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Q9

'Despite implementation of various programmes for eradication of poverty by the government in India, poverty is still existing'. Explain by giving reasons.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2018 · GS I · 10 marks · Women, Population and Urbanisation

Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.

Core demand of the question

- 'Despite implementation of various programmes for eradication of poverty by the government in India, poverty is still existing'. Explain by giving reasons
- Give structural reasons, not only a list of scheme names
- Keep the explanation within a 10-mark length

Revision summary

Schemes have reduced extreme want but have not removed the causes of poverty.

Leakage and weak public services stop benefits from becoming a lasting exit.

Landlessness, casual work, and regional and caste concentration keep people poor.

Urban rents and informal jobs create new poverty beside rural programmes.

Headcount depends on the poverty line; pockets remain even when the average improves.

Flow diagram

Programmes -> Net food work cash

Land caste informality region -> Want continues

Leakage weak school clinic -> Want continues

Net food work cash -> Poverty falls but remains

Conclusion

- Combine work, food, health, and skills so a household has an exit path, not only a safety net.
- Fix targeting and local capacity; a well-designed scheme fails if the panchayat and the clinic are empty.

Poverty remains because programmes treat symptoms while land, job quality, caste, and region still produce want. Eradication needs secure livelihoods and public services, not only a longer list of schemes.

Facts & figures

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

Rural employment guarantee that is a safety net, not a full substitute for regular work.

PDS / NFSA

Public foodgrain system whose impact depends on inclusion, quality, and last-mile delivery.

Tendulkar and Rangarajan

Official poverty-line exercises that show how the count of the poor changes with method.

Multidimensional poverty

NITI / UNDP-style measure of health, education, and living standards beyond a calorie line.

Informal labour

Large share of Indian workers without contracts or social security, which keeps poverty sticky.

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