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Poverty Mitigation Through Employment Programmes in India

Dr. Nandini
Guest Faculty Dept of Sociology
Gulbarga University, Kalaburagi.

Abstract:

The most heated and debated topic not only in India but in entire world is to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030. Poverty is a socio-economic incident and it is closely related with disparity. It adverse effects on human health, efficiency and output, which in turn effect an individual income. Due to poverty, it becomes close to impossible to fulfil even the bare requirements of life viz; food, clothing, shelter, education and health in deprive section of society. Poverty reduction has been an important goal of development policy since the inception of planning in India. Various antipoverty, employment generation and basic services programmes have been in operation for decades in India. The ongoing reforms attach great importance to removal of poverty, and addressing specifically the wide variations across States and the rural-urban divide. Anti-poverty strategy has three broad components: promotion of economic growth; promotion of human development; and targeted programmes of poverty alleviation to address multi-dimensional nature of poverty. The various programmes targeted at the poor have been streamlined and strengthened in recent years, including through the NREGS. Poverty is a multidimensional concept where, it is not only available in developing countries but also found in developed nations in the form of relative poverty. According to UNICEF about 805 million people worldwide do not have enough food to eat. According to estimates by the World Bank, in 2015, 10 percent of the world's population or 734 million people lived on less than $1.90 a day. Poverty is one of the curses to the Indian economy; more than two-thirds of its people live in poverty: 68.8% of the Indian population lives on less than $2 a day. If the poverty measures as per World Bank in the form of United States Dollars ($) increases from $2 a day to 10 $ a day then the situation will be very pathetic. Poverty is one of the evils behind backwardness in India. This research paper is all about the poverty and unemployment programs in India. We are proud to be the largest democracy in the world. For more than Seventy-five years we have witnessed the conduct of successful elections, peaceful changes of government at the Centre and in the States, people exercising freedom of expression, movement and religion. India has also been developing and transforming economically and socially. At the same time we, quite often, listen complains about prevalent inequalities, injustice or non-fulfillment of expectations of certain sections of the society. These people do not feel themselves participative in the democratic process we discussed in this paper about the poverty and it's challenges on our Democracy.

Key Words: Efficiency, Alleviation, Antipoverty, Employment.

INTRODUCTION:

Poverty is a multidimensional concept where, it is not only available in developing countries but also found in developed nations in the form of relative poverty. The World Bank is trying its level best „The world free from poverty" but in spite of taking various measures, millions of people are still living their life in poverty. The danger of poverty can be seen through the statistical numbers by UNDP report, when it indicates that more than 3 billion people live on less than $2.50 a day at the same time More than 1.3 billion live in extreme poverty with less than $1.25 a day. According to UNICEF more than 1 billion children in the entire world are living in poverty and about 22,000 children die each day due to poverty. At the same time about 805 million people worldwide do not have enough food to eat. It has been also reported by WHO and UNICEF joint report; More than 750 million people lack adequate access to clean drinking water. The disease like Diarrhea caused by inadequate drinking water, sanitation, and hand hygiene kills an estimated 842,000 people every year globally, or approximately 2,300 people per day. It is also fact that about 80% of the world population lives on less than $10 a day which is an alarming situation. Since independence India has faced lots of problems, poverty is one of them. And India is a country with diversity within diversity in a sense that it is large enough in size with different geographical diversity and population and has a multicultural, multilingual, multiregional society and also having different religions, sects, ideologies and a federal parliamentary "sovereign socialist secular democratic republic" with multiparty system and having constitutional supremacy. An experience of economic planning has narrated

economic growth and development of Indian economy based on less number of socio-economic problems and poverty is route cause behind that. Poverty refers to being unable to afford various basic needs like food, clothing, shelter, education, health; clean water etc. Poverty is a universal phenomenon, it is found in all the nations of the world in the form of absolute and relative types. Absolute poverty refers to the term where a person unable to satisfy even his basic necessities like food, clothing , shelter, education, health etc. It is available in all backward and developing nations of the world like India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, South Africa etc. whereas relative poverty is the state in which the comparison is made between two countries of the world as far as Per Capita Income (PCI), Life expectancy, Standard of Living etc is concerned. Relative poverty is not only available in the developing nations but also in the developed nations like U.S.A., Japan, U.K., Germany, France, Italy, Australia etc.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

For the present research on poverty and poverty alleviation programs in India, the researcher has gone through the number of reference books, Journals, annual reports, press notes, as well as various kinds of publications. To study the concept of poverty was a very herculious task. It would not have possible us to study it without the previous material on this topic.

Amartya Sen(1984) The Nobel Prize winner (1998) in Economics, stated about poverty that "It is obvious enough; One does not need elaborate criteria, cunning measurement, or probing analysis, to recognize same poverty and to understand its antecedents".

