

CBSE CLASS 9 SOCIAL SCIENCE

Economics — Indian Economic Studies

CHAPTER 3: POVERTY AS A CHALLENGE

COMPLETE EXAM-READY QUESTION BANK WITH ANSWERS

Strictly Formatted & Aligned with the Latest NCERT Syllabus and CBSE Evaluation Framework



HIGH-VALUE CONTENT INCLUDED INSIDE THIS EDITION:

- **All Question Typologies:** 1-Mark Very Short, 3-4 Mark Short, and 5-Mark Long-Answer questions along with targeted MCQs.
- **Dedicated Exam Portals:** Separate, categorized indices for Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and Previous Year Questions (PYQs).
- **Core Socio-Economic Concepts:** Thorough explanations of the Poverty Line, Social Exclusion, Vulnerability, and Global Poverty Trends.
- **Anti-Poverty Architecture:** In-depth evaluation of current government schemes including MGNREGA, PMGY, PMEGP, and SGSY.

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SECTION 1: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Q1. What is the difference between the social indicators 'Social Exclusion' and 'Vulnerability' in studying poverty?

FAQ CORE FOCUS

Modern social scientists analyze poverty through dimensions that extend beyond mere low income levels:

- **Social Exclusion:** This is a process through which individuals or groups are excluded from facilities, benefits, and opportunities that others enjoy. A classic example is the caste system in India, where people from certain castes are excluded from equal opportunities. Social exclusion can be both a cause and a consequence of poverty.
- **Vulnerability:** This is a measure which describes the greater probability of certain communities (such as members of a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe) or individuals (such as a widow or a physically challenged person) of becoming, or remaining, poor in the future. It is determined by the options available to find alternative living during natural disasters (earthquakes, floods) or economic slowdowns.

Q2. Explain the dual-track anti-poverty strategy adopted by the Government of India.

FAQ STRATEGY FOCUS

The current anti-poverty strategy of the government is explicitly based on two major planks:

1. **Promotion of Economic Growth:** Economic growth widens opportunities and provides the resources needed to invest in human development. It encourages parents to send their children, including the girl child, to schools in the hope of getting better economic returns. However, the poor may not be able to benefit directly from the opportunities created by economic growth.
2. **Targeted Anti-Poverty Programmes:** To bridge the gap, the government introduced targeted schemes directly aimed at rural and urban poor populations, focusing on wage employment, food security, and self-employment creation.

SECTION 2: PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTIONS (PYQS)

Q3. Why do the calorie requirements differ between rural and urban areas in India? State the accepted calorie norms per person per day. CBSE PYQ

The poverty line estimation in India is based on a minimum nutritional requirement. The accepted calorie norms are:

- **Rural Areas: 2,400 calories** per person per day.
- **Urban Areas: 2,100 calories** per person per day.

Reason for Difference: People living in rural areas engage themselves in more disruptive physical and manual labor compared to those in urban areas. Therefore, their physical energy expenditure is higher, requiring a higher caloric intake to maintain baseline health and work productivity.

Q4. Explain the main objectives of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005.

CBSE PYQ

MGNREGA 2005 is a milestone targeted program aimed at securing the rural livelihoods framework. Its key objectives are:

- To provide at least **100 days of guaranteed wage employment** in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.
- One-third of the proposed jobs under the scheme are strictly **reserved for women**.
- If an applicant is not provided employment within fifteen days of submitting an application, they are entitled to a mandatory daily ****unemployment allowance****.
- The types of work focus on addressing the causes of chronic poverty, such as drought, deforestation, and soil erosion, to help build sustainable community assets.

SECTION 3: VERY SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS (1 MARK)

Q5. Define the concept of 'Poverty' in economic terms.

A situation in which an individual or household is unable to fulfill their basic minimum requirements of life, including food, clothing, shelter, clean water, and education.

Q6. What is a 'Poverty Line'?

An imaginary line or economic threshold based on income or consumption levels used to identify and distinguish the poor from the non-poor in a society.

