

EXERCISES

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1. Every village in India is surveyed once in ten years during the Census and some of the details are presented in the following format. Fill up the following based on information on Palampur.

- LOCATION:
- TOTAL AREA OF THE VILLAGE:
- LAND USE (in hectares):

Cultivated Land		Land not available for cultivation (Area covering dwellings, roads, ponds, grazing ground)
Irrigated	Unirrigated	
		26 hectares

d) FACILITIES:

Educational	
Medical	
Market	
Electricity Supply	
Communication	
Nearest Town	

Answer:

- LOCATION: Bulandshahr District, Western Uttar Pradesh
- TOTAL AREA OF THE VILLAGE: 226 hectares
- LAND USE (in hectares):

Cultivated Land	Land not available for cultivation (Area
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Irrigated	Unirrigated	covering dwellings, roads, ponds, grazing ground)
200 hectares	—	26 hectares

1. FACILITIES:

Educational	1 high school, 2 primary schools
Medical	1 private dispensary, 1 primary health care centre run by the Government
Market	2 markets: Raiganj and Shahpur
Electricity Supply	Most of the houses have electricity connections. Electricity powers all the tubewells in the fields and is used for various small business.
Communication	Well-connected neighbouring villages, with Raiganj located within 3 kms. Proper transportation including bullock carts, tongas and bogeys carrying jaggery. Also, motor vehicles like motorcycles, jeeps, tractors and trucks are available for easy transportation.
Nearest Town	Shahpur

2. Modern farming methods require more inputs which are manufactured in industries. Do you agree?

Answer:

Yes, it is correct to say that modern farming methods require more inputs which are manufactured in industries. It is because modern farming methods use high-yielding varieties of seeds. These seeds require both chemical fertilisers and pesticides, agricultural implementations like tractors and proper irrigation facilities like electric tube wells, and all these elements are manufactured in industries. However, on the other hand, traditional farming methods use a relatively low-yielding variety of seeds and use cow dung and other natural manures as fertiliser, which is why they are less dependent on industrial outputs.

3. How did the spread of electricity help farmers in Palampur?

Answer:

The spread of electricity helped the farmers of Palampur as it aided in the transformation of the irrigation system of the village. The farmers earlier used Persian wheels to draw water from wells and irrigate small fields. But after the spread

of electricity, electric tube wells replaced these Persian wheels. The first tube well was installed by the Government, but later, private tube wells were also set up by the farmers, resulting in the cultivation of the entire 200 hectares of irrigated land by the 1970s.

4. Is it important to increase the area under irrigation? Why?

Answer:

It is important to increase the land under irrigation because farming is the main source of income for the maximum part of the population in India and only less than 40 per cent of the land is cultivable in the country. Farmers are dependent on the erratic monsoon season, and if the rainfall is less, farmers are bound to suffer a major loss. So if the water is provided for irrigation to the farmers for a larger portion of land, it would give better output and make more land cultivable in India and also encourage farmers to take up newer farming methods without the fear of suffering loss.

5. Construct a table on the distribution of land among the 450 families of Palampur.

Answer:

The distribution of land among the 450 families of Palampur is as given below:

Area of land Cultivated	Number of Families
0	150
Less than 2 hectares	240
More than 2 hectares	60

6. Why are the wages for farm labourers in Palampur less than minimum wages?

Answer:

There are many landless farm labourers who are paid less than the minimum wages in Palampur. The Government-declared wage for a farm labourer is Rs 300 per day, but the competition for work among the farm labourers is very high, which is why people agree to work for lower wages.

7. In your region, talk to two labourers. Choose either farm labourers or labourers working at construction sites. What wages do they get? Are they paid in cash or kind? Do they get work regularly? Are they in debt?

Answer:

Students must do this activity themselves and answer the question based on their survey.

8. What are the different ways of increasing production on the same piece of land? Use examples to explain.

Answer:

To grow more than one crop on a piece of land during the year is known as multiple cropping. It is the most common way of increasing production on a given piece of land. The best example of this is the cultivation in Palampur. In Palampur, jowar and bajra grow during the rainy season, followed by potato between October and December, and during the winter season, wheat is sown in the fields. The main reason for this is the well-developed system of irrigation.

9. Describe the work of a farmer with 1 hectare of land.

Answer:

A farmer with 1 hectare of land will be called a small farmer. Since the area for cultivation is small, the outcome may also not be high. So, in order to be able to get the best possible yield, the farmer needs money. This money is borrowed from a moneylender at a high interest rate and at times may also have to work as a farm labourer for the moneylender. Once the farm is cultivated, the produce has to be divided for personal use and for selling in the market. Whatever profit is earned, the farmer has to usually give it away to the moneylender, and little money is left for the use of the farmer himself. The only help a small farmer gets is that of his family members.

