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Poverty as a Challenge

Poverty: Introduction, Indicators and Estimates

Poverty is defined as the lack of basic necessities such as food, clothing, shelter, safe drinking water, medical care, and education, which det

Common features of poverty include hunger, malnutrition, inadequate housing, lack of healthcare, irregular employment, poor sanitation, la

Indicators to understand poverty include income levels, consumption patterns, illiteracy rates, malnutrition, access to healthcare, job opport

Social exclusion refers to the condition where poor people live in deprived surroundings, excluded from better-off neighborhoods, limiting the

Vulnerability measures the likelihood of certain groups becoming or remaining poor, influenced by access to employment, education, and h

Poverty line and Vulnerable groups (Indicators)

A person is considered poor if their income or consumption falls below a minimum level necessary to meet basic needs such as food, clothir

The poverty line varies by time and place. In India, minimum calorie requirements are 2,400 calories per person per day in rural areas and 2,1

The poverty line is periodically revised based on nationwide surveys by the National Sample Survey Organisation. The percentage of people

Estimates of Poverty: Poverty incidence in India was about 55% in 1973, declined to 36% in 1993, and further to 26% in 2000.

Key Word: Poverty line is the minimum income and consumption level required to satisfy basic needs like food, clothing, clean water, educat

Inter-State Disparities and Global Poverty Scenario: Causes of Poverty, Anti-Poverty Measures and the Challenge

Poverty levels vary across Indian states, known as inter-state disparities. Some states have higher poverty ratios, such as Odisha (47%) and I

Declines in poverty are linked to factors such as agricultural growth after the Green Revolution, land reforms, effective public distribution system.

Global Scenario: The proportion of people living in extreme poverty worldwide has fallen from 36% in 1990 to 10% in 2015. Rapid economic growth in America, though some former socialist countries have seen a resurgence.

Causes of Poverty: In India, causes include low economic growth during colonial times, population explosion, lack of job opportunities, irregular income.

Anti-Poverty Measures and Challenges Ahead: The Indian government focuses on increasing economic growth and launching targeted anti-poverty programs to generate self-employment in rural areas.

Human poverty also includes lack of housing, education, healthcare, job security, and discrimination based on caste, color, or gender.

Future prospects for poverty reduction include rising economic growth, declining population growth, free elementary education, and employment generation.

Key Word: Inter-state disparities refer to the variation in poverty proportions across different states.

Solved Example: National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005

Question: Explain the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005.

Answer:

Step 1: NREGA stands for National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005.

Step 2: It guarantees 100 days of employment every year to every rural household. If employment is not provided within 15 days, the applicant is entitled to unemployment allowance.

Step 3: Initially implemented in 200 districts, it was later extended to all districts in India. One-third of jobs are reserved for women.

Step 4: The Central Government established National Employment Guarantee Funds and State Governments established State Employment Guarantee Funds.

Practice Set

Easy

- Define poverty and list two common indicators used to measure it.
- What is the poverty line and how is it determined in India?

Moderate

- Explain the concept of social exclusion and its relation to poverty.
- Describe the inter-state disparities in poverty in India with examples.

Challenging

- Discuss the causes of poverty in India and evaluate the effectiveness of anti-poverty measures like NREGA.
- Analyze the global trends in poverty reduction and the challenges that remain.

Answer Key

Easy

1. Poverty is the lack of basic necessities like food, shelter, and education. Indicators include income levels and calorie intake.
2. The poverty line is the minimum income required to meet basic needs, determined by calorie requirements and consumption patterns.

Moderate

1. Social exclusion is when poor people are isolated from better neighborhoods, limiting access to opportunities, which both causes and results in poverty.
2. Poverty varies by state; for example, Odisha and Bihar have high poverty ratios, while Kerala and Punjab have lower ratios due to factors like better infrastructure and higher literacy rates.

Challenging

1. Causes include low economic growth, population growth, and unequal resource distribution. NREGA provides employment and has helped reduce poverty in rural areas.
2. Global poverty has declined due to economic growth and human resource development, but challenges like inequality and climate change remain.

Quick Reference

- **Poverty:** Lack of basic needs affecting quality of life.
- **Poverty Line:** Minimum income to meet basic needs.
- **Social Exclusion:** Isolation of poor from opportunities.
- **Inter-State Disparities:** Variation in poverty across states.
- **NREGA:** Employment guarantee scheme for rural households.

Glossary

- **Calorie Requirement:** The minimum energy intake needed daily for survival.
- **Consumption:** Use of goods and services by individuals or households.
- **Human Poverty:** Deprivation beyond income, including lack of education and healthcare.
- **National Sample Survey Organisation:** Government agency conducting surveys on socio-economic indicators.
- **Vulnerability:** Likelihood of becoming or remaining poor.

Year	Event
1973	55% population below poverty line in India

1993	36% population below poverty line
2000	26% population below poverty line
2005	Implementation of NREGA
2015	Global extreme poverty reduced to 10%

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Population growth and poverty

Climate change and poverty

Inequality and poverty- wide spread disparities between rural and urban areas

Sustainable poverty reduction strategies

8. Challenges Ahead

Targeted programmes (e.g., MGNREGA, PDS)

Social security measures (e.g., pension schemes, insurance)

Education and skill development programmes

Health and nutrition programmes- Antyodaya Anna Yojana

7. Anti-Poverty Measures

Low income and unemployment

Lack of education and skills

Inequality and discrimination

Natural disasters and climate change

Huge economic disparities

6. Causes of Poverty

Poverty rates across countries

Global poverty trends

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)- by UNO is to end poverty by 2030.

5. Global Poverty Scenario

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