

PREFACE

In the curricular structure introduced by this University for students of Post Graduate degree programme, the opportunity to pursue Post Graduate course in Subjects introduced by this University is equally available to all learners. Instead of being guided by any presumption about ability level, it would perhaps stand to reason if receptivity of a learner is judged in the course of the learning process. That would be entirely in keeping with the objectives of open education which does not believe in artificial differentiation.

Keeping this in view, study materials of the Post Graduate level in different subjects are being prepared on the basis of a well laid-out syllabus. The course structure combines the best elements in the approved syllabi of Central and State Universities in respective subjects. It has been so designed as to be upgradable with the addition of new information as well as results of fresh thinking and analyses.

The accepted methodology of distance education has been followed in the preparation of these study materials. Co-operation in every form of experienced scholars is indispensable for a work of this kind. We, therefore, owe an enormous debt of gratitude to everyone whose tireless efforts went into the writing, editing and devising of proper lay-out of the materials. Practically speaking, their role amounts to an involvement in invisible teaching. For, whoever makes use of these study materials would virtually derive the benefit of learning under their collective care without each being seen by the other.

The more a learner would seriously pursue these study materials the easier it will be for him or her to reach out to larger horizons of a subject. Care has also been taken to make the language lucid and presentation attractive so that they may be rated as quality self-learning materials. If anything remains still obscure or difficult to follow, arrangements are there to come to terms with them through the counselling sessions regularly available at the network of study centres set up by the University.

Needless to add, a great part of these efforts is still experimental—in fact, pioneering in certain areas. Naturally, there is every possibility of some lapse or deficiency here and there. However, these to admit of rectification and further improvement in due course. On the whole, therefore, these study materials are expected to evoke wider appreciation the more they receive serious attention of all concerned.

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Paper : XI
Contemporary Social Problems and Social Policy

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Unit-01 □ Concept of Social Problem

Structure :

- 1.1 Concept of Social Problem**
- 1.2 Nature of Social Problem**
- 1.3 Causes of Social Problem**
- 1.4 Types of Social Problem**
- 1.5 Theoretical Explanations of Social Problem**
- 1.6 Exercises**

1.1. Concept of Social Problem

Raab and Selznick maintain that a social problem is “a problem in human relationships which seriously threatens society itself and impedes the important aspirations of many people.” They go on to say, ‘a social problem exists when organized society’s ability to order relationships among people seems to be failing; when its institutions are fathering, its laws are being flouted, the transmission of its values from one generation to the next is breaking down, the framework of expectations is being shaken. The widespread contemporary concern with juvenile delinquency, for example, is only partly that delinquency is the doorway to crime or is a threat to personal safety and property. It is also a fear that society is failing to transmit positive social values to its youth. It is seen in other words, as a breakdown in society itself.

A social problem may also be defined as a “deviation from the social ideal remediable by group effort”. (Walsh and Furfey). Two elements are important in this definition : (i) a situation which is less than ideal, that is, which is undesirable or abnormal, and (ii) one which is remediable by collective effort.

Drug abuse, alcoholism, terrorism, poverty, unemployment and crime, are not individual problems but affect the public at large. Individual problem is one which affects one individual or one group. Its resolution lies within the immediate milieu of the individual/group. Against this, a public issue is one which affects the society as a whole, or the larger structure of social life. The sociologists’ aim is to understand how these social problems crop up in the functioning of different social structures, to study the operation of varied patterns of interrelationships in the society and how people are affected by them, and observe how social systems need to be reorganised and restructured in dealing with them.

1.2. Nature of Social Problem

Social problems are behaviour patterns or conditions which arise from social processes and are considered so objectionable or undesirable by many members of a society that they recognise that corrective policies programmes and services are necessary to cope with them.

Social problems arise by being collectively defined as objectionable by many members of the community. Thus adverse conditions not defined by the community as reprehensible are not considered as social problems. For example, if taking alcohol is not regarded as objectionable by the society, it is not considered a social problem. But as the society, recognizes and discusses the problems inherent in alcohol consumption, studies its consequences and devises a plan of corrective action to control it, it comes to be defined as a social problem even though the original situation may not have changed.

Social problems change when the concerned behavioural patterns are interpreted differently. For example, till a few decades ago, mental illness was viewed as insanity but now it is seen only as one type of 'deviant behaviour' which requires psychiatric and social treatment.

Mass media (like newspapers, television, radio etc.) play an important role in creating awareness about the scope and urgency of social problems.

Social problems have to be viewed in the context of the society's values and institutions, for example, the problem of racial conflict in the united states is different from the problem of untouchability in India.

Social problems vary historically; contemporary social problems are the society's concern.

Social problems need to be analysed in terms of the influences upon them by group processes and social relationships.

Thus, the nature of social problems can be described briefly as follows :

- All social problems are deviations from the 'ideal' situation.
- All social problems have some common basis of origin.
- All social problems are social in origin.
- All social problems are inter-connected.
- All social problems are social in their results, that is, they affect all sections of society.
- The responsibility for social problems is social, that is, they require a collective approach for their solution.

1.3. Causes of Social Problems

Social problems arise out of pathological social conditions. They occur in all societies-simple (that is, small, isolated and homogeneous with a strong sense of group solidarity, and which change slowly) as well as in complex (which are characterised by impersonal secondary relations, anonymity, loneliness, high mobility and extreme specialization, and where change is faster), that is, wherever a relationship is affected between a group of individuals leading to maladjustments and conflicts.

Reinhardt has referred to three factors in the development of social problems :

(1) Differentiation and Multiplication of Interests and Functions :

The principle that the greater the number of parts in a machine or an organism, the greater the probability of maladjustment among the parts holds good for human societies too, where there is increased opportunity for the collision of interests of various individuals, groups, institutions and systems. Untouchability, communal riots and political crimes, are the social problems which are the result of the clash of interests of different castes and classes.

(2) Accelerating Frequency of Social Change or Growth of Civilization :

This has been made possible due to the multiplication of scientific and mechanical innovations. For example, the innovation of machine has destroyed many old forms of employment resulting in the migration of millions of people, and has given rise to class conflicts. It is, thus, the structural and functional maladjustments arising from revolutionary inventions which create many social problems.

(3) Man's Developed insight to make a scientific analysis :

Ever since man has developed his social insights of looking into the working of nature issues which were formerly regarded as simple are now perceived as the result of various kinds of natural conditions which influence man and society.

Types of Social Problems :

Clarence Marshall case has given four types of social problem on the basis of their origin :

- (i) these which are rooted in some aspect of the physical environment,
- (ii) which are inherent in the nature or distribution of the population involved,
- (iii) which result from poor social organisation,

and

(iv) which evolve from a conflict of cultural values within the society.

Fuller and Myers have given three types of problems :

(a) Physical problems : though these are problems for the society but their causes are not based on value-conflicts, for example, floods and famines,

(b) Ameliorative problems : there is consensus about the effects of these problems but there are differences pertaining to their solutions, for example, crime, poverty, and drug addiction, and

(c) Moral Problems : there is no consensus pertaining to the nature or causes of these problems, for example, gambling and divorce.

1.5 Theoretical Explanations of Social Problems :

Though social problems are essentially subjective, they can be studied scientifically. Some of the theoretical approaches may be examined that present universal explanations for all types of social problems.

(A) Social Disorganization Approach

Social disorganization is a condition of a society, community or group in which there is a breakdown of social control, or of a social order, or of formal and informal norms that define permissible behaviour. It is characterized by the lack of cooperation, common values, unity, discipline and predictability.

Social disorganization occurs when there is a change in the equilibrium, of forces, a breakdown of social structure so that the former patterns no longer apply, and the accepted forms of social control no longer function effectively. This disruptive condition of society, which is evidenced by normlessness, role conflict, social conflicts, and demoralisation increases social problems.

Many of the old rules which governed the intra-family and inter-family relations seem to have broken down. Many people feel frustrated and unhappy. This is the condition of social disorganization, in which changes and unhappy. This is the condition of social disorganization, in which changes in the basic conditions of life, causing breakdown of traditional norms, have resulted in widespread discontentment and disillusionment.

(B) Cultural Lag Approach : Culture lag is a situation in which some parts of a culture change at faster rate than other related parts resulting in the disruption of integration and equilibrium of the culture, for example, material culture changes more rapidly than the non-material culture

in industrial societies through rapid advances in science and technology. The theory of culture lag, in particular holds that in modern societies there has been a tendency for change in the political, educational, family & religious institutions to fall behind technological changes. It is thus easy to see how cultural lag can create social problems. Even after rapid industrialisation in the last quarter of the 19th century & in the first quarter of the 20th century, some people were so influenced by the rigid restrictions of the caste system that they refused to work. With members of other castes in the industries and prefer to remain unemployed and poor. The first quarter of the twentieth century, thus, remained a period of cultural lag.

(C) Value Conflict Approach : A value is a generalized principle of behaviour to which the members of a group feel a strong, emotionally-toned positive commitment and which provides a standard for judging specific acts and goals. Each member of the group is expected to remain committed to the values accepted by the group. Values, thus, provide the generalized standards of behaviour. Examples of values are equality, justice, freedom, patriotism, mobility, individualism, collectivism etc. The value conflict theorists like Waller, Fuller, Cuber and Harper, hold that clashes in value system are of basic importance in the origin and development of social problems. Waller has referred to the conflict between 'organisational' and 'humanitarian' values. The former favour private property and individualism, while the latter are votaries of remedying the misfortunes of others.

(D) Personal Deviation Approach : Deviation is non-conformity to social norms. It is different from abnormal behaviour because the latter commits psychological illness rather than social maladjustment or conflict. Thus, people who deviate from social norms are not necessarily mentally ill. In the social disorganization approach to social problems, one looks to the rules that have broken down and the changes that have taken place because of the breaking of the rules. In personal-deviation approach, one looks to the motivation and behaviour of the deviants who are instrumental in causing the problems.

(E) Anomie Approach : This approach was propounded by Merton. Anomie is a condition characterised by the relative absence or weakening or confusion of norms and values in a society or a group. Merton says, "the social problem arises not from people failing to live upto the requirements of their social statuses but from the faulty organization of these statuses into a reasonably co-herent social system." Anomie is the counterpart of the idea of social solidarity. Just as social solidarity is a state of collective ideological integrations anomie is a state of confusion, insecurity and normlessness. According to Merton the disjunction between goals and means and the consequent strain leads to the weakening of men's commitment to the culturally prescribed goals or institutionalised means, that is, to a state of anomie. Merton maintains that people adopt to this disjunction either by rejecting the cultural goals or the institutionalised means or both.

Conclusion : To conclude, it may be said that the sociologists' role in social problems is to create an awareness about the social problems, to analyse the causes of social problems, to develop theories about social problems, to discuss effects of social problems on individuals, groups and society, and to examine the consequences of alternate plans suggested for solving the problems.

1.6 Exercises

- (i) Define the term 'Social Problem' and explain its nature and causes.
- (ii) Write an essay on theoretical explanation of social problem.

Unit-02 □ Problems Related to Family and Marriage in India, Marital Conflict, Causes and Consequences of Divorce and Desertion, Problem of Child Marriage, Dowry

Structure :

- 2.1 Problems Related to Family and Marriage in India**
- 2.2 Marital Conflicts; Causes and Consequences of Divorce and Desertion**
- 2.3 Child Marriage**
- 2.4 Dowry System**
- 2.5 Exercises**

2.1 Problems Related to Family and Marriage in India

The family is the most important primary group in society. It is the simplest and the most elementary form of society. The family, as an institution, is universal. It is the most permanent and the most pervasive of all social institutions. Mac Ivern says that a family is “a group defined by sex relationship sufficiently precise and enduring to provide for the procreation and upbringing of children.”

Marriage implies sanctioning by society of a durable bond between one or more males and one or more females established to permit sexual intercourse for the implied purpose of parenthood. Marriage is a stable relationship between adults of opposite sexes in which certain rights, duties and interactions are socially prescribed and supported and in which any children born are legitimate in the eyes of society. Marriage may also be defined as the approved social pattern whereby two or more persons establish a family.

In pre-industrial and agricultural societies, production of most goods and services was organised on the basis of the family or household unit and usually involved parents, children and other members of the household. Since the family unit produced most of the goods and services it needed to survive (and sometimes a little extra for sale in local markets) the family of this period was an independent commodity-producing unit the basic unit of production.

In course of time smaller farming families and cottages were displaced from their landholdings, with the result families became more reliant on outside employment-often selling their services to larger landholders. But the most decisive change came from the late 18th century as production of goods became organized through workshops and factories. People left their homes each day to go to work and earned wages by means of which they hoped to purchase the goods which formerly the family unit might have produced.

In India also, the traditional joint family was a unit of production and consumption. Today, with the advent of diversified occupations, members in the joint family tend to seek their fortunes outside. The contemporary family is a unit of consumption. Particularly, in technologically advanced societies, the family has a vital economic function as a unit of consumption. The separation of home and workplace resulted in the general exclusion of women from social production. Many women became for the first time just housewives.

In many countries of the west, sexual norms have been greatly liberalized-statistics indicate a significant change in pre-marital sexual behaviour pattern. They show an increasing gap between the conventional ideals of the adult world and the actual behaviours of both adults and young people. And the actual behaviour of both adults and young people. One of the reasons for this change is the dramatic increase of women in the work force and the slow but sure alterations in sex roles that are being accepted. In most parts of the world and in India too, the only women who worked outside the home or for pay were those women whose husbands were unable or unwilling to support them. Today, working women are increasingly from the upper and middle classes. In India, the growing emphasis on the education of girls, rise in marriage age, employment opportunities for women, social approval, or at least tacit tolerance of single girls and married women accepting employment resulting greater opportunities for developing outside contracts and working side by side with their won colleagues, increasing readiness to admit women to professional and other responsible and better salaried jobs and the new legislations granting freedom and parallel rights to women have all contributed to bring about a change in family.

The traditional joint system of India has undergone vast changes. These changes have not destroyed the system as such. They have definitely affected its structure and functions and also its stability. Milton Singer has identified five factors which have affected the family most. These are education, industrialization, urbanisation, changes in the institution of marriage, specially in the age of marriage and the legislative measures.

Perhaps the most quoted change in the western countries is the dramatic increase in the number of divorces. The high rate of divorce in urban industrial societies reflects :

- (1) the separation of marriage from religion;
 - (2) the emancipation of women
- and (3) the change in values to a new emphasis on individuality and personal happiness.

This frequency of divorce and remarriage has led analysts of the family to call the institution 'serial marriage'. Regardless of personal moral judgements on the subject of

divorce, many have now started viewing it as a natural product of social change. The factors responsible for this are growing secularity, emancipation of women and their employment outside the home and the trend towards smaller families. In the industrialized societies newly-weds are less willing to put up with an unpleasant situation. Today institutions and private counsellors have set up courses to help couples going through a divorce. In other words, divorce is becoming institutionalized. Another alternative to marriage and family is remaining single and this no longer has the stigma it used to have.

Thus, societies differ in the way in which the family is functioning. Among the former functions of the family that have been taken over by separate institutions are religion, education and care of the all in old age homes. This is true of western societies but not to that extent in India. Change in the order of the modern age and is touching society at all levels. Family, which forms the care of society, can hardly remain immune from its influence.

2.2 Marital Conflicts; Causes and Consequences of Divorce and Desertion

The striking problem that confronts the modern family is its instability. The traditional family was a stable type of family whose dissolution was rarely thought of and was not very easy. It faced the world as a unit. Women outside the family had no refuge. The profession of the family was fixed which was continued by succeeding generations. Social mobility was slight. But today it is all changed. The control of the family over its members has decreased. The younger generation does not like any interference by their elders. There is lack of unity among the family members. Faith in one another is decreasing. The problems of working women have hindered the development of the children and increased conflicts between husband and wife. There is lack of mutual trust. The marriage bonds have weakened. The ancient ideal of fidelity in sex-relationship has been adversely affected. Pre-marital and extra-marital relationships have increased. There is sexual disharmony between husband and wife. There is no longer any family craft or profession. The members of the same family are engaged in different pursuits, one in service, the other in business, a third in politics. The increase of specialized agencies have greatly dismissed common participation which was the backbone of traditional family. The modern family has shurnk both structurally and functionally and is gradually losing its primary character. The state has undertaken to provide pre-natal attention and infant schools; expensive medical facilities are available, the factory and office provide the place of work and women clubs and bars provide for recreation. If people find their education, their work and their recreation outside the family and if women can get jobs which make them independent, surely the charge of a broken home can be laid at the door of the modern family.

What leads to divorce?

A particular case of divorce is always the outcome of a long process of mutual alienation between the married fair. So, it cannot be said that the “causes” are in any strict

rence, for there may be a worse case of mutual alienation that did not end in divorce. However, it can be said that certain aspects of culture and social structure are likely to lead to a high divorce rate. Among these aspects the following are the important ones.

(i) Decay of Social Values : The grounds that are usually given in the courts for dissolving marriages are numerous, chief among them are sexual immorality, cruelty, incompatibility, sterility and venereal disease in communicable form. These are, however, the external causes of divorce. The deep lying cause is that in modern family there is a noticeable decay of the social values upon which the family rests. Marriages today are for personal convenience and not for spiritual emancipation.

The modern view of marriage is materialistic and self-centered which has weakened the foundations of family. Modern family is an equal partners demanding reciprocity and naturally less stable than the partriarchal family which was an autocracy. Family life requires solid foundation, sacrificial living, personal charity and the assumption of social responsibility. And since these are lacking, the rate of divorce of increasing.

(ii) Less Social Protection : Moreover, the change in the functional nature of the family has also added to family instability. In the partriarchal family the adjustment of partners to one another through the tensions and crisis of the family was brought about by economic necessity and social pressure. Today the necessity and pressure are lessened. The factory system has reduced the importance of the family as a producing unit and has provided jobs for women. Woman earns an independent living and does not depend upon the man for her bread. She separates as soon as she does not find the man to her liking. Society does not press her to live in the family as in this age of urbanism men are indifferent to each other. The family is compelled to rely upon its own strength for survival in times of crisis and since the modern family is a loose union based on a weak foundation, it fails to survive. Economic conditions in the past made the family fails to survive. Economic conditions in the past made the family a forced union especially for the woman. For the modern woman this economic dependence practically does not exist. Further, commercialization of services has freed men and women from dependence on the home for meals, clothing, laundering and recreation. The divorce rate has been going up in the industrialized societies. There is likelihood that the process that increases the economic independence of women will advance further and consequently family instability will also be increased. Section 13 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1995 provides grounds for seeking decree of divorce such as :

- (i) Adultery,
- (ii) Cruelty,
- (iii) Desertion,
- (iv) Change of religion,
- (v) Incurable unsoundness of mind,
- (vi) Leprosy,

- (vii) Venereal disease,
- (vii) Renunciation of the world,
- (ix) Presumed death,
- (x) Non-resumption of cohabitation inspite of the decree of judicial separation.
- (xi) Non-compliance with the decree of restitution of conjugal rights.

“Desertion” was only a ground for judicial separation before Marriage Laws (Amendment) Act, 1976 but now it has been made a ground for divorce as well. Section 13 read with section 10CU(a) of the Hindu Marriage Act, as amended provides that the desertion for a continuous period of net less than two yours immediately proceeding the presentation of the petition is now a good ground both for judicial separation and divorce. Desertion is a matter of inference to be drawn from the facts and circumstances of each case. The inference may be drawn from certain facts and circumstances of each case. Where in consequence of mutual agreement between the parties the wife was residing separately but she had been compelled to agree that way on account of Cruelness behaviour of the husband to her, the husband was held to be deserter and not the wife.

Since divorce is a failure of marital adjustment, to avoid it the following steps are suggested.

- (i) All feelings of resentment should be abandoned;
- (ii) Needless irritants and antagonizers should be eliminated;
- (iii) Find ways to do new joyful things together.
- (iv) Have children but by mutal agreement;
- (v) Understand your mate;
- (vi) Discuss your vital family problems with your mate frankly, but do not argue endlessly;
- (vii) Discover areas of agreement and develop together joint programme of action.
- (viii) Surrender non-essentials. Do not wreck your happiness and that of your mate over some comparatively minor issue that was never worth the tears and agony it caused;
- (ix) Agree to live and let live.
- (x) Put the welfare of your family first and stop fretting about yourself.

2.3 Child Marriage

Child marriage in India has become, more or less a custom and the people seem to be of the opinion that they have to follow this custom. A popular study reveals that during

the last 35 years there is no perceptible change in this custom particularly in Rajasthan where males and females are getting married in their childhood. The study also shows that child marriages cannot be curbed merely by legislation. However, community panchayats can play an important role in curbing this social evil. Realisation of adverse effects of child marriages can help in reduction of incidence of child marriage. A general awareness and understanding of this fact is spreading very fast because of literacy and mass communication. Attention is also being paid towards adopting remedial measures through effective voluntary efforts which could help in applying a brake to widespread social-cultural problem of child marriage.

Child marriage was not prevalent in ancient India. Various types of marriages were prevalent in ancient India. viz., Gandharva Vivaha (love marriage), Asura vivaha (marriage by abduction) etc, but among these Bal-vivaha is conspicuous in its absence. There are many reasons to believe that this custom originated in the medieval ages. The vedic mantras, such as the Rigveda mentioned that a girl could be married only when she was fully developed both physically and mentally and that she was to be fully developed physically before leaving her father's home. Men were advised to marry a girl with a fully developed body. One hymn mentions that a female should be married only "when she is not a child."

In India, during the 1860s marriage meant girls getting married below 8 or 9 years old. Socio-Reform-religious movements such as the Brahmo Samaj & the Arya Samaj pioneered work against child marriage. Late in the 1860s some success was made, when the Indian Penal Code prohibited intercourse with a wife who had not reached 10 years of age. Nevertheless, it wasn't until 1880 that child marriage as a problem became a public issue in India running the debate on the age of consent bill.

Shortly thereafter, in the 1886 the first, petition against 'Hindu Infant Marriage' was proposed to the Govt. by the natives of Meerut. It was finally passed in 1927. It declared that no marriage would be valid unless the girl has completed here twelfth year. Finally the child marriage restraint Act was passed in 1929. The object was to eliminate the special evil which had the potentiality of danger to the life & health of a female child, who could not with stand the stress & strains of married life & to avoid early death of such minor mothers.

According to the Act.

- (1) "child" means a person who, if a male, is under 21 years of age, and, if a female, is under 18 years of age.
- (2) "child marriage" means a marriage to which either of the contracting parties is a child.

It is noteworthy that a contravention of the provisions of the Act does not render the marriage invalid as the validity of the marriage is a subject beyond the scope of the Act.

Child marriage violates every human right to which a child is entitled : the right to health, to education, to equality, to liberty and security of the person and of course the right

to make a free and informed choice of a spouse. The practice of child marriage reinforces the basic problem of low levels of health, and education among women. The state of law, the lacunae in it as well as the confusions, contradictions, and lack of gender sensitivity inherent in the provisions of various statutes dealing with the age of marriage, the age of consent and the validity of the marriage should be criticized for the prevalence of this evil practice throughout this country.

2.4 Dowry System

Dowry was initially an institution in which gifts and presents were given to a girl at the time of her marriage when she was required to leave her parents' home and join her husband's household. But unfortunately it has become a crude institution resulting in female infanticide, suicide, bride-burning and other indignities and cruelties. The dowry problem has become a serious social problem among the upper castes and middle classes in towns and villages. The rules of marriage, namely, caste endogamy and clan exogamy and anuloma (hypergamy) and pratiloma (hypogamy) have been misinterpreted and misused for maintaining the dowry system. These rules restrict the choice of mate-selection. They ensure that marriage takes place within one's caste and outside one's clan.

