

WRAP Exams · wrapexams.com

Prelims PYQ, Mains model answers, and copy evaluation. Write to the desk for this paper, a doubt, or the AI waitlist.

ask@wrapexams.com · +91 85951 84903 · wrapexams.com

Q1(e)

Can we equate 'poverty' with 'poor living' ? Elaborate your answer

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2017 · Sociology GS 1 · 10 marks · Sociology

Sociology - The Discipline: Modernity and social changes in Europe and emergence of sociology; Scope of the subject and comparison with other social sciences; Sociology and common sense.

Core demand of the question

- Can we equate 'poverty' with 'poor living'? Elaborate your answer
- Keep the elaboration within a 10-mark length

Revision summary

Poverty is scarce command over resources; poor living is the quality of everyday life.

They often coincide but are not identical.

Sen, Townsend, and NFHS indicators show health and exclusion beyond a rupee line.

Informal security and caste humiliation can make living poor without fitting a simple poor tag.

A line crossed is not a life repaired.

Introduction

Poverty is a relation of scarce command over resources, often measured as income or consumption. Poor living is a broader condition of housing, health, dignity, and time. They overlap. They are not the same word.

Body**Why the equation tempts**

- Low income usually buys crowded rooms, poor diet, and insecure work. Oscar Lewis's culture of poverty mixed material lack with styles of living.
- **Amartya Sen's capability approach already refused a pure rupee line:** what people can be and do matters.

Why they are not identical

- Peter Townsend treated poverty as relative exclusion from customary living. A cash rise may leave stigma and shut doors.
- **Poor living can exist with some income:** polluted water, caste humiliation, or women's unpaid double day.
- Some low-income households, through kin and public rations, keep a livable routine; some higher-income urban lives are time-poor and isolated.

Indian files

- Tendulkar and later official lines count consumption poverty. NFHS anaemia, sanitation, and crowding measure living that the line can miss.

- Informal labour may earn above a line yet live without security, which is poor living without a simple "poor" tag.

Flow diagram

Poverty resources -> Overlap
Poor living health dignity time -> Overlap
Poverty resources -> Not the same
Poor living health dignity time -> Not the same

Conclusion

Do not equate the two. Poverty names lack of resources. Poor living names the quality of everyday life, including health, honour, and care. Policy that only crosses a rupee line can leave poor living intact.

Facts & figures

Sen

Capabilities: poverty as deprivation of beings and doings, not only of income.

Townsend

Relative poverty as exclusion from customary social living.

NFHS

Health, nutrition, and housing files that a consumption line does not exhaust.

Oscar Lewis

Culture of poverty: a debated mix of material lack and transmitted living styles.