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POVERTY IN INDIA A SOCIO-ECONOMIC

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ABSTRACT :

Many problems are haunting the majority of the people in India. It is necessary to know what poverty. Poverty is a human condition where a person is not able to fulfill his / her minimum basic needs of life in a society due to lack of income.

KEY WORDS: Poverty In India , human condition , Socio-Economic .

INTRODUCTION:

Poverty in India is an important issue in India despite having are of the fastest growing economics in the worlds. Clocked at a growth rate of 7.6 % in 2015, and a sizable economy. India's share of world GDP will significantly increase from 7.3 % in 2016 to 8.5 % by 2020. The different definitions and different underlying small sample surveys used to determine poverty in India, have resulted in widely different estimates of poverty from 1950 to



2010. There are several definitions of poverty and scholars disagree as to which definition is appropriate for India. It is a situation where a person does not have an income even to buy his subsistence requirements like food, clothing and shelter. Here the income is spent on consumption expenditure relating to buy only food articles. In this condition the poor people are not even in a position to maintain their health. It is hunger poverty. And It is a comparison between the lower income groups and the higher income groups. It relates to their assets, income and consumption expenditure, so as to find out the relative poverty

of the various income groups.

Minimum subsistence lived it refers to a minimum food requirement is estimated at 2250 calories per day for each person. Any person who cannot afford this is considered to be living below the poverty line. Hence the minimum subsistence level is a situation where a person does not have an income to buy his minimum intake of 2250 calories per day.

A) Mr. P. D. Ojha estimated that the people living below the poverty line were about 44 percent in 1960-61 on the basis of an average calories intake of 2250 per capita per day in India.

B) According to Dr. V.M.

Dandekar in 1968-69, 41 percent of people were living below the poverty line as per the minimum nutritional level at 2250 calories per day, per person.

C) According to Tendulkar committee, an expert committee set up by the planning commission to study the population living below the poverty line in 2004-05.

Poverty Line :

However cut-off level of income or expenditure is determined differently in different countries and regions. According to planning commission of India, Poverty line is drawn on the basis of barest minimum desirable nutritional standards of 2400 calories per person per day in rural areas and 2100 calories for urban areas.

According to the unemployment it is said that the root cause of poverty of the majority people of India's unemployment. New let us examine the unemployment position

in different nations of the world to know whether the unemployment has caused poverty to those nations also.

Poverty is a human condition where a person is notable to fulfill his minimum basic needs of life in a society due to lack of income.

Poverty is of two types :

- A) Absolute Poverty
- B) Relative Poverty

Poverty line A definite amount of per capital income and consumption expenditure has been used to determine the poverty line. In India the per capita consumption expenditure on certain minimum needs of a person including food intake of a daily average of 2400 calories in rural areas and 2100 calories in urban areas is defined as the poverty line. There are two standards to determine the poverty line.

1)Minimum Subsistence Level :

It refers to a minimum food requirement to keep body and mind together In India the minimum requirement is estimated 2250 calories per day for each person.

Any person who cannot afford this is considered to be living below where a person does not have an income to buy his minimum intake of 2250 calories per day. Here the per capita expenditure on food will be used.

2) Reasonable Level of Living :

An individual who is incapable of meeting the minimum requirement is considered to be below poverty line to purchase minimum necessities like food, clothing, housing, education and health.

According to a new study of 2010 by oxford university for united nations, to prepare the multidimensional poverty Index (MPI) the important 10 variables are considered to determine the people living in poverty.

POVERTY ESTIMATES IN INDIA

A)Mr. P.D. Ojha estimated that the people living below the poverty line were about 44 percent in 1960-61 on the basis of an average calorie intake of 2250 per capita per day in India.

B)According to Dr. V.M. Dandekar and Mr. Nilkantha Rath in 1968-69, 41 percent of people were living below their poverty line as per the minimum nutritional level at 2250 calories per day, per person.

