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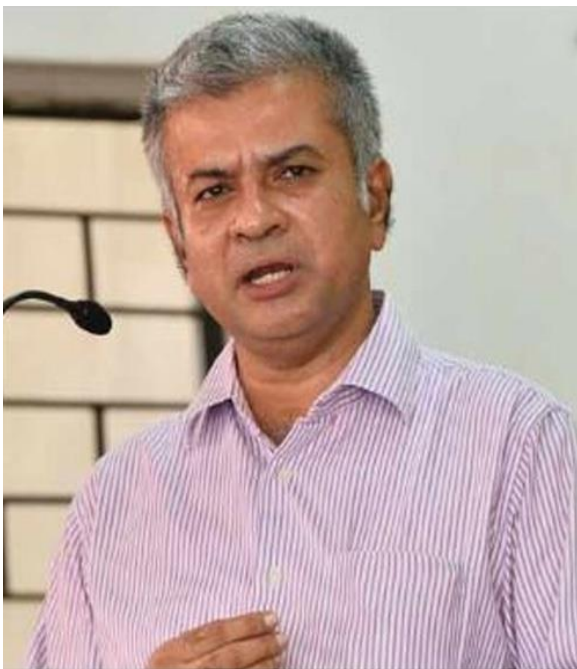
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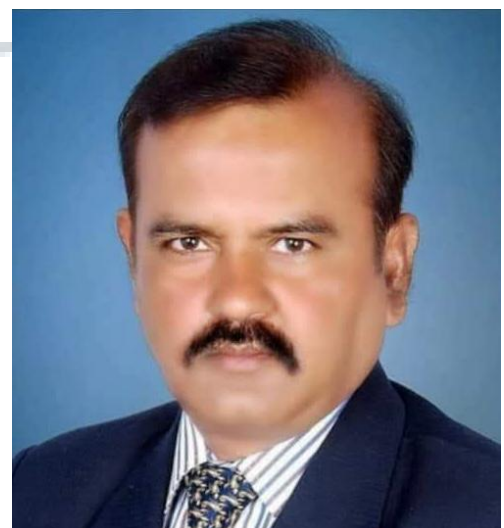
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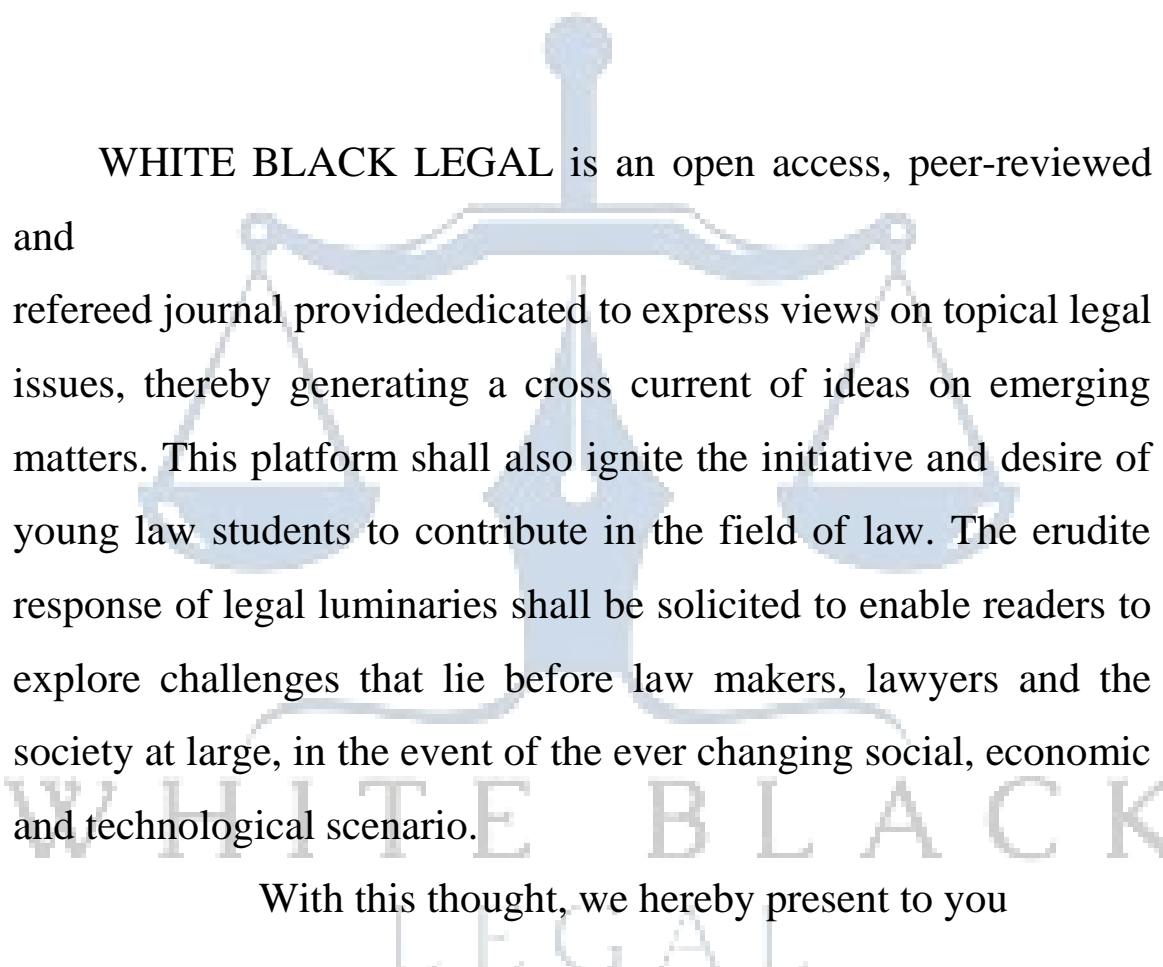


