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PERCEPTIONS OF POVERTY IN INDIA IN ECONOMIC SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION

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Abstract

A large portion of the destitute individuals in India are situated in provincial territories. Destitution stays a constant condition for right around 30% of India's provincial populace. The occurrence of rustic destitution has declined to some degree in the course of recent a very long time because of country to metropolitan movement however the circumstance actually keeps on staying troubling. Destitution is a financial state where individuals are encountering shortage or the absence of specific items that are required for the lives of people like cash and material things. In this way, neediness is a multifaceted idea comprehensive of social, financial and political components. India, if not totally however is practically inseparable from the word defilement. Various tricks in the ongoing years clarify the adventure of debasement. Practically all the administration divisions are influenced from it. Debasement is viewed as probably the most compelling motivation of neediness in India. India's development model for sure has profited the financial specialists yet bombed when we see that close around 213 million Indians go hungry consistently as on 2019. Privileges of sorted out just as disorderly laborers are being abused. They are come up short on and not paid by the modern development and consistently rising swelling. With the goal that reason there is a need to contemplate the reasons for rustic destitution and hostile to neediness program and to inspect why India is as yet a helpless nation. This research paper to be discussed about **“Perceptions of Poverty in India in Economic Social Construction”**

Keywords: Economic Inequality, Economic Development, Poverty Alleviation, Economic Perception, Social Conscious, Economic Standards.

Introduction

Statement of Purpose

“Poverty is humiliation, the sense of being dependent on them, and of being forced to accept rudeness, insults, and indifference when we seek help.”

—Latvia

In the simplest term, poverty may be defined as a social condition where individuals do not have financial means to meet the most basic standards of life that is acceptable by the society. Individuals experiencing poverty do not have the means to pay for basic needs of daily life like food, clothes and shelter. Poverty also staves people off from accessing much needed social tools of well-being like education and health requirements. The direct consequences stemming from this problem are hunger, malnutrition and susceptibility to diseases which have been identified as major problems across the world. It impacts individuals in a socio-psychological way with them not being able to afford simple recreational activities and getting progressively marginalized in the society.

The term poverty is interconnected with the notion of the poverty line/ threshold that may be defined as the minimum figure of income that is required in a particular country for maintaining the socially acceptable quality of life in terms of nutritional, clothing and sheltering needs. The World Bank has updated its international poverty line figures to 1.90 USD (Rs. 123.5) per day on October 2017 (based on prices of commodities in year 2011-2012), from 1.5 USD (Rs. 81) as a response to the changes in the cost of living across the world as per current economy. The organization estimates that – “Just over 900 million people globally lived under this line in 2012 (based on the latest available data), and we project that in 2015, just over 700 million are living in extreme poverty.” Poverty is a worldwide cause of concern even in economically stable countries like the USA. Current statistics state that over half the populations in the world, about 3 billion people, are forced to live on less than 2.5 dollars per day. In India, as per 2014 government reports, monthly per capita consumption expenditure is Rs. 972 per person in rural areas and Rs. 1407 per person in urban areas. This data is currently being accepted as the poverty threshold of the country. As of 2015, 21.9% of the total population lives below the national poverty threshold, as per the data of Asian Development Bank, that’s a whopping 269.7 million individuals not having enough money.



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Destitution is a state or condition wherein an individual or network does not have the monetary assets and fundamentals for a base way of life. Destitution implies that the salary level from the business is low to such an extent that fundamental human needs cannot be met. Destitution stricken individuals and families may abandon appropriate lodging, clean water, solid food, and clinical consideration. Every country may have its own limit that decides the numbers of its kin are living in destitution.

Objectives

1. To Study the Causes of perception of Economic Poverty in India
2. To Examine to be effect in Economic Social Consequences

Methodology

The methodology is incredibly needed to construct the analysis work equally in qualitative and quantitative ways used within the study. This text has required secondary data, and secondary data has been collected from the written offer, like various periodicals, articles, reports, books, journals, and literature, on the subject. For the aim of gathering the most recent updated information's on the topic, e-sources to boot sharp-eyed.

