

India's Chronic Religion: "POVERTISM"

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Abstract

Although there is no unanimity about the definition of poverty it can be defined in terms of deprivation of certain basic necessities of life but beyond that there is no unanimity as to what constitutes poverty. Poverty should be conceived in terms of human needs which are considered essential by the society & are capable of being measured objectively. A person may then be regarded as poor, if he is not in a position to meet out their needs. In measurement, it involves stipulation of a minimum level of per capita consumer expenditure which is adequate for purchasing the goods & services needed for the purpose. The concept of poverty which implies non fulfillment of the needs considered essential for the human being is known as absolute poverty. This Paper tries to find out the major reasons of poverty prevailing in India. Our objective is also to lay down some logical solutions.

Objectives

1. To identify the hidden & untold effects of Poverty in India.
2. To study the impact of Absolute Poverty over Indian Society.
3. To give logical suggestions in context of eradicating poverty.

Introduction

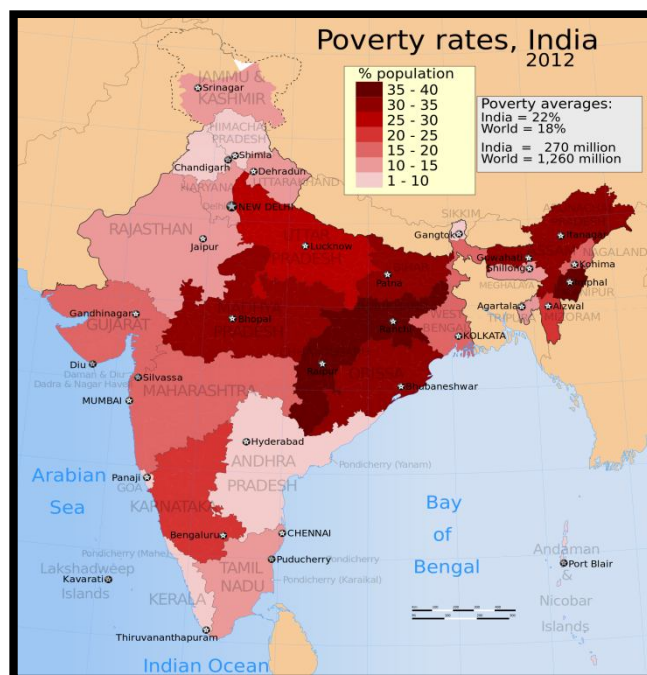
"India Is A Rich Country Of Poor Inhabitants"

Poverty is something which cannot be made understand with a universal definition. That won't be hyperbolic to say that poverty is subject to change as per Cast, Creed, Colour, Religion, Sex, Linguistic, Region etc. changes. Especially when we talk about India, it's a nation of diversity. Hence it becomes much more complicated to set a correct benchmark for India.

Since after the independence [&even before it] we are juggling from the statistics of poverty. Poverty line keeps on shifting upward & downward. India has witnessed an era [at the time of 8th Five year plan] when our current president Mr. Pranab Mukherjee was the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission Of India [1991-96] , he acted as a charming illusionist , he brought down poverty in one shot from 37% to 19%. That was nothing but the process to sweep poor's under the carpet.

I personally understand Poverty is the game of the Rich People, Rich Organizations, Rich Nations & Rich Governments. Rich are Rich until there are poors. So if we want to achieve the dream of an Egalitarian Society, so before we break the walls of Religion, Cast & Gender Inequality inundate the gap between Rich & Poor.

