



Economics

People as Resource

1

NCERT SOLUTIONS

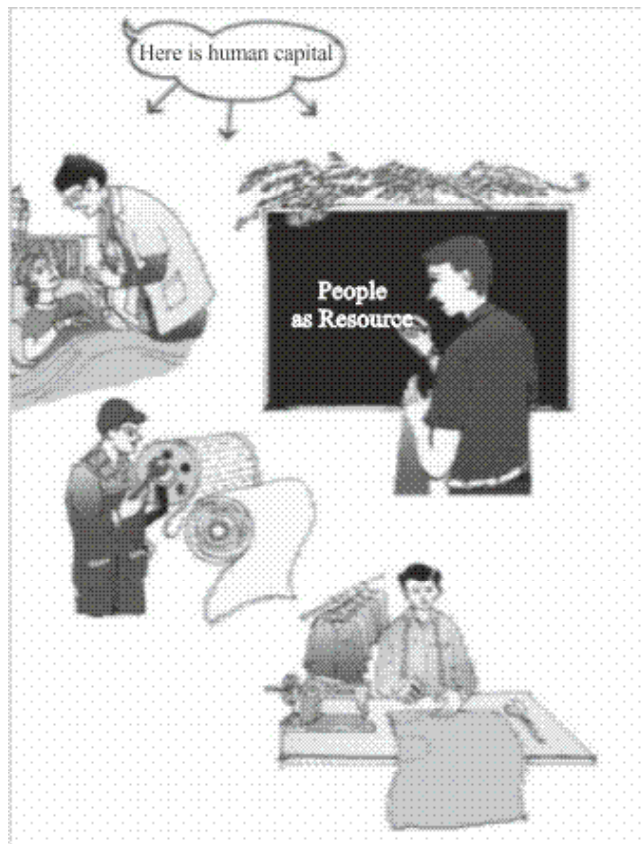


What's inside

- In-Chapter Q's (solved)
- Textbook Exercise Q's (solved)

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IN-CHAPTER QUESTIONS



Picture 2.1

1. Looking at the photograph can you explain how a doctor, teacher, engineer and a tailor are an asset to the economy?

Ans.:(i) A population becomes human capital when there is investment made in the form of education, training and medical care.

(ii) Human capital is the stock of skills and productive knowledge embodied in them.

(iii) Investment made in the form of education and training in making a doctor, a teacher an engineer and a tailor, has increased their capabilities of providing different services to the people of the country and therefore they are an asset to the economy of a nation.

Let's Discuss

Do you notice any difference between the two friends? What are those?

Ans.: The differences between the two friends Sakal and Vilas were

(i) Vilas's father died when Vilas was two years old whereas Sakal was living with his parents.

- (ii) Sakal went to school but Vilas did not go to school.
- (iii) Sakal was interested in studies whereas Vilas was not interested in studies.
- (iv) Sakal did a course in computers and became employed whereas Vilas remained illiterate and was not employed.
- (v) The condition of Sakal and his family became better whereas Vilas and his family lived in poverty.

Activity-1

Visit a nearby village or a slum area and write down a case study of a boy or girl of your age facing the same condition as Vilas or Sakai.

Ans.: A typical case study can be written as follows I visited my ancestral village and found some families in a similar plight to Vikas. One boy, Puran, who is 15 years old, works as a farm labourer. In fact, all his family members are farm labourers, as they are landless and uneducated. Since there is no secondary school in the village, Puran did not study beyond class five. He does not have enough clothes and whatever clothes he is wearing are also torn and worn out with use. He and his family members are undernourished. His father has already become a patient of tuberculosis and may not live long. He feels he will forever remain a poor person.



Pic 2.3

Based on the picture can you classify these activities into three sectors?

Ans.:

- The Picture at top depicts agriculture, which is a primary sector activity.
- The picture in the middle depicts manufacturing, which is a secondary sector activity.
- The picture at bottom depicts shipping, which is a tertiary sector activity.

Activity-2

Visit a village or colony located near to your residential area and note down the various activities undertaken by the people of that village or colony.

If this is not possible, ask your neighbour what is their profession? In which of the three sectors will you categorise their work?

Say whether these activities are economic or non-economic activities:

- (a) Vilas sells fish in the village market.
- (b) Vilas cooks food for his family.
- (c) Sakai works in the private firm.
- (d) Sakai looks after his younger brother and sister

Ans.:(a) Economic activity.
(b) Non-economic activity
(c) Economic activity
(d) Non-economic activity

Let's Discuss

1. Study the graph and answer the following questions:

- (i) Has the literacy rates of the population increased since 1951?
- (ii) In which year India has the highest literacy rates?
- (iii) Why is literacy rate high among the males of India?
- (iv) Why are women less educated than men?
- (v) How would you calculate literacy rate in India?
- (vi) What is your projection about India's literacy rate in 2025?

Ans.:(i) Yes the literacy rates of the population have increased since 1951 as shown below.

(ii) India had the highest literacy rates in 2001.

(iii) India traditionally has a patriarchal male dominated society where more importance is given to males. Culturally due to division of labour the males go out of their homes and get better access to education. Poor families due to monetary constraints prefer to send only their sons to school and not their daughters.

(iv) Women are less educated than men because more preference is given to the boys or sons in the family for education as they are considered as the future of the family. Traditionally, the girls were expected to stay at home and look after domestic chores. So, education among girls was not encouraged. Because of the above reasons, women are less educated than men.

(v) The literacy rate can be calculated on the basis of the formula *i.e.*, the number

- of literate people divided by the population multiplied by 100.
- (vi) The projection about India's literacy rate in year 2010 would be between 75% to 85%

Activity-3

Count the number of boys and girls studying in your school or in your neighbouring co-ed school.

Ask the school administrator to provide you with the data of boys and girls studying in the classroom. Study the difference if any and explain for reasons in the classroom.

