

Poverty In India - A Big Challenge To The Government

Ajay Shankar

(Student, Dept. of Economics, M.D. University, Rohtak)

Email: ajaymadina@gmail.com

Abstract:

It is an obvious fact that there is Poverty in the country and very especially in the rural India. It is also a fact that each and every citizen of this country and the Government system is aware of this burning issue. The government is doing its best to mitigate the poverty by implementing so many welfare schemes and programmes all over the country. Why on earth then, poverty is still persisting in the rural area in particular and in the whole nation in general. Is there something lacking in the strategic implementing system? Or where have we gone wrong? To get the answer of these questions let us try to ponder upon the words of this research paper.

Keywords: Poverty, Indian condition, Types of poverty.

Introduction:

Poverty is an acute social problem. In general, a person is poor, who is deprived of fulfilling his daily basic needs, like food, shelter, clothing, and now education and health needs. Today, poverty can be defined in terms of the psychological needs along with other needs. Poverty is considered in two concepts namely, relative poverty and absolute poverty. Relative poverty means a comparative concept of one's income with the income of another. Here the fulfillment of daily basic needs is not taken into account. The absolute poverty refers to the fact that the daily basic needs are not fulfilled. This kind of poverty is found in the developing countries, like India, Pakistan, Srilanka, Bangladesh etc.

Causes of Poverty:

As the author has already mentioned that there are many schemes and programmes being implemented by the government, however why on earth these schemes and programmes are unable to mitigate the poverty. Let us try to meditate some of the well-known causes.

Population Explosion: If the population growth of the last decade is compared it is obvious that

there is an alarming figure and facts, which can make the planning commission and the governments spellbound. The following figures are mentioned hereunder for the reflection and meditation.

Types of Poverty:

On the basis of **social, economical and political** aspects, there are different ways to identify the **type of Poverty**:

- **Absolute poverty:** absolute poverty refers to a condition where a person does not have the minimum amount of income needed to meet the minimum requirements for one or more basic living needs over an extended period of time. Also known as extreme poverty or abject poverty, it involves the scarcity of basic food, clean water, health, shelter, education and information.
- **Relative Poverty:** relative poverty is a condition in which people lack the minimum amount of income needed in order to maintain the average standard of living in the society in which they lived.
- **Situational Poverty:** situational poverty is a period in which an individual falls below the poverty line because of sudden event like divorce, illness and loss of job etc.
- **Rural Poverty:** rural poverty refers to poverty in rural areas, including factors of rural society, rural economy, and political systems that give rise to the poverty found there.
- **Urban Poverty:** urban poverty is usually defined in two ways: as an absolute standard based on a minimum amount of income needed to sustain a healthy and minimally comfortable life, and as a relative standard that is set based on average the standard of living in a nation.

Sl.	Particulars	India 2001	Chhattis garh 2001	India 2011	Chhattis garh 2011
1.	Population	1028737436	20833803	1210133422	25540196
2.	Male population	532223090 (51.7%)	10474218 (50.3%)	623724248	12827915
3.	Female population	496514346 (48.3%)	10359585 (49.7%)	586469174	12712281
4.	Rural population	742490639 (72.2%)	16648056 (79.9%)	833087662	19603658
5.	Urban population	286119689 (27.8%)	4185747 (20.1%)	377105760	5936638
6.	Population Growth Rate	21.38%	18.06%	17.64	22.59
7.	Scheduled caste	166635700 (16.2%)	2418722 (11.6%)	166635700	2418712
8.	Scheduled tribe	84326240 (8.2%)	6616596 (31.8%)	84324240	6616596
9	Child population (0-6 age group)	163819614 (15.9%)	3469774 (16.7%)	158789287	3584028
12.	Density of population	312 / sq km	154/ sq km	382	189
13.	Sex ratio	933	989	940	991
14.	Sex ratio(0-6 age group)	927	975	914	964

Sources: Census, 2001, 2011.

- **Low Literacy rate:** As regards the literacy rate, it is the reflection of the rural India and Chhattisgarh, that in spite of so many literacy programmes and the education policy in the nation, so many people are uneducated. Due to which the rate of poverty is increasing day by day. The data given below depicts the picture of literacy rate of India and Chhattisgarh.

Sl.	Particulars	India 2001	Chhattisgarh 2001	India 2011	Chhattisgarh 2011
1.	Literacy rate	64.8%	64.7%	74.04%	71.04%
2.	Male literacy rate	75.3%	77.4%	82.14%	81.45%
3.	Female literacy rate	53.7%	51.9%	65.46%	60.59%

Sources: Census, 2001, 2011.

