



Research Paper

Poverty's Impact on India's Education

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Abstract

Although education is a right, for many of India's children (where information is limited), it remains a faraway dream. It is apparent that simply passing laws is insufficient; other actions are required. If democracy is to succeed, education should be available to all. Many tribes and groups, such as impoverished castes and women, have historically been denied access to education. Devolution of authorities is critical for making education available to children. The essay correctly emphasises the effects of poverty on children's schooling. As a teacher, one is constantly reminded of the educational difficulties and disruptions that disadvantaged pupils face as a result of a lack of economic stability and social security. Working-class children's education will continue to be compromised until we have a powerful and widely available state welfare system. Cultural beliefs and expectations take a particularly heavy toll in all of this. The governing castes and classes' deliberate complicity is abundant, as their dominance is derived from sustaining economic and cultural status quo. As a result, the implications of all of these research for the development of successful anti-poverty programmes and a good education system in India are also highlighted in this study.

Keywords: Democracy, devolution, economic stability, poverty, and social security

I. INTRODUCTION

Education, along with food, shelter, and clothing, is one of the most basic needs in modern life. Every citizen in India has the right to live with dignity and honour under the Indian Constitution. The state has taken many steps to ensure this fundamental right. The universalization of obligatory and free primary education for all children of school age is prominent among them. Furthermore, the right to follow and disseminate one's own free will and religion. While the former (education) is a weapon for securing the right to live with dignity and honour, the latter (following and propagating one's own faith of one's own free will) is a necessary atmosphere in a multi-religious secular society like India. Education is a significant tool for reducing poverty and unemployment, boosting health and nutrition, and attaining long-term development. Primary education is recognised as a basic human right within the formal education system, and it is important for the development of both the person and the society. The importance of education cannot be overstated. Education serves as a catalyst for economic, social, cultural, and technical development in society. It is seen as the most essential means of improving human traits, overcoming obstacles, and providing greater opportunity for long-term well-being improvement. Education has been highlighted as one of the most important economic growth variables. It serves as both an indicator and a development tool. It boosts worker productivity in both urban and rural areas, and the economic return on education investment is often substantial. With a higher degree of education, economic output improves, poverty decreases, and the entire region develops, leading to the nation's overall development. Education has a social as well as an economic benefit. Education changes people's thinking, behaviour, and attitudes, raises awareness, and develops personalities for the country's progress and welfare.

There is little doubt that the mid-day meal initiative has increased school enrollment and retention. However, many children continue to be denied primary education for social and economic reasons such as child marriage and bonded work. Another barrier is the lack of amenities in government schools, particularly for girls. Although the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and the Rajiv Vidya Mission have contributed to infrastructure improvement, they have not gone far enough to meet the expectations of the underprivileged. Education should be rational and match societal demands.

OBJECTIVES

- ❖ As a result, the current study is an attempt to achieve the following goals:
- ❖ To get knowledge about education and poverty.
- ❖ To draw attention to the impact of poverty on children in India.
- ❖ To comprehend how poverty affects schooling.
- ❖ To discover the root causes of poverty in India.
- ❖ Poverty has an impact on education in India.
- ❖ To emphasise that education is the path out of poverty.
- ❖ To offer some perspectives on how to solve poverty.

POVERTY'S IMPACT ON INDIA'S CHILDREN

Poverty impacts a large number of people. However, the effects of poverty are perhaps most visible in children. And, with 1.21 billion people in India living in poverty, the children will undoubtedly bear the brunt of the consequences. Poverty not only has a negative impact on a child's growth and educational performance, but it also has a negative impact on a child's morals and sense of right and wrong, as they are denied access to the basic fundamental rights of children enshrined in the Indian Constitution. That being said, here are five bee stings of poverty that, according to Professor Charles Karelis of Colgate University, are certain to damage Indian children:

Child Growth and Development

Children living in poverty are more likely to become underweight and overweight, which is often related with food insecurity. This might have a significant impact on a child's confidence. Furthermore, evidence suggests that many of the consequences of poverty on children are frequently compounded by their families. Because of their inadequate education, they are less able to provide a responsive and engaging environment for their children. They prefer to restrict a child's linguistic environment by adopting a language dominated by directives rather than explanations and elaboration on what is good and evil. Most of the time, these directives are accompanied by unpleasant comments, which further demoralises the child. Furthermore, low-income parents prefer to utilise harsh parental methods based on parental control rather than reciprocal interaction approaches that foster emotional development.

