



The Role of Education in Poverty Eradication

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Abstract: Education plays a significant role in alleviating poverty. In India, as in rural areas, people in urban areas are living in poverty. We define poverty as the primary form of financial deprivation. It enables people to live in poverty without lack of financial resources and lack of participation in various social, political, cultural and other activities. At present the government has formulated many programs which will alleviate their poverty and help them to earn a living. Education is the only tool to eradicate poverty. People have learned to understand that. Education is essential for working in a good institution. Even when other underprivileged people are employed, they also need education.

The relationship of education with poverty is contradictory and dialectical. Generation after generation of poor will be poor? We want education to eradicate this poverty. This article discusses the causes of poverty and ways to eradicate it. In the interest of development of the country, along with education, emphasis should be laid on human development in order to eradicate poverty.

Key Words: Education, Poverty, Economy, Eradication etc.

1. INTRODUCTION :

Poverty is considered as a major obstacle to the growth and development of not only the individual but also the community and the nation as a whole. Poverty is not only characterized by a lack of resources, health and education, but also a lack of power and authority. Through education, individuals are able to acquire empowerment opportunities and develop the skills and abilities needed to better meet livelihood opportunities. It makes a significant contribution to income growth. An educated person is able to develop his ability to increase self-esteem. While achieving an understanding of the role of education in alleviating poverty, the first and foremost aspect that is essential to understand is that education provides individuals with knowledge and information that enables them to recognize their responsibilities to their families and communities. . Through education, individuals are able to develop skills and abilities that are essential for performing various tasks and activities in a proper manner. (Radhika).

Education renders a significant contribution towards development of poverty stricken and economically weaker sections of the society by providing importance to well-being and independence to the individuals, promoting changes in social, culture, religious, political and economic spheres and influencing economic production in an indirect manner. Education is regarded as an anti-poverty program in many developing countries (Melin, 2001). Poverty is a problem that exists between individuals and should be perceived as a difference between the two. Since what should be in a person is an internal matter, the person's feelings about poverty are also personal and unique. But the feeling of lack of power and lack of resources is present in all the poor people.

2. DISCUSSION:

2.1 The relationship between education and poverty:

Education should be the main investment to alleviate poverty. To analyze the significance of this proposal, we first look at the process of financial and educational development of the individual at the dimensional level. We were all children at one time, and then our physical abilities and mental abilities were constricted. We have been able to develop our body and brain to the extent that the mother has given us nutrition and education. We have become educated people to the extent that our parents have provided us with formal and non-formal Education. But the first and foremost obstacle in this case was our parents' own poverty and lack of education. Uneducated and poor parents earn less and have less education and it is impossible for them to provide adequate support for their children. Therefore, from the



illiteracy and poverty of the parents, the illiteracy and poverty of the child originates. We see that the children of the poor are deprived of education in most cases, their income is also low, so they remain poor. Again, these poor boys or girls also remain poor. In this sense, illiteracy and poverty are complementary and it keeps the illusion and poverty trapped in the trap of generation after generation. This is what we see reflected in the myriad of experiences at the family level. Policy makers in India need to realize that if we do not break this link between poverty and illiteracy, we will remain poor and uneducated for generations. So we have to pay close attention to this issue.

2.2 Concept of Poverty:

Poverty is a condition that makes a person feel the difference between the two. Since what a person should have is an internal matter, the person's feelings about poverty are also personal and unique. But the feeling of lack of power and lack of resources is present in all the poor people. So while the issue of poverty is personal, some common features can be noticed. Henry (1990) mentions the following levels of poverty --

1. Lack of living strategy.
2. Lack of security and frustration.
3. Inability to maintain social relations with others due to lack of resources.

Poverty is a social condition that deprives a section of the society of basic necessities of life. All these people are below the standard of living - they are called poor. According to Ram Ahuja, *"Poverty is a situation that gives rise to feeling of a discrepancy between what one has and what one 'should have' .The feeling of 'powerlessness' and 'resourcefulness' is possessed by all poor people."*

A large part of India cannot meet the basic necessities of life like food, clothing, shelter, education and health. As a result, Indian society as a whole was affected. The people in this part are called poor society. In India, the poverty line is determined by the family's ability to spend per capita. The measure of poverty in our country is the lowest man of life. People living below the poverty line are called poor people. In our country, 28% of the total population lives below the poverty line. The definition of poverty varies from country to country. Developed countries are not completely free of poverty either. However, judging by the standard of living, it is much better than in India.

