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POVERTY AS A CHALLENGE

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Points have to be explained if necessary)

1. Give a brief account of poverty in India. (2016)
- Ans.** 1) In fact, every fourth person in India is poor.
2) This means, roughly 260 million (or 26 crore) people in India live in poverty.
3) This also means that India has the largest single concentration of the poor in the world.
2. Describe one factor each for the significant decline of poverty in Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal. (2016)
- Ans.** Haryana : With the help of high agricultural growth rate.
Andhra Pradesh : Due to public distribution system.
West Bengal : Due to land reform.
3. Why does the poverty line vary with time and place ? (2016)
- Ans.** The poverty line is estimated on the basis of income and consumption of minimum calorie intake by a person. Since that varies from region to region and the consumption expenditure is subject to prices of food items, the poverty line also varies. It also varies from time to time.
4. Explain any three reasons of poverty in social and economic disadvantage group. (2016,2014,2012)
- Ans.**
- People from such communities are excluded from equal opportunities and facilities that other enjoy.
 - Literacy is one of the cause.
 - They are usually landless.
 - They are the victim of indebtedness.
5. "One of the biggest challenges of independent India has been to bring millions of its people out of abject poverty". Illustrate. (2016,2013)
- Ans.** a) Poverty is one of the most difficult challenges faced by independent India.
b) Mahatma Gandhi always insisted that India would be truly independent only when the poorest of its people become free of human suffering.

c) In these circumstances, there is a clear need for targeted anti-poverty programmes.

6. Removal of poverty has been one of the major objectives of Indian developmental strategy. Support the statement with suitable examples. **(2010)**

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

- a) Promotion of economic growth.
- b) Targeted anti poverty programmes.

7. Explain any three economic factors responsible for poverty in India. **(2010,2015)**

Ans. The following factors are responsible for poverty.

- 1) Low job opportunities.
- 2) Low growth rate of incomes.
- 3) Huge income inequalities.
- 4) Unequal distribution of land and other resources.

8. Suggest some measures to reduce regional poverty ? **(2016)**

Ans. a) More Central assistance and grants should be given to backward states.
b) Special concessions may be given for investments in backward areas.
c) Public sector enterprises should be set up in backward states.

9. Describe the social and economic groups which are most vulnerable to poverty in India. **(2016)**

Ans. a) Social vulnerable groups.
b) Scheduled Caste households.
c) Scheduled Tribe households.
b) Economic Vulnerable groups.
d) Rural agricultural labour households.
e) Urban casual labour households.

51 out of 100 people belonging to scheduled tribes are not able to meet their basic needs, Similarly, 50 percent of casual workers in urban areas are below poverty line. About 50 percent of landless agricultural workers and 43 percent of scheduled castes are also poor.

10. Explain the principal measures taken in Punjab, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh to reduce poverty ? **(2010,2012)**

- Ans.** a) The principal measures taken in Punjab to reduce poverty is increasing the agricultural growth rates.
- b) Kerala focused more on human resource development to reduce poverty.
- c) Andhra Pradesh focused on public distribution of food grains to reduce poverty.

11. Explain the two methods to estimate poverty line. **(2016,2013)**

Ans. A common method used to measure poverty is based on :

- a) Income method and
- b) consumption method.
- c) Income method : For the year 2000, the poverty line for a person was fixed at Rs. 328 per month for the rural areas and 454 for the urban areas. Despite less calorie requirement, the higher amount for urban areas has been fixed because of high prices in urban areas.
- d) Consumption method : The accepted average calorie requirement in India is 2400 calories per person per day in rural areas and 2100 per person per day in urban areas. Since people living in rural areas engage themselves in more physical work thus calorie requirement is higher than in urban areas.

12. Explain any three reasons for poverty in India. **(2016)**

Ans. There are several reasons for poverty in India :

- i. Low level of economic development under colonial rule : The policies of colonial government ruined traditional handicrafts and discouraged development of industries.
- ii. The low rate of growth : The rate of growth were low which persisted until the 1980s.
- iii. Less job opportunities: The low rate of growth resulted in lack of job opportunities.
- iv. Low growth rate of incomes : As there were less job opportunities the growth rate of income were low.
- v. High growth rate of population : It perpetuated the cycle of poverty.