India is a country where millions of people sleeps empty stomach at night. Where children die through malnutrition. Where women's jump into prostitution to feed their family. Where a 10 year old boy had to wash the dishes at a road side dhaba. Where people loose their everything to pay the heavy medical bills. Where the houses & farms are mortgage in the decades long judicial hearings. Where people lavishly spends on Ruffels Lays potato chips but argues with the vegetable vendor. India is a country where food grains rots in the government godowns but is not been distributed to the poors. Where corporates are given heavy rebates & government keeps on withdrawing the subsidies. Where the so called Rich Class & Middle Class of the nation cheers for the cricket World Cup & more than half of the country's population struggles hard to earn their daily bread & butter. A country where poors sends his child to school in attraction of the Mid Day Meal & a Milliners son gets the admission from Management Quota in a 7 Star luxury international school. Where the Economic Wealth of 56 People is equal to the Economic Wealth of 600 Million People. Where the Economic reforms of 1991reformed the life of corporates & middle class but turned out to be a curse for labours & peasants. Where Mr. Mukesh Ambani has his multistory skyscraper house scattered in 20000 sq/ft in the Heart of the commercial capital Mumbai & the Asia's biggest slum Dharavi is also in the same city as the black reality patch on the glittering corporate life of Mumbai.



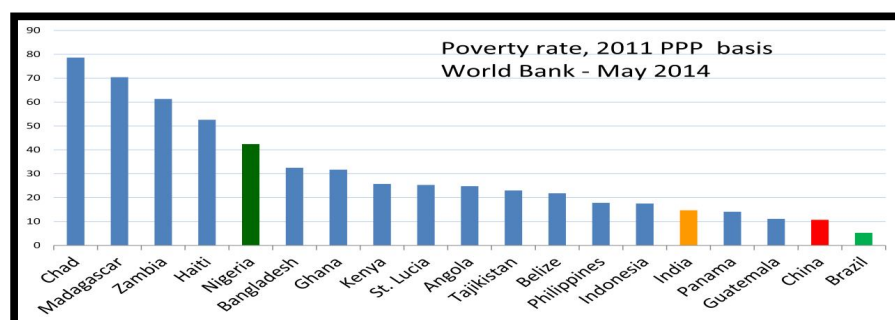
Research Methodology

This Research is based on the secondary data. The source of the secondary data has been Articles, Previous Research Papers, Government Websites, Books, Publications of Indian Economics, National Sample Survey Reports etc.

Updated Information from various secondary sources has been collected & used in this Paper.

Government Policies/Strategies

1. Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana- 1993
2. Rural Employment Generation Programme- 1995
3. National Social Assistance Programme- 1995-96
4. Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana- 1997
5. Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana- 1999
6. Indira Awaas Yajana 1985
7. Antyodaya Anna Yojana – 2000
8. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana- 2000
9. Annpurna Yojana- 2000
10. Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana-2000-01
11. Valmiki Ambedkar awas Yojana- 2001
12. National Food for Work Programme – 2004
13. National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme- 2-Feb-2006
14. Poverty Alleviation Programme in 10th Plan
15. Mahama Gandhi Natioanl Rural Employment Guarantee Act – 2005
16. Mid-Day Meals Scheme – 2004
17. Poverty Alleviation Programmes in 11th Plan
18. Integrated Child Development Service – 1975
19. Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme – 2008
20. National Rural Livelihood Mission- 2011
21. National Heritage Development and Augmentation Yojana- 2015
22. Sukanya Samridhi Yojana -2015
23. Saksham or Rajiv Gandhi scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Boys -2014
24. Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana – 2010
25. Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyof Yojana – 2010
26. Bachat Lamp Yojana – 2009
27. Rashtriya Sasthya Bima Yojana – 2008
28. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yajana – 2007



Under Talked Causes & Effects Of Poverty

1. Population Explosion

Indian population is growing in an uncontrollable speed. [Current Population Of India is 1269885000]. High population figures give boost to poverty. As the Population Control & Family Planning Committee Of India says & I quote “Family Planning is not a medical problem but it’s a social & psychological problem”. We stand 2nd in the world when it comes to population. We look in strategy to convert so much of humans into human resource. In India Poverty & Population goes hand in hand.

