



Problem of Poverty: A challenge in the path of Economic Ascendency and Sustainable Development

Divya Chandra*

* Research Scholar, Department of Economics, Patna University, Patna, Bihar

ABSTRACT

At present, India is in a state of nation rise and this rise is being achieved by adopting the concept of economic ascendency and sustainable development, but the problem of poverty has stood as an obstacle. Economic ascendency is being achieved by increasing the amount and quality of overall products and services in the different sectors of an economy. The concept of Sustainable Development gives importance to the needs of the future generation along with the needs of the present generation and this concept gives the person the courage to remain economically strong even in the long term. According to MPI 2024, India's MPI value is 0.105 and it denotes that 234 million people living in multidimensional poverty. To remove poverty, better education, better employment opportunities, use of renewable sources and positive participation of the government can achieve economic growth and sustainable development. By solving the problem of poverty, India can achieve development at an even faster pace. The problem of poverty is a global problem and that is why the first goal out of the 17 goals set to achieve sustainable development is 'no poverty'. According to the United Nations Development Programme, "The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity." Not being able to fulfill basic needs is not only a personal failure but also a national failure and until the problem of poverty is solved, the path of economic ascendency and sustainable development will remain blocked. Work done in the direction of poverty eradication will help the nation in achieving both economic ascendency and sustainable development.

Key words : Poverty Alleviation, Economic Ascendency, Sustainable Development

INTRODUCTION

At present, India is in a state of nation rise and this rise is being achieved by adopting the concept of economic ascendancy and sustainable development, but the problem of poverty has stood as an obstacle. The goal of economic upliftment and sustainable development can become an important factor in strengthening the nation and its economy, but there are many obstacles in the way of achieving these goals which are present in the economy and the problem of poverty holds a prominent place among those problems. In the year 2025, India's GDP rank is fourth(nominal), Nominal GDP is 4.187 trillion dollar, GDP per capita is 2880 dollar and GDP growth is projected to be 6.5% and hence this situation is showing India's ability to compete with developed nations but the problem of poverty is not allowing India to move ahead of developed nations. The goal of living a life with self-respect has been set for humans by including poverty eradication, education, equality, energy, economic development, life on water and land etc. in the Sustainable Development Goal. Meaningful steps taken towards poverty alleviation will help the state in achieving economic ascendancy and sustainable development.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

- To study the issue of poverty
- To find the aim of economic ascendancy
- To understand the concept of sustainable development

METHODOLOGY

Secondary sources have been used to obtain in-depth information about economic ascendancy, sustainable development and poverty. Books, articles and various types of reports have been used to complete this paper. Information about the goal of sustainable development has been obtained using the United Nations site and along with this, the sites of World Bank, Oxford Poverty, Human Development Initiative(OPHI) and Niti Aayog have also been used to get information about the current status of poverty in India.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

“The intensity of poor and the downtrodden in India is a matter of serious concerns for both policy makers and academia.” **(Chandra Shekhar Gupta Boggarapu 2018)**

According to the Discussion Paper ‘Multidimensional Poverty in India since 2005-06’, “India has registered a significant turn down in multidimensional poverty in India from 29.17% in 2013-14 to 11.28% in 2022-23 i.e. a reduction of 17.89 percentage points. Uttar Pradesh registered the largest decline in the number of poor with 5.94 crore people escaping multidimensional poverty during the last nine years followed by Bihar at 3.77 crore, Madhya Pradesh at 2.30 crore and Rajasthan at 1.87 crore.” **(NITI Aayog 2024)**

“India’s economy has experienced significant ascendancy over the past few decades, making it one of the fastest-growing major economies in the world. Recently, the economy clocked a growth rate of 8.4% in the

last quarter of 2023, which underscores India's potential as a global economic powerhouse, fuelled by a growing services sector and policy initiatives.” (Centre for development policy and practice 2024)

“Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” (International Institute for Sustainable Development)

“The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.” (United Nations Development Programme)

POVERTY : A SERIOUS ISSUE

The problem of poverty is a serious issue, which directly challenges the ascendancy and sustainable development of the economy. The problem of poverty lowers the standard of living of a person and creates a crisis in fulfilling their basic needs. The problem of poverty not only lowers the standard of education, health and living, but also increases the problem of unemployment and crime. Income inequality is seen due to poverty, due to which the economy is neither able to establish ascendancy nor is able to achieve sustainable development.

