

# Eradication of Poverty in India

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**Abstract:** At present, 28.5% of the Indian population lives below the poverty line. In the category of poor falls the person whose daily income is less than 33 rupees a day in cities and 27 rupees in villages. But do you think this amount is sufficient to survive even for a day in the country where every food item is available at sky-high prices? This means, the actual number of people living below the poverty line is much higher, as according to the arithmetical data anyone, earning 40 rupees will not be considered as poor must be facing difficult in life.

**Keywords:** Causes, Poverty, Facts, Effects, Solution.

## Introduction:

“Poverty is humiliation, the sense of being needy on them, and of being forced to accept rudeness, insult, and differences when we seek help. Latvia 1988.

In the simplest term, poverty may be defined as a social situation where individuals do not have monetary needs means to meet the most basic standards of life that is acceptable by the society. Individual experiencing poverty do not have the means to pay for basic needs of daily life like food, clothes and poverty also staves people off from accessing much needed social tools of well-being like education and health supplies. The direct consequences stemming from this problem are hunger, malnutrition and susceptibility to diseases which have been recognized as major problems across the world. It impacts individuals in a socio- psychological way with them not being able to afford simple recreational activities and getting progressively marginalized in the society.

The term poverty is interrelated with the notion of the poverty line/threshold that may be defined as the minimum figure of income that is required in a particular country for maintaining the socially acceptable quality of life in terms of dietary, clothing and sheltering needs. The World Bank has updated its international poverty line figures to 1.90 USD (Rs. 123.5), per day on October 2015 (based on prices of possessions in year 2011-2012), 1.5 USD(Rs.81) as a response to the changes in the cost of living across the world as per current economy. The association estimates that –“just over 900 million people globally lived under this line in 2012 (based on the latest available data), and we project that in 2015, just over 700 million are living in extreme poverty”.

## Causes of Poverty in India:

Factors contribution to the persistent evils of poverty in the country is many and they need to be identified in order to be addressed poverty. They can be categorized under the following.

### 1. Economic:

There are a host of economic reasons behind persistence of the poverty troubles which are outlined hereunder.

#### a. Poor agricultural Infrastructure:

Agriculture is the spine of Indian economy. But outdated farming practices, lack of proper irrigation infrastructure and even lack of formal knowledge of crop treatment gas affected the efficiency in this sector tremendously. As a consequence there is redundancy and sometimes complete lack of work leading to decreased wages that is insufficient for meeting daily needs of a laborer’s family dropping them into poverty.

#### b. Unequal distribution of assets:

With the economy changing directions rapidly, the earning arrangement evolves differently in different economic income groups. Upper and middle income group see a faster augment in earnings than lower income groups. Also assets like land, cattle as well as realty are dispersed disporatioately among the population with positive people owning majority shares than other sectors of the of the society and their profits from these property are also unequally distribution. In India it is said that 80% wealth in the country is prohibited by just 20% of the population.

#### c. Inflation and price hike:

The term inflation may be defined as a raise in prices of commodities coinciding with the fall in the purchasing value of money. As a direct consequence of inflation, successful price of food, clothing items as well as real assets rises. The salaries and wages do not rise as much in keeping up with the overstated prices of commodities leading to effective decrease of the per capita income.

**d. Faulty economic liberalization:**

The LPG (Liberalization-Privatization-Globalization) attempts initiated by the Indian Government in 1991 were directed towards making the economy more suited to international market trends to invite foreign investments. Successful to definite extent in reviving the economy, the economic reforms had harmful effects on increasing the wealth distribution scenario. Became richer, while the poor remained poor.

**2. Demographic:**

The main factor that donation to poverty- ridden state of the country from a demographical point of view is the problem of over population. The growth of population in the country has so far exceeded the growth in economy and the lawn result is that the poverty figures have remained more or less unfailling. In rural area, size of the families is bigger and that translates into lowering the per capita income values and ultimately lowering of standard of living. Population growth spurt also lead to invention of unemployment and that means diluting out of wages for jobs further lowering income.

**3. Social:**

The various social issues plaguing the country that contribute towards poverty are:-

**a. Education and literacy:**

Education, quite its lack thereof and poverty from a vicious cycle that plaques the nation. Not having enough resources to feed their children, the poor believe education to be frivolous, preferring children to start contributing to the families income rather than draining them. On the other hand lack of education and illiteracy prevent persons from getting better paying jobs and they get stuck at job offering minimum wages. Improvement of superiority of life gets hindered and the cycle once again comes into action.

**b. Outdated social customs:**

Social customs like the caste system cause separation and marginalization of certain sections of the society. Certain castes are measured untouchable still and are not employed by upper caste, leaving very and precise and low paying jobs that they can live off. Economic K.V. Varghese put forth the problem in a very lucid language, "Caste system acted as a facilitator for class exploitation with the result that the complement of the poverty of the many is the opulence of the few. The second is the cause of the first."

**c. Lack of skilled labour:**

Lack of adequate vocational training makes the huge labour force obtainable in India largely unskilled, which is unsuitable for offering maximum economic value. Lack of education much less higher education, is also a contribution factor towards this.