Population distribution in India by states													
Rank	State / Union Territory	Type	Population	% ⁽²⁴⁾	Area (km) ²⁽²⁵⁾	Density (per km) ²	Males	Females	Sex Ratio ⁽²⁶⁾	Literacy	Rural Population ⁽²⁷⁾	Urban Population ⁽²⁸⁾	
1	Uttar Pradesh	State	199,812,941	16.50	240,028	828	104,480,510	95,331,831	912	67.85	131,655,339	68,157,602	34,539,582
2	Maharashtra	State	121,455,333	9.28	307,713	395	55,243,056	64,131,277	929	82.34	55,777,647	41,100,980	41,100,980
3	Bihar	State	103,804,637	8.60	94,183	1,102	54,278,157	49,621,295	918	61.80	74,316,700	8,891,800	8,891,800
4	West Bengal	State	91,270,115	7.54	88,752	1,030	46,806,027	44,467,088	950	78.28	57,748,645	22,427,251	22,427,251
5	Madhya Pradesh	State	72,828,809	6.00	308,245	236	37,612,308	35,014,503	931	69.32	44,380,878	15,987,145	15,987,145
6	Tamil Nadu	State	72,147,030	5.99	130,058	555	36,137,975	36,009,055	998	80.09	34,621,061	27,483,998	27,483,998
7	Rajasthan	State	68,548,437	5.68	342,239	201	35,500,997	32,997,440	928	66.11	43,292,813	13,214,375	13,214,375
8	Karnataka	State	61,095,297	5.05	191,791	319	30,998,057	30,128,640	973	75.38	34,899,033	17,991,529	17,991,529
9	Gujarat	State	60,439,092	4.99	196,024	308	31,461,260	28,948,432	919	78.03	31,740,767	18,930,250	18,930,250
10	Andhra Pradesh	State	49,388,799	4.08	160,200	308	24,738,088	24,648,731	995	67.41	34,776,389	14,610,410	14,610,410
11	Odisha	State	41,974,218	3.47	155,707	269	21,212,138	20,762,082	979	72.87	31,287,422	5,517,238	5,517,238
12	Telangana	State	35,193,978	2.9	114,845	308	42,442,148	42,138,831	990	66.83	20,624,678	6,198,530	6,198,530
13	Kerala	State	33,400,061	2.76	38,863	859	16,027,412	17,378,649	1084	95.50	23,574,446	8,286,925	8,286,925
14	Jharkhand	State	32,988,134	2.72	79,714	414	16,930,315	16,057,819	948	66.41	20,652,088	5,993,741	5,993,741
15	Assam	State	31,205,576	2.58	78,438	397	15,936,443	15,268,133	958	72.19	23,210,288	3,439,240	3,439,240
16	Punjab	State	27,743,338	2.29	50,362	550	14,636,455	13,103,873	895	75.84	16,096,488	8,282,511	8,282,511
17	Chhattisgarh	State	25,545,198	2.11	135,191	189	12,832,895	12,712,303	991	70.28	16,048,058	4,185,747	4,185,747
18	Haryana	State	25,351,462	2.09	44,212	573	13,494,734	11,856,728	879	75.55	15,029,280	6,115,304	6,115,304
19	Delhi	UT	16,787,641	1.39	1484	11297	8,987,328	7,800,615	888	86.21	944,727	12,905,780	12,905,780
20	Jammu and Kashmir	State	12,641,302	1.04	222,236	56	6,640,862	5,900,640	889	67.16	7,627,062	2,510,638	2,510,638
21	Uttarakhand	State	10,986,292	0.83	53,483	189	5,137,773	4,948,519	963	78.82	6,310,275	2,179,674	2,179,674
22	Himachal Pradesh	State	6,884,602	0.57	55,873	123	3,481,879	3,382,729	972	82.80	5,482,319	965,581	965,581
23	Tripura	State	3,673,617	0.30	10,488	350	1,874,376	1,799,541	980	64.05	2,653,453	545,750	545,750
24	Meghalaya	State	2,999,899	0.25	22,429	132	1,491,832	1,475,097	989	74.43	1,894,711	454,111	454,111
25	Manipur	State	2,856,704	0.23	22,327	122	1,295,171	1,200,219	992	75.21	1,990,820	578,985	578,985
26	Nagaland	State	1,978,602	0.16	16,579	119	1,024,849	953,853	931	78.55	1,647,240	342,787	342,787
27	Goa	State	1,458,545	0.12	3,702	394	739,140	719,405	973	85.70	677,991	877,577	877,577
28	Andhra Pradesh	State	1,383,727	0.11	83,743	17	713,912	669,815	938	85.39	107,087	227,881	227,881
29	Pondicherry	UT	1,247,953	0.10	479	2,598	612,511	635,442	1037	85.85	326,728	648,819	648,819
30	Mizoram	State	1,097,206	0.09	21,081	52	555,339	541,867	976	91.33	447,567	441,095	441,095
31	Chandigarh	UT	1,055,450	0.09	114	9,252	580,863	474,787	818	86.05	92,120	808,515	808,515
32	Sikkim	State	610,577	0.05	7,098	85	323,070	287,507	990	81.42	440,881	59,870	59,870
33	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	UT	380,561	0.03	8,249	46	202,871	177,710	876	85.83	239,654	118,195	118,195
34	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	UT	343,709	0.03	491	698	193,760	149,949	774	76.24	170,027	50,483	50,483
35	Daman and Diu	UT	243,247	0.02	112	2,189	150,301	92,948	818	87.10	100,858	57,348	57,348
36	Lakshadweep	UT	64,473	0.01	32	2,013	33,123	31,350	948	91.85	33,683	28,987	28,987
TOTAL	India	29 + 7	1,210,726,932	100	3,287,240	382	623,724,248	586,469,174	940	74.04	833,087,662	377,105,760	377,105,760

