

**POVERTY IN INDIA: FOOD, INDIGENCE AND HEALTH, SKILLS AND STANDARD OF LIVING**

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**Abstract:**

The paper clarifies poverty and how it emerged in India. This article provides an overview of the reasons India remains impoverished, despite the fact that poverty has not been completely abolished in our nation. The mindset of the impoverished is closely linked to the significant effects that poverty has on health and education. Despite having numerous social policies, this article explains what precisely India lacks and concludes with a brief overview of the country's current state of affairs.

**Keywords:**

- 1) World Bank: "Poverty is a problem that involves many aspects as it relates to low income, illiteracy, low health status and degree of inequality between the sexes and poor environment."
- 2) Amartya Sen: "Poverty is not just a lack of money; It is not having capability to realize one's potential as human being."
- 3) Adam Smith: "Man is considered as rich or poor according to the degree in which he can afford to enjoy the necessities, conveniences and amusements of life."
- 4) World Bank Organization: "Poverty is hunger and a lack of shelter."
- 5) Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation: "Poverty is a lack of money to meet basic needs like food, clothing, and shelter."

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**Introduction to Poverty:**

In spite of economic expansion, poverty is still pervasive in India. It is characterised by the inability to pay for needs including clothing, food, housing, and education. The World Bank describes poverty as 'hunger'. It is a combination of many factors including income, calorie intake, access to land and credit, nutrition, health, literacy and education, sanitation and infrastructural facilities and poor environment. It leads to social inequality, malnutrition, unemployment, low standard of living, etc. India's growing population, sluggish economic growth, unemployment, unequal resource and income distribution, and other factors are

the main causes of poverty in the country. Recent estimates indicate that although poverty has decreased dramatically in India over the past few decades, the issue still poses a serious threat to the nation. 16.4% of Indians are multidimensionally poor as of 2021, according to the UNDP's 2023 National Multidimensional Poverty Index. Comparing this to 24.85% in 2015–16 and 55.1% in 2005–2006, there has been a notable decrease. With 5.94 crore people fleeing multidimensional poverty during the past nine years, Uttar Pradesh saw the biggest decrease in the number of impoverished, followed by Bihar with 3.77 crore, Madhya Pradesh with 2.30 crore, and Rajasthan with 1.87 crore.

**Reasons for the emergence of poverty in India:**

1. Population growth- Resources are strained by the rapid population growth, which also makes sustainable development challenging. High unemployment and restricted access to necessary services result from this.
2. Economic development: India's economy has not developed much, and there is a discrepancy between the demand and supply for products and services. Unemployment: More people are looking for work as a result of the growing population, but there aren't enough new opportunities to meet the demand.
3. Income equality and price rise: The burden of the impoverished has increased due to steady price increases. Significant income disparities make it challenging for government initiatives to effectively eradicate poverty. Economic inequality has led to a concentration of wealth in the hands of a few, while many others remain poor.
4. Neediness stems from a variety of individual factors, which prevent families from having enough food and make them more susceptible to various illnesses. Nowadays people want pain free income. Laziness and not ready to work is another reason of neediness.
5. Poverty is further aggravated by limited access to healthcare and education, since those without these resources are less likely to be able to improve their lot in life. Due to the fact that people in rural areas are frequently poorer than those in urban areas, inconsistencies between the two have also contributed.
6. Everything in rural India is based on farming. However, a larger portion of ranchers genuinely rely on primitive farming methods. As result, the annual production is usually far less. In addition, India's farming industry is still too young to provide enough jobs.

**Reasons Why India is Still a Poor Country:**
**1. Corruption:**

One can hardly separate the word debasement from India. It affects the majority of the administrative divisions. In India, defilement is said to be the most persuasive cause of poverty. The most horrendous of its kind is defilement in the public distribution system. Privilege projects and social spending plans meant for the common public's government help are the primary sources of debasement in India. Program called Mahatma Gandhi national Rural Employment Act (MNREGA) has 86,000 crore budget intended to offer 100 days of the business year for the country poor. However, it fizzled due to defilement and bungle. Numerous initiatives meant to benefit and enliven the impoverished and destitute were overlooked. Even their basic wants and rights are denied to the rather impoverished.

**2. Economic Policies:**

The impoverished may suffer from inflation's regressive taxation and growth-restraining effects. Inflation can also negatively impact real earnings when it is coupled with reduced wages. Higher growth's effect on reducing poverty is contingent upon the growth pattern and degree of inequality. For instance, it is projected that the COVID-19 pandemic's economic downturn raised poverty and inequality, but by the end of 2021, both had recovered to their pre-pandemic levels. The young of the province are typically untalented, in need of guidance, and even uninterested in fostering. These are all enough to ensure a horrible and powerless future. The government must to devise strategies to boost self-assurance. The young must receive teaching based on expertise.

