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The Motto of Our University

(SEWA)

SKILL ENHANCEMENT

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ACCESSIBILITY

JAGAT GURU NANAK DEV

PUNJAB STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY, PATIALA

(Established by Act No. 19 of 2019 of the Legislature of State of Punjab)

Bachelor in Arts(Liberal Arts)

SEMESTER – VI

INDIAN SOCIETY: ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

(BLAB33605T **)**

Head Quarter: C/28, The Lower Mall, Patiala-147001
Website: www.psou.ac.in

The Study Material has been prepared exclusively under the guidance of Jagat Guru Nanak Dev Punjab State Open University, Patiala, as per the syllabi prepared by Committee of Experts and approved by the Academic Council.

JAGAT GURU NANAK DEV PUNJAB STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY

PATIALA

(Established by Act No. 19 of 2019 of the Legislature of State of Punjab)

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PREFACE

Jagat Guru Nanak Dev Punjab State Open University, Patiala was established in December 2019 by Act 19 of the Legislature of State of Punjab. It is the first and only Open Universityof the State, entrusted with the responsibility of making higher education accessible to all, especially to those sections of society who do not have the means, time or opportunity to pursue regular education.

In keeping with the nature of an Open University, this University provides a flexible education system to suit every need. The time given to complete a programme is double theduration of a regular mode programme. Well-designed study material has been prepared in consultation with experts in their respective fields.

The University offers programmes which have been designed to provide relevant, skill-based and employability-enhancing education. The study material provided in this booklet is self- instructional, with self-assessment exercises, and recommendations for further readings. Thesyllabus has been divided in sections, and provided as units for simplification.

The University has a network of 110 Learner Support Centres /Study Centres, to enable students to make use of reading facilities, and for curriculum-based counseling and practical's. We, at the University, welcome you to be a part of this institution of knowledge.

Prof. G.S. Batra

Dean Academic Affairs

(BLAB33605T) Indian Society: Issues and Problems

MAX. MARKS:100
EXTERNAL:70
INTERNAL:30
Credits:6

PASS:40%

Objective:

This paper tries to generate awareness among the students regarding day to day challenges faced by Indian society. Many of these problems may sound familiar but this paper will help the students to develop a holistic perspective on these issues keeping in mind the larger social reality of India. The paper also intends to help them relate sociology with their day to day life.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PAPER SETTER/EXAMINER:
1. The syllabus prescribed should be strictly adhered to.
2. The question paper will consist of three sections: A, B, and
3. the syllabus and will carry 10 marks each. The candidates will attempt two questions from each section.
4. Section C will have fifteen short answer questions covering the entire syllabus. Each question will carry 3 marks. Candidates will attempt any 10 questions from this section.
5. The examiner shall give a clear instruction to the candidates to attempt questions only at one place and only once. Second or subsequent attempts, unless the earlier ones have been crossed out, shall not be evaluated.
6. The duration of each paper will be three hours.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES:

Candidates are required to attempt any two questions each from the sections A, and B of the question paper, and any ten short answer questions from Section C. They have to attempt questions only at one place and only once. Second or subsequent attempts, unless the earlier ones have been crossed out, shall not be evaluated.

1. Social disorganization in Indian society: crime and delinquency
2. Social Problems in India: White collar crime, drug addiction, suicide.
3. Social Problems in India: Juvenile delinquency, Child Labour, Youth unrest,
4. Social Problems in India: Poverty and Unemployment
5. Inequalities in Indian society: Caste, Class, Gender and Rural-Urban.

Section-B

6 Issues in Development: regional disparities, development induced displacement
7. Problems in Family and marriage: Dowry, domestic violence, divorce
8 Crime against women: Rape, female foeticide, sexual harassment
9. Digital divide, Cyber bullying, Internet addiction
10. Agrarian Crisis in India: Causes and consequences

Suggested Readings:

Ahuja, Ram 1995. *Social Problems in India.* Jaipur: Rawat . Publications.Akers, R.L. & C.C. Sellers 2004 *Criminological Theories*, Jaipur: Rawat

Chatopadhyay, Aparajita (Ed.)2013 *Poverty and Social Exclusion in India*, Jaipur: RawatPublicatons

Gill, Lakhwinder Singh, Kesar Bhangoo and Rakesh Sharma 2016 Agrarian Distress andFarmer Suicides in North India. Delhi: Routledge

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UNIT 1

**SOCIAL DISORGANIZATION IN INDIAN SOCIETY:
CRIME AND DELINQUENCY**

1.1 Learning Objectives

After reading this unit, you will be able to:

1.   explain the concept of Social Disorganization

2.   describe the aspects of social disorganization in Indian society

3.   discuss the social disorganisation theory of crime and delinquency

4.   types of Crime and forms of delinquency.

1.1 Introduction

In sociology, social disorganization refers to the breakdown or disruption of the normal social structure and functioning within a community or society. This concept is often used to explain the occurrence of deviant behavior, crime, and other social problems. Social disorganization theory suggests that certain social, economic, and environmental factors can weaken the traditional social bonds and institutions that maintain order within a community, leading to increased levels of disorder and deviance.

Key components and meanings associated with social disorganization in sociology include:

1. Breakdown of Social Institutions: Social disorganization implies the breakdown or dysfunction of social institutions such as family, education, religion, and community organizations. When these institutions fail to perform their functions effectively, it can result in social disorder.

2. Disruption of Social Bonds: The theory emphasizes the importance of social bonds and connections in maintaining social order. Social disorganization occurs when these bonds are weakened or disrupted, leading to a decline in shared values, norms, and social control mechanisms.

3. Impact on Communities: Social disorganization is often studied at the community level. It suggests that certain neighborhoods or communities may be more prone to crime and deviance due to factors such as poverty, unemployment, and a lack of social cohesion.

4. Deviant Behavior and Crime: Social disorganization theory posits that high levels of social disorganization within a community are associated with increased rates of deviant behavior and crime. The breakdown of social controls makes it more difficult for individuals to conform to societal norms.

5. Ecological Perspective: Social disorganization theory often adopts an ecological perspective, examining how the physical and social characteristics of a neighborhood or community contribute to its level of social disorganization. Factors such as poverty, residential mobility, and ethnic heterogeneity may be studied in this context.

6. Root Causes: Researchers and sociologists studying social disorganization seek to identify the root causes of social breakdown within communities. These causes may include economic inequality, inadequate social services, political instability, and other structural factors.

7. Policy Implications: Understanding social disorganization has implications for social policy and interventions. Efforts to address social disorganization may involve community development, economic empowerment, education, and crime prevention strategies.

8. Historical and Cultural Context: Social disorganization is often analyzed within specific historical and cultural contexts. Different societies may experience social disorganization differently, and the factors contributing to it can vary based on cultural, economic, and political circumstances. In summary, social disorganization in sociology refers to the breakdown of social order within communities, leading to increased levels of deviant behavior and crime.

The concept is instrumental in understanding the social dynamics that contribute to disorder and identifying strategies for social intervention and improvement. Social disorganization refers to the breakdown of the traditional social structure and the inability of a community to regulate itself. In the context of Indian society, social disorganization can manifest in various ways, often influenced by factors such as rapid urbanization, economic disparities, cultural diversity, and political dynamics.

Here are some aspects of social disorganization in Indian society:

1. Urbanization and Migration: Rapid Urban Growth: Many Indian cities have experienced rapid and unplanned urbanization, leading to the emergence of slums and informal settlements. This can result in a lack of basic amenities, inadequate infrastructure, and increased social problems.

Rural-Urban Migration: Migration from rural areas to urban centers can lead to social disorganization as individuals and families face challenges in adapting to the new environment. This may contribute to the breakdown of social bonds and traditional community structures.

2. Economic Disparities: Income Inequality: India has significant economic disparities, with a large wealth gap between different sections of the population. Economic inequality can lead Caste-based Discrimination: The caste system, although officially abolished, still influences social interactions and relationships. Discrimination based on caste can lead to social disorganization by perpetuating inequality and hindering social cohesion.

4. Cultural Diversity: • Cultural Pluralism: India is known for its cultural diversity with numerous ethnicities, languages, and traditions. While diversity is a strength, it can also lead to social disorganization if not managed effectively, resulting in inter-group tensions and conflicts.

5.   Political Factors: Political Instability: Periods of political instability or governance issues can contribute to social disorganization. Weak governance, corruption, and lack of effective law enforcement can lead to a breakdown of social order.

6.   Religious Diversity: Religious Tensions: India is home to various religious communities. While most people coexist peacefully, religious tensions and conflicts can arise, contributing to social disorganization.

7.   Educational Disparities: Educational Inequities: Disparities in access to quality education can contribute to social disorganization by limiting opportunities for certain groups. Lack of education can perpetuate poverty and hinder social mobility.

8.   Gender Inequality: Gender-based Discrimination: Gender inequality persists in various forms, affecting women's access to resources, education, and opportunities. This can contribute to social disorganization by limiting the full participation of women in society.

Addressing social disorganization in Indian society requires comprehensive efforts, including social reforms, economic development, education, and initiatives to promote social harmony and inclusivity. Government policies, community engagement, and grassroots initiatives play crucial roles in mitigating these challenges.

1.5. Social disorganization theory of crime and delinquency

Social disorganization theory is a criminological perspective that emerged from the Chicago School of Sociology in the early 20th century. This theory suggests that crime is influenced by the social and physical characteristics of a neighborhood or community. The key idea is that high rates of crime are associated with neighborhoods experiencing social disorganization, characterized by weakened social ties, a lack of community organization, and a breakdown in social control mechanisms.

The main factors considered in social disorganization theory include:

1. Poverty: High levels of poverty can lead to a lack of resources and opportunities, fostering an environment conducive to criminal activities.

2. Residential mobility: Frequent changes in residence can disrupt social ties and community bonds, contributing to social disorganization.

3. Ethnic heterogeneity: High levels of diversity within a community may result in cultural clashes and difficulties in establishing common social norms.

4. Family disruption: A breakdown in family structures, often linked to factors like single-parent households or high divorce rates, can contribute to social disorganization.

5. Educational attainment: Low levels of education within a community may limit opportunities for social and economic advancement, contributing to crime.

6. Unemployment: High rates of unemployment can create economic instability, leading to an increase in criminal behavior.

The social disorganization theory posits that these factors collectively contribute to a breakdown in social controls, making it more likely for criminal activities to flourish in such environments.

Research based on this theory often emphasizes the importance of community-based interventions and strategies to strengthen social bonds, improve economic conditions, and reduce crime in disorganized neighborhoods. It's worth noting that social disorganization theory is just one among many criminological theories, each offering a different perspective on the causes of crime and delinquency.

Sociological perspectives on crime seek to understand how social structures, institutions, and interactions contribute to the occurrence of criminal behavior. There are several major sociological theories that offer different explanations for the causes of crime and how society responds to it. Here are some key sociological perspectives on crime:

1. Strain Theory:
   - Developed by Robert K. Merton, strain theory suggests that individuals engage in criminal behavior when they experience a disjunction between cultural goals (such as economic success) and the legitimate means available to achieve those goals. Anomie, or a state of normlessness, occurs when individuals feel disconnected from societal norms and values.

2. Social Learning Theory:

   Based on the work of Edwin H. Sutherland, social learning theory posits that criminal behavior is learned through interactions with others. Individuals acquire criminal values, techniques, and motives from their social environment, particularly from peers and significant others. The theory emphasizes the role of socialization in the development of criminal behavior.

3. Social Control Theory:

   Social control theory, developed by Travis Hirschi, focuses on the factors that prevent individuals from engaging in criminal behavior. It suggests that strong social bonds, such as attachment to others, commitment to societal norms, involvement in conventional activities, and belief in the legitimacy of social rules, act as deterrents to criminal behavior.

4. Labeling Theory:

   -Labeling theory, associated with Howard Becker, emphasizes the significance of societal reactions to individuals labelled as criminals. It argues that the process of labelling someone as a criminal can lead to a self-fulfilling prophecy, as the labelled individual may internalize the criminal identity, further contributing to criminal behavior.

5. Conflict Theory:

   Conflict theorists, such as Karl Marx and later criminologists like Richard Quinney, argue that crime is a product of social inequality and the unequal distribution of resources and power. In this view, the legal system serves the interests of the ruling class and criminal laws are used to control and oppress marginalized groups.

6. Routine Activity Theory:

   Developed by Lawrence E. Cohen and Marcus Felson, routine activity theory focuses on the everyday activities and routines of individuals. It suggests that crime occurs when three elements converge: a motivated offender, a suitable target, and the absence of a capable guardian. Changes in social and economic conditions can influence the prevalence of crime.

7. Symbolic Interactionism:

   - Symbolic interactionism examines how individuals construct meanings and interpret symbols through social interactions. In the context of crime, this perspective explores how

labels, stereotypes, and stigmas attached to certain groups influence individuals' behavior and societal reactions.

These sociological perspectives collectively contribute to a comprehensive understanding of crime by examining the social, cultural, economic, and institutional factors that shape criminal behavior and societal responses to it. It's important to note that these theories are not mutually exclusive, and multiple factors may interact to influence criminal outcomes.

1.5 Types of Crime

Crime in India is a complex and multifaceted issue influenced by a variety of social, economic, and cultural factors. India is a diverse country with significant variations in crime rates across different regions and states. Here are some key points to consider regarding crime in India:

1. Types of Crime: Common types of crimes in India include theft, robbery, burglary, assault, cybercrime, corruption, white-collar crime, and crimes against women and children. The prevalence of different types of crimes can vary in urban and rural areas.

2. Crime Rates: Crime rates can vary widely across states and union territories in India. States with higher population densities, urbanization, and economic disparities tend to experience higher crime rates. However, crime statistics should be interpreted with caution, as reporting practices and law enforcement efficiency can vary.

3. Societal Factors: Social and economic factors play a significant role in shaping crime trends. Poverty, unemployment, lack of education, and social inequality are often associated with higher crime rates. Additionally, factors such as rapid urbanization, migration, and changes in social structures contribute to the dynamics of crime.

4. Crimes Against Women: Crimes against women, including sexual assault, domestic violence, and dowry-related violence, have received increased attention and scrutiny in recent years. Efforts have been made to address gender-based violence through legal reforms, public awareness campaigns, and social initiatives.

5. Cybercrime: With the growth of technology and internet usage, cybercrime has become a significant concern. Incidents of online fraud, hacking, and other cyber offenses have increased, leading to efforts to strengthen cybersecurity infrastructure and legislation.

6. Legal Reforms: India has undergone legal reforms to address various forms of crime. Legislative changes have been introduced to enhance the punishment for certain offenses, improve the efficiency of the criminal justice system, and protect the rights of victims.

7. Law Enforcement Challenges: Challenges in law enforcement, including resource constraints, outdated infrastructure, and issues related to corruption, can impact the effectiveness of crime prevention and investigation. Efforts are ongoing to modernize law enforcement agencies and improve their capabilities.

8. Social Initiatives: Civil society organizations and government initiatives focus on community engagement, awareness campaigns, and education to address the root causes of crime and promote a safer society.

It's important to note that addressing crime in India requires a comprehensive and multifaceted approach, involving collaboration between law enforcement, policymakers, community organizations, and the public. Efforts to address the underlying social and economic factors contributing to crime are crucial for sustainable crime prevention and reduction.

1.6 Delinquency
Delinquency refers to behavior, especially among young people, that is unlawful or beyond the control of societal norms and expectations. Juvenile delinquency specifically refers to the violation of laws by individuals who are considered minors or juveniles, typically under the age of 18 in many legal systems.
Here are some key points to understand about delinquency:
1. Types of Delinquency: Delinquent behavior can encompass a wide range of activities, including theft, vandalism, substance abuse, violence, and other criminal acts. Delinquency is often categorized into various types based on the nature of the offense.

2. Risk Factors: Juvenile delinquency is influenced by a combination of individual, family, peer, and community factors. Common risk factors include family dysfunction, poverty, academic failure, substance abuse, exposure to violence, and lack of positive role models.

3. Protective Factors: Conversely, protective factors can help mitigate the risk of delinquency. These may include positive parental involvement, strong social support networks, access to education and extracurricular activities, and opportunities for community engagement.

4. Legal System Response: The response to juvenile delinquency can vary across legal systems. In many jurisdictions, there is a distinct juvenile justice system that aims to rehabilitate rather than strictly punish young offenders. However, the approach can differ, and some cases may be transferred to adult criminal courts based on the severity of the offense.

5. Prevention and Intervention: Preventing and addressing delinquency often involve a combination of prevention and intervention strategies. Early intervention programs, community outreach, mentoring, counseling, and educational initiatives are some of the approaches aimed at addressing the underlying causes of delinquent behavior.

6. Social and Economic Context: Social and economic factors, such as poverty, lack of educational opportunities, and limited access to resources, can contribute to an environment where delinquency is more likely to occur. Addressing these systemic issues is crucial in preventing juvenile delinquency.

7. Life-Course Persistent vs. Adolescent-Limited Offenders: Some individuals may engage in delinquent behavior for a limited period during adolescence, while others may persist in criminal activities throughout their lives. Understanding the different trajectories of delinquency can inform intervention strategies.

8. Rehabilitation and Reintegration: Rehabilitation is a key goal in the juvenile justice system. Programs and services are designed to address the underlying causes of delinquency, provide education and skills training, and support the reintegration of juveniles into society.

Addressing juvenile delinquency requires a holistic and collaborative approach involving families, communities, schools, and the justice system. The focus is often on prevention, early intervention, and rehabilitation to redirect the lives of young individuals toward positive and law-abiding paths.

Sociological perspectives on delinquency examine the social factors that contribute to the involvement of individuals, particularly juveniles, in unlawful behavior. These perspectives highlight the role of social structures, institutions, and interactions in shaping delinquent behavior. Several sociological theories provide insights into the sociological understanding of delinquency:

1. Strain Theory: Strain theory, developed by Robert K. Merton, suggests that individuals turn to delinquency when they experience a disjunction between societal goals and the legitimate means available to achieve those goals. In the context of delinquency, this may involve individuals resorting to criminal activities as an alternative means of achieving success or recognition when conventional avenues are blocked.

2. Social Learning Theory: Social learning theory, associated with Edwin H. Sutherland, emphasizes the role of socialization in the acquisition of criminal behavior. Delinquency is seen as learned behavior through interactions with others, such as family, peers, and significant individuals in one's social environment.

3. Social Control Theory: Social control theory, developed by Travis Hirschi, focuses on the factors that prevent individuals from engaging in delinquent behavior. It suggests that strong social bonds, such as attachment to others, commitment to societal norms, involvement in conventional activities, and belief in the legitimacy of social rules, act as deterrents to delinquency.

4. Labeling Theory: Labeling theory, associated with Howard Becker, explores how societal reactions and labels influence individuals' behavior. Delinquency, according to this perspective, can result from the stigmatization of individuals who are labeled as deviant or delinquent. The labeled person may internalize the label, leading to further engagement in delinquent behavior.