**d. Gender inequality:**

The week position attached with women, deep- rooted social marginalization and long embedded perceptions of domesticity renders about 50% of the country's population incapable to work. As a result the women of the family add to the number of dependents that need to be fed instead of being able to donate considerably in the family income which might assuage the poverty situation of the family.

**e. Corruption:**

Despite substantial efforts from the government in the forms of various schemes to mollify the poverty condition, allegedly only 30-35% actually reaches the beneficiaries due to wide-spread practices of corruption in the country. Affluent people with privileged connections are able to acquire more wealth simply by bribing government officials to exploit their profits from such schemes while the poor stay in a state of neglect for not being able to assert such connections.

**4. Political:**

In India, socio- economic reform strategies has been mainly directed by political interest and are implemented to serve a choice section of the society that is potentially a deciding factor in the elections. As a result, the issue is not addressed in its entirety parting much scope of improvement.

**5. Individual:**

Individual lack of efforts also contributes towards generation of poverty. Some people are unwilling to work hard or even not willing to work altogether, leaving their families in the darkness of poverty. Personal demons like drinking and gambling also leads to draining of the family income inciting poverty

## 6. Climatic:

Maximum portion of India experience a tropical climate all through the year that is not conducive to hard manual labour leading to lowering of productivity and the wages suffer consequently.

### Effects of Poverty:

The resounding effect of poverty echoes during various layers of an India citizen's life. If we try to have a systematic look at them, we should proceed under the three following heads:-

#### 1. Effects on Society:

Poverty exerts some grimly concerning effects over the overall societal health as well. These may be discussed along the following lines:

##### a. Violence and crime rate:

Incidence of violence and crime has been found to be biologically coincident. In a backdrop of unemployment and marginalization, the poor resort to criminal activities to earn money. Coupled with lack of education and correctly formed moral conscience, a poverty ridden society is more disposed to violence by its people against its own people from a sense of deep-seated discontent and rage.

##### b. Homelessness:

Apart from a definite drop in the esthetic demonstration of drop in the esthetic representation of the country, homelessness affects child health, women safety and overall enlarges in criminal tendencies.

##### c. Stress:

Lack of money is a major cause of pressure among the middle-class and the poor and leads to reject in productivity of individuals.

##### d. Child labour:

One of the hallmarks of a poverty-ridden society is the widespread practices of exploitation and the worst of it comes in the form of child labour. Large families fail to meet the monetary needs of the members are made to start earning in order to contribute to the family income.

##### e. Terrorism:

Proclivity of youth towards violence stems from a combination of extreme poverty and lack of education making them susceptible to encoding. Terrorist organization offer poverty-ridden families money in exchange for a member's contribution in their activities which induces a sense of accomplishment among the youth.

#### 2. Effect on Health:

One of the most devastating effects that poverty has is on the in general health of the nation. The most famous health issue stemming from poverty is malnutrition. The problem of malnutrition is widespread in all age- groups of the country but children are most unfavorably affected by this. Imperfect income in larger families leads to lack of access to sufficient wholesome food for their children. These children over time suffer from stern health problems like low body weight, mental, physical disabilities and a general poor state of protection making them susceptible to diseases. Children from poor backgrounds are twice as susceptible to suffer from anemia, nutrient deficiencies, impaired vision, and even cardiac problems. Starvation is a gross contributor of infant mortality in the country and 38 out of every 1000 babies born in India die before their first birthday. Undernourishment among adult also leads to poor health in adults that leaches their capacity for manual labour leading to a diminish in income due to weakness and diseases. Poverty also causes definite decline in the sanitary practices among poor who cannot afford proper bathrooms and disinfectants. As a result openness to waterborne disease peak between the poor. Lack of access to as well as means to procure appropriate treatment also affects overall mortality of the population which is lower in poor countries than developed nations like the USA.

#### 3. Effect on Economy:

Poverty is a direct representing success of the economy of the country. The number of people living under the poverty threshold indicates whether the economy is powerful sufficient to generate adequate jobs and facilities for its people. Schemes providing subsidies for the poor of the country again compel a drain on the economy.

**Solutions:**

The measure that should be taken to fight the demon of poverty in India is outlined below:

1. Growth of population at the current rate should be tartan by implementation of policies and consciousness promoting birth control.
2. All efforts should be made to increase the employment opportunities in the country, either by inviting more foreign investments or by encouraging.
3. Certain Indian states are more poverty stricken than others like odhisha and the north east states. Government should seek to support investment in these states by offering special concessions on taxes.
4. Primary need of people for attaining a satisfactory quality of life like food items, clean drinking water should be available more readily. Development of the subsidy rates on commodities and public Distribution system should be made. Fee high school education and an improved number of functioning health centers should be provided by the government.

**Conclusion:**

Poverty is just like a disease to which many other evils such as crime, low paced development, etc are associated. There are number of people in India who motionless live on the streets and beg for the whole day to eat a meal. Disadvantaged children are unable to attend school and, those have the occasion drop out after a year or so. People below poverty line live in insanitary conditions and are so prone to many health problems. With this, the vicious cycle of poor health, lack of education and more poverty keeps on increasing.

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