Ans.: Most likely you will find that the proportion of girls in comparison to boys goes down in the older age group compared to the younger age group. This shows that the dropout rate of girls from school is more than that of boys. The reasons are similar to the ones already discussed in the matter of literacy, with one added reason that in some families, girls are kept back from school to help in the domestic chores due to poor health or non-availability of the mother.

Let's Discuss

Discuss this table in the classroom and answer the following questions.

- 1. Is the increase in the number of colleges adequate to admit the increasing number of students?**
- 2. Do you think we should have more universities?**
- 3. What is the increase noticed among the teachers in the year 2015–16.**
- 4. What is your idea about future colleges and universities?**

Ans.: 1. No, the increase in the number of colleges is not adequate to admit the increasing number of students because the number of students is increasing at a faster rate compared to the colleges being established.

2. Seeing the ever increasing number of students, we should establish more universities to cater to their needs. But at the same time greater stress should be on opening more and more colleges.

3. There was an increase of 21 thousand teachers in the year 1998-99 compared to 1996-97.

4. In future colleges and universities, stress should be on vocationalisation of education. There should also be a focus on distance education, and convergence of formal and informal, distance and IT education institutions. Colleges should be set up in rural areas to benefit the rural students. Colleges and universities should focus on providing student centered education.

Let's Discuss

Study Table 2.2 and answer the following questions.

1. What is the percentage increase in dispensaries from 1951 to 2020?
2. What is the percentage increase in doctors and nursing personnel from 1951 to 2020?
3. Do you think the increase in the number of doctors and nurses is adequate for India? If not, why?
4. What other facilities would you like to provide in a hospital?
5. Discuss about the hospital you have visited?
6. Can you draw a graph using this table.

Ans.: 1. Data of 1951 is not available in the given table

2. Data of 1951 is not available in the given table

3. No, the increase in the number of doctors and nurses is Inadequate because the ratio of both doctors and nursing personnel is still too low for India's population.

4. Other facilities we would like to provide in a hospital —

(i) Hospitals should be spotlessly clean and hygienic.

(ii) Emergency wards and ambulances should be there in all hospitals.

(iii) Doctors should be available 24 hours.

(iv) Chemist shops should be available inside the hospitals.

(v) Documentation for OPD as well as inpatients should be reduced to the minimum.

5. I have visited the Anand Hospital in our city

(i) It is a 200 bed multi specialist hospital and provides high class medical facilities.

(ii) It has state of the art operation theatres and a blood bank.

(iii) It has various machines to carry out different kinds of tests like ultrasound, MRI, etc.

(iv) It has a well equipped pathology lab.

(v) It has a number of specialists in different branches of medicine.

(vi) It caters to the needs of the entire city and also to the surrounding rural areas.

(vii) It is centrally air conditioned. It also has a medical store.

(viii) The only drawback is that being a private hospital the treatment for the patients is costly.

6. Do it yourself

Activity-3

Visit a nearby hospital, either government or private and note down the following details.

- How many beds are there in the hospital you have visited?
- How many doctors are there in the hospital?
- How many nurses work in that hospital?

Besides, try to gather the following additional information:

- How many hospitals are there in your locality?
- How many dispensaries are there in your locality?

Ans.:Do it yourself

TEXTBOOK EXERCISE

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

Answer:

People can make the best use of nature to create more resources when they have the knowledge, skill and technology to do so. This is why human beings are considered a resource. It is the abilities of human beings which help in transferring a physical material into a valuable resource.

‘People as a resource’ is a way of referring to a country’s working people in terms of their existing productive skills and abilities. The idea of people as a resource is linked to the concept of human capital—*i.e.*, the stock of skill and productive knowledge embodied in a population. Any production of goods and services requires the presence of the four factors of production, namely land, labour, physical capital and human capital. The knowledge and enterprise provided by the human capital puts together the other three factors to produce an output. Population becomes an asset instead of a liability when investments are made in the form of education, training and medical care.

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

Answer:

Human resources makes use of other resources like land and physical capital to produce an output. The other resources cannot become useful on their own. This is the reason why human resources are considered to be superior to other resources.

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

Answer:

Human capital refers to the stock of skill and productive knowledge embodied in a population. Proper education and training enable the formation of this human capital. An educated population is an asset, a resource. In contrast to the uneducated and untrained, educated individuals make efficient use of the available resources and opportunities. Education and skill are the major determinants of the earning of any individual in the market. Education enhances the quantity and quality of individual productivity, which in turn adds to the growth of the economy. Aware of the benefits of education, educated persons help in its perpetuation. The advantages of an educated population spread to even those who themselves are not educated. Hence, educated people benefit the society as a whole. Thus, education plays the role of a catalyst in transforming a human being into a positive asset and a precious national resource.

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

Answer:

Human capital refers to the stock of skill and productive knowledge embodied in a population. This skill and productive knowledge is provided with the help of proper education and training. However, the benefits of education alone do not lead to the creation of human capital. A human population which is educated but unhealthy cannot realise its potential. An unhealthy population is a liability, and not an asset. Hence, health is an indispensable basis for realising one's well being.

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

Answer:

The health of an individual helps him to realise his potential and also gives him the ability to fight illness. An unhealthy individual is a liability to his place of work. The health of a person is directly related to his efficiency. As compared to an unhealthy individual, a healthy person can work more efficiently and with greater productivity.

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

Answer:

Primary sector comprises activities related to the extraction and production of natural resources. Agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, fishing, poultry farming, mining and quarrying are the activities undertaken in this sector.

Secondary sector comprises activities related to the processing of natural resources.

Manufacturing is included in this sector.

Tertiary sector comprises activities that provide support to the primary and secondary sectors through various services. Trade, transport, communication, banking, education, health, tourism, insurance, etc., are examples of tertiary activities.

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

Answer:

Activities that add value to the national income are called economic activities. These have two parts – market activities (production for pay or profit) and non-market activities (production for self consumption).

Non-economic activities are the ones that do not add to the national income; for example, an individual performing domestic chores.

