

CHAPTER -3 POVERTY AS A CHALLENGE

Economics

Chapter 3

POVERTY AS A CHALLENGE

Q1. What are the different dimensions of poverty?

Ans. Following are the dimensions of poverty:-

- i) Poverty means hunger and lack of shelter.
- ii) A situation in which parents are not able to send their children to school
- iii) Poor cannot afford treatment for their sick.

Q2. What is the accepted average calorie requirement in India?

Ans: Following is the accepted average calorie requirement in India:-

- (i) Rural Areas=2400 calories
- (ii) Urban Areas= 2100 calories

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

Q3. In the year 2011-12 what amount was fixed for the poverty line?

Ans. The amount fixed for the poverty line in the year 2011-12 was:-

- (i) Rural Areas= ₹ 816 per month
- (ii) Urban Areas= ₹ 1000 per month

Q4. What is social Exclusion? Give an example.

Ans. Social exclusion is a process through which individuals or groups are excluded from facilities, benefits and opportunities that others enjoy.

For example: the caste system in India in which people belonging to certain castes are excluded from equal opportunities

Q5. What do you understand by vulnerability to poverty?

Ans. Vulnerability to poverty is a measure which describes the greater probability of certain communities or individuals of becoming, or remaining, poor in the coming years.

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For example: Members of a backward caste, a widow or a physically handicapped person.

Q6. Which organisation conducts surveys for determining poverty line in India?

Ans. The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO).

Q7. What is the uniform standard used for poverty line by the world bank?

Ans. The current international poverty line is \$1.90 per day. The World Bank sets the international poverty line at periodic intervals as the cost of living for basic food, clothing, and shelter around the world changes.

Q8. Describe how the poverty line is estimated in India.

Ans.

- a) While determining the poverty line in India, a minimum level of food requirement, clothing, footwear, fuel and light educational and medical requirement etc are determined for subsistence.
- b) These physical quantities are multiplied by their price in rupees.
- c) The total minimum food requirements is measured in calories . The need of calories depends on age and the work done by a person.
- d) The accepted average calorie requirement in India is 2400 calories per person per day in rural areas and 2100 calories per person per day in urban areas.
- e) On the basis of these calculations for the year 2011-12, the poverty line for a person was fixed at ₹ 816 per month for the rural areas and ₹ 1000 for the urban areas.

Q9. Discuss the major reasons for poverty in India.

Ans. Major reasons for poverty in India are:

(i) The low level of economic development under the British colonial administration: The policies of the colonial government ruined traditional handicrafts and discouraged the development of industries like textiles.

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(ii) High growth rate of the population: Low growth rate of economy and high growth of population led to less income .

(iii) Lack of job opportunities: Lack of job opportunities compelled many people to work as rickshaw pullers, vendors, construction workers, domestic servants, etc. With irregular small incomes, these people could not afford expensive housing. They started living in slums on the outskirts of the cities.

(iv) Huge income inequalities: One of the major reasons for this is the unequal distribution of land and other resources. Major policy initiatives like land reforms that aimed at the redistribution of assets in rural areas have not been implemented properly by most of the state governments.

(v) Religious Ceremonies : Poor people take loans from moneylenders for expenditure on religious ceremonies which leads to poverty.

Q10. Identify the social and economic groups which are most vulnerable to poverty in India.

Ans.

(i) Social groups which are most vulnerable to poverty are:

- (a) Scheduled caste
- (b) Scheduled tribe

(ii) Economic groups which are most vulnerable groups are :

- (a) Rural agricultural labour
- (b) Urban casual labour

Q11. What do you understand by human poverty?

Ans.

(i) The official definition of poverty is about a '**minimum**' subsistence level of living rather than a '**reasonable**' level of living.

(ii) Many scholars believe that we must broaden this concept and also include education, job security, self- confidence, caste and gender equality etc.

Q12. Who are the poorest of poor?

Ans.

(i) In poor families all suffer, but some suffer more than others.

(ii) Women, elderly people and female infants are denied equal access to available resources.

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Q13. What are the main features of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005?

Ans. Following are the main features of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005:-

- (i) To provide 100 days of wage employment to every household to ensure livelihood security in rural areas.
- (ii) It also aimed at sustainable development to address the cause of draught, deforestation and soil erosion.
- (iii) One-third of the proposed jobs have been reserved for women.
- (iv) The share of SC, ST, Women person days in the scheme are 23 per cent, 17 per cent and 53 per cent respectively.