



Antodaya to Prathamodaya: Empowering the Underprivileged for National Progress

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Abstract

This research paper titled "Antodaya to Prathamodaya: Empowering the Underprivileged for National Progress" aims to examine the strategies and initiatives implemented in India for the welfare and empowerment of the underprivileged population. The study investigates the concept of Antodaya, which prioritizes the upliftment of the most marginalized individuals, and explores its evolution into Prathamodaya, a state where the underprivileged become the first beneficiaries of national progress.

The research paper is divided into six sections for comprehensive analysis. The introduction provides an overview of the study and presents the context for understanding poverty and socio-economic disparities in India. The subsequent sections delve into the different types of poverty prevalent in the country and explore the current state of poverty and welfare initiatives in India.

The central focus of the research is on the Antodaya Scheme, which is examined in detail in Section 4. This section provides an overview of the scheme, its underlying principles, and the intended benefits it aims to provide to the underprivileged. The key components of the Antodaya Scheme are analyzed, and its potential impact on improving the lives of the most vulnerable sections of society is evaluated.

In Section 5, the research paper shifts its focus to Haryana State as a role model for successful policies and initiatives targeting the welfare of the underprivileged. The evaluation of Haryana's approaches provides valuable insights and lessons that can be derived for nationwide implementation.

The conclusion summarizes the findings of the research and highlights the importance of empowering the underprivileged for national progress. The study emphasizes the need to prioritize the welfare of the most vulnerable individuals and presents recommendations for effective poverty alleviation and inclusive development.

Keywords: Antodaya, Prathamodaya, underprivileged, poverty, welfare initiatives, empowerment, Haryana, national progress, inclusive development

Introduction

India, as a developing country, has been striving to uplift its underprivileged population and eradicate poverty. The concepts of Antodaya and Prathamodaya play a crucial role in addressing the needs of the marginalized sections of society and ensuring their welfare.

Antodaya, derived from the Sanskrit words "anta" meaning last and "udaya" meaning rise, refers to uplifting the last person in line and considering their needs as a priority. It emphasizes empowering and providing opportunities to those who are most vulnerable and marginalized. Antodaya focuses on the principle that no one should be left behind in the process of development and decision-making.

Prathamodaya, on the other hand, signifies putting the underprivileged first. It aims to prioritize the welfare and well-being of the disadvantaged and marginalized sections of society, ensuring their basic needs are met, and providing them with equal opportunities for growth and development.

These concepts hold immense significance in the Indian context due to the prevalence of poverty, inequality, and socio-economic disparities. Despite progress in poverty reduction in recent years, India still faces significant challenges in addressing the needs of its vast population living below the poverty line.

The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated the existing socio-economic disparities, with vulnerable households bearing the brunt of the economic slowdown. The pandemic highlighted the urgency to prioritize the well-being and empowerment of the underprivileged, ensuring their access to essential services such as healthcare, education, food security, and sanitation.

Objectives and Structure of the Research Paper:

The primary objective of this research paper is to analyze and assess the various schemes implemented by the Indian government to empower the underprivileged population and facilitate their transition from Antodaya to Prathamodaya. The paper aims to examine the policy measures taken in the past decade and evaluate their impact on the welfare of the marginalized.

The research paper has been organized into six parts for convenience. The first part provides an overview and sets the context for the study. The second section explores the various types of poverty in India, providing background information on poverty and socio-economic disparities in the country. The third section examines the current state of poverty in India. In the fourth section, the Antodaya Scheme is introduced and its principles are discussed, considering the welfare of the most vulnerable individuals as a priority. This section provides an overview of the Antodaya Scheme and its key components. The fifth section focuses on Haryana State as a role model, evaluating its policies and initiatives aimed at improving the well-being of the underprivileged. Finally, the conclusion summarizes the findings and draws conclusions about the effectiveness of Haryana's approaches to poverty alleviation and welfare.

Section:1

Background information on poverty and socio-economic disparities in India:

India, with its vast population and diverse socio-economic landscape, has been grappling with the issue of poverty and socio-economic disparities for decades. Understanding the background of these challenges provides crucial context for the initiatives aimed at empowering the underprivileged and promoting inclusive growth.