C)According to Tendulkar Committee, an expert committee set up by the planning commission to study the population living below the poverty line, 37.2 percent of the Indian population was living below the poverty line in 2004-05. (Shridhar V, 2009)

Table 1.1 Percentage of unemployment in the selected countries :

Countries	Years	Percentage of unemployment	World Poverty Line	
			Survey Percentage	Year
China	1998	3.10	1998	18.5
India	1999	7.32	1997	44.2
Indonesia	1998	5.10	1999	15.2
Japan	1998	4.1	Nil	Nil
USA	1998	4.5	Nil	Nil
Korea	1998	6.8	1993	2
Thailand	1998	4.0	998	2

Compiled From :

- 1)To India, GOI, Indian Economic survey, 2002-03, P-218.
- 2)Nations of 1998. The Hindu 16-11-2000 P-19.

3) To Srilanka, The Hindu, 04/10/1999.

4) To Poverty, The World Bank.

WDR 2002-2001, PP-280-281.

The Table 1.1 indicates that the unemployment is found in almost all countries of the world in varying degrees with less number of people or no people living below the poverty line. The table reveals China 3.1 percent of people are unemployed with 18.5 percent of poverty line. / India with the table in year 1999 with 7.32 percent unemployed people and having 44.2 percent of poverty stricken people.

Where as in Japan, USA, Thailand and Korea have more than 4 percent of unemployment but no people living below the international poverty line. This indicates that there is no relation between poverty and unemployment, people should have been living below the poverty line. But 44 percent of people are living below the poverty line.

Objective & Methodology :

Percent paper is based with the aim to find out the causes of poverty in India. This paper is in descriptive mode based on mainly secondary data which is collected from books, paper, internet sources.

Poverty :

There are various causes of poverty that are termed under the economic causes. Among them how many causes are true and how many are false as offered as economic causes for Indian poverty are analyzed. Poverty is known to be the breeding ground for conflict between nation and terrorism. Poverty is wide spread world problem that afflict particularly the developing countries.

Indian poverty given in the books published on Indian Economic order written by manuwadi economists and beliefs of people on their poverty should be discussed based on the scientific law, 'cause and effect' offered by the Gauthama Buddha. Among the reasons for poverty how many are the features of poverty. How many are the effects of poverty and what are the root caused for the Indian poverty all these must be honestly analyses, so that a suitable solution to this central problem of Indian can be found.

But Indian Human Development Report 2013 makes it clear that the value of multidimensional poverty Index for India was 0.283 in the year 2005-06. 53.7% Population of India was living under Multidimensional poverty in the year (612.203 million). Intensity of deprivation was 52.7 percent and 16.4 percent population was vulnerable to sever poverty. Contribution of education health and living standards to deprivation was 21.8 percent respectively. As per world Bank's estimates 32.7 percent population was earning less than PPP-1.25 a day.

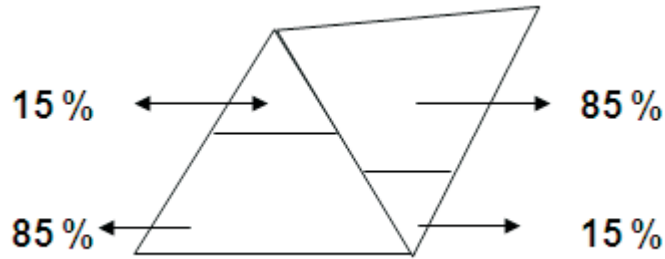
(Pratiyogita Darpan Group – edition-2005

Uplar Prakashan – New Delhi)

Asset ownership and poverty :

There is an opposite relationship between asset ownership and poverty. As the above table indicates the asset owning Hindus have 39 percent of the population living below the poverty line in 1993-94. But upper caste Hindus are holding more than 5.1 acres. Moreover, while conducting the survey, the OBC's have been include in the list of Hindus. Hen a the social group of poor people who came under Hindus are SC's, ST's, and OBC's. In India there is a direct relationship between caste system and asset possession. In the Indian hierarchical caste system there is an ascending order in the possession of assets from bottom to top. This indicates that the upper casts Hindus (Brahmins) Possess maximum quantity of assets and lower caste people who are in majority : own a minimum quantity of assets.