Causes of Rural Poverty

In certain rustic zones, topographical components make conditions that lead to neediness. One of India's most unmistakable geological components is capricious storms and climate, which sway the harvest creation and yield. Normal disasters like floods, dry season, tornadoes, and so forth incur significant damage and harm the yield, domesticated animals, and land. These outcomes bring about hefty misfortune in neediness.

Personal Factors

In all honesty, however, your monetary status is characterized by what you do and what you are resolved to do. There are numerous individual factors that lead to neediness. One of these is an ailment. Because of neediness families don't get enough food to eat and, in this manner, need insusceptibility. They become inclined to numerous maladies. So, at all they acquire is used in the treatment of the equivalent. Disorder thus prompts more destitution. It is appropriately said that "Destitution and affliction structure a horrendous organization each encouraging the other to add to the torments of generally shocking of humankind." Laziness and not ready to work is another significant explanation of neediness in India. Individuals simply don't have any desire to work. Indeed, even in metropolitan zones, you may have run over bums who are healthy however are not ready to work regardless of whether given a few. They need pain free income. Dependence on drinking, drugs, and other social indecencies add to country destitution. These are sufficient to make the whole family poor.

Biological Factors

Quick development in the populace likewise prompts destitution in country India. Much created clinical and medical services offices in India have diminished the general passing rate, yet birth-rate has not been adequately controlled. Enormous families and restricted assets bring about neediness.

Economic Factors

Rustic India relies on farming for everything. Yet, the more significant part of the ranchers actually depends on crude techniques for farming. With this, the yearly produce is frequently extremely less. Besides, the farming segment in India is as yet immature to give enough positions.

Broken flexible chain and botch cause the ranchers to endure the most. Individuals at the head of the flexible chain procure the greatest advantage of the rancher's difficult work. Be that as it may, it ought to be another path to inspire rustic India and eradicate rural neediness.

Why India Is Still a Poor Country?

India, if not totally, however, is practically inseparable from the word debasement. Various tricks in the ongoing years clarify the adventure of debasement. Practically all the administrative divisions are influenced by it. Defilement is viewed as probably the most compelling motivation for destitution in India.

Defilement in the Public Distribution System (PDS) is the most exceedingly terrible of its sort. The main wellspring of debasement in India is privilege projects and social spending plans that are intended for the government assistance of our general



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public. For a model – Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA), a \$9 billion program intended to offer 100 days of the business year for the country poor. However, MNREGA fizzled due to defilement and bungle. Much the same as MNREGA, the National Rural Livelihood Mission met a similar destiny. It was wanted to engage.

Even though the administration invests amounts of energy in having a "comprehensive development," however, defilement is assuming its job. So, all such projects intended for the poor and penniless neglected to dazzle and help them. Rather poor are even denied of their essential right and needs. Defilement is much the same as an endemic in India. It prompts social disparities and hit the economy of our country. Assets conceded to inspire the poor are abused. Neediness is a further decline by the regulatory debasement. Indeed, even the least difficult of the assignment is not performed without a payoff. Debasement likewise delays and redirects the financial development.

According to the information aggregated by Bloomberg, close to about \$14.5 billion in food was pillaged by the degenerate government officials in the province of Uttar Pradesh. The plunder came about poor to get by without the necessary amount of food and kids to experience the ill effects of unhealthiness. There are numerous different instances of authoritative debasement, further weakening the circumstance and making the poor less fortunate.

Causes of Poverty in India

Factors contributing to the persistent problem of poverty in the country are many and they need to be identified in order to be addressed properly. They can be categorized under the following heads. Demographic – the main factor that contributes to poverty-ridden state of the country from a demographical point of view is the problem of over population. The growth of population in the country has so far exceeded the growth in economy and the gross result is that the poverty figures have remained more or less consistent. In rural areas, size of the families is bigger and that translates into lowering the per capita income values and ultimately lowering of standard of living. Population growth spurt also leads to generation of unemployment and that means diluting out of wages for jobs further lowering income. Economic –there are a host of economic reasons behind persistence of the poverty problems which are outlined hereunder:

Poor Agricultural Infrastructure –Agriculture is the backbone of Indian economy. But outdated farming practices, lack of proper irrigation infrastructure and even lack of formal knowledge of crop handling has affected the productivity in this sector tremendously. As a consequence there is redundancy and sometimes complete lack of work leading to decreased wages that is insufficient for meeting daily needs of a labourer’s family plunging them into poverty.