13. Describe the Global Poverty Scenario as studied by the World Bank. **(2016)**

- Ans.** 1) 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 percent in 1990 to 21 percent in 2001.
- 2) Although there has been a substantial reduction in global poverty, it is marked with great regional differences.
- 3) As a result of rapid economic growth and massive investments in Human Resource Development, poverty declined substantially in China and South east Asian countries.

- 4) In the countries of South Asia, the decline has not been as rapid.
- 5) In sub Saharan Africa, poverty in fact rose from 41 percent in 1981 to 46 percent in 2001.
- 6) Poverty has also resurfaced in some of the former socialist countries like Russia.

14. What are the main features of the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yozana and the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yozana ? **(2016,2015)**

Ans. The Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yozana aims at creating self-employment opportunities for educated unemployed youth in rural areas and small towns.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yozana, additional central assistance is given to states for basic services such as primary health, education, rural drinking water, electrification, etc.

15. Which two aspects are considered to estimate poverty ? Which social and economic groups in India are more vulnerable to poverty in India ? **(2016)**

Ans.

- * Poverty is measured on the basis of income and consumption levels.
- * Social groups vulnerable to poverty are schedule caste and schedule tribe households.
- * Among the economic groups the vulnerable people in the rural areas include the rural agricultural households and in the urban areas the urban casual labour households.

16. How can poverty be reduced in future in India? Suggest any four points ? **(2016)**

Ans.

- a) Increasing empowerment of women and the economically weaker sections of society.
- b) Fostering the economic growth.
- c) Removing inequality of wealth among people.
- d) Caste and gender discrimination to be avoided.
- e) Increasing the stress on universal free elementary education.
- f) Improving health care, education and job security.

17. Mention any six social indicators of poverty. **(2015)**

Ans.

- * Poverty means hunger and lack of shelter. It also is a situation in which parents are not able to send their children to school.
- * A situation where sick people cannot afford treatment.
- * Poverty also means lack of clean water and sanitation facilities.
- * It also means lack of a regular job at a minimum decent level.

18. Who are the most vulnerable as far as poverty is concerned ? How have the states of West Bengal, Punjab and Tamil Nadu tackled poverty ? **(2015,2012)**

Ans. The most vulnerable groups to poverty are : (a) Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (b) Rural agricultural labour (c) Urban casual labour.

a) West Bengal : Land reform measures have helped in reducing poverty.

b) Punjab : Reduce poverty with high growth rates of agriculture.

c) Tamil Nadu : Public distribution of food grains has reduced the poverty.

19. How far is it correct to say that social exclusion can be both a cause as well as a consequence of poverty ? Explain. **(2015,2013)**

Ans. 1) Poverty must be seen in terms of the poor having to live only in a poor surrounding with other poor people, excluded from enjoying social equality of better-off people in better surroundings. Social exclusion can be both a cause as well as a consequence of poverty in the usual sense.

2) Broadly, it is a process through which individuals or groups are excluded from facilities, benefits and opportunities that others enjoy.

3) A typical example is the working of the caste system in India in which people belonging to certain castes are excluded from equal opportunities. Social exclusion thus may lead to, but can cause more damage than having a very low income.

20. Describe the trends of poverty in India since 1973. **(2015)**

Ans. • There was substantial decline in poverty ratios in India from about 55 percent in 1973 to 36 percent in 1993.

• The proportion of people below the poverty line further came down to less than 20 percent in the next few years.

• Although the percentage of people living under poverty declined, the number of poor remained stable around 320 million for a long time.

• The latest estimates indicate a significant reduction in the number of poor to about 260 million.

21. How far the low level of economic development under British Colonial government responsible for poverty in India ? **(2015)**

Ans. The low level of economic development under British colonial government is responsible for poverty in India in many ways.

1) The policy ruined the traditional handicraft and discouraged development of industries.

2) The low rate of growth rate persisted till nineteen eighties and this was accompanied by high

growth of population.

- 3) The failure at both the fronts : promotion of economic growth and population control perpetuated the cycle of poverty.

22. Describe any five projects launched by the government to alleviate poverty from India. **(2015,2013)**

Ans. There are many schemes which have been formulated to affect poverty directly or indirectly, some of them are worth mentioning.

