

Poverty as a Challenge

Question 1.

'One historical reason is the low level of economic development under the British colonial administration.' Explain.

Answer:

- The policies of the colonial government ruined traditional handicrafts and discouraged development of industries like textiles.
- The low rate of growth persisted until the nineteen eighties. This resulted in less job opportunities and low growth rate of incomes.
- This was accompanied by a high growth rate of population. The two combined to make the growth rate of per capita income very low. The failure at both the fronts: promotion of economic growth and population control perpetuated the cycle of poverty.

Question 2.

Discuss the major reasons for poverty in India.

Answer:

- Lack of industrialisation: India is very backward from the industrial point of view. Hardly 3 per cent of the total working population is engaged in the large- scale industry.

- Over dependence on agri-culture: Even after more than 60 years of independence more than 60 per cent of our total population still depends on agriculture for its livelihood. Due to shortage of inputs, our agriculture is backward.
- Inflationary pressure: Upward trend in prices adversely affects the poor sections of the society.
- Unemployment: Due to lack of job opportunities, more than 90 lakhs of our total working force is unemployed.

Question 3.

What are the major objectives of the Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana?

Answer:

The Yojana was launched in 1993.

The aim of the programme is to create self-employment opportunities for educated unemployed youth in rural areas and small towns.

Under this unemployed are helped in setting up small business and industries.

Question 4.

Which of the main factor responsible for the reduction of poverty in the following states:

(i) Punjab

(ii) Kerala

(iii) West Bengal

(iv) Tamil Nadu

Answer:

(i) Punjab: Poverty has been reduced due to high agricultural growth rate.

(ii) Kerala: Poverty has been reduced through human resource development.

(iii) West Bengal: Poverty has been . reduced through land reform measures.

(iv) Tamil Nadu: Poverty has been reduced through proper public distribution system.

Question 5.

Give an account of the inter-state disparities in poverty in India.

Answer:

- States with poverty ratio more than the national average: Orissa, Bihar, Assam, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh are the most poverty ridden states of India. The poverty ratio in these states is much higher than the national average. Orissa and Bihar are the poorest states with poverty ratio of 47 and 43 respectively. Most of these states are facing rural as well as urban poverty.
- States with poverty ratio less than the national average: Recent studies show that in 20 states and union territories, the poverty ratio is less than the national average. There has been a significant decline in poverty ratio in Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and West Bengal.

- States with low poverty ratio: States like Punjab, Haryana, Goa, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu Kashmir have very low percentage of population living below the poverty line.

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