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WHITE BLACK LEGAL is an open access, peer-reviewed and refereed journal providededicated to express views on topical legal issues, thereby generating a cross current of ideas on emerging matters. This platform shall also ignite the initiative and desire of young law students to contribute in the field of law. The erudite response of legal luminaries shall be solicited to enable readers to explore challenges that lie before law makers, lawyers and the society at large, in the event of the ever changing social, economic and technological scenario.

With this thought, we hereby present to you

POVERTY AND HUMAN RIGHTS: CONFRONTING POVERTY AS A VIOLATION OF HUMAN DIGNITY

AUTHORED BY - LAVANYA SHEKHAWAT

ABSTRACT –

One of the most urgent issues facing the world today is poverty, which goes far beyond a lack of money to include a lack of access to opportunities, resources, and liberties. This essay highlights poverty's significance as a serious human rights violation while looking at it from a variety of angles. One of the main causes of poverty, economic inequality steadily erodes social cohesiveness and human dignity. This study emphasises nations' moral and legal duties to address poverty as a matter of justice, drawing on international human rights agreements including the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The study also examines how important it is for international organizations—like the UN—and other interested parties to fight poverty by promoting causes, formulating laws, and carrying out focused initiatives. A case study on efforts to reduce poverty in India offers a realistic viewpoint by analysing the achievements and difficulties in tackling systemic inequality. The necessity of poverty alleviation as a pillar of global justice is emphasised in the paper's conclusion, which calls for a concerted international effort to eliminate systemic injustices and realise the promise of human rights for everyone.

