

VISION IAS

Module No: 226

www.visionias.in

GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 623)

Name of Candidate	PRATHAMESH KUMAR		
Medium Hindi/Eng.	ENG	Registration Number	13402
Center	DELHI DL	Date	11/10/2015

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	12.5	
2	12.5	
3	12.5	
4	12.5	
5	12.5	
6	12.5	
7	12.5	
8	12.5	
9	12.5	
10	12.5	
11	12.5	
12	12.5	
13	12.5	
14	12.5	
15	12.5	
16	12.5	
17	12.5	
18	12.5	
19	12.5	
20	12.5	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

Signature of Examiner

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are TWENTY questions printed in HINDI and ENGLISH.
इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं तथा हिन्दी और अंग्रेजी दोनों में छपे हैं।
3. All questions are compulsory.
सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.
प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

75, 3rd Floor, Old Rajinder Nagar Market, Near Axis Bank, New Delhi – 110060

103, 1st Floor, B/1-2, Ansal Building, Behind UCO Bank, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi – 110009

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Alignment Competence
2. Context Competence
3. Content Competence
4. Language Competence
5. Introduction Competence
6. Structure - Presentation Competence
7. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

VISION IAS

Q. 1 Though women empowerment has become an important development goal in policy making, it does not protect women from gender violence. Comment in the context of India. [200 words]

A. Women empowerment and ensuring gender parity have become an important aspect of all welfare programmes. Although substantial progress has been observed in both the economic and social spheres, (eg. increase in the literacy rate and decline of maternal mortality rates) the high degree to which gender violence is entrenched in the society suggests that gender equality is a distant dream..

Gender violence is manifested in:-

- (a) crimes against women, incl. rape, murder, acid attacks, eve teasing.
- (b) caste violence which often targets women.

REASONS FOR GENDER VIOLENCE

- Patriarchal society which treats women as secondary citizens
- Women considered as 'property' and associated with notions of 'honour' and 'purity' due to socio-religious reasons.
- High degree of kinship, especially in rural areas which further subjugates women to social control mechanisms.

NEED TO FOCUS ON BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

- Welfare programmes ^{mostly} focus on economic amelioration. While this does provide confidence to women, it is not sufficient to improve their position in the society.
- A sustained Behavioural change campaign through information, education and communication to underscore the equality of women is essential. eg. (Beti Bachao, Beti

Padmao campaign, highlighting gender violence
in PM's independence day address)

- Improving both the implementation of laws and the mentality of the responders in the criminal justice system will ensure that women can freely report violence.

- Grass roots activism by using the services of ASHA and Anganwadi Women Workers to catalyse social change.

- Including aspects of gender violence in ~~the~~ school curriculum for sensitizing the citizens of tomorrow.

- Effective targeting of caste violence.

(231)

Q.2 "Globalization will end up making all cultures of the world homogenous".

Critically examine the statement taking examples from socio-cultural and economic life of India. [200 words]

A. Globalisation has led to a continuous exchange of not only capital, human resources and knowledge but also cultures. This intermixing has been perceived by many as the homogenisation of all the cultures of the world.

EXAMPLES OF HOMOGENISATION

- Clothing : Traditional indian clothes such as 'sari' and 'kurta-pyjama' have been rejected in favour of the ubiquitous 't-shirts' and jeans (western attire)
- Food : With the influx of global giants such

as 'McDonalds/Dominos', Indian street food has occupied a secondary place ~~and~~

- Language: To enhance employment prospects in the global economy, students focus on English at the cost of our rich and diverse linguistic culture.

- Family: Adopting western norms has created tensions in the institutions of marriage, kinship and family.
(eg. old age homes are now becoming more popular).

However, this fear of homogenisation is greatly exaggerated as shown by the following

- Indian culture has spread across the western world too eg. (Yoga/Vegetarianism, rise of Buddhism).

- The example of the huge Indian diaspora suggests that a distinct cultural identity

can be easily established in the globalised world .

- Despite globalisation, Indian societal institutions such as caste and joint family have persevered.

- Western Clothing and Food are given an 'Indian touch' which makes them even more popular - (eg. kurta-t-shirt and the Mc Aloo Patty!).