Despite significant progress in poverty reduction, India still has a large population living below the poverty line. According to the World Poverty Clock, in 2022, an estimated 83 million people in India live below the United Nations' poverty line.

Poverty is multidimensional, encompassing not only low income but also limited access to education, healthcare, clean water, sanitation, and other basic services.

Rural areas in India have a higher incidence of poverty compared to urban areas, with a significant portion of the population engaged in agriculture and informal sectors.

Income Inequality:

Income inequality is a significant socio-economic disparity in India. The country has a high Gini coefficient, indicating a wide gap between the rich and the poor.

A large proportion of wealth is concentrated in the hands of a few individuals, leading to income disparities and limited opportunities for upward mobility among the underprivileged.

Education Disparities:

Access to quality education remains a challenge for many in India, particularly in rural and marginalized communities.

Disparities in educational opportunities contribute to the perpetuation of poverty and hinder social mobility. Lack of education limits employment prospects and access to higher-paying jobs.

Healthcare Disparities:

Healthcare inequalities are prevalent in India, with limited access to quality healthcare services, especially in rural areas.

Affordability, availability, and accessibility of healthcare facilities pose challenges for the underprivileged, leading to inadequate health outcomes and a higher burden of diseases.

Gender Inequality:

Gender disparities persist in India, impacting the socio-economic status of women and girls.

Women face discrimination in education, employment, and decision-making, contributing to their economic vulnerability and limited access to opportunities.

Regional Disparities:

India's socio-economic challenges vary across different states and regions. Some states, particularly in the northern and central regions, have higher poverty rates and lower development indicators compared to others.

Section:2

Current State of Poverty and Welfare in India.

India, with a population of over 1.4 billion people, faces significant challenges in addressing poverty and ensuring inclusive welfare. This section provides an overview of the current state of poverty in India, highlighting key statistics and initiatives aimed at poverty reduction and social welfare.

India is home to a staggering number of poor individuals, with approximately 229 million people living in poverty, making it the country with the largest population of poor individuals worldwide. The official poverty count stands at 62.5% when considering the subsidized ration provided to households under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).

The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), developed by the United Nations Development Programme and the University of Oxford, reveals that 1.2 billion people in 111 developing countries, including India, experience multidimensional poverty. Encouragingly, India has made significant progress in poverty reduction, with 415 million people lifted out of poverty in the span of 15 years.

Section:3

Poverty Indices and Estimations:

Different poverty estimation approaches have been employed in India over the years. The Suresh Tendulkar Committee estimated that over 430 million individuals (37.2%) were below the poverty line, while the multidimensional deprivation index (MPI) placed approximately 645 million (55.4%) Indians below the poverty line. These estimations consider various non-income dimensions of poverty, such as infant and maternal mortality rates, literacy levels, and gender inequalities.

To reduce poverty and address disparities, inclusive growth is crucial. Policymakers have emphasized the importance of enhancing availability and access to physical, economic, and social infrastructure. This includes investments in areas such as roads, electricity, financial services, education, and healthcare.

Measuring poverty accurately is a complex task in India, and it has evolved over time with various methodologies and committees involved. Traditional approaches, such as assessing calorie intake or income per day, have limitations in capturing the multidimensional nature of poverty.

For instance, the World Bank uses an income per day benchmark of \$1.90, which translates to approximately Rs 160 in India. This amount, equivalent to Rs 640 for a family of four, may not adequately reflect the diverse needs and living costs across different regions. A universal yardstick

for poverty measurement can be misleading, as it fails to account for variations in economic conditions and prices between countries.

Moreover, relying solely on calorie or income-based metrics can lead to extrapolation issues, as it is impractical to gather such data for the entire population. Each approach has its own set of limitations and may not capture the full extent of poverty experienced by individuals and communities.

To overcome these challenges, there is a need for more comprehensive and nuanced approaches to poverty measurement, considering multiple dimensions such as education, healthcare, housing, and access to basic amenities. By adopting a broader perspective, policymakers can gain a more accurate understanding of poverty and design targeted interventions to address its underlying causes.

