



An Institute for Civil Services

IAS TOPPER'S

TEST COPY

ANMOL SAGAR

RANK - 414

GS MAINS ESSAY

Roll. No. _____

Essay

Time Allowed: 1½ hrs.

Max. Marks: 125

Instructions to Candidate

- Attempt one essay
- The test carries 125 marks.
- Write the essay in about 1000-1200 words.
- Any page left blank in the answer-book must be crossed out clearly.

(Examiner will pay special attention to the candidate's grasp of his/her material, its relevance to the subject chosen, and to his/ her ability to think constructively and to present his/her ideas concisely, logically and effectively).

RemarksName Anmol Sagar

Mobile No. _____

Date _____

Signature [Signature]

1. Invigilator Signature _____

2. Invigilator Signature _____

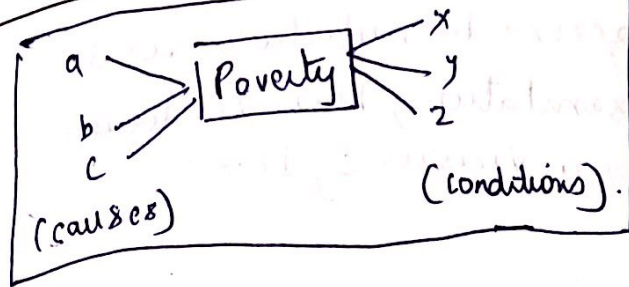
- ✓ 1. Poverty is not just an economic condition.
2. Being pro-market and being pro-poor is not mutually contradictory.
3. Corporate social responsibility is an inspiring call for action to soothe the ills of capitalism.

① "Poverty is the worst form of violence" as said by Mahatma Gandhi, justifies the immense magnitude ^{of impact} it would have on a person or a society, resulting in multi dimensional results.

Poverty in India or in many other countries ~~is~~ is measured from an economic dimension, but in reality it has multiple reasons, which are often interconnected.

For instance, Poverty Head count Ratio of India is 29.8% (Based on consumption levels), where as, as per Multi dimensional Poverty Index, 54% of Indian population is multidimensionally poor.

In short, Poverty has many causes & ~~many~~ many impacts/Manifestations/conditions.

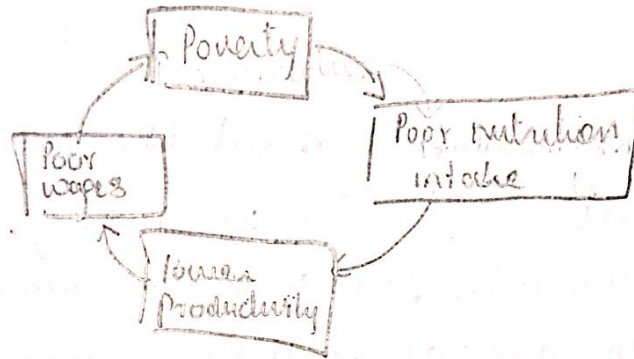


First talking about the causes, which results in poverty, are many, encompassing social, economic, political, environmental aspects. These are as follows:-

- (i) Economic → poor income levels & consequently lower consumption & purchasing power. ~~This~~ This parameter is used by India, while calculating Head count ratio.
- (ii) Social → Poverty seems to be intimately connected with societal status of a person. (from caste, gender or religious perspective)
e.g. SC, ST, Muslims are generally more poorer than the rest of the population. This was even validated by SECC data & Sachar Committee's recommendations.

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(i) Health → Improper access to nutritious food & lack of sanitation, leads to ~~lower~~ poverty, as a vicious cycle exists.



(ii) Opportunities → This approach was introduced by Amartya Sen, wherein lack of opportunities, capabilities & improper access to entitlements, makes the person more economically sensitive.

(iii) Climate change → The recent threat, which can perpetuate poverty indirectly. For instance, majority of our rural dwellers are engaged in agriculture, and consequently they are highly vulnerable to climate changes. As without drastic changes in the methods & policies, 12% loss in farmer income.

Remarks

is possible as per Economic Survey 2017-18.

However one should not look at these causes in isolation. They in fact reinforce each other and makes a person more vulnerable to poverty.

Now it is important to understand that, such diverse causes can't make poverty just an economic condition. Therefore poverty is bound to be manifested in multiple dimensions & represent several conditions. which are as follows:-

(i) "Economic" Poverty

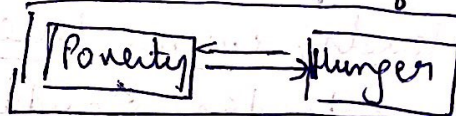
Though not the only condition, but still the most important one. Poverty tends to reduce the person's purchasing power, consumption levels, income levels which consequently impacts his standard of living. Economic poverty would in turn promote other types of poverty - ~~social~~ in health, education, ~~political~~, political etc.

