all the facilities.



**22. Give one most important factor responsible for the reduction of poverty in each of the following states.**

- (i) Punjab: Green Revolution occurred in Punjab. Agriculture developed and income of the people increased.
- (ii) Kerala: Human Resource Development helped in the economic progress of Kerala.
- (iii) West Bengal: Land reform measures helped West Bengal to remove poverty.
- (iv) Tamil Nadu: Excellent PDS helped Tamil Nadu to reduce poverty.
- (v) Andhra Pradesh: : Excellent PDS helped Andhra Pradesh to reduce poverty.

**23. In poor families all suffer but some suffer more than others. Explain.**

In poor families all suffer from poverty but some suffer more. Men and boys are given first preference in food and other facilities. Women, children and the old people are generally discriminated. They get only what is remaining after the consumption of men and boys. Old people do not get medical facilities. Girls are not sent to schools. Women do not even get sufficient food.

**24. Who were the most affected groups of the devastating famine of Bengal?**

Agricultural labourers, fishermen, transport workers and casual workers were badly affected by the Bengal famine.

**25. There is a strong link between Economic Growth and Poverty reduction. Explain.**

- (i) Economic growth creates employment opportunities and reduce the problem of unemployment.
- (ii) It encourages people to send their children to school. People will be able to provide health facilities to children.
- (iii) It creates new opportunities and provides the resources needed for Human Resource Development.

**26. How far is it correct to say that social exclusion can be both a cause as well as a consequence of poverty? Explain.**

(i) Poor people are compelled to live in poor surroundings along with the other poor people. They are excluded from enjoying social equality with better off people in better surroundings. So, poverty causes social exclusion.

(ii) Individuals and groups are excluded from better sanitation facilities, drinking water facilities and other social infrastructural facilities.

(iii) Caste system in India is an example for social exclusion. Untouchables were excluded from the society. They were denied the facilities enjoyed by the other caste people.

***27. Mention any three indicators of poverty other than Income and Consumption.***

(i) Lack of education: poor people do not send their children to schools. They send them to work. Uneducated people do not find good jobs and suffer from poverty.

(ii) Inability to get medical care: poor people do not have money to get medical care. They suffer from several diseases.

(iii) Unemployment: unemployed people do not earn income. So, they suffer from poverty.

***28. “Proportion of poor people is not the same in every State”- Justify.***

The proportion of poor is not the same in every state.

(i) Poverty is very less in Kerala, Punjab and Tamilnadu. They are economically forward States of India.

(ii) Poverty is a severe problem in Bihar, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh. They are backward States.

(iii) Bihar and Orissa are the poorest States of India. Urban poverty is also severe in these states.

***29. Which two aspects are considered while estimating poverty? Explain.***

Income and Consumption are considered while estimating poverty. People with low income will not be able to get minimum necessities of life. For example, agricultural workers and casual workers suffer from poverty. People who consume less amount of goods and services are considered poor. It is due to poverty that they consume less.

***30. List the main indicators of poverty.***

- (i) Income: People with low income will not be able to get minimum necessities of life. For example, agricultural workers and casual workers suffer from poverty.
- (ii) Consumption: People who consume less amount of goods and services are considered poor. It is due to poverty that they consume less.
- (iii) Lack of education: poor people do not send their children to schools. They send them to work. Uneducated people do not find good jobs and suffer from poverty.
- (iv) Inability to get medical care: poor people do not have money to get medical care. They suffer from several diseases.
- (v) Unemployment: unemployed people do not earn income. So, they suffer from poverty.
- (vi) Lack of safe drinking water: Poor people will not be getting safe drinking water.

***31. Describe the challenges in the way of poverty alleviation in India.***

- (i) Number of poor people are more in the rural areas. So, village development should be given importance.
- (ii) Some States of India are extremely poor. Special development projects should be undertaken for them.
- (iii) Illiteracy and ignorance are two challenges in the path of development of the villages.

***32. How is poverty viewed by Social Scientists?***

***OR***

***Explain the various factors that analyse poverty according to the Social Scientists.***

According to the Social Scientists, access food, shelter and clothing alone cannot keep a person above poverty. Illiteracy level, lack of resistance due to malnutrition, lack of access to health care, unemployment, lack of safe drinking water and lack of sanitation are also the indicators of poverty.

### **33. Poverty is a curse on humanity. Explain**

**OR**

#### **Examine the harmful nature of Poverty.**

- (i) Poverty leads to starvation deaths. Several people lose their lives due to starvation.
- (ii) Poverty leads to beggary. Begging is against the dignity of the individual.
- (iii) Poverty leads to poor health. Poor are not able to get medical facilities.
- (iv) Poverty may lead to anti – social activities. Poverty may compel a person to involve in criminal activities.
- (v) Poverty leads to illiteracy and ignorance. Poor people do not send their children to schools.

### ***34. What is the most compelling challenge in India? Suggest some steps to overcome this challenge.***

Poverty is the most compelling challenge of India.

- (i) Steps should be taken to provide education and health care to the children of poor families.
- (ii) Promote cottage and village industries. Technical and financial help should be given to them.
- (iii) Help the farmers to adopt modern methods of farming.
- (iv) Take steps to protect the workers in the unorganized sector.
- (v) Implement the Poverty Alleviation Programmes properly.

### ***35. Why do different countries use different poverty lines? Name the two basis of measuring poverty.***

Social, economic and cultural conditions are different in different countries. Inability to get basic necessities is considered as poverty. Basic necessities differ in different countries. For, Example, a person who does not own a car is considered poor in the USA. In India, the poor does not even own a bicycle. So, different countries use different poverty lines.

Income and Consumption are the two basis of poverty.

***36. Define the term poor. What is accepted as calorie requirement for rural and urban areas of India?***

Poor is a person who is not able to satisfy his minimum basic necessities of life such as food, shelter, clothing, education, medical care etc.

2400 per person per day is the calorie requirement for rural areas and 2100 calories are needed in the urban areas.

***37. The official definition of poverty captures only a limited part of what poverty really means. Explain this statement.***

Inability to get the minimum food, shelter and clothing is considered as poverty. According to the Social Scientists, access food, shelter and clothing alone cannot keep a person above poverty. Illiteracy level, lack of resistance due to malnutrition, lack of access to health care, unemployment, lack of safe drinking water and lack of sanitation are also the indicators of poverty.

***38. On what basis can it be said that the poverty reduction will make great progress in the next 10 to 15 years?***

(i) Indian economy is developing at a good rate. If this rate of development continues poverty can be reduced.

(ii) Population growth rate is effectively controlled. Family Planning measures are making success.

(iii) Women empowerment is taking place in India. Women's participation is increasing in economic activities.