



A Study of Awareness Towards Social Problems of Intermediate and Graduate Level Female Students

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Abstract

India, as a developing country, grapples with a highly populated and democratic society. Despite the implementation of various policies, the nation continues to face persistent social issues. A social problem denotes any condition or behaviour with adverse consequences affecting a significant portion of the populace. The primary objective of this study was to scrutinize the major impediments hindering India's development. Identified through the study were prevalent social dilemmas including unemployment, women's safety, corruption, poverty, and population explosion. Additionally, the researcher concluded that these social problems are intricately interconnected. While the Government of India has launched numerous programs to tackle these issues, it is imperative for both governmental entities and the common populace, particularly the youth, to actively engage in finding viable solutions.

Key words

unemployment, safety of women, corruption, poverty, and population explosion

1-Introduction

Every society adheres to certain traditions and beliefs, expecting its members to comply with established norms and regulations. Deviations from these societal norms often result in adverse effects on societal progress and development. Present-day Indian society is affected by challenges. Failure to expeditiously address these issues may precipitate the disintegration of the social fabric. Consequently, societal awareness and active involvement in problem-solving are paramount.

Major Social Problems

Some of the major social problems plaguing contemporary Indian society are outlined below:

(a) Unemployment:

Unemployment is a scourge upon any nation or society. On one hand, it engenders poverty, hunger, and psychological distress, while on the other, it foments resentment and indiscipline among the youth. Instances of theft, robbery, violence, crime, and suicide proliferate. Unemployment taints the economic, social, and political landscape of the entire nation. Recent statistics indicate a concerning rise in unemployment rates across India. For instance, according to CMIE's (Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy) Consumer Pyramids Household Survey, the national unemployment rate surged to eight percent in February 2024 from 6.8 percent in January 2024. The disparity between urban and rural unemployment rates is particularly

pronounced, underscoring the need for targeted interventions. As of December 2022, Haryana reported the highest unemployment rate in India at 37.4 percent, whereas Odisha recorded the lowest rate at 0.9 percent.

(b) Safety of Women

Women bear the burdens of safeguarding their bodies, facing pervasive threats both within and outside their homes. Despite being revered as the embodiment of divinity, women endure untold suffering in contemporary Indian society. Disturbingly, rape cases in India reached an alarming daily average of 88 in 2019, as per the National Crimes Records Bureau (NCRB). The vulnerability of women to rape has escalated by 44% over the past decade, reflecting a systemic failure to ensure their safety. The prevalence of gang rapes, brutal murders, and public demonstrations underscores the urgent need for societal introspection and reform. Victim-blaming perpetuates a culture of impunity, exacerbating the plight of women. Inequitable access to justice further compounds their vulnerability, with the sluggish pace of the judicial system tantamount to justice denied.

(c) Corruption

India's standing as the seventh most corrupt country, according to Transparency International, underscores the pervasive nature of corruption in society. Instances of graft, nepotism, and abuse of public office are rampant, corroding the fabric of governance. Sectors such as Defence, Communications, and Public Works are notorious hotbeds of corruption, permeating all levels of bureaucracy. Despite legislative efforts to curb corruption, the enforcement of anti-corruption measures remains lackluster. The public's disillusionment with political leadership is palpable, with corrupt politicians often evading accountability. Exceptional leaders like Lal Bahadur Shastri and Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, renowned for their integrity, are regrettably rare in contemporary politics.

(d) Poverty

Poverty deprives individuals of life's basic necessities, perpetuating cycles of deprivation and despair. In India, a significant proportion of the population struggles to afford even a single meal a day, let alone access adequate shelter and clothing. The adverse effects of poverty are manifold, encompassing illiteracy, malnutrition, substandard housing, child labour, and poor sanitation. Moreover, poverty disproportionately affects women, exacerbating gender disparities and perpetuating cycles of marginalization. The inability to afford essential amenities perpetuates a vicious cycle of deprivation, hindering socio-economic mobility and perpetuating intergenerational poverty.

(e) Population Explosion

Population explosion, characterized by rapid demographic growth, poses profound challenges to socio-economic development. As population densities escalate, resource allocation becomes increasingly strained, impeding economic progress and exacerbating social inequalities. India's population distribution is highly uneven, with certain regions experiencing demographic surges while others face demographic stagnation. For instance, Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state, contrasts starkly with Lakshadweep, which has the lowest population density. The detrimental impact of overpopulation on national development cannot be overstated, underscoring the imperative of proactive population management strategies.

2.Literature Review

Khwaitapam and Singh, (2018) analyzed the population living below the poverty line at the state level in India, a comparative survey of monthly per capita in rural India and six per capita in urban India under a state level comparative poverty scenario in India.

(Nair, 2020) analyzes the factors leading to unemployment and its impact on the Indian economy. The magazine addressed the economic problems caused by high unemployment and proposed strategies to improve the country's current employment situation.

(Sandu and Sukiasyan, 2018) identified the problem of overpopulation in India and suggests to solve it. The authors make three recommendations to solve the problem - women's empowerment, education and industrialization.

3-Objectives

1-A Study of awareness towards social problems among intermediate and graduate level female students of Ghaziabad

2- To study the role of youth in solving social problems among intermediate and graduate level students of Ghaziabad

4-Hypothesis

(a) There is no difference in awareness of social problems among intermediate and graduate-level female students of Ghaziabad.

(b) There is no difference in the role of youth in solving social problems among intermediate and graduate-level students of Ghaziabad.

5-Research Method

This study focuses on intermediate and graduate-level female students in Ghaziabad. Through a lottery method, one intermediate and one graduate women's college were selected for sampling, with 50 students from each level selected for participation.

Tools

(a) Questionnaire related to awareness of social problem (Self prepared)

(b) Questionnaire related to the role of youth in solving social problems (Self prepared)

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Table-1: Comparison of awareness towards social problems of intermediate and graduate level female students

Group	N	Mean	S.D.	SED	Critical Ratio
Intermediate Students	50	20.3	10.8	2.25	1.11
Graduate Students	50	22.8	11.74		

Table -1 shows that the mean scores of

intermediate and graduate students are 20.3 and 22.8. The SED was found to be 2.25 and C.R.1.11 respectively. The calculated C.R. value is less than the table value at both levels. Therefore, the research hypothesis stating that there is no difference in awareness towards social problems of intermediate and graduate level girl students is accepted as significant difference is not found.

Table-2: Comparison of role of youth in solving social problems of intermediate and graduate level students

Group	N	Mean	S.D.	SED	Critical Ratio
Intermediate Students	50	11.5	3.9	0.78	11.17
Graduate Students	50	20.3	5.25		

Table -2 shows that the mean scores of intermediate and graduate students are 11.5 and 20.3. The SED was found to be 0.78 and C.R.11.17 respectively. The calculated C.R. value is higher than the table value at both levels. Therefore, the research hypothesis stating that there is no difference in the role of youth in solving social problems of intermediate and graduate level students is rejected as significant difference is found.

Conclusion

Awareness towards social problems of intermediate and graduate level girl students is almost equal. Intermediate and graduate level girls are aware about the social problems. They understand the problems of society.

Role of graduate youth in solving social problems is higher than intermediate students. Graduate level girl students play an important role in solving social problems through nukkad natak, community services and group work. They wish to prepare a healthy society.

In conclusion, this study underscores the pivotal role of societal awareness and youth engagement in addressing prevailing social issues. While governmental initiatives are essential, grassroots mobilization and civic participation are equally crucial for effecting tangible change. Collaborative efforts between government agencies, civil society organizations, and the general populace are imperative for fostering sustainable development and fostering a more equitable society.

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