The current state of poverty in India reflects the magnitude of the challenge and the progress made in poverty reduction efforts. The multidimensional nature of poverty, coupled with disparities in income, education, healthcare, and infrastructure, necessitates comprehensive and targeted interventions. By addressing these issues and promoting inclusive growth, India can continue its journey toward reducing poverty, improving welfare, and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

Section:4

Schemes and Initiatives for Empowerment: Assessing Impact and Effectiveness

Over the past decade, the Indian government has implemented a range of schemes aimed at uplifting the underprivileged and addressing multidimensional poverty. These initiatives have yielded significant benefits, as reflected in the Multidimensional Poverty Index. Let's examine these schemes and their impact on improving the lives of the poor in India.

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana: This scheme has provided free ration to 80 crore people in India, strengthening the accessibility and affordability of foodgrains for the poor. It has played a crucial role in ensuring food security for vulnerable populations.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana: Under this initiative, 30 million impoverished families have been provided with pucca houses, improving their living conditions and providing them with a sense of security and dignity.

Access to Basic Amenities: The government's efforts have resulted in significant progress in providing basic amenities to the poor. Tap water has reached 120 million households, ensuring access to clean drinking water, while electricity has reached 100% of households in the country, enhancing their quality of life

Financial Inclusion: The Jan Dhan Yojana has successfully linked nearly 49 crore poor individuals to the banking system, allowing direct transfer of government scheme benefits to their accounts. This streamlined approach has facilitated the efficient delivery of financial assistance, with over ₹29 lakh crore being directly transferred to people's accounts through the Direct Benefit Scheme. This has played a crucial role in supporting the poor, especially during challenging times like the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pradhan Mantri Swanidhi Yojana: This scheme has provided loans to 3.4 million street vendors, enabling them to sustain and expand their businesses, thereby improving their livelihoods and economic stability.

Agricultural Support: The government has prioritized the agricultural sector by providing financial assistance of ₹6,000 annually to 12 crore farmers. Investments in agriculture have increased by 5.6 times since 2013-14, and initiatives such as the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana have benefited 5.7 million farmers, enhancing agricultural productivity and income.

Women Empowerment: The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana has successfully provided 96 million LPG connections, improving the health and safety of women by replacing traditional cooking fuels. This initiative has significantly contributed to women's empowerment and well-being.

Sanitation and Skill Development: The Swachh Bharat Mission has led to the construction of 117.2 million toilets, promoting cleanliness and hygiene in rural areas. Additionally, the Pradhan Mantri

Kaushal Vikas Yojana has trained 1.37 crore youth, equipping them with essential skills for employment and economic growth.

Education and Healthcare: The past decade has witnessed the establishment of 390 new universities, 7 IITs, 7 IIMs, 15 AIIMS, and 225 medical colleges, expanding educational and healthcare infrastructure across the country. These institutions have created opportunities for quality education and improved healthcare services.

Ayushman Bharat: This initiative has provided health insurance coverage to 10.7 crore families, offering free treatment to 5 crore individuals. It has played a critical role in protecting families from falling into poverty due to healthcare expenses.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS): This scheme guarantees 100 days of employment to 3.76 crore families, providing them with a reliable source of income. The wages offered vary across states, with Haryana providing the highest daily wage of ₹357 and Madhya Pradesh

and Chhattisgarh. ₹ 221 wages are given daily. Which is the lowest in the country.

To ensure the welfare of impoverished individuals and their families, the government has introduced two insurance schemes. Under these schemes, a posthumous payout of ₹200,000 is provided to the insured person's family by paying a nominal annual premium of ₹420. These schemes have been availed by 16.19 crore individuals across the country. Additionally, the Pradhan Mantri Sadak Suraksha Bima Yojana offers coverage in the event of death in a road accident, with a payout of ₹2 crore. This scheme has 34.18 crore beneficiaries, and its annual premium is set at ₹20.

Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana: Under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana, workers from the unorganized sectors, such as drivers, rickshaw pullers, cobblers, tailors, and laborers, are eligible for inclusion. After reaching the age of 60 years, these individuals will receive a monthly amount of ₹3,000.

e-Shram Portal: The government launched the e-Shram Portal in 2021 to provide social security to the country's 39 crore unorganized workers. Over 29 crore workers have already joined the portal, ensuring that their families receive insurance coverage of up to ₹2 lakhs and benefits from various social schemes in the event of their demise.