2.3 Classification of poverty:

From an economic point of view, poverty can be measured in two ways—

- **Absolute poverty:**

Extremely poor means that the income of the people of a country is so low that they cannot afford the minimum amount of food grains, pulses, milk etc. for their livelihood. According to this definition, 26.1% of the total population of our country lives below the poverty line.

- **Relative poverty:**

When the income of different people is compared, it is seen that the income of one class of people is less than that of another class. The income of different people is comparatively less than that of different people - this is called relative poverty. Poverty is partial in developed countries, while in our country it is seen as impoverished.

2.4 Causes of Poverty:

The causes of poverty can be divided into two parts –a) Ancient doctrine and b) Modern doctrine.

a) Ancient doctrine: Ancient doctrine says that the cause of poverty is human karma. At present there is no information in support of this doctrine and it has been completely abandoned.

b) Modern doctrine: According to this doctrine, the cause of poverty is lack of performance or lack of motivation.

David Slesh (1993) mentions three causes of poverty –

- **Individual Based:** When the causes of poverty are within the individual, they are the personal causes of poverty. Such as - success and failure of the person, fault of the person, disability, lack of intelligence, incompetence, lack of initiative etc. Max Weber says the person's success is due to his hard work, qualities and honesty.
- **Cultural or Sub-cultural:** The second cause of poverty is the culture of poverty or the way of life of the poor. In this kind of culture, all efforts to change the values, mentality, beliefs and way of life of the poor are hampered. This cause of poverty is thought to be due to the fact that despite the positive global changes, the poor prefer a culture of poverty. **Sacr Lewis** says this culture of poverty continues through the lineage. He further said that it is the poor way of life that perpetuates poverty.



- **Social Structure:** While conservationists cite personal and cultural factors as the cause of poverty, liberal radicals and other sociologists believe that the root cause of poverty lies in the social structure. Social Institutions, Economy, Lack of Education, Lack of Job Qualifications, and Unemployment for Long Time etc - These factors are called social structural factors. Some people want to change the social and financial structure in order to maintain their own interests.

Financial Causes: Economic factors are divided into five parts - 1. Deficit in development 2. Commodity prices rise 3. Lack of Capital 4. Lack of staff skills. 5. High unemployment rate.

- **Deficit in development:** Development plans for 1951-2010 have not met with the expected success, only 4.5% which is quite low. The problem of poverty will continue until the government and the bureaucrats take the development aspect of the plan seriously and address the shortcomings.
- **Commodity prices rise:** Inflation is one of the causes of poverty. The wholesale price index is increasing every year based on 1960-61. The rate of inflation has been 13.7% till 1991 and it has come down a little bit since 1997. As the rate of inflation increases from 2008 to 2010, the value of money decreases with this increase. On the basis of 1982, the value of 1 Rs was 26.5 Paise in 1997. This is currently much less. Because of this, those who were not considered poor at one time are now living in poverty.
- **Lack of Capital:** Lack of financial capital is one of the causes of poverty. Lack of capital does not lead to industry development, imports are higher than exports. Resulting in a financial deficit.
- **Lack of staff skills:** In the absence of human capital, that is, in the absence of power and skills, individuals do not get high-paying jobs and as a result, their income does not increase. Opportunities and training facilities are more needed than innate tendency to increase skills. The society of poor countries is not able to provide those opportunities. As a result, as the workers remain incompetent, the industry also becomes sluggish, due to which the society does not develop financially. Workers also do not get high-paying jobs due to lack of skills, which leads to poverty.
- **High unemployment rate:** The number of unemployed has increased significantly as a result of declining labour demand in the country, which has led to a decline in financial income. As a result, the number of people living in poverty has increased.

