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POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMS

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ABSTRACT:

In fact the government started implementing the poverty alleviation program from the third five-year plan itself; But due to lack of proper implementation, they could not be fully successful. According to some experts, the various programs of rural development planned by the government to eradicate poverty should not be kept under the control of the Panchayat Samiti but should be controlled by a special Development Council. Small, marginal, farmers, artisans and farm laborers should be represented on this development council. Unless there is a complete change in the composition of the Development Council, it is impossible to properly implement the program designed for the welfare of the poor. Poverty alleviation programs will not succeed unless the existing bureaucratic nexus of landlords, capitalists and politicians is broken. For these programs to be successful, it is necessary to create a People's Development Council.

KEYWORDS: Poverty, Relative Poverty, Absolute Poverty.

INTRODUCTION:

The population of India is constantly increasing. This increasing population has created many problems in India. Poverty is one of those problems. Population increases the supply of labor. If the hands of these workers cannot find suitable work, unemployment in the country increases. If they remain unemployed, they lose their self-confidence. Not only that, if they remain unemployed for a long time, they will not be able to meet their basic needs.That means they will start living in poverty.

Concept - Poverty is conceptualized in two ways namely relative poverty and absolute poverty.

1. **Relative Poverty –** If the wealth, income or consumption of the lowest 5 or 10 percent of the population of the country is measured compared to the wealth, income or consumption of the highest 5 or 10 percent of the population in the country, it is called relative poverty. Relative poverty gives a picture of inequality in the distribution of wealth, income or consumption in a country.
2. **Absolute Poverty-** In order to measure absolute poverty, a minimum consumption level is determined based on the cost of living in the country. A population consuming less than this level is considered poor. In India this minimum consumption level is called the poverty line.

DIFFERENT DEFINITIONS OF POVERTY –

1. **In simple terms,** 'poverty is lack of income', but when considering economic and social development, the concept of poverty is not only related to income, but beyond that, it is related to good social life, good education, health, political freedom and many other things. A composite concept of income poverty is also in use. Income poverty is the inability to attain a minimum standard of living.
2. **United Nations defines poverty as follows.** "Poverty is the deprivation of opportunity and choice and the degradation of human dignity. Poverty is the lack of opportunities to participate effectively in society, lack of adequate food and clothing, poverty is the family that cannot go to school or hospital, landless and -
3. **The World Bank** says, "Poverty is hunger. Poverty is not having shelter, being sick and not being able to get treatment, being illiterate and not being able to go to school, being unemployed, being afraid of the future, not having clean water to drink. Poverty means lack of freedom."
4. Poverty is the lack of financial ability to meet the basic needs of an individual.
5. Poverty is the inability of an individual, family or society to meet their basic needs.

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6. Poverty is defined as the inability of an individual or family to purchase enough food to obtain at least 2250 calories per day.

OBJECTIVES OF RESEARCH PAPER:

The researcher has formulated the following objectives of his research paper.

1. To study the concept of poverty.
2. To study the causes of poverty.
3. To review the measures taken for poverty alleviation in India.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The type of research paper presented is descriptive and analytical.

DATA COLLECTION:

Data collection is a very important technique for any research. Published and unpublished materials are used to collect information. Secondary instruments are adopted to collect information. Bibliography, books, magazines, newspapers, Maharashtra government reports, research papers have been used for the research essay presented.

Poverty in India:

According to economists, there are many social and economic problems in a developing country like India. Extreme poverty is one of them. From the beginning of this century, economic development efforts began in most underdeveloped countries. In general, the effort to improve the national income, per capita income and standard of living of the people by properly utilizing the labor, capital and natural resources of the country is called economic development. Planning was adopted for economic development in India from the year 1951.However, a precise and precise definition of poverty is difficult. Because the meaning of poverty is likely to vary from time to time, from situation to situation and from person to person.

Causes of Poverty - The causes of poverty in India can be stated as follows.

1) **Tremendous growth of population -** In India, efforts are being made for the economic development of the country by adopting economic planning. So far India has completed 11 Five Year Plans. These schemes have also led to economic development. But the rate of population growth is higher than the rate of economic growth. So the per capita income did not increase much. So many people are living in poverty.

