

Poverty Alleviation Programmes

**(Special Programmes to Fight Poverty and
Unemployment)**

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Meaning of Poverty

- Poverty in India has been defined as that situation in which an individual fails to earn income sufficient to buy him minimum means of subsistence.
- The Rangarajan Committee has fixed Poverty Line as Rs.32 per person per day in rural areas and Rs.47 per person per day in urban areas.
- The international poverty line is **US \$ 1.90** per person per day.
- **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** has defined income poverty as lack of necessities of material well being and human poverty as denial of opportunity for living a tolerable life.

Meaning of Poverty.....

- **Poverty refers to the condition of not having the means to afford basic human needs such as food, clean water, nutrition, health care, clothing and shelter. This is also referred to as absolute poverty or destitution.**
- **Relative poverty is the condition of having fewer resources or less income than others within a society or country, or compared to worldwide averages.**

General Measures to Alleviate Poverty

- 1. The rate of economic growth should be raised.**
- 2. Providing minimum basic amenities.**
- 3. Stability in price level.**
- 4. Development of agriculture and rural sector.**
- 5. Various beneficiary-oriented programmes need to be strengthened.**

Special Programmes to Fight Poverty and Unemployment

- **1.National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS/MGNREGS)**
- **The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act or NREGA is a job guarantee scheme, enacted by legislation on August 25, 2005 and came into effect on February 2, 2006.**
- **The scheme provides a legal guarantee for 100 days of wage-employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing**

to do public work-related unskilled manual work at a statutory minimum wage.

2. Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY)

- Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana for providing selfEmployment to **Educated Unemployed Youth** was announced by the Prime Minister on 15th August, 1993, to provide self-employment opportunities to educated unemployed youth in the country.
- **The Scheme has been formally launched on 2nd October, 1993 . The PMRY has been designed to provide employment to more than a million**

Person by setting up of 7 lakhs micro enterprises by the educated unemployed youth.

- It relates to the setting up of the self-employment ventures through industry, service and business routes.

3. Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY)

- **PMGY (Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yozana):** Launched in 2000-01, to improve the standard living of rural people.

- **The objective of PMGY is to focus on village level development in five critical areas, i.e., health, primary education, drinking water, housing and rural roads.**

4. National Food for Work Programme

- **The National Food for Work Programme was launched in November, 2001 in 150 most backward districts of the country, identified by the Planning Commission in consultation with the Ministry of Rural Development and the State governments.**

- The objective of the programme was to provide food security through wage-employment, to 150 most backward and drought affected districts of the country, so that generation of supplementary wage employment and providing of food-security through creation of need based economic, social and community assets in these districts are further intensified.

5. Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)

- The aim of the Antyodaya Anna Yojana scheme, launched in 2000, is to provide special food-based assistance to destitute households.

- These households are given a special ration card (an “Antyodaya card”), and are entitled to special grain quotas at highly subsidised prices.
- Against each Antyodaya Card, beneficiary household or individuals are entitled to 35kg. of subsidized rice or wheat per month from the designated local ration shop.
- The subsidized price charged is Rs. 2/- per kg. for wheat and Rs. 3/- per kg. for rice.

6.National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)

- The NRLM was launched on April 1, 1999.

- It aims at promoting micro-enterprises, and helping the rural poor into SHGs.
- The scheme covers all aspects of **self employment** like organisation of rural poor into SHG, and their capacity building, training planning of activity clusters, infrastructure development, financial assistance, marketing support etc.

7. National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM)

- **The Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana has been replaced by NULM in September 2013.**
- **It aims to promote gainful employment to the urban unemployed.**
- **The mission aims at providing shelter with basic amenities to urban homeless.**

Evaluation and Home Assignment

- **1. What is meant by poverty?**

- **2. Describe the general measures to alleviate poverty in India.**
- **3. Briefly explain the major and latest poverty alleviation programmes implemented in India.**
- **4. Compare and contrast NFFWP and NREGS.**
- **5. Prepare a chart which shows the major Poverty Alleviation programmes and their objectives.**

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