The World Bank Group describes the current situation of the poor by saying that “8.5 percent of the global population – almost 700 million people – live today on less than \$2.15 per day, the extreme poverty line for low-income countries. Three-quarters of all people in extreme poverty live in Sub-Saharan Africa or in fragile and conflict-affected countries. 44 percent of the global population – around 3.5 billion people – live today on less than \$6.85 per day, the poverty line relevant for upper-middle-income countries.”

AIM OF ECONOMIC ASCENDANCY

Economic ascendancy is being achieved by increasing the amount and quality of overall products and services in the different sectors of an economy. The basic aims of economic ascendancy are as follows-

- ❖ **Reducing Poverty** - The first goal to achieve economic ascendancy is to reduce poverty. As long as the problem of poverty exists in the economy and the standard of living of the people remains below the poverty line, it is impossible to achieve the state of economic upliftment. Poverty can be reduced only by increasing the per capita income and the state of economic ascendancy will be achieved automatically.
- ❖ **Economic Growth** - Achieving economic growth is the second goal of economic ascendancy and to achieve economic growth, the amount of inputs in various sectors of the economy will have to be increased so that the amount of output can increase.
- ❖ **Enhancing standard of living** - One of the goals of economic ascendancy is also to improve the standard of living. To improve the standard of living, per capita income will have to be increased so that development within the nation can be possible. Improvement in the standard of living will increase the purchasing power of the people and the nation will be able to experience economic ascendancy.

- ❖ **Creating more employment opportunities** - The state of economic ascendancy can also be achieved by creating new employment opportunities. For employment generation, it is very important to increase the number of industries, use new technology in agriculture and acquire skills in the service sector.
- ❖ **Controlling rate of inflation** - Economic ascendancy can also be done by controlling inflation. This will increase the value of the currency and strengthen the nation economically.

Table 1**Rank of India in the production of various item**

Production of Item	Rank of India
Food Grain (Rice and Wheat)	Second
Milk and Pulses	First
Mica	First
Fruit and Vegetable	Second
Oilseeds	fourth
Crude Steel	Second
Chemicals	Sixth

Source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, India at a glance

The above table 1 shows the Rank of India in the production of various item. India ranks second in the production of food grains. Similarly, India ranks first in milk and pulses, first in mica, second in fruit and vegetable, fourth in oilseeds, second in crude steel and sixth in chemicals.

CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable development means development at a constant pace. The concept of Sustainable Development gives importance to the needs of the future generation along with the needs of the present generation and this concept gives the person the courage to remain economically strong even in the long term. The United Nations has defined sustainable development on the basis of current needs and the needs of future generations. According to this, “Sustainable development is an approach to growth and human development that aims to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” During the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the concept of sustainable development was promoted internationally and a target was set to achieve it. A total of 17 targets have been set under sustainable development, which have to be achieved by the year 2030. The targets set for achieving sustainable development are as follows –

Goal 1 : No Poverty – Eradicating poverty is the first of the Sustainable Development Goals. Under this goal, the aim is to eliminate all forms of poverty from the whole world.

Goal 2 : Zero hunger – The aim is to eliminate hunger and promote food security and better nutrition as well as sustainable agriculture.

Goal 3 : Good health and well being – The aim is to promote health, security and healthy life among people of all age groups.

Goal 4 : Quality education – Ensuring quality education as well as providing learning opportunities to all.

Goal 5 : Gender equality – Women and girls are to be empowered by providing gender equality.

