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A STUDY ON GOVERNMENTAL MEASURES IN INDIA TOWARDS POVERTY - VALIDITY AND EFFECTIVENESS

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ABSTRACT
This study aims to identify how effective are the measures taken by the Indian Government to decrease Poverty in India. Since, Poverty is addressed to be one of the biggest issues in India and thus the Government has taken several measures to reduce Poverty in India. In this study we will look into the measures and how far it has been implemented throughout the country and whether there are changes in the poverty rate when compared to the old decades will be discussed in brief.

Keywords: Alleviation, Effectiveness, Government Measures, Implementation, Poverty rate

INTRODUCTION

Poverty is the most common word which is used to describe an individual or a group of individuals where they lack the minimum essential for standard living along with financial crises. Over the years, poverty has been a hot debate topic in various countries. India is one among them so when we take a look at the concept of demolition of poverty it has been running for so many years and still we haven't come up with the solution of complete eradication of poverty. As per the census taken in the year of 2011, 21.9% of the population lives below the national poverty line. Also, it is to be noted that almost 271 million people have moved out of poverty between 2005- 2015 in India. Although the rate of poverty has fallen from 55% to 28% over ten years still we could see that a big part of the Indian population is living below the poverty line.

(Khusro, 1999)stated that 'Poverty anywhere is a danger to prosperity everywhere'. Further the author conceives of poverty lines, not as minimum calories or even income to keep body and soul together, but as basic needs including some material comforts which are widely perceived by Indian society as necessary and in which people have some choice. (Kohli, 1989)has analysed the role of government in eradicating India's rural poverty and raises a whole series of crucial contemporary issues relating to the state, its degree of autonomy in the developing world and the problems of effecting genuine redistributive reform.

(Srivastava, no date)has addressed two broad questions related to poverty alleviation in India: how much in aggregate does the government spend on poverty targeted programs and how effective have these programs been in targeting the poor and in alleviating poverty? The apparently straightforward query as to how much the country spends on poverty alleviation, and how the money is spent, has several complex answers. (Gooptu and Parry, 2017)have studied the Persistence of Poverty from most other poverty studies is the way in which it conceptualises the problem. The author offers a variety of alternative analytical perspectives and fresh insights into poverty that are key to addressing the problem.

(Gupta, 2008)stated that the previous century was marked by India's great transformation from a colonial Agrarian Economy to a modern, vibrating, knowledge-based Economy within the framework of a Liberal and Secular Democracy. A high annual GDP growth rate of over 8% is now being achieved on a consistent basis. The rapid economic growth has, however, brought only a marginal decline in Rural and Urban poverty as nearly 250 million people, constituting about 25% of the country's total population; still remain below the Poverty Line.

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The factors which causes poverty in India are mainly the high population rate thus leading to the demand for consumption of goods and commodities at large, the major reason is low agricultural productivity, due to underemployment there is inefficient resource utilisation which also causes poverty in huge, the economic development in India is low, then we have a huge price rise in all commodities which is added to the burden of poor people, then the main reason is unemployment also we have other social factors which leads to poverty such as the caste system, traditions, laws of inheritance.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the study is to identify how effectively the measures taken by the Indian Government towards reducing Poverty rate in India works and to see if there are any hindrances regarding the measures propounded by the Indian Government and to highlight the challenges that arise out of it.

METHODOLOGY

The study deals with non- empirical research. This is a doctrinal study. This paper depends on secondary sources. The secondary data are collected from various sources like books, journals, articles, e-sources. The researcher has also utilised commentaries, books, articles, notes and other writings to incorporate the various views of the multitude of jurists, with the intention of presenting a holistic view of the topic of poverty in India and the measures taken by the government.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The National Statistical Office (NSO) report which gives the data of poverty is only available till the year of 2015-2016. Further there are no updates of data regarding India's poverty figure. Some social scientists used the data which were leaked from some authorised resources and have come up with the conclusion that the incidence of poverty in India has increased from 31.15% to 35.1% between 2011-12 and 2017-18. As a whole, the absolute number of poor people has increased from 270 million to 322.22 million.

According to the world's poverty index India has been ranked in 49th position. The Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative publishes the index of poverty across the world and they have analysed that the gap between the rich and poor is widening fast which means the poor people did not increase their income as much as the other sections of people did. The main aim of this research paper is to analyse the measures taken by the government regarding poverty alleviation and how far it is effectively implemented in India.

The Indian government has launched various poverty alleviation programmes in order to control the poverty line. Also, after the implementation of the programmes there is a huge line of difference in the percentage of poverty when compared to earlier times. The followings are the various poverty alleviation programmes in India:

Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP): This programme mainly aimed for productive employment by providing bank credit and subsidiary through successive plan periods to the rural poor.

Jawahar Rozgar Yojana/Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana: Through the creation of economic infrastructure, community and social assets this programme aimed for employment opportunities for the unemployed and underemployed in rural areas.

Rural Housing – Indira Awaas Yojana: This programme mainly targets the SC/STs households and the Below Poverty Line(BPL) families in rural areas by providing free housing to them.

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Food for Work Programme: In this programme food grains are supplied to different states at free of cost and it aims at enhancing paid employment through food security.

National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS): In this programme citizens who have attained age of 60 or above are eligible to claim pension. The pension amount will be given by the Central Government. The contribution may vary depending on the state.
Annapurna Scheme: This scheme aims to provide food to senior citizens who cannot take care of themselves and are not under the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS). It mostly targets groups of 'poorest of the poor' and 'indigent senior citizens'.

Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY): The main aim of this scheme is to provide wage employment, food and nutrition security for the poor and creation of durable economic infrastructure in rural areas.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) 2005: The Act provides 100 days of assured employment every year to rural households. One-third of the jobs would be reserved for women. Under the programme, if an applicant is not provided employment within 15 days she/he will be entitled to a daily unemployment allowance.

National Urban Livelihood Mission: It focuses on organizing urban poor in Self Help Groups, creating opportunities for skill development leading to market-based employment and helping them to set up self-employment ventures by ensuring easy access to credit.

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana: It focuses on fresh entrants to the labour market.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana: It aimed at direct benefit transfer of subsidy, pension, insurance etc. and attained the target of opening 1.5 crore bank accounts. The scheme particularly targets the unbanked poor.

These are some of the Schemes that have been implemented by the Indian Government to reduce Poverty. Now when we look into the implementation part yes the measure by the Indian Government has a standard recognition in India. But, there arises a question on how far it is effective and has it reduced the Poverty rate? The answer for this question can be sub categorised into two parts. One is "YES" and the other one is "NO". The measures propounded by the Indian Government can reduce the Poverty rate as the Schemes mentioned are helpful and it can boost the Citizens below the Poverty line but, on the other hand it is not known to all the citizens which fall as a major drawback.

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CONCLUSION

In the decade between 2005 and 2016, India lifted 27 Crore people out of extreme poverty—more than the combined population of Congo, Uganda, Iraq, Venezuela, Australia and Italy. India more than doubled its per capita GDP, too, moving up from being a poor country to a middle-income one. Based on the opinion of the general public and the search made in various sources, the study concluded that though the measures taken by the Indian Government is widely appreciated by the most of the Citizens, the major drawback is where laymen and illiterate have less knowledge about the Governmental Measures offered. The only way to uplift the Citizens is to educate them all about the same or to make it as guidelines that can be easy access to all the Citizens in India.

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