It is difficult to suggest a set of factors responsible for the custom of dowry, but we can think of a tentative list. These include certain rules of marriage (including hypergamy), caste, hierarchy, patriarchy, primogeniture, the low status of women, modern education and employment, a false sense of prestige, and economic prosperity of some people. Since dowry has become a complex phenomenon and a social problem of a dynamic nature, it needs quick and far-reaching remedial measures. Only legislation would not be sufficient. Legislation has several lacunae, and it is not easy to overcome them. Some voluntary agencies have started movements against the institution of dowry. These organisations have organised demonstrations against the incidents of dowry homicides, suicides, torture and harassment. Social boycott has also been done in some cases.

What we need today is a crusade against this evil, which has, in fact, ruined several families and has destroyed the lives of thousands of women year after year. There is a need to chalk out a programme having both curative and preventive measures, and also long-term and short-term device. The curative and long-term measures would include inculcation of a new ideology, and a value-system which guarantees a place of honour to women and their parents. Young men of marriageable age do not become marketable commodities sold by their parents to the parents of brides in return for dowry. Egalitarian values are the only substitute for caste-based hypergamous marriages. Inter-caste marriages should be encouraged. Arranged marriages with demands of dowry must go.

The preventive and short-term devices would include immediate action when incidents of dowry deaths, harassment and humiliation occur. The victims of dowry should be provided legal and social protection. The television, radio and newspapers should highlight such

incidents with all seriousness to curb the menace in future. Street corner plays should depict such incidents as serious matters of life and not as a source of entertainment. Political leaders, government officials, businessmen and others must not be allowed either to take or give dowry in any form, not even in the form of gifts and presents. It has become a vicious evil. A man who gives dowry to his daughter plans to take more dowry for his son than he has given for his daughter. If such thing continues, there will be no end to this social evil. Hence, the measures suggested above are the only way out to reduce the magnitude of the problem.

The Hindu Succession Act of 1956 provides girls with the legal rights to a share in the parental property; but rarely do girls demand their share nor are they given it. The law is almost redundant. The Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961 has utterly failed to check the growing menace of dowry. The girl does not make a claim for her share in parental property, but the parents spend a lot on her marriage. The Act 1961 prohibits dowry. Despite this, the practice of dowry is widespread. It has even spread to the communities, castes and regions which were hitherto unaffected.

2.5 Exercises

- (i) Write an essay on the problems related to the family in contemporary Indian society.
- (ii) What is 'Divorce'? What are its causes and consequences?
- (iii) What is 'Dowry'? What are its different forms? Write about its practice in India.

Unit-03 □ Problem of Social Dependency : Aged, Disabled, Homeless

Structure :

3.1 Problem of Aged or Elders

3.2 Problem of Disabled

3.3 Problem of Homeless

3.4 Exercises

3.1 Problem of Aged or Elders

The definition of the aged officially accepted in India was 55 years—the age of superannuation when the employees retire from service. Subsequently it was raised to 58 years. In the western countries, however, person is considered aged if he reaches the age level ranging between 60 and 65 years. The determination of the old age is naturally linked with the average life expectancy. With the age expectancy having gone up, there is a demand that the government should raise the mandatory retirement age from 58 to 60 years.

The old age has come to represent all the classical characteristics of a social problem. Concern about the growing proportion of older people in the population her tended to rise and fall, to wax and wane as a social issue, being ignored at some times and rising to a crescendo of debate at others; in its presentation there is a persistent tension between the observable evidence and perceptions of the problem; it has become a site of conflict between substantial social interests, especially between the citizen, the family and the state. In particular, the needs of older people have frequently been presented as an unfair burden on others and thus as something deserving of public attention and social policy remedies. Among the concerns of those who perceive the ageing of population as a problem the following are frequently mentioned :

- (i) that the growing proportion and unforeseen longevity of the retired population will put on unacceptable burden on pension systems, especially these funded out of current taxation;
- (ii) that because the numbers of the oldest old people, these over 75 or 80, are growing fastest there will be exceptional demands for social care from dependent older people, which the state and the family may find difficult to meet;

- (iii) that each succeeding generation of older people tends to be more demanding of income and services than the previous one and that will particularly apply to the ‘baby-boomer’ generation, who have become accustomed to high and rising standards of living—it is sometimes suggested that this footwar generation has been particularly selfish, exploiting those coming before and after it;
- (iv) that the family, the traditional source of care for older people, will be less willing and less able to meet care needs than before; because of greater family instability and change due to divorce and single parenthood, and because the values that support family obligations to care are becoming less strong;
- (v) that women, the main providers of social care from within the family, will be less able and willing to carry out the care tasks they traditionally have because their participation in paid work will leave them with less time to care and because fewer will accept the social norms that have hitherto defined family care as a women’s duty. Personal and social issues are not generally portrayed as major social problem. Dependence on others at some points in life is a natural and inevitable condition. All of us experienced dependency as infants, many of us need support during lives at times of illness or disability, and almost all of us will require help because of the limitations that age brings. However, it is only the frailty and dependency of all age that has regularly come to be seen as a social problem. The needs of young children and of healthy but disabled adults, while understood as both.

A silent revolution has occurred in the last 100 years-unseen, unheard, and yet so close. The biggest achievement of the century is longevity. All over the world life expectancy has risen, leading to a sharp rise in the number of Older Persons.

The Indian Scenario

In India life expectancy has gone up from 20 years in the beginning of the 20th century to 62 years today. Better medical care and low fertility have made the elderly the fastest growing section of society. In France, it took 120 years for the grey population to double from 7% to 14%. But in India, the grey population has doubled in 25 years!

Statistical Dimension of Senior Citizens (2001)

- 77 Million elderly population (projected to 177 Mn by 2025)
- 90% with no Social Security
- 30% of older persons live below the poverty line
- 33% of older persons live just marginally over the poverty online
- 80% of older persons live in rural areas.
- 73% are illiterate, and can only be engaged in physial labor.
- 55% of elderly women are widows
- There are nearly 200,000 centenarians in India.

Elderly Populace is the Fastest Growing Section of Society in India

- Increased life expectancy
- Advancements in medical/health technologies
- Better nutrition
- Gradual fall in mortality rate
- Low fertility rates
- Increased awareness.

Solution to this ever-growing chasm lies with the society and the support groups. The support groups define the gaps, the needs and views for future responses to abuse, care and prevention.

Major Concerns

At times old age is associated with unacceptance, denial, depression, loneliness, and a certain *degree* of alienation from the mainstream of family life. Changing lifestyles, attitudes, values and increasing generation gap compound the problem.

Why is India Ageing or Greying Fast?

- Advancements in medical/health technologies
- Gradual fall in mortality rate
- Increased awareness
- Better nutrition
- Increased life expectancy

Key Issues for Concern

- Dignity
- Access of Health and other support systems
- Financial & Physical Insecurity
- Elder Abuse
- Violence
- Quality of Life
- Unacceptance
- Denial
- Depression
- Loneliness
- A certain degree of alienation from the mainstream of family life

International Plan of Action for Ageing

According to UN Projections, in the year 2025, a projected 1.2 billion elderly people will be living in the world; 71 percent of them are likely to be in the developing regions. And between 1950 and 2025, in both developing as well as developed regions, the “Old” Old (those who are 80 years and above) will grow twice as fast as the 60-plus age group. Population of Elderly People, above 60 years of age (Senior Citizens) is increasing at a faster rate than the general population, is now an established fact. This is because of increase in life expectancy rates and decline in the birth rate as a result of improved *health care* services.

Our life expectancy level which was 23 years at the beginning of the century, rose to 32 years in 1951 and in just three decades has risen to 58 years. It is soon expected to cross 60 years, in the next few years. And our elderly population which according to 1981 census was about 43 million, has already crossed 50 million mark and is further expected to shoot up to 75 million and more by the turn of the century as per latest projections.

This century has been witness to a silent revolution—unseen, unheard, and yet so close. The biggest achievement of the century is longevity. All over the world life expectancy has risen, leading to a sharp rise in the number of Older Persons. In India life expectancy has gone up from 20 years in the beginning of the century to 62 years today. Better medical care and low fertility have made the elderly the fastest growing section of society. In France, it took 120 years for the gray population to double from 7% to 14%. But in India, the gray population has doubled in 25 years!

The story in figures :

1901—12 million older persons

1951—19 million

2001—70 million

By 2025, this gray population will be whopping 177 million!

While the numbers have gone up, quality of life has gone down. Industrialisation, migration, urbanisation and westernisation have severely affected value systems. The erstwhile joint family, the natural support system, has crumbled. The fast-changing pace of life has added to the

An Example of a WHO Programme to Show How Intervention Works

New programme orientations Programmes focused on those who already are old have serious limitations. Concentrating on old people who already have diseases tends to overlook the long-term developmental processes that have resulted in the disease. For this reason, the 95th Session of the Executive Board (January 1995) endorsed a proposal for the re-orientation and re-naming of HEE to become an integrated Programme on Ageing and Health (AHE). Ageing and Health concerns both old age and ageing, building on seven key orientations in response to the above-outlined key challenges of global ageing. These

perspectives will be examined by a WHO Expert Committee on Ageing and Health that will meet in 1998. This Committee's guidance will be sought as to how the Programme can best prepare WHO and its Member States to play a major role in highlighting the health component of the International Year of Older Persons (1999).

1. Life Course Perspective

Health in old age is determined by the patterns of living, exposures and opportunities for health protection over the life course. The patterns of living that enhance health are formed in early life and are not easily changed. Furthermore, the most frequently occurring ageing-related diseases—such as cardiovascular diseases and cancer—are long-term disease processes.

2. Cohort Perspective

Valid and meaningful approaches to cohort analysis, necessary for scientifically sound research on ageing, are especially crucial for understanding the consequences of rapid social change. Relatively little is known about ageing compared to other life phases. This is largely due to the fact that research has neglected cohort differences in both health and the factors that protect or damage it, contributing to pathological models of ageing.

3. Health Promoting Perspective

Pathogenic approaches cannot meet the challenges of global ageing outlined above. Statistical correlations relating age and disease/disability tend to result in a focus on ageing as problematic and the aged as ill, leading many to believe that the changing age distributions will only cause problems. Such pessimism is unwarranted and inhibits the development of effective health policy and services. Longitudinal studies have shown that physical and mental status can improve in successive older cohorts. The programme's challenge is to understand and promote the factors that keep people healthy, with a focus on both personal and external resources.

4. Cultural Perspective

An effective life course perspective must be embedded in a cultural perspective. Patterns of daily living are learned in cultural settings that shape values and goals. Peer group pressures, together with traditions, spirituality and religious values of society, habits of charity, duties of children and extended families, are among the major influences shaping and maintaining ways of living. They are clearly defined and need to be considered when interventions aimed at improving well-being in older age are planned. Health programmes must contribute towards a positive view of ageing.

5. Gender Perspective

In order to be effective, health research and programmes need to recognize gender differences in both health and ways of living. Men die earlier, while women experience greater burdens of morbidity and disability. Women constitute the majority of care givers; supporting them is a key health policy challenge.

6. Inter-generational Perspective

Ageing is a matter for both those who are already old and those approaching old age. One major social transformation that accompanies population ageing is the restructuring of inter-generational relationships. Policies with an inter-generational perspective are needed if new roles are to be developed for older people. Strategies to maintain cohesion between the generations are required if inter-generational conflict over competition for resources is to be avoided.

7. Ethical Perspective

As populations age, a range of ethical considerations come to the fore. They are linked to inequities, allocation of resources, choice of interventions, undue hastening or delaying of death, and a range of dilemmas linked to long-term care provision and the human rights of poor, disabled or demented elderly. WHO must support Member States in clarifying these complex issues, through advocacy and upholding the rights of all older people.

8. Key Programme Components

AHE is currently making a systematic effort to develop a healthy ageing global strategy. In doing so, it follows the conclusions and recommendations outlined by the 1987 Expert Committee through the development of six integrated Programme components : information strengthening; information dissemination; advocacy; informed research; training; and policy development. They are interconnected and often overlap :

9. Information Base Strengthening

Over the last few decades a substantial body of ageing-related information has been accumulated, to which new information particularly focused on health aspects of ageing is rapidly being added. Decision-makers, administrators and care professionals need to be kept abreast of policies and programmes both in health promotion and provision of care, as well as information on most recent research advances. AHE is currently establishing information centres/clearing houses on trends in ageing and health, and those studies and surveys most relevant to health and social services with a particular focus on developing countries. These functions are to be performed by different collaborating centres, making full use of electronic communication.

Examples of activities

A cross-national study, based on 35 community-based data sets, of the need of elderly populations for home care in both developed and developing countries. This study was performed by AHE staff under a grant from the National Institute on Ageing (NIA), USA. The NIA is also providing the resources for an AHE project to bring together the data-base of longitudinal studies conducted worldwide and on projections related to the burden of diseases in older age in the early 21st century.

There is an electronic library on healthy ageing, with a special focus on evidence-based effective interventions for healthy ageing, in collaboration with the University of

Oxford. A postal survey (involving the members of the WHO Expert Advisory Panel on Ageing and Health) provided the information base requirements for policy development. AHE is developing a gender database highlighting the health differentials within the ageing process related to men and women in different societies.

10. Dissemination of Information

Information on the health aspects of ageing, presented in a range of formats, needs eventually to be disseminated to ageing individuals, caregivers, professional carers, policy-makers and the academic community at large. Accordingly AHE has adopted multiple strategies which, in themselves, reinforce the network without which the programme could not be effective.

Examples of Activities

Information on healthy ageing has to be provided to those who can most benefit from it, in a direct and simple way. Accordingly, AHE has launched a series of guidelines on healthy ageing in partnership with WHO Collaborating Centres, academic institutions and non-governmental organizations. The guidelines relate to subjects such as physical activity, healthy eating for healthy ageing, prevention and management of back pain, and of incontinence.

Caregivers require practical information to facilitate their tasks, increase the quality of life of those for whom they care and improve their own well-being. Hence, AHE is collaborating with institutes such as the School of Social Work, Catholic University of Sao Paulo, Brazil to produce a manual for caregivers on care at home for dependent elderly people.

Cultural settings determine the way individuals age. In order to highlight the opportunities and challenges related to rapid population ageing in different parts of the world, AHE has launched a series of position papers (the first of which focused on Africa) prepared by experts with first-hand-experience from different regions. AHE's adopted key perspectives need to be illustrated in a way that makes them easy to understand. The special issue of *WORLD HEALTH Magazine* (July-August 1997) on "Active Ageing" is an example of such an attempt.

AHE central themes—such as gender issues; physical activity; inter-generational perspectives—should be the subject of regular up-dates. The Ageing and Health Programme has therefore planned a series of review papers on topics such as women, ageing and health, cardiovascular diseases in *older women*; gender differentials in ageing; physical activity in older age; and information for decision-makers on healthy ageing.

The WHO Healthy Cities movement has accumulated a wide range of experience in ageing-related projects that merited broader dissemination. AHE conducted a survey aimed at recording some of this experience: the resulting paper was published in the *Journal of Cross-Cultural gerontology*.

11. Advocacy

In many countries there is only limited perception that ageing is a priority public health issue, while in others a negative approach persists which equates ageing with insurmountable problems. Above all, the contribution of older people to their families, their communities and to the economy is vastly underestimated in virtually all countries. Thus advocacy is required at two levels.

- AHE works with government agencies, NGOs and the media on an advocacy strategy to influence public opinion and encourage support for community-based programmes that support healthy ageing.
- AHE aims to increase opportunities for older persons themselves to participate in policy development at local, regional, national and international level.

Examples of Activities

Geneva hosts a number of international agencies as well as large NGOs which maintain offices there. Further, it has a thriving gerontological research community. However, until recently, very little contact existed between these natural allies. AHE, in association with the Swiss National Research Programme on Ageing and the local representative of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), launched early in 1996 the Geneva International Network on Ageing (GINA) with a view to facilitating the exchange of information, promoting advocacy and encouraging collaborative projects. GINA is now a thriving informal network which has successfully mobilized the local community around the healthy ageing message (for instance, through celebrations of the International Day of Older Persons), with repercussions at national and international levels. Other key cities in a range of countries are now replicating the GINA model.

Among other activities, AHE participates in prominent international conferences, congresses and workshops in a way that promotes and disseminates its perspectives and establishes new partnerships. Keynote presentations at international meetings on all continents have been given by AHE staff since the Programme's establishment in 1995.

In order to reach wider audiences and for its key messages to have broader impact, involvement with the international media has been a priority for AHE. Accordingly, AHE messages have been given high visibility by the international media and that of selected countries. AHE is gradually building up its capacity to establish a global media strategy for healthy ageing that will be developed in close collaboration with main international networks.

1999 has been declared the International Year of Older Persons. AHE is developing a plan of activities aimed at highlighting the importance of health promotion as populations age. AHE is the WHO focal point for liaison with other UN Agencies, NGOs and national governments to ensure that healthy ageing will be a key message to be promulgated throughout the 1999 celebrations. In this connection, it has already been decided that the theme of the World Health Day (7 April) that year will be "Healthy Ageing". (Plans for this

celebration are already underway.) And on 1 October 1999, AHE will launch a global movement highlighting the “Active Ageing” message which has been planned since 1996 and which is centred on multiple inter-generational celebratory walk events in cities throughout the world, to be inspired by the highly successful “rehearsals” that took place in Rio de Janeiro and Geneva in 1997.

12. Informed Research

In light of its key perspectives, AHE has shifted its research focus away from a disease-oriented paradigm towards one primarily concerned with health. For that, the previous three programme components are crucial : it is only by strengthening the information bases and disseminating the information gathered that knowledge gaps can be clearly identified. Further light can be thrown on the research agenda that is needed, through advocacy—involving new players (the consumers included) in the broad consultation. In particular, three main research areas are the subject of special attention by the programme.

1. studies of the epidemiological transition;
2. patterns of population ageing, looking in particular at results of longitudinal studies; and
3. determinants of healthy ageing.

Rather than funding the conduct of research projects, AHE efforts are concentrated on supporting the development of multidisciplinary research agendas and infrastructures at country level. AHE also fully recongizes the importance of adopting new approaches to research on ageing and health in order to establish the knowledge base for public health action in an ageing global population.

It is envisaged that AHE will launch a major research initiative by the beginning of 2000. To that effect, preliminary discussions with potential partners are now being held and a conference in Bellagio in collaboration with The Rockefeller Foundation is being planned for September 1998.

Examples of Activities

Based on review papers specially commissioned from leading experts and on the conduct of workshops involving a wide range of professionals from all regions, disciplines and backgrounds, a position paper on research priorities in ageing and health has been prepared and widely disseminated for feed-back. (The paper comprises a Delphi-style survey (involving 120 experts representing all Regions and disciplines) to ascertain research priorities on ageing and health in developing countries. State-of-that-art reviews have been commissioned from leading experts on issues such as healthy life expectancy; functional assessment; methodology for longitudinal studies on ageing; and the identification of priority research opportunities.

13. Training

AHE training activities should both reflect its newly-adopted dimensions and perspectives as well as being particularly focused on training primary health care workers. Given the pace and context of ageing worldwide, it is inconceivable that within the next two or three decades countries will be in a position to provide specialized care to over 1.2 billion elderly people. Thus an emphasis on basic training of primary health care workers assumes paramount importance. Mechanisms to ensure the gerontological content in the basic training curricula of all health and social service professionals are being pursued by AHE. In addition, due attention is being paid by AHE to training in epidemiology of ageing and the training of allied professionals in ageing and health.

Examples of Activities

In collaboration with the Department of Geriatrics at universities in Switzerland, Tunisia and Mexico, AHE is in the process of preparing a manual for primary health care workers on geriatric care. The manual consists of 20 modules covering the most common ageing-associated symptoms and syndromes presented by older people living in the community.

Considering that epidemiology is a basic discipline in fostering a clearer understanding of the process of population ageing and ensuring public health implications, regional courses on epidemiology of ageing would greatly assist health professionals in general and policy-makers in particular to developing effective policies in their home countries. Accordingly AHE has launched a series of short courses on epidemiology of ageing, modelled on successful previous experiences at the University of London. The first of these short courses was held in South Africa early in 1997.

Collaboration with other sectors is essential for the attainment of the highest level of health in older age. In this respect AHE has collaborated for instance, with the University of Geneva in the preparation of a manual for teaching instructors of physical education about appropriate physical activity for older people.

14. Policy Development

The ultimate objective of the Ageing and Health Programme is to collaborate with Member States in activities aimed at strengthening their capacity to respond to rapid population ageing through the development of appropriate policies. All the previously-described programme components contribute to this goal.

AHE is gradually establishing a mechanism for supporting countries—particularly in the developing world—in formulating health policies for their ageing populations. The main focus of the Expert Committee on Ageing and Health in December 1998 will be related to such policy—making mechanisms. It is envisaged that starting in 1999, a series of country-based inter-sectoral workshops will be conducted in cooperation with WHO Regional Offices and multiple agencies, with the objective of developing healthy ageing

policies. Such workshops will be supported through policy manuals; wherever possible, countries would previously have conducted national surveys of their elderly population using common protocols that are being developed.

Examples of Activities

In July 1996, under the sponsorship of the Brazilian government, AHE organized an international meeting focused on policy development which launched the “Brasilia Declaration on Ageing”, a document that lays down the main principles to be considered in the process of policy making on healthy ageing.

In February 1997 AHE collaborated with the WHO Collaborating Centre at the National Institute for Research and Care on Aging, Florence, Italy to organize a consultation with the theme “Ageing, Health and the Home Environment”. The final report of this consultation highlights the importance of promoting policies that create home environments conducive to maintaining independence and autonomy for older people living in the community for as long as possible.

In February 1997 AHE organized a meeting in Hannover, Germany with sponsorship from the German Ministry of Health. The final report of this meeting—whose theme was “Population Ageing : health care costs and policy development”—is focused on the information base required by policy makers to promote health in older age.

AHE is planning the establishment of “global centres” on ageing and health with a particular focus on policy development for healthy ageing in developing countries. Negotiations are underway to establish the first of these centres in the prestigious University of Campinas, Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Central Govt. Schemes

An Integrated Programme For Older Persons

Objectives

The basic objective of the programme is to promote a Society for all Ages and to empower and improve the quality of life of older persons. The programme seeks to develop awareness and build the capacity of Government and Non-Governmental Organisations and the community at large to make productive use of older persons and to provide care to older persons in need. Under the programme as many as 186 Old Age Homes, 223 Day Care Centres, 28 Mobile Medicare Units and a few projects providing non-institutional services to older persons are already operational with the help of more than 400 Non-Governmental Organisations.

Annapurna Scheme : The Ministry of Rural Development launched the scheme in 2000-2001. Indigent senior citizens of 65 years of age or above who though eligible for old age pension under the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) but are not getting the pension are covered under the scheme. 10 kgs of foodgrain per person per month are supplied free of cost under the scheme.

From 2002-03, it has been transferred to state plan along with the National Social Assistance Programme comprising the National Old Age Pension Scheme and the National Family Benefit Scheme. The funds for the transferred scheme are being released by the Ministry of Finance as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to the state plan and the states have the requisite flexibility in the choice of beneficiaries and implementation of the scheme. The implementation of the scheme at the ground level rests with the states/UTs.

Scheme of Assistance to Panchayati Raj Institutions/Voluntary Organisations/Self Help Groups for Construction of Old Age Homes/Multi Service Centres for Older Persons

Scheme of Assistance to Panchayati Raj Institutions/Voluntary Organisations/Self Help Groups for Construction of Old Age Homes/Multi Service Centres for Older Persons.

Objectives

The basic objective of the programme is to provide financial assistance for construction and equipment of Old Age Homes and Multi Service Centres for Older persons to Voluntary Organisations/Self Help Groups and to Local Bodies.