Goal 6 : Clean water and sanitation – Ensuring availability of sanitation and accurate water management for all.

Goal 7 : Affordable and clean energy – Ensuring affordable, sustainable and clean energy.

Goal 8 : Decent work and economic growth – Promoting sustainable economic growth, inclusive and productive employment and decent work for all.

Goal 9 : Industry, innovation and infrastructure – Continuously promoting infrastructure, innovation and inclusive industrialization.

Goal 10 : Reduced inequalities – Reducing inequality within and between countries.

Goal 11 : Sustainable cities and communities – Building resilient, safe and sustainable cities and human settlements.

Goal 12 : Responsible consumption and production – Sustainable consumption and production patterns have to be ensured. Urgent action has to be taken to deal with climate change and its effects. For sustainable development, the ocean, sea and sea-dwelling resources have to be conserved and used properly.

Goal 13 : Climate action – Urgent action has to be taken to deal with climate change and its effects.

Goal 14 : Life below water – For sustainable development, the ocean, sea and sea-dwelling resources have to be conserved and used properly.

Goal 15 : Life on land – To promote sustainable development, biodiversity as well as forests and animals living on land must be protected so that the ecosystem can be strengthened.

Goal 16 : Peace, justice and strong institutions – Peaceful and inclusive committees for sustainable development must be promoted and made effective at all levels.

Goal 17 : Partnerships for the goals – To revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development, various means of additional implementation must also be explored and strengthened.

POVERTY AS A CHALLENGE FOR ECONOMIC ASCENDANCY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The goal of economic upliftment and sustainable development can become an important factor in strengthening the nation and its economy, but there are many obstacles in the way of achieving these goals which are present in the economy and the problem of poverty holds a prominent place among those problems. The problem of poverty neither allows the goal of economic ascendancy to be achieved nor allows sustainable development to be achieved. By solving the problem of poverty, India can achieve development at an even faster pace. The problem of poverty is a global problem and that is why the first goal out of the 17 goals set to achieve sustainable development is 'no poverty'. Not being able to fulfill basic needs is not only a personal failure but also a national failure and until the problem of poverty is solved, the path of economic ascendancy and sustainable development will remain blocked. Work done in the direction of poverty eradication will help the nation in achieving both economic ascendancy and sustainable development.

CONCLUSION

Economic progress and sustainable development strengthen the basic structure of any economy. Economic progress helps the economy to rise from its current level to a higher level. Through sustainable development, the resolve to meet the demands of the current economy as well as the demands of the future economy can be fulfilled. Reducing poverty is an essential task towards achieving the goal of economic progress and true development in a complete manner so that the goals of economic progress and sustainable development can be seen and achieved in minimum effort and time.

REFERENCE

1. Chandra Shekhar Gupta Boggarapu, "What Explains Poverty in India", Notion Press, Inc; 1 edition (23 May 2018)
2. NITI Aayog's Discussion Paper 'Multidimensional Poverty in India since 2005-06'
URL- <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1996271>
3. Centre for development policy and practice, Unveiling India's Economic Ascendancy: Exploring Sustainable Development Goal 8's Impact on Labour Market Dynamics and Challenges
URL - <https://www.cdpp.co.in/articles/unveiling-india-s-economic-ascendancy-exploring-sustainable-development-goal-8-s-impact-on-labour-market-dynamics-and-challenges>
4. International Institute for Sustainable Development
URL-<https://www.iisd.org/mission-and-goals/sustainable-development#:~:text=%22Sustainable%20development%20is%20development%20that,to%20meet%20their%20own%20needs.%22>
5. United Nations Development Programme, What are the Sustainable Development Goals?
URL- <https://www.undp.org/sustainable-development-goals>
6. URL- <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty>
7. Fund, S. (2015). Sustainable development goals. Available at this link: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/inequality>.
8. Hák, T., Janoušková, S., & Moldan, B. (2016). Sustainable Development Goals: A need for relevant indicators. *Ecological indicators*, 60, 565-573.