2. Expensive Medical Facilities

India is a land of illness & diseases. Masses doesn't have their entry into well settled private hospitals reason being they are extremely expensive. First encounter of them is with the government civil hospitals. Undoubtedly civil hospitals are very cheap in comparison to private hospitals but on the other hand they are always flooded with the patients, Lacks from the basic facilities, Provides poor services, Suffers from the deficiencies of medicines, Uses the old & outdated equipment & the major problem suffered is the lack of professionalism & corruption made by the Doctors & Hospital staff. Because of these reasons people switch from Government to Private Hospitals. In this Medical becomes Marathon & continues for years. Cost incurred in this medical journey becomes high. People who were economically shattered, drowns in loan & even has to sell their property in order to treat the sickness. In this whole process normal curable diseases becomes chronic incurable disease & also enhances the poverty.

3. Implex Judicial Process

India is a democratic country. It runs over laws, lots of laws. Indian Constitution was enforced from 26th January, 1950. Indian constitution has a Preamble, divided into 25

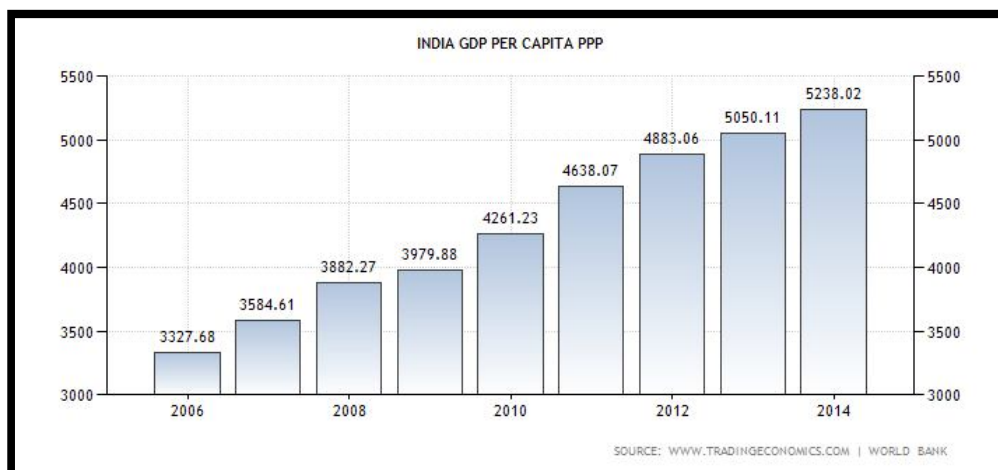
parts, has 448 articles, along with 12 schedules, plus 5 appendices, & 98 amendments till date. The uppermost judicial body in India is Supreme Court of India, there are 24 High Courts in India & 351 District Courts. Indian legal system is very complex, time taking, difficult, expensive & biased. A survey says that more than 3 crore court cases are pending in India, 61,300 cases are pending alone in Supreme Court of India, what to say about the High Courts, District Courts & Lower Courts which are scattered all over the country. This whole complexity of the judicial process makes it expensive & long. People go under debt in order to gain justice. As William Ewart Gladstone said & I quote that "Justice Delayed is Justice Denied".

