

Date:- 07.07.XX.

Economics

Poverty as a Challenge

Question 1.

Answer the following questions briefly:

- (i) What do you understand by human poverty?
- (ii) Who are the poorest of the poor?
- (iii) What are the main features of the National Rural Employments Guarantee Act, 2005?

Answer:

(i) Human poverty is a broader concept of poverty. Along with food it also includes other necessities of life like education, shelter, health care, job, security, social equality, etc.

(ii) Apart from the social groups, there is also inequality of incomes within a family. In poor families, all suffer, but some suffer more than others. Women, elderly people and female infants are systematically denied equal access to resources available to the family. Therefore, women, children (especially the girl child) and old people are the poorest of the poor.

(iii) 1. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) 2005 was passed in September 2005.

2. The act provides 100 days assured employment to every rural household in 200 districts.

3. Later, the scheme will be extended to 600 districts. One- third of the proposed jobs would be reserved for women.

4. The central government will also establish National Employment Guarantee Funds.

5. Similarly, state governments will establish State Employment Guarantee Funds for implementation of the scheme.

6. Under the programme, if an applicant is not provided employment within fifteen days, he/she will be entitled to a daily unemployment allowance.

Question 2.

“There is a strong link between economic growth and poverty reduction.” Explain.

Answer.

- Over a period of thirty years lasting up to the early eighties, there were little per capita income growth and not much reduction in poverty. Official poverty estimates which were about 45 per cent in the early 1950s remained the same even in the early eighties.
- Since the eighties, India’s economic growth has been one of the fastest in the world. The growth rate jumped from the average of about 3.5% a year in the 1970s to about 6 % cent during the 1980s and 1990s. The higher growth rates have helped significantly in the reduction of poverty.
- Economic growth widens opportunities and provides the resources needed to invest in human development.

Question 3.

‘The results of poverty alleviation programmes have been mixed.’ Give any four reasons.

Answer:

- One of the major reason for less effectiveness is the lack of proper implementation and right targeting.
- There has been a lot of overlapping of schemes.
- Overpopulation

- Corruption

Question 4.

What are the major features of poverty? Explain.

Answer:

- It also is a situation in which parents are not able to send their children to school or a situation where sick people cannot afford treatment.
- Poverty also means lack of clean water and sanitation facilities.
- It also means lack of regular job at a minimum decent level. Above all it means living with a sense of helplessness.
- Poor people are in a situation in which they are ill-treated at almost every place, in farms, factories, government offices, hospitals, railway stations etc.
- Poverty when looked through other social indicators like illiteracy level, lack of general resistance due to malnutrition, lack of access to healthcare, lack of job opportunities, lack of access to safe drinking water, sanitation etc.

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