- Traditional Indian festivals continue to be as popular as ever. In fact, the President of the USA has been conveying his wishes on Diwali for the past two years!

India has been famous for its capacity to absorb foreign influences and blend them into a composite national culture. Globalisation will only enhance this process.

(242)

VISION IAS.

Q.3 Urbanization and migration have increased the vulnerability of elderly in India. Comment. Also, discuss the measures which should be taken to address their vulnerabilities [200 words].

A Rapid social changes through urbanisation and migration has a deleterious impact on the elderly.

IMPACT OF URBANIZATION

- Decline of the joint family system reduces support mechanisms in old age.
- Busy lives in urban areas and lack of persons of similar age promotes isolation and depression.
- Generation gaps and impersonal attitudes in urban areas enhance their vulnerability.
- Higher cost of living in urban areas causes economic strain.
- Traditional roles of the elderly such as looking after grandchildren are taken over by crèches which promotes isolation.

Social changes → vulnerable
How? ≡

⑦

Measures ≡

IMPACT OF MIGRATION

- Collapse of support structures due to migration of children.
- Elderly who migrate are not able to adjust quickly to new areas and face psychological and social tensions.
- To increase income, elderly migrants may be forced to work affecting their health.
- Elderly migrants are cut off from ancestral land, kinship and other communities.
- Poor housing conditions of migrants exacerbate health conditions.

MEASURES

- The National Policy for Older Persons calls for increasing inter-generational contact.
- Improving access to National Social Assistance Programme.
- Ensuring safety and security through helplines and trained professionals.
- 'Productive Ageing' by mainstreaming older persons in the community.
- Adequate healthcare provision through

insurance and investment in geriatrics.

- 'Elderly Friendly' public conveniences

Thus, adequate safeguards are critically important to address the vulnerability of the elderly.

(202)

Q.4 In what ways do gender stereotypes influence the social position of women in Indian society?

A. Stereotypes are a simplified notion or image that members of a society hold towards other persons or objects. Gender stereotypes begin to be developed very early in life and are thus deeply entrenched. They exert a powerful influence on behaviour.

EXAMPLES OF GENDER STEREOTYPES

- Women are seen as secondary members of the family. They eat after the male members, their education and health are neglected.
- Certain jobs are seen 'womanly'. Thus, taking care of children, cooking ~~and~~ and other housework is considered the 'duty' of the women in the household.
- In traditional households, ~~women~~ wives are seen as subservient to their spouses. It

is considered their 'moral obligation' to 'serve' their husbands. This enables men to exert dominance over women and weakens their social position.

- A female child is often perceived as a 'burden'. Families with girls ~~not only~~ consider themselves unlucky and often abuse the girl child. Heinous crimes like female foeticide, infanticide and dowry deaths are promoted by such stereotypes.

- Women are often equated with honour of the family and their 'sexual purity' is emphasized upon. This enables social control on the private lives of female citizens. Caste and communal violence are often the cause and products of such notions of 'besmirchment of family honour'.

[eg. Muzaffarnagar riots allegedly started because of the friendship ~~the~~ of an unmarried woman with a man of different religion]

- Even in corporate companies, misogynistic attitudes lead to exclusion of women from high posts. Other manifestations are sexual harassment of women at the workplace, ~~different~~ ^{lower} remunerations to women etc.
- A woman wearing western attire or walking at night with a male friend is often a victim of eve-teasing and other gender crimes.

Thus, we observe that gender stereotypes greatly harm the social position of women in our society.

(268)
long
=

Q.5 In post independence India, cities were expected to be a vehicle for social change, but they also became the symbols of contradictions, which had been plaguing the countryside for a long time. Comment.

A. Massive migration has led to a substantial increase in the urban population. Although, cities around the world have catalysed social change, Indian cities have remained stagnant

CONTRADICTION IN CITIES

- Caste: Despite the dilution of caste barriers in the workplace; marriage, residence and kinship have remained confined within the caste system.
- Low social position of women: It was expected that cities would accelerate the upliftment of women by providing employment opportunities. However, traditional mindsets, and misogynistic

attitudes have persisted .