- a) National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) 2005 was passed in September 2005. The act provides 100 days assured employment every year to every rural household in 200 districts. Later, the scheme will be extended to 600 districts. A one third of the proposed jobs would be reserved for women.
- b) The central government will also establish National Employment Guarantee Funds. Similarly state governments will establish State Employment Guarantee funds for implementation of the scheme. Under the programme if an applicant is not provided employment within fifteen days he/she will be entitled to a daily unemployment allowance.
- c) Another important scheme has been the National Food for Work Programme (NFWP) which was launched in 2004 in 150 most backward districts of the country. The programme is open to all rural poor who are in need of wage employment and desire to do manual unskilled work. It is implemented as a 100 percent centrally sponsored scheme and food grains are provided free of cost to the states. Once the NREGA is in force, the NFWP will be subsumed within this programme.
- d) Prime Minister Rozgar Yozana (PMRY) is another scheme which was started in 1993. The aim of the programme is to create self-employment opportunities for educated unemployed youth in rural areas and small towns. They are helped in setting up small business and industries.
- e) Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) was launched in 1995. The aim of the programme is to create self employment opportunities in rural areas and small towns. A target for creating 25 lakh new jobs has been set for the programme under the Tenth five Year plan.
- f) Swamajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) was launched in 1999. The programme aims at bringing the assisted poor families above the poverty line by organizing them into self help groups through a mix of bank credit and government subsidy.
- g) Under the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yozana (PMGY) launched in 2000, additional central assistance is given to states for basic services such as primary health, primary education, rural shelter, rural drinking water and rural electrification.

23. Why has there been a significant decline in poverty in some states of India ? Mention any three

reasons.

(2014)

Ans. There has been a significant decline in poverty in some states due to following reasons.

- i. High agricultural growth in Punjab and Haryana.
- ii. Focus on human resource development in Kerala.
- iii. Effective Public Distribution System in Tamil Nadu.
- iv. Implementation of land reform measures in West Bengal.

24. What are the main objectives of NREGA ?

(2014,2012)

Ans. Objectives of NREGA

- Provides 100 days assured employment in 200 rural districts. Scheme extended to 600 districts later.
- One third of the jobs are reserved to women.
- In the absence of work within 15 days, one is entitled to an unemployment allowance.

25. Mention any three social indicators of poverty other than income and consumption.

(2014,2013)

Ans. Various social indicators of poverty :

- a) Hunger and lack of shelters.
- b) Lack of clean water and sanitation facility.
- c) Living with a scene of helplessness.
- d) Excluded from enjoying social equality.
- e) Lack of job opportunities.
- f) Lack of safe drinking water.

26. "The portion of poor people is not the same in every state." Justify the statement.

(2014)

Ans. The proportion of poor people is not the same in every state.

1. Poverty is still existing in Orissa, Bihar, Assam, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh.
2. Bihar and Orissa continue to be the two poorest state with poverty ratios of 47 and 43 percent, respectively.
3. Along with rural poverty, Urban poverty also exists in these states.

27. Explain the two main planks on which the current anti poverty strategy of the government is based.

(2014)

Ans. 1) Promotion of Economic growth :

- a) Upto the early 80, there was little per capita growth and not much reduction in poverty.
- b) Growth rate jumped from about 3.5% a year in 1970s to about 6% during 1980s.
- c) Higher growth rate helped significantly in the reduction of poverty.

- 2) Targetted anti-poverty programmes : The government formulated several anti poverty scheme to eradicate poverty like NREGA, NEGF, NFWP, etc.

28. Explain the various factors that analyze poverty according to social scientists ? **(2014)**

Ans. The Social Scientists indicate the poverty level as :

- 1) Levels of income and consumption.
- 2) Illiteracy level.
- 3) Lack of general resistance due to malnutrition.
- 4) Lack of access to health care.
- 5) Lack of job opportunities.
- 6) Lack of access to safe drinking water, sanitation, etc.

29. Suggest some measures to remove poverty from India. **(2014,2013)**

- Ans.**
- a) Acceleration of economic growth.
 - b) Control over population.
 - c) Employment opportunities.