Emergency Feeding Programme

Emergency Feeding Programme, is a food-based intervention targeted for old, infirm and destitute persons belonging to BPL households to provide them food security in their distress conditions. This was introduced in May, 2001. The Scheme is being implemented by Government of Orissa in eight KBK Districts namely Bolangir, Kalahandi, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nawarangpur, Naupada, Rayagada and Sonepur of Orissa covering 2 lakh beneficiaries. Under the scheme, foodgrains (rice) at BPL rates is being allocated to State Government on the recommendation of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment since May, 2001 by Department of Food & Public Distribution. 14,400.00 MT of rice is allocated for the said 2 Lakhs beneficiaries @ 6 kgs/beneficiary/month.

3.2 Problems of Disabled People

The loss or impairment of a limb or deformity in one's physical or mental capability is the worst that can happen to a person, whether it is because of nature's foul play or as a result of an unexpected unfortunate accident. Welfare of the disabled and the handicapped is an extremely challenging task and it can be fulfilled only when all the citizens, voluntary organisations and Government realise their responsibilities in the respect collectively.

It is the primary duty of the industrialists and philanthropists to come forward with their vast financial resources to implement the various programmes so as to lay down a sound base for the integrated welfare and upliftment of the handicapped. The Declaration of the Rights of the Disabled passed by the United Nations in 1975 had clearly said, "Disabled persons are entitled to have their special needs taken into consideration at all

stages of economic and social planning.” United Nations had designated 1981 as the International Year of the Disabled. The “World Disabled Day” is observed on third Sunday of March every year to create awareness among the people regarding the needs of the handicapped and their problems.”

The disabled are as much vital organs of society as the healthy persons. It is our moral duty to do our utmost for their rehabilitation and uplift. It has been observed that in most cases, the handicapped have a zest for life and desire to live as normally as possible and require only a chance to prove that they can be as effective as anyone else at the tasks assigned to them. With a little bit of help, the handicapped can tide over their misfortune. Their skills and talents can form an important input in nation building, activities. A sense of self-confidence, therefore, needs to be infused in them to enable them to join their brethren in the mainstream of life.

According to the report on survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization sponsored by the Ministry of Welfare, twelve millions Indians about 1.8 per cent of India’s population have atleast one disability or the other. About 10% of the handicapped are having more than one type of disability.

* I considering each type of disability separately, those having locomotor disabilities constitute the maximum number (5.43 millions), followed by those with visual disabilities (3.47 millions) and hearing disabilities (3.02 million) and speech disabilities (1.75 million). The survey covers blind, crippled and dumb persons but does not cover other disabilities, including mental retardation.

Referring to congenital disability cases, the survey shows that visual and communicable diseases affect 5 per cent, and 8 per cent of the total number of visually handicapped in the rural and, urban areas respectively. In the case of hearing disability, congenital cases constitute 30% in the rural and 28% in the urban areas. As regards speech disability the corresponding proportion is 77 per cent and 67 per cent in the rural and urban areas.

The proportion of congenital cases was seen to be less for all types of disabilities in females as compared to males, except for speech disability. The prevalence rate is seen to increase with age and is maximum in the age group of 60 and above for all types of disabilities except in the case of speech disability, where the maximum rate was found in the 5 to 14 age group. The number of persons having locomotor disability (for one lakh population) is estimated to be 828 for the rural areas and 67 for the urban areas. The deformity of limbs, followed by paralysis, dysfunction of joints and imputation contribute to locomotor disabilities in that order. The number of disabled population is not static. It goes on multiplying every year. According to a rough estimate about 3 million persons are added to this section of society every year.

Welfare of Persons with Disabilities

During 2004-05, the allocation for Welfare of Persons with Disabilities (PWD) is Rs. 225.54 crore out of which an expenditure of Rs. 97.37 crore has been incurred upto 14th Janury, 2005. Action has been initiated to suitably emphasize disability concerns in Sarva

Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and ensure that most of the children with disabilities are covered through inclusive education programme. Mostly, this involves getting the disabled children enrolled in the regular school where those with locomotor disability and mild hearing impairment can easily be educated.

The programmes are implemented through the National and Apex Institutes dealing with different categories of disabilities such as visual, hearing, orthopaedic and mental. These institutes conduct short term and long-term courses for various categories of personnel for providing rehabilitation services to those needing them. Till 14th January, 2005, Rs. 13.57 crore (Plan) has been released to these Institutes.

Persons With Disabilities (PWD) Act, 1995 is under implementation. Five Composite Rehabilitation Centres (CRCs) have been set up at Srinagar, Lucknow, Bhopal, Guwahati and Sundernagar to expand facilities for manpower development and ensuring availability of rehabilitation services for all categories of persons with disabilities. Four Regional Rehabilitation Centres (RRCs) provide services to persons with orthopaedic and spinal injuries at Chandigarh, Cuttack, Jabalpur and Bareilly. 133 District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) have been sanctioned in the country for providing comprehensive rehabilitation services at the grass roots level. 107 DDRCs have started functioning.

Under the scheme of Assistance to the Disabled for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances, Rs. 39.56 crore has been released to benefit 1.18 lakh beneficiaries during 2004-2005 (up to 14th January, 2005). Artificial Limbs and Manufacturing Corporation manufactures different types of aids and appliances for disabled persons at low cost and aims to develop new prototype aids and appliances. A scheme of Science and Technology Project in Mission Mode is also being implemented.

The objective of the Scheme is to coordinate, fund and direct application of technology in development and utilization of suitable and cost effective aids and appliances such as functional mechanical hand, interpointing braille slate, braille micrometer, safety devices for the chaff cutter and threshers, plastic aspheric lenses, ground mobility devices, training module for prevention and early detection of childhood disabilities, electronic guide cane, low cost STD/PCO speech card, software and Mentally Retarded children for learning and teaching, motorized wheel chair etc.

Deen Dayal Disabled Rehabilitation scheme (earlier known as Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities) provides financial assistance to voluntary organizations for running rehabilitation centres for leprosy cured persons, for manpower development in the field of mental retardation and cerebral palsy and establishment and development of Special Schools for the major areas of orthopedic, speech, hearing, visual and mental disability. During the year, Rs. 34.29 crore have been released to 502 voluntary organizations (up to 14.1.2005) for implementing the scheme. A project funded by UNDP for Support to Children with Disabilities was implemented for a period of 2 years until June 2004. The objective of the project was to sensitize, mobilize and empower the community to participate in the local school management and ensure that every child with disability in the project area has access to education in an appropriate environment. A

Scheme of National Scholarship for Persons with Disabilities has been introduced from the year 2003-04. 313 awards each for male and female students in different categories of disabilities will be given for pursuing higher and technical education.

It has been decided that children with mental retardation, cerebral palsy and with severe hearing impairment will be provided scholarship for education in classes 9 and 10. This is a relaxation from the existing norm of providing scholarships to children with disabilities only in post-matric classes. An effort is being made to focus the activities in the backward and uncovered regions.

Forms of Disability

- Cerebral Palsy
- Deaf
- Leprosy
- Mentally Challenged
- Multiple Disability
- Physically Challenged
- Spastics

3.3 Problems of People

Homelessness is perhaps the most explicit of all social issues. It can certainly be viewed as the ultimate manifestation of social malaise in any society. Yet understanding it is far from straight forward. Even clarifying and defining the term homelessness is beset with difficulties, and this in turn has created innumerable obstacles for any agreed measurement or quantification of the problem.

The U.S. Department of Housing and urban Development (HUD) defines the term “homeless” or “homeless individual or homeless person” as (1) an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and (2) an individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is : (A) supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hostels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill); (B) an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized or (C) a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodations for human beings.

The following common categories of perceptions of homeless people have been identified by a study on ‘Attitudes to and interventions in homelessness : Insights from an International Study’ by Global Urban Research Unit (GURU), Newcastle University, England, under the supervision of Dr. Graham Tipple and Mrs. Suzanne Speak, funded by DFID :

- (a) **The ‘Villain’** : The perception of homeless people as criminals is common throughout the world. Homeless people are more likely to be victims than perpetrators of crime. In almost all countries, it is uncommon for adult street homeless people to commit crimes, especially violent crimes. Negative attitudes allow authorities to criminalise homelessness and street sleeping.
- (b) **The ‘Beggar’** : One of the most common public perception of homeless people is that they are all beggars. However, in Kolkata, only 8% of homeless people are involved in begging. The majority of homeless people in India are casual labourers who often travel long distances across the city every day to reach work. In Ghana, whilst popular imagery and perception portray homeless people as beggars, only around 3% actually engage in begging.
- (c) **The Mentally Ill** : A Common perception of people on the streets in of their being mentally ill or personally defective. In Peru, those who live on the streets, without shelter, are officially referred to as ‘mentally ill people on the streets.’ An official at Oxfam’s office in Tamale described homeless people in Ghana or ‘the mentally ill people whose movement cannot be easily controlled.’
- (d) **The ‘Immoral’** : The ‘immoral’ label is most often applied to homeless women. The Indonesian term often used for homeless women is ‘tunasusila’ meaning ‘women having no morals’. This is repeated in Bangladesh, where young homeless divorcees or widowed mothers are publicly caled a ‘whose’, regardless of their sexual activity.
- (e) **The Transient** : A common perception is that homeless people are constantly moving or transient. In South Africa, the word ‘malunda’ (those who sleep away from home) is used. In Indonesia, ‘gelandangan’ meaning ‘tramp’, is derived from ‘gelandang’ meaning to wander. In China, the new and growing group of homeless people are known as ‘Mangliu’ which means the ‘blindly floating population’ or ‘Liulanghan’ meaning ‘people who are floating or vagrant. However, it has been seen that people very often remain in one place. If they move, it is often because they are forced to by others.
- (f) **The Loner** : Perhaps one of the most common stereotypes is that of being alone : generally a lone male. Infact, homelessness is a condition of detachment from society characterised by the absence on attenuation of the affiliative bonds that link settled persons to a network of interconnected social structures. In India and Indonesia it is common to find homeless family units living together. Even in the poorest of conditions, strong social networks often form, homeless people often watch out for each other.
- (g) **The Helpless** : Many advocacy or religious organisations portray homeless people as victims, emphasising their helplessness. NGOs routinely use emative pictures of homeless people to gain sympathy for their cause. Homeless people are also given labels such as ‘unfortunate shelterless souls’. Such practices confuse

vulnerability with helplessness and do a disservice to homeless client groups labels of 'helpless' undermine the efforts homeless people make to support themselves. For street children the act of leaving home and taking up a life on the streets, can be a mark of control and strength. It has been noted that some street children can provide for themselves better than their parents could.

Most researchers attempt to make a distinction between : (1) why homelessness exists, in general, and (2) who is at-risk of homelessness, in specific. Homelessness has always existed since urbanization and industrialization.

Factors Placing an Individual at high-risk of Homelessness Include :

- **Poverty** : People living in poverty are at a higher risk of becoming homeless.
- **Drug or alcohol misuse** : An estimated 38% of homeless suffer from a substance abuse problem. Debate exists about whether drug use is a cause or consequence of homelessness. However, regardless when it arises, an untreated addiction “makes moving beyond homelessness extremely difficult.”
- **Serious Mental Illness and Disability** : It has been estimated that approximately one-third of all adult homeless persons have some form of mental illness and/or disability. In previous eras, these individuals were institutionalized in state mental hospitals. According to the National Alliance for the Mentally ill (NAMI), there are 50,000 mentally ill homeless people in California alone because of deinstitutionalization between 1957 and 1988 and a lack of adequate local service systems. Various assertive outreach approaches, including a mental health treatment approach known as Assertive Community Treatment and the Path Program, have shown promise in the prevention of homelessness among people with serious mental illness.
- **Foster Care background** : This population experienced rates of homelessness nearly 8 times higher than the non-foster care population.
- **Escaping domestic abuse**, including sexual, physical and mental abuse : Victims who flee from abuse often find themselves without a home. Abused children also have a higher chance of succumbing to a drug addiction, which contributes to difficulties in establishing a residence. In 1990 a study found that half of homeless women and children were fleeing abuse.
- **Prison discharge** : Often the formerly incarcerated are socially isolated from friends and family and have few resources. Employment is often difficult for those with a criminal record. Untreated substance abuse and mental illness also may put them at high risk for homelessness once discharged.
- **Civilian during war** : Civilians during war or any armed conflict are also at higher risk for homelessness, because of possible military attacks on their property, and even after the war rebuilding their homes is often costly, and most

commonly the government is overthrown or defeated which is then unable to help its citizens.

- **Genocide Survivors** : e.g. Holocaust survivors; interned Japanese Americans

Reasons/Causes for homelessness:

- **Personal Choice** : Some make a choice not to have a permanent residence, including travelers and those who have personal spiritual/religious convictions (as yogis in India). Most researchers feel the population of individuals who choose not to have a permanent residence is negligible. Many people who respond that they “prefer” the homeless lifestyle suffer from mental illness, trauma or have adapted to the lifestyle and the response reflects a socially-desirable response or justification rather than having no real desire for stable shelter.
- **Drug and alcohol addiction** : Individuals who are incapable of maintaining employment and managing their lives effectively due to prolonged and severe drug and/or alcohol abuse make up a substantial percentage of the U.S. homeless population. One reason for this is that the behavioral patterns associated with addiction can result in alienation of an addicted individual from family and friends who could otherwise serve as a form of safety net against homelessness in hard economic times.
- **Income inequality** : Increased wealth and income inequality caused distortions in the housing market and pushes rent burdens higher and thereby decreasing general housing affordability.
- **High cost of housing** : A by-product of the general distribution of wealth and income. Also impact by the reduction of household size witnessed in the last half of the 20th century.
- **Lack of living wage jobs**
- **Natural disaster**, such as in the case of thousands of New Orleans, Louisiana residents losing their homes to Hurricane Katrina.

In a 2002 dissertation prepared for California Coast University entitled, “*New Testament Ethics : A Model for Helping the Homeless*,” doctoral candidate Robert E. Brickner reviewed the literature from 1984-2001 to determine causes of homelessness. Subsequently, the author identified ten root causes of homelessness. “The order of this list is random, presented without regard to frequency of occurrence, and reflects categories created by the author.”

- **1. Unemployment**
- **2. Loss of/or inadequate income** (from job loss, underemployment, cutbacks in public assistance, or gifts from family and friends.)
- **3. Loss of housing** (including, but not limited to these causes : unaffordability, unavailability, or eviction).

- **4. Being victimized** by (including, but not limited to) : natural disasters...criminal behavior...or adverse circumstances.
- **5. Health problems**
- **6. Personal choice**
- **7. Breakdown of the family unit** (resulting in separation, divorce, domestic violence, and runaways).
- **8. Mental illness**
- **9. Substance abuse**
- **10. Detrimental lifestyle choices** (excluding substance abuse).

Developing and undeveloped countries

The number of homeless people worldwide has grown steadily in recent years. In some Third World nations such as Brazil, India, Nigeria, and South Africa, homelessness is rampant, with millions of children living and working on the streets. Homelessness has become a problem in the cities of China, Thailand, Indonesia, and the Philippines despite their growing prosperity, mainly due to migrant workers who have trouble finding permanent homes and to rising income inequality between social classes.

[This piece, first written in 1987 during the International Year of Shelter for Homeless, is still valid today as it was then—not only because the problem still persists today, but also because the issues and approaches outlined are still necessary, after all these years.]

For whatever reason, India lends herself rather easily to facile generalizations—the oft quoted one is that she lives largely in her villages. This is not however the truth—rapid industrialization, urbanization, depleting natural resources, biased development priorities, and many other factors have led to massive rural urban migration.

In the year 1900 there were only 11 cities with a population of 1 million, but by 2000 there were 300 of them. The number of cities with more than 15 million population will be about 50 in 2010.

Today India is a land of billion million people of which 164 million or about 23% of been based. This means that though India is a predominantly rural country it already has an urban population equal to that of USA!

Consider Bombay—20 years ago there were less than 400,000 squatters in a population of 4.5 million. Today there are 4.5 million in a population of 9 million. Thus, while the nation has grown by 50% and the city by 100%, the squatters have increased by more than 1100%.

The Great Migration

People are coming to the city's packing their belongings, moving, starting, in the

most massive moment of people the world has ever seen. People move for many reasons—to find employment, or to escape calamities like floods, famine and drought. Rural poverty is the most fundamental reason for the great migration to the city.

The vast majority of these men and women are farmers and farm labourers who in their villages lack resources and opportunities for an economically active life. A migrant's foothold in the city may be a squatter shanty or nearby marginal lands. They often stay with relatives or on undesirable public sites, hoping that the public authorities will not notice their invasion of public or private lands.

Where does the answer lie?

The solution to homelessness especially in the lower-income bracket, lies not in the supplier of finished homes, but in realizing and supporting the people's creative energies in building and improving their homes and neighborhoods.

People have been building for centuries and one of the factors overlooked by the government agencies is that the people themselves are a resource. As a person improves his economic base and social standing, his position in the society consolidates, and he expresses this in terms of the finesse of his house. He may even change his location in the city.

Programmes that do not take this mobility pattern into consideration will most likely fail because they use criteria—availability of public lands or the desire to improve the aesthetics of the poor areas—different from those pursued by the squatters. Providing just “homes” misses out the point that they are already finished, and leave no room for flexibility. The squatter will not be able to enlarge or improve his own dwelling when his life improves.

People have the necessary skills, the necessary resources, the necessary involvement, the necessary commitment, to build a user oriented shelter complementary to his needs and standing in the society.

The influx of rural families to the cities has transformed metropolitan areas into settlements of rural villages—and planners and government officials must take rural forms and traditions into consideration in formulating policies and programmes for the squatters.

Religion, folkways, social organization and life styles, must be interwoven with the more modern forms of the city. They lend variety and rich diversity to the management of our urban life. Survival of rural forms poses a basic challenge to urban architects and planners, as well as local authorities, in developing countries.

The need for new attitudes and perceptions

Architects and planners have been slow to understand the evolutionary processes involved in the housing of squatters. Thus, projects are often carbon copies of housing in the developed countries, despite the differences in climate and culture.

So what must happen now is for planners and government officials to recognize the mistakes of the past and to recognize the now-quite-clear new directions that planning and enlightened government intervention should take—directions that take into account the migrants' traditional living patterns and integrate them into public efforts.

The problem of housing encompasses several fields, and this is why architects and planners may have to think outside their professional boundaries on such subjective topics as emotion, psychology, commitment, social service, mediatory politics etc. rather than entertain the blinkered eye view of only professional involvement.

Thus, what is required is a new holistic way of looking at a problem. What we need here is not a physical plan or layout, but an attitude (or change in attitude)—a new way of thinking. A revamping of the entire schedule of approach, of parameters, is needed.

The words—commitment, interrelationships, occupations, self-help, community skills, and upgrading should be as much a part of the vocabulary of an architect or planner, as standards, infrastructure, finance, services and land.

Conclusion

Housing is not only a technical problem, it is also a socio-political one. It requires an integrated approach and therefore, we need to decentralize and de-institutionalize the approach to solve the problems of housing. Self-help housing provides not only shelter, but also creates confidence and resourcefulness in the minds of the people. It helps to convert a house into a 'home'.

In spite of the gravity of problem and our limited resources, to shelter the homeless is not an insurmountable problem, it is a manageable challenge.

3.4 Exercises

- (i) Enumerate the problems being confronted by the elderly persons in Indian Society.
- (ii) Analyse the concept, forms and welfare measures of disabled persons.
- (iii) What is homelessness? Why it is caused? What are its possible solutions ?

Unit-04 □ Problems of Women

Structure :

- 4.1 Problems of Women : Historical Overview**
- 4.2 Structure of The Problem**
- 4.3 Problem of Atrocities Against Women**
- 4.4 Policy to Control The Problem**
- 4.5 References**
- 4.6 Exercises**

4.1 Introduction

God had created men and women both. But perhaps in no historical epoch are they enjoyed equal status and equal privilege. In different era of history they have experienced differences in their statuses. Therefore it is easy to say that there have been differences in the nature, depth and spread of the problem in different phases of history. In the time of the Upanishads the status of women were relatively better. There were no remarkable difference in the statuses of men and women. The equality was so much evident that both boys and girls had the sacred thread ceremony. In the Vedic age as well women were engaged in works like imparting education, attaining Swidhhi, or in spiritual works. As the words like Brahmacharini, Brahmabadini, Swidhhi, Tapasi, etc that started to be used from this era it can be easily inferred that women enjoyed equal status in that age. For example, a Vedic learned like Ustiti, or Truth seeker like Jabala, actually lived in the Vedic age. In the time of the Upanishad names like Gargi, Maitreyee, are important signifiers of the status women enjoyed during that period. This is how we see that in the ancient times, women were quite well known in crafts like dancing, singing, literature, philosophy etc. for example we can name a few- Apala, Urvasi, Lopamudra, Kunti and many others for their various talents and excellence in different fields. They were knowledgeable in practical as well as in spiritual fields. In the Buddhist era too there were women of substance such as Subha, Anupama, and Sumesa etc.

It is after this period that due to various influences of different social problems, women started to face social problems in the field of education and other areas. It is from this period that they were labeled as helpless and weak. The system of marriage was responsible for this in many respects. It is from this period onwards that the idea of 'Pati

Parameswar' was reaped. As a result many other customs followed that registered downward status of women in this society. These are system of purdah, polygamy, etc.

In recent times the status of women is mixed. There is a class of women who have had the opportunity of education, have become conscious, been able to exercise their political right and have become economically viable. There are still others who enjoy some rights and privileges while stay on with some disadvantages of social life and therefore are sometimes prey to inequality and oppression. But most of the women in rural areas and those who live in the urban slums are in a class who are the most deprived section of the population. There is illiteracy, superstition, oppression, disregard, economic dependency, non-nutrition and ill health mixed with ready acceptance of the fate, associated with this class. But as women had to compromise on different aspects of living in every period of history, with the passage of time this has become more paramount and complex.

4.2 Structure of The Problem

The problems women face are importantly social, economic, political, cultural and psychological. These problems hinder their natural growth and development. The problems are as follows –

1. Problem of illiteracy and lack of education.
2. Social discrimination and inferior status.
3. Controlled movement and problems related to safety.
4. Discriminations in wages.
5. Economic dependence.
6. Enjoying limited political power.
7. Dowry.
8. Child marriage.
9. Inferiority complex.
10. Limited participation on administrative and managerial roles.

1. Problem of illiteracy and lack of education

Compared to the men women in India suffer from low literacy rate. It is a common idea that education is not that important for women. The best thing for them is to carry out household chores bring up children and so forth. This is the reason why there has been an apathetic attitude towards educating the women folk. It was never felt that women could earn and help the family with their innovative power. As a result the need to educate women never occurred to many. So right from the upper section till the bottom we see that

illiteracy and lack of education had been a perennial problem, which has engulfed most of the women of our society. In support of this argument a statistics can be provided.

Table 1 : Literacy Rate at different times

Years	Women	Men	Persons
1951	8.86	27.16	18.33
1961	28.03	40.40	28.03
1971	34.96	45.96	34.43
1981	43.57	56.38	43.57
1991	52.11	64.13	52.21
2001	53.67	75.26	64.84

Table 2 : Girl Dropouts Aged between 6-14

States	Percentages
West Bengal	37
Uttar Pradesh	52
Rajasthan	59
Bihar	62
Andhra Pradesh	45
Madhya Pradesh	45

From the above tables it can be seen that in every decade the rate of literacy for women has been lower than men. In 2001 that difference in literacy has been nearly 22. It can be well understood that girls are prey to oppression.

2. Social discrimination and inferior status

In the Constitution of India and the Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations equal rights of both men and women have been recognized. But in reality, in India especially in the rural areas, women do not enjoy that status, freedom or right. In every sphere of the society, today's women experience disrespect and defamation of the rights and freedom they are supposed to get which, stands as a hindrance to their all round development. In their daily life from the small things such as food and nutrition to education, health or employment opportunity women experience inequality. As a result girl child is treated in a different way than a boy child. It has become evident in the general indifference towards the rights and freedom of girl child. Following this is the tendency that a woman has to be subordinate, weak, and inefficient. This thought and practice hinders the normal

development of women into persons. They are deprived, ill treated because they are women. This is again a hindrance towards the development of the society at large.