8. Why are women employed in low paid work?

Answer:

Education and skill are the major determinants of the earning of any individual in the market. Due to gender discrimination, women are generally denied the education and the necessary skills to become worthy contributors to the national income. As a result, a majority of women have meagre education and low skill formation. This is one of the reasons why they get paid less than men. Also, the perpetuation of gender prejudices such as “a woman cannot do as much physical work as a man” put women at a disadvantage.

9. How will you explain the term unemployment?

Answer:

Unemployment is a situation in which people who are able and willing to work at the going wages cannot find jobs.

An individual is termed as unemployed if he or she is part of the workforce of a country, and is capable and willing to work for payment, but is unable to do so.

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

Answer:

Disguised Unemployment	Seasonal Unemployment
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It is the situation in which an individual appears to be employed, but he does not add to the productivity. That is, the productivity would remain the same even in his absence.	It is the situation in which an individual is not able to find a job during certain months of the year.
Example: When a work that requires only three individuals for its completion is being done by five persons, the two additional persons are disguised unemployed.	Example: Agricultural labourers find work only during the busy seasons, <i>i.e.</i> , sowing, harvesting, weeding and threshing. This is because of the seasonal character of agriculture in India.

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

Answer:

If disguised unemployment characterises rural India, educated unemployment is a peculiar problem of urban India. This is the situation wherein a number of youth with matriculation, graduation and post graduation degrees are not able to find suitable jobs. The education system is such that even after about 18 years of education, a person can well be termed as unskilled. What this does is that a large number of unskilled educated youth get churned out of educational institutions year after year, but only a fraction of them are able to find suitable jobs. Among the remaining, some remain unemployed while others get employed in activities that seem inadequate as per their potential. This in turn leads to the wastage of the huge amounts of resources that had been spent on educating them.

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

Answer:

Among the three sectors, India should look to build the maximum employment opportunities in the manufacturing and services sectors. The agricultural sector is already over-burdened by manpower that is disguised unemployed. So, it is the small scale manufacturing units and the service industry (like travel and tourism, health, education, communication, etc.) that need to be encouraged and facilitated to generate employment.

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

Answer:

Measures in the education system to mitigate the problem of the educated unemployed:

- (a) Make education at the secondary level more career-oriented, which would endow individuals with not only education but also the requisite skills for gaining successful employment.
- (b) Create a sort of screening process whereby each individual chooses subjects that suit his or her abilities.
- (c) The introduction of newer subjects and fields of study at the school level should be accompanied by a growth of job opportunities in the sectors that would employ the students electing to study such subjects.

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

Answer:

Rampur was a small village which initially depended on agriculture which was also dependent on rainfall.

- (i) Then electricity reached the village and people could irrigate their fields and could grow 2 to 3 crops in a year and get work.
- (ii) Some people set up small scale industries which could be run by electricity and provided employment to people.
- (iii) A school was established and now the population started to become educated and as a result they could seek employment in and outside the village. The village became prosperous and soon had better health, education, transport and job facilities.

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

Answer:

Human capital makes use of the other resources like land, labour and physical capital to produce an output. The other resources cannot become useful on their own. Hence, human capital may well be considered the best among all the resources.



Poverty as a Challenge

2

NCERT SOLUTIONS



What's inside

- In-Chapter Q's (solved)
- Textbook Exercise Q's (solved)

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IN-CHAPTER QUESTIONS

Let's Discuss

Study the above cases of poverty and discuss the following issues related to poverty:

- (i) Landlessness
- (ii) Unemployment
- (iii) Size of families
- (iv) Illiteracy
- (v) Poor health/malnutrition
- (vi) Child labour
- (vii) Helplessness

Ans.:(i) Landlessness: Landless labourers in the villages are generally poor. They usually belong to the depressed sections of society and earn very low wages. They are also subject to seasonal unemployment, when they have to do odd jobs at very low income.

(ii) Unemployment: If the labour force is idle and unutilised due to unemployment, the level of income is reduced and the unemployed persons cannot afford even the essentials of life, leading to poverty.

(iii) Size of Families: When the number of persons in a family increases, the income of the family becomes less than what is the minimum required to provide them the essentials for proper living. This ultimately leads to poverty.

(iv) Illiteracy: Due to poverty, the parents are not able to send their children to school and thus increase their earning power. Later on, when these children become adults and enter the job market, they are unable to find well-paying jobs, resulting again in poverty. Thus illiteracy and poverty depend on each other.

(v) Poor Health/Malnutrition: Poverty causes malnutrition and poor health, as the poor people cannot afford adequate amounts of nutritious food or proper medical services. Once they are malnourished or in poor health, they are not able to work productively and thus they get poorer.

(vi) Child Labour: Poverty forces the parents to make their children work, although there is a law against child labour. This makes the children drop out from school, resulting in their not getting well-paying jobs when they grow up.

- (vii) **Helplessness:** Due to poverty, the poor people become helpless and are willing to do any work for a low income. This leads them further into poverty.

Let's Discuss

1. Why do different countries use different poverty lines?
2. What do you think would be the “minimum necessary level” in your locality?

Ans.: 1. Different countries use different poverty lines because

- (a) The calorie requirement of different human races is different depending on their physical condition and dietary habits. Those races which have greater height and build require higher calories.
 - (b) The per capita income in different countries is also different *i.e.*, per capita income is higher in developed countries as compared to developing countries.
 - (c) The standard of living of Western countries is higher than that of developing countries.
 - (d) The cost of essential items used in calculating poverty line is higher in the developed countries.
2. I live in a city so the poverty line should be calculated according to the urban area. In the year 2000, the urban poverty line was fixed at ₹ 454 per month per person. Now in the year 2012 seeing the high level of inflation and price rise it should be at least ₹ 1500 per person per month.

Let's Discuss

Study Table 3.1 and answer the following questions:

1. Even if the poverty ratio declined between 1993–94 and 2004–05, why did the number of poor remain at about 407 million?
2. Are the dynamics of poverty reduction the same in rural and urban India?