5. Social Disorganization Theory: Social disorganization theory, rooted in the work of the Chicago School, posits that high rates of delinquency occur in socially disorganized neighborhoods characterized by weakened social bonds, lack of community organization, and breakdowns in social control mechanisms.

6. Conflict Theory: Conflict theorists, including Karl Marx, emphasize the role of social inequality and power dynamics in delinquency. According to this perspective, individuals from marginalized or disadvantaged groups may engage in delinquent behavior as a form of rebellion or response to social injustice.

7. Routine Activity Theory: Routine activity theory, developed by Lawrence E. Cohen and Marcus Felson, focuses on the daily activities of individuals and how the convergence of a motivated offender, a suitable target, and the absence of a capable guardian can lead to delinquent behavior.

8. Symbolic Interactionism: Symbolic interactionism explores how individuals construct meanings and identities through social interactions. In the context of delinquency, this perspective examines how labels, stereotypes, and stigmas associated with delinquent behavior shape individuals' self-perceptions and social interactions.

These sociological theories collectively contribute to understanding the social dynamics that lead to delinquency. They highlight the importance of social factors, relationships, and structures in influencing the likelihood of individuals engaging in delinquent behavior. Interventions based on these sociological insights often target broader social issues and aim to address the root causes of delinquency rather than focusing solely on individual offenders.

1.7 References

Ahuja, Ram 1995. *Social Problems in India.* Jaipur: Rawat .
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Chatopadhyay, Aparajita (Ed.)2013. *Poverty and Social Exclusion in India*, Jaipur: RawatPublicatons

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Bombay, Orient Longman.

Unit 2 : Social Problems in India: White Collar crime, Drug addiction, Suicide

2.1 OBJECTIVES

After completing this lesson, you will be able to:

- Understanding White Collar Crime.

- Analysing Drug Addiction.

- Examining Suicide as a Social Issue.

- Exploring causes of these social issues respectively.

- Prevention and Intervention Strategies of each social issue.

2.2 INTRODUCTION

Societal norms, beliefs, customs, and traditions form the foundation of wellbeing and healthy development, with any violation considered anti-social behaviour. From a legal perspective, crime is defined as conduct declared socially harmful and forbidden by law, subject to punishment. White-collar crime, a concept crystallized post-World War II, encompasses unlawful acts by higher classes, recently gaining prominence in criminology. Edwin Sutherland's influential work in 1949 led to the term "white-collar" crime, sparking debates in criminological circles. This form of criminality has transcended borders, becoming a global issue driven by commerce and technology. In India, the surge in white-collar crime is attributed to rapid economic and industrial growth in recent decades.

2.3 WHITE COLLAR CRIME

2.3.1   Definition

Sutherland further pointed out that white-collar crime is more harmful to society than ordinary crimes because the financial loss to society from white-collar crime is far greater than the financial loss from burglaries, robberies, larcenies, etc.

2.3.2 White-Collar Crime in India

The rise of commerce and technology has led to the global proliferation of white-collar criminality, a phenomenon India is no exception to. In recent years, advancements in information technology, especially towards the end of the twentieth century, have introduced new dimensions to white-collar crime. A notable development is the surge in computer-dominated crimes commonly known as cybercrimes, presenting a global challenge for law enforcement agencies in the new millennium.

These cybercrimes, facilitated by the specific nature of technology, can be executed anonymously, without physical presence near the victims. A significant advantage for cyber-criminals lies in their ability to use computer technology to cause harm without the immediate risk of apprehension. Predictions suggest a simultaneous increase in cybercrimes alongside the growth of new internet websites.The impact of cybercrimes extends across various sectors in India, affecting banking and financial institutions, energy and telecommunication services, transportation, business, industries, and more.

2.3.3 **Types of White-Collar Crime in India**

1. **Bank Fraud:** Involves engaging in activities or patterns aimed at defrauding a bank of funds.

2. **Blackmail:** Demanding money or other considerations under threat of bodily harm, property damage, false accusations, or exposing secrets.

3. **Bribery:** Offering money, goods, services, or valuable items to influence the actions, opinions, or decisions of another. Both the giver and receiver may face bribery charges.

4. **Cellular Phone Fraud:** Unauthorized use, tampering, or manipulation of a cellular phone or service, which can involve stolen phones, false identification during service signup, or cloning valid electronic serial numbers (ESNs).

5. **Computer Fraud:** Involves computer hacking to steal information such as bank details, credit cards, and proprietary information.

6. **Counterfeiting:** Copying or imitating an item without authorization and passing it off as genuine. Commonly associated with money but also extends to designer clothing, handbags, and watches.

7. **Credit Card Fraud:** Unauthorized use of a credit card to obtain valuable goods.

8. **Currency Schemes:** Speculating on the future value of currencies.

9. **Educational Institutions:** White-collar criminals operate in privately-run educational institutions, securing large sums through government grants or financial aid by submitting fictitious details. Staff often receive lower salaries than reported, allowing management to exploit this gap for illegal gains.

1.3.4 Causes of White-Collar Crime in India

India grapples with significant challenges such as starvation, illiteracy, and widespread health issues on a substantial scale. Compounded by its status as the second most populated country globally, administering the masses becomes a complex task. Despite having stringent laws, the administration often struggles with implementation due to the sheer size of the population, creating fertile ground for white-collar crimes to proliferate. Other contributing factors include:

1. **Financial Motivation:** White-collar crimes are typically committed by financially secure individuals driven by their greed to fulfill personal desires.

2. **Poverty's Influence:** Poverty, a leading cause of underdevelopment in India, induces financial and physical distress among a significant portion of the population. The desperate need for money makes people susceptible to false representations without verifying their accuracy.

3. **Severity of Impact:** White-collar crimes, with consequences that span financial and emotional domains, often inflict more profound losses compared to traditional crimes. Corporate mishaps, like fraudulent pharmaceutical tests, can result in more significant harm than certain violent crimes.

4. **Technological Advancements:** The rapid growth of industries, business, and political pressures, coupled with technological advancements, provides offenders with new, efficient methods for committing white-collar crimes.

5. **Digital Influence:** The introduction of people to the internet and the digital world facilitates swift transactions and global connectivity within minutes, incentivizing criminals to commit more offenses and evade detection worldwide.

6. **Challenges in Law Enforcement:** The complexity of white-collar crime cases, compounded by the reluctance of law enforcement agencies to tackle intricate investigations, poses a significant challenge. Tracing suspects in white-collar crimes is often more laborious than in traditional crimes.

1.3.5 Strategies to Reduce White Collar Crime

1. *Strengthen Law Enforcement and Regulations:*

- Enhance the capabilities of law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute white-collar crimes.

- Regularly update and strengthen existing laws to address emerging forms of economic offenses.

2. ***Public Awareness and Whistleblower Protection:***

- Conduct public awareness campaigns to educate individuals and businesses about the consequences of white-collar crime.

- Establish robust whistleblower protection mechanisms to encourage reporting without fear of retaliation.

3. ***Ethics, Integrity, and Judicial Processes:***

- Integrate ethical training and integrity programs into education and professional development.

- Streamline legal processes related to economic offenses for timely trials and efficient case resolution.

4. ***Technology and International Collaboration:***

- Invest in advanced cybersecurity measures to prevent cybercrimes.

5. ***Corporate Responsibility and Financial Literacy:***

- Encourage responsible corporate practices through CSR initiatives.

- Implement financial literacy programs to empower the public to make informed decisions and identify potential scams.

❖ Check your progress.
a) Define white collar crime and write about its types.

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2.4 DRUG ADDICTION

2.4.1 INTRODUCTION

Drug addiction in India has emerged as a complex societal challenge, impacting individuals and communities across the nation. The prevalence of substance abuse, encompassing both traditional and synthetic drugs, has escalated, posing significant health, economic, and social concerns. The issue extends beyond mere personal struggles, intertwining with cultural, economic, and political factors. Understanding and addressing drug addiction in the Indian context requires a nuanced approach that considers the diverse socio-cultural fabric of the country. This brief introduction sets the stage for a comprehensive exploration of the complexities surrounding drug addiction in India. Currently, addiction to drugs and alcohol poses a significant crisis in India. There is a noticeable increase in both the production and demand for natural and synthetic drugs. Many regions across the country are grappling with a growing number of addicts, contributing to a decline in national productivity. Acknowledging the severity of the issue, India is now taking substantial steps to address and alleviate this escalating problem, recognizing the need for tailored approaches to suit its unique cultural and social landscape.

2.4.2 Definition

Any substance (usually chemical) which influences our bodies or emotions when consumed may be called a drug, i.e. it is a chemical substance, that, when put into your body can change the way the body works, and the mind thinks. These substances may be medicinal i.e. prescribed by a doctor for reducing minor ailments or problems, e.g. lack of sleep, headache, tension, etc.

2.4.3 Facts About Narcotic Drugs

A drug is a substance that affects feelings, thinking or behaviour, initially due to chemical reactions in the brain. Alcohol is also a drug in that sense. Drugs are consumed by eating, smoking, inhaling, sniffing, drinking or by injections. Excluding alcohol, drugs an be classified as follow:

i) Stimulants–Drugs that increase the activity of the brain.

ii) Depressants–Drugs that slow down the activity of the brain.

iii) Hallucinogens–Drugs that change the way we see, hear and feel.

iv) Cannabis–Drugs like Ganja, Hashish and Bhang produced from the hemp plant.

v) Opiates or drugs obtained from opium or artificially produced substitutes which have opium like effects.

2.4.4 Causes of Addiction

1. **Socio-economic Factors**: Poverty and unemployment play a significant role in driving individuals towards substance abuse. Limited access to education and employment opportunities can create a sense of hopelessness, pushing some individuals towards drugs as a coping mechanism.

2. **Cultural Norms and Peer Pressure**: Cultural factors, including the acceptance of certain substances in traditional practices, can influence an individual's perception of drug use. Additionally, peer pressure within social circles may contribute to experimentation and subsequent addiction.

3. **Easy Availability of Drugs**: India's geographical location makes it a transit route for the illegal drug trade. The easy availability of various substances, often due to inadequate law enforcement and porous borders, increases the risk of individuals being exposed to and succumbing to addiction.

4. **Psychological Factors**: Mental health issues, such as anxiety, depression, and trauma, can drive individuals towards substance abuse as a form of self-medication. The stigma associated with mental health problems may prevent timely intervention and treatment.

5. **Family Dynamics**: Dysfunctional family structures, lack of parental guidance, and exposure to familial substance abuse can contribute to an individual's vulnerability to addiction. A challenging family environment may lead individuals to seek solace in substances.

6. **Media Influence:** Media portrayal and glorification of substance use, particularly in movies and popular culture, can impact societal attitudes towards drugs, potentially normalizing their use and influencing vulnerable individuals.

7. **Lack of Awareness and Education**: Insufficient awareness about the dangers of drug abuse, coupled with limited educational programs on substance prevention, can contribute to a lack of understanding among the populace regarding the consequences of drug addiction.

1.4.5 Intervention: Treatment, Rehabilitation and Prevention

Intervention in drug addiction involves three key components: Treatment, Rehabilitation, and Prevention. Treatment focuses on addressing immediate health issues and breaking the cycle of substance abuse. Rehabilitation aims to support long-term recovery through counselling, therapy, and lifestyle changes. Prevention strategies aim to curb drug abuse by raising awareness, promoting education, and implementing measures to reduce accessibility and societal acceptance of addictive substances. Together, these elements form a comprehensive approach to combat and mitigate the impact of drug addiction.

❖ Check your progress.

a) What do you mean by Drug Addiction?

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b) What are the different types of Drugs?

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2.5 SUICIDE

2.5.1 INTRODUCTION

Life is a mysterious journey assigned by God with a unique purpose for each of us. We play a vital role in the interconnected chain of existence, making us singular and invaluable. Life, a divine gift from the Supreme Master, is truly authentic when accepted as grace, despite its inherent challenges.

Tragically, suicide has been part of our collective history, depicted in art, myth, and religious symbols across cultures. This exploration delves into the motives behind such decisions and the associated moral responsibility, recognizing the complex meanings of suicide throughout human history.

2.5.2 Definition

Suicide is a term derived from the Latin word *suicidium*, meaning the taking of one's own life. Latin word sui means self and cide means kill. Therefore, suicide means "an intentional act of

self-killing". Suicide is the act by which a person directly, knowingly, and freely brings about his or her own death.

1.5.3 Causes of Suicide

Suicide is a complex phenomenon influenced by a myriad of factors. In India, several factors contribute to a higher incidence of suicides. It's essential to note that individual cases vary, and a combination of factors often plays a role. Some contributing factors include:

1. *Mental Health Issues:* Mental health problems, such as depression, anxiety, and other psychiatric disorders, are significant contributors to suicide. Stigma surrounding mental health in India can hinder individuals from seeking help.

2. *Social and Economic Factors:* Financial difficulties, unemployment, poverty, and social inequalities can create stressors that contribute to feelings of hopelessness and despair.

3. *Family Issues:* Problems within the family, including domestic violence, conflict, strained relationships, or lack of emotional support, can be significant stressors.

4. *Cultural Factors:* Societal expectations, cultural norms, and pressure to conform to certain standards can create a sense of failure or isolation, particularly in cases of perceived social or personal failure.

5. *Educational Stress:* Intense academic pressure and competition, particularly among students, can contribute to stress and mental health issues.

6. *Access to Means:* Easy access to means of self-harm, such as pesticides in agrarian communities or easy availability of other lethal methods, can contribute to higher suicide rates.

7. *Substance Abuse:* Substance abuse, including alcohol and drug misuse, can exacerbate mental health issues and contribute to suicidal thoughts.

8. *Lack of Mental Health Awareness:* Limited awareness and understanding of mental health issues, coupled with a shortage of mental health resources, can hinder timely intervention and support.

9. *Stigma and Shame:* Societal stigma surrounding mental health problems and suicide can prevent individuals from seeking help and disclosing their struggles.

10. **Crisis Situations:** Natural disasters, financial crises, or other large-scale emergencies can contribute to heightened stress and an increased risk of suicides.

2.5.4 Government initiatives to prevent suicide.

- *National Mental Health Program (NMHP):* The Indian government, through the NMHP, has been working to provide accessible, affordable, and quality mental health care to its citizens. Suicide prevention is an integral part of this program, with a focus on increasing mental health awareness and reducing the stigma associated with seeking help.

- *District Mental Health Program (DMHP):* The DMHP, implemented across various districts in the country, aims to provide mental health services at the community level. This includes early identification and treatment of mental health issues, including those that may contribute to suicide risk.

- *Suicide Helplines:* The government has supported the establishment of suicide helplines such as "Vandrevala Foundation" and "Roshni," which offer emotional support and counseling to individuals in distress. These helplines play a crucial role in providing immediate assistance and connecting individuals with appropriate services.

- *Public Awareness Campaigns:* Various awareness campaigns have been launched by the government to educate the public about mental health issues and suicide prevention. These campaigns often emphasize the importance of seeking help, understanding warning signs, and fostering supportive communities.

- *Training for Healthcare Professionals:* The government has recognized the need for training healthcare professionals to better identify and manage individuals at risk of suicide. Initiatives involve imparting skills to primary care providers and other healthcare personnel for effective suicide prevention and intervention.

- *Restriction of Access to Means*: Given the prevalence of suicide by pesticide ingestion, the government has taken steps to regulate the sale and distribution of certain pesticides. This is aimed at reducing access to lethal means commonly associated with suicides.

- *Legal Framework:* India has also been working on strengthening its legal framework related to mental health. The Mental Healthcare Act, 2017, decriminalizes suicide attempts and emphasizes the rights of individuals with mental health issues, promoting a more compassionate and understanding approach.

- *Research and Data Collection:* The government recognizes the importance of research and data collection to understand the complex factors contributing to suicide. Efforts

are underway to gather accurate and up-to-date data to inform policies and interventions effectively.

➢ ***Community Engagement:*** Engaging communities is a priority, and the government encourages the involvement of local leaders and organizations in suicide prevention efforts. Creating supportive community environments is seen as crucial in addressing mental health challenges.

❖ Check your progress.

a) What is suicide?

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b) Write about factors which play role in suicide?

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Unit 3 : Social Problems in India: Juvenile Delinquency, Child labour and Youth unrest

3.1 OBJECTIVES

Following are the objectives of this lesson:

- Understanding Crime and Juvenile Delinquency.
- Understanding the causes of delinquency
- Analysing Child labour issue.
- Examining Youth unrest Social Issue.
- Exploring causes of these social issues respectively.
- Prevention and Intervention Strategies of each social issue.

3.2 INTRODUCTION

India, with its rich cultural tapestry and diverse population, grapples with a range of social problems that impact the well-being of its citizens. Among these challenges, three issues stand out prominently - juvenile delinquency, child labour, and youth unrest. These interconnected problems reflect the complexities arising from social, economic, and cultural transitions in the country.

Juvenile delinquency involves young individuals engaging in illegal activities, challenging the fabric of societal norms. Child labour, on the other hand, underscores the exploitation of the nation's youngest workforce, impeding their right to a proper childhood and education. Simultaneously, youth unrest manifests as a response to societal pressures, economic disparities, and evolving aspirations among the younger generation. In this exploration of social problems in India, we delve into the intricate web of factors responsible for juvenile delinquency, the persistence of child labour, and the root causes of youth unrest. Understanding and dealing with challenges is significant for equitable and harmonious society that nurtures the potential of its younger generations

3.3 JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

3.3.1 DEFINITION

An adolescent is referred to as delinquent who is "deemed to be in need of care and protection, or who is proved to be beyond the control of his/her parents as well as one who has been found guilty of committing an offence." Resnick (1955) defined delinquent as "a minor who has committed an unlawful act for which he would be sent to prison, if he were an adult." Paranjape (2004) defines delinquency as various behaviours of children and adolescents which are not approved by society and which require some corrective measure, or admonishment in public interest. Most theories state that violation of the law by a young person under a certain age is Juvenile delinquency. This age also varies across states. A female below the age of 18 years and a male below the age of 16 were deemed as juveniles according to the juvenile justice act of India (1986) but with emendation in the act in 2000, the age of juvenile males and females was brought at par i.e. 18 years. In 2012, after Nirbhaya rape case in Delhi, the age was again lowered to 16 years.

3.3.2 Juvenile Delinquency in India

Juvenile delinquency in India is a pressing social issue that demands attention and effective intervention. With a significant portion of the population being comprised of young individuals, the challenges associated with juvenile delinquency are paramount. Many factors such as illiteracy, poverty, and inadequate social support lead to the vulnerability of the youth, pushing some towards criminal behaviour. The justice system in India recognizes the unique circumstances surrounding juvenile offenders and emphasizes rehabilitation over punitive measures. However, there is a need for comprehensive policies addressing the root causes of juvenile delinquency, including improving access to education, healthcare, and social services. Additionally, fostering a supportive community environment and engaging in preventive measures can have significant positive impact in taking youth away from delinquency, ensuring a more promising and productive future for the youth of India.