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(ii) "Social Condition" of Poverty

(a) Poverty tends to discourage investment in education. This leads to diminishing human resource capital in the temporal perspectives. Further, with low education, empowerment of the society, access to entitlements, specially among women, are negatively impacted.

(b) Poverty causes improper & inadequate access to nutritional & healthy food. This not only results in malnutrition, but also makes that person less contributing element of the economy. Presently India is ranked 100th in Global Hunger Index, which on aggravates the risk of perpetuating poverty.



Therefore Education & Health are 2 important facets of social conditions, which are affected by poverty.

Remarks

(iii) "Psychological Condition" of Poverty

* A poor person can never be at a peaceful state of mind. As Aristotle said, "Poverty is the parent of Revolution & crime".

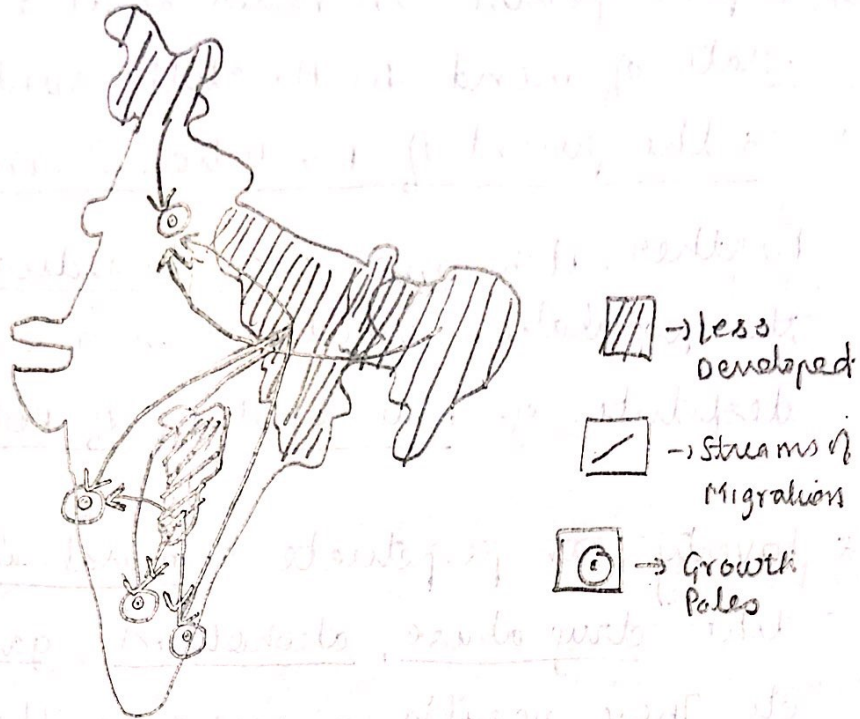
Further, it becomes easy to radicalise the population which are in a state of destitute. eg. Radicalisation of Rohingyas

* Poverty can perpetuate immoral acts like drug abuse, alcoholism, gambling etc. These results in poisoning the societal space

These 3 broad conditions listed, have a cumulative impact on the regional development. In other words, regions with higher level of poverty, are relatively less developed. which in turn can have many effects, such as Rise of extremism, Top heavy pattern of migration, Urban problems

Remarks

in well developed regions.



The above drawn sketch map represents the relation between Poverty - Regional development - Urbanisation.

The above discussion, have clearly articulated that poverty has multiple conditions, which in turn also have several impacts. Therefore overcoming

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the menace of poverty should be the prime concern of the different agents of the governance - Govt., People, Market & voluntary organisations.

Following suggestions could be deliberated upon in overcoming this challenge of Poverty.

- * It's important to improve WASH infrastructure in India, which would allow better absorption of nutrients & help fight poverty. Presently rural sanitation coverage has increased to 76%
- * Mitigation & adaptation to climate change should be an integral element of every policy specially rural development & agriculture.
- * India ranks 62 in Inclusive development Index ^{which} ~~that~~ requires improvement. In order to improve, decentralisation & Bottoms up approach

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will be a good step forward w.r.t
policy making.

* As suggested by Amartya Sen, exchange entitlements like unemployment allowance, subsidised food etc must be provided. This will prevent hunger & malnutrition.

* Another important initiative should be political & social empowerment among SCs, STs, Minorities, women & Transgenders.

This will try to overcome the hinderances they have in accessing economic & educational opportunities.

Therefore such a perpetuating & multidimensional menace of poverty must be tackled in a holistic & multisectoral manner.

We need to widen our vision, when it comes to analysing poverty & try to appreciate the several other issues &

Remarks

conditions, which often get ~~covered~~ hidden,
due to our narrow perspective. (Economic alone)

Best way to overcome this hurdle will be
to take SDGs as our guiding light.

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