**3. Mismanagement and Faulty Development Models:**

Authorities spend a large portion of the funds gathered to support or allocated to anti-poverty

measures. Thus, the entire system designed to aid the underprivileged prevents this from happening. Lack of implementation of various programs and no discipline in work makes the model less useful.

#### 4. Ever Increasing Economic Inequality:

The financial experts have benefitted from India's development model, but it bombed when we learned that almost 213 million Indians suffer from chronic hunger. Many young women are specifically abused and mistreated for money. Children's work has grown concurrently. Due to this inequality, the wealthiest 5% of families in India own 38% of the country's total resources, while the bottom 60% receives only 13%.

#### Mentality of Poor:

The internal desire of those in need to remain impoverished and other influences both function as barriers. It has been noted that instead of requesting right away, homeless persons typically work at signaling. Additionally, their kids do not attend school yet inquire. They will never be able to break out from this ardent pattern of dependency and begging. The impoverished need to understand the value of education and its enduring benefits. In India, job opportunities abound. For India to advance, the nation needs extraordinary political trailblazers. Efficiency and the profitable use of human resources must be addressed. India needs to educate all children so that they can become assets. India needs a clear financial vision and a strong foundation to carry it out. To become wealthy, India must be freed from defilement.

#### Social Policies (Anti Poverty Programs):

India launched a number of social welfare initiatives to address different aspects of poverty, including the National Food Security Act (NFSA), which offers subsidised food grains to eligible households, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), which guarantees wage employment to rural households, the Pradhan Mantri

Awas Yojana (PMAY), which offers affordable housing to the impoverished in both urban and rural areas, the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), which grants universal access to banking services, and the Ayushman Bharat scheme, which covers health insurance for underprivileged and vulnerable families. The issue with government programmes is that not all citizens are able to access them, and authorities are not making the necessary steps to put them into practice. Programmes and attempts to raise awareness are lacking.

#### Poverty, Health and Education:

Poverty and health have two way of relationship. People who are impoverished are more susceptible to illness, and illness lowers a person's income, which furthers increases poverty. The proportion of the population living below the poverty line has increased in India due to the country's high out-of-pocket health expenditure (OOPE). According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), 55 million Indians become impoverished each year as a result of high health care costs. Out-of-pocket medical costs forced 55 million Indians into poverty in 2011–12. Over the previous 20 years, there has been a significant increase in the percentage of overall poverty that is caused by health care costs. "The main reasons for the high inter-state variations of OOPE in India are low public health investment, poor public health infrastructures, non-availability of medicines and diagnosis tests, and user fees," the study said. India's medical poverty may be lessened if public health centres offered free prescription drugs, surgery, and diagnostic testing. At the moment, India only allocates 2% of its GDP on health. "The National Health Mission and Finance Commission grants have helped the government close the funding gap by providing additional resources to the poorer states, as acknowledged by the government." Children will undoubtedly suffer the consequences of India's 1.21 billion people living below the poverty

line. Poverty has a detrimental impact on a child's moral development and comprehension of right and wrong, as well as their growth and educational achievements. This is because impoverished children are deprived of the essential rights stipulated in the Indian Constitution. Nonetheless, children from low-income households are less likely to be read to, which severely limits their ability to develop their abilities. In addition, parents who have not had a proper education sometimes downplay the value of education and are reluctant to spend money on schools. Educational poverty, or the lack of access to basic literacy and education, is one of the main causes of the situation in India. The majority of the money made by impoverished households is spent on other essentials like food and fuel, with only 6% going towards health and education. Despite being hailed as the 'highest ever,' it seems to fall short. Less than 3.5% of India's GDP is allocated to education. This is a far cry from the goal set forth in the National Education Policy 2020, which called for the education budget in India to account for 6% of GDP.

### Conclusion:

It is impossible to address the issue of poverty in isolation from issues related to health, education, employment, and other issues that are directly related to it. The paper showed a comprehensive analysis of poverty in India. It outlined the present body of knowledge about all relevant aspects of poverty and

suggests areas for further research. Hunger is a problem in India, especially in the allegedly better off regions, and those who cannot afford even two square meals a day are regarded as the most seriously impoverished. This requires policy action to be addressed. The multidimensional indices of poverty that take into account education, empowerment, standard of living, human and gender development, and standard of living will create a lot of difference when it is planned carefully and implemented unmistakably. Well-organized representation of the poor in politics will be necessary for systematic inclusive growth in order to support a move away from populism and towards true social-democratic politics. It will also necessitate a major increase in the Indian state's chronically inadequate ability to provide resources and services to the impoverished.

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