3.3.3 Innate and Environmental Factors

Juvenile delinquency stems from both inherent traits and environmental factors. Physical issues like poor health or deformities may prompt an inferiority complex, pushing individuals towards competitive shortcuts. Low intelligence or psychotic disorders can lead to exploitative behaviour, and prolonged emotional withdrawal may escalate into violence. Emotionally mature individuals adeptly control their feelings and align with societal norms. Delinquency is often linked to serious emotional imbalances causing conflicts with group values and offending even the close ones. In essence, delinquents display distorted personalities, influenced by personal whims, and feel alienated from their social environment.

- **Reality Versus Fantasy**

Physical abnormalities, such as short stature, skin blemishes, oversized ears, or obesity, often lead to significant personality and emotional challenges in social relationships. Individuals with these conditions may experience avoidance in social interactions, face disadvantages in marriage opportunities and employment, and encounter various hurdles. The resulting pent-up resentment can manifest in compensatory behaviours, potentially leading to forms of alienation. Some individuals may cope by engaging in daring or aggressive actions to compensate for feelings of inferiority. However, a considerable number of people with physical abnormalities successfully adapt to their surroundings, especially when accepted by supportive parents and friends.

- **Physical Wellbeing and Disease**

Regarding poor health or chronic diseases, individuals who are unwell or fatigued often exhibit increased irritability, unreasonableness, and diminished self-control. Feeble-minded individuals may be more susceptible to crime and delinquency due to their limited critical thinking abilities, often struggling to make sound decisions and regulate their behaviour. Mental health conditions altering judgment or self-restraint can lead to behaviours taking eccentric, perilous, or negative directions. Crimes like sexual assaults, murders, and compulsive stealing (kleptomania) can involve a neurotic element influenced by such mental health conditions.

3.3.4 Policy on Delinquency Control

Adult crime and juvenile delinquency have always existed and will persist, but their extent can be controlled. Human nature harbours such impulses, necessitating imposition of external controls by institutes. Disruptions in family, school, or local community effectiveness can unleash these impulses. Inadequate criminal justice systems may free some from moral constraints. Enhancing law enforcement, training policemen, and employing scientific crime detection methods can address crime and delinquency issues. Swift court proceedings and appropriate punishments can deter criminal behaviour. Addressing poverty and related issues is crucial, while strengthening family relationships and providing constructive outlets for children can help prevent undesirable habits and companionships. Opportunities for wholesome childhood leisure reduce the likelihood of delinquency, though not guaranteed. Therefore, counselling, psycho education and behaviour modification skills can go a long way in reforming the adolescent offenders so that they don't become life course persistent offenders. However, all the agencies like parents, teachers, policy makers and

other stakeholders need to wotk together to actualize the aim of reforming and rehabilitating and transforming the young criminals.

❖ Check your progress.

1) Define Juvenile delinquency?

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2) Write on the Policy On Delinquency Control.

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3.4 CHILD LABOUR

3.4.1 DEFINITION

The Census of India defines a child worker as the child below 14 years of age who spends the major part of the day in work. The definition of the 'child' is not rigid. The upper age was set to be 18 at 1989 UN Convention on the 'Rights of the Child'. A chil has been defined to be having age below 15 years as stated by the International Labour Organisation. The children having attained the age of 14 years are considered to be employable in India.

3.4.2 Causes and Conditions of Child Labour

- **Rural Areas**
- Children work as self-employed workers, as unpaid family helpers and as wage earners. The various activities in which children are employed in rural areas areI grazing cattle, agricultural tasks, home-based industries (handlooms, bidi making and handicrafts etc.). According to National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), this problem of child labour in India is attributed to following factors:

i) High Percentage of SC population

ii) Reduced literacy in females

iii) Adult workers getting low wages

iv) Small sized land holdings

v) Small industries at home

- **Urban Areas**

In urban settings, children engage in wage-earning activities in small industries including fireworks, bidi, glass and bangle, match, handloom, carpet weaving, gem polishing, paper bags, pottery, fish processing and plastic goods. Industries like fireworks and match making often involve very young working children. Additionally, they work at stone quarries, construction sites, loading/unloading operations, serve in restaurants, dhabas, sell vegetables, work as car cleaners, domestic servants and newspaper vendors. Children from slums also take on roles such as casual workers and porters. The children work as unpaid family helpers in various settings, including employers' homes, contract work, family farms, or small enterprises, often without recognition or monetary compensation. While work at home is sometimes seen as less exploitative but the instances of child abuse and long working hours in challenging environs can occur within the family.

3.4.3 Constitutional Provisions and Government Policies

- **Constitutional Provisions**

Child labour prohibition and regulation have gained significant attention in recent decades. Article 24 of the Indian Constitution states the prohibition of the employment of children below 14 years in mines, factories or hazardous tasks. Directive Principles of State Policy (Article 39(e) and (f)) emphasize protecting the health of workers, including children, and ensuring opportunities for their development in a healthy environment, safeguarding them against exploitation. The Constitution further directs the

state to strive for compulsory and free education for the children up to 14 years within ten years of its commencement.

- **Committee on Child Labour**

The National Commission of Labour (1969) and the Committee on Child Labour (1981) reports extensively studied the causes and outcomes of child labour in India. In response to the 1981 report, the government established a Central Advisory Board on Child Labour under the Ministry of Labour. This board evaluates the enforcement of current laws, proposes additional legal and welfare measures, and identifies industries/occupations where the elimination of child labour is necessary.

- **Child Labour Legislations**

In the first legislation in 1881, the Indian Factories Act regulated child labour in factories, setting the minimum employment age at 7 years and limiting working hours to nine. An amendment in 1891 increased the minimum age to nine years and reduced maximum working hours to seven. The Factories Act of 1948 prohibits employment of children below 14 years. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986 is the first comprehensive law prohibiting employment of children below 14 in organized industries and specific perilous occupations. This includes industries like bidi making, cloth dyeing , match, explosives, and firework manufacturing, soap production etc. However, a significant number is still employed in the non-formal sector.

- **Difficulties in Implementation**

Over 80% of children, working primarily in rural areas, are engaged in the agrarian sector. Many work in unorganized sector, including domestic service, small eating shops, construction sites, and as porters, lacking protective legislation. The government believes in regulating rather than abolishing child labour, viewing the 1986 Act as insufficient, given its roots in poverty. The Act prohibits child labour in hazardous occupations, but employers often bypass it through non-compliance or outsourcing work to smaller units or home-based workers. Many children work in small industries not covered by legislation, with examples like 40,000 girls in Sivakasi match factories and over 25,000 child labourers in the growing carpet industry in eastern U.P. Employers view children as a source of cheap and compliant labour, claiming to help poor families and prevent antisocial activities. Child labour keeps production costs low, increasing profit margins.

3.4.4 LET US SUM UP

Child labour in India is intricately linked to the overarching issue of poverty. The majority of child workers hail from families of landless agricultural labourers, marginal farmers, artisans, and migrants

residing in urban slums. While reliable estimates of child labour are lacking, it is frequently employed as a survival strategy by impoverished households. Children take on various roles, working as unpaid family helpers, wage earners and self-employed workers selling diverse products. Unfortunately, they are also engaged in perilous occupations such as matchstick and fireworks manufacturing, glass and bangle industries, and carpet weaving. Thus they violate the legislation that imposes prohibition on their employment in such risky endeavours.

❖ Check your progress

1) Define child labour. Write down the causes of child labour?

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3.5 YOUTH UNREST

3.5.1 INTRODUCTION

Youth unrest is a state of dissatisfaction and agitation among the younger population within a society. It arises from factors such as economic inequality, lack of opportunities, educational challenges, and social injustice. Young people express their discontent through protests and activism, seeking to address their grievances. While youth unrest can lead to positive societal change when channellised constructively, it may also contribute to social tensions and instability when unaddressed.

1.5.2 DEFINITION

"***Youth unrest may be defined as manifestation of collective frustration of the youth in society***"

3.5.3 Socio-Economic and Political Factors which cause youth unrest

- ***Unemployment:*** High levels of unemployment, especially among educated youth, create frustration and dissatisfaction. Despite obtaining degrees, many young Indians struggle to secure meaningful employment opportunities.

- ***Educational Challenges:*** The pressure to succeed in a competitive education system, coupled with limited resources, can lead to stress and anxiety among students. Additionally, issues like inadequate infrastructure and unequal access to quality education contribute to discontent.

- *Economic Inequality:* The economic gap between the poor and the rich exacerbates feelings of inequality. Youth from marginalized communities often face barriers to economic progress, leading to resentment and frustration.

- *Political Disillusionment:* Young Indians may feel disconnected from the political process, perceiving a lack of representation and responsiveness to their concerns. This can lead to a sense of powerlessness and a desire for political change.

- *Social Issues:* Youth unrest may also be fuelled by concerns such as gender inequality, discrimination, and social injustice. Movements advocating for social change often gain traction among the younger generation.

- *Environmental Concerns:* With the increasing awareness of environmental issues, young Indians are actively participating in movements advocating for sustainable development and environmental conservation.

- *Digital Activism:* The rise of social media has provided a platform for young Indians to express their views, mobilize support, and organize protests. Digital activism plays a significant role in shaping youth movements in the country.

3.5.4 Government Initiatives to Minimise Youth Unrest in India

1. *Skill Enhancement Programs:* The government has launched several skill development initiatives to augment the employability of youth. Programs like Skill India aim to provide training and skill enhancement to make young individuals more competitive in the job market.

2. *Startup India:* To encourage entrepreneurship and innovation, the government introduced the Startup India initiative. It includes various measures to support and promote startup ventures, fostering a culture of entrepreneurship among the youth.

3. *Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY):* This program focuses on providing skill development training to a large number of Indian youth, enabling them to secure a better livelihood.

4. *National Youth Policy:* The government periodically updates the National Youth Policy to address the evolving needs and aspirations of the youth. The policy outlines strategies and programs for youth development and empowerment.

5. *Digital India*: The Digital India campaign aims to change India into a digitally empowered society. This initiative helps in providing digital literacy and access to information technology, empowering the youth with digital skills.

6. *Start-up and Innovation Promotion:* Various schemes and funds are introduced to promote innovation and entrepreneurship among the youth. This includes financial support and mentoring programs for young entrepreneurs.

7. *Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY):* PMMY provides financial support to aspiring entrepreneurs, especially those in the micro-enterprise sector. This initiative helps youth to start their businesses and become self-reliant.

8. *Youth Exchange Programs:* The government encourages youth exchange programs, both at the national and international levels, to promote cultural understanding and global exposure among the youth.

❖ Check your progress

1) Define youth unrest?

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2) What are the key measures taken by Government to reduce youth unrest?

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UNIT 4. SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN INDIA: POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT

4.1 OBJECTIVES

After completing this lesson, you will be able to:

- explain the meaning, types, and important measures of unemployment.
- identify the causes of unemployment.
- know the Government policies and programmes implemented to alleviate.
- poverty and generate employment.

4.2 INTRODUCTION

In India, the challenges of unemployment and poverty have consistently posed significant hurdles to economic progress. Regional inequality is also a critical aspect in this regard. The anticipation is that economic reforms, alterations in industrial policies, and more effective utilization of existing resources will help alleviate the issues of unemployment and poverty. Governmental bodies must also implement enduring strategies for poverty alleviation. The pivotal elements for addressing the dual problems of unemployment and poverty include the creation of employment opportunities and achieving equality in income distribution.

1.3 POVERTY IN INDIA

In general, poverty can be defined as a situation when people are unable to satisfy the basic needs of life. The definition and methods of measuring poverty differs from country to country. The extent of poverty in India is measured by the number of people living below the **Poverty Line.**

4.3.1 Poverty Line

The **Poverty Line** defines a threshold income. Households earning below this threshold are considered poor. Different countries have different methods of defining the threshold income depending on local socio-economic needs. The Planning Commission releases the poverty estimates in India. Poverty is measured based on consumer expenditure surveys of the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). A poor household is defined as the one with an expenditure level below a specific poverty line. Earlier, India used to define the poverty line based on a method defined by a taskforce in 1979. It was based on expenditure for buying food worth 2,400 calories in rural areas and 2,100 calories in urban areas. In 2009, the Suresh Tendulkar Committee defined the poverty line on the basis of monthly spending on food, education, health, electricity and transport.

4.3.2 Causes of Poverty In India

Inequality in the Distribution of Income and Assets: The distribution of income and assets also determine the level of income. The economic inequalities are the major cause of poverty in India. It means the benefits of the growth have been concentrated and have not "trickled down" sufficiently to ensure improved consumption among the lower income groups.

2. Low Resources Endowment: A household is poor if the sum total of income earning assets which it commands, including land, capital and labour of various levels of skills, cannot provide an income above the poverty line. The poor mainly consists of unskilled labour, which typically does not command a high enough level of wage income.

3. Lack of Access to Social Services The lack of access to social services such as health and education compound the problems arising from inequality in the ownership of physical and human assets. These services directly affect household welfare. The poor typically get much less than a fair share of such services. This is partly because governments do not invest enough to ensure an adequate supply of these services and the limited supply is mainly availed by non-poor households. Further, the poor may not have adequate access for a variety of other reasons like lack access to information about the existence of such services, lack of knowledge and corruption.

4. Lack of access to Institutional Credit The banks and other financial institutions are biased in the provision of loans to the poor for the fear of default in the repayment of loans. Further, the rules regarding collateral security, documentary evidences etc. present constraints for the poor to avail loan facility from banks. The inaccessibility to institutional credit may forced to take credit from the landlord or other informal sources at a very high interest rate and which in turn may weaken their position in other areas, leading, for example, to the payment of abnormally high rental shares for land, or acceptance of abnormally low wages in various types of "bonded labour" arrangements or selling their crop at a very low price. In some cases poor people cannot make themselves free from the clutches of moneylenders. Their poverty is further accentuated because of indebtedness. Such indebted families continue to remain under the poverty line for generations because of this debt-trap.

5. Lack of Productive Employment The magnitude of poverty is directly linked to unemployment situation. The present employment conditions don't permit a reasonable level of living causing poverty. The lack of productive employment is mainly due to problems of infrastructure, inputs, credit, technology and marketing support. The gainful employment opportunities are lacking in the system.

6. Rapid Population Growth: The faster population growth obviously means a slower growth in per captaincies for any given rate of growth of gross domestic product (GDP), and therefore a slower rate of improvement in average living standards. Further the increased population growth increase consumption and reduces national savings and adversely affects the capital formation thereby limiting the growth in the national income.

7. Low Productivity in Agriculture The level of productivity in agriculture is low due to subdivided and fragmented holdings, lack of capital, use of traditional methods of cultivation, illiteracy etc. This is the main cause of poverty in the rural India.

8. Social Causes

(i) Education: Education is an agent of social change. Poverty is also said to be closely related to the levels of schooling and these two have a circular relationship. The earning power is affected by investment in individual education and training. However, poor people do not have the funds for human capital investment and thus it limits their income.

(ii) Caste system: Caste system in India has always been responsible for rural poverty. The subordination of the low caste people by the high caste people caused the poverty of the former. Due to rigid caste system, the low caste people could not participate in various economic activities and so remain poor.

(iv) Social customs: The rural people generally spend a large percentage of annual earnings on social ceremonies like marriage, death feast etc. and borrow largely to meet these requirements. As a result, they remain in debt and poverty.

4.3.3 Poverty Alleviation and Employment Generation Programmes in India:

1. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Work   (MGNREGA) This flagship programme of the government aims at enhancing livelihood security of households in rural areas by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work with the stipulation of one-third participation of women. The MGNREGA provides wage employment while also focusing on strengthening natural resource management through works that address causes of chronic poverty like drought, deforestation, and soil erosion and thus encourage sustainable development.

2. National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)- Adjudicate Swar Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)/ NRLM a self-employment programme implemented since April 1999 aims at lifting the assisted rural poor families (swarozgaris) above the poverty line by providing them income-generating assets through a mix of bank credit and government subsidy. The rural poor's a reorganized into self-help groups (SHGs) and their capacities are built through training and skill development.

3. **Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY)**The SJSRY launched on 1 December 1997 aims at providing gainful employment.to the urban unemployed and underemployed, by encouraging them to set up self-employment ventures or creating wage employment opportunities.

1.3.4 Conclusion: Navigating India's Poverty Landscape

- In summary, poverty in India is a multifaceted challenge, denoting the inability to meet basic needs. Measurement, often through the Poverty Line, informs policy, with

thresholds revised by committees like the Suresh Tendulkar Committee. Root causes include the vicious circle of poverty, low resource endowment, income inequalities, lack of social services, and limited access to credit and employment.

- Social factors such as education, the caste system, and customs compound economic disparities. India's response involves targeted programs like MGNREGA, NRLM, and SJSRY, emphasizing employment, livelihood security, and sustainable development.

- To combat poverty effectively, a comprehensive strategy is crucial, intertwining economic policies, social reforms, and focused interventions. Collaborative efforts from government, private sectors, and civil society are imperative for breaking the cycle of poverty and fostering an inclusive and prosperous future for India.

❖ Check Your Progress I.

a) What is Poverty. Define the main causes of poverty in India?

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b) What are the major programs introduced by government to generate employment?

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4.4 UNEMPLOYMENT

4.4.1 INTRODUCTION

Unemployment in India is a big problem. Many factors, like a large population, new technology, and not enough skills, make it hard to provide jobs for everyone. A lot of people work in informal jobs without stability or benefits. Unequal access to education and skills, along with technology changes, create a mismatch in the job market. This, along with machines doing some jobs, makes finding work difficult. High unemployment leads to more poverty and inequality, affecting people's lives and

stability. The Indian government is trying to solve this by making policies for job creation, skill-building, and encouraging new businesses. However, overcoming these challenges needs a flexible and comprehensive approach to help everyone find work in India.

4.4.2 Meaning and Types of Unemployment

The population of any country consists of two components:
(i) Labor Force
(ii) Non-Labor Force.
Labor force means all persons who are working (i.e. being engaged in the economic activity) as well as those who are not working but are seeking or available for work at the current wage rate. It means the labour force consists of both employed and unemployed people. The component of population which is not a part of the labor force is Non-Laborlore. It includes all those who are not working and are neither seeking nor available for work. **Unemployment** can be defined as a state of workless ness for a person who is fit and willing to work at the current wage rate. It is a condition of involuntary and not voluntary idleness. Simply stated an unemployed person is the one who is an active member of the labour force and is seeking work, but is unable to find the same. In case of voluntary unemployment a person is out of job on his own accord or choice, doesn't work on the prevalent or prescribed wages. Either he wants higher wages or doesn't want to work at all. The involuntary unemployment on the other hand is the situation when a person is separated from remunerative work and devoid of wages although he is capable of earning his wages and is also anxious to earn them. It is the involuntary idleness that constitutes unemployment. Involuntary unemployment can be further divided into cyclical unemployment, seasonal unemployment, structural unemployment, frictional unemployment, natural rate of unemployment, disguised unemployment and under employment.

