

Chapter-3

Poverty as a Challenge

2MARKS:

1. Identify the social and economic groups which are most vulnerable to poverty in India.

Answer

Social and Economic Groups that are vulnerable to Poverty:

- Scheduled caste households
- Rural agricultural labour households
- Urban casual labour households

2.. What do you understand about human poverty?

Answer:

Human poverty is a concept which tells us the situation that goes beyond the limited view of poverty as lack of income. The denial of political, social and economic opportunities for an individual so that he can maintain a “reasonable” standard of living. Major components of human poverty are - Illiteracy, lack of job opportunities, lack of access to proper healthcare and sanitation, caste and gender discrimination, etc.

3. Who are the poorest of the poor?

Answer:

Women, children, particularly the girl child and elder people in a poor family were regarded as the poorest of the poor, since they are systematically denied equal access to resources available to the family.

4. Describe how the poverty line is estimated in India?

Answer:

In India, poverty line is measured by considering the following factors:

- Minimum level of food requirement,
- Clothing
- Footwear
- Fuel and Light
- Education
- Medical requirement

7marks

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

Answer:

A person is considered poor if their income or consumption level falls below a given “minimum level” necessary to fulfil basic needs. This minimum level is called the poverty line. In India, the poverty line is estimated by multiplying the prices of physical quantities like food, clothing, footwear, fuel, light, education, etc., in rupees. The numbers involved in determining the poverty line vary for different years. Also, the poverty line for rural areas is different from that of urban areas because the work, lifestyle and expenses are different for rural and urban areas.

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

Answer:

No, the present-day methodology of poverty estimation does not seem to be completely appropriate. This is because the only factor taken into consideration is economic status, and moreover, it considers a minimum subsistence of living instead of a reasonable status of living. Poverty today is a larger concept than only the economic status of the people. With advancements and development, the definition of poverty has also changed. People might be able to feed themselves and their families, but education, shelter, health, job security and dignity remain far from their reach. To overcome poverty entirely, all the above-mentioned factors also need to be

kept in consideration. To completely remove poverty from the country, the methodology to estimate poverty should also be changed.

3. Describe poverty trends in India since 1973.

Answer:

The Economic Survey of 2017-18 showed that although poverty has declined in the country, the number of poor still remains very high. The poverty ratio of 1993-94 for both rural and urban areas together was at 45%, and the ratio for the year 2011-12 has declined to 22%. However, the topic of concern still remains that there has not been any massive decline in the number of poor living in the country. While 404 million poor population was accounted for in both rural and urban areas in 1993-94, the poor population in 2011-12 was 270 million. The survey clearly tells that the concerned authorities must take some serious steps in order to make India a country free of poverty.

4. Discuss the major reasons for poverty in India.

Answer:

The major reasons for poverty in the country are

1. The low level of economic development under British colonial rule. The policies of the colonial government ruined traditional handicrafts and discouraged the development of industries like textiles.
2. The spread of the Green Revolution created many job opportunities for the people of the country, yet they were not sufficient in comparison to the number of job seekers.
3. The unequal distribution of land and resources is another important factor for poverty in India.

4. In order to fulfil social obligations and religious ceremonies, the poor end up spending a lot, which results in poverty.
5. Inequality in the income of the people is also a major reason for poverty.

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

Answer:

The social groups which are most vulnerable to poverty in India are

1. Scheduled Caste Households
2. Scheduled Tribe Households

The economic groups which are most vulnerable to poverty in India are

1. Rural Agricultural Labour Households
2. Urban Casual Labour Households

6. Give an account of interstate disparities of poverty in India.

Answer:

Poverty in India differs for different states. The success rate of reducing poverty varies from state to state, causing inter-state disparities in the poverty level. Orissa, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh are the three poorest states in India, with their people living below the poverty line 47, 42 and 37 per cent, respectively. Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh are the three better-off states in India as far as poverty is concerned. There are various factors that are responsible for these interstate disparities of poverty in India.