Education

Home is where education begins. Indeed, many studies suggest that being read to a kid during the first few years of life aids in the development of phonemic and cognitive skills. Children from low-income households, on the other hand, are less likely to be read to, limiting their ability to develop properly. Furthermore, parents who have not acquired a thorough education tend to underestimate the value of education and are hesitant to "waste money" on schools. Even those children who do attend school face taunting and are frequently considered as outcasts because today's students do not tolerate anyone who is not from their social class.

Moral Principles

Malnutrition, mocking, and a lack of basic requirements may be frightening for any youngster, and can quickly become a turning point in their lives. Furthermore, because of peer pressure and a desire to obtain what others have, their primary goal in life would be financial success, regardless of the means. The outcome becomes more important to them than the path they choose. As a result, they are more likely to join our society's antisocial and illegal components. Furthermore, a youngster who has suffered the consequences of long-term poverty is bound to believe that it is vital to be in authority and have a decent position in order to command the respect of society. This leads to the use of unethical tactics to acquire the desired position and authority.

However, everything is not lost. India has been fighting poverty for nearly 60 years. And, with the support of new policies that aim to empower and raise knowledge about children's fundamental rights, as well as involvement and activities established by CRY - Child Rights and You, India's children are guaranteed to have a brighter future. We cannot, however, do this alone. As Indian citizens, you may support these children by giving or participating in our numerous programmes and workshops designed to raise awareness and assist these children. After all, youngsters are excellent mimics. So offer them something wonderful to mimic!

HOW POVERTY AFFECTS EDUCATION IN INDIA

Since its independence in 1947, India has been an urban-centered, industrialising nation with the world's third-largest economy in terms of purchasing power parity. Over the previous 25 years, India has been recognised for its substantial economic growth, which is predicted to continue in the 2017-2018 fiscal year at a rate of 7.2 percent. While India has achieved significant economic success, several shortcomings and limitations

continue to limit the country's full potential. For example, while India's poverty rate has declined in recent years, there is still significant opportunity for development. The World Bank defines extreme poverty as \$1.90 or less per day for 270 million Indians in 2016. Eighty percent of those living in these conditions lived in rural India, where casual employment is the primary source of income for the populace. While the economy appears to have expanded over the previous 25 years, the majority of growth has occurred in metropolitan areas where giant international businesses such as IBM and Microsoft maintain their software development headquarters. With this difference between urban and rural living, economic growth does not appear to address the issue of extreme poverty as a neoliberal economist would imply. According to a 2002 study, these conditions in India are caused in part by educational poverty, which is defined as a lack of basic education and literacy. Only 6% of poor households' money is invested in education and health, while the majority is spent on basic needs like food and fuel.

Tsujita, an Institute of Developing Economies researcher, believes that "there may be a chance of escaping poverty through education." The Indian government appears to agree with this statement, as the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) project was promoted as part of their flagship programme. SSA was an Indian project that began in 2002 with the goal of enrolling all children aged 6 to 14 in primary school by 2010. The project intended to accomplish this by enhancing school buildings and infrastructure while also broadening access to these institutions across the country. As a result, by 2009, 98 percent of children were only one km away from educational institutions, and only 2.7 million were absent.

The World Bank feels that education is a powerful tool for poverty reduction, with the extreme poverty rate in India falling from 53.86 percent in 1983 to 21.23 percent in 2011. While reductions in India's extreme poverty rate during the last 20 years are not primarily due to educational advances, investment in improving basic education has had a substantial impact on India's poverty rate.

