

# VIDYA BHAWAN BALIKA VIDYA PITH

## शक्तिउत्थानआश्रमलखीसरायबिहार

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Teacher name – Ajay Kumar Sharma

### POVERTY

#### INTRODUCTION

In previous chapters, you have studied the economic policies that India has taken in the last seven decades and the outcome of these policies with relation to the various developmental indicators. Providing minimum basic needs to the people and reduction of poverty have been the major aims of independent India. The pattern of development that the successive five year plans envisaged laid emphasis on the upliftment of the poorest of the poor (Antyodaya), integrating the poor into the mainstream and achieving a minimum standard of living for all. पिछले अध्यायों में, आपने उन आर्थिक नीतियों का अध्ययन किया है जो पिछले सात दशकों में भारत ने ली हैं और इन नीतियों का परिणाम विभिन्न विकासात्मक संकेतकों के संबंध में है। लोगों को न्यूनतम बुनियादी जरूरतें प्रदान करना और गरीबी में कमी स्वतंत्र भारत का प्रमुख उद्देश्य रहा है। विकास की जिस परिपाटी में पंचवर्षीय योजनाओं की परिकल्पना की गई है, उसमें गरीबों (अंत्योदय) के गरीबों के उत्थान पर जोर दिया गया है, गरीबों को मुख्यधारा में शामिल किया गया है और सभी के लिए न्यूनतम जीवन स्तर हासिल किया गया है।

While addressing the Constituent Assembly in 1947, Jawaharlal Nehru had said, “This achievement (Independence) is but a step, an opening of opportunity, to the great triumphs and achievements that await us... the ending of poverty and ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunity”. 1947 में संविधान सभा को संबोधित करते हुए, जवाहरलाल नेहरू ने कहा था, “यह उपलब्धि (स्वतंत्रता) एक कदम है, अवसर की शुरुआत, बड़ी जीत और उपलब्धियों के लिए जो हमें इंतजार करती हैं... गरीबी और अज्ञानता और बीमारी और असमानता का अंत। अवसर”।

However, we need to know where we stand today. Poverty is not only a challenge for India, as more than one- fifth of the world’s poor live in India alone; but also for the world, where about 300 million people are not able to meet their basic needs.

Poverty has many faces, which have been changing from place to place and across time, and has been described in many ways. Most often, poverty is a situation that people want to escape. So, poverty is a call to action — for the poor and the wealthy alike — a call to change the world so that many more may have enough to eat, adequate shelter, access to education and health, protection from violence, and a voice in what happens in their communities. हालांकि, हमें यह जानने की जरूरत है कि हम आज कहां खड़े हैं। गरीबी भारत के लिए न केवल एक चुनौती है, बल्कि विश्व के पाँचवें से अधिक गरीब अकेले भारत में रहते हैं; लेकिन यह भी दुनिया के लिए, जहां लगभग 300 मिलियन लोग अपनी बुनियादी जरूरतों को पूरा करने में सक्षम नहीं हैं।

गरीबी के कई चेहरे हैं, जो समय-समय पर जगह-जगह बदलते रहे हैं और कई तरह से इसका वर्णन किया गया है। ज्यादातर, गरीबी एक ऐसी स्थिति है जिससे लोग बचना चाहते हैं। तो, गरीबी कार्रवाई की एक पुकार है - गरीबों और अमीरों के लिए समान है - दुनिया को बदलने के लिए एक आह्वान ताकि कई और खाने के लिए पर्याप्त हो, पर्याप्त आश्रय, शिक्षा और स्वास्थ्य तक पहुंच, हिंसा से सुरक्षा, और एक आवाज में उनके समुदायों में क्या होता है।

To know what helps to reduce poverty, what works and what does not, what changes over time, poverty has to be defined, measured and studied — and even experienced. As poverty has many dimensions, it has to be looked at through a variety of indicators — levels of income and consumption, social indicators, and indicators of vulnerability to risks and of socio-political access.

## WHO ARE THE POOR?

You would have noticed that in all localities and neighborhoods, both in rural and urban areas, there are some of us who are poor and some who are rich. Read the story of Anu and Sudha. Their lives are examples of the two extremes (see Box 4.1). There are also people who belong to the many stages in between.

Push-cart vendors, street cobblers, women who string flowers, rag pickers, vendors and beggars are some examples of poor and vulnerable groups in urban areas. The poor people possess few assets and reside in kutcha hutments with walls made of baked mud and roofs made of grass, thatch, bamboo and wood. The poorest of them do not even have such dwellings. In rural areas many of them are landless. Even if some of them possess land, it is only dry or waste land. Many do not get to have even two meals a day. Starvation and hunger are the key features of the poorest households. The poor lack basic literacy and skills and hence have very limited economic opportunities. Poor people also face unstable employment.

Malnutrition is alarmingly high among the poor. Ill health, disability or serious illness makes them physically weak. They borrow from