Section: 5

Haryana State as a Role Model: Evaluating Policies and Initiatives for Underprivileged Welfare

This research paper examines Haryana's policies and initiatives targeting the welfare of the underprivileged, highlighting the state's success in addressing poverty and promoting inclusive development. By analyzing Haryana's experiences, valuable lessons can be derived for nationwide implementation.

Antodaya Parivar Utthan Yojana and the Role of Family Identity Cards: Haryana has implemented the Antodaya Parivar Utthan Yojana, utilizing the Parivar Pehchan Patra (Family Identity Card) system. This scheme classifies families based on their income levels and facilitates employment opportunities for three families through state-wide fairs organized by the Haryana Employment Skilled Corporation. The Family Identity Card has effectively curbed corruption by ensuring that only eligible families receive benefits, contributing to the fight against improper utilization of welfare schemes.

MGNREGA: Haryana's High Daily Wage: Haryana provides the highest daily wage of ₹357 for MGNREGA workers in the country, demonstrating the state's commitment to enhancing livelihoods and uplifting the rural workforce

Support for Farmers: Haryana prioritizes its farmers by offering minimum support prices for a majority of crops and ensuring protection for fruit and vegetable crops under the Bhavantar Bharpayee Yojana. These initiatives play a vital role in safeguarding farmers' income and promoting agricultural prosperity.

Healthcare Reforms: Haryana has expanded the coverage of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, extending free treatment up to ₹500,000 to a total of 37.93 lakh families. This exemplifies

Haryana's efforts to provide comprehensive healthcare services and alleviate the burden of medical expenses on underprivileged households.

Employment Generation: Haryana has emerged as a leader in providing employment opportunities under the MSME sector, offering jobs to 1,526,962 individuals from 2018 to 2023. This achievement underscores the state's commitment to fostering economic growth and creating sustainable livelihoods.

Water and Sanitation: Haryana has achieved remarkable success in the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission, ensuring tap water supply to every household ahead of schedule. Additionally, the state has been recognized as an Open Defecation Free (ODF) state under the Swachh Bharat Mission, highlighting its achievements in sanitation and hygiene.

Conclusion: Haryana's exemplary policies and initiatives have significantly contributed to the welfare of the underprivileged population. Lessons derived from Haryana's experiences can guide nationwide efforts to uplift marginalized communities and promote inclusive development. The Family Identity Card system, higher wages, farmer support, healthcare reforms, employment generation, and successful water and sanitation initiatives demonstrate the potential for transformative change when tailored policies are implemented effectively.

Section:6

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the research paper has explored the theme of "Antodaya to Prathamodaya: Empowering the Underprivileged for National Progress" by examining various aspects related to poverty, welfare schemes, and the role of Haryana as a model state.

The paper began with an introduction that provided an overview of the research topic and its significance. It highlighted the need to address poverty and socio-economic disparities in India and emphasized the importance of empowering the underprivileged for the progress of the nation.

The subsequent sections delved into different types of poverty in India and the current state of poverty and welfare in the country. The discussions shed light on the complexities of poverty measurement and the multidimensional nature of poverty. It also examined the schemes and initiatives implemented by the government to address the needs of the underprivileged, such as free ration distribution, healthcare provisions, financial inclusion, clean water supply, sanitation, and agricultural support.

One of the key highlights was the evaluation of Haryana's policies and initiatives targeting the welfare of the underprivileged. Haryana emerged as a role model state, showcasing successful strategies in poverty alleviation, employment generation, agricultural development, and provision of essential services. The experiences and lessons derived from Haryana's endeavors can serve as valuable insights for nationwide implementation.

Overall, the research paper underscores the significance of empowering the underprivileged as a crucial step towards national progress. It emphasizes the need for comprehensive approaches that address the multidimensional aspects of poverty and promote inclusive growth. By adopting effective policies, implementing targeted schemes, and learning from successful models like Haryana, the nation can strive towards achieving Prathamodaya, where the welfare of the most marginalized and vulnerable sections of society takes precedence.

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