- **Economic Backwardness of the county:** This situation is found in the rural areas, where most of the farmers are involved in the agriculture work. More than 50% farmers depend on the monsoon for the cultivation work, since the irrigation facilities have not been provided. Economically, the country is backward. It is also reflected due to less production in the industrial sector.
- **Lack of Employment and Commercial oriented education:** India has progressed a lot compared to the last two decades in the field of education. However there is lack of job-oriented education. People in general are not so aware of the fact that in what way they will be able to get jobs. How to identify the nature of jobs and how to prepare for the same. Hence a proper guidance is required according to the present situation.
- **Casteism:** Casteism is one of the main hindrances in the path of development. It enhances the poverty more especially in the rural area.
- **A widespread unemployment:** India is having 10.9% unemployment rate, as per the information

collected in 2011. It means India is struggling to render employment opportunities for the people. In some cases, people don't want to work if they are not given the employment of their own choice and interest. As per the information only 58.2% of the working population force is employed in the country.

- **Political instability:** India is a country of political instability, with a number of political parties, having so many issues and problems of their own. There is always election after every 4-5 years and the ruling parties are thrown out, leaving aside some exceptional cases. The parties enjoy such things spending lot and lots of money in the process, but the poverty and unemployment rate is constant or to some extent it increases.
- **Corruption:** Corruption in the country and for that matter in the whole world is an acute and harmful problem. It widens up the gap between the haves and has nots. It is the worst system in the country, which makes the poor people poorer. These poor people cannot overcome with their miserable situation economically.

Government Scheme and Programmes being implemented in the country.

- **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme:** It was started on 2nd February 2006, implemented in 200 districts of India. By 1st April 2008 all the districts of India (614) were covered under this programme. This is one of the important weapons to mitigate the poverty and unemployment.
- **Bharat Nirman Yojna:** In the year 2005, this yojna was launched with the objective of rendering the basic facilities to all the villages, like irrigation (one crore hectare more to be covered by 2009), water supply (by 2012, all the villages to get safe drinking water), shelter (54645 houses to be constructed), roads (all the villages have to be linked with the main roads round the year), telephones (by 2012 broad band facilities to be rendered) and electricity (2.30 crores houses to be connected). It is still to be seen, whether the objectives have been or are being fulfilled or not.
- **Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojna (SJSRY):** This was started in the month of December, 1997, bringing together Nehru Rozgar Yojna (NRY), Urban Basic Service Programme (UBSP) and Pradhanmantri Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUPEP). The main objectives of

this programme was twofold, first, enhancing the self-employment schemes and second, rendering an employment opportunities to the people leading life below poverty line. In the similar fashion, the SwarnaJayanti Gram SwarozgarYojna (SJGSY) was started on 1st April 1999, merging the schemes of TRISEM, DWCRA, IRDP, with the objective of poverty alleviation through Self Help Groups.

Recently, the Central government has launched a series of Missions like Jawaharlal Nehru Solar Mission (January 2010) for electricity production equal to 20000 Mw by 2022, Green India Mission (January, 2010) in order to plantation on 5 Million hectare land, National Water Mission (January, 2010) for the conservation of water, Agriculture National Mission (January, 2010), to increase the agriculture and food security.

Similarly, the National Food for Work Programme, Rural Employment Generation Programme, Indira AvasYojna, Rajeev AvasYojna, SampurnaGrameenRojgarYojna, Pradhan mantra GramodayaYojna, SarvaShikshaAbhiyan, Kasturba Gandhi balikaVidyalayaYojna, Mid-day Meal, Right To Education, National Rural Health Mission, Pulse Polio Abhiyan etc. are being implemented which are proving themselves as better instruments in poverty alleviation and employment generation.

Suggestive Solution to Mitigate the Poverty

- Population control: It is very important to control population-explosion in the country. Due to this problem the other problems, like, poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, inhumanness, terrorism, murders, suicides, crimes, dacoits etc. are erupting like mushrooms in the society.
- Commercial and job-oriented education: India needs to give enough attention on the job-oriented education.
- Development of the basic infrastructures in the country: It is a call of the time that the basic infrastructure facilities have to be developed.
- Along with the above mentioned points, there should be increase in the literacy rate, increase in the employment opportunities, increase in the production of the agriculture crops (5.6% agriculture growth rate), enhancing the industrialization, increase in the credit facilities etc. Moreover, an honest and sincere implementation of the schemes and programmes related to poverty alleviation.

Conclusions:

It is a big question mark to the government system when we talk about the problem of poverty. There are layers of government system, who do have their shares on the schemes and programmes. Corruption is the main reason for spread out poverty. It is an endless disease about which the elite group can talk and discuss only, but can do nothing more than this. What to do then? Why does this country of ours, not take up the formula of western Developed countries? The problem of poverty will remain in the country as long as the country is existing. We, the people of India can to some extent reduce its volume. For this one has to change one's mentality of honesty and sincerity, mentality of commitment and dedication.

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