4. Illegal Migration

India shares borders with 8 neighboring countries. People from poor countries like Bhutan, Pakistan, Burma, Nepal & Sri Lanka illegally migrate to India with expectation of better standard of living. Every year millions of people migrate which increases the Indian Population & also the poverty. India has witnessed the sequential riots in Assam state, between the native Assamese & Bangladeshis which further turned up into communal riots. In such riots we witness poor killing poor. Illegal migration acts as a behind the veil cause in increasing poverty.

5. Unequal Distribution Of Resources/Wealth

Indian constitution states that every citizen will have equal right over all the resources of the nation. & it's the responsibility of the state to make sure the equal & fair distribution. In India we can see that the distribution is not fair & it never was. & that is a reason why we have some handful examples such as Mr. Mukesh Ambani whose net worth is 20 Billion US \$ & on the other hand per capita monthly income of a layman Indian is Rs. 7,379/- An unofficial rational survey says that 100 families of India own 90% of the wealth.



6. Casteism - An Art Of Exclusion

As Dr. B.R. Ambedkar once said & I quote that "Hinduism is like a multistory building, which has no doors & stairs, person born in which so ever story has to remain there

for the whole life". This whole system is known as Casteism, somewhere or the other it started with the philosophy of Division of Labour & it ended up with the Division of Labourer. More than 80% of the total population has his faith in Hindu religion. More than 40% of the total population is outcasted & treated as untouchable. This segment of the society is exploited from thousands of years. They have nil availability to the resources & that's a reason that they are the economically weakest link of our society. This social evil has gravely increased the problem of poverty.

Distribution of Population of each Religion by Caste Categories				
Religion/Caste ⇄	SCs ⇄	STs ⇄	OBCs ⇄	Forward Caste/Others ⇄
Hinduism	22.2%	9%	42.8%	26%
Islam	0.8%	0.5%	39.2%	59.5%
Christianity	9.0%	32.8%	24.8%	33.3%
Sikhism	30.7%	0.9%	22.4%	46.1%
Jainism	0.0%	2.6%	3.0%	94.3%
Buddhism	89.5%	7.4%	0.4%	2.7%
Zoroastrianism	0.0%	15.9%	13.7%	70.4%
Others	2.6%	82.5%	6.25	8.7%
Total	19.7%	8.5%	41.1%	30.8%

7. Unleashed Capitalism

Its an era where the world is squeezing into 2 classes; Buyers & Sellers. There is nothing that money can not buy today. In the year 1991-92 India opened 2 kinds of gates; 1st gate was of the 15th century old mosque Babri Masjid [which was soon demolished to dirt]. & 2nd gate was the open & free market for the western countries. Bothe the events have their historical importance. We were made believe that Liberalization, Privatization & Globalization is the key to development & poverty eradication. After 24 years of LPG Model we can see that not only western countries but every capitalist country is in a business deal with India. If we have glittering cities such as Delhi, Noida, Chennai, Lucknow, Gurgaon, Banglaru, Kolkata & Mumbai simultaneously we have areas of Chattisghar, Jharkhand, Bihar, Assam, Manipur, Kashmir which are like the black patch on the fake development of India. With prime intension to earn profit capitalist have parallel increased the poverty. People are being thrown out of their land in the name of development & this whole phenomenon increases the absolute poverty.

