

POVERTY

MODULE 3

INTRODUCTION

- Poverty can be defined in a range of different ways: as lack of resources or income available to purchase necessities or to achieve an acceptable standard of living; through actual levels of expenditure; as deprivation indicated by the lack of essentials; as lack of the capability to achieve particular standard of living, whether or not that standard of living is achieved; or as inability to participate in the activities of everyday life. At the same time, sociological attention to inequality has focused on a range of different inequalities: inequality of income; health inequalities; educational inequalities, or inequality of educational opportunity.
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- We can define **poverty** as the condition where the basic needs of a family, like food, shelter, clothing, and education are not fulfilled. It can lead to other problems like poor literacy, unemployment, malnutrition, etc. A poor person is not able to get education due to lack of money and therefore remains unemployed.
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TYPES

- According to sociologists and researchers there are two different approaches to poverty:1. **Absolute poverty** and2. **Relative poverty**. The concept of absolute poverty is grounded in the idea of subsistence, the basic conditions that must be met in order to sustain a physically healthy existence. People who lack these fundamental requirements for human existence such as sufficient food, shelter and clothing are said to live in poverty. The concept of absolute poverty is seen as universally applicable. It is held that standards for human subsistence are more or less the same for all people of an equivalent age and physique, regardless of where they live. Any individual, anywhere in the world, can be said to live in poverty if he or she falls below this universal standard.

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HOW POVERTY IS DISCRIMINATED?

- The face of poverty is diverse and ever changing, so it is difficult to present a profile of 'the poor'. The people who are disadvantaged or discriminated against in other aspects of life have an increased chance of being poor. The explanations of poverty can be grouped under two main headings: theories that see poor individuals as responsible for their own poverty, and theories that view poverty as produced and reproduced by structural forces in society.

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PROBLEM

- There is a long history of attitudes that hold the poor as responsible for their own disadvantaged positions. Early efforts to address the effects of poverty, such as the poor houses of the nineteenth century, were grounded in a belief that poverty was the result of an inadequacy or pathology of individuals. The poor were seen as those who were unable because of a lack of skills, moral or physical weakness, absence of motivation, or below average ability to succeed in society. Social standing was taken as a reflection of a person's talent and effort; those who deserved to succeed did so, while others less capable were doomed to fail.
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cause

- Ultimately, **poverty** is a major cause of **social** tensions and threatens to divide a nation because of income inequality and tension of money.
- Poverty entails more than the lack of income and productive resources to ensure sustainable livelihoods. Its manifestations include **hunger** and **malnutrition**, limited access to **education** and other basic services, social discrimination and exclusion as well as the lack of participation in decision-making.
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STEPS TO PREVENT

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- Create jobs. ...
- Raise the minimum wage. ...
- Increase the Earned Income Tax Credit for childless workers. ...
- Support pay equity. ...
- Provide paid leave and paid sick days. ...
- Establish work schedules that work.

WHO IS EFFECTED?

- Children, lone parents, disabled people and people in households in which no one works are more likely to experience **poverty**, to remain in **poverty** for longer and to experience deeper **poverty**, than others.
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WHY IS POVERTY AN INDIAN PROBLEM?

- Fifthly, high rate of population growth in **India** has also made the **problem** of **poverty** a serious one. Because of illiteracy, population growth among the poor masses is high. ... Generally, the two main causes of **poverty** are under-development of the economy and inequality in the distribution of income-earning assets.
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CYCLE OF POVERTY

- What is the **cycle of poverty**?

The **cycle of poverty** begins when a child is born into a poor family. ... On paper, the **cycle of poverty** has been defined as a phenomenon where poor families become impoverished for at least three generations.

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