Q7. Which official organization in India conducts periodic sample surveys to estimate the poverty line?

The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO).

Q8. What international uniform standard income level does the World Bank currently use to estimate the global poverty line?

An income level equivalent to **\$2.15 per person per day** (expressed in 2017 Purchasing Power Parity terms).

Q9. Name two social groups that are highly vulnerable to poverty in India.

Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) households.

Q10. Name two economic groups that face the highest vulnerability to poverty in India.

Rural agricultural laborer households and urban casual laborer households.

Q11. What is the primary objective of the Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana (PMRY)?

To create self-employment opportunities for educated unemployed youth in rural areas and small towns.

Q12. What state in India has shown the most remarkable success in reducing poverty through the efficient distribution of foodgrains via the Public Distribution System (PDS)?

Andhra Pradesh (and also Tamil Nadu).

Q13. How did Punjab and Haryana achieve a rapid reduction in their poverty ratios historically?

By achieving high agricultural growth rates through the early and intensive implementation of the Green Revolution.

Q14. Define 'Human Poverty'.

A broader concept of poverty that goes beyond a lack of income to include the denial of political freedoms, choices, literacy, health, and social dignity.

SECTION 4: SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS (3–4 MARKS)

Q15. Explain how poverty line estimations are calculated in India based on monetary income criteria. Why are monetary values higher in urban areas despite lower calorie requirements?

In India, the poverty line is estimated by converting physical nutritional requirements (calories) into monetary values based on current prices. For instance, according to standard NCERT referenced data trends, the poverty line was fixed at an income of ₹816 per month for rural areas and ₹1,000 per month for urban areas.

Reason for Higher Urban Financial Threshold: Even though urban populations have lower physical calorie needs (2,100 calories) compared to rural areas (2,400 calories), the monetary poverty line is fixed higher in towns and cities. This is because urban areas face a significantly higher cost of living, with higher prices for essential non-food goods like housing, transport, clothing, and commercial services.

Q16. Describe how poverty ratios vary significantly across different states in India, highlighting successful regional strategies.

Although the overall poverty ratio in India has declined over the decades, poverty remains unevenly distributed across states. States like Bihar and Odisha continue to face high poverty ratios. In contrast, several states have successfully lowered their poverty levels using different economic strategies:

- **Kerala:** Focused heavily on human resource development by investing in public education, literacy, and comprehensive primary healthcare.
- **West Bengal:** Implemented effective land reform measures, redistributing agricultural land to landless cultivators to improve rural incomes.
- **Andhra Pradesh & Tamil Nadu:** Utilized the Public Distribution System (PDS) to ensure the efficient delivery of subsidized foodgrains to low-income households, directly protecting food security.

Q17. Explain how the historical colonial administration under British rule contributed to chronic economic poverty in India.

The policies of the British colonial government served as a primary historical cause of structural poverty in India:

1. **Destruction of Traditional Industries:** Colonial trade policies discouraged local manufacturing, ruining India's famous traditional handicrafts and textile sectors by flooding markets with cheap, machine-made goods imported from Britain.
2. **Discouraging Economic Growth:** The colonial administration kept domestic economic development low, which limited jobs and kept wages low for decades.
3. **Stagnant Agricultural Sector:** Systems of land revenue collection (like the Zamindari system) exploited small farmers, discouraging investments in irrigation and modern farming technology, which left the rural economy vulnerable to regular famines.

SECTION 5: LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS (5 MARKS)

Q18. Analyze the primary causes of widespread poverty in India, detailing both historical factors and modern socio-economic challenges.