1. Cyclical Unemployment

Cyclical or demand deficient unemployment occurs when the economy is in need of low workforce. When there is an economy-wide decline in aggregate demand for goods and services, employment declines and unemployment correspondingly increases. Cyclical unemployment mainly occurs during recession or depression. This form of unemployment is most commonly known as cyclical unemployment since unemployment moves with the trade cycle. For instance, during the recent global slowdown in late 2008, many workers around the globe lost their jobs.

2. Seasonal Unemployment

This type of unemployment occurs in a particular time of the year or season and thus is known as seasonal unemployment. Seasonal unemployment is most common in industries like agriculture, tourism, hotel, catering etc.

3. Structural Unemployment

Structural unemployment arises when the qualification of a person is not sufficient to meet his job responsibilities. It arises due to long term change in the pattern of demand that changes the basic structure of the economy. The person is not able to learn new technologies used in the new expanding economic sectors and they thus may be rendered permanently unemployed. For instance, when computers were introduced, many workers were dislodged because of a mismatch between the existing skills of the workers and the requirement of the job. Although jobs were available, there was a demand for a new kind of skill and qualification. So, persons with old skills did not get employment in the changed economic regime, and remain unemployed.

4. Frictional Unemployment

Frictional unemployment occurs when a person is out of one job and is searching for another for different reasons such as seeking a better job, being fired from current job, or having voluntarily quit a current job. It generally requires some time before a person can get the next job. During this time he is frictionally unemployed.

5. Underemployment

When a person is engaged in the economic activity but that fail to provide him fully in accordance to his qualification and efforts. Thus it is a situation in which a person is employed but not in the desired capacity whether in terms of compensation, hours, or level of skill and experience. While not technically unemployed underemployed often compete for available jobs.

1.4.3 Measurement of Unemployment

Unemployment rate is the percent of the labor force that is without work. It is calculated as below: Unemployment rate = (Unemployed Workers/Total labor force) × 100Measurement of unemployment is a difficult task. In India, the most comprehensiveand reliable data on employment and unemployment are compiled by the NationalSample Survey Organization (NSSO). Based on different reference period (a year,a week, and each day of a week), NSSO provides four different measures of employment and unemployment.

1.4.4 Causes of Unemployment in India

   1. **Slow Economic Growth**

During the planning period the trend rate of growth was considerably lower than the targeted rate. Therefore, jobs in adequate number were not created. Further, economic growth by itself does not solve the problem of unemployment. In the recent past there has been deceleration in the growth of employment in spite of the accelerated economic growth. This can be explained in terms of steady decline in the degree of response of employment to change in output in all the major sectors of economic activity except in construction. According to T.S. Papola, over a period of time, the output growth in agriculture and manufacturing sector has become more input and technology-intensive and less labor-intensive. Besides, the sectoral composition of growth is also an important determinant of unemployment.

Excessive dependence on agriculture and slow growth of non-farm activities limit employment generation.

2. **Increase in Labor force**

   There are two important factors that have caused an increase in the labor force which are as follows:

   (i) Rapid Population Growth: Rising population has led to the growth in the labor supply and without corresponding increase in the employment opportunities for the increasing labor force has aggravated the unemployment problem.

   (ii) Social Factors: Since Independence, education among women has changed their attitude toward employment. Many of them now compete with men for jobs in the labor market. The economy has however failed to respond to these challenges and the net result is a continuous increase in unemployment backlogs.

3. **Rural-Urban Migration**

   The unemployment in urban area is mainly the result of substantial rural migration to urban areas. Rural areas have failed to provide subsistence living in agriculture and allied activities and so large scale migration is taking place to cities. However, economic development in cities has failed to create enough additional jobs for the new urban entrants to the labor market. Thus only some of the migrants are absorbed in productive activities and the rest join the reserve army of unemployed workers.

4. **Inappropriate Technology**

   In India, though capital is a scarce factor, labor is available in abundant quantity; yet producers are increasingly substituting capital for labor. This policy results in larger unemployment. Despite the abundance of labor, capital intensive technology is adopted in India mainly because of rigid labor laws. It is quite difficult to follow easy hire and

fire policy and so right sizing of manpower is difficult for theenterprises. It is difficult to reduce the number of labor-Force. Further, the factorslike labor-unrest and lack of work-culture leads to the increased inefficiency oflabor and thus provide incentives to follow labor-saving technology by organizations.

5. **Defective Educational System**

   The present educational system has theoretical bias and has limited utility forproductive purposes. It lacks the emphasis on the development of aptitude andtechnical qualifications required for various types of work among job seekers. Thishas created a mismatch between the need and availability of relevant skills andtraining, which results in unemployment, especially of youth and educated whileshortage of technical and specialized personnel continues.

6. **Lack of Infrastructure Development**

   Lack of investment and infrastructure development limits the growth and productive capacity of different sectors which leads to inadequate generation of employment opportunities in the economy.

7. **Lack of employability**

   India faces poor health and nutrition situation among masses which reduces the capacity of person to be employable and it causes unemployment.

1.4.5 Solutions to Unemployment Issue:

1. Skill Development Initiatives:

   a) Expand and enhance skill development programs to align with the evolving needs of industries.

   b) foster collaborations between educational institutions, industries, and the government to ensure workforce readiness.

2. Entrepreneurship Promotion:

   a) Encourage entrepreneurship through startup-friendly policies, funding support, and mentorship programs.

   b) Streamline regulatory processes to facilitate the establishment and growth of small businesses.

3. Infrastructure Investment:

a) Invest in infrastructure projects to stimulate economic growth and create job opportunities, especially in sectors like construction and transportation.

4. Digitalization and Technology Adoption:

a) Promote digital literacy and technology adoption across sectors to boost productivity.

b) Invest in technology-driven industries, such as information technology and artificial intelligence, to generate high-skilled employment.

5. Rural Employment and Inclusive Policies:

a) Expand rural employment programs and sustainable development projects to create jobs in rural areas.

b) Implement inclusive economic policies that prioritize equitable job distribution, especially for marginalized groups.

❖ Check Your Progress I.

a) What does the term "unemployment rate" mean, and how is it calculated in the context of India?

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b) What are the causes of unemployment in India?

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Unit 5 Inequalities in Indian society: Caste, Class, Gender and Rural-Urban

5.0 Objectives

5.1 Introduction

5.2 Caste and Class in Indian Society

5.3 Gender Inequalities in Indian society

5.4 Rural-Urban Disparities

5.5 Questions for Practise

5.6 References

5.1 Learning Objectives

After reading this unit, you will be able to:

1.   explain the dynamics of caste and class in Indian society

2.   describe the gender Inequalities in Indian society

3.   discuss the rural-urban disparities

5.2 Caste and Class in Indian Society

        While studying Indian society, one comes across the phenomenon of caste that makes the case of Indian society peculiar and distinct. It is something that works as a marker of identity for an average person but a marker that also creates a condition of social inequality that does not go well with the modern principles of equality and fraternity. It is so much part and parcel of Indian society that its mention and usage does not raise any concern among most of Indians. For example, each weekend one comes across matrimonial advertisements classified along caste lines. Many of the advertisements very clearly mention that they are looking for a bride or a bridegroom belonging to a particular caste. If one visits any market one will invariably come across shops carrying caste names or caste identifiers. Despite its widespread prevalence caste remains a sensitive topic of discussions in public. Caste continues to be a symbol of backwardness, inequality and anti-modern character of Indian society. It remains one of the most contentious issues in Indian society and social scientists have tried to understand the phenomenon in depth.

        The term caste is derived from the Portuguese word *'casta'* which literally means race or lineage. The Portuguese *'casta'* in itself is further derived from the Latin word *'castus'* which means pure or chaste. According to Merriam-Webster's Dictionary, the term was first

used in English in early seventeenth century. The current usage of the term owes its origin to the advent of Portuguese observers who tried to understand the social groups within Hindu social order that were set apart from each other on the basis of their birth, lineage etc with much more elaborate rules of segregation. Over a period of time the term has come to specifically refer to a specific form of social category within Hindu social order. Social category in Hindu society best depicted by the English term caste is called *'jati'* in Hindi. Some authors have found the term 'caste' somewhat incomplete to capture the complexity of *'jati'* in Hindu community. Over a period of time the term has evolved to depict the main elements of 'jati' as prevalent in Hindu society and has therefore acquired a specific meaning restricted to a form of social division prevalent in India especially among the Hindus.

Caste therefore can be said to be a social group in which a person is born into and remains associated with all through his/her life. The caste therefore is acquired by birth. One cannot choose one's caste, it is given to one by birth. To understand the concept better it is important to know the whole system of caste within which particular castes make sense.

THE CASTE SYSTEM IN INDIA

Caste system is a system of social stratification prevalent in Indian society. Like all systems of social stratification caste system also divides society into various segments and places them in a hierarchy. However, what differentiates caste system from other types of social stratification is its rigidity, the practice of untouchability and its enduring nature.

Once born into a caste, one lives and dies in that caste only. No amount of effort on the part of an individual can alter his or her caste. The idea and practice of caste gets reinforced by the religious texts of Hinduism. The fact that caste system finds expression in some religious texts of Hindus makes it a formidable institution to deal with. The caste system is one of the oldest systems of social stratification. The earliest reference to caste system in ancient Indian society is found in Rigveda, one of the oldest sacred texts of the Hindus.

As an institution caste system also shows immense recalcitrance and refuses to vanish with changing times due to ideological strength that it draws from traditional religious texts of Hinduism. The traditional caste system divides all members of society into four hierarchical categories called *Varnas*, namely, *Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas* and *Shudras* with Brahmins at the top and *Shudras* at the bottom. All castes can be classified into one of these four *Varnas*. The membership of one's caste is ascribed by birth and one's progeny also by default falls into the same caste category. These groups are classified into the twice borns *'Dvijas'* and the *Shudras* who are '*non-Dvijas'*. The twice borns are the ones who have special privilege to adorn the sacred thread after a few years of birth. The ceremonial adorning of sacred thread is called *Upnayana* and is metaphorically referred to as the second birth through which a child gets initiated into the caste group. *Shudras* being non-*Dvijas* are not allowed to wear that thread and therefore remain identified as separate and underprivileged vis-à-vis *Dvijas*.

There is another social group which falls outside the Varna system and is called *Avarnas*. They are different from the *Savarnas* who belong to the *Chaturvarna* (four Varnas) scheme mentioned above. *Shudras* despite being a lower caste belong to the *Savaranas* and are

therefore considered better than *Avarnas*. Being outside the Varna scheme *Avarnas* do not enjoy any privileges in society which are otherwise available to rest of the members. In caste hierarchy they are considered lower even to *Shudras* who otherwise form the bottom of the caste hierarchy. *Avarnas* were considered outcaste people and traditionally they were not permitted to have any social ties with members of the mainstream society and were also not allowed to own any resources. They used to live on the outskirts of the village and with no means of production or employment; they used to depend completely on *Savarnas* for their survival. This was the group that was traditionally called the Untouchables.

Untouchables that we are discussing here refer to a group of people in Indian society who belong to the lowest rung of hierarchical division of caste society and as per caste system are considered so impure and polluted that their mere touch is assumed to pollute others. In the opening lines of his essay Charsley writes that "If there were one person whom responsibility for initiating the twentieth century career of the concept of "**untouchability**" might be ascribed it would be Sir Herbert Risley" (Charsley: 1996). It was in his "grand experiment in classifying and ranking castes in the sub-continent" that Risley, after becoming Commissioner for the 1901 Census of India, ended up institutionalizing the term Untouchables for certain communities.

Though the history of the term in English is recent, the concept had many terms in Hindi like '*Achut', 'Ati-Shudra'* etc. The term was reserved for the *Avarnas* who were ranked below *Shudras* and had no social, cultural or political rights as they were considered outcastes. They were the most deprived segment of society that was hardly recognized as part of it and lived on its margins, both spatially and socially. Deprived of social ties with larger society, devoid of right to own houses, land, or any other sources of subsistence they were virtually isolated and lived a miserable existence. Due to their extreme poverty and helplessness they were the most exploited segment of society which was made to perform all kind of menial labour for the rest of society in order to survive. They were assigned critical socially and economically critical tasks which were otherwise 'polluting' like sweeping, tanning leather (Joshi: 1986), carrying night soil, cremating the dead etc., and therefore over a period of time they were identified with these menial occupation categories. Untouchables are described as "people considered too impure, too polluted, to rank as worthy beings" (O'Neill: 2003). An Untouchable was considered so polluting and impure that his mere touch or even shadow would defile the upper castes and evoke severe sanctions against him.

In earlier times they were supposed not to venture near village settlements during early sunrise or during evenings when the shadows would be longer and therefore a threat to others. They were supposed to make noise while moving into public areas to warn others of their movement and drag brooms on their back to clean their footmarks (Anand: 1981). There was an elaborate set of rules regarding the kind of punishment imposed on them in case they happen to touch someone from the *Savarana* castes who had to undergo certain rituals and ablution to ward off the impurity imposed upon them by an Untouchable. Hence, all public places and facilities like well or any other water reservoir, places of worship, cultural events etc., were out of bounds for Untouchables and the stigma of being Untouchable was imposed upon them by virtue of being born into that community. It appalls one's senses to know how a segment of human population was kept at such inhuman level of existence over centuries. One wonders

how a society could legitimize existence of such a social category over such a long period of time and one finds the justification in *Karma* theory of Hindu religion whereby the Untouchables are blamed for their pitiable condition owing to the sins of their past lives.

The castes considered Untouchables were kept in their deplorable condition by a set of social, cultural, political and economic practices and beliefs which can be referred to as Untouchability. These set of beliefs and practices which were discriminatory against Untouchables tended to maintain social distance with them on account of their caste status.

While the caste system is very old, the institution of Untouchability is estimated to have emerged around second century AD and had completely rooted itself during Gupta Period (Gupta: 1999). Afterwards, the institution was somewhat challenged by the Bhakti movement, Islam and the Sufi movements in India. However, it was the advent of British rule in India that saw the practice being challenged legally, though only in the later phase of British period. The British officials brought up in modernized intellectual tradition found the practice of Untouchability a sign of a backward society. To an extent the notion of Indian society as essentially pre-enlightened and superstitious and therefore inherently inferior and different to modern European societies suited the British establishment (Mendelsohn & M Vicziany: 2000). Early British period did not offer much legal support for the Untouchables (Galanter: 1969). "Until the 1920s British and wider European interest in the Untouchables was for the most part left to Christian missionaries" (Mendelsohn & M Vicziany: 2000). This resulted in serious effort by social reformers within Hinduism to check conversion of Untouchables to Christianity or other religions. The political necessity of national movement also demanded that the Untouchables are embraced by their own society to forge a more powerful alliance against British rulers. Gandhi realized how the institution of untouchability weakened moral force of the nationalist movement. He acknowledged Untouchability as a grave social wrong (Gandhi: 1929) and the need to get Hindu society rid of this practice. He preferred to use the term '***Harijans***' for the Untouchable castes and pleaded for more humane treatment towards them. *'Harijan'* means 'the people of God'. The term, however, was not widely accepted by the untouchables who found it too patronizing. During this period the Untouchables were already using another term for themselves through which they claimed their status as original inhabitants of the land. The term is popular with many Untouchable leaders since 1917 was '*Adi-*' as prefix of Dravidians, hence ***Adi-Dravidians, Adi- Andhras, Adi-Dharmi*** etc. The prefix '*Adi-*' conveyed the sense of untouchables as original inhabitants of India in contrast to non-*dalit* 'Aryans' who were seen as aggressors who had forcibly extended their control over the land of Untouchables.

In 1931 Census reports the Untouchables were covered under the term '**Depressed Classes**'. "In 1928 the depressed Classes Association was formed which functioned upto 1942" (Louis: 2003). The term however was contested by Dr Ambedkar in 1932 on account of the fact that the term created an impression of these communities as helpless and lowly. In 1935, the term "…Scheduled Caste was coined by the Simon Commission and embodied in the Government of India Act, 1935. In 1936, for the first time Government of British India published a list of Scheduled Castes" (Louis: 2003).

Soon after independence, India became a republic in 1950 and adopted a constitution that envisions a kind of society which will be egalitarian and democratic in character. The modern principles of equality, fraternity and justice enshrine in the constitution made the caste system incongruent to the avowed vision. Any kind of caste

After independence, the Constitution of India declared Untouchability as a legal offence under Article 17. To further weaken the institution of Untouchablility, the Untouchable castes were identified and clubbed together under the category of Scheduled Castes and special provisions were made for their upliftment and participation in larger society through policy of reservation in parliament, education and jobs. Through reservation and various democratic processes *Dalits* continue to struggle for a dignified life.

Constitution of India aims to achieve through legislation in independent India what it could not do in ages. After independence from British rule Indian leadership envisaged a society which would remove all forms of inequality and generate new forces of nationalism and togetherness in a society that is otherwise marked with diversity of religion, caste, language, region etc. From the perspective of Scheduled Castes, it was a historic opportunity to break away from the tradition of subjugation and humiliation and look forward to a free society where they will enjoy equal status with other citizens.

Untouchability is a strange notion in contemporary times and many people believe that it is a thing of past that does not exist anymore. Though there has been some remarkable progress in the condition of *Dalits* since independence the weight of centuries old tradition is still too heavy to be lifted within a span of seven decades. Untouchability continues to manifest itself in newer forms and different shades in many places. In their study Shah et al found untouchability to be a "pan-Indian phenomenon" whose "specific forms and intensity vary considerably across regions and socio-historical contexts" (Shah et al: 2006). That Untouchability is still exercised in contemporary Indian society has been sufficiently reported by various studies (Mendelsohn: 2000; Louis: 2003; Kumar 2001; O'Neill: 2003; Shah et al: 2006; Sarukkai: 2009). There have been efforts in the past also to fight against practice of untouchability but most rapid progress has been achieved only after India's independence in 1947.

The constitution remains one of the strangest defenders of the rights of all marginalized segments of society today. It is true that through legislation and political mobilization Indian society tried to seize a historic opportunity to undo the inequities of the past but it is also true that there has been major resistance by dominant social groups to concede space to historically deprived groups.

 The Scheduled Castes still face stiff resistance from the caste Hindus and their achievements are often denigrated. According to a study by O'Neill featured in National Geographic magazine in 2003, Untouchability remains in practice in India despite being abolished by the Constitution. He describes how prejudice against untouchables remains deeply entrenched in rural areas where majority of the Indian population resides. "Untouchables are shunned, insulted, banned from temples and higher caste homes, made to eat and drink from separate utensils in public places, and, in extreme but not common cases, are raped, burned, lynched, and gunned down" (O'Neill: 2003). Study by Ghanshyam Shah et al also found rural

areas to be the main sites where untouchability is more openly practiced. Their study found that "over 70 percent of villages deny *Dalits* entry into non-*Dalit* houses, over 60 percent deny entry into places of worship […] Dalit marriage processions were banned in almost 50 percent of villages" (Zelliot: 2007). An important finding of the study was that in interpersonal relationships untouchability is experienced much more frequently but in the public sphere its prevalence has decreased somewhat. Villages remain more entrenched in practice of untouchability while urban areas provide more anonymity and therefore weaker observance of caste principles in public spheres.