- Economic Inequalities : Cities offer avenues for social mobility through economic upliftment . However, the new opportunities have mostly been cornered by people of the upper caste and the SCs/STs continue to be excluded

- High influence of religion : In western societies, ^{rise of} cities has coincided with the decline of the importance of religion in the society . In India, however, the grip of religion on the populace continues to be strong . In fact, it has mutated into virulent communal feelings .

- Importance attached to land : Despite living in the city, most residents retain ancestral land / farms in villages . The ownership of land is still seen as a

symbol of prestige in the city.

- Marriage and Divorce : Despite introduction to western ideas, ~~family~~ institutions of family, marriage and divorce remain relevant.

~~However, we must note that social change, however slow, is manifesting in the~~

Thus, we see that despite an explosive growth in the urban population, social change is yet to become a reality in cities.

(206)

Q:6

What are the factors responsible for high infant mortality rate in India? Discuss its implications for Indian women. Suggest steps that have been taken by the government to address the problem.

A

The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in India (44 per 1000 live births) is one of the highest in the world.

REASONS FOR HIGH IMR

Early Marriage • Low age of the mother decreases chances of survival.

• Improper Family Planning :- Not ensuring enough gap between children further increases IMR

• High Fertility Ratio :- A preference for sons implies that the no. of children born per women is abnormally high in certain areas.

• Economic Backwardness :- Lack of means to

care for young infants, ^{especially nutrition} and poor living conditions due to extreme poverty lead to infant deaths.

- Lack of adequate healthcare:- Poor post natal services, lack of qualified medical health professionals and medical infrastructure and low vaccination rate put upward pressure on IMR.
- Belief in traditional practices :- Certain traditional / social customs and practices actively harm the health of young infants.

IMPLICATIONS FOR INDIAN WOMEN

- High IMR implies that families prefer a larger number of children ~~to ensure~~. This adversely harms the reproductive and general health of women.
- Neglect of the girl child :- High IMR ~~causes~~ and traditional mindsets cause families to focus more on the male progeny.

STEPS TAKEN BY GOVT

Nutrition

- Launch of Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), construction of Anganwadis in all villages and capacity building of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) to provide Early Childhood Care (ECE)

Health

- Vaccination camps and focused schemes such as Mission Indradhanu to increase coverage
- Targeted initiatives through the National Health Mission (such as RMNCH+A)

IEC

- Information and Education campaigns regarding family planning.

(232)

Q.7 While disability often exacerbates poverty, it is also true that the poor are more prone to disability. In this context, examine the relationship between disability and poverty.

A. Poverty increases the vulnerability of an individual to disability. On the other hand, disability constricts the economic and social choices available to him and drags him into poverty.

DISABILITY \Rightarrow POVERTY

- Higher health costs :- Increased expenditure on medicines, specialized care and equipment can be a huge economic burden.
- Social Exclusion :- The 'disabled' are often shunned by their families and cut off from support mechanisms.
- Reduced Employment Opportunities :- A 'disabled' individual faces discrimination in .

acquiring work

- Inadequate welfare systems :- The govt's policies are not effectively targeted and often are of no help to the individual.

POVERTY increases vulnerability to DISABILITY

- Low Expenditure on Health :- Due to lack of access to good healthcare, treatable diseases may be ignored and get converted into physical disability
- Access to only low quality necessities
Poor people often live dangerously. They are more susceptible to grievous injuries which may cause disabilities
[e.g. blindness due to drinking hooch; electrocution due to poor housing]
- Victims of violence :- The poor are often targeted by violent groups and are even victims of abuse by the police. Examples of disability following violence are common.

- Dangerous employment:- Poor citizens work in unsafe working conditions such as chemical factories. This increases their chances of accidents.

Thus, we observe that poverty and disability form a vicious circle which can trap an individual. State intervention for the disabled is, therefore, absolutely essential.

(212)

Q.8 Welfare schemes have been at the heart of the State's poverty eradication agenda in India since 1970s. However, the 21st century has seen a qualitative shift in the way these welfare programmes have been envisioned and implemented. Illustrate.

A. Since the 6th Plan onwards, the govt's efforts to eradicate poverty have involved 'direct action' programmes. However, their conceptualisation and implementation has changed considerably.

