



Social Studies

Class 9th (Economics)

Chapter 3: Poverty as a Challenge



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Exercise

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

Ans: The poverty line in India is determined on the basis of food requirement, clothing, footwear, fuel and light, educational and medical requirements for survival. In India, 2400 calories per person per day in rural areas and 2100 calories per person per day in urban areas. Based on these assumptions, the poverty line for a person in the year 2011-12 has been fixed at Rs.816 per month in rural areas and Rs.1000 per month in urban areas.

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

Ans: The present method of poverty estimation is not correct. In this method there is only minimum standard of living. It should also include the minimum requirements of education, health, social life.

Que 3. Describe poverty trends in India since 1973?

Ans: In the year 1973, there was about 55 percent poverty in India. In the year 1993 it came down to about 45 percent. In the year 2004, it reached 37.2 percent. In the year 2011, the poverty rate fell further to 22 percent. If this trend continues, the number of people below the poverty line will come down to less than 20 percent in the next few years.

Que 4. Discuss the major reasons for poverty in India?

Ans:

1. The proportion of poor people is not the same in every state of India.
2. In the year 2011-12, the poverty ratio of the entire country was 22 percent.
3. Poverty is higher than the national average in Bihar, Odisha, Assam, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
4. Bihar and Orissa continue to be the poorest states with poverty averages of 33.7 and 32.6% respectively.
5. In comparison, there has been a significant decline in poverty in Kerala, Jammu and Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and West Bengal.
6. States like Punjab and Haryana have been able to reduce poverty through high agricultural growth rates.
7. Human resource development has been given attention in Kerala.

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

Ans: The following groups are helpless in the face of poverty in India:

1. scheduled caste families
2. scheduled tribe families
3. rural agricultural labor household
4. urban casual labor household

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

Ans: The following are the reasons for the inter-state variation in poverty in India -

1. Unequal distribution of land and other resources.
2. Spread of Green Revolution Living in limited areas.
3. Establishment of manufacturing industries in only a few states.
4. High density of population in some states.
5. Unequal distribution of education and health services.

Que 7. Describe global poverty trends.

Ans:

1. The average poverty ratio in the world was 36 per cent in 1990.
2. This average dropped to 10 percent in 2015.
3. There has been a significant reduction in poverty due to rapid economic growth and human resource development.

4. The number of poor in China decreased from 88.3 percent in 1981 to 14.7 percent in 2008.
5. In the countries of South Asia (India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan), the decline in the number of poor was equally rapid.

Que 8. Describe current government strategy of poverty alleviation?

Ans: The following are the current government policies for poverty alleviation:

- (i) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005
- (ii) National Food for Work Scheme.
- (iii) Rural Employment Generation Programme.
- (iv) Golden Jubilee Village Self Employment Scheme
- (v) Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana
- (vi) Antyodaya Anna Yojana

Que 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?

Ans:

(a) A person is considered poor if his income or consumption level is below a 'minimum level' which meets a set of basic needs such as food, clothing, education, medical and housing etc. That is, that person is poor who is not able to fulfill the basic needs of living.

(b) The poorest of the poor are women, girls and older people as they are deprived of the resources available in the family.

(c) The main features of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme Act 2005 are as follows:-
Guaranteeing at least 100 days of employment in a year for the livelihood of every household in rural areas.
Its purpose is to help in sustainable development so that drought, flood etc. can be avoided.
One-third of the jobs in this scheme are reserved for women.

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