2) **Inadequate development of the country -** Due to the insufficient economic development of the country, the national income of India is very low compared to other developed countries. Because the national income is low, the per capita income shared by everyone is low. With such a low income, many people cannot meet their basic needs of food, clothing and shelter.

3) **Massive Unemployment -** Due to insufficient economic development of the country, the growing population is not getting employment. Due to this, many people have to face the problems of unemployment and semi-unemployment. As there is no alternative source of income during unemployment, they have to live in poverty.

4) Low Rate of Capital Formation - Economic development of any nation depends on capital formation. In India, the majority of people have low income, hence low savings and therefore low capital formation. This vicious cycle of low wages, low investment, low national income and low employment continues in poor countries.

5) **Unequal distribution of wealth and income -** Due to capitalist economy, private individual owns the means of production. So those who have concentration of means become shrimat; But those who do not have such wealth, they remain poor forever. In a country like India, resources and wealth are concentrated in the hands of a few people. 90% of the wealth is concentrated in 10% of the total population and 10% in 90% of the population. This is what divides the society into 'haves and have-nots'.

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6**) Backward agriculture -** Almost 70 percent of the total population of India is engaged in agriculture. Most of these people practice traditional farming so the productivity of agriculture is very low. Many farmers do not get even subsistence income from agriculture. So they have to live in poverty.

7) **Lack of Education -** People in India cannot give education to their children because they are poor. Even the government cannot provide education to this growing population. Lack of education does not increase their efficiency. They cannot get good jobs. Therefore, their income does not increase. So people remain poor.

8) **Constantly rising prices -** The supply of currency in the country is constantly increasing. Therefore, the purchasing power of money is decreasing. People are finding it difficult to meet the minimum standard of living. As the prices of essential goods and services do not increase, those with low per capita income have to live a life of financial misery. Due to low income and rising prices, savings rate and rate of capital accumulation are low. As the rate of capital formation is low, the rate of investment is also low. As a result the national income growth rate is also not sufficient. The problem of poverty has worsened as the per capita income has also increased marginally.

9) Inadequate utilization of natural resources -The natural resources of the nation include minerals, forests, water resources, land, industrial power tools, energy etc. includes Human quality of life depends on the productive capacity of these resources. Countries with higher productivity are socially and economically progressive. Natural resources and means of production cannot be fully utilized in India due to lack of capital, lack of new technology and various other reasons. As a result, the national product cannot increase significantly. Therefore, the per capita income remains low and the problem of poverty has become acute.

10) Social Factors - Social factors are also responsible for poverty in India. Due to religious practices, social conventions, festivals and rituals etc., people spend many kinds of unnecessary and unproductive expenses. Therefore, indebtedness increases. Illiteracy and rusticity, casteism, joint family system, tendency to rely on luck etc. people are deprived of new ideas, entrepreneurship. Inheritance law, lack of economic and social institutions and inflexible structure also create difficulties in the path of development.

Measures to Eradicate poverty in India:

The government has implemented the following measures to eradicate poverty.

1) **Rural Works Programme -** This scheme was started in 1961. A provision of Rs. 150 crores was made for this programme. The objective of the scheme was to utilize the available labor force and provide employment opportunities. Due to the lack of experts there were many difficulties in implementing the scheme.
2) **Crash Scheme for Rural Employment -** This scheme was created in 1971 to provide employment to one person in the family. During this period 3.15 lakh man days employment was created. 174 crore was spent during 1971-74.
3) **National Rural Employment Programme -** About 20 million people living in rural areas. Families are landless. This class is very poor. This program was undertaken with the intention of providing employment to these people. Complementary objectives of this program are as follows.

1) To create additional employment useful for men and women living in rural areas and unemployed.
2) To develop the rural economy, to create permanent power to generate resources there.
3) To increase the standard of living of poor people in rural areas and their nutritional capacity.

