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CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF POVERTY IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

India's dream is to develop into super power but one third of the world's poor is still living in our country. India is one among the fastest developing economics in the world. Majority of the people of India lives in villages. At the same time, People in rural India are facing the hardship of poverty when compared to people in urban India. Here the causes and effects are to be listed out and the solutions too.

Keywords: Poverty, economy, education, illiteracy, population growth, unemployment, health.

INTRODUCTION

India is one of the poorest countries in the world. India was no more backward than the other countries of Western Europe. But there are no wide differences among the countries of the world. The coincidence time of industrial revolution in Britain and invasion and conquest of British on Bengal are very interesting and significant.

Poverty in India: Poverty refers to a situation when people are deprived of basic necessities of life. It is by inadequacy of food, shelter and clothes. Many people in India don't have fundamental needs for survival including food, shelter and clothing. It leads to insecurity, powerless, households and communities. The main causes of poverty are corruption, illiteracy, natural and geographical characters.

Major causes of poverty

1. Climatic factors

It is important causes of poverty. Most of our country has tropical climate. The hot weather of our country absorbs the energy of people in rural and it affects the production severely. Frequent flood,

earthquake, famine, water scarcity, cyclone, drought, absence of timely rain are the causes of damage to agriculture.

2. Demographic factors

i. Rapid population explosion: It aggravates the poverty in India. It exceeds the rate of growth in national income. Population growth creates difficulties in the removal of poverty. It also lowers the annual income which tends to increase poverty.

ii. Size of family: This is a significant factor of rural area. The large family with low income causes their low standard living and gradually lead to poverty.

3. Personal causes

There is no motivation to earn among the rural people that lead to poverty. They are lazy, dull and reluctant to work.

4. Economic causes

i. Low agricultural productivity.

- ii. Unequal distribution of land and other assets.
- iii. Decline of village industries.
- iv. Lack of employment opportunities.
5. Social causes
 - i. Education and illiteracy: It is an agent of social change.
 - ii. Caste system: This factor was once and not in present days.
 - iii. Joint family system: It is only in rural areas but nuclear families in urban.
 - iv. Outdated social customs: Rural people spend a large amount on social ceremonies or functions like marriage, village function, death, birth feast etc. As a result they remain in debt and poverty.
3. Homelessness: Homelessness affects child health, sanitation, health issues, women safety; these causes increase in criminal tendencies.
4. Crime:

The Edinburgh study of Youth Transition and crime found that poverty had a significant and direct effect on young children's life to engage in violence at age of 15. Unemployment and marginalization lead to criminal activities to earn money.
5. Unemployment:

This is another significant factor is causative of poverty. It raises the level of poverty rate in our country. A hike in prices of commodities leads to poverty and hunger.

Effects of poverty

1. Education: According to Donald Hirsch, advisor to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation says, 'Child's background has a significant effect on their performance in school. Children from poor families are very poor in their studies. Lack of education and illiteracy prevent individual from getting better paying jobs, they get satisfied with minimum wages
2. Child development and health: Children from poor family background have poor health conditions that are more susceptible to mental illness as they grow older. The most shocking effect is poverty on the health of the nation. Meagre income in large families leads to lack of sufficient nutritious food for their children. Due to poverty, they have severe health problems such as lack of weight, mental and physical disabilities, lack of immunity, insanitary practices, no proper washrooms and no disinfectants. Lack of money is a major cause of poverty and it leads to stress which is another great health issue affects their brain and mind.
6. Poor Agricultural infrastructure: Agriculture is the backbone of Indian economy. Lack of irrigation, lack of proper knowledge about crops and cultivation, yield, insufficient daily needs, not enough food or money lead to poverty.
7. Gender inequality: Women are treated as weaker sex as the perceptions of India which make women unable to work as men. They become dependents in families.
8. Corruption: Rich as well as wealthy people with privileged connections are able to acquire more wealth by bribing the government officials to maximize their profits.
9. British rule: British rule in India was a long history of systematic exploitation of the general people of the country by the imperialistic government. The two hundred years of British rule led to the stagnation, poverty, backwardness of the Indian economy. Their mechanization of the industrial

revolution made Indian market uncompetitive.

Solutions

1. Preventing measures should be taken to control population growth.
2. Providing or increasing employment opportunities.
3. Government should take some steps to some poverty stricken states like Odhisha and North East states.
4. Farmers should get all facilities for irrigation.
5. Family planning schemes should be introduced.
6. Industries should be set up to meet the needs of our country.

These are some of the ways to remove poverty.

Conclusion

Poverty is a national problem and it must be solved on a war footing. Eradication of poverty could ensure a sustainable and inclusive growth of economy and society. Our government is taking a number of steps to mitigate poverty. Poverty is a giant barrier to overcome by the world.

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