30. What is the poverty line ? How is it estimated based on consumption level ? **(2014)**

- Ans.**
- It is a method used to measure poverty 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.

While determining the poverty line in India.

- A minimum level of food requirement, clothing, footwear, educational and medical requirement are determined for subsistence.
- The calorie needs vary depending on age, sex and the type of work that a person does.
- 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.
- People living in rural areas engage themselves in more physical work, so calorie requirement in rural area are considered to be higher than urban areas.
- The poverty line for a person was fixed at Rs. 328 per month for the rural areas and Rs. 454 for the urban areas.

31. What is poverty line ? What are the different ways to estimate poverty ? Who conducts the sample surveys to estimate poverty line ? **(2014)**

Ans. 1) To satisfy basic needs is different at different times and in different countries. Each country uses an imaginary line that is considered appropriate for its existing level of development and its accepted minimum social norms. It is called the poverty line.

The two common method to measure poverty lines are :

a) **CONSUMPTION METHOD** : While determining the poverty line in India, it is based on the desired calorie requirement. 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.

b) **INCOME METHOD** : For the year 2000, the poverty line for a person was fixed at Rs. 328 per month for the rural areas and Rs. 454 for the urban areas.

c) National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) conduct sample surveys to estimate poverty lines.

32. What is the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations in the area of poverty reduction ? Name the areas of the world where poverty ratio has declined. **(2014)**

Ans. The millennium development goals of the United Nations calls for reducing the proportion of people living on less than \$ 1 a day to half the 1909 level by 2015.

Poverty has declined substantially in China and South East Asian countries. In the counties of South Asia like India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, etc. the decline has not been very rapid.

33. What is the most compelling challenge in India ? Suggest any two measures to deal with this challenge. **(2014,2012)**

Ans. India's most compelling challenge is 'poverty reduction'. The measures that can be adopted by the Government of India are

a) Higher economic growth.

b) Increasing stress on universal tree elementary education.

34. What in meant by targeted anti poverty programmes ? Explain the needs to adopt such type of programmes. **(2014,2010)**

- Ans.**
- The programmes, which are formulated to affect poverty directly or indirectly are known as targeted anti poverty programmes.
 - Economic growth widens opportunities and provides the resource needed to invest in human development. However, the poor may not be able to take advantage from the opportunities created by economic growth So there is need for targeted anti poverty programme in India.

36. 'Do you think economic growth is linked with the reduction of poverty' ? Give any three arguments in support of your answer. **(2014)**

Ans. Yes :

- 1) Economic growth and reduction in poverty are linked to each other because economic growth widens opportunities.
- 2) It provides the resources needed to invest in human development.
- 3) This also encourages people to send their children to schools in the hope of getting better economic returns. In India higher growth rates have helped significantly in the reduction of poverty.

30. Why do different countries use different poverty lines ? Name the two basis of measuring poverty. **(2014)**

Ans. A person is considered poor if his or her income or consumption level falls below a given minimum level necessary to fulfill basic needs. What is necessary to satisfy basic needs in different at different times and in different countries. Therefore, poverty line may vary with time and place. Each country uses an imaginary line that is considered appropriate for its existing level of development and its accepted minimum social norms. For example : A person not having a car in USA may be considered as poor but in India it is not so.

The two bases of measuring poverty are (1) Income and (2) consumption.

37. Write the major reasons for less effectiveness of the anti-poverty measures in India ? **(2013,2012)**

Ans. Major reasons are given below :

- a) Lack of proper implementation and right targeting.
- b) There has been a lot of overlapping of schemes. Despite good intentions, the benefits of these schemes are not fully reached to the deserving poor.
- c) Improper monitoring of the poverty alleviation programmes.

38. "Poverty reduction remains India's Compelling Challenge". In the light of this statement identify five areas where poverty continue to exists. **(2012)**

- Ans.**
- 1) Disparity between rural and urban areas.
 - 2) Disparity between social and economic groups.
 - 3) Education and health facilities are not available to a large majority of people.
 - 4) Elementary education, women empowerment continue to be matters of concern.
 - 5) Job security is still not achieved.