3. Controlled movement and problems related to safety

There are various sanctions ascribed on the free movement of women in this society. It is needless to say that such hindrances are not placed on the men. The systems of purdah, to confine women with household chores etc, are hindrances to the development of women in society. In order to enhance the possibility of emancipation of the inner self an environment that is conducive is definitely important. People are able to express their efficiency only after going through various experiences in life. Most of the Indian women are deprived in that sense. Indian women also perceive insecurity in their lives. It is a right of every citizen of a democratic country to have security in his or her movements, social justice, and the like. Why would anyone be deprived of these ? To express one's opinion in any circumstance is not a crime. But to express such free thought one needs social security too.

4. Discriminations in wages

It is a common opinion in India that all kinds of work are not meant for women even if she has the ability and efficiency to do that work. There has been some work especially unofficially designated for women. Every person according to their ability and efficiency work but women because of being deprived of the particular environment to express them cannot do so either. There are occupational differences related to gender as well as differential pay for the same kind of work. In recent times in the unorganized sector such discriminations have become rampant. And notwithstanding, these discriminations impart lower status on women in India. It is imperative to take steps to dismount such social discriminations immediately.

5. Economic dependence

In India economic dependence of women is another perennial problem. Economic independence happens to be the basis of all other kinds of freedom. There are a number of women who do not enjoy such freedom in the true sense of the term. Therefore there are quite a number of women in India who are forced to depend on others for their living till death.

6. Enjoying limited political power

Women in India have limited scope of traversing the political path compared to their male counterparts. In India 33% seat reservations are deemed for women in Panchayats and Municipalities. But at the highest level of policy decision-making institutions for implementation like the Parliament and the State Legislatures, woman participation is meagre.

7. Dowry

During or before marriage the custom of taking money or goods from the bride's family is called dowry. It is well known custom in urban and rural areas. It is customary

for the family of the bridegroom to take this in cash or in the form of goods. This custom is degrading and disrespectful for the women. As a person both men and women are equal. The practice of such custom at the gateway of married life is very degrading for a woman to handle. Women have the experience of going through series of torture at the hands of their in laws for dowry payments that are not according to their wants. It is also a persistent condition where marriage is postponed for not paying requisite amount of dowry to the in laws. The daughter of fathers who cannot subscribe to the wants of the bridegroom's family may remain a spinster all her life. For these entire reasons dowry has assumed the status of a massive problem in India.

8. Child marriage

To marry off children at a very early age is another important problem for women in India. Though the government has made it illegal but it still persists among various strata of the society. It is especially true for girls aged below 18 who are hurriedly married off by their parents citing poverty. But to marry off daughters before the age of 18 lead to a number of health and psychological problems later in life. So marriage during younger years is a problem faced by women in India.

9. Inferiority complex

It is in general that in India women in every sphere of their life is forced to experience that they are inferior to men. There are immense hindrances placed in front of girl children right from their childhood days. As a result their upbringing gets a jolt and which has an everlasting effect on their personality. This paves for an inferior understanding on the part of the girls in India. Inferiority is such a problem that leaves no way for a person to grow and develop naturally.

10. Limited participation in administrative and managerial roles

The rate of participation of women in policy decisions in different stages of decision-making system such as in the state, district or in the village level is very low. This signifies that women are backward with respect to their male counterparts. This leaves a lot of defects in the policy decisions. If women have had the opportunity of taking decisions and participating in the decision making process our country would have a better prospect of development. In that case women also would have the opportunity to channelise their grievances by their ability and efficiency.

4.3 The Problems of Atrocities Against Women

The oppression of women is not a new problem. The nature and variation of the atrocities committed are continually changing. There are regular events of atrocities being reported for dowry. In this case there is no poor-rich or rural-urban divide. There is also a regular increase in events like sex oppression and the like. The rising cases of sex

oppression in offices, transport systems, market places, social and cultural events have multiplied the anxiety over the issue. Since women are not economically independent they are easy prey to physical and psychological oppression. But the employers also subject working women to such nuances.

Generally women who are economically and educationally weak go for works in the unorganized sectors of which special mention should be made of housemaids. These women are the worst sufferers in this case. The condition of women engaged in flesh trade is more unbearable. This is how we see that atrocities against women are being organized in different aspects of life. The little amount of news regarding such nuances that come to surface is very painful. And whatever that remains beyond our knowledge is still immense.

4.4 Policy to Control The Problem

There have been a lot of rules, which has been implemented in independent India with respect to the problem. For example, in the Hindu Bill six different issues have been looked into-1. Marriage 2. Divorce 3. Succession in property 4. Adoption 5. Right to economic activity 6. Access to public places. It was envisaged that for the women to properly exercise their right the government would remain attentive to the issues. In 1958 a law was enacted to prohibit child workers and adolescent girls to work as sex workers. In 1856 the Hindu Widow Remarriage Law was enacted. Laws to stop rape and molestation have also been enacted. The punishment for rape is very severe. It can lead to imprisonment if proved. There are also important laws to stop eve teasing. Punishments like compensations in terms of money and imprisonment are delivered in case of such issues. The government has also taken steps to stop girl trafficking, which is again a criminal offence. The government is taking initiatives to draw the framework for laws to stop harassment of women in their working areas.

It is important to spread consciousness among the public regarding such issues. It is impossible to combat such vices by implementing laws alone. It is also important to eradicate differences between men and women to counter such a problem. Initiatives should be taken to educate both men and women and only then problems of women will perhaps come to an end. There have been initiatives on the part of the government to educate all and the public at large should also make the initiative to make maximum use of the opportunity. For example, there is a law that prohibits anyone from giving or taking dowry; the public should take proper legal steps whenever deemed necessary. If women become self-reliant their economic freedom will render them a better opportunity to excel and then the problems concerning women and the inequality there from will come to an end.

Economic independence is a very important issue. To strive for equality education is also very important. It is not possible to curb the problem by only implementing laws. So what is more important is social awareness and broadmindedness.

4.5 References

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3. Report of the Beijing Conference : Nari Mukti Andolon.

4.6 Exercise

1. What do you understand by the problem of women ? Give a detailed historical analysis of the problems faced by women ?
2. Are the problems women face and atrocities against women the same ? Explain both.
3. Write what you understand on the policies to control problems of women.

Unit-05 □ Problems of Trafficking of Girls and Women

Structure :

- 5.1 Nature, Extent, Magnitude of The Problems of trafficking of Girls and women**
- 5.2 The Causes of The Problem**
- 5.3 The Legal Measures to Combat the Problem**
- 5.4 References**
- 5.5 Exercises**

5.1 Nature, Extent, Magnitude of The Problem of Trafficking of Girls and Women

Some dishonest persons to usurp a lot of money transfer poor girls and women by allurements to different territories through illegal means. This is called women trafficking. A single person cannot do this. They're a group of people involved in the process. They work as a group or a racket. The process of trafficking is organized at different stages. Some people among them roam about in villages in search of those girls who fall easy – prey to such non-institutional means. They work as messengers of the trafficking racket. Then after identifying these girls they take up different means to allure the girls or the members of the family. At first they identify with the families and then present differing proposals to them such as marriage proposals, better jobs, better ways of living, of to take the girls out for a short tour to a nearby place etc. those who fall prey to these allurements are first kept at a safe place for sometime. Here they are often sexually harassed or even physically tortured. After this they are transported to a different area-state or even outside the country. In this way some people are profiting by taking the opportunity others' distress. Today this problem is not limited within India only. This is now become an international problem. And more importantly the men involved in such activities are from among those who are common man. Theirs net is widespread connecting many states and countries. The men involved in these rackets are organized internationally and they are educated and connected to mafia leaders as well.

The girls and women transferred in this way are more often forced to work as sex workers. But their owners take the larger amount of the share from such activities. In some cases however they are forced to work as housemaids. As a result they go through

different forms of oppression and exploitation. These Indian girls are transported in this way to different parts of the globe, for example to nations like Afghanistan, Pakistan, or to different cities such as Dubai. In this way the poor girls from India are transported in a chain system. Therefore such heinous crime is being organized by exploiting the ignorance illiteracy and poor living conditions of the women of these areas. Many of these girls are trafficked from the third world countries by tempting them of lavish lifestyles, better job opportunities, prospective marriage with a eligible groom. Small, medium or large gangs conduct the search for girls who can be easily allured. Some gangs may be regional. There are also some who operate internationally. Whatever may be the size they operate in exchange of a lot of money.

The women are girls are actually not given the proper opportunity of education, health, food, or are deprived of proper nurture of their potentiality, or are even deprived of rights and status of a human, which in a sense help to create such cases of abduction and trafficking. And there are some miscreants who take this opportunity to earn out of buying and selling women as commodities. Whatever has been published so far on the issue it is considered to be one of the heinous crimes of all.

5.2 The Causes of the Problem

There are many reasons why this type of crime is becoming an important one in India so far. But the main causes are as follows —

1. **Poverty** : Poverty is identified as a primary problem of girl trafficking. As because a number of women and children live below the poverty line in this country some people take this opportunity and these women fall prey to their temptation.
2. **Illiteracy and Low level of Consciousness** : This is another important source of the problem for which the girls can be easy prey to the traffickers.
3. **She is a woman; She is weak** : due to the sexual inequality that exists in this country, women feel that they are the weaker sex. This gives them a sense of non-belief in their physical and mental strength. So these women take for granted the coercive ways of their family members as well as that of the traffickers. This subordinating mentality helps the traffickers in a way to maintain their superordination on the girls and to serve their goals.
4. **The profit making sex business** : One of the foremost and oldest businesses is the sex business. This has still remained and is eventually growing in recent years. India is no exception to the rule. Different means are being exploited to increase the demand of such business. In order to sustain such business what is needed is a constant flow of girls. So the business of trafficking is flourishing day by day in an organized but secretive way.

5.3 The Legal Measures to Combat the Problem

It is an imperative that different measures have to be derived to combat this growing problem. Some of them are —

- 1. Social Measure :** It is certain that the time has come to give women the same status as that of men so that they treat them, or other women as not someone low in status or deprived. It is important to see that social inequality does not take shape due to sexual inequality. There are opportunities of enacting the rights one has. This consciousness has to be rekindled. If all kinds of social discrimination based on sex is eradicated women's confidence and sense of prestige will develop. This will lead to a situation where they will be able to take decisions on their own. So the social inequality needs to be eradicated. The opportunity of education for all, decline of illiteracy, social justice, social recognition and social equality, will also help to combat the problem. But the government has to take definite steps in this regard. If committees of men and women of a particular area can be formed to combat trafficking it can be a useful social work to combat the problem.
- 2. Economic Measure :** as poverty is an important condition for girl trafficking, she is dependent. More importantly as women survive with the help of others her wishes do not have much significance to her family. Therefore special measures have to be taken in order to combat the problem. It is therefore important to make women eligible for working outside home by developing opportunities for education and vocational education. Only in this way the women can become independent and therefore take progressive steps on their own. It becomes imperative to make women economically independent. This will help them to combat other difficulties in life.
- 3. Legal Measures :** There are some legal measures to combat trafficking. But stronger laws have to be enacted to catch hold of the traffickers. It is important to set scope for exemplary punishment. But the government has relatively failed to propagate on the issue. It is important to combat the issue on the local level by forming committees in rural areas. One of the significant areas is that there are laws by which criminals can be brought to justice but the women do not get the opportunity of using the law to her benefit. Therefore by educating women on their rights, opening any scope for education, or economic development is necessary. Legal measures are important for combating the crime and for setting exemplary punishment. It is suggestive that if such measures such as letting the administration know when a woman moves out of her residence also may help the police and the administration to be more vigilant.

Suppression of Immoral Trafficking Act has been there from 1956. Due to this law trafficking of girls and women is considered a crime. Before this there was

Bengal Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act, which was functional from 1933. This law stated that it is criminal to transport anything such as commodities, women, labor, etc without permission. But by the latest law it has been stated that there is a provision for payment of fine and rigorous imprisonment for the convict.

5.4 References

1. Malladi Subbamma : Personal Laws and Women.
2. Prabha Krishna : The Law of The Land.

5.5 Exercises

1. Analyze the scope and extent of the problem of girl and women trafficking ?
2. What according to you are the economic, social and legal solutions to the girl trafficking problem ?
3. What according to you are the possible ways to combat the problem ?

Unit-06 □ Problem of Prostitution in India

Structure

- 6.1 Introduction**
- 6.2 Concept**
- 6.3 Historical background**
- 6.4 Nature or types**
- 6.5 Extents and Magnitude**
- 6.6 Socio-economic and health situation of Sex Workers**
- 6.7 Plight of the Child Sex Workers/Children of Sex Workers**
- 6.8 Criminal Activities Associated with Prostitution**
- 6.9 Reasons behind the causation of the problem**
- 6.10 Legislations on Prostitution**
- 6.11 Intervention made by the Government and NGOs**
- 6.12 References**
- 6.13 Exercises**

6.1 Introduction

India, being one of the largest democratic countries in the world, is now facing a number of social problems of which immoral trafficking is one. Today, owing to various reasons, this has become a serious social problem for most of the countries in the world including ours. In fact it has gone to such an extent that it has alarmed like anything to the Government and the people. As we know, the existence of this social evil affects the health and happiness of the individuals concerned, the families concerned and of the society as a whole. Naturally it has drawn the attention of all concerned from years back.

6.2 Concept

By prostitution we mean the sell of body in exchange of money or material. Few definitions in this connection may help us to understand it more clearly.

- (i) The offering of body to indiscriminate lewdness for hire is Prostitution.
- (ii) A prostitute is a person who makes it a profession to gratify the lust of various persons of the opposite sex or of the same sex. (Eliss)
- (iii) Prostitution is granting of sexual access on a relatively indiscriminate basis for payment...depending on the complexity of the local economic system. (International Encyclopaedia of Social Science).
- (iv) A woman who offers herself indiscriminately for sexual intercourse for hire. (Webster's Dictionary).
- (v) Promiscuous bartering of sex favours for monetary considerations without any emotional attachment. (Encyclopaedia Britannica).
- (vi) Prostitution may be defined as the practice of habitual or intermittent sexual union, more or less promiscuous, for mercenary inducement. (Mr Geoffrey)
- (vii) The practice involves illicit sex union on a promiscuous and mercenary basis with accompanying emotional indifference. (Prof. Elliot & Merrill).
- (vii) The act of female offering her body for promiscuous sexual intercourse for hire whether in money or in kind. (SIT Act)

So, from the definitions cited above, it has become clear that the following elements are associated with prostitution :

- (a) promiscuous sexual intercourse
- (b) barter system
- (c) no gratification, and
- (d) absence of emotion, affection or love.

One thing needs to be clarified that extra-marital or pre-marital sex relationship with any individual-relatives, friends, servant, unknown person, should not be considered a case of prostitution. Such cases should be considered as rape or physical relation based on love or unusual attraction. So, there is no question of barter and promiscuity. Pramila Kapoor says, "Human sexual behaviour including the sale of sex, has long been the focus of attention. People have generally biased attitude towards prostitution and it becomes very difficult to look at the facts objectively. I have come to realise that these girls are simply girls who have been in trouble."

6.3 Historical Background

This practice of prostitution is as old as the institution of marriage. In religious epics like Mahabharata and Jataka we mark the reference of prostitutes. Manu, Gautam, Brihaspati-the Hindu shastrakaras and Kautilya recommended for suppression of prostitution which

gives indication that it was in practice during that period too. Through the institution of family and marriage efforts were made to regulate and control sex relationship. Nevertheless, a double standard of morality was accepted by the society in which men were allowed to have extra-morality was accepted by the society in which men were allowed to have extra-marital sex relationship, and the women were not. So, a special class of women was formed to meet the sex desire of these men who need sex relations outside the marriage. In ancient India, the aristocrats such as Zamindars, landlords, and big businessmen used to keep some such women under their custody. In Puranic period we find Devdasis—the religious prostitutes. In Muslim period this practice was ongoing through Harems, and after abolition of the princely states ordinary prostitutes came into being. Thus, throughout the stages of civilization, the prostitution has been universal. Due to various reasons the practice was speeded up in the 17th century onwards but it has taken the form of social problem in India in the 19th century onwards with the advent of industrialisation. In other countries also this system was prevalent. In Babylon some degree of prostitution was compulsory. In mediaeval time the religious body of particular religion shared the earnings of prostitutes.

6.4 Nature of Types

The prostitutes may be divided into the following types—

- (i) **Brothel inmates** : Generally they are procured from different areas, caged and controlled by brothel owners. They are compelled to live in the brothel den itself and are not permitted to mix with the society. Mostly they are illiterate poor coming from rural areas and their charges are comparatively less.
- (ii) **Call Girls** : This type of prostitutes generally operates the business independently or sometimes through agent. They are 'respectable', 'refined', 'elegant' or 'aristocratic' prostitutes whose charges are quite high. They are generally smart and educated. They talk interestingly and live in better areas. They may be called over telephone to visit male customers at the place arranged by the customer or the agent. Generally they remain successful to hide their profession. They are school/college/university students, office-goers, housewives, educated unemployed, actresses, etc.
- (iii) **Street Grils** : There is again a section of prostitutes who catch customers on the street corners and sell their body on boats, gardens, abandoned houses or any other hidden places. Generally they are very poor and their charges are very less.
- (iv) **Floating Type** : There is another type of prostitutes who are floating by nature. Generally they stand on the side of highlands, Phery Ghat, Mela of various kinds etc. Even they are available at important railway stations.

6.5 Extent & Magnitude

With rapid industrialisation and urbanisation today this problem is in existence throughout the length and breadth of the country. Rural areas are also not free from this problem but it runs in different form in the rural areas. According to a study conducted by Tata Institute of Social Sciences, there are about 20 lakhs prostitutes in India and they live in 817 red light areas with more than 50 lakhs children whose fathers are not known to their mothers. This figure of prostitutes has not included Call Girls./high society prostitutes or the street prostitutes. Call girls problem is extremely high in big cities today. Red light areas are also increasing significantly. Even in district towns today some such pockets exist. Number of street girls or floating prostitutes has been constantly increasing particularly on the sides of the high roads. The cities like Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata have large number of prostitutes whereas it is much less in Patna, Chandigarh, Bhubaneswar, etc.

In all the big cities several crores of rupees are transacted in this trade. Throughout India it is estimated to be around Rs.500 crores. The saddest part of the whole scenario is that the first category of prostitutes has very little right on their earnings. Majority of the earning goes to brothel keeper, ‘haftas’ to the Police and pimps, the moneylenders, parents and relatives, and medical bills. In fact, out of her total earning she can get only a small amount for herself and for her children a very little portion. As a result they are in most cases heavily indebted and when they cross the age of 40-45, the income further goes down.

In countries where system of licensing has been introduced, extent of the problem can be more or less estimated. In other countries like India, only some studies are conducted which can hardly give a complete picture. Particularly the floating girls and call girls mostly remain uncovered. Naturally, it becomes difficult to say the exact extent or magnitude of the problem. But one can safely state that the problem is constantly increasing and it has already reached to an alarming stage in a number of big cities in India including Kolkata, Mumbai, Delhi, Pune and Bangalore.

6.6 Socio-Economic & Health Situation of Sex Workers

- ★ Since most of the brothels are very unhygienic in nature and the victims are poorly fed, they face the following major problems-Venereal disease, Tuberculosis, Anaemia, AIDS, Skin disease, Cough & cold, mental agony.
- ★ It represents exploitation in its lowest form. The girls and women who are involved in the profession are considered as ‘fallen women’.

- ★ It is not accepted by any society but tolerated as a 'necessary social evil'. Hence our attitude is indifferent towards this problem.
- ★ Existence of this practice is reality in every stage of civilization as quasi-institution. It is invariably condemned by one and all but practised by a large number of them.
- ★ It is not the problem of the concerned girls and women only. The only right way is to consider this practice as one of the social problems of the global nature and dichotomy of our social values. But our outlook is very different from this.
- ★ Once a girl or woman is labelled as prostitute, she is not considered as a complete human being with her needs, desires, individual problems and limitations.
- ★ They are not allowed to lead a natural life and their children are considered as 'accidental birth' and almost untouchables.
- ★ It is human and social problem that needs to be examined in unbiased manner, but it rarely happens.

Three views on the profession

Social Scientists and common people generally have three kinds of views on Prostitution. They are :

- (i) **Moralistic view** : The prostitutes are marketable commodity, naturally not acceptable in the society.
- (ii) **Realistic views** : This is a deep-rooted problem, though not respected. Hence they are to live in red light areas only.
- (iii) **Liberal View** : This is a profession like any other profession. It should be given legal sanction so that they can live a life of dignity.

6.7 Plight of the Child Sex Workers/Children of Sex Workers

A sizeable section of prostitutes are married. Most of them got married before they joined in this profession. A high majority of them have children too. Some others become mother by accident. They may not know who is the father of the child. The plight of the children of sex workers is painful. They are looked down by others in the society. They become aware about their mother's life, which creates emotional problem in them. They do not get love, affection and normal family life, which again make their life painful. Because of the nature of occupation and poor income of their mothers, children of prostitutes do not get proper attention and opportunity of education and health facilities. In absence of a proper shelter they roam about throughout the day and pass the night anywhere they find it possible. They are discriminated from the rest of the society and the male children are neglected too. But the female children are nursed properly since they are treated as

pawn to moneylenders and brothel keepers. There is a stigma that these children are illegitimate.

The plight of child sex workers is not less painful than the children of sex workers. First of all, they are forced to start sex life when their body is not fit for that. Secondly, since they are preferred by customers everyday they are to attend about half a dozen customers. Thirdly, pimps and brothel owners exploit them most. Fourthly, they become the target of pimps for their sexual gratification on free basis. Fifthly, since their life as prostitute is long and awareness level is poor, they become easy prey of STD/HIV and other sexual organ related health problems. Lastly, they are exploited by their family members also. Rarely, they can keep their earnings under their own custody since the family members or relatives take the same away.

6.8 Reasons behind the causation of Prostitution

Perhaps there is no social problem, which is the creation of a single factor. It is true in case of immoral trafficking or prostitution also. For immoral trafficking we can enumerate the following salient factors as responsible—

- (i) **Economic factor** : It has been evidenced from various studies that the majority of the prostitutes belong to poorer section of the community. On the basis of such studies it has been estimated that the poverty and destitution force many girls and women to become prostitutes. S Venugopalan opined that, 'economic necessity is the most important factor' of prostitution. Mr Bonger, Dr Punekar and Smt Rao also stated that 'economic factor lies at the basis of prostitution'. Being pressurised by poverty sometimes the girls accept this profession voluntarily. Some others are forced to accept this profession by parents/husband/brother/relatives, etc. for ensuring some income everyday or every month
- (ii) **Unhealthy influence** : Adult films, sex-stimulating literature & photographs and lustful conversation affect the individual character very much. These create sex perversion among some girls who do not hesitate to fulfil their sexual urge by any means including prostitution. From the study of Mrs Pramila Kapoor it has been revealed that there is a section of women who are not satisfied with 1:1 relationship. They want to have physical relationship with many people for their sexual gratification. Naturally many of them enter into this profession by design.
- (iii) **Religious sanction** : Devadasis/Basavis/Yoginis are the examples of prostitutes having religious sanction. Devadasi system is the age-old practice in the southern part of India. Under this system at an early stage some girls are dedicated to temple deities and they are considered socially unacceptable later on. This ultimately forces some of them to live a life of prostitutes at later stage. Though this practice has now decreased considerably, yet it will be still

found practising in Maharashtra, Goa and Karnataka area. The religious taboos of the people of some communities in this part of the country have made some girl prostitutes at some points of their life. Besides, there are some tribal communities like Bhedia of Rajasthan and Sansi of Uttar Pradesh for whom this is a traditional occupation.

