

Major Social Problems of India

Lesson No.	Title	Activity
29	Major Social Problems of India	List out some of the major social problems in your locality and write a report on causes and consequences of these social problems.

Summary

Every society continues to change with time. The process of shredding the old and accepting the new dispensation creates problems of adjustment. Our country is also confronted with some major social problems. Even after seven decades of Independence, India is struggling with some of the major problems such as literacy situation, population explosion, corruption and poverty etc.

Literacy Situation in India

- Literacy is the ability to read, write and understand any language and illiteracy is the inability to do so. Literacy enables an individual to acquire superior skills and lead a better life. Illiteracy, on the other hand, is a curse for modern society. It leads to ignorance, superstition, deprivation and even wrong thought and action. Such person is unable to grasp better skills for development and also fail to benefit for developmental programmes of government.
- As per 2001 census report, only 65% of the population in India is literate. The literacy situation of the country is as under:

Year	Persons	Male	Female
1951	16.67	24.90	7.90
2001	65.38	75.85	54.16
2011	74.04	82.14	65.46

- Poverty, high population growth, lack of awareness and improper implementation of educational development programme are responsible for illiteracy.

Population Explosion

- ✚ Population Explosion is the rapid growth of population. The growth rate of population in a given society is basically the difference between its birth rate and death rate.
- ✚ According to experts every country passes through three stages of population transition. In the first stage both birth rate and death rate are high. In the second stage birth rate remains high while there is a decline in the death rate. In the third stage birth rate also declines significantly. After China, India is the most populous country of the world.
- ✚ India's population has jumped to 1.21 billion in 2011 from 1.02 billion in 2001, showing an increase by more than 181 million during the 2001-2011 decade. The total population is equal to the combined population of the U.S., Indonesia, Brazil, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Japan put together. 16.8% of the total world's population lives in our country, but the land area of our country is only 2.4% of the world.
- ✚ Population explosion leads to a number of socio-economic problems such as poverty, hunger, illiteracy, unemployment, lack of shelter, landlessness, etc.

Corruption

- ✚ Corruption is an act by someone who is ready to do dishonest and illegal things in return of money or for something else they want, or behave in a way what is considered morally wrong. In our country, corruption exists in every sphere of life. The practice of nepotism, favouritism, dowry and immorality are examples of social corruption.
- ✚ A number of causes are associated with the prevalence of corruption in our country. Some of them are – to make illegal things legal by paying bribe or commission, increasing demand of dowry, consumerism, etc.
- ✚ Corruption is a serious threat to the moral fabric of the society. Government of India has instituted a series of institutional mechanisms to check corruption, for example, Prevention of Corruption Act 1988, Central Vigilance Commission, Central Bureau of Investigation, etc.
- ✚ Corruption has almost become a way of life in our country. It manifests itself in almost every sphere of society be it political, administrative, educational, professional, religious or developmental.

Poverty

- Poverty is a condition of an individual in which his income is so low that he is unable to feed or provide shelter for himself and his family members. From the human point of view, poverty is denial of longevity, knowledge and decent standard of living. In a vast country like India, a large section of population still lives below the poverty line.
- Percentage of population (below poverty line) in India between 1993 – 2012 are:

Year	Rural	Urban	Total
1993 - 94	50.1	31.8	45.3
2004 - 05	41.8	25.7	37.2
2009 - 10	33.8	20.9	29.8
2011 - 12	25.7	13.7	21.9

- The causes of poverty are multi-dimensional, ranging from social, economic and political to educational, religious and natural. Poverty, in turn, gives rise to various social problems.
- Unequal distribution of land, unemployment, low wages and indebtedness are primary economic factors responsible for poverty and inequality. Implementation of improper policies leading to unbalanced economic growth has also been responsible for poverty in our country.

Evaluate Yourself

1. Explain the benefits of literacy for the country.
2. What are the causes for population explosion?
3. What do you mean by corruption? List any five causes of corruption.
4. List any five reasons responsible for poverty. Suggest some measures for the poverty alleviation.