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

The success rate of reducing poverty varies from state to state, causing inter-state disparities in the poverty level. Orissa, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh are the three poorest states in India, with their people living below the poverty line 47, 42 and 37 per cent, respectively. Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh are the three better-off states in India as far as poverty is concerned. There has been a substantial reduction in global poverty. 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. In Latin America, the ratio of poverty remained almost the same. In sub-Saharan Africa, poverty saw an upward trend rather than a downward trend. It rose from 41% in 1981 to 46% in 2001. Poverty has surfaced in some of the former socialist countries, like Russia, where formerly it was non-existent.

8. Describe the current government strategy of poverty alleviation.**Answer:**

Removal of poverty has been one of the major objectives of the Indian developmental strategy. The current anti-poverty strategy of the government is based broadly on two planks: promotion of economic growth and targeted anti-poverty programmes. Awareness is being spread across the nation specifying the importance of education, which has resulted in an increase in the literacy level. Various schemes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) and Prime Minister

Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) have been introduced by the government with an aim to abolish poverty from the country.

5MARKS

i) What do you understand by human poverty?

Answer:

Human poverty is a term that means that poverty is not just limited to the economic status of the people but rather spreads in various other sectors, which include lack of education, negligence of the health care system, discrimination and disparity. Abolishing poverty should not be the only aim of the authorities, but abolishing human poverty must be the aim.

(ii) Who are the poorest of the poor?

Answer:

Women, female infants and the elderly are considered the poorest of the poor. This is because, in a poor household, these people suffer the most and are deprived of the maximum necessities in life.

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

Answer:

The main features of the National Rural Employment Act 2005 are as follows:

1. To provide 100 days of wage employment to every household to ensure livelihood security in rural areas.
2. Sustainable development to address the cause of drought, deforestation and soil erosion.
3. One-third of the proposed jobs under this scheme have been reserved for women.

Choose the correct answer

1. What is the most common measure used to identify the poor in India?

- a) Income level
- b) Educational background
- c) Occupation
- d) Age

answer:(a)

2. What is the poverty line?

- a) The line that separates the rich and the poor
- b) The line that represents the average income of a country
- c) The minimum level of income required to meet basic needs
- d) The maximum level of income beyond which one is considered wealthy

answer:(c)

3. Which of the following is NOT a cause of poverty?

- a) Lack of education and skills
- b) Unemployment
- c) Unequal distribution of resources
- d) Access to healthcare facilities

answer:(d)

4. Which state in India has the highest poverty rate?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Kerala
- c) Bihar
- d) Gujarat

answer:(c)

5. What is the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) aimed at?

- a) Reducing poverty by providing employment opportunities in rural areas
- b) Providing free education to children from poor families
- c) Promoting industrial growth in urban areas
- d) Ensuring equal distribution of land among the poor

answer:(a)

6. What is the purpose of the Public Distribution System (PDS)?

- a) Providing healthcare facilities to the poor
- b) Promoting education among the poor
- c) Distributing essential food items to the poor at subsidized rates
- d) Creating employment opportunities for the poor

answer:(c)

7. Which of the following is a direct measure of poverty?

- a) Literacy rate
- b) Unemployment rate
- c) Infant mortality rate
- d) Poverty ratio

answer:(d)

8. What is the Human Development Index (HDI) used for?

- a) Measuring the income level of individuals
- b) Identifying the causes of poverty
- c) Evaluating the overall development of a country
- d) Assessing the quality of education in a region

answer:(c)

9. Which of the following is an example of a poverty alleviation program in India?

- a) Mid-day meal scheme
- b) Aadhaar card registration
- c) Swachh Bharat Abhiyan
- d) Make in India campaign

answer:(a)

10. What is the role of education in poverty alleviation?

- a) It ensures equal distribution of resources
- b) It provides employment opportunities for the poor
- c) It increases the poverty rate
- d) It helps in acquiring skills and improving income levels

answer:(d)

fill in the blanks

1. The term "vulnerable groups" refer to Groups of people who are at risk of falling into poverty
2. Social poverty is NOT a dimension of poverty.
3. Kerela state in India has the lowest poverty rate
4. They promote unity among the poor of self-help groups (SHGs) in poverty alleviation.
5. Poverty ratio is a direct measure of poverty?