CHANGES IN CONCEPTUALISATION

- Emphasis on Grassroots planning: - Welfare schemes (WS) are now drawn up on the advice of gram sabhas and urban local bodies.
- Discarding the 'One Size Fits All' Approach: - Along with top down planning, considerable

Flexibility has been granted to regional planners regarding WS, eg. the list of works for MNRGA is decided by the Gram Sabha.

- Involvement of stakeholders :- WS, policies for social empowerment and other plan schemes are conceptualized after rigorous discussions with civil society organisations (CSOs).
- Focus on Quality :- Many schemes such as the National Rural Livelihood Mission incorporate skill training and entrepreneurship development.

CHANGES IN IMPLEMENTATION

- Extensive use of ICT :- Use of electronic cash transfers, management and information systems in MGNREGA and NRHM has helped in reducing leakage.

- Involvement of CSOs :- CSOs are encouraged to participate in the implementation of WSs. This ensures accountability and efficiency.
- Accountability and Grievance Redressal :- Innovative mechanisms such as 'social audit' by the gram sabha and use of Right to Information has increased the legitimacy of schemes.
- Implementation by elected governments :- Rather than employing state bureaucracy for WS implementation, Local Self Governments are now encouraged to implement schemes.

Thus, we observe that WS have not remained static. Rather, using the experience of past decades, they have been modified.

(220)

VISION IAS

Q.9 What is regionalism? Despite persistent regional inequalities, it is increasingly becoming less important in the Indian Scenario. Analyse.

A. Regionalism refers to the collective feelings of residents of a particular region regarding a clash of interests between their economic and social aspirations and those of the entire nation. Regionalism is often associated with inequitable economic opportunities, ^{and} distinct religious, linguistic or ethnic identities.

DECLINE OF REGIONALISM IN INDIA

- Till the 1980s, India witnessed diverse centrifugal tendencies which aggravated regionalism and secessionism (eg. Mizoram, Nagaland, Maharashtra).
- However, regionalism is on the decline as evidenced by lesser demand for

separate states (as compared to the 1980s)

REASONS FOR DECLINE

- Increase in migration and urbanisation has somewhat mitigated regional inequalities
- Representation of regional political parties in national governments has satiated some demands.
- Increase in economic mobility after liberalisation and privatisation.
- Increasing focus on 'cooperative federalism' and 'administrative devolution' which counters regionalism.
- Effective state response to violent regional movements.

THREATS REMAIN

- Lack of equitable and inclusive growth will fan regionalism
- Displacement of tribal population due to acquisition may cause resentment

~~and~~

- Regionalism in a 'new avatar' through 'some of the soil politics' and discrimination against migrants (eg. attacks against people from North Eastern states).
- Long continuing terrorist activities in the North East and brutal state response encourages separatism.
- Illegal migration leading to demographic change is a persistent reason for regional movements (eg 'Bodoland' movement),
- Ineffective implementation of Vth and VIth schedule provisions.

Thus, while regional tendencies have undeniably declined, there is an urgent need to address ~~the~~ new challenges.

(219)

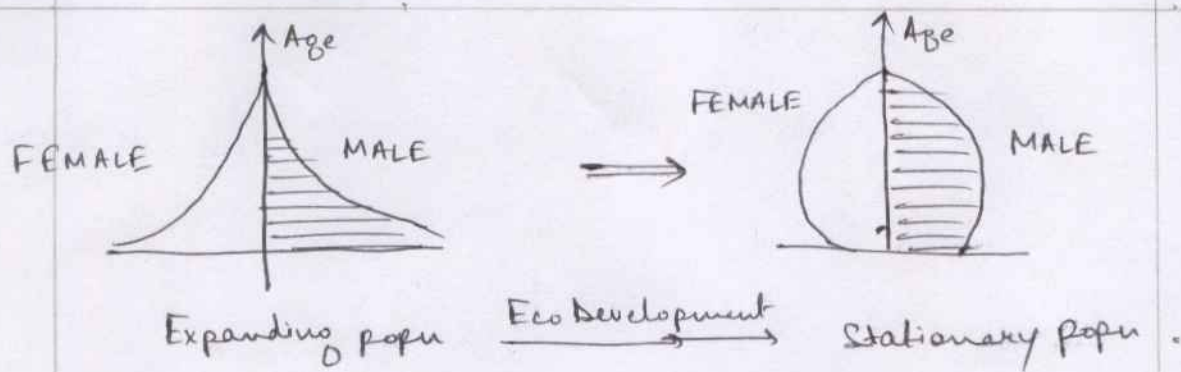
VISION IAS

Q.10 How does economic development influence the demography of a society? Discuss in the context of India.