Ans.: 1. (The poverty ratio declined between 1973-74 and 1993-94 but the number of poor remained at about 320 million because the total population of the country increased during the same period. Out of this increased population more people got employment due to the green Revolution, establishment of more industries and growth of the tertiary sector. As a result the poverty ratio declined.

2. No, the dynamics of poverty reduction are not the same in rural and urban areas because the conditions in both the areas are completely different. Urban area poverty has decreased due to expansion of the service sector, increased industrialisation and consequent increase of jobs. This has resulted in migration to cities and towns from rural areas. Rural area poverty has reduced due to improved agricultural practices resulting in higher incomes. Some

contribution to this improvement is due to the migration to urban areas.

Let's Discuss

Observe some of the poor families around you and try to find the following:

- Which social and economic group do they belong to?
- Who are the earning members in the family?
- What is the condition of the old people in the family?
- Are all the children (boys and girls) attending schools?

Ans.:(i) There is a poor family living near our colony. They are living below the poverty line and belong to the lowest socio-economic category.

(ii) The wife and husband are casual construction labourers and they are the earning members of the family.

(iii) The old people of the family, *i.e.*, the grandparents are physically weak and suffering from old age diseases and problems without proper medical aid.

(iv) There are two girls and one boy in the family. Because of poverty, the father of the children Bhola is only able to send his son to school and the daughters help in the household work.

Let's Discuss

Study the Graph 3.2 and do the following:

- Identify the three states where the poverty ratio is the highest.
- Identify the three states where poverty ratio is the lowest.

Ans.:(i) Three states where poverty ratio is the highest are

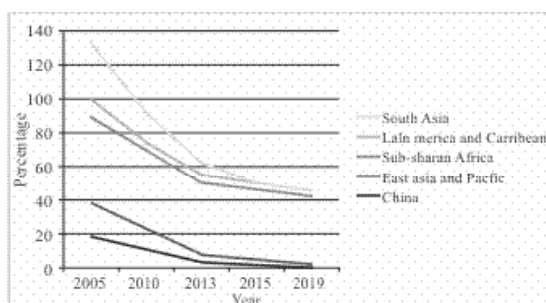
- (a) Orissa 47.2%, (b) Bihar 42.6%,
(c) Madhya Pradesh 37.4%

(ii) Three states where the poverty ratio is the lowest are

- (a) Himachal Pradesh 7.6% (b) Punjab 6.2%
(c) Jammu and Kashmir 3.5%

Let's Discuss

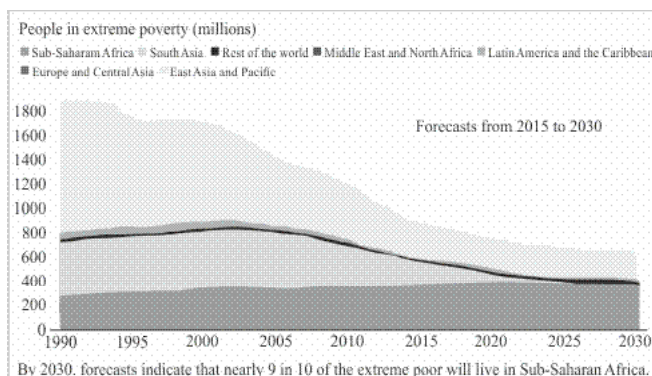
Graph 3.3: Share of people living on \$1.90 a day, 2005-2019



Source: Poverty and Equity Database, World Bank

(<http://databank.worldbank.org/data/reports.aspx?sourcepoverty-and-equity-database>)

Graph 3.4: Number of poor by region (\$ 1.90 per day) in millions



Source: World Bank PovcalNet and Poverty & Equity Data Portal

(<http://databank.worldbank.org/data/reports.aspx?sourcepoverty-and-equity-database>)

Study the Graph 3.4 and do the following:

- Identify the areas of the world, where poverty ratios have declined.
- Identify the area of the globe which has the largest concentration of the poor.

Ans.:(i)The areas of the world where poverty ratios have declined are

(a) South Asia (b) East Asia and Pacific (c) China

(ii)South Asia is the area of the globe which has the largest concentration of the poor.

TEXTBOOK EXERCISE

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

Answer:

A person is considered poor if his or her income or consumption level falls below a given minimum level necessary to fulfil basic needs. Each country uses an imaginary line that is considered appropriate for its existing level of development and its accepted minimum social norms. This is called the poverty line.

While determining the poverty line in India, a minimum level of food requirement, clothing, footwear, fuel and light, educational and medical requirements, etc., are determined for subsistence. These physical quantities are multiplied by their prices in rupees, and thereby the poverty line is arrived at. The numbers involved in the

calculation of the poverty line vary. Since the economics of living in the rural parts of the country is different from that of living in the urban parts, the poverty line deducted for individuals living in the rural areas is different from that deducted for individuals living in the urban areas.

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

Answer:

The present methodology of poverty estimation takes into account a minimum subsistence level of living rather than a reasonable level of living. A person is considered poor if his or her income or consumption level falls below a given minimum level necessary to fulfil basic needs. While ensuring the minimum necessary in terms of income is indeed essential for India to bring a large section of its population out of the clutches of poverty, the government must also focus its attention upon the broader element of human poverty. A future state may be achieved wherein everybody is able to feed himself or herself. However, in the continuing presence of factors like illiteracy, lack of job opportunities, lack of access to proper healthcare and sanitation, caste and gender discrimination, etc., such a state cannot be called a poverty-free state.

3. Describe poverty trends in India since 1973.

Answer:

A decline: There has been a substantial decline in the poverty ratios in India from about 55 per cent in 1973 to 36 per cent in 1993. The proportion of people below poverty line further came down to about 26 percent in 2000. Although the percentage of people living in poverty declined from 1973 to 1993, the number of poor remained stable around 320 million for a fairly long period. However, as per the latest estimates, the number of poor has shown a significant decline to about 260 million.

