

Q.4. Major reasons for poverty in India.

There were a number of causes for the widespread poverty in India. One historical reason is the low level of economic development under the British colonial administration.

The low rate of growth persisted until the nineteen-eighties. This resulted in fewer job opportunities and a low growth rate of incomes. This was accompanied by a high growth rate of population. The two combined to make the growth rate of per capita income very low. Another feature of high poverty rates has been the huge income inequalities.

One of the major reasons for this is the unequal distribution of land and other resources. Despite many policies, we have not been able to tackle the issue in a meaningful manner.

7. The current anti-poverty strategy of the government is based broadly on 2 planks

- promotion of economic growth
- targeted anti-poverty programs

8. Many scholars advocate that we must broaden the concept of poverty into human poverty. A large no of people may have been able to feed themselves but they do not have education or shelter or health care or job security or self confidence

They are not free from caste and gender discrimination. Practice of child labour is still common.

9. Removal of poverty is one of the major objectives of Indian developmental strategy of poverty alleviation is based on 2 planks

1. Promotion of Economic Growth
2. Targeted Anti-poverty Programmes

Some of the targeted anti-poverty programmes undertaken by the govt are:

1. Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojna (PMRY)
This programme was started in 1993. It aims at creating self-employment opportunities for educated unemployed youth in rural areas and small towns

Rural Employment Generation Programme

2. ~~Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY)~~

This programme was launched in 1995. It aims at creating self-employment opportunities in rural areas and urban Towns.

3. Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY)

This programme was launched in 2000. It aims at creating and improving basic services like primary health, primary education, rural shelter, rural drinking water and rural electrification.

4. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

This act was passed in Sept. 2005. The act provides 100 days assured employment every year to every rural household in 200 districts. Later the scheme would be extended to 600 districts. One third of the proposed jobs have been reserved for women.