A Economic development increases the resources and opportunities available to both the individuals and the society as a whole.

EFFECT ON DEMOGRAPHY

- Change in population growth rate :- With increasing development (^{both} birth rates and death rates) decline. However, the rate of their decline may be different according to the stage of economic development, leading either to an increasing population (eg. Nigeria) or a decreasing one (eg. Japan). [Eg in India, TFR declined to 2.3 in 2011]
- Change in the Age-Sex pyramid :-



- Increase in sex ratio :- More economically developed societies do not tend to differentiate between boys and girls on the basis of their economic usefulness.

- Increase in the proportion of the elderly in the population :-

- Urbanisation :- Economic development has invariably led to growth of cities all over the world. In India, nearly 30% of the population lives in cities and contributes 60% of the GDP.

- Higher rates of migration :- Changing

residence often helps in increasing economic mobility in a developing economy.

~~There~~ eg. high rural-urban migration in India; migration of workers to the Gulf

- Increase in life expectancy :- With growth in literacy (75% in 2011) and access to primary health, people are living longer.
- ~~Factor~~ Change in the structure of the workforce : With the rise in working age population (15-70 yrs), India is set to reap the rewards of a 'demographic dividend'. (207)

VISION IAS

Q.11 Internal migration not only affects the migrant but also the source and destination regions. Discuss. Suggest some measures to tackle the issues related to internal migration.

A Internal migration is usually a result of the combinations of pull factors at destinations and push factors at sources.

EFFECT ON MIGRANT

- Disruption in Economic and social spheres of life.
- Social alienation and maladjustment at the new locations.
- Increased vulnerability to poverty, unemployment and disease.
- Greater psychological stress on child and elderly migrants.
- Lack of access to shelter, food, clothing and welfare programmes of the state.

EFFECT ON SOURCE

- Change in composition of population and the workforce (affecting productivity)
eg. feminization of the work force.
- Collapse of support systems due to migration of 'able-bodied' and working men.
- Separated families ~~lead to~~ have an impact on optimum mental education of children.

EFFECT ON DESTINATION

- Increased pressure on economic and community services such as water, shelter, roads.
- ~~Increased~~ • Increased unemployed population may lead to a spurt in antisocial activities and crime.
- Growth of slums which are especially vulnerable to disease outbreaks.
- Increased social tension between the migrants and residents eg. (Mumbai) Bangalore attacks)
- Presence of highly skilled labour at low rates improving the productivity of

the destination .

MEASURES TO TACKLE MIGRATION

- Allowing flexibility and easy transfer amongst beneficiaries in welfare programmes .
- Providing employment opportunities at the source (eg. through an expanded/refurbished MGNREGA)
- Counselling of migrants and families .
- Active ~~emp~~ involvement of employment exchanges to provide job security to migrants
- Proper regulation and inspection to ensure good living conditions .
- Increasing access to credit and promoting entrepreneurship at source .

(218)

Q.12 Social determinants of malnutrition in India necessitate a multi-pronged approach to tackle the problem. Comment.

A. Malnutrition, in India, is not a simple problem of lack of access to food. It is a complex problem having roots in historical social divisions.

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF MALNUTRITION

- Caste: It is often the vulnerable sections such as SCs/STs who face shortage of food. Discrimination in both the quality and quantity provided enhances malnutrition.
- Class: Economic inequalities lead to food scarcity. This is exacerbated by peasant indebtedness and elitism by service providers.

