

POVERTY IN INDIA: REASONS AND SOLUTIONS

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Abstract:

Despite significant economic growth and poverty alleviation initiatives, poverty remains a persistent challenge in India. This research paper aims to identify and analyse the key factors contributing to the inability to alleviate poverty in the country. Through a comprehensive review of literature and empirical evidence, in this paper I explore various socioeconomic, political, and structural barriers that hinder poverty alleviation efforts. Additionally, I examine the role of government policies, sociocultural dynamics, and global economic factors in perpetuating poverty. My findings suggest that a complex interplay of factors such as unequal distribution of resources, inadequate access to education and healthcare, corruption, ineffective implementation of welfare schemes, population growth, and vulnerability to natural disasters contribute to the persistence of poverty in India. The paper concludes with recommendations for policy makers to address these underlying challenges and promote sustainable poverty reduction in India.

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Introduction:

January 2022, poverty in India persists as a complex issue, affecting a significant portion of the population. According to recent data, approximately 21% of India's population lived below the national poverty line. However, it's essential to note that poverty rates can vary significantly across different states and regions within India.

In India, despite being one of the fastest-growing economies globally, continues to grapple with the significant challenge of poverty. The prevalence of poverty is deeply entrenched in the socio-economic fabric of the nation, affecting millions of its citizens hence it remains a important issue in India despite decades of economic growth and development efforts. this paper seeks to address is to understand why poverty not alleviate in India despite sustained economic growth and numerous poverty alleviation programs. Despite progress in certain areas, such as increased GDP and improvements in human development

indicators, poverty continues to afflict millions of Indians, particularly in rural areas and marginalized communities

In this paper I study the reasons and solutions of poverty and reasons of poverty persistence in india.

There are following the reasons of poverty in india
1. Structural Inequality:

Historical and structural factors such as unequal distribution of resources, land ownership patterns, and caste-based discrimination contribute to persistent poverty in India. This will cause into the deep-rooted inequalities that spread deprivation and hinder social mobility.

2. Lack of Inclusive Growth:

While India has experienced significant economic growth in recent years, this growth has not been inclusive. Many marginalized communities continue to be left behind, worsening income inequality and continuing poverty.

3. Disparities in Education and Healthcare:

Disparities in access to quality education and healthcare contribute to the inter-generational transmission of poverty.

4. Governance Issues and Corruption:

Corruption, bureaucratic inefficiency, and governance issues undermine the effective implementation of poverty alleviation programs.

5. Environmental Degradation:

Environmental degradation and climate change pose significant challenges to poverty alleviation in India, particularly in rural areas dependent on agriculture and natural resources.

6. Unemployment and Underemployment:

Insufficient job opportunities or low wages contribute to financial instability and inability to meet basic needs, trapping individuals and families in poverty.

7. Urbanization and Migration:

Rapid urbanization and rural-to-urban migration have caused urban slums and informal settlements, that will have the impact of healthy urbanization.

8. Unequal Distribution of Resources:

Economic inequality, characterized by the concentration of wealth and resources in the hands of a few, limits opportunities for social mobility and perpetuates poverty by widening the gap between the rich and the poor.

9. Land Division and Fragmentation:

It can contribute to poverty, particularly in rural areas where agriculture is a primary source of livelihood. It reduced Agricultural Productivity because fragmented land holdings often result in inefficient farming practices due to difficulties in implementing mechanization, irrigation, and economies of scale. This can lead to lower crop yields and decreased agricultural productivity, which directly affects the income of rural

households reliant on agriculture for their livelihoods.

Small-scale farmers with fragmented land holdings may face challenges in accessing essential resources such as credit, technology, and agricultural inputs. Without access to these resources, they may struggle to invest in modern farming techniques or purchase necessary inputs, that's why they reducing their productivity and income potential.

Here are some recommendations for policy makers to reduce poverty in India:

1. Education Reform:

Implement policies aimed at improving access to quality education, particularly for marginalized communities. This can include increasing funding for schools in rural areas, providing scholarships and incentives for students from low-income families, and enhancing vocational training programs.

2. Employment Generation:

Focus on creating more job opportunities, especially in sectors with high potential for growth such as manufacturing, technology, and renewable energy. This can be achieved through targeted investment, skill development initiatives, and support for small and medium enterprises.

3. Agricultural Development:

Enhance agricultural productivity and income by investing in irrigation infrastructure, promoting sustainable farming practices, and providing farmers with access to credit, markets, and technology. Additionally, land reforms to ensure equitable distribution of land can help alleviate rural poverty.

4. Social Safety Schemes :

Strengthen social welfare programs such as the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) and the Public Distribution System (PDS) to provide a safety net for vulnerable

populations. This can include expanding coverage, improving efficiency, and enhancing monitoring mechanisms to prevent leakages and corruption.

5. Healthcare Access:

Ensure universal access to healthcare by increasing investment in healthcare infrastructure, expanding coverage of health insurance schemes, and focusing on preventive healthcare measures. Addressing issues such as malnutrition, maternal and child mortality, and infectious diseases can significantly reduce the burden of poverty.

6. Infrastructure Development:

Invest in infrastructure development, including roads, transportation, electricity, and sanitation facilities, particularly in rural and underserved areas. Improved infrastructure not only creates employment opportunities but also stimulates economic growth and enhances living standards.

7. Financial Inclusion:

Promote financial inclusion by expanding access to banking and financial services for low-income households. This can include initiatives such as microfinance, financial literacy programs, and incentives for banks to serve underserved communities.

8. Empowerment of Women:

Implement policies that empower women economically and socially, including access to education, employment opportunities, property rights, and reproductive health services. Women's empowerment is key to breaking the cycle of poverty and promoting inclusive development.

9. Policy Coordination and Monitoring:

Ensure coordination among various government departments and agencies involved in poverty alleviation efforts. Establish robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track the effectiveness of

policies and programs, and make necessary adjustments based on evidence-based findings.

By implementing these recommendations, policy makers can make significant strides towards reducing poverty and promoting inclusive growth in India.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, poverty persists in India due to a complex interplay of social, economic, and environmental factors. Which are following

1. Vicious cycle of poverty
2. Policy paralysis
3. Corruption
4. Land division

These are the main reason of poverty

Addressing these root causes requires a holistic approach that tackles structural inequalities, promotes inclusive growth, strengthens social safety nets, invests in education and healthcare, addresses governance issues, protects the environment, and promotes gender equality. By understanding the reasons behind the struggle against poverty, policymakers can devise more effective strategies to build a more equitable and prosperous India.

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