Dandekar and Rath (1971): These economists have received the most attention towards their study and reports. They defined poverty line in terms of nutritional intake that was put at 2250 Kilo calorie per capita per day. The income equivalent of this calorie norm was Rs.170 per capita per annum at 1960-61 prices. On the basis of this poverty line, the authors estimated that about one third of the rural population was poor in India. Dandekar, V.M. and Nilakantha Rath are concerned with the writing of the problem of poverty in India. It is a problem of low national income and its unequal distribution; of slow pace of development and inequitable distribution of the small gains of development.

Dandekar, V.M. and Nilakantha Rath In their study in 1971 concerned with the problem of poverty in India highlighted that poverty is problem of low national income and its unequal distribution; of slow pace of development and inequitable distribution of the small gains of development.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The present research has been based on certain objectives; following are the various objectives of the research.

1) To study about poverty and employment generation programs in India.

2) To evaluate the various schemes operated in India to uplift the poorer sections of the society.

3) To suggest various measures to alleviate poverty.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The research paper tries to discuss about poverty alleviation programmes in India with regard to sustainable development goals. Data have been collected from the secondary sources. It includes various sources such as published reports of NSSO, Asian Development Bank, World Bank Group, RBI report, SDG India Index Baseline report 2018 & MOSPI report and from websites of NITI Aayog, Planning Commission, several books and journals.

ANTI-POVERTY, EMPLOYMENT SERVICES PROGRAMMES:

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (Pmgsy):

Launched in December 2000 as a 100 per cent CSS, PMGSY aims to provide all-weather connectivity to all the eligible unconnected rural habitations. Bharat Nirman, envisages connectivity by 2009 to all the habitations with a population of 1000 or more in the plains, and of 500 or more in the hilly, desert and tribal areas. The systematic upgradation of the existing rural road network also is an integral component of the scheme, funded mainly from the accruals of diesel cess in the Central Road Fund, with support of the multilateral funding agencies and the domestic financial institutions. Up

to December 2005, with an expenditure of Rs.12,049 crore, a total length of 82,718 km. of road works had been completed.

Indira Awaas Yojana (Iay) :

IAY aims to provide dwelling units, free of cost, to the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and freed bonded labourers, and also the non-SC/ST BPL families in rural areas. It is funded on a cost sharing basis in the rates of 75.25 between the Centre and the States. Under IAY, the ceiling on construction assistance is Rs.25,000/- per unit in the plains and Rs.27,500/- for hilly/difficult areas; and Rs. 12,500/- on upgradation of unserviceable kutcha house to pucca/semi pucca house for all areas. Up to January 30, 2006, about 138 lakh houses had been constructed/upgraded with an expenditure of Rs.25,208 crore.

Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (Sgsy):

SGSY, launched in April, 1999 after restructuring the Integrated Rural Development Programme and allied schemes, is the only self-employment programme for the rural poor. The objective is to bring the selfemployed above the poverty line by providing them income-generating assets through bank credit and Government subsidy. Up to November 2005, the Centre and States, sharing the costs on 75:25 basis, had allocated Rs.8,067 crore, of which Rs. 6,980 crore had been utilized to assist 62.75 lakh self-employed.

Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (Sgry):

SGRY, launched on September 25, 2001 to provide additional wage employment in the rural areas, has a cash and food grains component, and the Centre bears 75 per cent and 100 per cent of the cost of the two with the balance borne by the States/UTs. In 2004-05, 82.23 crore persondays were generated with the Centre releasing Rs. 4,496 crore as cash component and about 50 lakh tonnes of foodgrains to the States/ UTs. Besides, under the special component of the SGRY, with the States/UTs meeting the cash components, Centre released 26 lakh tonnes of foodgrains to the 13 calamity affected States. In 2005-06 up to November, 2005, the number of persondays generated under SGRY was 48.75 crore, while the Centre‟s contributions in terms of the cash and foodgrains components up to January, 2006 were Rs. 4651 crore and 35 lakh tonnes, respectively. Under the special component, about 11.65 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been released to the 11 calamity-hit States in the current year.

National Food for Work Programme (Nffwp):

The NFFWP was launched as a CSS in November 2004 in the 150 most backward districts to generate additional supplementary wage employment with food security. States receive food grains under NFFWP free of cost. The focus of the programme is on works relating to water conservation, drought proofing (including aforestation /tree plantation), land development, flood-control/protection (including drainage in waterlogged areas), and rural connectivity in terms of all-weather roads. In 2004-05, allocation of Rs 2,020 crore and 20 lakh tonnes of foodgrains generated 7.85 crore persondays of employment. In 2005-06, of the allocation of Rs 4,500 crore and 15 lakh tonnes of food grains (Revised), Rs.2,219 crore and 11.58 lakh metric tonnes of foodgrains had been released up to January 27, 2006. About 17.03 lakh persondays were generated up to December 2005.

Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (Sjsry):

In December 1997, the Urban Self-Employment Programme (USEP) and the Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP), which are the two special components of the SJSRY, substituted for various programmes operated earlier for urban poverty alleviation. The SJSRY is funded on a 75:25 basis between the Centre and the States. In 2003-04, the central allocation of Rs. 94.50 crore plus Rs. 10.50 crore for North- Eastern Region including Sikkim was fully utilized. Even 2004-05 saw the release of the entire budgetary allocation of Rs. 122.00 crore. In 2005-06, out of an allocation of Rs. 160.00 crore, Rs. 84.52 crore had been utilized until November 30, 2005.

Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (Vambay):

VAMBAY, launched in December 2001, facilitates the construction and up-gradation of dwelling units for the slum dwellers, and provides a healthy and enabling urban environment through community toilets under Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan, a component of the Scheme. The Central Government provides a subsidy of 50 per cent, with the balance provided by the State Government. Since its inception and up-to December, 31 2005, Rs. 866.16 crore had been released as Central subsidy for the construction/upgradation of 4,11,478 dwelling units and 64,247 toilet seats under the Scheme. For 2005-06, out of the tentative Central allocation of Rs. 249 crore, up to December 31, 2005, an amount of Rs.96.4 crore had been released covering 60,335 dwelling units and 381 toilet seats.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA):

Gandhi wished for a future that was based on a swift return to the past. Because man is a social animal, he cannot imagine his life without being part of a society and this scheme came in to force on 2nd February 2006. Its entire purpose is to safeguard the interest of rural households by ensuring 100 days of wage employment in a financial year, whose grown-up members volunteer to do unskilled labour-intensive work. It also helps in improving the livelihood security of people. It was introduced with an aim of bridging the gap between rich and poor. It's crucial objective is to widen the purchasing power of rural people and it also ensures social & economic empowerment to women. According to government data, total availability of funds under NREGS has been Rs 58,403.69 crore According to an India Spend analysis, MNREGA will provide work to at least 52 million people. Under this scheme, total workers are 26.77 crore and amongst them only 12.01 crore are under the category of active workers. In 2017-18, nearby 4.7 lakh disabled workers were provided employment and thus generating 1.57 crore person days. And major institutional changes, decentralization measures, people's participation, women's representation and emerging approaches to local self-government.

Deendayal Antayodaya Yojana -National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAYNRLM):

It is a modernized description of Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) which was launched in 1999. In June 2011, it was renamed as National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) by the efforts of Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD). At last, they were merged into DDU-AY (replaces Aajeevika). By providing skill training to the poor, this scheme provides help to the poor. Its purpose is to make efficient and effective institutional platforms for the agricultural poor and enabling them to extend household income through sustainable livelihood enhancements & improved access to financial services. It was renamed in November 2015 as DAY-NRLM. Under DAY-NRLM, a replacement sub-scheme introduced by the GOI in 2017-18 which was entitled as "Aajeevika Gramin Express Yojana."

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban):

This scheme was initiated by Government of India on June 2015 and its primarily purpose is to provide reasonably priced houses to the urban poor by 31st March 2022 with a target of constructing 20 million affordable houses. Its focus is to provide house for all by 2022. Under these components, central assistance will be in the range of ₹ 1 lakh (US$1,400) to ₹ 2.30 lakh (US$3,300.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana:

After the failure of Swabhimaan (launched by Sonia Gandhi), this scheme came into existence by Prime Minister of India. It is considered as one of the biggest financial inclusion initiative, which was come into force on 28th August 2014 by Government of India. This scheme is eligible for the age group of 20-65 years & its purpose is to improve and make reasonable access to financial services such as bank accounts, remittances, credit, insurance and pensions & provide banking services to all households in India. Its helps to Empowerment concept makes clear the social, political and economic gap between men and women.

National Planning in Developing Countries

The developing countries adopted national planning on the achievement of independence. Some did so under intellectual or other influences from abroad. A few developing countries followed the model practised in centrally planned economies. Most pursued a mixed economy approach, adopting the models, concepts and techniques of market-based economies combined with a strong coordinating/directing role for government.

Roles of NGOs in Poverty Mitigation

Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) play an important role in reducing poverty in India. And NGOs are the ones who really intend to care the uncared sections and the people at the bottom of the social stratum. The achievements and success of NGOs in various fields and the excellent work done by them in specific areas is no doubt a tremendous task that has helped to meet the changing needs of the social system

CONCLUSION:

Despite of all government efforts and policies, still poverty remains widespread in India and the overall number of poor people is still growing which results into an obstacle for economic growth. Poverty leads to many problems like crime, low paced development and so on. The incidence of poverty affects the deprived sections of the society and forces them to live in a very pathetic situation which results into a many health problem. The land based-approach for rural development has failed mostly because of various difficulties associated with the procurement of surplus land and its distribution among the poor population. The dynamics of land, caste and local power structure was not favourable to land distribution. The assets-based programme IRDP, failed for various reasons, but mainly due to massive leakages and corruption. It also suffered from design effects. For example, under the IRDP, providing milch cattle to the poor household without ensuring that the households has a minimum amount of land and resources to rear the animal did not prove helpful. Public works-based employment programme has been found more efficacious; India has experimented with a series of them since 1980.

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