10. How do the medium and large farmers obtain capital for farming? How is it different from the small farmers?

Answer:

Large and medium farmers sell surplus farm products from a part of their produce. A part of the earnings is saved and kept for buying capital for the next season. A few of them give away the savings to small farmers and loans at high interest rates and get back the amount by the next season. Thus, they are able to arrange for the capital for farming from their own savings. Some farmers might also use the savings to buy cattle, trucks, or to set up shops.

11. On what terms did Savita get a loan from Tejpal Singh? Would Savita's condition be different if she could get a loan from the bank at a low rate of interest?

Answer:

Savita got a loan from Tejpal Singh at the rate of interest of 24 per cent for four months and also had to work for Tejpal Singh as a farm labourer at the wage of Rs 100 per day during the harvest season.

The case would have been different if Savita had taken the loan from a bank. The rate of interest would have been lesser than what was asked by Tejpal Singh and also she would have been able to pay complete attention to her own field during the time of harvest.

12. Talk to some old residents in your region and write a short report on the changes in irrigation and changes in production methods during the last 30 years.

Answer: Students must do this activity and write an answer based on their own observation.

13. What are the non-farm production activities taking place in your region? Make a short list.

Answer:

The non-farm production activities taking place in our region are as follow:

1. Dairy
2. Transportation

3. General Stores
4. Fishing
5. Mining

14. What can be done so that more non-farm production activities can be started in villages?

Answer:

To promote more non-farm production activities in villages, the following steps can be taken:

1. Loans must be available for people at lower interest rates so that they can start the non-farm production activities.
2. Proper markets should be set up so that the produced goods can be sold.
3. The concerned authorities must set up better transportation between cities and villages so that the produced goods can be transported to cities and more money can be earned through the non-farming activities.



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1. What do you understand by ‘people as a resource’?

Answer:

‘People as a resource’ is a term that means how the population can be an asset and not a liability. It is a way of referring to the working class of society in terms of their existing productive skills and abilities. The population becomes human capital when an investment is made in the form of education and training. Education and health also help human beings to be an asset to the economy. Thus, people as a resource refers to the working population that results in the development of society.

2. How is human resource different from other resources like land and physical Capital?

Answer:

Human resources are different from other resources like land and physical capital because human beings can use other resources to give out productive output. However, resources like land and physical capital are dependent on human resource for their use and cannot give any productive output all by themselves.

3. What is the role of education in human capital formation?

Answer:

Education plays a very important role in human capital formation for the following reasons:

1. An educated human can be considered an asset for the economy and not a liability.
2. Education can help an individual make better use of economic opportunities. It helps in enhancing the national income, cultural richness and increases the efficiency of the Government.
3. It enhances individual productivity in terms of quality and quantity.
4. Because being educated can help the economic status of an individual, it also develops the consciousness towards society.
5. An educated person is also aware of health and hygiene, and it will ultimately result in better health for the people of a country.

4. What is the role of health in human capital formation?

Answer:

Health plays a very important role in human capital formation in the following ways:

1. If an individual is healthy, they may have better immunity to fight illness.
2. Being healthy will also increase the overall outcome of an individual.
3. The health of an individual is directly proportional to the work he does. Thus better health will increase efficiency.

The above-mentioned points prove that if better healthcare measures are taken up, and an individual in a country becomes more healthy, the human capital and productivity will also increase.

5. What part does health play in the individual’s working life?

Answer:

If an individual is healthy, then they may be able to give a better outcome in terms of their work lives. The efficiency of a healthy person is higher than that of an unhealthy person. A healthy person can spend more time working in comparison to an unhealthy person. Hence, health plays a very important role in an individual's working life.

6. What are the various activities undertaken in the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors?

Answer:

The various activities that come under the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors are as follows:

Primary Sector	Secondary Sector	Tertiary Sector
Agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, fishing, poultry, farming, mining and quarrying	Manufacturing	Trade, transport, communication, banking, education, health, tourism and insurance

7. What is the difference between economic activities and non-economic activities?

Answer:

The activities that add value to the national income are called economic activities. They can be divided into two types: market activities and non-market activities. Market activities involve the activities performed for pay or profit, and non-market activities include the production done for self-consumption.

The activities that add no value to the national income are called non-economic activities. Domestic chore is an example of non-economic activities.