- (iv) **Prohibition on Widow Remarriage :** Indian widows generally can't remarry because of social customs even if they become widow a very tender age. A section of them may find it difficult to lead the life without sex relationship. Besides, in most cases, they are ill treated by the family members, so, to fulfil the biological needs as well as to avoid the unbearable ill treatment at the family level some widows leave home and take shelter in prostitutes' den.
- (v) **Kidnapping or Abduction :** To kidnap girls or women and to send them in brothels is a profession with some antisocial elements. From daily newspapers and Police department we get some accounts of such incidents. Dr Punekar and others in their study of prostitutes in Bombay city found that a large number of girls have been forced to accept this profession. The survey of Calcutta prostitutes conducted by the Central Social Welfare Board also reveals the fact that 32.3% of the prostitutes were kidnapped.
- (vi) **Mental deficiency :** Elliot and Merrill stated that a large number of prostitutes are mentally deficient. They suffer from inadequate capacity to judge what is right and what is wrong. As a result they become easy prey to antisocial elements and ultimately forced to start the life of prostitutes. Particularly the middlemen can lure them very easily by giving different kind of assurances and ultimately compel them to become sex workers.
- (vii) **Domestic causes :** Various domestic causes like unhappy marital relationship, unfaithfulness of husband, desertion by the husband, etc. are also responsible for prostitution. If we go through the case histories of the prostitutes, it becomes evident that a considerable section of them could not tolerate or adjust with the attitude of the husband and at a point of time they leave home and take this profession. Sometimes they are thrown out from the house and in absence of any way out they somehow reach to the den and adopt the profession.
- (viii) **Illicit sexual relations :** Many young girls, specially the teenagers, get emotionally and physically involved with some neighbour, relative, friend, family friend, teacher, or even driver or servant of the family. Sometimes they also establish sexual relationship. It has been found that a sizeable number of such girls, who had illicit sexual relations, may be 'afraid of social stigma and social criticism and take recourse to prostitution'. This particularly happens when the persons with whom they had illicit sexual relations abandon the girls or the concerned girls became pregnant and unmarried mother.

Besides the factors mentioned above, desire for easy sex experience, hatred for marriage, love for adventure, low moral values, desire for earning money by hook or crook, rape, etc. are also responsible for the growth and expansion of the profession of prostitution. Low status of women in male dominated society, early widowhood, social stigma faced by the children of prostitutes are also important reasons behind this problem.

6.9 Criminal Activities Associated with Prostitution

Social problems are never isolated. They are interlinked. Prostitution, which is one of the burning social problems in the world as a whole, is also interlinked with many other problems of which criminal activity is one. Prostitution seriously disturbs the life of all concerned and the rhythm of the family. It naturally deteriorates the normal fabric of community life. Such a situation ultimately weakens the environment and makes it a proper ground for emergence of unsocial and antisocial activities of various natures.

Criminal activities have close link with three things-property, wine and women. Centring women lot of criminal acts are performed. And for performing criminal act wine and women are commonly used. Starting from minor crimes to international crimes direct or indirect involvement of women is almost common. By following the media (Radio/TV/ Newspaper) and magazines of various kinds as well as crime records in Police Station or Detective Department one can come across many such instances, which ensure that women and girls involved in prostitution have close link with crimes and criminals. In last few decades this has multiplied like anything.

6.10 Legislations on Prostitution

The British government introduced some regulations to deal with sexual offences. At later stage Indian Penal Code was introduced to protect women from forced sex relationship. In brief the Codes include the followings.

- (i) Fine, Jail for maximum one year or both if women are insulted by any filthy word, gesture, exhibition of any object and disturbing her privacy. (S-354).
- (ii) Kidnapping, abducting, compelling to marry, forcing to go for illicit intercourse, making any woman subjected to the unnatural lust of anybody the person responsible is punishable with fine, imprisonment for 10 years or both. (S-366).
- (iii) Buying, selling, hiring or otherwise getting possession of a girl under 18 years for immoral purpose is equally punishable. (S-372).
- (iv) The person responsible for sexual intercourse with or without consent of the girl under 16 will be sent to jail for 10 years. (S-375).

- (v) A man can be imprisoned for five years if he goes for sexual intercourse with the wife of somebody without his consent. (S-497).
- (vi) Enticing any married woman for having illicit intercourse or detaining her with such intent is an offence and the offender is punishable with fine, 2 years imprisonment, or both. (S-498).

Before and after Independence the Central as well as the State Governments introduced laws to bring check in the practise of prostitution. Some such acts are-

❑ Bombay Prevention of Prostitute Act	1923
❑ Madras Prevention of Prostitute Act	1930
❑ Bengal Prevention of Prostitute Act	1933
❑ UP Prevention of Prostitute Act	1933
❑ Punjab Prevention of Prostitute Act	1935
❑ Bihar Prevention of Prostitute Act	1948
❑ MP Prevention of Prostitute Act	1953

Provisions in the Acts of the States were nearly the same with minor variations. Some Special Acts were also introduced such as—

❑ UP Naik Girls Protection Act	1929
❑ Bomay Devdasi Protection Act	1934
❑ Madras Devdasi Act	1947

The Government of India enacted Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act in 1956. The same was amended in 1980s and is going to be amended again in 2006. It is expected to be a very hard law. If it is passed in the Parliament, one needs to be very courageous to visit any brothel or other kind of sex dens. In the United States prostitution is banned in some States but that country has good record of giving social security measures. On the other hand, in many countries it has been legalized. Perhaps India will have to find a situation between ‘regulation and abolition’ considering its socio-economic situation.

6.11 Intervention made by the Government and NGOs

Since prostitution is such a problem which can challenge the very existence of the society, the world as a whole is seriously thinking and taking actions to bring the problem under control. Even the United Nations felt it essential to address the issue. As a result of that almost all the countries have adopted some policy. The policy-based actions taken by our Government are enumerated below :

- (i) Enacted laws to suppress the problem. Based on changing social scenario necessary amendments have been made from time to time.

- (ii) States have been advised to implement the law seriously and keep strict vigil on the situation.
- (iii) Provision of issuing licence to the brothels and its inmates has been made so that anybody and everybody cannot join the profession.
- (iv) System of regular health check-up by Government hospitals has been ensured.
- (v) Running Rescue Homes, Reception Centres, Protective Homes is another important intervention of Government in connection with prostitution.
- (vi) Forming Central Social Welfare Board, State Social Welfare Advisory Board, Social and Moral Hygiene Agency, appointing Advisory Committee on Social and Moral Hygiene.
- (vii) Organising raid in hotels, lodges, guest houses, parlours, dance bars, etc. from time to time.

Trafficking of women and children is an important issue to be addressed by the Government. Trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation is one of the worst forms of violation of the basic rights of children and women. Rescue and rehabilitation of such victims is a serious challenge to any Government and civil society. India is facing a tremendous problem of trafficking. To combat it Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act 1986 was introduced which is the revised form of SIT Act 1956.

Besides, the Department of Women & Child Development has formulated a National Plan of Action in 1998 with the objective to reintegrate the victims of commercial sexual exploitation in society. It consists of the following action points.

- ❑ Prevention of Trafficking
- ❑ Awareness generation and social mobilization
- ❑ Health care services
- ❑ Education and child care
- ❑ Housing
- ❑ Shelter and civic amenities
- ❑ Economic empowerment
- ❑ Legal reforms
- ❑ Rescue and rehabilitation

The department has formed a Committee known as Central Advisory Committee (CAC) under the Chairmanship of the Secretary of the Department with members from different Central Ministries. Majority of the State Governments have formed State Advisory Committees under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary or Additional Chief Secretary.

The major steps that have been taken up in recent years include—

- (i) To sensitise the elected women representatives of LSG institutions so that traffickers find it difficult to lure the innocent victims.
- (ii) A Committee has been formed by the Department to suggest measures needed for prevention, rescue and rehabilitation of the victims as well as ways and means to tackle the cross-border trafficking.
- (iii) Coordinating efforts for ensuring widespread reach of appropriate programmes and necessary fund to tackle the problem.
- (iv) Preparing manuals for sensitisation in collaboration with UNICEF India country office.
- (v) Lot of projects have been sanctioned in the recent years NGOs.
- (vi) Took initiative to conduct studies in coastal areas and tourist destinations.
- (vii) Initiative has also been taken to bring out a comprehensive legislation on sexual abuse of children.
- (viii) Massive awareness generating campaign has been undertaken.
- (ix) The Department is processing the ITPA-1956 to widen its scope.

Some NGOs are also playing important role in this field. In Kolkata itself there are dozens of NGOs, which are significantly contributing in the following manner.

- (i) Rendering health services to the prostitutes and their children.
- (ii) Improving level of awareness with regard to basic hygienic practices, STD/HIV and other sex related diseases, safe sex, etc.
- (iii) Taking care of the children of sex workers by providing health, education and shelter.
- (iv) Protecting the prostitutes from being harassed and exploited by police, pimps, and brothel owners.
- (v) Arranging vocational training programmes for both—the sex workers and their children.
- (vi) Distributing Condoms.
- (vii) Conducting study on various aspects of the problem.
- (viii) Introducing the system of SHG formation and running.

The Government and NGOs have already taken the above-mentioned actions. Nevertheless, to mitigate these problems more appropriate actions should be undertaken. Government has enacted the SIT Act, 1956 in conformity with the resolution taken during the UN International Conference for the SIT in New York in the year 1950. But this Act is not being implemented properly anywhere in this country. For example, there is a

provision under Section 13 of the Act that the State Government will form an Advisory Committee to find out ways and means to tackle this problem effectively. But such Committee is almost non-existent in most of the States of the country. Provisions are also there in the Act that preventive and corrective institutions should also be established but because of the following problems, these are also not functioning properly—

- Inadequate number of Homes
- Inadequate Infrastructural facility
- Poor quality of staff
- Inadequate monitoring and supervision.

Another big problem, which stands on the way of solving the problem is that a prostitution landlord, brothel managers, pimps, agents, clients, etc. are seldom brought to the book by the police and administration. In the circumstances, it is essential that a concerted effort with adequate seriousness be made by the Government and non-Government organisations to suppress the problem effectively for a better social life.

6.12 References

1	The Unadjusted Girl	W I Thomas
2	Social Disorganization	Elliot & Merrill
3	A Study of Prostitutes in Bombay	S D Punekar & Kamla Rao
4	The Sociology of Prostitution	Kingsley, Devis
5	Prostitution in Historical and Modern Perspectives	Biswanath Joardar

6.13 Exercises

- (i) Define the terms Prostitution and enumerate its characteristics.
- (ii) What are the possible reasons behind the causation of prostitution?
- (iii) Analytically write about the plight of children of sex workers and the role of professional social worker in bringing improvement in the condition.

Unit-07 □ Problems of Children in Need of Care and Protection

Structure :

- 7.1 Introduction**
- 7.2 Categories**
- 7.3 Nature of Problems**
- 7.4 Causes**
- 7.5 Extent and Magnitude**
- 7.6 Combating measures**
- 7.7 Exercises**

7.1 Introduction

Children constitute the most precious human resource of a country. They are also a vulnerable section of the society—and may easily become victims of exploitation and abuse. The constitution recognises that children need to be protected and nurtured for their proper development into useful and productive citizens of the country.

As per the 1991 census, the estimated population of children below 19 years in West Bengal is 3, 35, 62, 436, which is nearly half of the total population (6, 79, 82, 732) in the state. So the Society must create an environment congenial for their survival, development and protection and must provide opportunities for children to participate in matters affecting them and the environment around them. Achieving such an environment is a tremendous challenge.

For a variety of reasons, many children grow up experiencing poor healths (including nutrition) do not have the opportunities to attend and participate fully in school, and are expected to various forms of abuse, exploitation and discrimination. Few children that grow up in such an environment are unable to reach their full potential, which is a violation of their rights and also impedes society's efforts at promoting development.

It is important that all persons in society, particularly those who come into contact with children in their daily activities, are sensitized about children's rights and are motivated

to take action to help promote and protect rights of all children, in particular the most vulnerable from economically and disadvantaged backgrounds.

7.2 Categories

- (i) Children who do not have either parents or any relative or orphan.
- (ii) Children of single-parent families where the husband is dead or desertion or vice-versa belonging to destitute category.
- (iii) Children whose parents are unable to take care of them due to leprosy or mental illness.
- (iv) Children belonging to very low income group families who are not even fed properly.
- (v) Children living in red light areas and whose mothers are working as sex-workers.
- (vi) Children working as child labourers in hazardous factories/industries.
- (vii) Street children who live in streets and grow up in the streets.
- (viii) Children who mainly work as rag pickers and almost live in garbage for all time.
- (ix) Children whose mothers work as daily labours or as maid servants and the child live in slums and in neighbourhood during her work time.
- (x) Child victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation, or run-away from home.
- (xi) Children suffering from HIV/AIDs or drug abused.
- (xii) Children suffering from Thalassemia carrier and other diseases where recurring medical expenditure is very high.
- (xiii) Children who suffered from natural calamities or terrorist violence.
- (xiv) Children who are handicapped-visually, hearing, mental or orthopaedically by birth or accidentally.
- (xv) Children who are in conflict with law (delinquent) in compelling circumstances and needs reformation.
- (xvi) Children who are in moral danger due to broken families or other disturbances.
- (xvii) Children who are used as informers, drug traffickers, beggars, thieves and for other anti social activities.
- (xviii) Maladjusted children and children in the behavioral and emotional disorders.

7.3 Nature of Problems

The problem of street and working children was there in the long past too but from late sixties it started becoming acute and alarming day by day. The migrated families coming from rural areas, tribal areas and across the borders and got the opportunities of employment as unskilled labourers, made their shelter in the vicinity of construction sites, beneath the bridge, in the large-dia hume pipe, and on the nearby pavements children born in these families are the worst sufferers. These children do not have the opportunity of proper childhood and due to negligence of their parents they are deprived of education, health care and so on. In absence of proper parental care these children are found in the street almost 16 to 18 hours a day.

Almost all the previously mentioned category of vulnerable children suffer from some common problems which are enlisted below :

1. Most of them belong to poor families and do not get two square meals to eat and so they are malnourished.
2. No or little scope of education
3. Prone to physical abuse from parents
4. Sexual exploitation at workplace or in streets.
5. Prone to any serious disease and addiction towards drugs, alcohol or smoking.
6. No source of recreation, sports or spending time in creative manner.
7. Lack of health check-up, immunisation or any type of prevention from hazardous atmosphere.
8. These children are easy prey for anti socials who use them as beggars, drug traffickers, informers etc.
9. Children from rural areas migrate to metropolis for job in house hold or runaway from home who are ultimately trafficked and girls are sold to red light areas boys are used as beggars, strugglers.
10. These children are prone to HIV/AIDS and are exposed to this world in very early stage.

7.4 Causes

Repaid urbanisation and industrialization contributes increasingly to the problem of destitution. The problem is on the increase, specially among children due to continuous migration of families from rural to urban areas forces them to live under slum conditions or in the streets. This in turn contributes to the increase in destitution and delinquency.

Increasing number of child beggars found in metropolitan and industrial cities is only a symptom of the larger problem of destitution.

The economic situation of the country presently compels each of the family members to work and earn for survival where children are dependent. The children are, in most cases left to themselves or under custody of any of the neighbours or older children who do the baby sitting. The child indulges in unhealthy and hazardous activities in these prevailing environments. The economic insecurity and the feeling of natural environment of these workers towards acceptance of basic concepts of hygiene, new food habits and simple remedies for daily ailments and the children being the weakest link, suffer mostly from malnutrition, unhygienic living and lack of social education and literacy and develop abnormalities duplicating their capacities to get on to the main stream of life.

The break-up of joint families & traditional moral values has made the nuclear families independent. The side effect of this breakage is desertion by husband or wife, remarriage and some times the wife is sold by the husband in high price to touts, finally they are trafficked to different areas. As some families migrate frequently so regular contact with relatives are rare which makes the bad intentions of a husband strong. The worst sufferer in between all this is a child.

The bad effect of modernisation and westernisation is also a cause for making children vulnerable. As consumerism has increased and due to broad circulation of print media & cable network the companies have spread in the remotest corners of our country which in turn makes the people eager to use all that are sold which cost very high and running behind money pays a person's family and mainly children. Women of remote villages are trafficked are lured for better job, good salary and every kind of facilities and they leave their families for never reaching their destination.

Children are more vulnerable than adults in any situation because :

- (i) Understanding of cause and effect is less accurate.
- (ii) The impact and its resulting effects of a disaster are more intense.
- (iii) Skills necessary for dealing a problematic situation are weak due to lack of maturity.
- (iv) Coping skills are fewer as they are young.
- (v) Resistance is lower.
- (vi) Unable to withstand disruption of regularity as it is necessary for development.
- (vii) Apprehension of interruption of regular life and consequent anxiety are strong
- (viii) Unable to discuss the stress and trauma.
- (ix) Suffer from various fears and anxieties like repetition of disaster, injury, loss, loneliness-separation & uncertainty.

7.5 Extent and Magnitude

The children of the world are innocent, vulnerable, dependent, curious, active and full of hope. Every day millions of children are exposed to danger and suffer from poverty and economic crisis. As a result, hunger, homelessness, epidemics and illiteracy are increasing. Millions of children are becoming orphans, street children and engaging themselves in hazardous work and petty criminal activities for their livelihood. Child workers are gripped in bondages of prostitution and sexual abuse after inflicted with HIV and open to other forms of exploitation.

The present situation of Indian children is that infant mortality rate is 70 per 1000 births. Girls continue to face higher risk of mortality. 3 million children live on the streets. 111 million children are child labour and a large number of children never enter school (As per CRY).

The incidence of disabilities in West Bengal is significant with about 1.8% of the population facing one or the other physical disability. Among the physically disabled population orthopaedically, handicapped persons accounts for a major part nearly half while about 30% are hearing impaired persons and 20% are visually handicapped. It is estimated that there are about 15 million physically disabled persons in India today. For locomotor disability the figures are 676 million in the rural areas and 431 million in the urban areas in the children between the ages of 0 and 14. A large section of this population is from W.B.

7.6 Combating Measures

Health : The Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) has provided excellent opportunities of reaching all mothers and children particularly infants and pregnant mothers and other health interventions necessary for achieving the goals set for ensuring optimum levels of health and development of mothers and children in the state.

- (i) The present intervention of Deptt. of Health & Family welfare W.B in routine immunization at all primary health centres, subcentres, out reach villages and urban basic services for poor centres.
- (ii) Special campaign to improve measles coverage, administration of vitamin A with measles immunization has been taken up.
- (iii) The number of reported cases of Acute Poliomyelitis in the state have shown a decline from 886 (1990) to 473 in 1992. Broad publicity for giving the child polio drops has been taken up by central govt itself. All level of welfare organizations have been involved to give all the children below 5 years polio drops.

- (iv) Neonatal tetanus intervention programme is run to stop infant mortality rate.
- (v) 70% reduction in deaths due to diarrhoea in children under the age of five years has been nearly achieved. Provision of ORS packets to hospitals & PHCs is also made and Integrated Control of Diarrhoeal Diseases and water & Sanitation (CDD-WATSAN) is being conducted to reduce diarrhoeal morbidity and mortality.
- (vi) The children affected with HIV/AIDS are detected and treated in different Govt. hospitals. Wide publication and General awareness among masses is done to prevent infection through this disease. Many NGOs are presently rehabilitating the AIDS victim and providing them shelter, medicine aids and care.

Water and Sanitation : Water and sanitation services are regarded as one of the essential components of primary health care. The Govt. is promoting the provision of clean water in all communities for all their children as well as universal access to sanitation.

CAPART a Govt. funding agency also funds the NGOs working in rural areas for digging tube wells and constructing low cost latrines etc. under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) Programme operated by Rural Development Department a house-hold latrine and smokeless chulah are provided within each Indira Aash Yojana house.

Education :

- (i) The Education Deptt is working towards universal enrolment, retention, minimum levels of learning, reduction of disparities and universalization of effective access to primary education.
- (ii) The success of the literacy drive, increasing awareness among the people of the advantages of education, rising economic levels are all creating a growing demand for education.
- (iii) The lowering of the age of admission into primary level from six to five years has increased the school going children.
- (iv) The Govt. is also offering incentives like free tuitions, textbooks, school dress, mid day meal etc to encourage children of SC/ST families & girl child to enter the formal system.
- (v) The SC/ST Deptt provides scholarships to meritorious students who belong to below poverty level.
- (vi) The street children project, slum children project, shikshalaya prakalapa accommodates the children in difficult circumstances and provides them with non-formal education.

Nutrition :

- (i) The problem of malnutrition has many roots viz : inadequate food supply, limited purchasing power, poor health condition and incomplete knowledge about nutrition.

- (ii) The success of nutrition programmes depend upon inter-sectoral co-ordination and community participation.
- (iii) Supplementary feeding, Growth monitoring and promotion for pre-school children through ICDS projects is operational in all blocks.
- (iv) Mid day meal is introduced in all primary schools for all children.
- (v) All the welfare projects run by Govt funded NGOs provide with tiffin and meals in all their educational programmes.
- (vi) Control of vitamin A deficiency and its consequences including blindness is being checked by the health centres.
- (vii) Empowerment of All mothers to breast feeding of their children exclusively for six months which works wonders to childs immunization
- (viii) ICDS projects are conducting growth monitoring of Pre-school children in the state.

Other Welfare Activities

- (i) The children in conflict with law are provided shelter in state run reformities and there they are provided with education, nutrition, recreation and other amenities for proper development.
- (ii) Govt and Govt. funded NGOs are running many spl. schools for disabled children where they are provided with spl. education by trained educators and nutrition.
- (iii) The children in red light areas are also provided with education and nutrition in their areas and girl children are admitted to shelter home where their lives are secured and the environment is appropriate for their development.
- (iv) The drug addicted children are provided treatment in the drug de-addiction centres where they are given residential care.
- (v) The destitute homes/orphanages provides shelter, care & protection to the children vulnerable to any type of abuse.

7.7 Exercises

- (i) What are the different categories of children who need care and protection?
- (ii) What is the extent and magnitude of the problems of children?
- (iii) Enuerate the combating measures undertaken by Govt. and NGOs.

Unit-08 □ Poverty

Structure :

8.1 Concept of poverty

8.2 Manifestation

8.3 Incidence & Magnitude

8.4 Causes

8.5 Problems of Poverty

8.6 Antipoverty strategies

8.7 Effective measures in poverty alleviation Programmes

8.8 Exercises

8.1 Concept

Poverty can be defined as a social phenomenon in which a section of the society is unable to fulfil even its basic necessities of life. In the wider sense poverty means the inability of the people to meet the social, political, financial and material requirements. When a substantial segment of a society is deprived of the minimum level of living e.g. foods, clothing, shelter, health, education etc., that society is said to be plagued with mass poverty. Many of the third world countries suffer from abject poverty. There are poverty in the developed countries also—which is known as relative poverty.

Most of the countries have tried to develop a definition of poverty. But the concept varies from one country to another. The standard of living of poor people of a developed country may differ from that of the poor country. In defining the concept of poverty, in our country, more emphasis has been placed on minimum subsistence level of living than reasonable level of living.

The poverty is of two types—absolute poverty and relative poverty. Absolute poverty means a situation when there is lack of basic minimum needs for living. This type of poverty is largely found in the less developed countries. On the other hand, relative poverty measure the comparative standard of living. When a man's standard of living is worse than other, the former is said to be relatively poor man. This type of poverty is found in the developed countries also.

8.2 Manifestation

There are various estimates and views regarding identification and measure of the poor people of a country. Besides, the methods of measuring poverty is different in different countries. Generally, we measure the total number of poor people with the help of poverty line.