- Gender: Due to the patriarchal attitudes of the citizenry, women are much more malnourished than men. Even amongst siblings, the priorities of the male are addressed first.
- Access to Land :- Overpopulation, indebtedness, small landholdings and poorly implemented land reforms have reduced the average farm size to below subsistence levels.
- Traditional Practices :- A reluctance to use toilets along with unequal access to them perpetuates open defecation. Lack of sanitation leads to health problems which affects nutrition.

NEED FOR A SYNERGETIC APPROACH

- It is, therefore, clear that a simple focus on increasing food grain

provision will not solve the problems.

We should focus on: -

→ An integrated solution which ^{pro} encompasses sanitation, safe drinking water and food availability

→ Increasing yield and productivity of small and marginal farmers.

→ Sensitization of field officials regarding social divisions.

→ Improving access to credit, skill development and opportunities for wage employment.

→ Special emphasis on SC/ST/Women.

→ Reducing leakage in PDS.

(209)

Q.13 While democratic institutions in India have led to changes in the caste structure, these changes have at best led to only partial redistributive outcomes for the backward castes. Discuss.

A. Democratic institutions have significantly altered the caste structure in the following ways:-

- (i) Reservation of seats at all tiers has increased representation of SCs/STs in elected institutions.
- (ii) Caste mobilisation for electoral gains has instilled confidence in former 'low castes'.
- (iii) Affirmative action programmes designed and implemented in a democratic fashion have mitigated the harms of the caste system.

However, one can argue

that these changes have not substantially altered the social landscape:

EVIDENCES FOR 'PARTIAL SUCCESS'

• Low representation in government jobs :-

Despite affirmative action policies, the percentage of SCs/STs in government jobs is much lower than their percentage in the population. This difference is accentuated at the upper echelons.

• Poverty Statistics :- The percentage of SCs/STs/OBCs below the ~~poverty line~~ ^(%) Tendulkar poverty line are higher than those in general category. Thus, while the average poverty ratio is 22%, the figures for SCs and STs are 30% and 43%.

• Inequitable Access to education as represented by the preponderance of STs is Out of School Children

• Social Exclusion :- While economic mobility has increased somewhat, fissures along caste lines remain an indelible part of our society. (eg. endogamy).

Thus, the changes in caste structures have only had partial redistributive outcomes and a fresh approach is the need of the hour.

(192)

Q.14 Rapid urban growth in the context of scarce socio-economic and legal support to the poor is an inevitable recipe for mass production of slums. Discuss in the context of India.

A. India's urban population has been increasing exponentially. It already accounts for 30% of the entire population and is expected to rise to 40% by 2040. Most of the internal migrants belong to lower socio-economic groups who move to cities for economic resources.

CONDITION OF SUPPORT SYSTEMS

- Lack of adequate affordable housing and shelter for migrants causes an increase in temporary housing. This worsens the service delivery in urban areas and

The temporary houses turn into slums.

- Lack of employment opportunities for migrants at both the source and destination aggravates living conditions.

- No portability of welfare schemes :-

Migrants are often not targeted by govt welfare schemes and thus get overburdened by economic challenges

- Legal support mechanisms like social security numbers are deficient in India. Similar portability for provident fund for labourers also does not exist. This increases challenges for the migrants.

- Absence of safeguards from exploitation by employers and govt machinery (police) due to regulatory lacunae further promotes slums.

Thus, the need of the hour is

→ Massive expansion in delivery of basic services .

→ Fighting migrant poverty by skill development

→ Addressing the gaps in the legal and regulatory regime .

(178)

VISION IAS

Q15 Discuss the achievements and failures of affirmative action in India. How can the existing policy on affirmative action be made more effective in the current scenario.

A. Affirmative Action policies in India have included

- (i) Reservation in elections.
- (ii) Reservation in public employment
- (iii) Specially designed welfare schemes for targeted amelioration.
- (iv) Legal protection such as Protection of Civil Rights Act, Prohibition of Untouchability etc.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- ~~Robust~~ Robust representation of the marginalised in democratic institutions.
- Increasing involvement of SCs/STs and OBCs in the bureaucracy.
- Rapidly decreasing poverty rates among the SC/ST population.

- Integration of the tribal population with the rest of the citizenry
- Massive decrease in incidence of untouchability practices
- Emergence of community leaders to champion the cause of SCs/STs.
- Knowledge about the poor state of the vulnerable groups among the populace.