Although India's literacy and education rates remain low on a worldwide scale, the SSA's recent accomplishments are significantly bigger than those previously accomplished, as the programme was implemented in all of India's districts. However, more work remains to be done. According to a recent poll, half of India's government schools have minimal teaching activity and low pupil progression rates. Quality education must be fostered in order for the country to truly overcome extreme poverty.

INDIA'S POVERTY CAUSES

There are numerous factors that contribute to the country's continuous poverty problem, and they must be identified in order to be appropriately addressed. They are classified under the following headings.

Demographic

From a demographic standpoint, the key issue contributing to the country's poverty-ridden situation is the problem of overpopulation. The country's population expansion has greatly outpaced economic growth, with the net result that poverty levels have remained relatively stable. The size of families is larger in rural areas, which results in lower per capita income values and, as a result, a lower standard of life. A surge in population growth leads to increased unemployment, which dilutes wages for jobs, further lowering income.

Economic

There are a number of economic causes for the perpetuation of poverty problems, which are mentioned below: Agriculture is the backbone of the Indian economy, hence poor agricultural infrastructure is a major concern. However, antiquated farming practises, a lack of sufficient irrigation infrastructure, and even a lack of professional crop handling knowledge have all had a significant impact on output in this industry. As a result, there is redundancy and, in some cases, a complete lack of work, resulting in lower earnings that are insufficient to fulfil the daily necessities of a laborer's family, plunging them into poverty.

Uneven asset distribution - As the economy shifts, the earning structure evolves differently in different economic income groups. Earnings rise quicker in the upper and medium income categories than in the lower income groups. Also, assets such as land, cattle, and real estate are allocated disproportionately among the population, with certain people possessing a larger part than other segments of society, and the proceeds from these assets are also dispersed unequally. In India, it is said that only 20% of the population controls 80% of the country's wealth.

Unemployment - The rising unemployment rate is another key economic element that contributes to poverty in the country. In India, unemployment is rampant, and 77% of families do not have a regular source of income, according to 2015 survey statistics.

Inflation and Price Increases - Inflation is defined as an increase in commodity prices that coincides with a decrease in the purchasing power of money. As a result of inflation, the effective price of food, clothing, and real estate rises. Salaries and earnings do not rise as much to keep up with higher commodity prices, resulting in an effective fall in per capita income.

Faulty economic liberalisation - The Indian government's LPG (Liberalization-Privatization-Globalization) efforts, which began in 1991, were aimed at making the economy more adaptable to international market trends in order to attract foreign investment. While economic reforms were successful in recovering the economy to some extent, they had a negative impact on increasing the wealth distribution scenario. The rich got richer, while the poor got poorer.

Social

The following are the major socioeconomic challenges facing the country that contribute to poverty:

Education and illiteracy - A vicious cycle of education, or lack thereof, and poverty plagued the nation. Due to a lack of money to feed their children, the poor regard schooling as frivolous, preferring youngsters to begin contributing to the family's revenue rather than draining it. Individuals who lack education and illiteracy, on the other hand, are unable to obtain better-paying positions and are forced to work for minimum wage. The improvement of one's quality of life is hampered, and the cycle begins again.

Outdated Social Customs - Social customs such as the caste system segregate and marginalise some segments of society. Certain castes are still deemed untouchables and are not employed by upper castes, leaving them with particularly specific and low-paying vocations. "The caste system acted as a springboard for class exploitation, with the result that the counterpart of the poverty of the many is the opulence of the few," wrote economist K. V. Verghese. The first is the result of the second."

Lack of skilled workforce - a lack of proper vocational training renders India's massive labour force primarily unskilled, making it unsuitable for providing optimum economic value. Lack of education, particularly higher education, is also a factor in this.