39. Explain briefly Inter - state disparities of poverty in India. **(2012)**

- Ans.**
- 1) Recent estimate show that in 20 states and union territories, the poverty rate is less than the national average.
 - 2) On the other hand, poverty is still a serious problem in Orissa, Bihar, Tripura and U.P.

3) Orissa and Bihar continue to be the two poorest states with poverty ratio of 47% and 43% respectively.

4) Along with rural poverty, urban poverty is also high in Orissa, M.P, Bihar and U.P.

5) There has been a significant decline in poverty in Kerala, J & K.

40. On what basis can it be said that poverty reduction will make better progress in the next ten to fifteen years ? **(2012)**

Ans. a) Higher economic growth.

b) Declining population growth.

c) Increasing empowerment of the women and the economically weaker sections of society.

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1. Give one advantage of economic growth. **(2016)**

Ans. It widens the opportunities and provides the resources needed to invest in human development.

2. What is the relation between economic growth and poverty reduction ? **(2016)**

Ans. Direct relation.

3. Name any two social groups of people who are vulnerable to poverty. **(2016)**

Ans. Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes.

4. What is the most difficult challenge faced by independent India ? **(2016)**

Ans. Poverty is the most difficult challenge.

5. Name any two basic requirements of a small farmer. **(2016)**

Ans. Money to buy agricultural needs like seeds, fertilizers and pesticides.

6. Which anti poverty programme provides 100 days of assured employment to the rural poor ? **(2016)**

Ans. National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (2005).

7. Which Indian state has the maximum number of people living below poverty line ? **(2016,2012)**

Ans. Orissa.

8. Mention one major reason behind huge income inequalities. **(2016)**

- Ans.** It is the unequal distribution of land and other resources.
9. Which are the two poverty ridden states of India ? **(2016,2015)**
- Ans.** Bihar and Orissa.
10. How have Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu reduced poverty ? **(2016)**
- Ans.** With the help of public distribution of food grains.
11. Name the State which has focused on Human Resource Development in reducing poverty. **(2016)**
- Ans.** Kerala.
12. Why do rural people require more calories ? **(2016,2012)**
- Ans.** They engage themselves in physical work.
13. Name the methods used to measure poverty ? **(2016)**
- Ans.** Income or consumption levels.
14. Mahatma Gandhi always insisted that India would be truly independent only when : **(2016,2013)**
- Ans.** The poorest of its people become free of human sufferings and all are equal before the laws.
15. In India, for the year 2000, the poverty line for a person living in rural area was fixed at**(2016)**
- Ans.** 328 per month.
16. According to social scientists what is the social indicator of poverty ?
- Ans.** Increasing population.
17. What was the percentage of poverty in Sub- Saharan Africa in 2001 ? **(2016)**
- Ans.** 46%.
18. Which body is responsible for conducting sample survey for estimation of poverty line ? **(2016)**
- Ans.** National Sample Survey Organization.
19. In which year was the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yozana (PMGY) launched ? **(2016)**
- Ans.** 2000.

PRACTICE CORNER

1. What is the current government strategy of poverty alleviation ? Mention any three anti-poverty measures taken up by the government of India. **(2016)**

2. Mention the social groups which are most vulnerable to poverty. Who amongst them suffers more than others do ? **(2016)**
3. What is the contribution of NREGA 2005 as an anti-poverty programme ? Explain.
4. Explain how Punjab, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh have succeeded in reducing poverty. **(2016)**
5. Explain the following anti - poverty measures,
 - a) National Food for Work Programme (NFWP).
 - b) Antyodaya Anna yojana (AAY). **(2016)**
6. What are the major objectives of the National Food For Work Programme ? Mention three objectives. **(2016)**
7. "Poverty is a curse upon humanity". Explain.
8. Describe in brief current government strategy of poverty alleviation. How is poverty line determined in India ? **(2016)**
9. Name any two states of India where poverty ratio is highest. What is the cause of a significant decline in poverty in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu ? **(2016)**
10. Define the term poor and what is accepted average calorie requirement in India.
11. Briefly explain the government`s strategies of poverty allegation. **(2016)**
12. What is the basis for a person to be considered poor ? How do we measure poverty line in India ? **(2016)**
13. What is social exclusion ? Give one example of it. **(2016)**

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