8.2.1 Poverty Line

There are two ideas about poverty—one is minimum level and the other is desired level. We use the Minimum Level Concept because the main purpose of our planning is to improve the socio-economic status of lower income-group people. Though there are various measures of poverty, the outcome of all the measures is that an adult requires to consume certain amount of goods and services to live in. The money value of that minimum level of consumption is regarded as poverty line. The goods and services which yields 2250 calorie per day for an adult is the minimum requirements. The cost of purchasing, those goods and services from the market is called the minimum consumption expenditure. This is known as poverty line.

The persons who cannot even earn this minimum level of income are said to live below the poverty line. On the other hand those who earn more than this minimum level is lying above the poverty line. According to the 1960-61 price level, those whose monthly consumption expenditure is less than Rs. 20 per day are considered as people living below the poverty line.

The estimate of poverty with the help of this calorie value is known as biological approach. Many economists do not support this approach. According to them, the calorie requirement of different parts of a country is different. Besides they are many other things which are needed to maintain a minimum standard of life. Those things are also to be included in determining the poverty line.

8.2.2 In-equality in private income distribution

Inequality in the distribution of private income is an indicator of poverty of a country. From the data given by the Reserve Bank of India, we find that bottom 20% of the total population enjoys 9% of the total income, whereas top 5% enjoys 17%. Besides top 50% of the total population enjoys 69%, and that of bottom 50% enjoys 31% of the total income. We can get an idea about the inequality in income distribution from the following table :

Inequality in income distribution

Fractile group	RBI's Measure 153-54 to 1956-57		Measure of Iyenger and Mukherjee 1952-53 to 1956		N.C.A.ER's Measure 1960	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Top 5%	17.0	26.0	14.0	17.5	—	31.0
Top 10%	25.0	37.0	34.0	25.0	33.6	42.4
Top 50%	69.0	75.0	—	—	79.3	83.0
Bottom 20%	9.0	7.0	7.5	8.5	4.0	4.0

Source : Courtesy Datt and Sundharam

Footnote : All figures are in percent

8.2.3 Per Capita Private Consumption

Per capita private consumption is another indicator of the state of poverty of an economy. We know that consumption is a direct function of Income, hence rise in income leads to increase in consumption expenditure also. It is found that the richer section of a country consume more than the poorer section. The sixth five year plan estimated the per person consumption expenditure. As per the estimate, we find that in 1977-78, bottom 0-30% of the total population enjoys the 15% of total consumption expenditure in rural area and 13% in urban area. On the other hand top (70-100%) people enjoys 51.9% in rural area and 53.9% in urban area.

8.3 Incidence and Magnitude

Several economists and organisations have conducted studies on the extent and incidence of poverty in India. Some of them are discussed below :

- (i) **Ojha's Estimate** : Mr. P. D. Ojha estimated the number of person below poverty line on the basis of an average calorie intake of 2250 per capita per day. This entailed monthly per capita consumption expenditure of Rs. 15-18 (1960-61 prices) in Urban areas and Rs. 11-18 in rural areas. On this basis, Ojha estimated that 184 million persons in the rural areas of India (15.8% of the total rural population) and 6 million persons in the urban areas (7.6% of the total urban population) lived below the poverty line. For the country as

a whole, 190 million persons (44 percent of the total population) could be considered as poor in 1960-61.

- (ii) **Minha's Estimate :** Economist B.S. Minhas made an estimate on the basis of NSS data. According to him, those who are not able to earn and consume the minimum of Rs. 20 per capita per day lies below the poverty line on the basis of this poverty line, he has estimated that the number and ratio of poor people in rural areas has reduced from 1956-57 to 1967-68. In the year 1956-57 in rural areas of India 65% of the total population lived below the poverty line, where as it reduced to 50.6% in 1969-70.
- (iii) **Dandekar and Rath's Estimate :** Dr. V. M. Dandekar and Mr. Nilkantha Rath calculated the minimum consumption value separately for rural and urban areas. According to them, on the basis of 1960-61 prices, for the rural areas. This minimum consumption expenditure was estimated to be Rs. 180 per capita per annum and this amount is Rs. 270 for the people of urban areas. If this value is estimated on the basis of 1968-69 base year it changes to Rs. 324 and Rs. 486 for rural and urban areas respectively. As per their estimate in 1968-69 40% of the total rural population and 50% of the total urban population lived below the poverty line.
- (iv) **Pranab Bardhan's Estimate :** According to Dr. Pranab Bardhan per capita per month income of Rs. 15 is the poverty line. As per this estimate 38% and 53% people lived below the poverty line in the rural areas during 1960-61 and 1967-68 respectively. According to him, ratio of the rural population, below the poverty line has increased.
- (v) **Montek Ahluwalia's Estimate :** Montek Ahluwalia of the World Bank's Development Research Centre studied the trends in incidence of rural poverty in India for the period 1956-57 to 1973-74. He used the concept of poverty line as an expenditure level of Rs. 15 in 1960-61 prices for rural areas and Rs. 20 for urban areas per capita per month. According to his study there was no definite change in the proportion of poor in the rural areas during the period. Sometimes it has increased and then decreased. For example the percentage of rural population has decreased from 50% to 40% from the mid fifties of beginning of sixties. Again it has increased by the mid sixties and it reached to the highest in 1967-68. Then it started falling again. He has shown the direct relationship between rural poverty and agriculture. When there was good agricultural production the rural poverty decreased and it increased when there was crop failure.
- (vi) **Estimate of Poverty by the Seventh Finance Commission :** The seventh finance commission used a new definition of poverty lines which is known as Augmented poverty line. So far, we have calculated the poverty line on the basis of per capita expenditure. But in the new definition the per capita

government expenditure is also included. The following items are included in the government expenditure—

- (i) Health and family planning
- (ii) Water supply and drainage system
- (iii) Education
- (iv) Administrative cost—police, jail and court
- (v) Roads and transport
- (vi) Social welfare

On the basis of this new definition of poverty line, in 1970-71 52% of the total population (277 million) were below the poverty line. Out of this, 225 million were in the rural areas and 52 million were in the urban areas.

Incidence of Poverty in India

B. S. Minhas, R. L. Jain and S. D. Tendulkar studied the incidence of poverty in India for the period from 1970-71 to 1987-88. For this purpose they used the NSS (National Sample Survey) data.

The findings of the study are stated below—

- (i) The proportion of population below the poverty line in rural areas declined from 58.8% in 1970-71 to 48.7% in 1987-88.
- (ii) The proportion of population below the poverty line in urban areas was 46.2% in 1970-71 which was reduced to 37.8% in 1987-88.
- (iii) In absolute figures, the number of population below the poverty line in rural areas in 1970-71 was 258 million which has increased to 284 million in 1987-88.

On the other hand the figures for the urban areas was 50 million in 1970-71 and 77 million in 1987-88.

- (iv) The rate of increase of population in India was 2.2% after 1971, whereas the rate of increase of poor people is 0.9%. It indicates that there is a positive relation between developmental activities and poverty alleviation programmes.
- (v) On the basis of proportion of population lying below the poverty line, the Indian states have been categorized into two groups. One group includes those states whose proportion of poor people is above the National Average and the other group includes the states which less number of below poverty line people than the National Average.

According to the estimate of 1987-88, the states which belong to the first group are—Bihar, Orissa, Madhyapradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Uttarpradesh, Maharastra, Tamil Nadu,

Kerala and Karnataka. On the other hand the second group includes—Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Rajasthan, Tripura, Andhrapradesh and Gujarat.

8.4 Causes of Poverty

There are various causes of poverty in India which are summarised below—

- (i) **Growth of Population :** One of the most important reason for the poverty is vast population of our country. Though India occupies only 2.4% of the total land area of the world it bears 16% of the total population. The National Income of India has increased during the plan periods, but the rate of growth of population is also very high which has reduced the growth rate of per capita national level to a minimum level. This low level of per capita income leads a country into the vicious circle of poverty.
- (ii) **Unemployment :** Another most important reason is large scale unemployment. In a less developed country like India, the problem of unemployment is worth mentioning. Various developmental activities have been undertaken for improving the National Income. The ultimate objective of these schemes is to eradicate poverty. But it has been noticed that, though National Income has increased due to intervention of Government and other agencies the number of population living below the poverty line has not decreased. Therefore in each a Five Year Plan various poverty alleviation programmes were initiated.
- (iii) **Inflation :** Inflation is another reason for poverty. As the price level is increasing constantly the purchasing power of the people is decreasing. The effects of inflation is more significant on poor people. They cannot buy even the materials needed for minimum subsistence. Those who were lying just above the poverty line will also come below the poverty line. Therefore, number of people below the poverty line will ultimately increase.
- (iv) **Sickness in Industry :** Another important reason of poverty is sickness of industries. In our country many industrial units are becoming sick which makes many industrial labour unemployed. As the problems of unemployed. As the problems of unemployment is rising, the problem of poverty is also rising.
- (v) **Choice of Technology :** At present our country use the capital—intensive technology in the industrial sector. But a country with such a huge number of population labour intensive technology would have been more suitable since this could provide more employment. Instead the use of capital intensive technology has lead to increase unemployment. As a result problem of poverty have been enhanced.

- (vi) **Inequality in Income Distribution** : Inequality in distribution of income is an important factor for the poverty of our country. The major portion of the rise in National Income goes to the hands of a few rich people, where as majority of population get very less of it.

There are few other reasons contributing to the abject poverty of our country. Those are existence of semi-feudalism in agriculture, less per capita national income, lack of supply of consumption goods for the common masses etc.

8.6 Anti Poverty Strategies

In India various developmental activities have been undertaken and executed through the Five-years plans. For this purpose some aims and objectives are determined during each plan based on the country's situation. One of the most important objective of all the plans is to improve the standard of living of the common masses. Initially it was assumed that through the proper implementation of various developmental activities living standard of the common people can be improved. But in reality on this objective has been fulfilled just particularly the other hand, few rich people have become more rich by enjoying the fruits of the developmental activities.

The second five year plan emphasized on creating a favourable environment for the common people.

In the fourth five-year plan, some special programmes were undertaken, aiming at improving the socio-economic status of the weaker section of the society. Emphasis was placed on education and employment which have direct effect on poverty.

During the fifth five year plan evaluation it was noticed that the condition of the common people has not improved much. It was said, "220 milion people are living below the poverty line." Hence, the 5th five year plan emphasized on the implementation of poverty alleviation programmes which affect directly to reduce the incidence of poverty.

The 6th five year plan identified the causes behind the poverty, both in rural and urban sector. The reasons were unemployment, semi-unemployment, low productivity of the labour, low wage rate etc. It was decided the high growth rate of National Income will help in reducing the poverty. Besides special programmes were undertaken for the scheduled caste, scheduled tribe, and weaker section of the society.

The seventh five year plan, emphasized on the special poverty eradication programmes and expected that the number of people living below the poverty line will come down to 10% by the year 1994-95 and to 5% by the year 2000.

In the following plans, also, various special poverty alleviation programmes were undertaken. The 10th five year plan took the problem of poverty seriously and introduced the system of time-bound implementation of the programmes. Besides, it emphasized on evaluation and monitoring of the various poverty alleviation projects.

8.7 Effective Measures on Poverty Alleviation Programmes

The government of India has undertaken various poverty alleviation programme, which are discussed below in brief—

- (a) **Land Reforms** : During the plan periods the govt. of India, has worked for land reforms. The Zamindari system has been abolished and land has been re-distributed to the marginal farmers.
- (b) **Expansion of Bank-Loans** : The banking facilities have been extended to rural areas through Bank Nationalization in 1969. Terms and conditions have been made easier for the poor farmers, so that they can get bank loans easily. Besides various cooperatives have been working in this endeavour. At present, SHG's (Self Help Groups) are important programmes for poverty alleviation. Many banks, financial institutes N.G.O.'s are working together to form and strengthen SHG's.
- (c) **Mass-Distributions** : The government has introduced mass distribution for the poor people. In this programme, the govt collect food grains and other necessary materials and distribute to the poor people through 'Fair price shop.' The food grains and other necessities are supplied to the poor people (living below the poverty line) at comparatively lower price.
- (d) **Special Programmes** : Many specific poverty alleviation programmes have been introduced—
 - (i) Rural work programmes
 - (ii) Small Farmer's Development Agency or SFDA
 - (iii) Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labour Development Agency of MFAL
 - (iv) Drought Prone Area programmes or (DPAP)
 - (v) Minimum Needs Programme
 - (vi) For For Work or (FAA)
 - (vii) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)
 - (viii) National Rural Employment Programme, (NREP)
 - (ix) Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment, (TRYSEM)
 - (x) Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP)
 - (xi) Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY)
 - (xii) Swarnajoyanti Gramswarojgar Yojna (SJGSY)

8.8 Exercises

1. What is poverty line?
2. Discuss about the different measures undertaken for eradication of poverty.
3. What are the causes of poverty?
4. Discuss about the poverty eradication programmes.

Unit-09 □ Unemployment

Structure :

- 9.1 Introduction**
- 9.2 Magnitude of Unemployment**
- 9.3 Types of Unemployment**
- 9.4 Causes of Unemployment**
- 9.5 Consequences**
- 9.6 Measures Taken to Control Unemployment**
- 9.7 Exercises**

9.1 Introduction

In a country like India with huge population, the scope of employment generation is not sufficient, and hence the problem of unemployment is accelerating day by day. Unemployment means a situation when some able-bodied person (15-60 years old) do not get any productive and Income generating job according to his or her eligibility.

There are different concepts about unemployment. National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) has conducted survey on unemployment since 1972-73 and they have formulated three concepts of unemployment—

- (i) Usual Status unemployment.
- (ii) Current weekly status unemployment
- (iii) Current daily status unemployment.

The persons who do not get job and remain unemployed for one year or more, are known as Usual Status Unemployment. This is a long-term phenomenon. This is also known as Open Unemployment.

If a person does not get a job for at least one hour in a week, that is known as weekly status unemployment.

If a person does not get a job for at least one-hour in a day, that is known as daily status unemployment.

9.2 Magnitude of Unemployment

As per the estimate of 947 Employment Exchanges in India, total 4.08 crore candidates registered their names for employment in 2004. Out of this 70% are educated (10th standard or more) of the total registered persons 26% are women. West Bengal have the maximum number of job-seekers, (69.3 lakhs) among all the states of India (Source : GOI Economic Survey 2004-05).

According to the NSSO data, yearly employment has increased by 1% during the period 1993-94 to 1999-2000. In 1983, total number of employment was 303 million which increased to 374 million in 1994 and it further increased to 397 million in 2000. In 2000 total 28.11 million people were employed in the organised sector which was 7% of the total employments of the country.

The survey reports indicate that number of employment is gradually decreasing in the organised sector. The main reason behind this is decline in employment in the Government sector. The rate of employment in the Government sector was 1.52% for the period 1983-1994. Which decreased to (-) 0.33% for the period 1994-2000.

We can get a picture of Employment vs Unemployment in the rural and urban areas. For the period 1999-2000, total population of India was 10003.97 million. Out of this total number of labour force was 363.33 million and total working people were 336.75 million. Therefore, total unemployed people were 26.58 million (7.32%).

For the period 1999-2000, total population of rural area was 727.50 million and total number of labour was 270.39 million. Out of this, number of total working people was 250.89 million. Therefore, total unemployed people were 19.30 million (7.21%).

In the urban areas, for the same period, total population was 276.47 million. Total number of labour was 92.95 million and otherwise employed persons were 85.84 million. That is total number of unemployed was 7.11 million (7.65%).

9.3 Types of Unemployment

Those, who are eager to have job at the current wage rate but they are not getting any job opportunity, are known as unemployed. The nature of unemployment is different in an underdeveloped country and developed country. In developed countries, main reasons behind unemployment is economic crisis and due to change in the industrial infrastructure and change in the use of technology.

There are different types of unemployment in a developing country like India. Those are :

- (i) **Seasonal Unemployment** : Seasonal unemployment is largely found in the agricultural sector. Agriculture is dependent on season. In many cases it is found that the agriculture labours do not get any job for many days in a year, but they remain employed during the peak seasons. This type of unemployment is called as seasonal unemployment. In the industrial sector also, this type of unemployment is found. Winter garments making farms and tea gardens are best examples of that.
- (ii) **Disguise-unemployment** : Disguise unemployment is normally found in the agricultural sector. In the rural areas, agriculture is a family profession. So generally all the members of the family engage themselves in agricultural activities. Therefore, it is estimated that all members of the agricultural families are employed. But sometimes the land owned by a family requires less number of persons than the number of members a family has. That means some members are excess and the marginal productivity is zero. So some members are disguised unemployed.
- (iii) **Structural Unemployment** : Modernisation of industries means use of improved technologies instead of old one and improved machines, computer etc. are used extensively. With the improvement of technology, trained laboures are employed. As a result, the persons employed earlier become excess (as new technology is capital-intensive) and the workers who cannot update themselves with the new technology become unemployed. This is known as structural unemployment.
- (iv) **Trade Cycle Unemployment** : In a capitalistic economy, a type of unemployment appears due to the presence of trade cycle. Sometimes, there is economic crisis and sometimes economic boom. During the crisis period, demand for industrial product decreases. As a result the producers also reduce production which creates an environment of joblessness for some workers. This types of unemployment is known as trade-cycle unemployment. Though, India is a mixed economy, the characteristics of capitalist economy are present. So, trade cycle is very much a reality in the country, resulting into trade-cycle unemployment. Presently, India is undergoing a massive economic reforms and privatisation is an integral part of the reforms. Hence, trade-cycle unemployment has become a problem of the day.
- (v) **Frictional Unemployment** : Frictional unemployment arises due to the inconsistency between demand and supply in the market. Because of this we mark radical change in the production system. Sometimes, deterioration in the relationship between labour and owner is also marked. As a result of such frictions a section of the labourer may loose their job which is termed as frictional unemployment.
- (vi) **Educational Unemployment** : When people of a country do not get a suitable job as per their educational qualifications and efficiency, that is known as

educational unemployment. During the plan periods in India, conventional education has expanded much more than vocational education has expanded much more than vocational education compared to the number of educated persons, job opportunity is less. Thus educated people do not find it easy to get a suitable job. This is called educational unemployment.

9.4 Causes of Unemployment

There are various causes of unemployment in our country. Those are enumerated below.

- (i) **High Growth Rate of Population :** High growth rate of population is one of the most important reasons of increasing unemployment. As the number of total population is increasing, total number of work force is also increasing, but rate of creation of job opportunity is less. This has contributed in the rise of unemployment problem.
- (ii) **Lack of Irrigation Facilities :** In 1950-51, only 17% of the total cultivable land was under the irrigation scheme, which has increased to 35% in 1992-93 on the contrary 2/3rd of the total cultivable land is dependent on rainfall. Thus, majority of the land area is single cropped, i.e cultivation done only once in a year. Therefore, agricultural workers get only in the cropping season and remain jobless during the remaining days which give rise to seasonal unemployment.
- (iii) **Slow Employment Rate in Industries :** The growth rate of employment generation in different industries is much less than that of growth rate of working population. Obviously, this leads to unemployment.
- (iv) **Immigration of Labourer from Rural to Urban Areas :** High pressure of population in the agricultural sector compels rural people to migrate from the rural sector to urban industrial area in search of job. This has increased the number of migrated labour in the urban sector. But all of them do not get earning opportunity.
- (v) **Capital-Intensive Technology :** In our country, foreign technology is used for industrialization. These are capital intensive technology suitable to their countries. But ours is a labour abundant economy. So, labour intensive technology would have been suitable. As a result of using this technology along with the introduction of computer technology, rate of growth of employment has decreased. This has been increasing the problem of unemployment and underemployment in the country as a whole.
- (vi) **Defective Education System :** Our education system has emphasised on conventional system of education system. In the plan periods job oriented

education was not given the priority. Hence number of educated unemployment has been growing. Recently, introduction of computer technology has aggravated the problem. But in the recent years, emphasis has been placed on vocational and professional education for tackling the unemployment issue effectively.

9.5 Consequences

India is a highly populated country. The problem of unemployment is rising along with the high growth rate of population. The problem of under-employment and disguise unemployment are parallel to the open unemployment. This has posed serious threat to the various developmental programme to improve the socio-economic status of the country. The consequences of unemployment problem are as follows—

- (a) **Low per capita Income :** High rate of unemployment is the most important reason for low per capita income of a country. The per capita income is obtained by dividing the National Income by the total population of a country. Though the growth rate of National Income has risen to some extent the per capita income has not increased due to high growth rate of population. A huge amount of total workforce is jobless. So, they cannot participate in the productive units. But they consume a considerable portion of the total National Income. As a result, the problem of poverty is enhanced.
- (b) **Inequality in Income Distribution :** In a developing country, inequality in income distribution is an important feature. A few number of rich people enjoy the majority of National Income, whereas, most of the poor people get less. The problem of unemployment is conducive to this problem of inequality income distribution those, who are unemployed do not participate in any productive activity. So they do not earn any income. So, the number of people below poverty line is increasing.
- (c) **Low Productivity :** High growth rate of unemployment reduces the productivity per labour. Generally, by productivity, we mean, amount of production per unit of factor. Labour is the most important factor of production. As there is huge number of under-employment and disguise unemployment in agricultural sector the productivity is also low. Besides, the standard of living of the unemployed persons is also very poor.
- (d) **Low Participation rate in the work-force :** The participation rate in total workforce is less. According to the NSS report in 1987-88 people's participation rate in the total workforce was 52.45% (for the males) and 20.10% (for the females). The reason behind this low participation rate is lack of suitable job.
- (e) **Poor Standard of Living :** Per capita National Income was considered as an index of development of a country. But high rate of growth of unemployment

reduces the per capita income. As the per capita income is low, their consumption centric expenditure is also low. So, standard of living of the people of the country becomes lower.

9.6 Measures Taken to Control Unemployment

At the initial stages of the plan period, it was assumed that the growth of an economy would reduce the unemployment problem through creating more employment opportunity. Therefore no special measures were taken to control unemployment. In almost all the plans — planners set an objective of employment generation among the masses but it was not realized. The government of India formed a committee headed by M. Bhagwati. The suggestions made by the committee were published in 1973. On the basis of those suggestions some programmes were undertaken.

- (i) **Rural Works Programmes** : This programme emphasized on establishing permanent earning units in the rural areas. This aims at reducing the unemployment problem in rural areas.
- (ii) **Marginal Farmers and Agriculture Labourer's Programme (MFAL)** : This programme was initiated to provide financial help to the marginal farmers and agricultural labourer for improving agricultural activities and its allied activities e.g. dairy farming, poultry farming etc.
- (iii) **Small Farmers Development Agency (SFDA)** : This programme was launched with the objective of helping the small farmers to introduce improved technology in agriculture.
- (iv) **Integrated Dryland Agricultural Development Programme** : Some permanent project was undertaken for improvement of agriculture e.g. land conservation and development, irrigation etc. Those are labour intensive technology which help in creating employment opportunity.
- (v) **Agro-Service Centre** : This is a self-help programme, which provides job opportunity to the vocationally trained persons. It helps the unemployed youths to earn by rendering services like repairing of agricultural machines, spare parts etc.
- (vi) **Area Development Programme** : This programme was undertaken for infrastructure development for specific areas through road construction, market complex development etc.
- (vii) **National Rural Employment Programme : (NREP)** : This programme was launched in October, 1980. The main purpose of this programme was to assist seasonal unemployed people of rural areas. This emphasizes providing 300-400 million man-days of job yearly.

- (viii) **Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Scheme (RLEGP) :** RLEGP was started in the month of April in 1983 as a complementary NREP. The main objective was to create employment opportunity through creating permanent asset in the rural areas. It aims at improving the standard of living of the people of rural areas.
- (ix) **Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) :** In the sixth five year plan. IRDP was initiated. The main objective of this programme was to increase the employment opportunity among the rural unemployed. It's strategy was to supply various factors of production to work through self-help groups.
- (x) **Jawahar Rojar Yojana (JRY) :** JRY was initiated in 1989, encompassing the NREP & RLEGP programmes. It aims at improving the standard of living of the rural poor by improving the infrastructure and creating community wealth.
- (xi) **Others :** Many other programmes have been undertaken such as—Dairy Development project, Drought Prone Area programme, Indira Abas Yojana etc.