The forces of modernization, urbanization and marketization have somewhat diluted the rigid caste structure. Modern secular education has also played a significant role in weakening the old institution and producing better awareness among *Dalits* about their basic rights. *Dalits* have also developed newer strategies like "dissociation, distancing and autonomy" (Jodhka: 2002) to check practice of untouchability. These strategies however work more effectively where *Dalits* have some alternative opportunities available to them. For example in case of Punjab most of *Dalits* have moved away from their traditional caste based occupations and have constructed their own *Gurudwaras* in order to distance themselves from the relations of dependence over dominant castes and to have their autonomous religious activities. Interestingly religion still remains a dominant arena within which *Dalits* vie for a respectable place by either converting into new religions or by gaining more access to religious symbols within Hinduism. Education remains one of the most powerful tools of emancipation among *Dalits* as almost all other resources are controlled by non-*Dalits* (Oommen: 1968). Though study by Shah et al revealed that almost 40 percent of village schools act as sites "reproducing the hierarchies of caste and untouchability" (Shah et al.: 2006). Ambedkar had called upon *Dalits* to 'educate, organize and agitate'. The central role of education for *Dalits* was not merely emphasized by Ambedkar but he also showed way by example. Ambedkar continues to be one of the most formidable symbols of emancipatory zeal among *Dalits*. He has emerged as an all India icon among *Dalits* who constantly inspires them to yearn for a free and equal society.

5.3 Gender Inequalities in Indian society

Gender Discrimination: Gender disparity still exists in India. Being born as women in Indian society, one has to face gender discrimination at all levels. At the household level, females are confined to their household chores, raising children and looking after families, irrespective of their education degrees or job profile. At her workplace: women have limited access to job opportunities and are paid less for the same work. In India, discrimination was deep rooted and it is being exist since ages. In spite of the provision of equal rights to both the sexes, inappropriately sexual category still exists in the country. Time and again studies conducted and results shows gender discrimination is mostly in favour of men in many fields, including the workplace. Gender discrimination is uneven or detrimental conduct of an individual or group of individuals based on gender. Gender discrimination is the unequal or disadvantageous treatment inflicted on someone because they belong to a specific gender. It is usually the women who usually have to face such gender discrimination.

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Education and learning opportunities: gender-wise literacy rates in India showcase the wide gap between men and women. As per 2011 census data, effective literacy rates (age 7 and above) were 82.14% for men and 65.46% for women. Parents are unwilling to spend on girls' education because educating women is of no value as they will only serve their husbands and the in-laws in the future.

The Indian constitution provides equal rights and privileges for both men and women, but most women across India don't enjoy these rights and opportunities guaranteed to them. This is because of a number of reasons.

CAUSES OF GENDER INEQUALITY

1. **Poverty –** This is the root cause of gender discrimination in the patriarchal Indian society, as the economic dependence on the male counterpart is itself a cause of gender disparity. A total of 30% of people live below the poverty line, and out of this 70% are women.

2. **Illiteracy –** Gender discrimination In India had led to educational backwardness for girls. It's a sad reality that despite educational reforms in the country, girls in India are still denied a chance at learning. The mind-set needs to be changed, and people need to understand the benefits of educating girls. An educated, well-read woman ensures that other members, especially the children of the house, get a quality education.

3. **Setup in our Indian society –** Men dominate societal and family life in India. This has been the case in the past ages and continues to be practised in the majority of households. Though this mind-set is changing with urbanization and education, there is still a long way to permanently change the scenario.

4. **Social Customs, Beliefs and Practices** – To date, a lot of families have a preference for a male child and disfavour towards the daughter. Sons, especially in the business communities, are considered economic, political, and ritual assets where daughters are considered liabilities.

5. **Lack of Awareness among Women** – Most of the women are unaware of their fundamental rights and capabilities. They lack a basic understanding of how the socio-economic and political forces affect them. They accept all discriminatory practices that persist in families from generation in the name of tradition and societal norms primarily due to their ignorance and unawareness.

Gender-based discrimination across India can only be checked when girls are not denied their chance to learn and grow in life. Girls like boys should get a great start in life in terms of educational opportunities. This will help them attain economic independence and help them be rightly equipped to contribute towards their upliftment and that of the society they are part of.

FACTORS OF GENDER DISCRIMINATION

While there are many factors that explain sex differentials in mortality and morbidity, a key factor is gender inequality. Gender inequalities are obvious in different ways, such as unequal access to resources, power, education and discriminatory socio-cultural practices. The Indian laws on rape, dowry and adultery have women's safety in the forefront, these highly discriminatory practices are still taking place at an alarming rate, affecting the lives of many todays.

It is said that `education starts from home and mother is our first teacher'. But what if the mother herself is denied education? The daughters of our country are reportedly denied even the basic education. They are even disadvantaged of the basic needs of a human being, just because of their gender! Most of the women unfortunately are not even aware of their fundamental rights.

Gender inequality is a major menace that we face in our country. It remains complex to make change in the family front. It pervades in all levels of the society and in the background of social institutions. Some of the major causes are biology, sex roles, illiteracy, so called custom and gender; these are also being applied to the family.

In India as soon as a baby is born, their sex determines how they should be treated, how should they be groomed, what opportunities they should be provided with and how they should behave according to the leading gender maxims in their society, besides how far they should be send for higher education.

Due to inequality in the society, daughters and womenfolk experience discrimination, arrogance, vehemence, harassment, and struggle even to get equal remuneration and opportunities. In order to get equal wages, they had to fight tooth and nail and to get a law enacted in their favour. However, the status quo and scenario is yet to change positively and regrettably, ensuring the right till date remains a myth.

GENDER DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT

Men undoubtedly get paid higher and riskier jobs as compared to women. It is generally thought that the job areas where females are dominant over lower wages. As a woman enters an occupation, the glamour of the occupation associated with the job diminishes and men consequently switch over jobs. People also think that women entering specific occupations like nursing, teaching are less competent and are unskilled. Forgetting the past, that it is the bounded duty of the so-called fair sex to feed the weaker sex, they let women to work, and then belittle the jobs they prefer to do.

Gender inequality in relationships has been increasing over the years. It is highlighted when a couple makes a decision about who will resolve the family matters or issues or who will shoulder the responsibility of the family affairs.

Till recent times women are seen as machines producing successor for their families putting their scholastic and career goals in shelves and to raise their children while their husband's work. Regrettably, gender discrimination is considered as a normal factor and not at all considered as violence against women. In a way poverty can be quoted as the prime issue of gender discrimination in the patriarchal Indian society as women economically depend solely on their male counterpart. However, if women happen to be the breadwinners of the family also the status is not going to change for obvious reasons of domination and claim of supremacy.

The Constitution of India which generously extends rights to all citizens talks mainly about equality, dignity, education and freedom from discrimination. In addition to that India has various rulings prevailing the rights of women which runs parallel with the UN convention. Article 14, 15, 16, 21, 23, 39, 243 and many more, connected with the rights of women comes handy.

Woman constitutes the key role in the Indian society. Women in ancient India enjoyed high status in society and their condition was good. The ancient and medieval status of women in modern Indian society regarding equality, education, marriage and family life, race and gender, religion and culture is maintained or deteriorated. The Vedic women had economic freedom. Some women were engaged in teaching work. Home was the place of production. Spinning and weaving of clothes were done at home. Women also helped their husbands in agricultural pursuit. In the religious field, wife enjoyed full rights and regularly participated in religious ceremonies with her husband. Religious ceremonies and sacrifices were performed jointly by the husband and wife. Women even participated actively in religious discourses. The

status of women improved a little during the Buddhist period though there was no tremendous change. The role of women in Ancient Indian Literature is immense. Ancient India had many learned ladies. The Medieval period (Period between 500 A.D-1500 A.D) proved to be highly disappointing for the Indian women, for their status further deteriorated during this period. Women are not treated with respect as in the Ancient Indian society. Lot of crime against women is seen in the modern society. The Constitutional provisions are not sufficient to get the respectable position in society.

The Rig Vedic Women in India enjoyed high status in society. The women were provided opportunity to attain high intellectual and spiritual standard. In Vedic India, women did not enjoy an inferior status rather they occupied an honorable place. They had ample rights in the social and the religious fields and limited rights in the economic and the political fields. They were not treated as inferior or subordinate but equal to men. We have honored our country as our Motherland "Bharat Mata" and our nationalism has grown up from the seed Mantra "Vande Mataram". Positions of women in society are the index to the standard of social organization. Through this study we come to the conclusion that the women have equal participation in human development. She is half of the human race. But she lacks in society. Women are not treated with respect as in the Ancient Indian society. Lot of crime against women is seen in modern society. Constitutional provisions are not sufficient to get the respectable position in society. Some certain changes inside mind-set of women as well as man are required.

In the gender blind society, the crusade towards equality began in the late 19th century with the longing for aping the western culture. This sought to allow women to vote and hold elected office. If the human beings are in existence, mere gender cannot make one inferior to the other on a few scores or not supposed to overrule the other gender or dominate another, christening them the weaker sex. It is a serious abuse of human rights semblance of chauvinism, possessiveness or be it protection. To an extent, the justified self-esteem be given with the thought in mind that women are not doormats but fellow beings; And especially before the eyes of law, all are equal.

In spite of various protective legislations mentioned herein have been passed by the Parliament to remove mistreatment of women and to give them equal status in society, regrettably the discrimination prevails unabated. Though the government of India has passed various acts to ensure gender equality in the country, the quantum of awareness is little that the steps to ensure the implementation of laws have to be zoomed up.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

1. Discuss the status of women in Indian society in different periods.
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2. Explain different causes and factors involved in gender discrimination?

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QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE

1. What do you understand by gender discrimination?
2. Elaborate the status of women in Indian society historically.

5.4 Rural-Urban Inequalities

Indian society is predominantly a rural society having about 65% total population of nation residing in countryside. Thus, anybody who wishes to understand Indian society will have to understand the rural social structure indispensably. Though rural social structure varies from region to region, yet there are wide similarities among the ruralities like caste and family system.

Rural society bears specific characteristics which make it different than that of urban one. Here we shall discuss some of the important characteristics of rural society.

1. Occupation:

One of the prime and foremost characters of rural society lies in the occupational structure. Main occupation of the rural people is agriculture and allied activities. Peasants and their families are the base of rural economy due to their total engagement in cultivation. Generally, it is concluded that 75% of the people in countryside are engaged in agricultural occupation. According to Desai 'rural society is based predominantly on agriculture. Village agriculture is sharply distinguished from urban industry by the fact that it is based on direct extraction from nature by man.' In Indian rural society prime crops grown by the peasants /farmers are wheat, paddy, sugarcane, cotton, jute, tea, chilly and various types of vegetables etc. Land is the basic means of production on which the peasants and their family members put their labour with the help of domesticated animals like, oxen, cows, buffaloes (now machines). Unlike now most

of the agricultural production, in the typical rural setting, was at a subsistence level. Grazing of animals in open space was also a part of traditional rural society.

2. General Environment And Orientation Towards Nature:

Rural society is close to nature. The rural people have direct relationship with natural flora and fauna. By virtue of their work rural inhabitants usually experience sun, rain, heat, frost, drought over which they have no control. A strong belief prevails that only nature has strong role in their life hence natural phenomenon are taken with sacredness and people usually propitiate the various natural forces.

3. **Isolated**:

An important characteristic of the rural society is that it is usually away from the urban centers and is considered as an isolated setting having its own territory and having different social, cultural characteristics. Physical mobility of the rural people is usually restricted to a narrow area.

4. **Size of community:**

Rural society is small as compare to the urban one. Usually few hundred people reside in an ordinary village with almost direct link with each other. As there is wide size of land and population is scattered. In urban area size of community is comparatively quite large due to concentration on some specific places.

5. **Residential Patterns:**

Different rural societies in the world have peculiar residence patterns or physical structure of the housing due to geographical and other reasons. In case of Indian rural society, except the hilly terrain, most people of countryside reside in the concentrated dwellings. In the traditional rural society most of the houses were muddy and roofs were connected. The most streets in the villages were congested one. Adjacent to house there used to be some place known, as *Warha, haveli etc*, for the animals. By and large all the family members used to take care of animals.

6. **Density of Population:**

The density of population per square kilometre /mile is less in the rural areas. According to Desai 'generally density and rurality are negatively correlated.' In urban areas where big clusters of population come into being due to variety of work available to the different people hence the density of population is quite high.

7. **Homogeneity Vs Heterogeneity:**

Another important feature of rural society is the homogeneous nature of rural people. According to Chitambar homogeneity or similarity of such social and psychological characteristics in the population as language, beliefs, mores and patterns of behavior is found much more in rural than in urban areas.

8. **Joint Family System**:

In the typical rural society, particularly in our country, most rural population used to live in joint family system. In many houses four generations living together could be found. As land was the prime means of production and more muscle power used to be required, most ruralities lived together. Another fact associated with this phenomenon was that rural people used to feel more secure in big families due to tribal elements in the countryside.

9. **Social Stratification and differentiation:**

Stratification is a hierarchical division of people in different societies. In rural society the people are less stratified or differentiated. In urban areas stratification is quite sharp as one industrialist may earn lakhs of rupees per day with more social status whereas a worker may earn a few hundred rupees and have low status also. In village most people have not much sharp economic differentiation due to limitation of crops production and profits to the people. So in a typical rural society social differentiation and stratification is less as compared to urban areas. Stratification based on caste is comparatively more intense in the rural society. In many villages different castes were having caste wise concentration. Sir Risely a noted scholar writes that caste is a collection of family or group of families bearing a common name, claiming a common descend from a mythical ancestors, human or divine ; professing to follow the same hereditary….. and regarded by those who are competent to give an opinion as forming single homogeneous community. Caste system in Indian society plays an important role in economic, social and cultural aspects of life of the people.

10. **Social Mobility**:

Social mobility means change from one social group to another, adoption of new occupation from the old one, movement from one territory to another etc. In the rural society mobility or changes in grouping and occupations is very less. In the context of Indian rural society it was little more difficult to move due to orthodoxy of caste and religion.

11. **Prevalence of fatalism and traditional value**:

According to A. R Desai the mind of rural people is usually griped with fatalism and even crude form of religion. Animism, magic polytheism, ghost beliefs and other forms of primitive religion are rampant among the rural people. Traditional value system also plays a strong role among the rural people.

12. **Social Interaction:**

In rural society social interaction is quite intensive. As there is small community size and area of interaction is quite narrow, people have usually face to face and direct or primary relations. Simplicity, sincerity and transparency in behavior are largely found in the rural setting.

13. **Social Control:**

There are more informal means of social control in rural society. As role of social values, religion, families, mores and pressure of community is intensively followed hence human behavior is controlled largely with these means than formal laws as found in urban areas. Even role of village panchayat is very intense in rural society. Many petty issues are settled at village level by the panchayat.

14. Religious Orientation:

Rural society, particularly Indian, is also characterized as a religious society. In this regards Desai writes that the religious outlook of the rural people dominate the intellectual, emotional and practical life. It is difficult to locate any aspect of their life which is not permeated with and coloured by religion. Even different deities were designated for different purposes, like of rain, fire etc. Role of magic and shamanism was quite popular in traditional rural society.

15. **Leadership patterns:**

Leadership patterns in rural society are more traditional. Role of land is also very important in the village life because most of the state officials and institutions interacted with land owning peasants/farmers. Choice of leadership is also based on personal contacts and informal means.

16. **Standard of Living:**

Infrastructural facilities, such as mettled (*pucca*) roads, lack of transport means, markets, recreational facilities, health and education facilities which determine the status of living, are less in comparison to urban setting hence low standard of living in countryside.

17. **Social solidarity:**

Social solidarity is more profound in rural society than urban society. Due to homogeneity in living patterns, social cohesiveness, strong kinship bounding, and preference for intense social knitting, social solidarity among the rural people is an important characteristic of rural society.

18. **Position of Women:**

In the traditional rural society the position or status of women was very low as compared to urban ones. Even the religious and cultural texts depicted women in lower esteem. Hindi poet Tulsi Das wrote, *"Dhol Ganwaar Shuder Pasu Nari, Sakal Tarhana ke Adhikari"* meaning that Drum, lunatic, Sudra, animal, women, all deserve continuous suppression).

5.4 FOLK URBAN CONTINUUM & CULTURE OF POVERTY

Based on his empirical research work Robert Redfield's study, 'The Folk Culture of Yucatan' propounded this concept. He concludes that in folk-urban-continuum, folk society comes in contact with urban civilization and inherits certain characteristics. Thus the folk society has certain characteristics of folk and certain characteristic of urban. It is between literate and illiterate, between developed and undeveloped societies. Folk society is losing its characteristics because of urban contact. Isolation, kinship system, group feeling and homogeneity is no more there.

EMERGING TRENDS/CHANGES IN THE RURAL SOCIETY

As we know that nothing is static in this world and so is with rural society. Due to a variety of factors such as economic, demographic, technological, etc rural societies across the world are experiencing perceptible changes in their structure. According to A.R. Desai in the medieval age, the town and the village lived almost independent of social, economic and cultural existence. This separatism was increasingly undermined as a result of the extension and wider and wider ramification of modern means of transport and communication all over the country and resultant closer and closer contact with urban population.

1. **Reducing rural isolation:** One of the visible changes in rural society is the reduction in isolation. Gone are the days when rural people rarely visited the urban areas due to *kucha* roads and lack of transport facilities. Now most villagers, particularly in north India, can visit daily to cities and go back. This has happened due to road connectivity and availability of transport means. Now most of the villagers have even their own vehicles and the travel easily to various places. Horton & Hunt writes two generations ago isolation of rural life could be measured by

the contrast between the styles shown in the Sears, Roebuck catalog and those on the pages of a metropolitan newspaper. Today the styles are similar. The automobile and good roads have wrought a transformation of rural and village life which is difficult for the present generation of students to appreciate. Thousands of small villages are no longer self-contained communities, as good roads have come up with their trade, their store keepers, professionals, and their recreation to nearby city.

2. Commercialization of Agriculture: About half a century ago most of agricultural activities and production was at the subsistence level. Peasants used to produce for self consumption or at the most barter at local levels the different crops to run their life smooth. Farming used to be a way of life which called for no special knowledge beyond that which farm youth absorbed unavoidably as they grew up. Today farming is a highly complex operation demanding substantial capital and specialized knowledge. The most successful farmers today not only use the latest farm technology but also study market trends and trade in commodities futures more actively. Now even big corporate are entering in the rural society for commercial ventures. Further folk beliefs are being replaced by the use of scientific knowledge.

3. Decreasing proportion of population in rural areas: Due to the penetration of technology in rural society, good education facilities, mass media and commercialization of agriculture, sub division of land holding, lot of people are shifting from rural to urban areas or even abroad. In 1901 about 98% Indian population was in the villages but now about 65% is left in countryside. And if this trend continues, it is estimated by 2050 about half of total Indian population will be found in the urban areas. In this process old arts and skills found with ruralities are also vanishing.

