

A Study On Problems Of Poverty Alleviation

Devanathan J

MBA, Department of Management Studies
Bharath Institute of Science and Technology,
Selaiyur, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600 073
Bharath Institute of Higher Education and Research

Abstract

The **poverty alleviation programmes in India** can be categorized based on whether it is targeted for rural areas or urban areas. Most of the programmes are designed to target rural poverty as the prevalence of the poverty is high in rural areas. Also targeting of the poverty is challenging in rural areas due to various geographic and infrastructure limitations. The programmes can be mainly grouped into, Wage employment programmer, Self-employment programmes, Food security programmes, Social security programmes and Urban poverty alleviation programmes. The five year plans immediately after independence tried to focus on poverty alleviation through sectorial programmes. The first five-year plan focused on agricultural production as a way of addressing poverty while second and third plans focused on massive state led investments for employment generation in public sector. While these policies did some policy generation, they did not have enough strength to effect a sweeping effect.

Introduction

Poverty in simple word means is the lack of human needs like food ,water ,air and all other basic needs poverty is pronounced deprivations in well being and comprises many dimensions. It include low incomes and the inability to acquire the basic goods and services necessary for survival with dignity .poverty also encompasses low level of health and education , poor access to clean water and sanitations, inadequate physical security , lack of voice and insufficient capacity and opportunity to better once life. India are under poverty as India's population is estimated to be more than 1 billion out of them nearly 300-400 million peoples are under poverty . Not even having a single meal for one day.

Methodology

Both primary and secondary data were collected to write this report. Primary data are collected through questionnaire and secondary data are collected through magazines, journals , articles and internet sites.

Objectives

- To analyze recent issues of poverty alleviation in India.
- To discuss high population growth in India .
- To find the reasons of low level income and insufficient capacity to better once life.

Meaning , definition and methods of poverty alleviation :

The oxford dictionary defines poverty as 'the state of being extremely poor' where in one lacks the basic human needs such as food , water, sanitations, clothing, shelter , health care and education.

The concept of poverty is a multi – faceted concept. Poverty can be said as the state of being poor in other words the lack of means of providing material needs or comforts. But poverty is

not only about lack of material goods but also lack or denial of opportunities for a certain sector of the society.

Poverty implies a condition in which a person finds him unable to maintain a living standard adequate for his physical and mental efficiency . He even fails to meet his basic requirements. Poverty is in fact a relative concept.

It is very difficult to draw a demarcation line between affluence and poverty .according to adam smith , 'man is rich or poor according to the degree in which he can afford to enjoy the necessaries , the conveniences and the amusements of human life'.

Types of poverty alleviations

Poverty are generally categorized into types of poverty . They are

- (i) absolute and
- (ii) relative poverty.

Absolute poverty

By the Copenhagen declaration absolute poverty is a condition characterized by severe deprivations of basic human needs , including food , safe drinking water , sanitations facilities, health, shelter, education and information.

The term 'absolute poverty ' is sometimes synonymously referred to as ' extreme poverty '

Absolute poverty refers to as set standard which is consistent over time and between countries. It depends not only on income but also on access to services.

Relative poverty

Relative poverty is defined as contextually as economic inequality in the location or society in which people live.

Relative poverty views poverty as socially defined and dependent on social context , hence relative poverty is a measure of income inequality.

According to the united nations fundamentally , poverty is the inability of getting choices and opportunities , a violation of human dignity . it means lack of basic capacity to participate effectively in society.

The world bank declares that poverty is a pronounced deprivations in well- being and comprises many dimensions. It includes low incomes and the inability to acquire the basic goods and services necessary for survival with dignity.

Poverty also encompasses low level of health and education , poor access to clean water and sanitations, inadequate physical security, lack of voice, and insufficient capacity and opportunity to better one's life.

The world bank defined the new international poverty line as Rs .79.21 a day for 2005 (equivalent to Rs.63.37 a day in 1996 US prices)but have recently been updated to Rs 158.41 per day.

According to 2010 data from UN development program an estimated 29.8%of Indians live below the country's national poverty line.

