



## **DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL BANGALORE - EAST**

### **SOCIAL SCIENCE (ECONOMICS)**

### **POVERTY AS A CHALLENGE (NOTES)**

#### **PART -I**

#### **I. Very short answers:**

**1. What kind of people in India are considered poor?**

**Ans:**

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.

**2. What measures do we use to estimate the poverty line in India?**

**Ans:**

The measures that we use to estimate the poverty line in India are:

- Income level.
- Consumption level.

**3. What is the calorie requirement in rural and urban areas in India?**

**Ans:**

The accepted average calorie requirement in India is 2400 calories per person per day in rural areas and 2100 calories per person per day in urban areas.

**4. Why is the calorie requirement higher in rural areas than in urban areas?**

**Ans:**

Since people living in rural areas engage themselves in more physical work so the calorie requirement in rural areas is higher than in urban areas.

**5. Mention the organisation which is accountable to conduct sample surveys for estimating poverty line.**

**Ans:**

The poverty line is estimated periodically (normally every five years). The sample surveys are carried out by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO).

**6. Which social groups are vulnerable to poverty?**

**Ans:**

The two social groups which are most vulnerable to poverty are Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households.

**7. Which economic groups are most vulnerable to poverty?**

**Ans:**

The economic groups which are most vulnerable to poverty are: rural agricultural labour households and urban casual labour households.

**8. Mention the two poorest states in India?**

**Ans:**

Bihar and Odisha are the two poorest states in India.

**9. Which states in India have seen a significant decline in poverty?**

**Ans:**

Kerala, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana and West Bengal have seen a significant decline in poverty.

**10. What are the criteria for poverty line as defined by the World Bank?**

**Ans:**

The World Bank defines poverty line in terms of minimum availability of the equivalent of \$1.90 per person per day.

**II. Answer in detail:**

**11. State the dimensions of poverty.**

**Ans:**

- Poverty means hunger and lack of shelter. It is also a situation where parents cannot afford education for their children and proper medical treatment. Poverty also means lack of clean water and sanitation facilities.
- There is malnutrition due to lack of proper food. It means lack of a regular job at a minimum decent level. Above all it means living with a sense of helplessness.

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

**Ans:**

- According to social exclusion, poverty must be seen in terms of the poor having to live only in a poor surrounding with other poor people, excluded from enjoying social equality of better-off people in better surroundings.

- It can be both a cause as well as a consequence of poverty in the usual sense. Broadly, it is a process through which individuals or groups are excluded from facilities, benefits and opportunities that others (their “betters”) enjoy.
- A typical example is the working of the caste system in India in which people belonging to certain castes are excluded from equal opportunities. Social exclusion thus may lead to, but can cause more damage than having a very low income.

**13. Define ‘Vulnerability’. How is it determined?**

**Ans:**

- Vulnerability to poverty is a measure which describes the greater probability of certain communities like people belonging to backward castes, physically handicapped people, widow, old people etc. of becoming or remaining poor in the coming years.
- It is determined by the options available to different sections of the society to have an access to an alternative living in terms of assets, education, and health and job opportunities. It describes the greater probability of being more adversely affected than other people when confronted with any kind of disaster or calamity or during the bad times.

**14. What is the concept of poverty line? How does it vary with time and place?**

**Ans:**

- A poverty line is an indicator of poverty, i.e. it is a level of income which barely meets sustenance. A common method used to measure poverty is based on the income or consumption level
- A person is considered poor if his or her income or consumption level falls below a given minimum level necessary to fulfill basic needs.
- It is the necessity 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 (Poverty) line that is considered appropriate for the existing level of development and accepted as minimum social norms. For example, a person not having a car in the US may be considered poor. In India owning a car is still considered a luxury.

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

**Ans:**

- No, the present methodology of poverty estimation is inappropriate because it captures only the ‘minimum’ subsistence level of living rather than a ‘reasonable’ level of living.
- The amount which is fixed as a measure of poverty line does not include the price fluctuations and price rise which is constantly occurring.
- The poverty line should include some corrections and consider the changes due to inflation and market fluctuations.

**16. Why there has been a significant decline in poverty in some states of India? Give reasons.**

**Ans:**

There has been a significant decline in poverty in Kerala, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and West Bengal.

- States like Punjab and Haryana have traditionally succeeded in reducing poverty with the help of high agricultural growth rates.
- Kerala has focused more on human resource development.

- In West Bengal, land reform measures have helped in reducing poverty.
- In Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, public distribution of food grains is responsible for the improvement.

**17. Describe how the poverty line is estimated in India.**

**Ans:** While determining the poverty line in India,

- A minimum level of food requirement, clothing, footwear, fuel and light, education and medical requirement etc. are determined for subsistence.
- These physical quantities are multiplied by their prices in rupees.
- The desired calorie requirements are seen depending on age, sex and the type of work that a person does.
- The accepted average calorie requirement in India is 2400 calories per person per day in rural areas and 2100 calories per person per day in urban areas.
- The monetary expenditure per capita needed for buying these calorie requirements is revised periodically, keeping in mind the rise in prices.
- On the basis of these calculations for the year 2011-2012, the poverty line for a person was fixed at Rs.816 per month for rural areas and Rs1000 for urban areas.
- In this way in the year 2011-12, a family of five members living in rural areas and earning less than about Rs 4,080 per month will be below the poverty line. A similar family in urban areas would need a minimum of Rs 5,000 per month to meet their basic requirements.

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