Gender inequality--the low status of women, deep-rooted social marginalisation, and long-held ideas of domesticity--makes around half of the country's population unable to work. As a result, the women of the family add to the number of dependents who must be fed rather than being able to contribute significantly to the family income, which could alleviate the family's economic status.

Corruption - Despite significant government efforts in the shape of numerous projects to alleviate poverty, apparently only 30-35% really reaches the beneficiaries due to widespread corruption in the country. Wealthy people with privileged connections can obtain additional wealth simply by bribing government officials to maximise their earnings from such schemes, while the poor are neglected because they lack such ties.

Individual

Individual inaction also adds to poverty generation. Some people are hesitant to work hard or even to work at all, leaving their families in the grip of poverty. Personal demons such as drinking and gambling drain the family income, causing poverty.

Political

In India, socioeconomic reform methods have been mostly led by political interest and are executed to serve a select segment of population that has the power to influence elections. As a result, the problem is not addressed completely, leaving room for improvement.

Climatic

The majority of India enjoys a tropical environment all year, which is unsuitable for hard manual employment, resulting in lower productivity and lower earnings.

POVERTY'S IMPACT

Poverty has a profound effect on numerous strata of an Indian citizen's life. If we try to look at them in a methodical manner, we should do so under the three headings listed below:

Effect on Health - One of the most severe effects of poverty is on the nation's general health. Malnutrition is the most visible health condition caused by poverty. Malnutrition is a problem that affects people of all ages in the country, but children suffer the most. Larger families with little finances struggle to provide adequate food for their children. These children have severe health problems over time, such as low body weight, mental and physical deficiencies, and a general lack of immunity, making them prone to illnesses. Children from low-income families are twice as likely to suffer from anaemia, vitamin deficits, poor vision, and even cardiac difficulties. Malnutrition is a major cause of infant mortality in India, with 38 out of every 1,000 babies dying before their first birthday. Adult malnutrition also leads to poor health, which reduces their capacity for manual labour, resulting in a drop in income owing to weakness and infections. Poverty also has a negative impact on hygienic practises among the poor, who cannot afford proper restrooms and disinfectants. As a result, the impoverished are more vulnerable to waterborne infections. Lack of access to the resources to obtain adequate treatment also has an impact on general population mortality, which is lower in poor countries than in industrialised ones such as the United States.

Effects on Society - Poverty has serious consequences on the general health of society. These can be considered in the following ways:

The incidence of violence and crime has been proven to be spatially coincidental. In the face of unemployment and marginalisation, the poor turn to illegal activity to make ends meet. A poverty-stricken society is more vulnerable to violence by its people against its own people as a result of deep-seated discontent and resentment, especially when combined with a lack of education and a properly formed moral conscience.

Homelessness - in addition to a significant decrease in the country's aesthetic portrayal, homelessness has an impact on child health, women's safety, and an overall increase in criminal tendencies.

Stress - a lack of money is a major source of stress among the middle and lower classes, leading to a decrease in individual productivity.

Child labour - one of the features of a poor society is widespread exploitation, the worst of which takes the form of child labour. Large families are unable to meet the financial needs of their members, and children as young as five years old are forced to begin working in order to contribute to the family revenue.

Terrorism - young predisposition for terrorism arises from a mix of acute poverty and a lack of education, making them vulnerable to brainwashing. Terrorist organisations offer money to impoverished families in exchange for a member's participation in their operations, which gives the youth a sense of success.

Effect on Economy -Poverty is a direct indicator of a country's economic success. The amount of people living in poverty reflects if the economy is robust enough to produce appropriate jobs and services for its citizens. Subsidies for the impoverished in the country are yet another strain on the economy.

EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO OVERCOMING POVERTY.

Round table India, a social organisation, focuses on poverty, health, sanitation, and the need for education. Education is the key to escaping poverty. Throughout my career, I have had the firm view that education is the ultimate equaliser and the surest path out of poverty. Nonetheless, our educational system continues to disappoint students whose skills extend beyond the traditional academic sphere. Some examples of eradicating poverty through education are provided below.

