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Poverty In India: Causes, Effects And Solutions

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Abstract

Poverty is a social phenomenon in which certain sections of society cannot fulfil even the bare necessities of life. India is known for the poor people it has. Poverty gives birth to many other problems. Our India is well aware that poverty is the most significant barrier to developing the nation's development. Various no. of anti-poverty policies has been introduced since the 1950s. In India, poverty is measured by a poverty line. In almost all underdeveloped countries with low per capita income, income inequality has resulted in a no. of evils, of which poverty is undoubtedly the most serious. It is a socio-economic phenomenon that is intimately associated effects human health, efficiency and productivity, which in turn affects human health, efficiency and productivity, which in turn affects their income. This paper examines the impact of poverty and compares the per capita income of different countries. As per the Government of India Planning Commission percentage and the number of poor estimates by Tendulkar method using Mixed Reference Period (MRP), interstate comparison of population below the poverty line. Various causes and suggestions for the removal of poverty from India also discussed in this paper.

Keywords- *Poverty*, Population, NITI Aayog, Income

India is a developing economy but poverty is still a bigger challenge for India. In general poverty is a state of lack, in which a person or society cannot get the things of his basic needs. The person does not have adequate supply of food, proper shelter and clothes. Sometimes they cannot afford to pay for a single meal a day. They are unable to achieve even the minimum consumption level. If a large section of a society is unable to effort the minimum standard of living and continues to live at subsistence level, then that society is to be a sufferer of widespread poverty. Poverty is a condition in which a person or society is unable to consume their basic necessity.

Poverty estimates are based on the poverty line, planning commission said that a person is said to be below the poverty line if he spends less than Rs-4080 in rural areas and Rs -5000 in urban areas. In the Tendulkar formula, the poverty line has been calculated on the basis of per capita monthly consumption expenditure instead of the amount of calories in the food and for the poverty line in each state the per capita monthly consumption expenditure has determined separately in urban and rural areas. According to the view of Amartya Sen, poverty is not an economic class but is the result of many economic conditions. There are many reasons that increase the situation of poverty.

These are -

- (i) increasing rate of population
- (ii) Low productivity
- (iii) Minimum utilisation of resources
- (iv) shortage of capital and able entrepreneurship
- (v) Low level of education facilities
- (vi) Unequal distribution of income
- (vii) Lack of employment, etc

So, to solve this problem of poverty one has to go beyond the concept of poverty itself. According to Amartya Sen two steps are necessary in the analysis of poverty.

(i) It should be ascertained that how much difference people got and on this basis poverty should be discovered with the help of measure of per capita income.

(ii) We need to estimate, how bad the situation really is and how much worse is one worst case scenario than the other.

In other words, it is not enough to know how many people are poor? but it is always necessary to know that how poor are the poor people?

Poverty is also, reason of many problems. People are being deprived of education. Due to which they are not able to take advantage of Government's various programs like family planning, employment programme etc. Because of illiteracy population is increasing rapidly day by day. While employment is not increasing at that pace. As a result, vicious circle of poverty is being formed. For this reason, all the programs of development run by the government get interrupted due to poverty.

Actually, there is a need for multi-faced plan which along with economic growth and employment generation.

These are main programs of poverty alleviation and employment generation implemented in India - Samporna rojgar yojna, Swarn Jayanti Gram Swarajgar yojna, National rural livelihoods mission, National Social Assistance Program, Agriculture Workers Social Security Scheme, Pradhanmantri Gramodaya Yojna, MNREGA, Housing for all scheme by 2022, Pradhanmantri kaushal Vikas Yojna, Antyodaya yojna etc.

In India, Now the poverty estimation is claimed out by Niti Aayog's task force through the calculation of poverty line based on data captured by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO). According to the survey, more than a quarter of the population living in rural areas of India is below the poverty line. Out of the total population which live in rural areas of India: 25.7 percent is living below the poverty line whereas: 13.7 percent of urban areas population living below the poverty line.

Bihar is the poorest state of India. As per NITI Aayog's multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh is poorest after Bihar, Goa is at the forefront of reducing poverty faster between 2015-2016 and 2019-2021. It is followed by Jammu & Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh, Chattisgarh and Rajasthan.

The focus of all poverty alleviation programs has been or generation of additional income. Family welfare, Balance nutritious diet, Social equity, Social Security and fulfillment of minimum basic needs have not been taken care of. Nothing has been done in these programs for those people, who are handicapped, sick and unable to work productively. The benefits of those programs have been given less to the poor, more than rich and middle income groups.

Conclusion:-

Thus, unless there are radical changes in the structure of poverty alleviation programs, that is, unless the production relations are changed, it is futile to expect too much for the poor in a country like ours. It's noteworthy that there has been constant reduction in the incidents of rural poverty because of transmission from rural to urban/city areas. First and the foremost step for controlling poverty is to strictly control the increase in population. Other majors for controlling poverty is by provision of employment for everybody, making the citizens literate, elimination of Black money, provision of plan/project decentralization and by making the youth and women self reliant. It is expected that by the empowerment of weak and backward classes of society the poverty can be reduced. We are not lagging behind because of limitation of resources or technology but because of improper planning and its implementation.

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