

POVERTY: CURSE, CAUSES AND CURE

Dr. Rajesh Kumar Pandey*

ABSTRACT

The word poverty indicates general society scarcity, deficiency and shortage of minimum amount of money to maintain minimum standard of living. It is a multi dimensional concept, which involves economic social, educational, and political elements. Today measuring poverty is basic challenge for all nations of the world. There are a lot of hindrances such as economic status, social and political status ecological conditions, improper distribution of natural resources etc. Actually poverty and real income are highly correlated. The income generation only possible by doing any job, business or any other type of work related with income generation. The industrialization is only long term solution to generate income for the removal of poverty. There is a lack of industrialization in rural areas somewhere new factories setup were failed to compete in the terms of quality and price. Actually poverty may be identified in two ways, either relative or absolute. When we use the word poor, it indicates absolute poverty. At micro level absolute poverty is actual poverty. Absolute poverty refers to the lack of means necessary to meet basic needs, such as food, cloth, and housing. In other words we can say, that absolute Poverty includes (B.C.H.) bread, cloth and house. Relative poverty considers individual social and economic status comparing to the rest of society.

KEYWORDS: *Ecological Conditions, Economic Status, Poverty, Tendulkar Methodology.*

Introduction

The word "poverty" is enough to express its meaning .Generally it indicates scarcity and shortage of minimum amount of money and wealth to maintain required minimum standard of living to human being. Poverty is not related with single concept. It is related with multi dimensional concept, which involves economic, social, educational and political elements. Actually poverty may be identified in two ways, either relative or absolute. When we use the word poor, it indicates absolute poverty. At micro level absolute poverty is actual poverty .Absolute poverty refers to the lack of means necessary to meet basic needs, such as food, cloth, and housing. In other words we can say, that absolute Poverty includes (B.C.H.) bread, cloth and house. Relative poverty considers individual social and economic status comparing to the rest of society.

Historically the industrial revolution was started by an invention of steam engine invented by James watt. William Bell scott introduces the use of coal and iron working in the industrial revolution and the heavy engineering projects made possible with the help of coal and iron used for energy. This transition made a dramatic change in the area of manufacturing. It replaces manual production methods to mechanize. Actually the influence of industrial revolution affected almost every aspect of daily life in some ways. Mainly it highly affected the living standard of general population of the world. But it adversely affected the economic status of the people employed and unemployed, skilled and unskilled, rich and poor . At the same time when industrial revolution was occurring, Britain was undergoing an agricultural revolution .Which is backbone of entire world's economy. Agricultural revolution was helpful

* Associate Professor, Department of Commerce; Working as Deputy Registrar, Uttar Pradesh Rajarshi Tandon Open University (U.P.R.T.O. U.), Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, India.

for providing two meals to world population. It was also helpful for improving living status of world community.(1st). Actually G.D.P. per capita was stagnated before industrial and agricultural revolution. But after the industrial and agricultural revolution G.D.P. per capita was surprisingly increased. The affects of these revolutions were seen in the form of increasing G.D.P. per capita. After the industrial revolution, mass production in factories made production goods were cheaper and more accessible .Agricultural revolution effects the modernization of agriculture such as use of fertilizers to provide enough yield to fulfill the basic needs of for entire population (2nd).

Actually the poverty is curse for the whole world. No one in the world may remove the relative poverty. We can only reduce the absolute poverty. It may be reduced by income generation. The income generation is only possible by doing any job, business or any other type of work related with income generation. The industrialization is only long term solution to generate income for the removal of poverty. Poverty reduction is major issue for whole world since past .many international organizations such as United Nations, World Bank have also the major target to reduce poverty from the world .The World Bank forecasts that 702.1 million people were living in extreme poverty in 2015 reduced from 1.75billion in 1990. Measurement of poverty is basic challenge for all nations of the world. There are a lot of hindrances such as economic status, social and political status ecological conditions, and improper distribution of natural resources etc.(3rd).

According to United Nations poverty is the inability of getting choices and opportunities a violation of human rights and dignity. It indicates lack of basic capacity to participate effectively in the society .In simple words, a part of population not having enough to feed and cloth for the family, not having a school facility to learn and increase their skill, or not having a clinic for their treatment and to maintain their physical fitness and not having land to grow their food for survival. The World bank also indicates the low incomes and the inability to acquire the basic goods and services necessary for survival with dignity and respect is poverty. poverty also indicates the low income ,low levels of health, and education ,poor access to clean water and sanitation ,inadequate physical security exploitation by strong and prosperous communities and insufficient capacity and opportunity to increase the life style of poor.(4th) Copenhagen declaration also indicates the absolute poverty is a condition where severe depreciation of basic human needs such as food ,pure and safe drinking water, sanitation facilities ,health ,shelter, education, and information. These all basic facilities depends not only money, but also on the access of social services. Actually the absolute poverty referred to as extreme poverty. The major problem of poverty is in undeveloped, under developed, and developing countries such as India Pakistan, Bangladesh, shri lanka and some Asian and African countries. Developed countries are facing the problem of relative poverty such as America, Britain, Germany, France etc.