Rural and urban poor: The poverty trends also indicate that the problem of poverty is a much bigger menace in the rural areas than it is in the urban areas. As the greater part of the Indian population resides in the villages, the greater number of the poor also resides in the villages.

Vulnerable groups: Looked at from the point of view of the various social and economic groups in the country, the scheduled tribes, the scheduled castes, the rural agricultural labourers and the urban casual labourers turn out to be the groups most vulnerable to poverty. Though the average for people below poverty line for all groups in India is 26, the averages of these groups are higher than the average Indian poverty ratio.

Poor states: The poverty trends also show that though there has been a decline in poverty in every state from the early seventies, the success rate of reducing poverty has varied from state to state. In 20 states and union territories, the poverty ratio is less than the national average of 26. In others, the poverty ratios are higher than the national average. Among these, Orissa and Bihar continue to be the two poorest states with poverty ratios of 47 and 43 per cent respectively. On the other hand, states like Kerala, Gujarat, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir have shown a significant decline in poverty.

4. Discuss the major reasons for poverty in India.

Answer:

Major reasons for poverty in India

- (i) **Colonial rule:** India went through a long phase of low economic development under the British colonial administration. The policies of the colonial government ruined traditional handicrafts and discouraged development of industries like textiles.
- (ii) **Low economic growth and high population growth:** The Indian administration's failure on the two fronts – promotion of economic growth and population control perpetuated the cycle of poverty.
- (iii) **Rural poverty:** The effects of agricultural and rural development were limited to only certain parts of the country. As a result, while some parts of the country showed great progress in the rural sector, others continued in the shadow of poverty.

The presence of huge income inequalities is a major reason for the high poverty rates in the rural areas.

The government's failure to properly implement major policy initiatives to tackle the issue of income inequalities has contributed to the continuance of poverty in villages.

- (iv) **Urban poverty:** The jobs created by the industrial sector have not been enough to absorb all the job seekers. Unable to find proper jobs in cities, many people start working as rickshaw pullers, vendors, construction workers, domestic servants, etc. With irregular small incomes, these people cannot afford expensive housing. In consequence, they start living in slums. Thus, poverty (a largely rural phenomenon sometime back) has become a dominant feature of urban India as well.

(v) **Socio-cultural factors:** Various socio-cultural factors like caste and gender discrimination and social exclusion have contributed to the wider realm of human poverty.

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

Answer:

The proportion of people below poverty line is not the same for all social groups and economic categories in India. The social groups of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, and the economic groups of rural agricultural labourers and urban casual labourers are the ones most vulnerable to poverty. The poverty ratios for each of these groups are higher than the average Indian poverty ratio. Apart from these groups, women, elderly people and female infants are considered to be the poorest of the poor.

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

Answer:

The proportion of poor is not the same in every state. Though there has been a decline in poverty in every state from the early seventies, the success rate of reducing poverty has varied from state to state. In 20 states and union territories, the poverty ratio is less than the national average of 26. In others, the poverty ratios are higher than the national average. Among these, Orissa and Bihar continue to be the two poorest states with poverty ratios of 47 and 43 per cent respectively. Both rural and urban poverty are quite high in these states. On the other hand, states like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir and West Bengal have shown a significant decline in poverty. Public distribution of food grains, focus on human resource development, high agricultural development and land reform measures are some of the factors responsible for the decline in poverty in these states.

7. Describe global poverty trends.

Answer:

The proportion of people in developing countries living on less than \$1 per day has fallen from 28 per cent in 1990 to 21 per cent in 2001. There has been a substantial reduction in global poverty since the nineteen eighties. However, the reduction in poverty is marked with great regional differences. Due to rapid economic growth and massive investment in human resource development, poverty declined substantially in China and Southeast Asian countries.

On the other hand, in South Asian countries (India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal,

Bangladesh, Bhutan), the decline has not been as rapid. While the ratio of poverty in Latin America has remained the same, in sub-Saharan Africa, poverty has risen from 41 per cent in 1981 to 46 per cent in 2001. According to the world development report of 2001, countries like Nigeria, Bangladesh and India still have a large percentage of people living under poverty.

Poverty has also resurfaced in some of the former socialist countries like Russia, where officially it was non-existent earlier.

8. Describe current government strategy of poverty alleviation.

Answer:

The current anti-poverty strategy of the government has a two-lined approach – promotion of economic growth and targeted anti-poverty programmes.

Economic growth widens opportunities and provides resources needed to invest in human development. Also, so that the poor can take advantage of this economic growth, the government has formulated several anti-poverty schemes to affect poverty directly or indirectly. Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana, Rural Employment Generation Programme, Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana, Antyodaya Anna Yojana, National Food for Work Programme, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, and proposals for establishing National and State Employment Guarantee Funds are some of the anti-poverty schemes of the government.

However, despite the good intentions of these schemes, the benefits have not fully reached the deserving poor. Hence, the major emphasis in recent years has been on proper monitoring of all the poverty alleviation programmes.

9. Answer the following questions briefly

(i) What do you understand by human poverty?

(ii) Who are the poorest of the poor?

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

Answer:

(i) Human poverty is a concept that goes beyond the limited view of poverty as lack of income. It refers to the denial of political, social and economic opportunities to an individual to maintain a “reasonable” standard of living. Illiteracy, lack of job opportunities, lack of access to proper healthcare and sanitation, caste and gender discrimination, etc., are all components of human poverty

- (ii) Women, female infants and elderly people are the poorest of the poor. Within a poor family, such individuals suffer more than the others. They are systematically denied equal access to the resources available to the family.
- (iii) Main features of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005:
 - (a) The Act assures 100 days of employment every year to every household.
 - (b) Initially covering 200 districts, the Act would be extended later on to cover 600 districts.
 - (c) One-third of the jobs are reserved for women.