8. Blurred Transparent Causes

There are many reasons which are there right infront of our eyes but we hardly noticed them. Such reasons could lie under the category of Social-Economical-Political-Cultural-Linguistic-Religious-Castist-Regional-Historical-Geographical-Stratigical Reasons.

State or Union Territory (Hides)	No. of Persons (Thousands) Rural	% of Persons (Rural) below poverty line	Poverty line (Rs) (Rural)	No. of Persons (Thousands) Urban	% of Persons (Urban) below poverty line	Poverty line (Rs) (Urban)	No. of Persons (Thousands) Combined	% of Persons (Combined) below poverty line
Andhra Pradesh	6180	10.08	860.00	1698	5.81	1009.00	7878	9.20
Arunachal Pradesh	425	38.93	930.00	66	20.33	1080.00	491	34.87
Assam	9206	33.89	828.00	921	20.49	1008.00	10127	31.98
Bihar	32040	34.08	778.00	3775	31.23	923.00	35815	33.74
Chhattisgarh	8860	44.61	738.00	1622	24.75	846.00	10411	36.93
Goa	37	6.81	1090.00	38	4.09	1134.00	75	5.09
Gujarat	7535	21.50	932.00	2888	10.14	1152.00	10223	16.83
Haryana	1942	11.64	1015.00	941	10.28	1169.00	2883	11.16
Himachal Pradesh	829	8.48	913.00	30	4.33	1094.00	559	8.06
Jammu & Kashmir	1073	11.54	891.00	253	7.20	988.00	1327	10.35
Jharkhand	10409	40.84	748.00	2024	24.83	974.00	12433	36.98
Karnataka	9280	24.83	902.00	3996	15.25	1099.00	12276	20.91
Kerala	1548	9.14	1018.00	848	4.97	987.00	2396	7.05
Madhya Pradesh	19095	35.74	771.00	4310	21.00	997.00	23405	31.85
Maharashtra	15056	24.22	987.00	4738	9.12	1128.00	19792	17.35
Manipur	745	38.80	1118.00	278	32.59	1170.00	1022	38.89
Meghalaya	304	12.53	888.00	87	9.28	1154.00	391	11.87
Mizoram	191	35.43	1086.00	37	6.36	1155.00	227	20.40
Nagaland	278	19.63	1270.00	100	16.48	1302.00	378	18.88
Odisha	12614	35.89	865.00	1239	17.29	961.00	13853	32.59
Punjab	1335	7.88	1054.00	682	9.24	1155.00	2318	8.28
Rajasthan	8419	16.05	905.00	1873	10.89	1002.00	10292	14.72
Sikkim	45	9.85	930.00	6	3.86	1226.00	51	8.19
Tamil Nadu	9623	15.83	880.00	2340	6.54	937.00	8283	11.28
Tripura	449	16.53	798.00	75	7.42	920.00	524	14.05
Uttar Pradesh	47935	30.40	788.00	11884	26.08	941.00	59819	29.43
Uttarakhand	825	11.82	880.00	335	10.48	1082.00	1160	11.28
West Bengal	14114	22.82	783.00	4383	14.86	981.00	18498	19.89
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	4	1.57	-	0	0.00	-	4	1.00
Chandigarh	0	1.94	-	234	22.31	-	235	21.81
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	115	82.89	-	28	15.38	-	143	39.31
Daman and Diu	0	0.00	-	26	12.82	-	26	9.98
Delhi	50	12.82	1145.00	1648	9.84	1134.00	1698	9.91
Lakshadweep	0	0.00	-	2	3.44	-	2	2.77
Puducherry	69	17.05	1301.00	55	8.30	1306.00	124	9.89
All India	218659	25.70	818.00	53125	13.70	1000.00	269783	21.82

