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NCERT Solutions for Class 9 Social Science
ECONOMICS – Poverty as a Challenge



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1. What did Mahatma Gandhi say about poverty?

Ans. Mahatma Gandhi always insisted that India would be truly independent only when the poorest of its people become free of human suffering.

2. Name the agency in India that calculates the poverty line.

Ans. In India it is the National Sample Survey Organization that calculates the poverty line.

3. What was the millennium development goal of the United Nations?

Ans. Reducing the proportion of people living on less than \$1 a day to half the 1990 level by 2015.

4. Describe current government strategy of poverty alleviation.

Ans. The current anti-poverty strategy of the government is based broadly on **two planks**

- (1) Promotion of economic growth
- (2) Targeted anti-poverty programmes.

5. Illustrate the seriousness of poverty in India.

Ans. In our daily life, we come across many people who we think are poor. They could be landless labourers in villages or people living in overcrowded *jhuggis* in cities. They could be daily wage workers at construction sites or child workers in *dhabas*. They could also be beggars with children in tatters. We see poverty all around us. In fact, every fourth person in India is poor. This means, roughly 260 million (or 26 crore) people in India live in poverty. This also means that India has the largest single concentration of the Poor in the world. This illustrates the seriousness of the challenge.

6. What does poverty mean to different people at different situation? OR What are the different dimensions of poverty?

Ans. (1) Poverty means hunger and lack of shelter. 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.
(2) Poverty also means lack of clean water and sanitation facilities.
(3) It also means lack of a regular job at a minimum decent level.
(4) Above all it means living with sense 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.

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7. What is meant by social exclusion?

Ans.

- According to this concept, poverty must be seen in terms of the poor having to live only in a poor surrounding with other poor people, excluded from enjoying social equality of better-off people in better surroundings.
- Social exclusion can be both a cause as well as a consequence of poverty in the usual sense.
- Broadly, it is a process through which individuals or groups are excluded from facilities, benefits and opportunities that others enjoy.
- A typical example is the working of the caste system in India in which people belonging to certain castes are excluded from equal opportunities.

8. What do you mean by vulnerability of poverty and how is it determined?

Ans. Vulnerability to poverty is a measure, which describes the greater probability of certain communities or individuals of becoming, or remaining, poor in the coming years. vulnerability describes the greater probability of being more adversely affected than other people when bad time comes for everybody, whether a flood or an earthquake or simply a fall in the availability of jobs.

9. Why is poverty line different from countries to countries?

Ans. (1) What is necessary to satisfy basic needs is different at different times and in different countries. Therefore, poverty line may vary with time and place.

(2) Each country uses an imaginary line that is considered appropriate for its existing level of development and its accepted minimum social norms. For example, a person not having a car in the United States may be considered poor. In India, owning of a car is still considered a luxury.

10. Describe the poverty trends in India since 1973.

Ans. (1) There is substantial decline in poverty ratios in India from about 55 per cent in 1973 to 36 per cent in 1993. The proportion of people below poverty line further came down to about 26 per cent in 2000. If the trend continues, people below poverty line may come down to less than 20 per cent in the next few years.

(2) Although the percentage of people living under poverty declined in the earlier two decades, the number of poor remained stable around 320 million for a fairly long period. The latest estimates indicate a significant reduction in the number of poor to about 260 million

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