

Unit I (Poverty) - Poverty is one of the main (1P)  
issue, attracting the attention of sociologists +  
economists. Poverty in India can be defined as a  
situation when a certain section of people are  
unable to fulfill their basic needs. India has  
the world's largest number of poor people living  
in it. out of its total population of more than  
1 billion, 350 to 400 million people are living below  
the poverty line.

Many committees were established  
in India to estimate poverty in the country.  
These include National Planning Committee  
(1938), Alagh Committee (1979), Lakdawala  
Committee (2011) + Suresh Tendulkar Committee  
(2005). The current estimations of poverty are based  
upon the recommendation of Suresh Tendulkar  
Committee. This committee recommended to shift  
away ~~the~~ from the calorie based model + made  
the poverty line somewhat broad based by  
considering monthly spending on education,  
health, electricity + transport also.

There are a large number of  
causes of poverty in India which are as follows.

① Fast growing population has reduced  
the per capita income of India. Hence, the standard  
of living has also fallen considerably. If the  
country is overpopulated, a large part of the income  
is spent on consumption + very little is saved

for development activities.

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- ② Unemployment is one of the important reasons for poverty in India. Many people do not have job to sustain themselves + their families.
  - ③ 60% of population depends on agriculture in India. But the condition of agri-sector is bad. Farmers are poor + uneducated. They have no good facilities of irrigation. They do not get seeds + fertilizers on time, all this leads to poor yield.
  - ④ The widening gap between the rich + the poor is also responsible for poverty in India. The rich are getting richer + the poor are getting poorer.
  - ⑤ Inflation also leads to poverty because income earned by poor people is not sufficient to buy basic necessities of life. A rise in price of a commodity forces them to remain in poverty.
- Poverty also has adverse consequences on the country to a large extent is the leading cause of insufficient diet + inadequate nutrition.
- In order to combat the issue of poverty, the govt. of India has launched various poverty alleviation programmes, some of them worth mentioning are
- ① Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, 1999, to provide sustainable income to the poorest people living in rural + urban areas of the country.

- ② Employment Assurance Scheme 1993 to create additional wage employment opportunities during the period of acute shortage of wage employment through manual work for rural poor living below BPL.
- ③ Food for Work Programme 2004, to generate supplementary wage employment.
- ④ Integrated watershed management Programme to restore the ecological balance of harnessing, conserving + developing degraded natural resources.
- ⑤ Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana! - to provide employment to the educated youth who are not having a job.
- ⑥ Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) 2005, to enhance livelihood security by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult member volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

Apart from these govt. initiatives, several steps can be taken to stop or to eradicate poverty in India. To control <sup>the increasing</sup> poverty, the growth of food production has to be more than population growth. Poverty can be eliminated if poor peoples are given jobs according to their skill, needs + talents. Self employment can also be provided to them. govt can should develop cottage, handier + other small scale industries in backward regions.

(4P)

Unemployment! — Unemployment is one of the major problems in a developing country like India. The number of unemployed person increases as the population explodes. Our development plans fail to provide ~~more~~ employment for all the unemployed youth. In spite of the Five year plans this problem continues to be serious as ever. Unemployment may be defined as "a situation in which the person is capable of working both physically & mentally at the existing wage rate, but does not get a job to work". In other words, unemployment means only involuntary unemployment wherein a person who is willing to work at the existing wage rate does not get a job.

There are different types of unemployment prevailing in India which include:—

- ① Disguised unemployment! — In which more people are doing work than actually required. Even if some are withdrawn, production does not suffer. Agriculture is the ~~best~~ example of this type of unemployment.
- ② Seasonal unemployment! — Occurs during certain seasons of the year. People engaged in industries like holiday seasons, ice factories & so on may remain unemployed during the off-season.
- ③ Cyclical unemployment! — is caused by trade cycles at regular intervals. There is greater unemployment when there is depression & a large number of people are rendered unemployed.

④ Educated unemployment! — arises when many are unemployed because their qualification does not match the job.

⑤ Structural unemployment! — arises due to drastic changes in the economic structure of a country.

⑥ Frictional unemployment! — caused due to imperfect adjustment between supply of labour & demand of labour.

The Problem of unemployment also has adverse effects on the economy & society. It causes loss of human resources. Apart from this, unemployment breeds many social problems comprising of dishonesty, gambling, barbery, theft etc. Govt. should keep a strict watch on the education system & try to implement new ways to generate skilled labour force. Before completing, the education a practical knowledge should be given. Apart from this, there must be development in agriculture, based food processing, industries in rural areas so that the rural candidates don't migrate to the urban areas. Moreover employment should be generated in rural areas for the people as there is more seasonal unemployment.

Govt. has taken many initiatives to tackle with the issue of unemployment in India. Few of the schemes worthy to be mentioned as:

① Prime Minister's employment generation Programme (PMEGP)! —

(PMKSY) It was announced by PM on 15th Aug 2008. This is credit linked scheme formed by merging ~~existing~~ PDS ~~employment~~ Guarantee Programme + Prime Minister Rojgar Yojna

② Swachh Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, SJSY  
it was launched in April 1999 as a major programme for self-employment of the rural poor for restructuring the then existing integrated Rural development programme (IRDP) + combining it with other allied schemes like TRYSEM, DWCA, SITRA, GRY + Millim Wells scheme for effective implementation under a single banner called SJSY.

③ Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act: - (MGNREGA) guaranteeing 100 days of employment to a financial year to a rural household whose adults members are willing to do unskilled manual work. This act is an important step towards the realisation of the right to work. It is also expected to enhance people's livelihood on a sustained basis, by developing the economic + social infrastructure in rural areas.

④ Deen Dayal Kaushal Yojana or DDU-GRY: - It is a govt. of India youth employment scheme which was launched on 25th Sept, 2014. It aims at enhancing the employability of rural youth under the age group of 15-35 years. It also aims at mandatory assured placement to 75% of the trained candidates.

⑤ National Skill Development Mission, 2015, 78  
strains to create convergence across sectors  
& states in terms of skill training activities.

⑥ Make in India Programme :- It was launched  
on 25th September, 2014 its major objectives  
is to focus on job creation & skill enhance-  
ment in 25 sector of the economy.

Thus, we should keep in mind that  
one of the most disturbing problems in India  
has been the mounting the rate of unemployment,  
both in the rural & urban areas. on the whole  
we can say that more attention should be  
given otherwise this problem can make  
jobless youths to set on the wrong path &  
ultimately lead to country's downfall.