3. Rise in standard of living: Due to economic development, political ideology, changes in the occupational structure rural people achieving higher standard of living, means having a good house, availing good educational and health facilities, good roads machinery, household gadgets, vehicle for transport etc which were not available in the primitive rural society.

4. **Decline in importance of primary associations:** Old social institutions in rural society are changing fast. Joint family system is being replaced by nuclear families. Empirical studies showed that now about 60% rural families are nuclear. Role of religion is also declining in the rural areas. The new generation, particularly, is going away from religious practices and rituals.

Old long ritualized practices of marriages, deaths are now quite short. Old political set up is being replaced by elected Panchayats.

5. Change in position of women: Due to a variety of reasons rural women are getting higher status in the rural society. They are now becoming equal partners' in political structures through Panchayati Raj Institutions, (village Panchayat, Panchayat Samitis, Zila Parishads), state assemblies and even in Parliament

6. Changes in Social relations. *Jajmani* **system:** In Indian rural society role of caste and untouchability was quite immense. Now social relations based on caste and untouchability are changing very fast. Untouchability is an offence now and any one found practicing it shall be punished. **Jajmani** system, in which contractual relationships were rigidly defined for different castes, has strongly been changed.

7. Changed education system: In the traditional rural society, education used to be given largely by religious institutions. Now the scenario has changed. The spread of schooling structure in rural areas all people of rural society are getting education whereas in the past some sections, particularly downtrodden, were prohibited from getting education.

Rural society is characterized by isolation, having prime occupation as agriculture, with low density of population, possessing strong solidarity, coupled with fatalism, religious orientation and women were put on lower rung of social structure. Now rural society is under perceptible changes. According to Horton and Hunt the farming has become the part of market economy, the attitudes appropriate to a subsistence economy died out. Farm people today appear to have as avid an appetite for new cars and color television set as urbanites. In other words rural people are being exposed to new technology, hence perceptible changes in all spheres of rural society and hope with more technological penetration changes in the rural society are expected more and at higher speed.

QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE

1. What do you mean by rural society?

2. Highlight the features of rural Society.

3. Discuss the changes emerging in the rural society.

4. What do you mean by folk –urban continuum and culture of poverty?

CHANGING URBAN SCENARIO OF INDIA

Urban India has increased by more than ten times in size of population in 10 decades from 25 million in 1901 to 285 million in 2001, which is 28 per cent of the total population. By 2020, urban population will be 40 per cent of the total population and by 2050 the figure will be 50 per cent. India's cities are growing at a rate which is much faster than the rest of the world, including China's. Mumbai for instance had a population of 28 lakh in 1951 and was the 17th largest city in the world. Today it is the world's sixth largest with 18.3 million people and in the next ten years it is expected to become the second largest, next to Tokyo. Also by 2015, three more Indian cities Kolkata, New Delhi and Hyderabad will be among the 15 most populated cities in the world. What these numbers say is that even though India's urbanization process has been slow, the absolute figures are impressive, and problematic. Urban India is coming apart at seams.

An analysis of the distribution of urban population across size categories reveals that the process of urbanization in India has been large city- oriented (Kundu, 2003). This is manifested in a high percentage of urban population being concentrated in class 1 cities which have gone up systematically over the decades in the last century. The massive increase in the percentage share of class 1 cities from 26.0 in 1901 to 68.7 in 2001 has often been attributed to faster growth of large cities, without taking into consideration the increase in the number of these cities.

Though, the relationship between urbanization and economic growth is visible in all over the world. Large urban centers are always big economies. But the ultimate aim of economic growth must be for the betterment of living conditions of the poor. Economic growth that does not lead to sharp and sustained reduction in poverty may create more problems than it solves (Jha, 2000). Urbanization is however, a positive sign of economic development in any country and important for socio-economic development of the people and is to be encouraged but we require more of urban planning to do that. Due to the concentration of industries near the existing cities, unplanned urbanization and unabated migration and concentration of poor population from the rural areas to the urban settlement, numerous problems of very complex nature have emerged. It has created social and economic imbalances. The migration has strained infrastructure facilities in the cities to the breaking point. The intermixing of various land uses has created confusion and chaotic conditions. Urbanization of poverty is a dominant trend in the developing world and it has become the most challenging problem of the world in the 21st century (Sandhu, 2001). Half of the poor lives in the urban areas. Urban poverty leads to proliferation of slums. According to estimates half of the urban poor lives in slums. Under the assumptions made, the reduction in poverty will be higher in rural areas than in urban areas due to the fact that relative inequalities are more pronounced in urban areas.

In India, Rapid urbanization has put tremendous pressure on existing infrastructure and public services; population too is on rise and most strikingly, the population of the urban poor is increasing in many developing counties/cities (Kumar, et. al., 2003) There has been acute

housing shortage in the urban areas with the result that the cities face very grim situation with increasing number of shanty dwellers, squatters, pavement dwellers, and slums in all metropolitan and other cities throughout India. There are areas which are full of confusion and their problems are negative in character. Such areas of extreme negative character are called slums. Having migrated to the city in hope of better livelihoods, most end up living in poor under serviced settlements because of high land prices and lack of affordable/better quality shelter in cities.

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UNIT 6   ISSUES IN DEVELOPMENT: REGIONAL DISPARITIES, DEVELOPMENT INDUCED DISPLACEMENT

6.0 Learning Objectives

After reading this unit, you will be able to:

1.   explain the causes of the agrarian crisis

2.   describe the consequences of an agrarian crisis

3.   evaluate the current status of the agrarian crisis in India

6.1 Introduction

Development challenges for a nation are multifaceted and can vary based on factors such as the country's level of economic development, political stability, cultural diversity, and geographical location. Here are some common challenges that many nations face in their pursuit of development:

1. Economic Inequality: Disparities in income and wealth distribution can lead to social unrest and hinder overall economic development. Addressing economic inequality through inclusive policies is essential.

2. Poverty: Eradicating or alleviating poverty remains a primary challenge for many nations. Sustainable development goals often include poverty reduction as a key objective.

3. Corruption: Corruption can undermine governance, impede economic growth, and erode public trust. Anti-corruption measures and transparent governance are critical for development.

4. Education: Access to quality education, from primary to higher education, is crucial for human capital development and breaking the cycle of poverty. Educational infrastructure and curriculum relevance are also important considerations.

5. Healthcare: Providing accessible and affordable healthcare services, along with addressing public health challenges, is vital for the well-being of the population.

6. Unemployment: High levels of unemployment, particularly among the youth, pose social and economic challenges. Job creation and skills development initiatives are key components of development strategies.

7. Infrastructure Deficit: Inadequate infrastructure, including transportation, energy, and communication networks, can hinder economic growth. Investment in infrastructure development is crucial for overall development.

8. Political Stability: Political instability, conflict, and governance issues can disrupt development efforts. Building stable political institutions and resolving conflicts are prerequisites for sustained development.

9. Environmental Sustainability: Balancing economic growth with environmental conservation is essential for the long-term well-being of a nation. Climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies are increasingly important.

10. Population Growth: Managing population growth through effective family planning initiatives is crucial for sustainable development and resource management.

11. Technology Access: Bridging the digital divide and ensuring widespread access to technology and the internet are important for economic development, education, and innovation.

12. Globalization Challenges: Nations need to navigate the complexities of globalization, ensuring fair trade practices, and protecting local industries while integrating into the global economy.

13. Cultural Preservation: Preserving and promoting cultural heritage is crucial for national identity and can contribute to tourism and economic development.

14. Social Inequality: Addressing issues of social inequality, including gender disparities, ethnic tensions, and discrimination, is crucial for fostering an inclusive society.

15. Health Pandemics: Global health crises, such as pandemics, can have severe economic and social consequences. Building resilient healthcare systems and international cooperation are essential.

16. Food Security: Ensuring a stable and secure food supply is critical for the well-being of the population. Agricultural development and sustainable farming practices are key components.

17. Access to Clean Water: Providing access to clean and safe drinking water is a fundamental development challenge that affects public health and overall quality of life.

18. Natural Resource Management: Prudent management of natural resources, including water, minerals, and forests, is important for sustainable development and avoiding resource depletion.

19. Rule of Law: Ensuring the rule of law, protection of property rights, and a fair legal system are essential for creating an environment conducive to economic growth and investment.

20. Innovation and Research: Encouraging innovation, research, and development is crucial for staying competitive in a globalized world and fostering economic growth.

Addressing these challenges requires comprehensive and context-specific strategies, often involving collaboration between government, civil society, and the private sector. International cooperation and partnerships also play a crucial role in overcoming global challenges.

Developmental Challenges in India:

India, like many other developing countries, faces a range of complex and interconnected issues that impact its overall development. Some of the key challenges include:

1. **Poverty:** Despite significant economic growth in recent decades, a large portion of India's population still lives below the poverty line. Income inequality is also a concern, with disparities between urban and rural areas.

2. **Education:** Access to quality education remains a challenge, especially in rural areas. Issues such as inadequate infrastructure, teacher shortages, and a high dropout rate contribute to the overall education crisis.

3. **Healthcare:** India grapples with issues related to healthcare, including insufficient healthcare infrastructure, a shortage of healthcare professionals, and limited access to quality medical services, particularly in rural areas.

4. **Unemployment:** High levels of unemployment, especially among the youth, pose a significant challenge. The mismatch between the skills acquired through education and the demands of the job market is a contributing factor.

5. **Infrastructure:** While there have been improvements in infrastructure development, there are still significant gaps in areas such as transportation, energy, and sanitation. Urban areas often experience congestion and inadequate facilities.

6. **Corruption:** Corruption is a pervasive issue in India and can hinder the effective implementation of policies and programs. It also contributes to social and economic inequality.

6.3 **Regional Disparities in India**

India, with its vast geographical and cultural diversity, experiences significant regional disparities across various socio-economic indicators. These disparities arise due to historical, geographical, cultural, and policy factors. Some key aspects of regional disparities in India include:

1. **Economic Disparities:**

   - **GDP per capita:** States in the southern and western regions, such as Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu, generally have higher per capita income compared to states in the northern and eastern regions, such as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Odisha.

   - **Industrialization:** States like Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu have witnessed greater industrial development, leading to higher economic growth, while some states in the central and eastern parts face challenges in industrialization.

2. **Infrastructure Development:**

   - **Urban-Rural Divide:** Disparities exist in the quality of infrastructure between urban and rural areas. Urban centers, particularly in states like Maharashtra and Karnataka, tend to have better infrastructure compared to rural areas in less developed states.

   - **Connectivity:** Coastal states like Gujarat and Maharashtra often have better transportation and connectivity infrastructure than landlocked states.

3. **Education:**

   - **Literacy Rates:** States like Kerala and Goa have higher literacy rates compared to states like Bihar and Jharkhand. Educational disparities contribute to differences in human capital development.

   - **Access to Quality Education:** Disparities also exist in access to quality education, with urban areas having better educational facilities than rural areas.

4. **Healthcare:**

   - **Health Indicators:** Southern states generally exhibit better health indicators, such as lower maternal mortality rates and higher life expectancy, compared to some northern states.

   - **Health Infrastructure:** Disparities in healthcare infrastructure and facilities contribute to variations in health outcomes across regions.

5. **Agriculture:**

   - **Productivity:** The productivity of agriculture varies across states, with states like Punjab and Haryana being more prosperous due to advanced agricultural practices, while others face challenges such as low productivity and inadequate irrigation facilities.

6. **Employment Opportunities:**

   - **Job Opportunities:** Industrialized states provide more employment opportunities, leading to rural-to-urban migration, while agrarian states may face challenges in generating sufficient jobs.

7. **Social Indicators:**

   - **Gender Disparities:** Gender disparities are evident across regions, with some states showing better gender-related indicators compared to others.

   - **Caste and Tribal Disparities:** Certain regions face challenges related to the socio-economic development of marginalized communities, including Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Addressing regional disparities in India requires a multi-dimensional approach, involving targeted policies, infrastructure development, and inclusive economic growth strategies.

Government initiatives such as the "Act East" policy, "Make in India," and efforts to improve rural infrastructure aim to bridge these gaps and promote balanced development across regions.

7. **Environmental Degradation:** Rapid industrialization and urbanization have led to environmental challenges, including air and water pollution, deforestation, and inadequate waste management. Climate change poses additional threats to vulnerable communities.

8. **Social Issues:** India faces various social challenges, including caste-based discrimination, gender inequality, and religious tensions. These issues can hinder social cohesion and inclusive development.

9. **Political Challenges:** The country has a diverse political landscape with regional and national complexities. Political instability, bureaucracy, and policy gridlocks can impede progress.

10. **Population Growth:** India's large and rapidly growing population puts immense pressure on resources and services. Effective family planning and population management are crucial for sustainable development.

11. **Digital Divide:** While there has been significant progress in technology, there is still a digital divide between urban and rural areas. Access to the internet and technology is not uniform, impacting opportunities for education and economic growth.

12. **Disaster Preparedness:** India is prone to natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, and cyclones. Adequate disaster preparedness and response mechanisms are essential to mitigate the impact of such events.

Addressing these challenges requires comprehensive and sustained efforts from government, civil society, and the private sector. Policy reforms, investment in human capital, and inclusive development strategies are crucial to overcoming these obstacles and fostering sustainable growth in India.

6.5 The relationship between development and displacement

The relationship between development and displacement is a complex and often contentious issue. While development initiatives can bring about positive changes such as economic growth, improved infrastructure, and enhanced living standards, they can also lead to the displacement of communities. This phenomenon is commonly referred to as "development-induced displacement" (DID). Several factors contribute to this displacement:

1. **Infrastructure Projects:**

   - Large-scale infrastructure projects such as dams, highways, and urban development often require substantial land acquisition. This process can result in the displacement of communities, particularly those living in the project's proposed area.

2. **Urbanization:**

   - Rapid urbanization, driven by industrialization and economic development, can lead to the expansion of cities. This expansion may necessitate the clearance of slums or informal settlements, displacing residents who often lack legal land rights.

3. **Industrialization:**

   - Industrial development projects, including the establishment of factories and industrial zones, may lead to the displacement of communities residing in the project area.

4. **Mining and Extractive Industries:**

- The exploration and exploitation of natural resources, such as mining and oil extraction, can result in the displacement of local communities living in resource-rich areas.

5. **Environmental Conservation and Protected Areas:**

   - Initiatives aimed at environmental conservation or the creation of protected areas can result in the displacement of indigenous or local communities dependent on these areas for their livelihoods.

6. Gentrification:

   - Economic development in urban areas can lead to gentrification, where higher-income individuals move into low-income neighborhoods. This process may displace existing residents due to rising property prices and rents.

7. Resettlement Policies:

   - In some cases, governments may implement resettlement policies to address displacement. However, the effectiveness of these policies in providing adequate compensation, alternative housing, and livelihood options can vary.

The negative consequences of development-induced displacement include the loss of homes, disruption of social networks, loss of livelihoods, and adverse effects on the cultural identity of displaced communities. Moreover, resettlement efforts may not always adequately address the needs and rights of the affected populations.

Efforts to mitigate the negative impacts of development-induced displacement include:

- **Transparent and Inclusive Decision-Making:** Involving affected communities in the decision-making process for development projects.

- Fair Compensation and Resettlement Policies: Ensuring that displaced populations receive fair compensation, suitable alternative housing, and opportunities for livelihood restoration.

- Social Impact Assessments (SIAs): Conducting thorough assessments of the potential social impacts of development projects before implementation.

Balancing the goals of development with the protection of human rights and social justice is crucial in addressing the challenges associated with development-induced displacement. Sustainable and inclusive development practices should prioritize the well-being and rights of all affected communities.

UNIT 7   Domestic violence, Divorce and Dowry

7.1 Learning Objectives

After reading this unit, you will be able to:

1.   explain the concept of domestic violence.

2.   describe the notion of divorce and its related aspects.

3.   discuss the concept of female foeticide .

7.2 INTRODUCTION

In this unit, critical social issues of Domestic Violence, Divorce, and Female Foeticide are discussed. Understand their impacts, interconnections, and the societal and legal frameworks addressing them.

7.3 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

7.3.1 Introduction:

In the realm of interpersonal relationships, the concept of "Domestic Violence" casts a shadow of distress and despair, a dark corner where vulnerability and brutality collide. It's an issue that transcends geographical boundaries, social classes, and cultural backgrounds, affecting individuals across the spectrum of age, gender, and identity. Domestic violence is a painful reality in which individuals, primarily in intimate relationships or within family settings, suffer physical, emotional, psychological, or economic abuse at the hands of someone they should be able to trust the most.

Domestic violence refers to a pattern of abusive behavior within a household or intimate relationship where one person seeks to gain power and control over another through physical, emotional, psychological, or economic means..This pattern is not confined to isolated incidents but is characterized by a sustained, often escalating, pattern of harm inflicted upon the victim. It can manifest in various forms, each leaving its own unique scars on the survivor. It is a pervasive social issue with serious consequences for victims and society as a whole

7.3.2 Forms of Domestic Violence:

1. **Physical Abuse:**
    o   This includes physical harm such as hitting, punching, kicking, or any form of bodily harm.
    o   It often leaves visible injuries and can escalate over time.
2. **Emotional and Psychological Abuse:**
    o   Emotional abuse involves belittling, humiliation, constant criticism, and manipulation.
    o   Psychological abuse may include threats, intimidation, and controlling behavior.
3. **Sexual Abuse:**
    o   Sexual abuse involves non-consensual sexual acts or coercion within an intimate relationship.

       o   It violates an individual's right to autonomy and consent.
4. **Economic Abuse:**
       o   Economic abuse is the control of finances to limit a partner's independence and ability to leave an abusive relationship.
       o   It can involve restricting access to money, employment, or resources.

7.3.3 Impact of Domestic Violence:

The impact of domestic violence is far-reaching, affecting not only the immediate victims but also society as a whole. It leaves survivors scarred physically, emotionally, and mentally, with consequences that extend beyond the individual to the community, workplace, and healthcare systems. Recognizing the signs, understanding the root causes, and implementing preventive measures are vital steps in addressing this pervasive issue and fostering safer homes and communities.

Various issues faced by domestic violence victims are:

- Victims of domestic violence suffer physically, emotionally, and mentally.
- Consequences include physical injuries, anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, and even post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).
- Children who witness domestic violence may experience trauma and have long-lasting emotional scars.

7.3.4 Prevention and Intervention:

1. **Legal Measures:**
       o   Laws and regulations aim to protect victims and hold perpetrators accountable.
       o   Restraining orders and shelters provide immediate support and safety.
2. **Awareness and Education:**
       o   Public awareness campaigns help break the silence surrounding domestic violence.
       o   Educational programs in schools teach healthy relationships and the importance of consent.
3. **Support Services:**
       o   Hotlines, counseling, and shelters offer critical support for victims seeking help.
       o   Social workers and counselors play a vital role in assisting victims.

7.3.5 Conclusion:

- Domestic violence is a grave violation of human rights that affects individuals of all genders and backgrounds.
- Society must actively work towards prevention through education, legal measures, and support services.
- Empowering victims, raising awareness, and holding perpetrators accountable are essential steps in combating this pervasive issue and creating safer homes and communities.

