

# BALIKA VIDYA PITH

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## Chapter 3: Poverty as a Challenge

**Q.1) Identify the social and economic groups which are most vulnerable to poverty in India.**

**Ans:** The proportion of people below poverty line is not the same for all social groups and economic categories in India. The social groups of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, and the economic groups of rural agricultural labourers and urban casual labourers are the ones most vulnerable to poverty. The poverty ratios for each of these groups are higher than the average Indian poverty ratio. Apart from these groups, women, elderly people and female infants are considered to be the poorest of the poor.

**Q.2) What do you understand by human poverty?**

**Ans:** Human poverty refers to the denial of political, social and economic opportunities to an individual to maintain a “reasonable” standard of living. Illiteracy, lack of job opportunities, lack of access to proper healthcare and sanitation, caste and gender discrimination, etc., are all responsible for human poverty.

**Q.3) Who are the poorest of the poor?**

**Ans:** Women, female infants and elderly people are the poorest of the poor. Within a poor family, such individuals suffer more than the others.

**Q.4) Describe how the poverty line is estimated in India.**

**Ans:** In India, poverty line is determined by calculating a minimum level of food requirement, clothing, footwear, fuel and light, educational and medical requirements, which is then multiplied by their prices in rupees. This calculation gives the poverty line.