

Poverty as a Challenge

Source Based Questions

Source 1

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

While determining the poverty line in India, a minimum level of food requirement, clothing, footwear, fuel and light, educational and medical requirement, etc., are determined for subsistence. These physical quantities are multiplied by their prices in rupees. The present formula for food requirement while estimating the poverty line is based on the desired calorie requirement. Food items, such as cereals, pulses, vegetable, milk, oil, sugar, etc., together provide these needed calories. The calorie needs vary depending on age, sex and the type of work that a person does. The accepted average calorie requirement in India is 2,400 calories per person per day in rural areas and 2,100 calories per person per day in urban areas. Since, people living in rural areas engage themselves in more physical work, calorie requirements in rural areas are considered to be higher than in urban areas. The monetary expenditure per capita needed for buying these calorie requirements in terms of foodgrains, etc., is revised periodically taking into consideration the rise in prices.

Q1. While estimating the poverty line, the formula for food requirement is based on:

- a. monetary expenditure
- b. desired calorie requirement
- c. sample surveys
- d. level of development

Ans. (b)

Q2. On what factors do calorie needs vary for a person?

- a. Sex
- b. Age
- c. Type of work a person does
- d. All of the above

Ans. (d)

Q3. What is the average number of calories required per person per day in rural areas of India?

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| a. 2,100 | b. 2,400 |
| c. 2,600 | d. 2,800 |

Ans. (b)

Q4. Why is the calorie requirement of people higher in rural areas as compared to urban areas?

- a. Rural people are engaged in more physical labour.
- b. Social exclusion is higher in rural areas.
- c. There is low level of development in rural areas.
- d. They are less unemployed.

Ans. (a)

Q5. Why is poverty line higher in urban areas?

- a. Less physical work is done by rural people.
- b. There are high prices of many essential commodities in urban areas.
- c. Due to lack of financial resources.
- d. None of the above

Ans. (d)

Q6. There are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read them and choose the correct option:

Assertion (A): Calorie requirements in rural areas are considered to be higher than urban areas.

Reason (R): Poverty should be viewed on the basis of social exclusion and vulnerability.

- a. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- b. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).

c. Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.

d. Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Ans. (d)

Source 2

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow:

Poverty in India also has another aspect or dimension. The proportion of poor people is not the same in every state. Although state level poverty has witnessed a secular decline from the levels of early seventies, the success rate of reducing poverty varies from state to state. Recent estimates show while the all India Head Count Ratio (HCR) was 21.9 per cent in 2011-12 states like Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Odisha had above all India poverty level. Bihar and Odisha continue to be the two poorest states with poverty ratios of 33.7 and 32.6 per cent respectively. Along with rural poverty, urban poverty is also high in Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

In comparison, there has been a significant decline in poverty in Kerala, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and West Bengal. States like Punjab and Haryana have traditionally succeeded in reducing poverty with the help of high agricultural growth rates. Kerala has focused more on human resource development. In West Bengal, land reform measures have helped in reducing poverty. In Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, public distribution of foodgrains could have been responsible for the improvement.

Q1. Which are the poorest states in India having low poverty ratios?

Ans. The two poorest states in India having low poverty ratios are Bihar and Odisha with the ratios of 33.7 and 32.6 per cent respectively.

Q2. In which states, rural as well as urban poverty are high?

Ans. Rural as well as urban poverty are high in the states of Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

Q3. Which states have shown a significant decline in poverty?

Ans. The states like Kerala, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and West Bengal have shown a significant decline in poverty.