Check Your Progress I

1) What are the different forms of domestic violence, and can you provide an example of each?

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2) How can society help prevent domestic violence?

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7.4 DIVORCE

7.4.1 Introduction:

Divorce is the legal dissolution of a marriage or marital union, resulting in the termination of marital responsibilities and bonds. It is a significant life event with far-reaching emotional, social, and legal implications.

Divorce, a term laden with profound emotional, social, and legal implications, marks the formal dissolution of a marital union or marriage contract. It represents a significant life event that brings about the legal termination of marital responsibilities and bonds between two individuals who once pledged to spend their lives together. However, divorce is far more than a legal process; it is a deeply personal and often tumultuous journey filled with emotional ups and downs, societal perceptions, and complex legal procedures.

The decision to pursue a divorce is never taken lightly, and it is frequently accompanied by a myriad of factors, ranging from personal incompatibility to irreconcilable differences. These factors can vary widely, depending on individual circumstances, cultural norms, and legal frameworks. As such, divorce is a multifaceted phenomenon that encompasses not only the legal procedures but also the emotional and social dimensions that come into play when a marital relationship faces dissolution.

7.4.2 Reasons for Divorce:

1. **Irreconcilable Differences:**

- o Often, couples cite differences in values, lifestyles, or long-term goals as the primary reason for divorce.
2. **Infidelity:**
    - o Marital infidelity, involving extramarital affairs, is a common factor leading to divorce.
3. **Abuse and Domestic Violence:**
    - o Physical or emotional abuse can be a compelling reason for one spouse to seek divorce for safety and well-being.
4. **Addiction and Substance Abuse:**
    - o Substance abuse problems can strain a marriage to the point of dissolution.

7.4.1 Impact of Divorce:

The impact of divorce is profound, not only on the individuals involved but also on their families, children, and society at large. It touches upon emotional well-being, financial stability, social relationships, and legal considerations that can have a lasting effect on the lives of those affected. Furthermore, the perception of divorce in society has evolved over time, reflecting changing societal norms and values. Divorce can have emotional consequences, including grief, anxiety, depression, and stress. It may impact children's well-being and future relationships, leading to adjustment challenges.

7.4.2 Legal and Social Aspects:

- Divorce proceedings involve intricate legal processes, including asset division, child custody arrangements, and spousal support considerations.
- Societal attitudes toward divorce have transformed over the years, with reduced stigma in many cultures, recognizing that some marriages are better dissolved than sustained in the face of irreparable harm or unhappiness.

7.4.5 Conclusion:

- Divorce is a complex, life-changing decision influenced by various factors.
- It reflects changing societal norms and legal frameworks, emphasizing the importance of providing support to individuals and families undergoing divorce.
- Understanding the reasons for divorce, its impact, and the legal and social aspects surrounding it is crucial for a comprehensive understanding of this significant life event.

7.5 Dowry

7.6 References

UNIT 8   CRIME AGAINST WOMEN: RAPE, FEMALE FOETICIDE, SEXUAL HARASSMENT

8.0 Objectives

8.1 Introduction

8.2 Crime against women in India

8.3 Rape

8.4 Female foeticide

8.5 Sexual harassement

8.6 Questions for Practise

8.7 References

8.0 Learning Objectives

After reading this unit, you will be able to:

1.   explain the different types of crime against women

 2.   describe the causes and impact of rape cases in India

3.   discuss the causes and consequences of female foeticide in India

4.   discuss the sexual harassment situation in India

8.1 Introduction

Crimes against women encompass a range of offenses that specifically target individuals based on their gender. These crimes can occur in various forms and settings, including domestic violence, sexual assault, harassment, human trafficking, and other forms of gender-based violence. The impact of such crimes is often profound, affecting not only the immediate victims but also the broader community.

Some common types of crimes against women include:

1. Domestic Violence: This involves physical, emotional, or psychological abuse inflicted by a partner or family member within a domestic setting.

2. Sexual Assault: Sexual assault includes any non-consensual sexual activity, such as rape, groping, or other forms of sexual violence.

3. Harassment: Harassment can occur in various settings, including the workplace, public spaces, or online. It involves unwanted attention, comments, or behavior based on gender.

4. Human Trafficking: Women are often victims of human trafficking, forced into labor, sexual exploitation, or other forms of modern slavery.

5. Dowry-related Crimes: In certain cultures, the demand for dowry can lead to harassment, violence, or even murder of brides if the dowry expectations are not met.

6. Honor Killings: In some societies, women may face violence or murder for perceived violations of cultural or family honor.

Efforts to address and prevent crimes against women involve legal measures, education, awareness campaigns, and community support. Governments, NGOs, and communities worldwide work together to implement policies, provide support services for victims, and promote gender equality to create an environment where such crimes are less likely to occur.

It's essential to raise awareness, challenge societal norms that perpetuate gender-based violence, and foster a culture that respects and protects the rights of women. Legal systems also play a crucial role in ensuring that perpetrators are held accountable for their actions.

8.2 Crime against women in India

Crime against women in India is a significant social issue that includes various forms of violence, discrimination, and abuse. Despite efforts to address these problems, there are still challenges in effectively combating and preventing crimes against women in the country. Some of the notable issues include:

1. Domestic Violence: Domestic violence remains a pervasive issue in India, with many women facing physical, emotional, and economic abuse within their own homes.

2. Sexual Assault:Incidents of sexual assault, including rape, are reported regularly. High-profile cases have drawn national and international attention, leading to increased awareness and calls for justice.

3. Dowry-related Crimes: Despite legal provisions against dowry, cases of dowry harassment and dowry deaths persist. Women may face violence or even death if their families cannot meet dowry demands.

4. Female Foeticide and Infanticide: The preference for male children has led to cases of female foeticide (aborting female fetuses) and infanticide (killing female infants) in some parts of the country.

5. Child Marriage: Although the legal age for marriage is 18 for females, child marriages still occur in certain regions, leading to various problems such as early pregnancy and lack of educational opportunities.

6. Human Trafficking: Women and girls are vulnerable to human trafficking for various purposes, including forced labor and sexual exploitation.

7. Cyber Crimes: With the increasing use of technology, cyber crimes against women, such as online harassment, stalking, and revenge porn, have become more prevalent.

The Indian government has taken steps to address these issues through legislative measures, including amendments to existing laws and the introduction of new ones. However, challenges persist in the implementation of these laws, as well as in changing societal attitudes and norms that contribute to the perpetuation of violence against women.

Civil society organizations, women's rights activists, and various initiatives are working to raise awareness, provide support to victims, and advocate for systemic changes. Public discourse around gender equality and women's rights has gained momentum, fostering a growing awareness of the need for societal transformation to create a safer environment for women in India.

8.3 Rape cases in India

The causes and consequences of rape in India are complex and multifaceted, influenced by a combination of social, cultural, economic, and systemic factors. It's important to note that rape is a crime that occurs worldwide, but its prevalence and the specific dynamics can vary across different societies. In the context of India, some key factors contributing to the occurrence of rape and its consequences include:

Causes:

1. Deep-rooted Patriarchy: India, like many societies, has deep-seated patriarchal norms and attitudes that perpetuate gender inequality. These attitudes contribute to the objectification of women and create power imbalances that can lead to sexual violence.

2. Social Stigma: Stigma surrounding sexual assault often discourages victims from reporting incidents. Fear of societal judgment and victim-blaming can prevent survivors from seeking justice.

3. Lack of Education: Limited access to education, especially for girls, can perpetuate gender stereotypes and contribute to a lack of awareness about consent and respectful relationships.

4. Economic Disparities: Socioeconomic factors can play a role, with poverty and inequality making certain individuals more vulnerable to exploitation and violence.

5. Ineffective Law Enforcement: Challenges in the legal system, including delays in justice, lack of resources, and inadequate training for law enforcement personnel, can hinder the effective prosecution of rape cases.

6. Cultural Factors: Some cultural factors, such as the persistence of dowry-related practices, honor killings, and restrictive gender roles, can contribute to an environment where sexual violence is more likely to occur.

7. Lack of Empowerment: Limited opportunities for women's empowerment, including economic independence and participation in decision-making processes, can contribute to their vulnerability.

Consequences:

1. Physical and Psychological Trauma: Rape survivors often experience severe physical injuries and emotional trauma. The psychological impact can include anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and a range of other mental health issues.

2. Stigmatization and Social Isolation: Survivors may face social stigma and isolation, as cultural norms in some communities place blame on the victim rather than the perpetrator.

3. Impact on Families: Rape doesn't just affect the survivor; it can have profound consequences on their families, leading to societal shame and strained relationships.

4. Underreporting: Fear of retaliation, societal judgment, and a lack of faith in the legal system contribute to underreporting, hindering efforts to address the issue effectively.

5. Perpetuation of Violence: Rape can perpetuate a cycle of violence, as survivors may be more likely to face additional incidents of abuse, and perpetrators may go unpunished.

Efforts to address rape in India involve a combination of legal reforms, educational initiatives, awareness campaigns, and changes in societal attitudes. It requires a comprehensive approach that addresses the root causes and provides support to survivors while holding perpetrators accountable. It's crucial for both the government and civil society to work collaboratively to create a safer and more equitable environment for all.

Rape cases in India have been a matter of serious concern, drawing national and international attention. Several high-profile incidents and the widespread reporting of sexual violence have highlighted the urgent need for measures to address and prevent such crimes. It's important to note that sexual violence is a complex issue influenced by various factors, including societal attitudes, cultural norms, and systemic shortcomings.

Some key points regarding rape cases in India include:

1. High Incidence: India has seen a high incidence of reported rape cases. However, it's essential to recognize that many cases go unreported due to stigma, fear, and a lack of confidence in the legal system.

2. Increased Reporting: There has been an increase in the reporting of rape cases in recent years, indicating a growing willingness of victims to come forward and report such crimes. This shift can be attributed to increased awareness, media coverage, and changes in societal attitudes.

3. Legal Reforms: The Indian government has implemented legal reforms to address sexual violence. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013, brought about significant changes, including the broadening of the definition of sexual offenses, stricter punishments, and the creation of fast-track courts for speedy trials.

4. Public Outcry: Several high-profile rape cases have sparked public outrage, leading to widespread protests and demands for justice. These incidents have prompted discussions on the need for societal change, education, and improved law enforcement.

5. Challenges in Convictions: Despite legal reforms, challenges in securing convictions persist. These challenges include delays in the legal process, inadequate forensic facilities, and societal biases that sometimes affect the fair treatment of victims.

6. Social Awareness and Activism: Increased awareness about sexual violence against women has led to the growth of women's rights movements, advocacy groups, and campaigns aimed at changing societal attitudes and promoting gender equality.

Efforts to address rape cases in India involve a combination of legal measures, law enforcement improvements, public awareness campaigns, and educational initiatives to challenge deep-rooted cultural norms that contribute to gender-based violence. While progress has been made, there is recognition that sustained efforts are needed to create a safer and more equitable environment for women in the country.

The Nirbhaya case, referring to the gang rape and murder of a 23-year-old woman in Delhi in December 2012, triggered widespread protests and demonstrations in India. The incident sparked public outrage and brought attention to the issues of sexual violence against women and the need for systemic changes to address such crimes.

The protests, which gained momentum in December 2012 and continued into early 2013, were marked by a significant number of people taking to the streets in major cities across the country. Protesters, including students, activists, and citizens from various walks of life, demanded justice for the victim and called for stricter laws and enhanced safety measures for women.

The intensity of the protests played a role in pushing for legal changes and a renewed focus on addressing gender-based violence in the country. The trial of the accused individuals led

to their conviction, and they were sentenced to death. However, legal proceedings continued for several years due to appeals and review petitions.

The Nirbhaya case and the subsequent protests had a profound impact on public discourse and efforts to address issues related to women's safety and sexual violence in India. They spurred conversations about the need for societal change, improved law enforcement, and the creation of an environment where women feel safe and protected.

India has undergone significant legal reforms in response to incidents of sexual violence, including the high-profile Nirbhaya case in 2012. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013, introduced several changes to existing laws to address sexual offenses more comprehensively. Here are key aspects of rape laws in India:

1. Definition of Rape: - The definition of rape under Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code was broadened to include a wider range of sexual acts beyond penile-vaginal penetration.

   - The concept of "consent" was more clearly defined, emphasizing the importance of free and voluntary agreement.

2. Punishment for Rape: - The punishment for rape was made more stringent, and the minimum sentence for certain types of rape was increased to seven years of imprisonment, extendable to life imprisonment or even the death penalty in extreme cases.

3. Marital Rape: The 2013 amendments did not criminalize marital rape, which continues to be a topic of debate and discussion. Marital rape is not explicitly recognized as an offense under Indian law, except in specific circumstances.

4. Gang Rape: The amendments introduced the concept of "gang rape" as a separate offense, with stricter punishments for those involved in such crimes.

5. Age of Consent: The age of consent for sexual activity was raised from 16 to 18 years. Sexual activity with a person below the age of 18, even with their consent, is considered an offense.

6. Fast-Track Courts: Special fast-track courts were established to expedite the trial of sexual offenses, aiming to provide quicker justice to victims.

7. Sexual Harassment Laws: The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013, also included provisions related to sexual harassment, stalking, voyeurism, and acid attacks.

8. Legal Provisions for Safeguarding Victims: The amendments included provisions to protect the identity of rape victims, making it a punishable offense to disclose their identity without their consent.

It's important to note that while legal reforms are crucial, challenges remain in the implementation of these laws, including issues related to law enforcement, societal attitudes, and the overall safety and security of women. The conversation on further reforms, including the recognition of marital rape as a criminal offense, continues in India.

8.4 Female foeticide

FEMALE FOETICIDE

Introduction:

Female foeticide is the selective abortion of female fetuses, often due to cultural, social, and economic factors. It is a tragic consequence of gender discrimination and has severe repercussions for gender balance.

In the gender-based atrocities, "Female Foeticide" stands as a haunting and distressing chapter, an insidious practice that speaks of deeply ingrained gender biases and the violation of the most fundamental of human rights - the right to life. Female foeticide represents a dire and unsettling reality, where the promise of life for a girl child is often extinguished before she even takes her first breath. It is a tragic manifestation of gender discrimination that is deeply embedded in some societies, perpetuating a cycle of inequality and imbalance that reverberates through generations.

At its core, female foeticide involves the selective abortion of female fetuses, driven by cultural, social, and economic factors. It is a practice that deliberately seeks to curtail the female population in favor of male offspring, primarily due to deeply rooted patriarchal norms and customs. In societies where male heirs are highly favored and females are considered burdensome, female foeticide becomes a manifestation of the extreme lengths to which some individuals or families are willing to go in pursuit of their skewed ideals.

Causes and Motivations:

1. **Gender Bias:**
   o Deep-rooted preference for male offspring leads to the selective termination of female pregnancies.
2. **Economic Factors:**
   o Dowry practices in some cultures create a financial burden on families, motivating them to prefer male children.
3. **Societal Norms:**
   o Societal expectations and norms that prioritize male heirs contribute to female foeticide.

1.5.3 Impact:

- Female foeticide leads to gender imbalance, skewed sex ratios, and perpetuates gender discrimination.
- It reduces the number of women in society and can result in social and economic consequences.

Prevention and Awareness:

Preventing and creating awareness against female foeticide is essential to combat this deeply ingrained and harmful practice. Here are some effective strategies to address female foeticide:

Prevention Strategies:

1. **Strengthen Legal Framework:**
   - Enforce and strengthen existing laws that prohibit gender-based sex selection and sex-determination tests. Implement strict penalties for those involved in female foeticide.
2. **Monitoring and Enforcement:**
   - Ensure proper monitoring and enforcement of ultrasound clinics and diagnostic centers to prevent the illegal disclosure of fetal gender.
3. **Medical Ethics and Accountability:**
   - Educate healthcare professionals about the ethical implications of participating in gender-based sex selection and encourage them to refuse such procedures.
4. **Access to Healthcare:**
   - Improve access to quality healthcare, particularly in rural areas, to ensure that expectant mothers receive proper prenatal care and support.
5. **Economic Empowerment:**
   - Empower women economically by providing opportunities for education and employment, reducing financial dependence on dowries, and promoting financial independence.
6. **Awareness through Mass Media:**
   - Use mass media, including television, radio, and newspapers, to run campaigns that raise awareness about the consequences of female foeticide and the importance of gender equality.

Creating Awareness:

1. **Educational Programs:**
   - Integrate gender equality and female empowerment into school curricula. Include discussions on the consequences of female foeticide to educate the younger generation.
2. **Community Engagement:**
   - Engage local communities through workshops, seminars, and discussions on gender equality and the harmful effects of female foeticide.
3. **Partnerships with NGOs:**
   - Collaborate with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society groups working on women's rights and gender equality to organize awareness campaigns.

4. **Celebrity Endorsement:**
   - Involve celebrities and influential figures to raise awareness about female foeticide through endorsements, public service announcements, and social media.
5. **Storytelling and Art:**
   - Use storytelling, art, and cultural events to convey the message against female foeticide. Artistic expressions can be powerful tools for raising awareness.
6. **Legal Aid and Support:**
   - Establish legal aid clinics and support centers for women facing pressure for sex determination or those who have been victims of female foeticide. Offer them protection, counseling, and legal assistance.
7. **Empower Local Leaders:**
   - Identify and empower local leaders, especially women, who can serve as role models and advocates against female foeticide within their communities.
8. **Social Media and Online Campaigns:**
   - Utilize social media platforms to launch online campaigns, share stories, and create a virtual community that stands against female foeticide.
9. **International Cooperation:**
   - Collaborate with international organizations and governments to exchange best practices and strategies for combatting female foeticide.

By combining prevention strategies with comprehensive awareness campaigns, societies can work towards eradicating female foeticide, promoting gender equality, and safeguarding the rights and lives of girls and women. It is essential to engage all sectors of society, from governments and healthcare professionals to community leaders and individuals, to create a collective movement against this harmful practice..

- Female foeticide is a grave violation of human rights and contributes to gender imbalance.
- Addressing this issue requires a concerted effort from society, government, and advocacy groups to change cultural norms and promote gender equality.

Check you progress :

1. What is female foeticide, and what are some common causes or motivations behind this practice?

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   1. What are the potential consequences of female foeticide for society?

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8.5 Sexual Harassement

UNIT 9: DIGITAL DIVIDE, CYBER BULLYING, INTERNET ADDICTION

1.1 Learning Objectives

After reading this unit, you will be able to:

1.   explain the concept of digital divide and its impact

2.   describe cyberbullying and preventive strategies

3.   discuss the concept of internet addiction

1.2 Introduction

In this unit various phenomenon related to technology are discussed that are prevalent in the society. With internet advent, there are areas without internet as well and first topic of discussion is the divide between the areas accessible and inaccessible to internet. Another topic of learning is cyberbullying, where the concept of safe usage of internet is discussed. The last topic of discussion is the overdependence of people on internet to the point that are stuck with the usage of it and gets addicted to it, the concept of internet addiction.

