

## **Social Problems in India**

**Dr. Stalin Muthuswamy,**

Dean Business and Social Sciences, Chreso University, Lusaka, Zambia.

Corresponding author- **Dr. Stalin Muthuswamy,**

**Email-stalinrocks86@gmail.com**

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### **Abstract**

India is one of the developing countries in the world with highly populated and democratic in nature. But the social problems in the country has not been completely eradicate even after several policies are being effectively practiced. A social problem is any condition or behavior that has negative consequences for large numbers of people and that is generally recognized as a condition or behavior that needs to be addressed. This definition has both an objective component and a subjective component. The main objective of the study is to analyze the major problems in India which are affected the development of the country. The researcher adopted the descriptive research design. It is a qualitative study in nature. Secondary method of data collection was adopted. The data were collected from various books, journal, articles, conference proceedings and online sources. The universe of the study is whole India. The study concluded that major social problems are Poverty, unemployment, corruption, child labor, Drug use and overpopulation and also the researcher found that the social problems are not an independent aspect, it is inter-related and inter-dependents. Government of India also initiates various programmed to eradicate the social problems.

**Keywords:** India, Poverty, Unemployment, Social problems, Corruption and Child Labouré

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### **Introduction:**

India emerged as an independent nation-state on 15th August 1947, after a long struggle against the British colonial yoke. A parliamentary form of governance is used in the sovereign, socialist, secular, and democratic republic that makes up the nation. Even though India has made great strides in all areas of national life since gaining its freedom, the country still faces numerous issues that are frequently tied to one another. A social issue generally refers to the issues of a country that basically harms its social and cultural aspects. Some of the vital social issues are poverty, child labour, corruption, unemployment, drug addiction, overpopulation, pollution, and offences against the women such as rape, acid attack, juvenile delinquency, caste-based discrimination, crimes, and many more.

### **Government initiatives for dealing with poverty:**

The government of India has started various poverty alleviation programmes such as the National old-age pension scheme (NOAPS), Annapurna Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awaas Yojana (PMGAY), Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana and many more.

### **Causes of poverty in India:**

1. Corruption
2. Overpopulations
3. Unemployment
4. Child Labor
5. Drug Addiction

### **Corruption:**

Changes in the Indian society such as the westernization, industrialization, urbanization, secularization has brought various modifications in the values and the attitudes that are to be associated with the lifestyle, marriage, education, economy etc. Undergoing such changes, India is facing several issues. A case study on social issues in India demonstrates corruption as a vital social issue that prevails throughout the nation. In common parlance, corruption means unlawful dishonesty involving briber.

### **Causes of Corruption:**

1. Money making nature of people
2. Economic need
3. Presence of black money
4. Lack or inadequate punishment for corruption.

### **Overpopulation:**

Overpopulation is a major social issue in India. It is increasing very rapidly that it stands in the second position after China.

Such a rise in population is a somber aspect of the economic development of India. The population growth has led to several problems such as scarcity of food, clothes, employment and shelter, and the demands of the resources have peaked.

### **Causes of overpopulation:**

1. **Illiteracy:** As the literacy rate in India is meagre, the people are unaware of the population explosion. People do not have

any idea about family planning which gives rise in population.

2. **Need of a male child:** As in our India, a son is given much priority compared to a girl. It is believed that son will perform all the religious rites. So for getting a male child, the people give birth to daughters, ultimately increasing the population.

**Unemployment:**

Unemployment is a global phenomenon where a person who is willing to work fails to get a job to earn to fulfill his basic needs. It is a growing social issue in India. In a nutshell, society fails to provide a means of earning for the non-disabled man.

**Causes of unemployment:**

The literacy rate in India is quite meager. Due to the inappropriate or insufficient education system does not make the people fit for working in various fields.

As agriculture is the backbone of our country, 90% of Indians depends on agriculture for their livelihood. And agriculture is a gamble in the hand of the monsoon; hence, due to this seasonal nature of agriculture, the agricultural labourers work less.

A case study on social issues in India demonstrates that the higher growth of the population is also a factor for the increasing unemployment and poverty.

**Initiatives by the government to tackle the issue of unemployment:**

The government has organised various training programmes to build up the career of the young mass. From time to time, the government come up with various schemes such as Swarna Jayati Rozgar Yojana, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana to tackle unemployment and provide rural employment.

**Child Labour:**

Childhood is believed to be the best phase of human life. They are the symbol of innocence, happiness and joy. Children are believed to be the stars of the future generation. They are the future of the nation towards the path of success and development.

Child labour is basically said to the work done by children below the age of fourteen, which deprive them of their childhood and studies. Children are now forced to work in the mill, factories, small scale industries, shops or household works. Child labour has a very negative effect on the growth and development of a child in various aspects, including the physical, mental, psychological and social.

**Causes of child Labour:**

1. **Poverty:**

The biggest cause of child labour is poverty. People below the poverty line do not have sufficient money to afford education for their children. As a result, the children are forced to help their parents in earning money.

2. **Unemployment by the elders:**

Another factor towards child labour is the unemployment by the elders, which compel a child to leave his dreams and childhood and earn money for the two squares meal for his/her family.

3. **Migration of the families:**

The migration of families from rural to urban areas is also a major factor for child labour. They migrate to get better earning opportunities in the cities; however, their children become child labour when such thing is not met.

4. **Overpopulation:**

Overpopulation causes the limitation on the resources and more mouth to feed. So, the children are bound to be child labour.

**Measures against child labour:**

Free education to the poor students and the provisions of scholarship by the government is helping the poor children to complete their education, which resulted in the reduction in the number of child labour. Various schemes are launch by the government. The POCSO act was enacted to protect the children from the harassment and abuses.