Causes

High population growth is often said the reason behind although demographers argue that it is just a symptom rather than the cause. The various causes are:

- ❖ caste system
- ❖ unequal distribution of wealth
- ❖ illiteracy
- ❖ increase in unemployment and
- ❖ low productivity

- ❖ noiselessness or powerlessness
- ❖ vulnerability due to disasters conflicts etc.....

Effect

Poverty severely affects the following aspects in a society

- ❖ health
- ❖ education
- ❖ housing
- ❖ utilities
- ❖ violence

one – third of deaths – some 18 million people a year or 50,000 per day - are due to poverty – related causes. Those who live in poverty have also been shown to have a far greater likelihood of having or incurring a disability within their lifetime.

Research has found that there is a high risk of educational under achievement for children who are from low – income housing circumstances . For children with low resources , the risk factors are similar to others such as juvenile delinquency upon their low income parent or parents.

Poverty increases the risk of homelessness .slum- dwellers make up a third of the world's urban population.

Deterioration of living conditions can often compel children to abandon school to contribute to the family income, putting them at risk of being exploited. It is also seen that the countries with higher relative poverty are at higher risk of unrest and also civic and domestic violence.

Steps of alleviate poverty

For much of history , poverty was considered largely unavoidable as traditional modes production were insufficient to give an entire population a comfortable standard of living. Aristotle has said in his masterpiece- politics that,

‘poverty is the parent of revolution and crime’

Poverty creates an imbalance in the inequality of the society , resulting in population explosion , unemployment, child labour and a rising graph of crimes.

The following measures are advocated in order to curb poverty

• Economic liberalization:

Extending property rights protection to the poor is one of the most important poverty reduction strategies a nation can implement. Securing property rights to land , the largest asset for most societies , is vital to their economic freedom . the world bank concludes that increasing land rights is ‘the key to reducing poverty’ citing that land rights greatly increase poor people ‘s wealth , in some cases doubling it.

• Investing in infrastructure , education and technology:

UN economists argue that good infrastructure, such as roads and information networks , helps market reforms to work. Cell phone technology brings the market to poor or rural sections. With necessary information, remote farmers can produce specific crops to sell to the buyers that bring the best price. Such technology also helps bring economic freedom by making financial services accessible to the poor.

• Employment and productivity :

Economic growth has the indirect potential to alleviate poverty, as a result of a simultaneous increase in employment opportunities and increase labour productivity.

• Building opportunities for self sufficiency:

Making employment opportunities available is just as important as increasing income and access to basic needs. This can be done by creating companies that employ the poor while creating ‘radically’ affordable goods.

- **Microloans**

One of the most popular of the new technical tools for economic development and poverty reduction are microloans made famous in 1976 by the graven bank in Bangladesh. The idea is to loan small amounts of money to farmers or villages so these people can obtain the things they need to increase their economic rewards.

- **Empowering women :**

The empowerment of women has relatively recently become a significant area of discussion with respect to development and economics; however it is often regarded as a topic that only addresses and primarily deals with gender inequality. Because women and men experience poverty differently they hold dissimilar poverty reduction priorities and are affected differently by development interventions and poverty reduction strategies.

THE MAIN FACTS OF POVERTY IN INDIA

- Heavy pressure of population
- Employment and un employment
- Capital deficiency
- Under- developed economy
- Increase in prize
- Net national income
- Rural economy
- Lack of skilled labour
- Deficiency of efficient entrepreneurs
- Lack of proper industrialization
- Low rate of growth
- Improper use of natural resources
- Lack of infrastructure

Conclusion

Thus the definition of poverty its meaning and the methods for its reduction have been discussed here. As the Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius said, '**poverty is the mother of all crimes**' As long we allow poverty to fester , we shall have a reason for strife in our nations. So the steps to alleviate poverty must be taken immediately, implemented swiftly and enforced rigidly.

Reference

1. <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=156094>
2. ^ <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=156094>
3. ^ <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=156094>
4. ^ "Legal I N." NUJS Law Review. 1 October 2010. Retrieved 3 January 2015.