Food Security in India

3

NCERT SOLUTIONS



What's inside

- In-Chapter Q's (solved)
- Textbook Exercise Q's (solved)

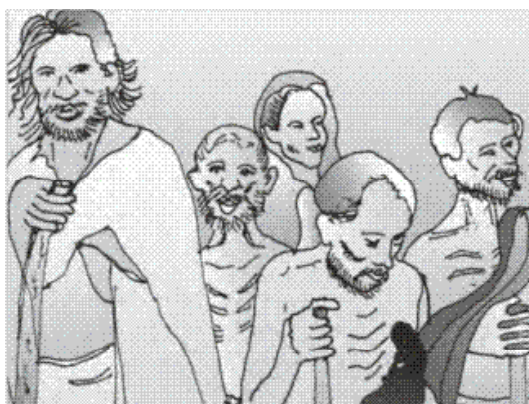
IN-CHAPTER QUESTIONS

Let's Discuss

1. Some people say that the Bengal famine happened because there was a shortage of rice. Study the table and find out whether you agree with the statement?
2. Which year shows a drastic decline in food availability?

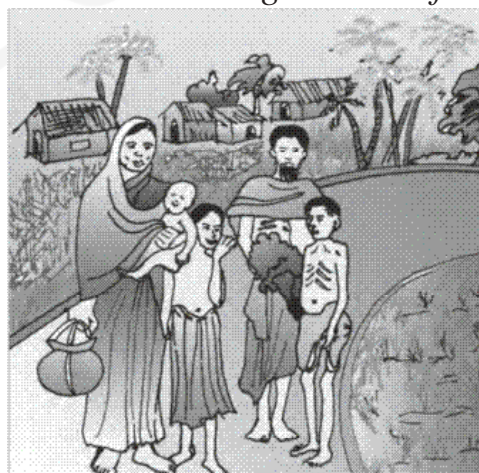
Ans.: 1. No, I do not agree that the Bengal famine happened due to a shortage of rice. From the table, the availability was much higher than in 1941, although lower than 1942. However, there can be a number of other causes like improper distribution, poor carryover stocks due to less production in 1941, malnutrition or disease, etc.

2. The year showing a drastic decline in food availability is 1941.



Picture 4.1

Starvation victims arriving at a relief centre, 1945.



Picture 4.2

During the Bengal Famine of 1943, a family leaves its village in Chittagong district in Bengal.

Suggested Activity

- (a) What do you see in Picture 4.1?
- (b) Which age group is seen in the first picture?
- (c) Can you say that the family shown in Picture 4.2 is a poor family? why?
- (d) Can you imagine the source of livelihood of the people, (shown in two Pictures) before the occurrence of famine? (In the context of a village)
- (e) Find out what type of help is given to the victims of a natural calamity at a relief camp.
- (f) Have you ever helped such victims (in the form of money, food, clothes, medicines etc.)

Ans. : (a) In Picture 4.1 we see the starvation victims of the famine arriving at a relief centre. Even their bones can be seen below their skin because of malnutrition.

(b) The age group seen in this picture is mostly the elderly, *i.e.*, those who are past the age when they can work for a living. Probably, they were neglected by their family members due to the famine.

(c) Yes, it is a poor family for the following reasons:

(i) They look very weak and thin due to malnutrition.

(ii) They are wearing the minimum clothes and also no footwear. Probably, they could not afford better clothes or any footwear due to poverty.

(iii) They are leaving their village to go to the town where some earning potential may be there. This also shows that they are not earning enough in the village.

(d) As these people look like landless labourers, their source of livelihood must have been agriculture. The famine affected agriculture the maximum.

(e) The kinds of help given to victims of a natural calamity at a relief camp are of the following kinds

(i) Shelter A place to stay like a dormitory or tented arrangement for shelter from Sun and rain as well as a place to sleep in at night.

(ii) Food cooked in a common kitchen at least two meals in a day.

(iii) Medical help in case of injury or disease.

(iv) Clothes and monetary compensation are also given sometimes, depending on the calamity.

(f) Yes in the form of food and clothes.

PROJECT WORK:

Gather more information about famines in India.

Answer:

Details of some famines which occurred in India since 1769 are given below. All these famines occurred prior to independence.

Let's Discuss

- (i) Why is agriculture a seasonal activity?**
- (ii) Why is Ramu unemployed for about four months in a year?**
- (iii) What does Ramu do when he is unemployed?**
- (iv) Who are supplementing income in Ramu's family?**
- (v) Why does Ramu face difficulty when he is unable to have work?**
- (vi) When is Ramu food insecure?**

Ans.:(i) Agriculture has a sowing season and a harvesting season which is a very busy period for farmers. Most of the work is done during these periods. When the plants are growing and maturing no significant amount of work is there.

(ii) Agriculture has a sowing and harvesting season which is a very busy period for farmers and requires extra labour. So casual labourers like Ramu get employment during these period for about eight months in a year.

(iii) Ramu is a casual agricultural labourer and is only seasonally employed during sowing and harvesting. During that period, he gets employment in brick laying, or in construction activities in the village.

(iv) Ramu's wife Sunhari and his son Somu are supplementing the income in Ramu's family. Somu works for the Sarpanch by looking after the cattle and is paid ` 1,000 for his work Sunhari also works as house cleaner and a casual labourer during the busy season.

(v) Ramu is seasonally unemployed and does odd jobs to survive But Some times he is unable to get any work at all and during that period he faces difficulty in getting 2 square meals for his family.

(vi) Ramu who is a casual labourer in agriculture becomes seasonally unemployed and does odd jobs during that period But Sometimes, he is unable to get any work at all and is totally unemployed and faces poverty and is unable to buy food for his children. During this period he is food insecure during the four months when he is unemployed.

Let's Discuss

(a) Does Ahmad have a regular income from rickshaw-pulling?

(b) How does the yellow card help Ahmad

Ans.: (a) Ahmad, a rickshaw puller does not have a regular income from rickshaw pulling; his earnings fluctuate every day. Sometimes, he earns enough to save some amount after buying his day to day necessities. On other days he is barely able to earn enough to survive.