8. Why are women employed in low paid work?

Answer:

The wage distribution among men and women has been a major concern for society. Women are mostly paid less than men, and one major reason for this is the meagre education qualification of women. They are employed in sectors which do not provide them with proper maternity leaves, childcare benefits and other provisions and are also responsible for managing the household work. Hence, they are paid less than men. Skill is another reason why wages for women are less than for men. Men are considered more skilful in comparison to women, despite equal physical work. Due to these reasons, women are employed in low paid work.

9. How will you explain the term unemployment?

Answer:

A situation in which skilled and abled people do not get gainful work at a decent wage is called unemployment. Both rural and urban areas have unemployment. In the case of the rural population, there is seasonal unemployment, and in urban areas, there is educated unemployment.

10. What is the difference between disguised unemployment and seasonal unemployment?

Answer:

Rural areas have cases of both seasonal and disguised unemployment. Seasonal unemployment is when a person is unable to find a job during a few months of the year. This mostly happens for farmers who are unemployed for a part of the year when no crops are grown.

Disguised unemployment is when people appear to be employed. When the number of people working on agricultural land is higher than the number of people actually required to work, this is considered an example of disguised unemployment. If a piece of land requires only three people to work on it, but rather five are working on it, the two extra people are an example of disguised unemployment.

11. Why is educated unemployed a peculiar problem of India?

Answer:

Educated unemployment has become a common phenomenon in India. Youths with matriculation, graduation and post-graduation degrees are unable to get jobs in India. This is because the education system in India labels anyone above the age of 18 years as eligible to work. This leaves the youth unskilled and ultimately unemployed. It is important that an individual who does not only have a degree but must also be skilled enough to get a job.

12. In which field do you think India can build the maximum employment opportunity?

Answer:

There are three types of activities into which the employment sector is divided: the primary sector, secondary sector and tertiary sector. The largest part of India's population is dependent on agriculture for their livelihood, yet there is a massive scope of disguised unemployment in the agricultural sector. Hence the manufacturing sector, a secondary activity, is the one where the maximum part of the population can be given employment due to the increase in the number of industries.

13. Can you suggest some measures in the education system to mitigate the problem of the educated unemployed?

Answer:

Some measures that can be taken in the education system to mitigate the problem of educated unemployed are as follows:

1. Make secondary level education more career-oriented. This practice will not just help individuals get an education but also enhance their skills and get better employment opportunities.
2. An individual should be able to choose the subjects that suit his or her abilities.
3. New subjects and fields of study should be introduced at the school level, which can be opted for a career in the future. This will open an opportunity for students to plan their future options at the school level itself.

14. Can you imagine some village which initially had no job opportunities but later came up with many?

Answer:

Students must answer this question based on their own experience.

15. Which capital would you consider the best — land, labour, physical capital or human capital? Why?

Answer:

Human capital can be considered to be the best out of the land, labour, physical and human capital. This is because the other resources cannot be used all by themselves, and only humans can use other resources and get productive outcomes from them.



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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.

9. Answer the following questions briefly.

(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.

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1. How is food security ensured in India?

Answer:

To ensure the availability of food to all sections of society, the Indian government carefully designed a food security system, which is composed of two components: (a) buffer stock and (b) public distribution system. Food security is ensured in India in the following ways:

1. Availability of Food – food produced in the country and the previous years' stocks saved by the Government
2. Accessibility of Food – food reaches every citizen of the country
3. Affordability of Food – every individual should have the money to afford food which is safe and nutritious

2. Which are the people more prone to food insecurity?

Answer:

The people living below the poverty line might be food insecure all the time, while better-off people might also turn food insecure due to calamity or disaster. The social composition, along with the inability to buy food, also plays a role in food insecurity. The SCs, STs, and some sections of the OBCs (lower castes among them) who have either poor land-based or very low land productivity are prone to food insecurity. Other than these sections, people hit by a natural disaster are also likely to be food insecure.

3. Which states are more food insecure in India?

Answer:

Eastern and south-eastern parts of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, parts of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra are the largest food-insecure states in India.

4. Do you believe that green revolution has made India self-sufficient in food grains? How?

Answer:

Post-independence, India adopted a new strategy in the agricultural field which led to the Green Revolution, especially for the production of wheat and rice. Ever since, India has avoided famine even in adverse weather conditions, and varieties of crops have been grown all across the country. This availability of food grains, even in adverse conditions at the country level, ensured the Government had a proper food security system. Hence, it can be said that the green revolution has made India self-sufficient in food grains.

5. A section of people in India are still without food. Explain?

Answer:

A section of people in India is still without food despite a large increase in the food grain production in the country. This is because of the increased price of commodities and people not being able to afford food to feed themselves and their families. Unemployment can also be a cause of this chronic hunger that poor people suffer in rural areas.