2.5 Population Growth:

One of the causes of poverty is population growth. Studies have shown that if population growth can be controlled, it is possible to keep pace with per capita expenditure. But this is not because the rate of population growth has not been controlled in a way that makes it impossible to control poverty. There is a correlation between poverty and the age of the people. Along with other developed countries, the number of elderly people in India is also increasing. The death rate was 32.45 years in 1941, 54 years in 1981 and 63 years in 1996. In other words, the number of elderly people has increased a lot. Generally, the retirement age in our country is 60 years and after retirement, it is difficult to get a job again in our country and it is difficult to get a pension. Thus it is not possible to avoid the poverty of the elderly. Health has a relationship with poverty. When health is bad, on the one hand, the person is not able to earn, on the other hand, he spends less for treatment. Thus, if a large section of the population suffers from chronic illness, it is not possible for them to earn a living and it becomes difficult to get out of poverty.

2.6 Social Causes:

Among the social factors important are division, superstition, caste, communalism etc. These are particularly influential in terms of scholarship opportunities. As a result, the balance of national income is disturbed. There is a difference in the income of states in India. Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra and Gujarat are financially strong. On the other hand, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan etc. are financially weak. That is why there is a difference in the proportion of poverty in the state. Our situation in West Bengal is in the middle.

B N Ganguli's statement on the causes of poverty in India can be mentioned here. According to him, the causes of poverty are –

1. To exploit foreign rule and a part of society.
2. Lack of capital.
3. Mass explosion.
4. High rate of illiteracy.
5. Lack of ambition and lack of motivation for financial development, not being able to tolerate broken warm weather.
6. Lack of honesty and accountability of the administration.



2.7 Ways to alleviate poverty:

Since independence, various poverty alleviation plans have been adopted, some of which have been implemented - but to no avail. Poverty alleviation programs of various five-year plans have not been very successful due to lack of coordination among government departments. The number of poor people is increasing. Dr. Amartya Sen says - In the age of globalization, commercial doors should not be opened now. Before that, it is necessary to bring internal structural changes in the areas of health, nutrition, literacy, land reform, women's equality, etc. India can play its rightful role in the context of an economic infrastructure based on this solid social foundation. If human capacity is increased, poverty will be eradicated. People need to be empowered through education, health, nutrition, employment. Only then will production increase, industrial development will take place and the economy will improve.

There are three ways to alleviate poverty in India (Tripathi, Rao, 1990)

- At first, policy makers in the 1950's thought that increasing investment in the country and maximizing economic growth would benefit everyone. But in 1960 it was realized that the growth of agriculture did not benefit the rural poor.
- This led to the idea of a second strategy, such as land reform, community development, collective farming, large-scale industrial nationalization, etc., but this attempt was unsuccessful.
- Then in 1980 a development program was adopted to alleviate poverty. Such as - IRDP, TRYSEM, RLGP and NREP which are later added to the larger scheme. Some of these programs are discussed below –

National Rural Employment Programme: The aim is to create additional employment opportunities with the help of village surplus food grains. At first, the name of the program was food program as a result of work. It was planned in 1976-77. But in fact the importance is given to it from April 1, 1977. The program uses millions of tons of surplus food grains to create millions of working days each year. Notable works include flood prevention, road construction and repair, irrigation, construction of panchayat houses, school building, medical and health center etc.

Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme: The aim of the program is to provide extra work to women through public service, although the amount was very small, only Rs. 9 per day.

Jawahar Rozgar Yojna: The program was announced in April 1989, with the aim of ensuring that at least one member of each poor family gets 50 to 100 working days a year at home. 30% is reserved for women, and then added to the program with REP and RLEGP. For this the Central and State Government Panchayats bear 60% and 20% of the cost respectively

1. Provide free food grains per family, financial assistance for housing, etc. for families living below the poverty line.
2. To provide old age allowance and widow allowance to the poor.
3. Career-oriented education should be provided so that everyone is in action.
4. Awareness needs to be raised among parents.

In the end, it can be said that despite the introduction of various programs to alleviate poverty, it has not been possible to reduce the number of poor people as expected. The main reasons for this are widespread poverty, growing population growth and lack of education. New thinking is needed to solve this problem.

3. CONCLUSION:

The government needs to be much more sincere in eradicating poverty. In order to fully develop human resources, the quality of education and health services must be greatly improved - and it must be extended to the masses at all levels. Trained skilled artisans should be developed who will be able to earn enough and will play an active role in the development process of the society. This will lead to social development and alleviation of poverty. However, political and social goodwill and awareness are essential for this. When it comes to poverty alleviation, keep in mind that this is the result of a flawed society.

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