FAILURES

- Despite amelioration, the society remains divided on caste lines and incidences of caste related violence still occur.
- Politicization of 'caste issues' for electoral gains has reduced the focus on redistributive justice
- The benefits of affirmative action are being cornered by the well-off 'creamy layer' within the groups.
- Increasingly polarised opinion regarding reservation within the country.
- Poverty statistics for SCs/STs still below the national average.

HOW TO MAKE POLICY MORE EFFECTIVE

- Recommendations regarding reservation to be made by a bipartisan, autonomous Council.
- Statutory ^{and court} bodies like NCBC, NESC and NEST to be given more power to deal with caste related crimes.
- Focus on skill development, access to credit, and capacity development.
- Extending the provisions of exclusion of 'creamy layer to SCs and STs'.
- Increasing literacy levels among SCs/STs.
- Involving voluntary organisations and local bodies in implementation of welfare schemes.

(228)

Q.16 Discuss the problems faced by the workers in the informal sector in India. What steps have been taken by the government to improve the condition of workers in the informal sector?

A. The majority of the workers in India's labour force belong in the unorganized or informal sector (~90%). This highly lopsided labour composition negatively affects the twin goals of enhancing labour productivity and social protection of labourers.

PROBLEMS

• Lack of social safeguards :- Most of the 'pro-labour' legislations of the government do not cover unorganized sector employees. Hence, they are denied benefits such as,

minimum wage, maternity leave, paid leave, security of tenure etc.

- Low wages :- Due to the temporary nature of their work and lack of skills, they are paid abysmally low wages.
- Lack of job security and absence of unions :- Easy retrenchment is a norm in the informal sector. The unions also choose to focus on the skilled or organized sector employees.
- Increasing contractualization and temporary workers :- To reduce costs, many employers have been turning towards contract workers who are even less paid and don't have access to basic necessities.
- Unsafe workplaces :- Informal workers, especially in the manufacturing sector work in dangerous environments without physical or legal safeguards.

STEPS TAKEN

- Providing the benefits of the organized sector by enacting legislations such as
 - Equal Remuneration Act
 - Maternity Benefit Act
 - Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act.
- Proper regulation to ensure that labour health and industrial safety are being paid attention.
- Integrating education, health and skill development policies for the informal sector to ensure holistic development.
- Several schemes such as
 - Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana.
 - Smart Card for unorganized sector.
 - 'Skill India'

However, steps which check the 'informalisation of the workforce' need to be taken.

(234)

Q.17 "Linguistic, regional and tribal identity rather than religion has provided the most important basis for the formation of ethno-national identities in India." Explain.

A. India is an unusually diverse nation with distinct geographical regions, linguistic communities and, tribal groups and multitude of religions. Despite the presence of many religions, the formation of ~~intra~~ sub-national identities has not been influenced by it.

• Long process of Assimilation :- Over the course of our history, practitioners of different religions have settled in the same area and forged a common culture including a common language.

[Telangana has a substantial Muslim population but the demand for a

separate state central or regional identities)

◦ Inequalities within the same religion :-

Followers of a religion are not a composite group. In fact, followers of different religions in the same socio-economic strata and geographical location may have much more affinity than followers of the same religion in disparate circumstances.

◦ Strong influence of local traditions :-

Local customs and traditions have influenced the way of life of the people for a long time.

[e.g. the demand for Uttarakhand or Jharkhand can be seen in this context]

◦ Tribes as an identity :- Tribal identities

within the nation are much stronger than religious identities e.g. in the North East, despite several tribes

following similar religious traditions,
a distinct tribal identity exists.

However, with continuing communal
polarisation and intolerance over the
last century, religious identities are
slowly entering the Indian society. This
is especially evident in the aftermath
of communal clashes.

(193)

VISION IAS

Q. 18 Explain the phenomenon of demographic dividend in the context of India. Do you think that our country has the capacity to take advantage of it?

A As India grows economically, birth rates fall gradually while death rates fall faster. This will ensure that over the next 3/4 decades, the proportion of working people (15-59 years) in the total population will be high. This phenomena is demographic dividend. It is evidenced by the falling dependency ratio of India (proportion of non-working popu to the working popu).