6. What happens to the supply of food when there is a disaster or calamity?

Answer:

When there is a disaster or calamity, the production and cultivation of food grains are highly affected. The production decreases, and this causes a shortage of food grains and, ultimately the hiked prices of food grains. The region affected by calamity might also turn into a food-insecure state if the calamity lasts for a longer period of time.

7. Differentiate between seasonal hunger and chronic hunger?

Answer:

Hunger is one of the most important aspects indicating food security. Hunger results in poverty, and there are two dimensions of hunger – one is seasonal hunger and the other is chronic hunger.

The type of hunger that exists when a person is unable to get work for the entire year is called seasonal hunger. Seasonal hunger is related to cycles of food growing and harvesting. This is prevalent in rural areas because of the seasonal nature of agricultural activities and in urban areas because of casual labourers.

Chronic hunger is a consequence of diets persistently inadequate in terms of quantity and/or quality. Poor people suffer from chronic hunger because of their very low income and, in turn, inability to buy food even for survival.

8. What has our government done to provide food security to the poor? Discuss any two schemes launched by the government?

Answer:

The government has launched various schemes for the welfare of the people and to provide food security to the poor. Two such schemes are Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Annapurna Scheme (APS).

Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) – Launched in the year 2000, under this scheme, one crore of the poorest among the below-poverty-line families covered under the targeted public distribution system were identified, and 25 kg of food grains were provided to each eligible family at a highly subsidised rate of Rs. 2 per kg wheat and Rs. 3 per kg of rice. The scheme was further expanded in the year 2003, and close to 50 lakh families below the poverty line were provided with food grains.

Annapurna Scheme (APS) – Launched in the year 2000, the scheme aims to provide food to the senior citizens who have remained uncovered under the National Old Age Pension Scheme. The eligibility for an applicant is that they should be 65 years or above in age.

9. Why buffer stock is created by the government?

Answer:

A buffer stock of food grains is created by the government so that it can be distributed in the food deficit areas and among the poorer strata of society at a price much lower than the market price. A buffer stock also helps to resolve the problem of food shortage during adverse weather conditions, disasters or calamities. Thus, maintaining buffer stock is a step taken by the government in order to ensure food security.

10. Write notes on:

(a) **Minimum support price** – The Food Corporation of India purchases wheat and rice from the farmers in states where there is surplus production. The farmers are paid a pre-announced price for their crops. This price is called Minimum Support Price. Before the sowing season every year, the government announces the MSP, and the purchased food grains are stored in granaries.

(b) Buffer stock – Buffer stock is the stock of food grains, mainly wheat and rice, procured by the Government through the Food Corporation of India. This buffer stock is used by the government in case of any calamity or disaster or for the poorer section of society.

(c) Issue price – Food is kept in stocks in the form of buffer stock to distribute food grains in the deficit areas and among the poorer strata of the society at a price lower than the market. This price is also known as the Issue Price.

(d) Fair price shops – Ration shops, also known as Fair Price Shops, keep stock of food grains, sugar, and kerosene for cooking. These items are sold to people at a price lower than the market price. Any family with a ration card can buy a stipulated amount of these items every month from the nearby ration shop.

11. What are the problems of the functioning of ration shops?

Answer:

Ration shops, also known as Fair Price Shops, keep stock of food grains, sugar, and kerosene for cooking. These items are sold to people at a price lower than the market price. However, there are problems with the functioning of the ration shops:

1. The quality of food provided to poor people is less than the expected quality of food grains.
2. The ration shop deals indulge in malpractices and do not provide the poor people with the entire quantity they deserve.
3. Some ration shops are not opened regularly, and this causes discomfort to the poor.
4. The ration shopkeepers even update wrong entries in the name of the poor people.

12. Write a note on the role of cooperatives in providing food and related items.

Answer:

Along with the government, cooperatives also play an important role in ensuring food security in India, especially in the southern and western parts of the country. The cooperative societies set up shops to sell low-priced goods to the poor. Out of all fair-price shops running in Tamil Nadu, around 94 per cent are being run by cooperatives. Mother Dairy, in Delhi, is involved in providing milk and vegetables at controlled rates decided by the government. Amul, responsible for the White Revolution in India, is a cooperative involved in providing milk and milk products. The Academy of Development Science (ADS) in Maharashtra has been involved in the setting up of Grain Banks in different regions. It organises training and capacity-building programmes on food security for NGOs. Its efforts are also directed towards influencing the government's policy on food security. Thus, through these examples, it can be seen that cooperatives are playing an active role in the distribution of food and related items.