

NAKSHALBARI COLLEGE
DEPT. OF SOCIOLOGY

TOPIC-RURAL POVERTY
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RURAL

POVERTY

What is poverty

- It is lacking of basic needs like food, shelter , education and healthcare.
- It is the inability to satisfy one's basic needs because one lacks income to buy services or from lack of access to services.



POVERTY LINE

- A poverty line separates the poor section of the population from the non-poor section. Those below the poverty line are deemed to be poor and those who are above it are deemed to be not poor.
- A poverty line is identified in monetary units as the level of income or consumption expenditure required in order to avoid poverty.
- The consumption expenditure in order to avoid poverty is set at Rs 816 per person per month in the rural areas and Rs 1,000 per person per month in the urban areas. Assuming 30 days in a month, this expenditure comes to Rs 27.5 per day for the rural areas and Rs 33.33 for urban areas.



Factors Responsible For Poverty

- **Rapidly Rising Population-** On an average, during the last fifty years, 17 million peoples are added every year to its population which raises the demand for consumption goods.
- **Low Productivity in Agriculture-** Due to subdivided and fragmented holdings, lack of capital, use of traditional methods of cultivation and illiteracy, etc.
- **Under-Utilised Resources-** The existence of under employment and disguised unemployment of human resources and under utilisation of resources have resulted in low production in agricultural sector.
- **Low Rate of Economic Development-** The rate of economic development in India has been below the required level. There persists a gap between levels of availability and requirements of goods and services. The net result is poverty.
- **Price Rise-** The continuous and steep price rise has added miseries to the poor. It has benefitted a few people in the society and the persons in lower income group find it difficult to get their minimum needs.
- **Unemployment-** The job seeker are increasing in number at a higher rate than the expansion in employment opportunities.
- **Social Factors-** Law of inheritance, caste system traditions and customs are putting hindrances in the way of faster development and have aggravated the problem of poverty.
- **Political Factors-** In independent India, the development plans have been guided by political interests. Hence, the planning was a failure to tackle the problems of poverty and unemployment.
- **Shortage of Capital and Able Entrepreneurship-** Both are in short supply making it difficult to increase production significantly.

Suitable Measures For Solution

- **More Employment Opportunities-** Poverty can be eliminated by providing more employment opportunities so that people may be able to meet their basic needs. Labour intensive rather than capital intensive techniques can help to solve the problem to a great extent.
- **Minimum Needs Programme-** This fact was realised in the early seventies, as benefits of growth do not percolate to poor people and less developed countries are left with no choice except to pay direct attention to the basic needs of the low strata of the society.
- **Social Security Programmes-** Workmen's Compensation Act, Maternity Benefit Act, Provident Fund Act and other benefits in case of death, disability or disease while on duty can make a frontal attack on poverty.
- **Establishment of Small Scale Industries-** The policy of encouraging cottage and small scale industries can help to create employment in rural areas specially in backward regions.
- **Upliftment of Rural Masses-** As India lives in villages, thus, various schemes for the upliftment of rural may be started.
- **Land Reforms-** Land reforms has the motto, "*land belongs to the tiller*". Thus legislatures measures were taken to abolish Zamindari system and Intermediaries and ceiling on holdings were fixed.
- **Spread of Education-** The poor should be given special facilities of stipend, free books and contingency allowance, etc.
- **Social and Political Atmosphere-** A conducive social and political atmosphere is a necessary condition for eradicating the poverty from its root.
- **To provide Minimum Requirement-** Ensuring the supply of minimum needs to the poor sections of society can help in solving the problem of poverty. For this, the public procurement and distribution system should be improved and strengthened.

Poverty Alleviation Programme

- **Employment Assurance Scheme-**
- **Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY)**
- **Indira Awaas Yojana**
- **Annapurna**
- **Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM)**
- **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA)**

Thank You