Moreover, as the advanced countries of Europe, ~~Asia~~ Japan and USA have an ageing population and China's.

one child policy has negated its ~~old~~ demographic dividend estimate, India's working age population will be a competitive advantage.

The benefits will be:-

- (i) Increased Labour supply
- (ii) Increase in savings and mobilisation of capital
- (iii) Human Capital.
- (iv) Increase in aggregate demand.

However, a larger workforce translates into a more prosperous ~~and productive~~ workforce if there are productive jobs.

LIMITATIONS

- Most of the workforce is unskilled. Thus, we need to pursue skill development.
- Increase Access to ^{quality} education and health is necessary for reaping the advantages of demographic dividend. Thus, current state of low quality.

services are a concern .

• Rising inequality will also be a barrier to economic growth. Inclusive development must then, be ensured .

I believe that India has the capacity to use the dividend to our advantage given :-

- (i) Better livelihood opportunities
- (ii) Quality improvement by education, health and skill development .

(194)

VISION IAS

Q.19 In recent times, there has been a clamour for implementing Article 44 of the Constitution. To what extent is such a demand justified, given the socio-cultural diversity of India.

A. Article 44 directs the State to ensure that a uniform civil code, applicable to all citizens is introduced in India. Despite this provision, a uniform civil code does not exist as of yet.

ARGUMENTS FOR

- Judicial Direction :- Even the Supreme Court has repeatedly reminded the State of its responsibility.
- Negate Exploitative Rules :- The civic codes of certain religions have exploitative and discriminatory provisions. This is evident in the lack of equal status to women in Muslim Personal Law. A uniform civil

code will ensure protection to the aggrieved.

- Civil Code is distinct from religious practices. India is a secular country and the government cannot interfere in religious organisation. However, civil codes are not an "essential element" of religion and need to be regulated.

- Remove disparities :- A non-uniform civil code ~~can~~ increase differences between persons of different religions. It can also accentuate economic and social inequality.

- Aid in National Cohesion :- A uniform civil code (UCC) will bring people together.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- Interference by the govt can enhance the mistrust and fear psychosis by govt which may be harmful for the country.

• Existence of Special Marriages Act :-
Instead of introducing a new ^{compulsory} civil code, the government can introduce a voluntary CC which doesn't distinguish on religion.

• Tribal Identities :- Social relationships, especially among tribals are quite different from that of the rest of the population and need to be safeguarded.

• A uniform civil code which safeguards the rights of women and children while avoiding distinguishing on the basis of religion is necessary.

(215)

Q. 20 "The model of economic development adopted in India which is based on mega projects, has considerable social costs, because its burden is borne mainly by the marginalised sections". Analyse.

A. For a long time after Independence, policymakers stressed on mega projects such as large multipurpose river valley projects and integrated steel plants. They hoped that the benefits would 'trickle down' to the poorer sections.

SOCIAL COSTS

- Displacement of Residents :- Due to the mega projects (MPs), local population gets displaced and loses economic and social links. Loss of livelihoods affects the poor and marginalised in a ~~much~~ more.

severe manner

- Land Alienation:- Acquisition of land under the 1894 Act caused deprivation of the largest physical asset of most poor families. Moreover, adequate compensation was not often provided. This is more apparent in the case of tribals.
- Disruption of Social Cohesion:- Mega projects have a huge impact on society and the interrelationships between people. Women, children and the elderly are not able to reestablish these relationships in new environment.
- Loss of environmental assets:- Submergence of forests by reservoirs or open pit mining depletes environmental resources which adds to the social burden. eg. Tribals dependent on minor forest produce lose out.
- Lack of Benefits:- Often the benefits and advantages of the MPPs don't accrue to the indigenous population eg. a large UMPP at Mundra may not supply electricity

to a SC dominated village nearby. This adds to the resentment.

These additional social costs, borne especially by the marginalised, push them into extreme poverty and hunger and may even attract them towards Left Wing Extremism. A course correction, which involves community involvement and development in an inclusive and sustainable manner is essential.

(225)