KEYWORDS- Poverty, Human Rights, Economic Inequality, Social Exclusion, International Human Rights Law, ICESCR, Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), Poverty Eradication, Global Justice

INTRODUCTION

The biggest violation of human rights is extreme poverty, an injustice so severe that it deprives people of their most fundamental humanity. People in extreme poverty are denied access to even the most basic rights, such as food, shelter, healthcare, and education, as Mary Robinson (2002) so eloquently states. Their voices are disregarded, their dignity is compromised, and

they are kept silent in the political arena. In this harsh reality, 443 million people worldwide struggle to achieve their most basic survival needs and live in chronic poverty. The number of people living in poverty has increased by 40% in the past five years, underscoring the deteriorating situation. Unfortunately, diseases like malaria, TB, and starvation that can be prevented claim the lives of 50,000 men, women, and children every day.¹ The widespread human rights abuses brought on by a lack of access to sanitary facilities, clean water, and medical care are reflected in these deaths.

However, poverty is frequently overlooked as a separate human rights concern. It is often seen as an unfortunate but unavoidable situation, particularly in less developed parts of the world. Too frequently, rather than challenging the structural factors that support inequality, the blame for poverty is shifted to the poor, who are characterised as lazy or undeserving. This narrative diverts attention away from the more general concerns of global justice and obscures the root causes of poverty. Why is poverty still a problem at a time of unparalleled wealth? A more thorough investigation of this issue is necessary, especially in light of human rights, equity, and health.

Although poverty, health, and human rights are frequently thought of in isolation, a thorough strategy that incorporates these aspects is essential for comprehending and resolving the significant problems associated with poverty. This essay will examine the complex interrelationships among poverty, equity, and human rights—especially as they pertain to health—and provide suggestions for how these interrelated problems might be resolved.

POVERTY AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION –

When viewed through the prism of human rights, poverty is acknowledged as a complex violation that goes beyond simple lack of financial resources. According to this viewpoint, poverty results from a complex interaction of factors, such as social exclusion, financial disparity, and limited access to basic services like healthcare, education, and political involvement. Through the creation of indices such as the Human Development Index (HDI), the Gender-related Development Index (GDI), and the Human Poverty Index (HPI), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has played a significant role in capturing the

¹ “CESR Human Rights Insights No. 1 – DRAFT FOR COMMENTS.” CESR Human Rights Insights No. 1 – DRAFT FOR COMMENTS, report, 2002, www.cesr.org/sites/default/files/CESR_Briefing_-_Human_Rights_and_Poverty_-_Draft_December_2009.pdf.

multifaceted character of poverty.² These resources highlight the need to take into account social inclusion, life expectancy, education, and other variables in addition to income when determining poverty. This viewpoint urges donor nations to uphold their commitments to human rights goals and advocates for the establishment of frameworks for trade, investment, and development that protect and advance human rights. When income poverty, human development deprivation, and social exclusion join together to form extreme poverty, it represents a serious vulnerability that society as a whole needs to address through shared responsibility. By acknowledging poverty as a violation of human rights, states are also obligated to protect these rights by enacting laws and policies that guarantee everyone's access to their fundamental rights, so fostering a more just and equitable society. The severity of this problem is further highlighted by recent data. More than 1 billion people, of whom more than half are children, live in extreme poverty, according to a report by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative and the UNDP. Interestingly, almost 40% of these poor people live in unstable and war-torn nations. The 455 million people who live in conflict areas, who suffer from the more severe deprivations of poverty, are highlighted in the report as having even more problems. These results highlight how crucial it is to promote peace in order to successfully focus efforts on reducing poverty.³

Given these realisations, it is clear that combating poverty necessitates an all-encompassing strategy that incorporates human rights concepts into development plans. This strategy tries to empower people in addition to reducing material deprivation, guaranteeing their involvement in social processes and the achievement of their full potential. By presenting poverty as a violation of human rights, we recognise each person's intrinsic worth and our shared need to provide circumstances that enable everyone to live fulfilling lives.

GLOBAL DIMENSIONS OF POVERTY

The focus on the various dimensions of poverty has primarily been on measurement, but there has been limited discussion about how these dimensions manifest in real life. By examining lived experiences, it became clear that the same dimensions of poverty are expressed differently depending on the specific context. Several broad factors were found to influence this expression-

² Braveman, and Gruskin. "Poverty, equity, human rights and health." Bulletin of the World Health Organization 2003, 81.