Widespread poverty in India is driven by an interconnected mix of historical, economic, and social factors:

1. **Historical Colonial Exploitation:** Decades of British rule left India with a stagnant economy. The colonial administration ruined traditional textile and handicraft industries and discouraged local industrial development, keeping wages low.
2. **Low Economic Growth and Population Pressures:** During the initial decades after independence, national economic growth remained slow. This slow growth, combined with a rapid increase in population, reduced the growth rate of per capita income, leaving fewer resources to help families escape poverty.
3. **Slow Growth in the Agricultural Sector:** The benefits of the Green Revolution were largely limited to Punjab, Haryana, and western Uttar Pradesh. In many other regions, small farms, old technology, and a lack of reliable irrigation kept agricultural productivity low, leaving rural laborers vulnerable.
4. **Unequal Distribution of Land and Resources:** A major cause of rural poverty is the highly unequal distribution of agricultural land. Due to the weak implementation of land reform policies in many states, landless laborers face low wages and job insecurity.
5. **High Socio-Cultural and Economic Costs:** To fulfill social obligations and participate in religious ceremonies, even the poorest families spend significant sums on rituals. Lacking savings, small farmers borrow from informal moneylenders to buy seeds and fertilizers. High interest rates often trap these families in a cycle of debt, which reinforces structural poverty.

Q19. Critically evaluate the major targeted anti-poverty programs introduced by the government of India, explaining their objectives and limitations.

The government has launched several targeted anti-poverty programs to support low-income groups, though each faces distinct operational challenges:

1. **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005:** Guarantees 100 days of unskilled manual work per year to rural households, with one-third of jobs reserved for women. While it has successfully improved rural wages and reduced seasonal distress, it faces challenges from irregular funding and implementation delays across states.
2. **Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana (PMRY):** Launched to help educated unemployed youth in rural areas and small towns start small businesses and industrial enterprises by providing subsidized bank credit. Its impact is sometimes limited by complex banking processes and a lack of business training for applicants.
3. **Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP):** Aims to create self-employment opportunities in rural areas and small towns, focusing on developing local village and cottage industries.
4. **Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY):** Designed to assist poor rural families by organizing them into Self-Help Groups (SHGs). It combines bank credit with government subsidies to build income-generating assets. Its success depends on the active training and participation of members.
5. **Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY):** Provides central financial assistance to states to improve basic services in rural areas, focusing on primary education, health, shelter, drinking water, and rural electrification.

Core Limitations of the Schemes: Despite their good intentions, the overall impact of these programs is often limited by a lack of proper monitoring, corruption, and overlapping responsibilities among agencies. This can lead to improper targeting, where the benefits fail to reach the poorest households. Social scientists emphasize that reducing poverty effectively requires better coordination and transparent management.

SECTION 6: MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (MCQS)

MCQ 1. What is the accepted daily calorie requirement fixed for poverty line estimation in rural areas of India?

- A) 2,100 calories
- B) 2,400 calories
- C) 2,000 calories
- D) 2,500 calories

Answer: B) 2,400 calories

MCQ 2. Which social group exhibits the highest percentage of poverty or vulnerability ratio within India?

- A) Scheduled Tribes
- B) Scheduled Castes
- C) Other Backward Classes
- D) Urban Casual Labourers

Answer: A) Scheduled Tribes

MCQ 3. In which year was the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) passed by the parliament?

- A) 1993
- B) 2000
- C) 2005
- D) 2014

Answer: C) 2005

MCQ 4. Social exclusion can be analyzed as which of the following in relation to poverty study?

- A) A cause of poverty only
- B) A consequence of poverty only
- C) Neither a cause nor a consequence
- D) Both a cause and a consequence of poverty

Answer: D) Both a cause and a consequence of poverty

MCQ 5. Which state successfully focused on land reform measures to achieve a significant reduction in poverty?

- A) Kerala
- B) Punjab
- C) West Bengal
- D) Tamil Nadu

Answer: C) West Bengal

 INSTANT CHAPTER REVISION BOX

- **Poverty Line Baselines:** Rural = 2,400 calories/day; Urban = 2,100 calories/day.
- **Estimation Body:** NSSO conducts sample surveys to update estimates periodically.
- **The Human Resource Strategy:** Kerala reduced poverty by investing in public education and healthcare infrastructure.
- **The Safety Net Strategy:** Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh lowered poverty by using the PDS to distribute subsidized foodgrains.