(b) Ahmad has a yellow card which is a PDS card for below poverty line people. With this card Ahmad gets sufficient quantities of wheat, rice, sugar and kerosene oil for his daily use at rates below the market rates. In this way, Ahmad is able to survive even with less income from Rickshaw pulling.

Let's Discuss

Study Graph 4.1 and answer the following questions:

(a) In which year did our country cross the 200 Million tonne per year mark in foodgrain production?

(b) In which decade did India experience the highest decadal increase in foodgrain production?

(c) Is production increase consistent in India since 2000–01?

Ans.: (a) In the years 2010-2011 our country crossed the 200 million tonnes per year mark in food grain production.

(b) India experienced the highest decadal increase in food grain production between 1980-1990.

(c) No, the increase in food grain production did not remain consistent after 2000-01 because it declined in 2014-15.

Suggested Activity

Visit your area's ration shop and get the following details

- 1. When does the ration shop open?**
- 2. What are the items sold at the ration shop?**
- 3. Compare the prices of rice and sugar from the ration shop with the prices at any other grocery shop? (for families below poverty line)**
- 4. Find out:**

Do you have a ration card?

What has your family recently bought with this card from the ration shop?

Ans.: 1. Do it yourself

2. The items usually sold at ration shops are wheat, rice, sugar and kerosene.

3. The prices of rice and sugar are generally less than half the rates at any other grocery shop for families below the poverty line, due to the subsidy given by the government.

4. Do it yourself



Suggested Activity

Gather detailed information about some of the programmes initiated by the government, which have food component. Hint: Rural wage employment programme, Employment Guarantee Scheme, Sampurna Grameen Rojgar Yojana, Mid Day Meal, Integrated Child Development Services, etc. Discuss with your teacher.

Ans. : Do it yourself

Let's Discuss

Study the Graph 4.2 and answer the following questions:

(a) In which recent year foodgrain stock with the government was maximum?

(b) What is the minimum buffer stock norm for the FCI?

(c) Why were the FCI granaries overflowing with foodgrains?

Ans. : (a) The foodgrain stock with the Government of India was maximum in July.

(b) 24.3 million tonnes is the minimum buffer stock norm for the FCI.

(c) The FCI granaries were overflowing with food grains because of increased foodgrain procurement by FCI, compared to the actual requirement. The major food producing states such as Punjab, Haryana and Andhra Pradesh have put pressure on the government to buy the grain under the minimum support price scheme.

TEXTBOOK EXERCISE

1. How is food security ensured in India?

Answer:

Food security is ensured in a country when the three dimensions of food security are taken care of. The three dimensions are:

Availability of food: Presence of enough food for all the persons

Accessibility of food: Absence of barrier on access to food

Affordability of food: Capability of all persons to buy food of acceptable quality
Food security has been ensured in India because of the following factors.

- (i) **Self-sufficiency of food grains:** India has become self-sufficient in food grains (as was its aim since Independence) during the last thirty years. This has been because of a variety of crops grown all over the country.
- (ii) **Food-security system:** The availability of food grains has been ensured by the government with the help of a carefully designed food-security system. This system involves the maintenance of a buffer stock of food grains, and the distribution of this food among the poorer sections of the society with the help of a public distribution system.
- (iii) **Implementation of several poverty-alleviation programmes having an explicit food security component:** Apart from the distribution of food through fair-price shops, the government has come up with several poverty-alleviation programmes that enhance food security; for example, mid-day meals and food-for-work.
- (iv) **Involvement of cooperatives and NGOs:** In addition to the role of the government in ensuring food security, various cooperatives and NGOs are also working intensively towards this direction. Mother Dairy and Amul are two examples of cooperatives involved in ensuring food security.

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

Answer:

A large section of people suffer from food and nutrition insecurity in India. However, the worst affected groups are as follows:

- (i) Landless and land-poor households, traditional artisans, providers of traditional services, petty self-employed workers and destitute including beggars (in the rural areas)
- (ii) People employed in ill-paid occupations and casual labourers engaged in seasonal activities (in the urban areas)
- (iii) People belonging to the backward sections of society, namely SCs, STs and OBCs
- (iv) People belonging to economically-backward states with high incidence of poverty, tribal and remote areas and regions more prone to natural disasters
- (v) People affected by natural disasters who have to migrate to other areas in search of work
- (vi) Large proportion of pregnant and nursing mothers, and children under the age of 5 years

3. Which states are more food insecure in India?

Answer:

The economically-backward states with high incidence of poverty are more food insecure in India. The states of Uttar Pradesh (eastern and south-eastern parts), Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, parts of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra account for the largest number of food insecure people in the country.

4. Do you believe that the Green Revolution has made India self-sufficient in food grains? How?

Answer:

In the late 1960s, the Green Revolution introduced the Indian farmer to the cultivation of high-yielding varieties (HYVs) of seeds. The HYVs (coupled with chemical fertilisers and pesticides) led to a growth in the productivity of food grains (especially wheat and rice), thereby helping India attain self-sufficiency in food grains. Since the advent of the Green Revolution, the country has avoided famine even during adverse weather conditions.

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

Answer:

The food insecure: A large section of people in India suffer from food and nutrition insecurity. This group of 'the food insecure' includes landless agricultural labourers and small farmers, casual labourers in the urban areas, people belonging to the backward social sections such as the SCs, STs and OBCs, people belonging to the backward regions, migrants and a large proportion of pregnant and nursing mothers, and children under the age of five years.

Government's efforts: The government has played a key role in ensuring food security for the poorest sections of society through various schemes such as the public distribution system, mid-day meals, food-for-work and rural employment guarantee. However, due to certain failings, a number of people still go without food.

Three dimensions of food security: Food security is ensured by ensuring food availability, accessibility and affordability. When either of these dimensions of food security is neglected, the overall system of food security gets adversely affected.

Negative effect on food availability: Through the Food Corporation of India, the government purchases food grains from states with surplus production. These food grains are stored in granaries and distributed in the food-deficit areas and among the poorer strata of society under the various government schemes.