³ "Poverty Reduction and Human Rights." Undp, June 2003.

Identity:

One of the most important aspects of poverty was identity, especially those associated with stigma and discrimination, such as race, ethnicity, immigration status, gender, and sexual orientation. People in poverty frequently experience prejudice because of their financial situation, and the quality of services they receive frequently reflects this, with subpar services being provided to those in poverty. Intersectionality is the term used to describe how the stigma increases when an individual belongs to several marginalised groups.⁴ For example, an African American living in poverty in New York experiences twofold discrimination on the basis of race and economic condition, which frequently leads to abuse from administrative institutions as well as from members of their own community and delayed access to social assistance.

Location-

Location is another key factor influencing how the dimensions of poverty are expressed, which is why the research was conducted in both urban and rural settings. Despite cultural variations, the same dimensions of poverty were observed across all six countries. To illustrate these complex relationships, two scenarios from Tanzania are highlighted. In urban areas, violence against women is widespread, but it disproportionately affects women living in poverty. Women with low incomes, who reside in or near violent neighbourhoods and often need to travel during unsafe hours for work, are particularly vulnerable to assault. This highlights how the intersection of poverty, location, and gender creates unique risks for marginalized groups. In rural areas, while violence is less common, women face heightened vulnerability to early and forced marriages, which are sometimes seen as a means of income generation for extended families. In both urban and rural settings, women in poverty are more likely to experience social abuse, often stemming from societal assumptions about the worthlessness of impoverished individuals⁵. This is further compounded by the powerlessness that arises from a lack of personal resources. The situation in rural Tanzania also highlights how cultural beliefs can influence the expression of poverty, with deeply ingrained societal norms shaping the challenges faced by women, particularly in terms of their agency and ability to resist harmful practices such as forced marriages.

Education:

Education is another critical dimension of poverty, with its impact varying by location, identity,

⁴ Sengupta. "Human Rights and Extreme Poverty." Economic and Political Weekly, Apr. 2010.

⁵ Cosgrove, and Curtis. Understanding Global Poverty: Causes, Solutions and Capabilities.

and other intersecting factors. In both urban and rural areas, the availability and quality of education are often linked to income levels, with poorer communities facing barriers to access. For example, in rural India, many families cannot afford the costs associated with schooling, such as uniforms, books, or transportation, which results in children—especially girls—being kept at home to assist with household chores or work. In urban areas like Lagos, Nigeria, the quality of education is often low in low-income neighbourhoods, as schools are underfunded and overcrowded, which limits opportunities for children in these communities to receive a quality education. Additionally, children from marginalized groups, such as indigenous populations in Central America, face further challenges due to discrimination within the educational system, which further exacerbates their educational disadvantage.

Health:

Health is another dimension of poverty that varies depending on the intersection of socio-economic status, location, and access to services. In rural Mozambique, poor access to healthcare services leads to higher rates of preventable diseases, such as malaria and cholera, with many people in poverty unable to afford treatment or travel to distant hospitals. In contrast, urban slums in cities like Dhaka, Bangladesh, experience overcrowded living conditions and inadequate sanitation, which contribute to the rapid spread of infectious diseases. Furthermore, women and children in both rural and urban settings are particularly vulnerable to health disparities. In Haiti, for instance, maternal mortality rates are significantly higher among impoverished women, especially those in rural areas where healthcare services are limited. The lack of proper healthcare infrastructure and financial barriers exacerbate the vulnerability of poor populations to both preventable and treatable health conditions.