Unequal distribution of assets – with the economy changing directions rapidly, the earning structure evolves differently in different economic income groups. Upper and middle income groups see a faster increase in earnings than lower income groups. Also, assets like land, cattle as well as realty are distributed disproportionately among the population with certain people owning majority shares than other sectors of the society and their profits from these assets are also unequally distributed. In India it is said that 80% wealth in the country is controlled by just 20% of the population.

Unemployment – another major economic factor that is causative of poverty in the country is the rising unemployment rate. Unemployment rates is high in India and according to a 2015 survey data, at the all-India level, 77% of families do not have a regular source of income.

Inflation and Price hike – the term Inflation may be defined as an increase in prices of commodities coinciding with the fall in the purchasing value of money. As a direct consequence of inflation, effective price of food, clothing items as well as real estate rises. The salaries and wages do not rise as much in keeping up with the inflated prices of commodities leading to effective decrease of the per capita income.

Faulty economic liberalization – the LPG (Liberalization-Privatization-Globalization) attempts initiated by the Indian Government in 1991 were directed towards making the economy more suited to international market-trends to invite foreign investments. Successful to certain extent in reviving the economy, the economic reforms had detrimental effects on increasing the wealth distribution scenario. Rich became richer, while the poor remained poor.

Social – The various social issues plaguing the country that contributes towards poverty are:



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Education and illiteracy – Education, rather its lack thereof and poverty form a vicious cycle that plagues the nation. Not having enough resources to feed their children, the poor consider education to be frivolous, preferring children to start contributing to the family’s income rather than draining them. On the other hand, lack of education and illiteracy prevent individuals from getting better paying jobs and they get stuck at jobs offering minimum wages. Improvement of quality of life gets hindered and the cycle once again comes into action.

Outdated Social Customs – Social customs like the caste system cause segregation and marginalization of certain sections of the society. Certain castes are considered untouchables still and are not employed by upper caste, leaving very specific and low paying jobs that they can live off. Economist K. V. Verghese put forth the problem in a very lucid language, “Caste system acted as a spring-board for class exploitation with the result that the counterpart of the poverty of the many is the opulence of the few. The second is the cause of the first.”

Lack of skilled labour – lack of adequate vocational training makes the huge labour force available in India largely unskilled, which is unsuitable for offering maximum economic value. Lack of education, much less high education, is also a contributing factor towards this.

Gender inequality–the weak status attached with women, deep-rooted social marginalization and long embedded perceptions of domesticity renders about 50% of the country’s population unable to work. As a result, the women of the family add to the number of dependents that need to be fed instead of being able to contribute considerably in the family income which might assuage the poverty situation of the family.

Corruption – despite considerable efforts from the government in the forms of various schemes to mollify the poverty situation, allegedly only 30-35% actually reaches the beneficiaries due to wide-spread practices of corruption in the country. Wealthy people with privileged connection are able to acquire more wealth simply by bribing government officials to maximize their profits from such schemes while the poor remain in a state of neglect for not being able to assert such connections.

Individual – individual lack of efforts also contributes towards generating poverty. Some people are unwilling to work hard or even not willing to work altogether, leaving their families in the darkness of poverty. Personal demons like drinking and gambling also leads to draining of the family income inciting poverty.

Political – in India, socio-economic reform strategies have been largely directed by political interest and are implemented to serve a choice section of the society that is potentially a deciding factor in the elections. As a result, the issue is not addressed in its entirety leaving much scope of improvements.

Climatic – maximum portion of India experiences a tropical climate throughout the year that is not conducive to hard manual labour leading to lowering of productivity and the wages suffer consequently.