However, instances of hunger are prevalent despite overflowing granaries. The storage of massive food stocks has more often than not led to wastage of grains and deterioration in their quality. As a result, the availability of food grains is affected.

The increase in the minimum support prices (prices at which the government buys food grains from farmers) of rice and wheat has induced farmers to divert land from the production of coarse grains—the staple food of the poor—to the production of these crops. This again affects the availability of food.

Indian agriculture is largely dependent on the unpredictable monsoons. Only a small part of the national cultivable land is well irrigated. During times of delayed or low rains, the overall productivity and availability of food grains gets negatively affected.

Negative effect on food accessibility and affordability: The food procured by the government is distributed via the fair-price shops at a price lower than market price. However, most public-distribution-system dealers resort to malpractices like diverting food grains to open market to make profits, selling poor quality grains at ration shops, irregular opening of the shops, etc. Such actions make safe and nutritious food inaccessible and unaffordable for many of the poor.

Lack of proper monitoring of schemes: The lack of proper implementation and proper targeting of many of the poverty-alleviation programmes have led to their lack of effectiveness in ensuring food security. Despite good intentions, many of the schemes of the government have not reached the deserving poor. Hence, a great number of people are still food insecure.

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

Answer:

When there is a disaster or a calamity, the production of food grains decreases in the affected area. This in turn creates a shortage of food in the area. Due to the food shortage, the prices go up. The raised prices of food materials affect the capacity of many people to buy the same. When the calamity occurs in a very wide spread area or is stretched over a long period of time, it may cause a situation of starvation. A massive starvation can take the form of famine.

7. Differentiate between seasonal hunger and chronic hunger.

Answer:

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 the casual labour (*e.g.*, there is less work for casual construction labour during the rainy season). This type of hunger exists when a

person is unable to get work for the entire year.

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 ensured the availability of food grains with the help of a carefully-designed food-security system. This system involves the maintenance of a buffer stock of food grains, and the distribution of this food among the poorer sections of the society with the help of a public distribution system. The government has also come up with several poverty-alleviation and food-intervention programmes that enhance food security; for example, the Antyodaya Anna Yojana and the National Food for Work Programme.

Antyodaya Anna Yojana:

- (i) Launched in December 2000, it caters to the families below poverty level.
- (ii) Under this scheme, one crore of the poorest among the BPL families covered under the targeted public distribution system were identified.
- (iii) Twenty-five kilograms of food grains were made available to each eligible family at a highly subsidised rate (Rs 2 per kg for wheat and Rs 3 per kg for rice)
- (iv) The quantity of food grains was enhanced from 25 to 35 kgs with effect from April 2002.
- (v) The scheme was expanded twice to include a greater number of BPL families. By August 2004, 2 crore families were covered under this scheme.

National Food for Work Programme:

- (i) Launched in November 2004, it caters to 150 most backward districts of the country.
- (ii) Its objective is to intensify the generation of supplementary wage employment.
- (iii) Any rural poor in need of wage employment and having the desire to do manual unskilled work can avail of this programme
- (iv) It is a 100 per cent Centrally-sponsored scheme. The food grains are provided to the States free of cost.
- (v) The district collector is entrusted with the overall responsibility of planning, implementation, coordination, monitoring and supervision.

9. Why is a buffer stock created by the government?

Answer:

A buffer stock of food grains is created by the government so as to distribute the procured food grains in the food-deficit areas and among the poorer strata of society at a price lower than the market price. A buffer stock helps resolve the problem of shortage of food during adverse weather conditions or during periods of calamity.

10. Write notes on:

- (a) **Minimum support price**
- (b) **Buffer stock**
- (c) **Issue price**
- (d) **Fair-price shops**

Answer:

(a) Minimum support price: It is the pre-announced price at which the government purchases food grains from the farmers in order to create a buffer stock. The minimum support price is declared by the government every year before the growing season. This provides incentives to the farmers for raising the production of the crops.

The rising minimum support prices of rice and wheat have induced farmers to divert land from the production of coarse grains—the staple food of the poor—to the production of these crops. The rising minimum support prices have raised the maintenance cost of procuring food grains.

(b) Buffer stock: It is the stock of food grains (usually wheat and rice) procured by the government through the Food Corporation of India. The purchased food grains are stored in granaries.

A buffer stock of food grains is created by the government so as to distribute the procured food grains in the food-deficit areas and among the poorer strata of society at a price lower than the market price. A buffer stock helps resolve the problem of shortage of food during adverse weather conditions or during periods of calamity.

(c) Issue Price: The food grains procured and stored by the government are distributed in food-deficit areas and among the poorer strata of society at a price lower than the market price. This price is known as issue price.

(d) Fair-price shops: The food procured by the Food Corporation of India is distributed through government-regulated ration shops. The prices at which

food materials are sold at these ration shops are lower than the market prices. The low pricing is to benefit the poorer strata of society. This is why these shops are called fair-price shops.

Fair-price shops keep stock of food grains, sugar and kerosene oil. 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:

The public distribution system (PDS) is the most important step taken by the Indian government towards ensuring food security. However, there have been several problems related to the functioning of ration shops. The food grains supplied by the ration shops are not enough to meet the consumption needs of the poor. As a result, they have to depend on markets instead. The average all-India level of consumption of PDS grains is only 1 kg per person per month.

Most public-distribution-system dealers resort to malpractices like diverting food grains to open market to make profits, selling poor quality grains at ration shops, irregular opening of the shops, etc. Such actions make safe and nutritious food inaccessible and unaffordable for many of the poor.

Under the targeted public distribution system, there are three kinds of ration cards: Antyodaya cards (for the poorest of the poor), BPL cards (for those below poverty line) and APL cards (for all others). Prices of the food materials are fixed accordingly. Under this system, any family above the poverty line gets very little discount at the ration shop. The price of food items for an APL family is almost as high as in the open market, so there is little incentive for them to buy the items from the ration shop.

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

Answer:

Along with the government, cooperatives are also playing 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 percent 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.