**Fig : 1.2 Caste system and ownership of Assets :
Ownership of Assets**



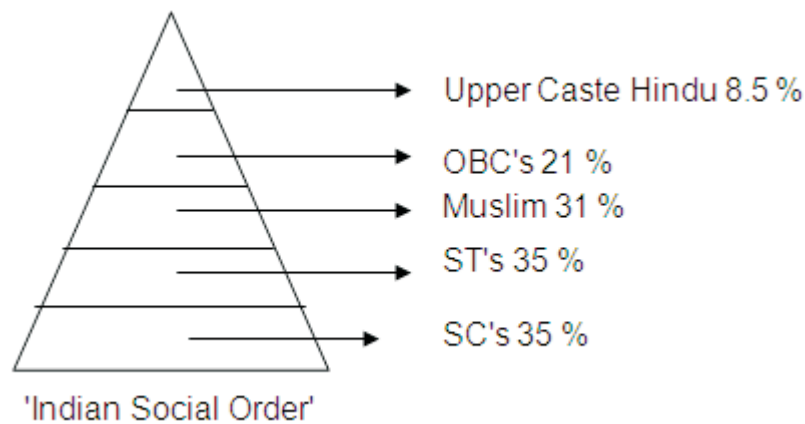
Solution : Figure 1.2 the upper caste people who constitute 15 percent of population own 85% percent of the total assets. The lower caste people, who are about 85 percent of the population, have just 15 percent the assets. But because wealth has been concentrated in the hands or upper caste. the caste system has been strong enough and persists even today. Thus the existing caste system has made the upper caste Brahmins rich and the lower caste people poor.

Caste System and Poverty :

As per the hierarchical caste system in India. The assets have been allocated. Accordingly, Poverty has been inflicted among different social groups.

According to 61st Round of NSS O date for the year 2004-05, 8.5 percent among upper caste Hindus, 21 percent among OBC's 31 percent among Muslims and 35 percent among SC's and ST's Population are living below the poverty line. We find that below 10 percent poor people are found in almost the communities and countries of the world at any given time. The majority of the poor people are the ST's SC's, Muslims and OBC's, and these are the lower caste majority people.

Poverty due to caste system



The inverse relationship between caste and poverty is found in the Indian Social order, we find that where higher the caste, lower the poverty and lower the caste, higher the poverty.

The upper caste Hindus are settled at the top of the pyramid and have no poverty or very few poor people among them. The lower caste people situated at the bottom of the pyramid are the majority of the poor people in India.

From the above analyses of poverty we can formulate a function as :

	P = F (So. Eo. Edo, and Po)		
Where	P	=	Poverty
	F	=	Function
	So	=	Social Order
	Eo	=	Economic Order
	Edo	=	Educational Opportunities
	Po	=	Political Order

Thus poverty depends on the type of social order, economic order, educational opportunities and political order prevailing in a country.

Solution for the poverty in India

- 1) Equal distribution of proper education.
- 2) Equal distribution of economic resources.
- 3) Equal distribution of natural resources.
- 4) Free social order based on democratic way's to form brotherhood for sharing and caring.
- 5) Re-distribution of economic resources in accordance with the existing social groups which means economic resources should be distributed according to the population strength of each social group.
- 6) Poverty is a social economic phenomenon in which a section of society is unable to fulfill even its basic necessities of life.
- 7) Causes of poverty having many factors like social, unemployment, political, Impact of poverty can be assessed by the literacy rate of the region.
- 8) Economic backwardness and vulnerability has caused rise in social haplessness and destitution resulted in dissatisfactory service delivery of social institutions.
- 9) Implementation of the relevant provisions of the constitution.
- 10) Introduction of proportional representation in electoral system to allow all social groups of India to get their just share in political power.

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