Though so many programmes have been launched number of unemployed people is increasing day by day. Actually the rate of employment generation is not enough to absorb the rising work force unemployment and poverty are inter-related. To eradicate poverty unemployment must be controlled. Therefore, priority should be given on opulation control alongwith employment generation efforts both by the public and private sectors.

9.7 Exercises

1. Explain the concept of Unemployment.
2. What are the types of unemployment ? Illustrate.
3. Analyse the causes of unemployment?
4. Critically analyse the programmes undertaken to control the problem of unemployment.

Unit-10 □ Population Explosion

Structure :

- 10.1 Demographic Profile
- 10.2 Causes of Population Growth
- 10.3 Effects of Population Explosion
- 10.4 Population Policy
- 10.5 Family Welfare Programmes
- 10.6 Population Control
- 10.7 Exercises

10.1 Demographic Profile

India occupies only 2.4% of world's land area but it bears the burden of 16.7% of the world population. India is next to China regarding the number of population in the world as a whole. But if the present growth rate of population remains to continue, it will outweigh China expectedly by 2025.

By the start of 19th century total population of India was 236 million. As per the census of 2001 the number has increased to 1028 plus million.

If we study the nature of growth rate of population in India, three phases are noticed—

1st Phase—1891 to 1921

2nd Phase—1921 to 1951

3rd Phase—1951 to 1996

1st Phase : In the 1st phase the population increased from 236 million (1891) to 251 million (1921) during the span of 30 years. That is population rose by 15 million. In this period, the rate of growth of population was comparatively low because both the birth rate and death rate was high.

2nd Phase : In the 2nd phase population of India rose from 251 million (1921) to 361 million (1951). It means that population rose by 110 million during this period of 30 years. The growth rate of population was higher because the death rate declined whereas

birth rate was not checked. Some deadly diseases like, plague, cholera, small pox etc. were controlled satisfactorily resulting into reduction in the death rate.

3rd Phase : In the 3rd phase the population was 361 million in 1951 which was increased to 683 million in 1981. This shows the record growth of population by 322 million in 30 years. The five year plan was initiated in this phase. Due to expansion of medical services death rate declined drastically (from 40 per thousand to 15 per thousand). As a result, growth rate of population reached at maximum during this period. The growth rate of population reached to 2.11% per year.

During the period 1981-2001 population increased by 345 million, from 683 million to 1028 million. Just in a period of 20 years.

The growth rate of population is the result of birth rate and death rate. The difference between these two makes the growth rate so high in India. This will be clear from the following table—

Table No. 1.1
Average Birth Rate and Death Rate

Year	Birth rate (per thousand)	Death rate (per thousand)	Growth rate
1901-1910	49.2	42.6	6.6
1910-20	48.1	47.2	0.9
1921-30	46.4	36.3	10.1
1931-40	45.2	31.2	14.0
1941-50	39.9	27.4	12.5
1951-60	40.9	22.0	18.9
1961-70	41.2	19.0	22.2
1971-80	36.8	15.7	21.1
1981-90	33.7	12.6	21.1
1991-2000	—	—	—

Source : Census of India

10.2 Causes of Growth of Population

We have learned from the above discussion that population growth rate depends on the birth rate and death rate. It is worth noticing that the main reason for high population growth rate in India, is due to rapid reduction the death rate, since the birth rate could not

be reduced to that extent. During the period 1921-30 and 1961-70, the birth rate was declined by 5.2% but the death rate declined by 17.3. This naturally increased the growth rate of population by 12.1 during that period.

Theory of Demographic Transition : The theory of demographic transition on the basis of historical experience can be discussed in brief to understand the scenario. If we study the change in the growth of population of an industrially developed country, three stages of growth are experienced.

1st Stage : When the economy is dependent on agricultural activities, both the birth rate and death rate are high. As a result the natural growth rate of population is low.

2nd Stage : When the country experience the introduction of industrialization, average income and per-capita income rises. In the that case death rate reduces fast, but the birth rate remains almost unchanged. As a result growth rate also rises.

3rd Stage : When the country becomes an economically developed, the financial status and standard of living of the pople improve. They become more conscious about their standard of living to maintain at a particular level. As a result, birth rate declines. On the other hand death rate declines due to significant improvement in the health and medical services. So, in this stage of development both the birth rate and death rate become low resulting into low growth rate of population.

Indian Experience : India was lying in the 1st stage of development till twenties of 20th century. Both the birth rate and death rate were high. For example, in 1920, birth rate was 48% and death rate was 47.2% and hence the growth rate was as low as 0.9%. India passed into the 2nd stage of development since 1950's when the death rate declined very fast. It declined to 19.0% in 1970 but the birth rate did not decline at that pace. But the features of the 2nd stage is different from industrially developed countries. The death rate has declined without much improvement in the standard of living of the people.

The Indian Economy is still regarded as agricultural economy. Very recently since 1991 Indian economy is growing fast with adoption of New Economic Policy. The policy emphasises on economic reforms, the main features of which are liberalization, privatization and globalization.

The reason for decline in the death rate was improvement in medical services. With this improvement, various deadly diseases like, tuberculosis, cholera, malaria, small pox etc were controlled successfully. The improvement in providing health services so that it reaches to all the people has also a positive effect towards this. Various steps were taken to make the people conscious about health services. The standard and coverage of primary Health Services were improved in the rural areas. The decline in the death rate was started much before the intitiation of urbanisation and industrialisation. That indicates that, in India, it did not follow the 2nd stage of demographic transition. It is found that though the death rate, declined but the birth rate was high enough which caused a high growth rate of 2.22%.

The reasons for high birth rate are below :

- (i) **Universal Marriage of Women** : Marriage of women is a universal phenomenon. Almost all the women get married, due to some social reasons. From a study in 1981 it is learnt that there were only .55% (aged between 40-44 years) women who were not married. As the married women give birth to child, this incident is also responsible for high birth rate.
- (ii) **Universal Motherhood** : Motherhood among the married women is almost universal that is all the married women give birth to child, except a minor percentage. As per the estimate of 1981 there were only 6.1% women (aged more than 50 years) who did not give birth to any child. But, unmarried women were also included in this estimate.
- (iii) **Age at Marriage Among Women** : Generally, women get married at their earlier age. This is more so among rural poor women. During 1891-1901, number of women married before 14 years of age was 27%. But there was a little improvement since 1929 when the child marriage Restraint Act was passed. In 1921, average age of marriage was 13.7 year which raised to 15.8 years in 1961 and 19.4 year in 1994. The rate of child-bearing by a woman is maximum between 15-44 years of age. Hence the early marriage among women give rise to high birth rate of children.
- (iv) **Partially Effective Birth Control Method** : During the plan period various methods have been adopted to control the birth rate which was partially effective. In many cases, the planning was defective. Besides, Lack of education and awareness, superstitious belief, religious faith, eagerness to have more child etc also played significant role in making the population control initiative less effective. According to the estimate of 1981 a woman within the age group of 15 to 49 years has borne 4.99 child on an average. This implies that there was birth of 499 children per hundred women.

10.3 Effects of Population Explosion

(i) Low per capita Income :

The National income has increased during the plan periods. But the per capita income has not increased much due to high growth rate of population. The per capita income is obtained by dividing the National Income by the total number of population per capita income is considered as an index of the standard of living of a country. At present HDI (Human Development Index) is used instead of per capita National Income. The growth rate of National income was 4.21% during the period of 40 years from 1950-51 to 1990-91. But the per capita income has increased by 2.23% only. The growth rate of National Income was 5.5% during the period 1990-91 to 1997-98 but the per capita has increased by 3.6% only (on the basis of 1980-81 prices).

(ii) Lowering the Growth Rate of National Income :

The growth rate of National Income is retarded by high growth rate of population. If the population growth rate is high, per capita National Income will be low. This means the saving will be low which results in low rate of investment. We know, that a country's production is directly related to the rate of investment. So, low per capita income leads to low production.

(iii) Food Problem :

Economist Malthus was first to find relationship between population growth and food problem, when he published "Essays on population." The per capita cultivable land is gradually falling due to high growth rate of population. From 1921 to 1991 the per capita cultivable land has reduced from 1.11 acre to 0.47 acre. It clearly indicate that there is a decrease by 58%.

Availability of per capita grain has not increased expectedly. During the period 1956 to 1997 the local amount of food grains (cereals and pulses) production has increased from 63 million ton to 177 million ton. But population has increased from 397 million to 4.98 during the same time. As a result, per capita food grains increased from 431 gram to 512 gram.

(iv) Population and Unproductive Consumer :

The total population can be divided into two groups—productive consumer and unproductive consumer. Productive consumers are those who have positive contribution to the National production. On the other hand by unproductive consumption, we mean those who have no contribution to the National income. For example, child, old persons etc belong to this group. As the population is increasing, the unemployment problem is also rising. Number of unproductive consumer is rising. This implies that though the users of National income is increasing but producers are not increasing. In 1961, total unemployed persons were 256 million which increased to 464 million in 1981. 42% of the total population belongs to the age group of 0-14 years. This group is not productive consumer.

(v) Population and Unemployment Problems :

When the number of people increases, the number of working people also increases. Therefore, high growth rate of population aggravate the problems of unemployment. Total number of unemployed persons was 20.7 million in 1980, which reach to 28 million by 1997. Though various programmes are implemented through the five year plans, employment has not been generated enough to absorb all of them. Therefore, the problem of unemployment is rising further.

(vi) Population and the Problems of Education, Health and Housing :

The rise in the number of population means rise in the number of children also. So, educational expenditure has also been rising. Educational expenditure is a type of social investment. If the students of our country is well educated and trained it will form efficient

work-force for the country so that the productivity increases. As per the estimate on educational expenditure per student is Rs. 144.00 per year on this basis, the total expenditure for the students of 6-14 years old, (156 million children) is Rs. 2246 crore. If university education expenditure is added it will naturally be much higher.

As the population is increasing expenditure on health and housing is also steadily rising.

10.4 Population Policy

The growth of population in our country is very high and to control this high growth rate of population a definite policy is required. Population has increased by 161 million from 1981 to 1991 and it has gone up to 1028 million in 2001.

India is first in the world to adopt family planning programme. It initiated the programme in the year 1952. But emphasis was given in the 3rd five-year plan period. The plan proposal declares that the objective of the programme was stabilizing the growth of population over a reasonable period. Specifically it was mentioned that—

(i) Child Birth Rate (CBR) should be reduced to 25 by 1973.

(ii) The CBR must reach to 23 by the period 1978-79.

But these objectives were not fulfilled because of various reasons.

National Health Policy was declared in 1983 as per the suggestions given by 'working group on population policy.'

The aims of this policy were :

(i) The Net Re-production rate is to be reduced to 1 by 2000.

(ii) To reach this target the birth rate and death rate should be 21 and 9 respectively (Per thousand). The Infant Mortality Rate should decline to below 60. It was decided that these targets, should be reached by 2006-2011.

Population Policy (1997-2002) :

The population policy of the 9th five-year plan (1997-2002) identified three basic factors for high growth rate of population—

(i) The number of child bearing persons (fertile women) is very high, which is responsible for high birth rate. Number of women (15-44 year old) was 78.8 million in 1961, but it reached to 144.2 million in 1997.

(ii) As the IMR (infant mortality rate) is high, a person eager to have more children.

(iii) The population control methods were not upto the satisfaction of the persons concerned.

The objectives of the 9th plan were as follows—

- (a) IMR should reach 50 (per thousand).
- (b) CBR (Child Birth rate) should decline to 23,
- (c) TFR (Total Fertility rate) is to be 2.6.

The measures taken to reach the above-mentioned target by 2002 were

- (i) To take necessary measures for safe and assured motherhood.
- (ii) To increase the acceptability of contraceptives.
- (iii) To make abortion legal by introducing appropriate Act.
- (iv) To arrange effective nutritional services.
- (v) To keep under control the sexual diseases like STD and RTI (Reproductive Truck Infection)

To achieve the targets of this population policy, some other programmes were emphasised such as :

- (i) Improvement of the primary Health Centres (PHC). There should have one male doctor, one female doctor and one doctor responsible for population programmes in each PHC.
- (ii) To reduce the death rate due to motherhood, arrangement were made for safe delivery by AMM. Training facilities for dealing with IUD (Intra Uterian Disease), provision for sterilization in each pitch etc. was made.
- (iii) Integration of population policy with total literacy mission (TLM) was made.
- (iv) Took measures to promote use of contraceptives.

National Population Policy 2002 :

This policy targeted to reach 'Replacement Level of Fertility rate' by 2010. Besides, it emphasized on reaching the target of stability in population growth by 2045.

Other objectives of this policy are as follows :

- (i) Reduction in IMR (Infant Mortality Rate) to 30 per thousand.
- (ii) Reduction in MMR (Maternal Mortality Rate) to less than 100 per lakhs.
- (iii) Make provision for cent percent success in registration of birth and death incidents, marriage registration universalising immunization.
- (iv) To promote the marriage of women at right age (18 years and above)
- (v) To make provision for safe delivery through any institution (80% cases) and by trained person (100% cases).

A permanent institution, namely National Commission on population, was established to look after the implementation of population policy. A population stabilization fund was formed with Rs. 100 crore, for using the same for implementing the National population policy.

10.5 Family Welfare Programmes and Population Control

In 1952, the government of India started Family planning programme to control the rate of growth of population. But the programme was seriously undertaken in 1966-67. With some definite objectives. The objectives of the programme as has been mentioned in the 6th five-year plan were—

- (i) To reduce the average number children per family from 4.2 to 2.3.
- (ii) To bring down the rate of CBR at 21 and IMR at 60.
- (iii) To increase the number of couples using family planning methods to 60%.

These targets were determined to attain stability in population growth rate by 2050.

But there was not much success in this sector during the 6th plan period. So, in the 7th five year plan the targets were reviewed and attainable targets were formulated. This plan aimed at attaining the CPR (Couple protection Rate) at 42%.

Besides, sterilization target was fixed at 31 million by 1990. To have wider acceptance of the family planning activities, the family planning programme was renamed as Family welfare programme and the nature of programme was reviewed accordingly.

The main features of Family welfare programmes were :

- (i) To aware the people about the importance of small family.
- (ii) To ensure the supply to contraceptives through Family Welfare Centres.
- (iii) Integration and cooperation of Mother and Child Health (MCH) programme with Family Welfare Programmes.
- (iv) To provide financial assistance for accepting sterilization methods.
- (v) To improve the health services.
- (iv) To provide facilities for women education and employment
- (vii) To provide training to the family welfare workers and inspire them by providing various facilities.
- (viii) To take steps to raise the age of marriage.
- (ix) The couple should be provide with proper information regarding legal abortion.

- (x) To give emphasis on research and development on Family Welfare programme mainly on Non permanent methods of contraception

10.7 Exercises

1. Analyse the causes of high growth rate of population in India.
2. What are the effects of population growth on the country's economy ?
3. What are the reasons for high child birth rate? Illustrate.
4. Write an essay on the Indian population policy.
5. What is Family Welfare planning? Discuss its salient features.

Unit-11 □ Juvenile Delinquency

Structure :

11.1 Introduction

11.2 Concept

11.3 Nature and Incidence

11.4 Characteristics

11.5 Extent of the Problem

11.6 Factors responsible

11.7 Methods of Treating Delinquents

11.8 Custody in Juvenile Institutions

11.9 Prevention and Control of Delinquency

11.10 References

11.11 Exercises

11.1 Introduction

Contemporary Indian society is confronting a lot of serious problems of which Juvenile Delinquency is one. The nature of the problem is so acute that it has drawn the attention of all concerned including the common men. As the city becomes larger and the culture becomes complex, the problem of delinquency increases. In many cases it makes its appearance as corollary to rapid social change and inadequate planning and programme implementation to cope with the challenging new social issues. The present dimension of the problem warrants us to give proper thinking on the subject and to make all efforts to improve the situation right now.

11.2 Concept

In define a Juvenile Delinquent from strictly legal point of view, we can say he is 'a child who violates law and commits an offence for which he is punishable under law'. In other words, 'A delinquent is one whose activities cause concern and alarm to parents, teachers, and others responsible for its care and education'. In the language of Uday Shankar,

'Delinquency is a rebellion and an expression of aggression which is aimed at destroying, breaking down or changing the environment.' It is 'Juvenile misconduct that might be dealt with under the law'. (Friedlander) According to Cyril Burt, it is 'antisocial tendencies... that....becomes of ought to become the subject of official action'. William H Sheldon regarded delinquency 'as behaviour disappointing beyond reasonable expectations', It is 'commission of an act which, if committed by an adult, would be considered a crime'. Precisely to say, juvenile delinquent is one who acts in a way that is not consonant with the norms of the society. He plays the role that is injurious to the society. Officially it can be mentioned that these children, of both sexes, will be in the age range 7-18 years because after 18 years of age an individual is considered as adult, and a child below 7 years of age has no sense to judge what is right what is wrong. Of course, this age range may slightly from country to country, or even State to State.

In the present scientific age we do not call one a delinquent but we call his activities as delinquent behaviour. They are not a particular type of human being. They are normal individuals with normal hopes and aspirations. The only difference is that they are with some amount of maladjustment. The conception of delinquency has changed a lot in the recent times. Now it is proved that a delinquent is neither a biological product nor mentally disorder. They are the children with behavioural problems.

11.3 Nature and Incidence

Nature of Juvenile delinquency is various. All delinquents may not have same nature or the delinquency of different boys or girls may be reflected differently. For example, some may have the tendency of truancy. He/she may not find the classes interesting and can develop the habit of running away from the school. Some environmental factors as well as the school must bear some responsibility for such delinquent conduct. Elliot and Merrill pointed out that "one of the most frequent factors to clear forms of delinquency is truancy, which has been called kindergarten of crime." If the school fails to attract the students because of its no-system culture, poor performance, unpleasant appearance of teacher, uncomfortable sitting condition, etc. then the young mind of a child can develop the habit of truancy. Family environment, absence of good friend, strong desire of play in the mind, heavy load of studies are some other important factors which may make a child truant.

Vagrancy is another nature of delinquency. The concerned children develop the habit of wandering without any specific purpose. This nature can be marked as early as at the age of 8 years. They are generally ill cared and neglected by the family. In majority cases such children come from disorganised and broken families.

Gambling is another nature of delinquency. At early age one can start joining in gambling. Initially he can show that tendency occasionally but gradually this trait will be reflected more.

Besides the three nature of delinquency discussed in the previous paragraphs, some other nature or incidences can be market. For example, some may go for begging and ultimately becomes habitual beggar. Some delinquents may love to utter very filthy languages and behave wrongly with any member of the oppsite sex. Smoking, stealing, insulting visiting brothels, raping and getting involved in such other antisocial activities are also reflection of delinquency.

11.4 Characteristics

Characteristics of delinquents are many. Of them following are the pivotal.

- Don't care attitude
- Controlled emotion
- Selective in mixing and interacting
- Avoiding tendency to parents/family members/teachers/neighbours
- No liking for studies
- Unsystematic system of live
- No proper sleep
- Unpleasant look
- Closeness with small peer group
- Earning through illegal way and spending in smoking, gambling, drinking and sex
- Tendency to spend days and nights outside home.

11.5 Extent of the Problem

It is to be remembered that the delinquents are associated with multifarious unsocial and antisocial activities like traffic violation, stealing, assault, sex offence, truancy, etc. But all of these behavioural problems cannot deserve to be equally serious. Secondly, all delinquent behaviours are not performed equally. An analysis of the delinquent behaviour in USA reveals that number of stealing cases stands high leaving the last place to assault cases. Uday Shankar opines that 77.7% of the delinquents in Delhi (studied 140 cases) are associated with stealing cases.

However, the problem of juvenile delinquency has thrown a challenge before the Government as well as before the society. Many a people have taken it granted that the problem has gone to such an extent that it is absolutely impossible to solve. But sufficient logically this atmosphere of hopelessness can be removed. The problem is not insoluble.

Who could believe in and around 1970, that peacefulness will ever be restored in Calcutta? Did anybody expect that its physical, social and economic development is possible again? But what the reality says? It says a different story, which nobody dreamt even.

In the same way, the problem of delinquency is also soluble. If a country with about 65% literacy rate can make the family planning programme tremendous success in various parts of the country and if the same country adopt the most scientific methods of cultivation, when only about half of the cultivators are literate, would we not believe that by the joint efforts of Government, voluntary organisations and community as a whole this problem is also bound to be checked?

11.6 Factors responsible

There are actually various reasons, which give birth to this problem. Of them the following factors play the main role behind the causation of delinquency. Perhaps the most tragic fact about delinquency is that it grows out of the preventable failures and shortcomings of the home and the community.

1. Poverty

This is an important factor responsible for antisocial and unlawful behaviour. The range of poverty in our country is such, which has perhaps no parallel in the world. Mahatma Gandhi defined this poverty line in India as 'an external compulsory fast'. It is a fact that the problem of delinquency is alarming in the slum pockets, which are reasonably considered as 'poverty-ridden' areas. To quote Dr. R K Mukherjee, 'It is here that...childhood poisoned at its very source'. Glueck and Glueck opined that 65% of the delinquents come from the economically weaker families. However, in the age of present urban civilization delinquents do not come only from poor homes. Now they come from almost all the walks of life. Surprisingly, in the recent times the well-to-do families supply remarkably high number of delinquents, especially in the urban areas.

2. Unequal opportunities

For many reasons, opportunities to fulfil life's aspirations by legitimate means have not been equally distributed in the society. This creates frustration, which ultimately leads to deviant acts. Merton describes it as 'a symptom of dissolution between culturally prescribed aspirations and socially structured avenues for realising these aspirations'.

3. Disorganised family

An individual's pattern of behaviour is mostly formed within the home atmosphere. So, character formation largely depends on sound family relationship. Some psychiatrists opined that in the disorganised family setting an individual 'is in a

perpetual state of tension and may take up a life of crime in pure revolt against the injustice done to him'. For a child emotional side is more important than physical. If the emotional condition of the home does not suit to the child, he is very likely to be turned to delinquent. But we generally give more attention to solve the physical problems of bad housing neglecting the side of psychological problem of poor family relationship. Child without the sense of security cannot develop a normal personality. Naturally, the disorganised family produces children with behavioural problems. In fact, today the concept of the word 'Home' has changed its meaning and perhaps now we have reached a stage when we can replace the word home by house. It has been that nearly 50% of the delinquents come from broken homes. Where the community bonds are not sufficiently strong, there arises sense of insecurity, which ultimately brings forth many social problems including juvenile delinquency.

4. Damaging Companionship

Children are by nature fond of some companions of his own age. It is not sure that everybody will get good companion. The individuals with bad companions are naturally tended to be delinquents by the influences of their unruly companions. Glueck & Glueck found that 72% of the cases were operated jointly by two, there or more than that. In India also most of the offensive activities are performed by a gang or by a section of a gang. However, it is viewed by many that companionship alone cannot lead one to juvenile delinquency. There must have some defects in the character formation of the individuals concerned.

5. Cultural Degradation

Its another important factor responsible for the causation of delinquency. Maladjustments various levels and neurotic behaviour are moulded in the 'process of transition from one mode of life to another'. The sociologists regard this as one of the factors responsible for delinquency. To them, 'it is in the interaction of the particular individual with specific and social setting that deviant behaviour or delinquency arises'.

6. Rejection

Rejection by parents/guardians has very serious effect on children. Cruel behaviour, excessive strictness, punishment, etc, are some forms of rejection, which gives birth to hostility in children towards the parents/guardians, Subsequently, this spreads rebel against authority in general. He starts lie and becomes traunt. Thus, delinquency starts from rejection.