Effects of Poverty in Social Construction

The resounding effect of poverty echoes through various layers of an India citizen’s life. If we try to have a systematic look at them, we should proceed under the three following heads:

Effect on Health – one of the most devastating effects that poverty has is on the overall health of the nation. The most prominent health issue stemming from poverty is malnutrition. The problem of malnutrition is widespread in all age-groups of the country but children are most adversely affected by this. Limited income in larger families leads to lack of access to sufficient nutritious food for their children. These children over time suffer from severe health problems like low body weight, mental, physical disabilities and a general poor state of immunity making them susceptible to diseases. Children from poor backgrounds are twice as susceptible to suffer from anemia, nutrient deficiencies, impaired vision, and even cardiac problems. Malnutrition is a gross contributor of infant mortality in the country and 38 out of every 1,000 babies born in India die before their first birthday. Malnutrition among adult also leads to poor health in adults that leaches their capacity for manual labour leading to a decrease in income due to weakness and diseases. Poverty also causes definite decline in the sanitary practices among poor who cannot afford proper bathrooms and disinfectants. As a result susceptibility to waterborne diseases peak among the poor. Lack of access to as well as means to procure appropriate treatment also affects overall mortality of the population which is lower in poor countries than developed nations like the USA.



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Effects on Society – poverty exerts some gravely concerning effects over the overall societal health as well. These may be discussed along the following lines:

Violence and crime rate – incidence of violence and crime have been found to be geographically coincident. In a backdrop of unemployment and marginalization, the poor resort to criminal activities to earn money. Coupled with lack of education and properly formed moral conscience, a poverty ridden society is more susceptible to violence by its people against its own people from a sense of deep-seated discontent and rage.

Homelessness – apart from a definite drop in the esthetic representation of the country, homelessness affects child health, women safety and overall increase in criminal tendencies.

Stress – lack of money is a major cause of stress among the middle-class and the poor and leads to decline in productivity of individuals.

Child labour – one of the hallmarks of a poverty-ridden society is the widespread practices of exploitation and the worst of it comes in the form of child labour. Large families fail to meet the monetary needs of the members and children as young as 5 years are made to start earning in order to contribute to the family income.

Terrorism – proclivity of youth towards terrorism stems from a combination of extreme poverty and lack of education making them susceptible to brainwashing. Terrorist organizations offer poverty-ridden families money in exchange for a member’s participation in their activities which induces a sense of accomplishment among the youth.

Effect on Economy –poverty is a direct index indicating success of the economy of the country. The number of people living under the poverty threshold indicates whether the economy is powerful enough to generate adequate jobs and amenities for its people. Schemes providing subsidies for the poor of the country again impose a drain on the economy.

What need to be done?

External factors and the inside will of needy individuals to stay poor is an obstruction. It is probably observed solid homeless people at the red light. On the off chance that they are solicited to do a task rather than asking, at that point, their basic answer is no. Indeed, even their children do not go to class yet ask. They can never emerge from this enthusiastic pattern of asking and neediness. To emerge from destitution, one needs to adjust one perspective. Poor must comprehend the significance of training and its long-lasting advantages. There is no lack of occupations in India. Regardless of whether or not instructed, we have enough positions like wrapping the shading, adding catches to the effectively sewed garments and sweaters, making sheets for electronic products, and so forth. I have seen individuals procuring from these sorts of occupations and sending their children to class to have a superior future.

India needs incredible political pioneers to push the country forward. Efficiency and how to utilize human assets for profitability must be engaged. India must teach every youngster with the goal that an asset can be included. India must have an unmistakable financial vision, and an incredible framework is a spot to execute this. Confounded philosophies must be isolated from the obvious and result situated ones. India must be liberated from defilement to get rich.

Summing Up

The measures that should be taken to fight the demon of poverty in India are outlined as Growth of population at the current rate should be checked by implementation of policies and awareness promoting birth control. All efforts should be made to increase the employment opportunities in the country, either by inviting more foreign investments or by encouraging self-employment schemes. Measures should be taken to bridge the immense gap that remains in distribution in wealth among different levels of the society.

Certain Indian states are more poverty stricken than others like Odhisha and the North East states. Government should seek to encourage investment in these states by offering special concessions on taxes. Primary needs of people for attaining a satisfactory quality of life like food items, clean drinking water should be available more readily. Improvement of the Subsidy rates on commodities and Public Distribution system should be made. Free high school education and an increased number of functioning health centers should be provided by the government.



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