**Drug addiction:**

Drug addiction refers to the repeated use of drugs for a purpose other than medication. It has spread its branches to India, starting from the young to the old generation.

Drug addiction means the consumption of alcohol, sedatives, stimulants, narcotics, hallucinogens, and nicotine.

**Consequences of drugs addiction:**

1. **Creates health disorders:**

Drug addiction leads to the deterioration of health. It causes severe health issues such as liver problem, kidney damage, lungs diseases, heart diseases, and vomiting, respiratory problems.

2. **Enhance the crime rate:**

A person addicted to drugs has a very lower moral sense or judgement. Hence there are more chances for several crimes like murder, theft, adultery and other crimes.

3. **Harms the social life:**

Drug addicts generally get detached from the bond and responsibilities of their family,

which in turn harm their married life and family.

### **2. Material and Methods:**

The universe of the study is India. The major objective of the study is to review the social problems of India. Various articles were downloaded from the Internet for the purpose of analyzing the major social issues in India. From the articles reviewed the researcher analyze the problems in a systematic way, based on the findings from the study the researcher drew the conclusion. In this study the researcher aim to analyze the overall social problems in India and also which problem affects the development of the society most.

### **3. Past Literature Reviews:**

Review of literature refers to the presentation of summary of research studies conducted by various researchers which are related to the present study. In this chapter, ideas are presented in a logically related manner.

**(Khwairapam & Singh, 2018)** analyzed the population shared by Below Poverty line at state level in India, the comparative study of monthly per capita in rural, India and the comparative of monthly per capita at state level in urban, India to digest the poverty scenario in India. Research methodology was adopted based on secondary data that available to the public domain. From this study the researcher analyzed and found that the government of India has been launched many schemes/program to improve the quality of life for those who falls under BPL category. Still some states namely Chhattisgarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Jharkhand and Manipur are high percentage of poverty shared respectively. In case of rural areas, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh West Bengal, Tripura, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Karnataka states is very low (below Rs. 1000) of per capita per month whereas in urban areas, lowest in Orissa, Bihar, Chhattisgarh etc are in least category of per capita per month.

**(Singh, 2022)** viewed that the economic growth is crucial since the amount of economic growth impacts people's standard of living and is regarded as a good proxy for human progress. Corruption is one of the ideologies recognized to have an impact on a nation's economic prosperity. Scholarly research on the subject of the various effects of corruption on economic performance is examined in this study. As a case study, The researcher have used India as an example and a correlation study to support our claims that corruption has a detrimental impact on economic growth. Data on corruption perception (CPI), GDP, GDP growth rate, and

FDI have all been used in our analysis. It is thus an attempt to investigate the empirical link between corruption and economic development.

**(Nair, 2020)** analyzed the factors leading to unemployment and its impact on the Indian economy. The study focuses on how employment rate plays a major role in overall development of the economy. The study makes use of secondary data sources and focuses on the present scenario of unemployment in rural and urban areas. The paper analyzed how an increase in population, poverty, illiteracy, inflation and lack of full employment can lead to a slowdown in the growth of the economy. The paper discussed the problems faced by the economy due to high rate of unemployment and recommends strategies to improve the current status of employment in the country.

**(Sandu & Sukiasyan, 2018)** identified the shed light on the overpopulation issue of India and propose recommendations on how to overcome it. First, the paper summarizes the crucial demographic conditions and where India stands by numbers. Then the article presents the development of the state approach to the issue starting from the early years of independence up to the current policies. It does so by scrutinizing its cultural, economic and social factors and implications of overpopulation and identifies socio-economic backwardness, early marriages and family norms, lack of adequate health care infrastructure and education as the correlated and interdependent features supporting the trend of overpopulation. The authors come up with three recommendations to tackle the issue – women empowerment, education and industrialization.

**(Limaye & Pande, 2013)** explained that the children in Indian society has always been a topic less spoken or discussed. Today child has been defined differently by different agencies as per their view and there is a very large gap and contradiction in these definitions. This paper attempts to summarize the different meaning to the word child and also give a brief overview of the magnitude of the issue from an Indian perspective. An attempt has been made to study the government policy documents and list down the actions as proposed and implemented by Indian government in the 11<sup>th</sup> 5 year plan which has just ended in 2012. Some suggestions collected by the author, from academicians and also from the policy and plan documents about the way of eradicating the problems, are summarized in the paper. In the end the outline of the plan and strategies as identified are also given with author's suggestions. The paper identifies that a lot of policy plans have been

worked but there is an urgent need for a social movement for this issue to really get addressed and resolved.

**4. Discussion:**

Social problems like poverty, unemployment, over population, child labors are the social evils which will suppress the development of the societies in India. Most of the research articles focused only on the few problems or only one problem in their study. But in this review paper the researcher focused on the major problems of the Indian society and also the study found that social problems are interdependent not able to focus on single problem like overpopulation leads to poverty, poverty leads to illiteracy and so on. Hence the Government should initiate steps on equal manner for the purpose to eradicate all social problems and also conduct the awareness programmes in all over India

**5. Result and Conclusion:**

Social issues prevent the path of India towards development. The researcher identified that the major social problems in India are poverty, unemployment, corruption, child labour, drug usage and overpopulation. Hence the researcher found the each aspect of social problems are interrelated and inter dependent. Over population leads to shortage of consumption, it leads to poverty leads to child labor and illiteracy. Unemployment begins only because of over population and illiteracy. Government also introduced various schemes to eradicate the social problems but lack of awareness and knowledge about the schemes and programmers, people may suffer. Government alone cannot able to eradicate the social problems, both the government and the commoner should walk hand in hand to tackle the current social issues in India. Everyone is the responsible for their development as well as the national development. With these words, Government of India needs to act more attention towards the poor section of society across country in order to define the fundamental of human right and better quality of life.

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