1.3 Digital divide

1.3.1 Introduction:

The digital divide refers to the socio-economic gap between those who have access to digital technologies and the internet and those who do not. It encompasses disparities in access to hardware, software, internet connectivity, and digital literacy.

The concept of the digital divide is a critical issue in the modern era of technology-driven societies. It encapsulates the stark disparity between two segments of the population: those who have seamless access to digital technologies and the internet, and those who find themselves on the wrong side of this divide, lacking such access. This divide isn't solely about the presence or absence of devices and internet connections; it encompasses a complex web of socio-economic, geographical, and educational factors that impact an individual's ability to participate in the digital age.

1.3.2 Key Aspects of the Digital Divide:

1. **Socio-Economic Disparities:** One of the fundamental aspects of the digital divide is socio-economic in nature. It often mirrors existing income inequalities. Affluent individuals and communities have easier access to the latest digital devices, high-speed internet connections, and the financial means to stay current with technological advancements. Conversely, those with limited resources face substantial hurdles in obtaining and maintaining access to these digital tools.
2. **Geographical Disparities:** Geographic location plays a pivotal role in determining one's digital access. Urban areas, with their dense population centers, tend to have better infrastructure and more reliable internet connections. In contrast, rural and remote regions frequently suffer from inadequate infrastructure development, resulting in limited access to digital resources. This rural-urban digital divide compounds existing inequalities.
3. **Educational Divide:** Education is a cornerstone of digital inclusion. Those who possess higher levels of education often have better digital literacy skills, enabling them to harness technology effectively. Conversely, individuals with limited access to quality education may struggle to adapt to digital tools, further widening the divide.
4. **Cultural and Social Factors:** Cultural and social factors also play a role. Certain communities and demographic groups may be less inclined to adopt digital technologies due to cultural norms, language barriers, or concerns about privacy and security.

5. **Generational Gap:** A generational gap can be observed in digital access. Younger generations tend to be more tech-savvy and comfortable with digital tools, while older generations may find it challenging to adapt. This generational divide can have implications for communication, education, and access to services.

1.3.3 Digital Divide's Dynamic Nature:

The digital divide is not a static phenomenon. It evolves in response to technological advancements, government policies, and socio-economic changes. As new technologies emerge, the divide can either shrink or widen, depending on how accessible these innovations are to different segments of the population.

1.3.4 Key Factors Contributing to the Digital Divide:

1. **Access to Technology:**
   - Limited access to computers, smartphones, and other digital devices in underprivileged areas.
   - Disproportionate distribution of technology resources, particularly in rural and remote regions.
   - Economic barriers, where the cost of devices is prohibitive for many individuals and families.
2. **Internet Connectivity:**
   - Disparities in high-speed broadband access between urban and rural areas.
   - Affordability and infrastructure challenges hinder access for many, particularly in developing countries.
   - Lack of reliable connectivity in certain regions limits participation in the digital economy and online education.
3. **Digital Literacy:**
   - Lack of knowledge and skills to effectively use digital tools and navigate online resources.
   - Educational and training programs are essential to bridge this gap.
   - Without digital literacy, individuals struggle to harness the potential of technology for personal and professional development.

1.3.5 Impact of the Digital Divide:

- **Education:** Students with limited access face difficulties in online learning, putting them at a significant disadvantage compared to their digitally connected peers. This affects their academic performance and future opportunities.
- **Economic Opportunities:** The digital divide restricts job opportunities, online businesses, and remote work for those without digital access. It exacerbates income inequality.
- **Healthcare:** Telemedicine and access to health information are hampered for marginalized communities, particularly in remote areas where physical access to healthcare facilities is limited.
- **Social Inclusion:** It widens the gap in accessing government services, social networks, and information. Those without digital access miss out on critical information and civic engagement opportunities.

1.3.6 Efforts to Bridge the Digital Divide:

- **Infrastructure Development:** Governments and organizations are working on expanding broadband networks to rural and underserved areas. Investments in digital infrastructure are crucial to provide access to remote regions.
- **Subsidized Programs:** Various governments have initiated programs to provide affordable devices and internet connectivity to low-income households. These initiatives aim to reduce economic barriers to digital access.
- **Digital Literacy Programs:** Education and training initiatives, including in schools and community centers, are essential to enhance digital skills. These programs empower individuals to use technology effectively.
- **Public-Private Partnerships:** Collaboration between government and tech companies is essential to increase accessibility. Private sector involvement can help drive innovation and reduce costs.

1.3.7 Additional Points:

- **Global Perspective:** The digital divide is not limited to specific countries but is a global issue. It exists within and between nations, and international efforts are required to address it comprehensively.
- **Pandemic Impact:** The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the urgency of bridging the digital divide, as remote work and online education became essential. Governments and organizations accelerated their efforts to provide digital access during the crisis.
- **Long-Term Benefits:** Bridging the digital divide has long-term benefits for society, including improved access to education, healthcare, job opportunities, and information. It fosters social inclusion and economic development.

1.3.8 Conclusion:

- The digital divide is a complex issue with far-reaching consequences. It hinders economic, educational, and social progress and exacerbates existing inequalities.
- Bridging the divide requires a multi-faceted approach, focusing on technology access, connectivity, digital literacy, and collaboration between governments, private sector entities, and civil society.
- Addressing the digital divide is crucial for creating a more equitable and inclusive digital society.
- Understanding the multifaceted nature of the digital divide is crucial in addressing this complex issue effectively. It's not merely a matter of providing devices and internet connections; it requires comprehensive efforts to bridge disparities in income, geography, education, culture, and age. Bridging the digital divide is not just about ensuring access to technology; it's about creating a more equitable and inclusive digital society where all individuals have the opportunity to thrive in the digital age

Check Your Progress I

1. What is the digital divide, and how can lack of access to the internet affect people's daily lives?

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2. What are some ways to help bridge the digital divide in your local community?

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1.4 **Cyberbullying**

1.4.1 Introduction:

Cyberbullying refers to the use of digital technologies, such as the internet and social media, to harass, intimidate, or harm others. It involves various forms of online harassment, including spreading rumors, sending threatening messages, or sharing humiliating content.

In the digital age, the rise of the internet and social media has ushered in new forms of communication and interaction, but it has also given rise to a disturbing phenomenon known as "Cyberbullying." Cyberbullying represents a dark underbelly of the digital revolution, where the very technologies designed to connect people across the globe are sometimes employed to harass, intimidate, and harm others.

At its core, cyberbullying involves the use of various digital platforms and technologies, such as social media networks, instant messaging, emails, and even online gaming communities, to engage in hostile, hurtful, and often malicious behavior directed at individuals. Unlike traditional forms of bullying, which may occur face-to-face or in a physical context, cyberbullying takes place in the virtual realm, offering anonymity and distance that can embolden perpetrators to carry out their harmful actions with a perceived sense of impunity.

1.4.2 Key Aspects of Cyberbullying:

1. **Forms of Cyberbullying:** Cyberbullying manifests in a multitude of forms, each aimed at causing emotional distress, embarrassment, or harm to the victim. These forms include harassment, flaming (posting offensive comments or messages), doxing (sharing private information without consent), outing (revealing personal secrets or sensitive information), and trolling (provoking and harassing for amusement). These actions can leave lasting emotional scars on victims, often far beyond the reach of physical wounds.

2. **Platforms and Technology:** Cyberbullying is not limited to one specific online platform or medium. It can occur on social media sites like Facebook and Twitter, through text messages and emails, in online forums, and within the gaming community. The ubiquity of the internet means that individuals of all ages are susceptible to cyberbullying across a wide range of digital spaces.
3. **Impact on Victims:** The consequences of cyberbullying can be devastating. Victims often experience severe emotional distress, including anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem. Academic performance may suffer, and social isolation can become a harsh reality. In extreme cases, cyberbullying can have legal implications, leading to criminal charges against perpetrators.
4. **Prevention and Reporting:** Preventing cyberbullying requires a multifaceted approach. Education is crucial, promoting digital literacy and responsible online behavior. Encouraging victims to report incidents to platform administrators and authorities is equally vital. Many regions have enacted cyberbullying laws and regulations to hold perpetrators accountable for their actions.

In essence, cyberbullying is not a simple byproduct of the digital age; it is a critical societal issue that demands attention and concerted effort. Addressing it requires collaboration between individuals, parents, educators, online platforms, and lawmakers. The goal is to create a safer digital environment where everyone, particularly our youth, can navigate the online world free from the emotional and psychological harm inflicted by cyberbullying.

1.4.3 Cyberbullying Prevention Strategies:

1. **Digital Literacy Programs:** Educate individuals, especially young people, about online etiquette, privacy, and the consequences of cyberbullying.
2. **Online Safety Measures:** Encourage users to protect their personal information and online profiles. Use strong passwords and privacy settings.
3. **Parental Involvement:** Parents should monitor their children's online activities and provide guidance on responsible internet use.
4. **Reporting Mechanisms:** Online platforms should have user-friendly reporting systems for cyberbullying incidents.

1.4.4 Conclusion:

- Cyberbullying is a serious issue that can have severe emotional, psychological, and social consequences for victims.
- Preventing cyberbullying requires a combination of education, awareness, and responsible online behavior.
- It is essential for individuals, parents, educators, and online platforms to work together to create a safer digital environment and protect individuals from the harmful effects of cyberbullying.

Check Your Progress II

1) What is cyberbullying, and can you give an example of a cyberbullying behavior?

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2) How can cyberbullying be prevented?

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1.5 Internet Addiction

1.5.1 Introduction:

The advent of the internet has revolutionized the way we access information, communicate, work, and entertain ourselves. However, this digital age has also given rise to a concerning phenomenon known as "Internet Addiction," characterized by excessive, compulsive, and harmful use of the internet. Internet Addiction is often described as a behavioral addiction, where individuals develop an unhealthy dependence on the online world, leading to adverse consequences in various aspects of their lives.

1.5.2 Key Aspects of Internet Addiction:

1. **Signs and Symptoms:**
   - Individuals with internet addiction exhibit common signs such as spending excessive time online, neglecting real-life responsibilities, and a strong desire to be online even when it is impractical or harmful.
   - Withdrawal symptoms, including anxiety, irritability, and restlessness, may occur when attempting to reduce internet usage.
2. **Types of Internet Activities:**
   - Internet addiction can manifest in different ways, depending on the specific online activities that consume excessive time. These activities may include social media, online gaming, gambling, shopping, or even compulsive information searching.
3. **Impact on Daily Life:**
   - Internet addiction can have detrimental effects on various aspects of an individual's life, including work or academic performance, relationships, physical health, and mental well-being.
   - Neglecting responsibilities and social interactions due to excessive online engagement is common among those suffering from this addiction.
4. **Psychological and Emotional Consequences:**

- o Individuals with internet addiction may experience a range of psychological and emotional issues, including depression, anxiety, isolation, and low self-esteem.
- o Escapism into the online world can serve as a coping mechanism, but it often exacerbates underlying mental health problems.

1.5.3 Causes and Triggers:

1. **Accessibility and Convenience:** The widespread availability and ease of internet access contribute to the development of internet addiction.
2. **Psychological Factors:** Underlying psychological issues, such as depression, anxiety, or loneliness, can increase susceptibility to internet addiction.
3. **Social Factors:** Peer pressure, online gaming communities, and the desire to conform to online norms can lead to excessive internet use.

1.5.4 Prevention and Treatment:

1. **Awareness and Education:** Promoting awareness about the risks of internet addiction and educating individuals about responsible internet usage is vital.
2. **Limiting Screen Time:** Setting boundaries on daily screen time and encouraging offline activities, such as hobbies, exercise, and social interactions, can help prevent addiction.
3. **Therapeutic Approaches:** For individuals already affected, therapy, counseling, and support groups can aid in overcoming internet addiction and addressing underlying psychological issues.

1.5.5 Conclusion:

- Internet addiction is a growing concern in our digitally connected world, affecting individuals of all ages.
- Recognizing the signs, understanding the causes, and implementing preventive measures are crucial steps in addressing this addiction and fostering a healthier balance between the virtual and real-life worlds.
- It is imperative to promote responsible internet use, provide support to those affected, and mitigate the adverse consequences of internet addiction in society.

Check Your Progress III

1. What is Internet Addiction, and how might it affect someone's daily life?

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2. What are a few preventive measures individuals can take to avoid Internet Addiction?

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UNIT 10   AGRARIAN CRISIS IN INDIA: CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES

10.0 Objectives

10.1 Introduction

10.2 Causes of Agrarian Crisis

10.3 Consequences of Agrarian Crisis

10.4 Current status of agrarian crisis in India

10.5 Questions for Practice

10.6 References

10.0 Learning Objectives

After reading this unit, you will be able to:

1.   explain the causes of the agrarian crisis

2.   describe the consequences of an agrarian crisis

3.   evaluate the current status of the agrarian crisis in India

10.1 Introduction

India has had an agrarian economy for long. This economy fulfilled the livelihood and daily subsistence needs of the rural people. Peasants have been the backbone of the agrarian economy. India has faced various challenges in its agricultural sector. These challenges include issues such as water scarcity, land degradation, outdated farming practices, lack of modernization, low income for farmers, and inadequate infrastructure.

Several factors contribute to the difficulties in the agricultural sector, such as unpredictable weather patterns, insufficient irrigation facilities, and limited access to credit for farmers. Additionally, the agrarian distress is often linked to issues like crop failures, indebtedness, and market fluctuations.

Governments at both the central and state levels in India have implemented various policies and initiatives to address these challenges and support the agricultural community. These efforts include schemes related to crop insurance, minimum support prices (MSP), irrigation facilities, and rural development.

10.2 Causes of Agrarian Crisis

The agrarian crisis in India is a complex issue with multiple contributing factors. While the situation can vary across regions, some common causes include:

1. Monsoonal Dependency: A significant portion of Indian agriculture relies heavily on monsoon rains. Irregular rainfall or drought can lead to crop failures, affecting farmers' incomes.

2. Land Degradation: Soil fertility and quality have been declining due to overuse, improper irrigation practices, and inadequate soil conservation measures, impacting agricultural productivity.

3. Outdated Farming Practices: Many farmers in India still use traditional and outdated farming techniques, which may not be efficient or sustainable. The lack of awareness and access to modern agricultural practices hampers productivity.

4. Water Scarcity:Agriculture is a water-intensive activity, and water scarcity in many parts of the country affects crop yields. Inefficient water management and irrigation practices exacerbate the problem.

5. Lack of Irrigation Infrastructure: Limited access to irrigation facilities, particularly in rain-fed regions, leaves farmers vulnerable to the vagaries of weather. Expanding and improving irrigation infrastructure is crucial for enhancing agricultural resilience.

6. Debt Burden: High levels of indebtedness among farmers, often due to borrowing for input costs and emergencies, contribute to financial stress. Crop failures or market fluctuations can lead to a cycle of debt and distress.

7. Market Fluctuations: Farmers may face price volatility and market uncertainties, impacting their income. Lack of proper marketing infrastructure and storage facilities can exacerbate this problem.

8. Land Fragmentation:Inheritance laws and population pressure have led to the fragmentation of agricultural land into smaller holdings. This fragmentation can make farming less economically viable.

9. Lack of Diversification: Overreliance on a few crops exposes farmers to risks associated with price fluctuations and market demands. Diversifying crops and embracing alternative income sources can enhance resilience.

10. Policy Challenges:Inconsistent or inadequate agricultural policies can contribute to the crisis. Policies related to subsidies, minimum support prices, and agricultural research and development may need refinement.

11. Climate Change: Changes in climate patterns, including unpredictable rainfall and extreme weather events, pose a significant threat to agriculture. Adapting farming practices to climate change is crucial for long-term sustainability.

Addressing the agrarian crisis in India requires a comprehensive approach involving policy reforms, technological interventions, infrastructure development, and financial support for farmers. Government initiatives such as the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), and others aim to address some of these challenges.

10.3 Consequences of Agrarian Crisis

10.4 Addressing Agrarian crisis in India

Addressing the agrarian crisis in India requires a holistic approach involving various stakeholders, including the government, farmers, agricultural experts, and the private sector. Here are some key strategies and measures that can be considered:

1. **Investment in Agricultural Infrastructure:**

  - Improve irrigation facilities to reduce dependency on rainfall.

  - Develop and upgrade rural roads for better connectivity to markets.

  - Enhance storage and cold chain infrastructure to minimize post-harvest losses.

2. **Promotion of Sustainable Farming Practices:**

   - Encourage the adoption of modern and sustainable farming techniques.

   - Promote organic farming and agroecological practices to maintain soil health.

3. **Access to Credit and Financial Inclusion:**

   - Ensure easy access to credit for farmers at reasonable interest rates.

   - Promote financial literacy and inclusion to help farmers manage their finances more effectively.

4. **Crop Diversification:**

   - Encourage farmers to diversify their crops to reduce vulnerability to market fluctuations.

   - Promote the cultivation of high-value crops and cash crops.

5. **Price Stabilization Mechanisms:**

   - Implement effective minimum support price (MSP) mechanisms to provide a safety net for farmers.

   - Explore options for creating price stabilization funds to mitigate market risks.

6. **Technology Adoption:**

   - Promote the use of modern agricultural technologies and precision farming techniques.

   - Invest in research and development to develop crop varieties resistant to pests, diseases, and adverse weather conditions.

7. **Skill Development and Training:**

   - Provide training programs to farmers on modern farming practices, use of technology, and sustainable agriculture.

   - Establish agricultural extension services to disseminate knowledge and best practices.

8. **Insurance Schemes:**

   - Strengthen and promote crop insurance schemes to protect farmers from income shocks due to crop failures.

   - Develop innovative risk mitigation strategies for farmers.

9. **Land Reforms:**

   - Address land fragmentation issues through effective land consolidation and tenancy reforms.

   - Promote land-use planning to optimize agricultural productivity.

10. **Climate-Resilient Agriculture:**

   - Implement climate-resilient agricultural practices to adapt to changing weather patterns.

   - Promote the use of drought-resistant and heat-tolerant crop varieties.

11. **Policy Reforms:**

   - Continuously review and refine agricultural policies to address emerging challenges.

   - Ensure that policies are farmer-centric, taking into account the diverse needs of different regions and crop types.

12. **Community and Farmer Empowerment:**

   - Strengthen farmer producer organizations (FPOs) to enhance bargaining power and market access.

   - Encourage community-based approaches for resource management and collective decision-making.

13. **Research and Development:**

   - Invest in agricultural research and development to create innovative solutions for the challenges faced by farmers.

   - Foster collaboration between research institutions, farmers, and the private sector.

14. **Public Awareness and Education:**

   - Raise awareness among farmers about government schemes, best practices, and market trends.

   - Promote education on sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture.

Addressing the agrarian crisis requires sustained efforts and collaboration among various stakeholders. A multi-dimensional approach that combines policy reforms, infrastructure development, technology adoption, and community empowerment is crucial for building a resilient and sustainable agricultural sector in India.

10.4 Questions for Practise

10.5 References