Actual problem of poverty is the measurement and identification of people living under poverty line. Various methods have been adapted to measure poverty level in various countries. The official measure of Indian government was based on food security, before 2005. Poverty level was defined from per capita expenditure for a person to consume enough and be able to pay essentials for survival .(5th) since 2005 Indian government adopted the Tendulkar methodology, which moved away from calories to a basket of goods and rural urban regional minimum expenditure per capita needful to survive. In 2012 the Indian government stated that 21.9% of its population was below poverty limit. Poverty in India is a historical reality. Under the British rule from late 19th to early 20th century, the poverty in India was intensified. In 1920th famines and diseases killed millions of people in India. After the independence in 1947, mass deaths from famines were prevented, but at the same time poverty increased. Actually Indian poverty was extremely after rapid economic growth since 1991(6th)

Causes of Poverty in India

Main cause of poverty in India is high population growth rate, but most of the demographers assumes that it is a symptom rather than cause of poverty. Actually Service and industrial sector have grown very fast, but agriculture growth rate has dropped from 4.8%to 2%. While about 60%population earns meals and employed in agriculture area, but the contribution of agriculture to the G. D.P.is about 18%. The surplus of human resource in agriculture has caused many people to not have employment.

Main cause of poverty is lack of money in the hands of poor people. The money be generated by doing any job, business, or any type of work related with money. Actually causes of poverty include changing trends in the country's economy. Lack of education, over population, Epidemic diseases such as A .I.D.S, malaria ,environmental problem such as lack of rainfall or heavy rain fall . Extreme weather is a cause of poverty in many countries, draught rainfall and flooding are some of the biggest cause of

poverty by weather. Natural disasters are also causes of poverty. The situation made worse when Governments not play sincere role during catastrophic situation. Sometimes Governments spending money in the capital expenditures instead of poorest area where need it most.

War and violence are also some of the primary cause of poverty. Political violence and organized crime have affected 39 countries since 2000, poverty and violence may also feed themselves, mainly young people joined gangs and rebel groups, 60% of them said that poverty and unemployment was their main reason to involve unconstitutional activities. Lack of control in local resources high population density, corruption, lack of access to education, mental illness, national debt are also some reasons for poverty. Actually low level of income refers low level of savings, low level of savings reduces the scope of investment, low level of investment results low income and circle of poverty moves around indefinitely. Rural poverty is more serious matter than urban poverty. Rural poverty has multi dimensions. Some of them are as follows.

Adverse Climate conditions are significant cause of poverty for the people involved in agriculture and industrial production in India. The hot climate reduces work efficiency of Indians working in industries. Sometimes frequent flood, famine, earthquake and cyclone cause heavy damage of agriculture. Rapid growth of population aggravates the poverty of the people. The growth of population exceeds the rate of growth in national income. Population growth creates problem in the removal of poverty by the way of reducing per capita income. The growth of population results larger size of family and lower standard of living. Lack of motivation is also an important cause of rural poverty. In rural areas, A lot of people don't have any motive to work hard and earn their livelihood. Most of the rural people have secured food due to agrarian economy in India .that's why some of the rural people are lazy, dull and reluctant to work.

Poverty and income generation are highly correlated. There is a lack of industrialization in rural areas somewhere new factories setup were failed to compete in the terms of quality and price .Immobility of labor is also accountable for rural poverty. Rural laborers are not willing to leave their homes even if higher wages are offered. The rural people are mostly conservative, fatalistic, and illiterate. Unemployment is major factor for the reflection of poverty .Most of the unemployed and under employed workers are the small and marginal farmers and land less agricultural labors. Caste system in India is also responsible factor for rural poverty .The subordination of low caste people by higher cast's people caused the poverty of low caste people, because upper section of society exploits the weaker sections of society.

The joint family system is also responsible for poverty, because it provides free and secured food, clothing and shelter to its member's. That's why some people take undue advantage of it. They survive upon the income of others .Their routine of life became easier for them and burden for earning members. So that poverty aggravate through joint family system. The rural people spend too much of their earnings on social ceremonies like marriage, death feast etc. that's why they remain in debt and poverty. In rural areas most of the people depends upon borrowings from money lenders, landlords, and banks, to meet even their consumption expenses. Money lenders and land lord exploit the poor by charging higher rate of interest and by mortgaging land of non- payment of loans.

Cure of Poverty in India

Heavy population growth in India is one of the basic factors of Indian poverty. Indian population growth rate is nearly 1.8% per annum. Growth rate of population must be reduced and it must be stagnate up to next ten years. Unemployment is also a problem of poverty in India .Government may not provide job to entire population of the country. So some special measures must be taken to solve the problem of unemployment. Entrepreneurial growth may remove the poverty of India, because quick income generation is possible through industrialization and entrepreneurial growth. In states like Orissa, Nagaland, U.P., Bihar and other B.I.M.A.R.U. states, percentage of poverty is higher to the total population. Government must pay special attention to above states. They should be given special concession for investment in these regions.

Before the removal of poverty, it is necessary to remove hunger of people for any country. The governments of whole world must pay special attention to execute public distribution system (P.D.S.) for poor communities. The democratic and aristocratic, all types of Government must be accountable to fulfill minimum needs of poor such as housing, drinking water, Sanitary services, health centers and schools. It is fundamental right of the poor people to get job or work for increasing their income and

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productivity for the removal of poverty. The agriculture sector should be mechanized and modernized. The Government should facilitate technical and financial assistance to Small and marginal farmers for improving their yield.

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