Lack of constructive recreation, unhealthy neighbourhood, problematic education system, and harmful employment at tender age are the other important factors behind the causation of delinquency. Besides the above mentioned social and economic factors there red individual factors also, which include mental deficiency

(average intelligence of the delinquents is far lower than the average intelligence of normal children. IQ is generally below 100), emotional problem, etc.

11.7 Methods of Treating Delinquents/Problem of Delinquency

Most voluntary organisations are providing various welfare services to the children in the international, national, state, district and even below district level. Government departments and organisations as well as police authorities also have stepped forward to prevent the growth of the problem. While these attempts are praiseworthy, at the same time it should be remembered that the problem of delinquency is not of a simple nature. It has the roots in the 'social patterns and economic conditions of the communities'. Therefore, it is not adequate to make attempt to solve the problem by the help of law (here Children's Act) or just providing some welfare services to the children. To control the problem in real sense, it is essential to make multi-pronged attack on the forefront of the problem as well as on the situation already prevailing.

Now a day, Social Defence Programme has also been undertaken. But it is an important problem in a social defence programme to prevent and control the delinquency. Only by conducting few research studies regarding the cause and extent of the problem, the problem cannot be solved. For a proper solution, a greater understanding of the problem is essential. Again, for such understanding sincere attempts to be made to prevent, treat and control the delinquent behaviour.

By administering some kinds of punishments also, society cannot be freed from the problem. The society's interest can best be served if the offenders are re-educated and provided with various vocational training. This will help the young offenders to rehabilitate themselves and to accept the normal way of life. A city life today is full of hazards. Especially, the metropolitan cities are seedbeds of many contemporary social problems of which juvenile delinquency is certainly the important one. The goal of a socialistic country must be to protect the children from being parasites of the society. To reach that goal all possible measures should be taken to check the growth rates of delinquents in the urban areas. Sincere efforts to this end will certainly be in a position to minimise the problem. Here are some points, which may help to tackle the problem.

- (a) The parents/guardians should make all endeavours to develop and create inherent qualities and talents in children corresponding to their psychosocial and physical needs.
- (b) Correctional services to be provided to the children as well as to the family members because it is fruitless to treat the delinquent keeping aside the family members who contribute much in the causation of his/her delinquency.
- (c) Society should take the responsibility to provide help and assistance to the families who are in the need of guidance.

- (d) To prevent delinquency it is necessary to ensure a good physical and emotional care as well as happy parent-child relationship. Efforts should be taken in this direction to train the parents.
- (e) The young offenders should not be considered as criminal. They need to be 'cured' and not 'caged'.
- (f) Character building activities to be promoted in the homes, communities and schools.
- (g) Education should be made compulsory. Education system needs to be modified so that children could feel that they are also responsible citizens. As well as the Education Curriculum must be interesting.
- (h) The adult persons who commit crimes against children should be heavily punished. All attempts should be made to protect the children from such people or group of people.
- (i) Environmental improvement to be emphasized.
- (j) Constructive recreational activities to be promoted in all spheres of life.

In conclusion, it may be said that the problem of juvenile delinquency calls for immediate and all comprehensive effort based on realistic appraisal of the problem and culture-bound approach. In fact, it is a challenge to planners, policy makers, social scientists, parents and other concerned parties. Unless the problem is tackled objectively at this stage the situation may get more complicated giving rise to the birth of violent activities as often can be found in many developed countries.

11.8 Custody in Juvenile Institutions

Once a juvenile delinquent is identified by police, he/she may be placed in the custody of some institutions stage by stage. The institutions are Juvenile Courts, Short Stay Homes, Remand Homes, Certified Schools, Auxiliary Homes, Foster Homes, Fit Persons Institutions, Uncared Children Institutions, Reformatory Schools and Borstal Institutions.

The Juvenile Court is a court with difference. The police will first produce a delinquent in this court within 24 hours after the child is apprehended. These courts are different because they deal only with children below 18 years of age. Secondly their procedure is somewhat different from the ordinary court. Here police personnel come in plain clothes. Besides, general public is not allowed to remain present during the hearing. The Magistrates are also specially trained in child psychology and problems of children. Number of such courts is, of course, very less.

The scheme of Short Stay Homes was launched in 1969. The same has been transferred to CSWB for implementation since April 1999. The objective of the scheme is to project

and rehabilitate the girls and women facing social, economic and emotional problems as a result of family stress, social ostracism and moral danger. In 2004-05 an amount of Rs. 10.20 crores was released for maintenance of such Homes in the country.

Remand Home is an institution where delinquents are kept till the investigations are completed. Besides keeping them safely, observation and classification is performed by the appropriate staff of this home. Sometimes the delinquents are kept for a short time in the Remand Home and then released. Number of such Homes is also very less and they are run both by the Government and the NGOs. Generally corresponding to each Juvenile Court there is at least one Remand Home.

Certified School is the third type of institution dealing with the delinquents. Such schools are meant for the treatment of children. Treatment may be short term or long term based on the situation. These are mostly run by Government aided private agencies or NGOs though there are schools, which are directly run by the Government. During their study here for some long time, which generally varies between 6 months and 3 years, the children get opportunity of attending general and technical education. Based on the decision of the School authorities they will be released from the school. However, Probation Officer will keep watch on their activities even after their release.

Auxiliary Home is another institution for taking care of the juvenile delinquents. It is almost similar to Remand Home. A delinquent who has been convicted is kept for sometimes in such home. It is attached to the Certified School. A social worker will study the aptitude and behaviour of the boy/girl and then send to the Certified School with a detailed report.

Foster Home is again a shelter for delinquents within 10 years of age. Children of such age can't be sent to any other kind of Institution unless the Juvenile Court is satisfied that the convict can't be dealt with otherwise. Such institutions are generally run by NGOs with Government support.

The Fit Persons Institutions are run by NGOs, which receive and protect the children, save them from cruelty, provide necessary facilities to bring up the children kept under their custody. In another kind of institution known as Uncared Children Institution children of near-delinquent or pre-delinquent stage are kept. These NGO-run institutions take care of such children so that they do not become delinquent.

Two other institutions namely Reformatory School and Borstal Institution also take care of the delinquents. The young offenders under 15 years of age sometimes commit serious crime. They are detained for their misdeed for a period from 3 to 7 years. They are kept in Reformatory School so that they can stay in a better environment and get chance to undergo educational and vocational training programmes. The Borstal institution, on the other hand, keeps the juvenile-adult delinquents (16-21 years). Here special treatment is given for correctional purpose. This can be of two types—open and close. The authorities decide date of release of the convicted delinquents from these institutions.

11.9 Prevention and Control of Delinquency

For better societal life problems like juvenile delinquency is to be minimised. Definite measures should be taken to prevent and control the problem by the national government, State government and NGOs. The laws that are there in the country is enough. It is necessary to implement the same with seriousness. The implementing bodies need to keep it in mind that there is no scope of showing any light attitude on this. The Children Act 1960 (amended in 1978) and Juvenile Protection Act 2000 have been adopted by all the States but there are lapses in its implementation. The social planners and administrators need to storm their brain to make the implementation system effective. Mental care clinics, counselling centres, child guidance centre, health care units are necessary to prevent and control the problem. Besides, the existing institutions should come out of their routine functioning to meet the challenge. The family also has a significant role to play. In the preparatory meeting of the Sixth United Nations Congress it was rightly stated that, “There is no substitute for strong family ties in relation to juvenile delinquency. It was emphasised that community-based actions were more successful than Government interventions...The endangered youngsters should be dealt with by their families, voluntary agencies and not by juvenile courts...”. Prof. Smt. J Shah has also pointed out that “prevention of delinquency...at the local neighbourhood level has a great potential.” Thus it can be said that the Government, the voluntary agencies, schools, neighbours and family members—all have some role to play in the prevention and control of delinquency through attractive educational programmes, organised recreational activities, love & care, counselling, etc. All have influence in the making of personality of a child. Hence “a community programme of delinquency prevention should be based on creating a happy home situation, harmonious social adjustment, proper facilities of education, training and recreation, while developing a proper sense of values and respect of laws.”

11.10 References

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| (ii) Sociology of Deviation in India | Dr. Sushil Chandra |
| (iii) Juvenile Tendency and School | Raj Nath Khanna |
| (iv) Juvenile Vagrancy | S S Srivastava |
| (v) Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency | Dr. V Jagannathan |

11.11 Exercises

1. Define the term 'Juvenile Delinquency'. What is the difference between delinquency and delinquent? Write about the extent of this problem in India.
2. What are the reasons behind the causation of delinquency? How this problem can be controlled?
3. Analytically describe the methods of treating delinquents.

Unit-12 □ Problems of Young Population

Structure :

12.1 Introduction

12.2 Concept

12.3 Characteristics

12.4 Problems

12.5 Youth Agitation, Movement and Youth leadership

12.6 Youth Policy

12.7 The IYY

12.8 References

12.9 Exercises

12.1 Introduction

The youth has always been considered a vital force of any country at any time. It is the youth on whom the prosperity and future of a country largely depend. Each and every country has some history of revolution—either in the economic, social, cultural or political spheres. Under the guidance of some elderly leaders it is the youth who have shared the maximum responsibility of launching and carrying forward such movements. Principally because of their sacrifice these movements become successful. It is because of this hard truth that each country attaches maximum concern to its youth. Stalwards like Swami Vivekananda, Rabindranath Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi, and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose went on telling us throughout their life period that youth, and youth alone can make a country prosperous. Hence, their efforts to create awareness among the youth, to make them courageous and enthusiastic, to make them conscious about their roles and responsibilities were ceaseless.

12.2 Concept

Who the youth are? In other words, what is the criterion of youth? The answer is rather difficult. By youth we generally understand those people of tender age who have courage, vigour, energy and enthusiasm. In the Western countries, 'youth is understood to

be a person belonging to a precise age group with relatively set features'. This is the period the transition from one social world to another. To meet our set objectives sometimes we clearly mention the age to define the youth. But it is difficult to define youth on the basis of either of the above two factors.

However, for defining the youth we can use the standard form of the Government. According to that norm, all belonging to 15-35 years age group are termed as youth. Some changes in the norm have been made in recent past. According to this changed norm youths are divided into two groups. The first group is known as adjacent youth (12-19 years) and the second group is matured youth (20-35 years). But for all practical purposes we in India follow the 15-35 years norm.

The age bracket differs from country to country. For example, it is 15-29 in Sri Lanka, 15-40 in Malaysia, 18-30 in Pakistan, 15-35 in Brunei, 15-30 in Singapore, and 10-24 in Hong Kong. To United Nations people belonging to the age group 15-24 are youth.

12.3 Characteristics

The youth have some definite characteristics. By characteristics we mean the special features, which determine or indicate the differences with others. The characteristics of the youth will differentiate them with the children or elderly persons. The basic characteristics of youth are the followings :

- ❑ They are vibrant
- ❑ They are energetic and enthusiastic
- ❑ They are emotional and very sensitive
- ❑ The people belonging to younger generation are less practical
- ❑ They don't have much patience and hence desire immediate results of any action
- ❑ Generally they prefer 'preyas' than 'shreyas'
- ❑ They are more adventurous; their risk taking ability is more
- ❑ They are ambitious and dreamers
- ❑ Romanticism

12.4 Problems

Like other segments of population, youth are also having lot of problems. Some of them are—

- ❑ The number of the unemployed and underemployed around the world has never

been higher than what it is today. The World Employment Report. 1998-99, states the situation as grim and likely to get grimmer. According to this report some 750-900 million people in the world or 25-30 percent of the population are underemployed. About 60 million people in the 15-24 age group are actively seeking employment. So, unemployment or underemployment is a significant problem of youth particularly in a country like India. In India large scale unemployment problem is a matter of concern.

- ❑ The incidence of under-nutrition among adolescents is high in India with almost one third population living below the poverty line. Malnutrition causes stunting of growth but more particularly is of significance in females because the adolescent period is the period of maximum growth of height and pelvic growth which is critical for the subsequent maternal role.
- ❑ Thousands of young innocent girls disappear every year as fresh recruits to the flesh trades in many developing countries including India. For instance in India, Nepal and Bangladesh out of an estimated 9,00,000 commercial sex workers, 30 percent are children below 18 years. In Western Europe every year 500,000 women and young girls fall victim to immoral traffic and sexual exploitation. Naturally, it is also a very sensitive problem of the younger generation.
- ❑ Young people are not losing interest in sex but in marriage. Good number of teenagers spend long hours in the evening peeping at pornographic websites, as the authorities feel helpless to censor the Internet. Cyber Cafes and night clubs are becoming increasingly popular among the young people all over the world.
- ❑ Substance abuse studies around the world show that young people are the most affected category. Proportion of young people in India between age group 18-29 who have ever used drugs is about 22 per cent. This rate is extremely high in some of the states.
- ❑ Throughout the world accidents account for half of the deaths of people aged 10-24 years. Road accidents and drowning are a major factor of premature death among the young people. In India, Thailand, Uganda and Zimbabwe every day about 10,000 young people are facing death of HIV/AIDS from the year 2001 onwards.
- ❑ The long years of role moratorium caused by the pressure of studies and delaying a socially approved sex life, have left young people groping for directions. Globally over 55,000 abortions are performed daily and 95 percent of these are unsafe. Majorities of those affected are the young women. Pre-manital sex, unmarried motherhood, rape cases also encompass mostly the younger generation.
- ❑ Lack of cognitive flexibility and absence of intimate relationships with parents, relatives, friends and others are leading large number of young people to commit suicide. A recent study by Department of Psychology, Punjab University, revealed that 22 out of every 100 girls and 18 out of every 100 boys have considered

committing suicide. Dissatisfaction with the present and hopelessness about the future were also found to be another major cause for suicidal tendency. Another study published in an international journal—'Psychological Studies' points out that in Chandigarh (India) urban employed women in the age group 30-35 display a higher rate of suicidal idea. According to a National Crime Records Bureau (India) report (1996) of the total suicide victims (88,241) around 38 percent were youths in the age group of 15-29 and 33 percent were middle-aged persons. Between 1986 and 1996, the rate of suicide has risen by 62.34 percent, a sure sign of more and more young people becoming depressed and distressed.

Besides the above-mentioned major problems, youth suffer from some other problems such as—

- ❑ Inadequate arrangements for education, technical education and training
- ❑ Lack of counselling and guidance
- ❑ Identity crisis
- ❑ Conflict with parental authority
- ❑ Marriage and responsibility of parenthood at the stage when they are not in a position to take care of them. This is particularly true in rural areas.
- ❑ Utilized by politicians and vested interest groups for their own purpose
- ❑ Getting involved in unsocial and antisocial activities of various kinds
- ❑ General apathy, frustration and depression
- ❑ Poor provision of sports, games and recreational activities
- ❑ Suffer from stress and strain

Due to complex and unkind society most of the young men and women are suffering from some kind of problems mentioned above. The societal environment is not helping them to grow properly, enjoy their life and use their full potentiality for their personal development, development of their family and country.

12.5 Youth Agitation, Movement and Youth Leadership

Before and after the independence, the youth have come forward on different issues either to make protest or put demands. They played a vital role during the freedom movement. During national calamities also they played important role. As was seen in the recent, past, the youth have launched many movements exclusively for the interest of the youth themselves. During the last few decades attitudinal changes are quite visible. The youth have in increasing number started to be organized in the form of student organisation, youth organisation, mahila mandals, etc. They are playing the role of promoters of organized,

continuous, constructive and cooperative activities. In fact, youth organisations have now become the mechanism of implementing many development programmes in collaboration with the government or non-government organisations. The literacy movement, social forestry programmes, awareness generation, blood donation, fighting against HIV/AIDS got success because of the involvement of the younger generation. Responding to the emergencies has almost become the responsibility of the youth. So it can be said that they are involved in both—showing agitation and getting involved in constructive movement.

Young people are not only victims of violent, destructive and high-risk behaviour; they are also engaged in constructive work. In India about five million young people are engaged in various types of constructive and development work as volunteers. Millions of young men and women spend prime of their lives in national service in many countries. In 21st century, the energy and dynamism of the youth could be unlocked for social change and reconstruction. Constructive outlets for creative energy have to be provided to utilize the immense potential of the youth.

Since 1985, the International Youth Year, nations have recognized that the imagination, ideals, and energies of younger generation are critical for sustainable development of societies in which they live and grow. Accordingly in 1995, the UN General Assembly has adopted the world programme of action for youth—to strengthen national capacities on youth and increase the quality and quantity of opportunities for youth so that they can fully participate in the development of the society. Subsequently in 1998 youth ministers of the Commonwealth have also adopted a Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE). The PAYE declares in 2005 that

“Young people are empowered when they acknowledge that they have to create choices in life, are aware of the implications of those choices, make an informal decision freely, take action based on that decision and accept responsibility for the consequences of that action.” The concerned Governments and the civil society of the countries concerned have to create and support enabling conditions so that full flowering of its growth becomes possible.

12.6 Youth Policy

For bringing tangible change in the status or condition of youth well-planned and realistic policies are necessary. As per Oxford Dictionary ‘Policy’ means the agreed position and/or course of action to be followed by Government or person or party. For our discussion here we would refer to ‘policy’ as a set of guidelines, which determine and underline the way thinking and behaving in a certain social, cultural, economic and political environment. The developed countries have accepted the idea of taking definite responsibility to frame youth policy as well as to initiate necessary steps to promote their overall condition. India also felt it essential to develop a youth policy of its own so that planned and meaningful

actions are taken for their welfare. While drafting the Indian youth policy it was kept in mind that by nature youth have two facets—

- (i) they are energetic, innovative, less selfish, idealistic, enthusiastic and sensitive;
- (ii) they are disobedient, rebellious, confused and destructive.

The following issues have also guided the people responsible for drafting the same in making the policy a reality oriented.

- ❑ Rising religious fundamentalism
- ❑ Rising communalism in different pockets of the country
- ❑ Abject poverty among certain section of population
- ❑ Serious problem of unemployment and underemployment
- ❑ High illiteracy rate in different parts of the country
- ❑ Problem of access to education and training
- ❑ The marginalisation of youth
- ❑ Inequality on the basis of gender, caste, etc
- ❑ Lack of sports & constructive recreational facilities
- ❑ Increase in delinquency and crime rate
- ❑ Threat of liquor and drug addiction
- ❑ Increase in the rate of violence, rape, kidnapping and torture on women
- ❑ Need of technically skilled persons in the country

While framing the policy on youth, efforts were made to respond to these problems. Aim of the policy was to give maximum possible opportunity to the youth for their overall development as well as to create an environment where the youth can substantially contribute to the social and economic development of the country. Many of us have an idea that policy framing and its implementation is the responsibility of the Government. But various others organisations such as families, village council, business chambers, trade unions, NGOs, etc. are also playing a significant role in this field.

These policies whether framed by the Government or any other small or large organisation have definite impact on the life of youth in particular and the community in general. In fact, every part of our lives is positively or negatively affected by policies. Policy affects us as an individual, member of an organisation or community. Social policy of a country has direct effect on youth development because of the fact that basically the young men and women depend on social services available in the country with a view to improving the status of their living condition and to meaningfully participate in activities that affect them.

It is in this context that almost all the countries of the world have gone for designing and implementing youth policy. In May 1995 in a meeting at Trinidad and Tobago the Commonwealth Ministers responsible for Youth Affairs recommended that ‘All member Governments of Commonwealth should have their national youth policies formulated or updated by the year 2000, demonstrating their full commitment to the young people of their country.’ This political commitment is absolutely essential a realistic policy framing and implementation of the same is to be ensured. It will also help to put youth issues on the national agenda.

However, it can be said that having a youth policy in place never ensures that everything will run smoothly for youth of the country from now on. Any policy for youth can only be useful if each country is very clear about what it desires to achieve through it. Therefore, the objectives of the policy should be determined at the very beginning of planning and implementation so that the activities planned and strategies decided for youth welfare are implemented smoothly and effectively.

What about the scope of the youth policy ? Scope refers to the limits of the concerned subject. Here scope means how much or how little we wish to include in the policy about youth and their development. It can obviously differ from country to country.; It can be as wide or as narrow as a country deems it to be. Elements of objective youth policy include the followings:

- ❑ A clear vision for the development of youth
- ❑ A statement of principles and values
- ❑ A framework for future programmes of action
- ❑ A statement showing the relationship between the national goal and youth policy
- ❑ A document that is gender sensitive
- ❑ A holistic response to the problems and prospects of the youth
- ❑ A document having relevance to all the players concerned.
- ❑ A definite instrument to promote the profile of younger generation.

A few things should be kept in mind while framing policy by any agency—big or small—for youth development.

- ❑ It must take care of achieving both qualitative and quantitative targets.
- ❑ It should be demonstrated by objective that is SMART (specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound).
- ❑ It should be prepared based on the consultation with youth and other sections of population of the community.
- ❑ It should provide opportunity of conducting critical and objective review.
- ❑ It must clearly spell out the broad parameters of work and general outline of action.
- ❑ It should contain definite policy for specific group of youth.

12.7 The IYY

Giving recognition to the importance of youth and the contributions made by the youth throughout the world, the General Assembly of the United Nations designated 1985 as the INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE YOUTH in its 34th session in December 1979. The theme for the observance was defined as 'Participation, Development and Peace'.

In the developing countries like ours the youth groups are significant. From the point of view of development policy, people of this age group are considered to be the most potential in these countries because of their willingness to learn and readiness to accept risks. These characteristics make it possible for the youth to play the important role in the process of social change and the development of the society. Hence our development, policy should be to utilise the existing youth organisations/institutions. These organisations can help in the implementation of programmes initiated both by government and non-government agencies. Even they can take up their own programme by mobilising the resources within the community. It is in this context that the government has laid high priority on local institutions for undertaking various projects throughout the country. Realising the fact that programmes alone will not do, efforts are now there to involve the community (especially the youth) in the process of development. Sustained efforts and devoted work are required to bring them on a platform of constructive activities. It is only through the revitalisation of the country's youth power that the development of the nation as a whole should be possible.

Participation of the youth in the development programme meant for themselves as well as for the community as a whole. Success of any programme will mainly depend on the level of participation of the youth in particular and the community in general. But generally we find that the level of such participation is not encouraging in many cases. Absence of such participation is due to lack of initiative, determination and commitment. Lack of people's participation (specially of youth) is the main factor resulting in the lopsided development particularly of the rural areas. It is our common belief that in the areas where illiteracy is more, level of participation in those areas is less. Many may have experienced the opposite ones. However, the experience says that even if it is an illiterate community, active participation is possible if they are properly and the development leaders keep faith in their capability and commitment.

Peace should be maintained for our prosperity and even for our existence. But in general, it is felt that peace has gone in pieces throughout the country. Prophets of peace like Mahatma Gandhi did their best to maintain peace at the cost of anything. People in general still believe that where there is peace, there is prosperity. They do not believe that destruction is inevitable like death. In a man we perhaps try to find out a creator. Different opinions, however, are obvious. Many of us may think that peace does not help a country to be prosperous. Rather it makes people lazy and inactive. On the other hand a challenging

situation creates wonders and it awakens the sleeping mankind to face the challenge and make sacrifice.

The three items of IYY are correlated to each other because for maintaining peace and materialising development we basically need the participation of the youth. As one of the constituent countries of the Commonwealth, India also observed the IYY in the year 1985.

IYY programme is embodied with some objectives, which are—

- (i) To make people conscious about the position of youth—the constraints and potentialities.
- (ii) To make youth conscious about themselves.
- (iii) To make the government departments and voluntary organisations adequately aware about their role in youth welfare.
- (iv) To initiate some meaningful programmes for youth welfare.
- (v) To think afresh about the role of youth in national development.

12.8 References

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12.9 Exercises

1. What do you mean by youth? What are the basic characteristics of youth?
2. The younger generation of today has been confronting various problems. What are those?
3. Write an essay on IYY giving thereby justification of observing it.
4. What is agitation? What kind of youth agitation took place in India? Why?

