



#### Question-6

Describe global poverty trends.

Solution:

The proportion of people in developing countries living in extreme economic poverty— defined by the World Bank as living on less than \$1 per day—has fallen from 28 per cent in 1990 to 21 per cent in 2001. Although there has been a substantial reduction in global poverty, it is marked with great regional differences. Poverty declined substantially in China and Southeast Asian countries as a result of rapid economic growth and massive investments in human resource development. Number of poor people in China has come down from 606 million in 1981 to 212 million in 2001. In the countries of South Asia (India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan) the decline has not been as rapid. Despite decline in the percentage of the poor, the number of poor has declined marginally from 475 million in 1981 to 428 million in 2001. Because of different poverty line definition, poverty in India is also shown higher than the national estimates. In Sub-Saharan Africa, poverty in fact rose from 41 per cent in 1981 to 46 per cent in 2001 (see graph 3.3). In Latin America, the ratio of poverty remained the same. Poverty has also resurfaced in some of the former socialist countries like Russia, where officially it was nonexistent earlier. The proportion of people living under poverty in different countries is defined by the international poverty line (means population below \$1 a day).

#### Question-7

Describe current government strategy of poverty alleviation.

Solution:

The current anti-poverty strategy of the government is based broadly on two planks

- (1) promotion of economic growth
- (2) targeted anti-poverty programmes.

#### Question-8

What do you understand by human poverty?

Solution:

Many scholars advocate that we must broaden the concept of poverty into human poverty. A large number of people may have been able to feed themselves. But they do not have education or shelter or health care or job security or self confidence. They are not free from caste and gender discrimination. The practice of child labour is still common.

#### Question-9

Describe how the poverty line is estimated in India.

Solution:

A common method used to measure poverty is based on the income or consumption levels. A person is considered poor if his or her income or consumption level falls below a given "minimum level" necessary to fulfill basic needs.

#### Question-10

Who are the poorest of the poor?

Solution:

Women, elderly people and female infants are systematically denied equal access to resources available to the family. Therefore

women, children (especially the girl child) and old people are the poorest of the poor.

Question-11

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

Solution:

The National Rural Employment Act 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. The central government will also establish National Employment Guarantee Funds. Similarly state governments will establish State Employment Guarantee Funds for implementation of the scheme.

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