4) Minimum New Programme - This program was started in the fifth plan. A provision of Rs.267 crore was made for this programme. 5808 crore was provided in the sixth plan. The following things were emphasized in this program. 1) To expand primary and adult education, 2) To provide health facilities in rural areas. 3) Providing drinking water in rural areas, 4) Providing roads in rural areas, 5) Providing electricity in rural areas etc.

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5**) Training for Rural Youth for Self Employment Treasem -** This scheme was started on August 15, 1979 to eliminate unemployment among rural youth. This program is being implemented as a part of Integrated Rural Development Programme. According to this program, youth are trained in selected industries and efforts are made to bring them above the poverty line. 100 per month as tuition fee during the training period. Are given By the end of 1994-15, 3 lakh 20 thousand youths have been trained and have started their own businesses

6) Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Scheme (RALEGS) - This scheme was started on August 15, 1983 to help the landless agricultural laborers who face unemployment when there is no agricultural work in the rural areas. 60 crores were sanctioned for this program in the Sixth Plan to undertake complementary works like construction of roads connecting rural areas, improvement of fallow land, social afforestation, land conservation etc. 29 crore labor days were provided in 1985-86. 4.27 lakh houses 533 million trees, 5.2 lakh hectares of land were afforested by this scheme till 1988. In recent times the government has decided to merge the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Program with each other.

7) **Marginal Farmers & Labor Development Program – MFAL -** Marginal farmers and farm laborers are the most vulnerable sections of rural areas. For their development, the Marginal Farmers and Farm Labor Development Program was implemented from 1970-71. In the fourth plan, 41 projects were started in different parts of the country under this plan. Schemes like water supply, land conservation, dairy development, poultry farming, animal husbandry etc. were the main ones. 89 lakh families of marginal farmers and farm laborers have benefited due to this scheme. In 1980, the scheme was merged into the Integrated Rural Development Programme.

8) Small Farmer's Development Agency (SFDA) - This scheme was launched by the government in 1971 for the development of small farmers who are economically weak in rural areas. Establishing cooperative societies of smallholders, providing them with subsidies, providing them with basic needs like drinking water, houses to live in, free primary education, health care etc. They are encouraged to practice modern farming. Cottage industries are encouraged to provide round-the-year employment to people in rural areas. The aim of this scheme is to reduce unemployment and poverty. In 1980, the program was merged into the Integrated Rural Development Program (IRDP).

9) Jawahar Rojgar Yojana - This scheme was started in the budget of 1989-90. The scheme merged two programs namely National Rural Employment Program (NREP) and Rural Landless Farm Labor Employment Guarantee Program (RCEGP). This plan includes the following:

1) To reserve 30% of total employment for women.

2) Providing funds to Gram Panchayats for implementation of the scheme.

3) To provide employment to at least one person in the family for 50 to 100 days by assisting the families who get work for six months in a year.

4) The state government wants to allocate the funds to different departments taking into consideration the extent of poverty. The task of implementing this scheme was entrusted to the Gram Panchayat.

10) Integrated Rural Development Program – IRDP- The Integrated Rural Development Program was launched on October 2, 1980 to reduce poverty in India and attack poverty from all sides. In order to increase the income of the grassroots people such as small landholding farmers, agricultural labourers, rural artisans and scheduled castes and tribes living in rural areas, to get them permanent income and create additional employment for them, productive works are undertaken by the government through this program.

The main objectives of the Integrated Rural Development Program were to increase employment, provide benefits of various schemes to the weaker sections of the society, eradicate poverty, make adequate use of natural resources, increase the standard of living of the economically weaker sections, etc.

SUMMARY:

One of the biggest problems of poverty in India is the country's rapid population growth. As a result, there is a high rate of illiteracy, poor health-care facilities, and a lack of financial resources. Furthermore, the high population growth rate has an impact on individual income, making individual income much lower. By 2026, India's population is predicted to surpass 1.5 billion, making it the world's largest country. However, Economic growth is not rising at the same rate as the rest of the world. This indicates a labor shortage. About 20 million new jobs will be required to accommodate this big population. If such a vast number of people are poor, the number of poor will keep rising.

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