Cultural Sensitivity

Today's one-size-fits-all system is woefully inadequate in terms of cultural responsiveness. The educational system is damaging urban education by creating a classroom environment that is more focused on passing tests than acquiring real-world skills. Instead, schools would provide a diverse curriculum that catered to pupils with many interests, including those whose needs were not satisfied by a typical academic programme. To begin, we must strive to incorporate broader character development into the curriculum by including entrepreneurial and leadership abilities into day-to-day learning. This would not necessitate a large redesign of current practises, nor would it necessitate extra materials. Math may be taught through practical accounting classes, and English can be studied by analysing CEO and world leader speeches.

Prepare Students for Real-Life Situations

Students' extracurricular activities should be expanded to include business groups and internship programmes staffed by community volunteers. If instructors are willing to incorporate these practical factors into the curriculum, students of the future will have a much better chance of developing profitable enterprises capable of competing worldwide in an era of hyper-connectivity. Jumping through scholastic hoops of one exam after another is not the mark of a successful education; rather, students should leave school with the lifelong skills needed to thrive in the real world. For decades, we have failed urban and rural schools in this regard, with disastrous repercussions. If we are to improve our schools, combat inequality, and position young Americans at the vanguard of the global economic world, we must first ensure that all students receive a practical and forward-thinking education.

SOLUTIONS TO THESE ISSUES

The following are the steps that should be implemented to combat the monster of poverty in India:

- Population growth at the current rate should be slowed by enacting legislation and raising awareness about birth control.
- All efforts should be taken to improve job opportunities in the country, whether through increased foreign investment or self-employment schemes.
- Measures should be taken to bridge the enormous disparity in wealth distribution across different levels of society.
- Certain Indian states, such as Odisha and the North Eastern states, are more impoverished than others. The government should try to stimulate investment in these states by granting specific tax breaks.
- People's basic requirements for a good quality of life, such as food and clean drinking water, should be more easily accessible. Subsidy rates on commodities and the public distribution system should be improved. The government should give free high school education and a greater number of operational health clinics.

SOME OTHER SOLUTIONS TO THIS PROBLEM -

Food security at the macro level is still influenced by the interplay of factors impacting food production, food availability, food prices, food subsidies, food aid, and food research. This will necessitate special macro-level steps to increase the state's and people's capacity to produce and acquire food.

Access to Resources: Access to existing productive resources such as land, forest, and water resources is required to boost rural poor production, employment, and income. People's access to gainful employment requires additional measures such as land reform and development, training and skill enhancement.

Special Nutrition Programme Participation

Basic services and a healthy environment are both available.

Poverty is more than just a matter of food security; it is a multifaceted issue that includes limited access to fundamental possibilities in education, health, water supply, and sanitation.

- Population Education is available.
- Legal and constitutional rights are accessible.

II. CONCLUSION

Taking the required efforts to enhance these countries' health and education sectors is thus an excellent strategy to eliminate poverty. So, first and foremost, we should increase the number of organisations fighting to eliminate poverty by educating people in rich countries to be organised and to take action on this issue. Encouraging people who have volunteered to provide facilities such as clean water, nutritious foods, and living spaces to poor people, as well as those who are conducting charity services to improve their lives, by offering special rewards and admiring them in various ways, would be a good way to increase the number of voluntary workers. So I hope my thoughts and proposals will be useful in bringing poverty to an end. The Government of India and state governments have been executing numerous projects to eradicate poverty in India (for example, the IRDP, JRY-Jawahar Rozgar Yojna, which was begun on April 1, 1989). While the goals of these projects are admirable, they are predicated on the assumption that spending money is a necessary and sufficient condition for poverty eradication. This idea underpins the role of non-monetary policies and their impact on people's lives. Many grassroots workers have found that some government policies frequently harm the poor far more than they benefit from money-oriented schemes like the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP).

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