Logical Suggestions

1. Improvisation In Agriculture Sector

There are approximately 638,596 Villages & 1609 cities in India. 833.5 Million people live in rural India & 377.1 Million people lives in urban India. More than 90% of the rural population is directly or indirectly engaged in agriculture for earning their bread & butter. Irony of India is that we have badly neglected the agriculture. In order to make a strong economy we should have agriculture as our base, not only in books but also in reality. Agriculture is such a sector which makes people self sufficient but government policies have put it to a stake. Peasants all over India are committing suicide. We need an agricultural revolution that to with organic methods. Agriculture can play a vital key in eradication of poverty.

2. Improvisation In Small & Cottage Industries

Small & Cottage industries sector is another option for making the masses self sufficient. In India Small scale sectors are treated as the ancillary units for the large industries, this has over shadowed their existence. Proper funds & proper programs should be implemented by the government. For the rural development Cottage industries should be promoted. This would also help rural women's to be economically independent.

3. Expansion Of Education

Education is such an instrument through which social evils can be countered. Spread of education all round India should be taken care of. Education should be knowledge oriented & Job oriented as well. We have many policies to expand the education but the implementation should be focused. Special attention should be made in Higher education & in field of research. Social sciences should also be given special

attention. Government Universities & Colleges should be opened so that higher education can reach to everyone.

4. Gender Sensitization

Males & Females are not treated equally in India. There is a big difference in social, economic & political condition of males & females. We need to be sensitized over the matter of women's. Conditions of women are really very critical in rural areas. They are being exploited at all levels, not from today but from thousands of years. If we can make them economically & socially independent we can counter poverty to a large extent.

5. Electrification

In today's contemporary age power has become an important key for development. If we talk about any sector education, infrastructure, health, housing etc. power becomes a necessity for all. The electricity sector in India had an installed capacity of 261.006 GW as of end February 2015 and generated around 961.777 BU for the period April 2014 - February 2015. Expanding access to energy means including 2.4 billion people: 1.4 billion that still have no access to electricity (87% of whom live in the rural areas) and 1 billion that only has access to unreliable electricity networks. India mainly depends upon thermal & hydro means for production which are not environment friendly, high cost incurring & gives birth to many social problems as well. What we need today is a revolutionary change in the modes of producing power. Some of them are as follows :

A) Bio Gas

There are 300 million cows & Buffalos in India [as per 2012]. Harnessing alternate sources of energy from cowdung and biomass should have been accorded topmost priority. Channuwala Village from Moga district of Punjab is successfully practicing it & is a idealistic example that this phenomenon can work.

B) Solar Energy

India is endowed with abundant sunlight. Sun doesn't come here as the visiting faculty as in the European nations. We should sincerely take some steps in this regard.

C) Wind Energy

Our country is enriched with vast coast line. We can use it to produce environment friendly energy

Conclusion

Presently what India is missing is Social Sensitization. From decades people are being thrown away from their lands on the name of development. Bills like "Land Acquisition Bill" [an act of British era] is being sincerely implemented by the government, making self-dependent farmers Landless, Unemployed & left them with nowhere to go. Above quoted example is one of the many evil policies of government which are increasing the poverty, & it's the conspiracy dragging towards the Corporate/Capitalist Loot. So if Students,

Labours & Peasants shout the slogans of “Lal Salaam” & “Up-Up Socialism Down-Down Imperialism” they are not wrong.

Pardon me for being Marxist...

References

1. Note: 24.6% rate is based on 2005 PPP at \$1.25 per day, International dollar basis, The World Bank (2015). A measured approach to ending poverty and boosting shared prosperity. World Bank Group. p. 50. ISBN 978-1-4648-0361-1.
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