Employment:

Employment opportunities, or the lack thereof, are a defining aspect of poverty. In both rural and urban settings, individuals living in poverty often find themselves trapped in low-wage, insecure, and exploitative work. In rural parts of Ethiopia, for example, many people rely on subsistence farming, which is often not enough to support their families. These workers face seasonal unemployment and are vulnerable to fluctuations in agricultural productivity due to climate change. In urban areas such as Cairo, Egypt, informal workers in the gig economy, like street vendors or day labourers, also face precarious working conditions with no job security, social benefits, or legal protections. Women in these regions, particularly those from marginalized communities, often face additional barriers to employment due to gender-based

discrimination, leaving them more vulnerable to exploitation in the informal sector.

INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO ERADICATE POVERTY–

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR):

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), adopted in 1948, has profoundly influenced the global understanding of poverty and human rights. By encompassing civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, the UDHR established a comprehensive framework for human dignity and equality. This holistic approach has been instrumental in recognizing that poverty is not merely an economic issue but a violation of fundamental human rights.

The UDHR's emphasis on rights such as education, health, and adequate living standards has guided international efforts to address poverty. For instance, the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 1 aims to end poverty in all its forms by 2030, reflecting the UDHR's influence on global development agendas. However, challenges remain; as of 2023, nearly 700 million people worldwide subsist on less than \$2.15 a day, underscoring the persistent nature of poverty.⁶

Moreover, the UDHR has inspired legal frameworks that hold governments accountable for poverty reduction. The Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, adopted by the Human Rights Council in 2012, provide a human rights-based approach to eradicating poverty, emphasizing the need for policies that respect, protect, and fulfill the rights of those living in poverty.⁷

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP):

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been instrumental in integrating human rights into poverty reduction strategies, emphasizing that poverty is not merely an economic issue but a violation of human rights. In 2011, UNDP released the "Poverty Reduction and Human Rights Practice Note," outlining a framework for incorporating human rights into poverty reduction efforts. This framework provides practical steps to guide UNDP

⁶ United Nations. "Ending Poverty | United Nations." United Nations, www.un.org/en/global-issues/ending-poverty.

⁷ Green, Chandler. "70 Years of Impact: Insights on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights | unfoundation.org." unfoundation.org, 7 Dec. 2018, unfoundation.org/blog/post/70-years-of-impact-insights-on-the-universal-declaration-of-human-rights.

programming, ensuring that poverty reduction initiatives respect, protect, and fulfill the rights of those living in poverty.

In 2015, UNDP published "Poverty Reduction and Human Rights," highlighting the shift towards a human rights-based vision in defining poverty. The report emphasizes individual entitlements, capabilities, freedoms, and rights, underscoring the importance of addressing the multidimensional nature of poverty. UNDP's commitment to this approach is evident in its ambitious goal to help 100 million people escape multidimensional poverty by 2025. This initiative reflects a holistic approach to poverty reduction, addressing economic, social, and environmental challenges in tandem. Through these efforts, UNDP has significantly influenced global poverty reduction strategies, ensuring that human rights considerations are central to development policies and programs.⁸

International Monetary Fund:

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) plays a crucial role in shaping global economic policies that directly impact poverty and human rights. By promoting macroeconomic stability and sustainable growth, the IMF seeks to create conditions where poverty can be reduced and human rights are protected. The IMF focuses on achieving macroeconomic stability, which is essential for fostering high and sustainable growth, key elements for reducing poverty.

However, some of the IMF's policy prescriptions, particularly those associated with loan conditions, have been criticized. For example, certain IMF recommendations, like the reduction of taxes on the repatriation of foreign profits to attract capital, have been linked to decreased government revenues, potentially lowering social spending for the poor.

Despite these concerns, the IMF has increasingly recognized the importance of integrating human rights considerations into its policy frameworks. As poverty is deeply connected to the non-fulfilment of economic, social, and cultural rights, the IMF has taken steps to ensure that its engagements, especially in low-income countries, consider the human rights implications of its policies.⁹ Additionally, the IMF has supported targeting social protection benefits to the

⁸ "Empowering Lives for a Future Without Poverty." UNDP, www.undp.org/blog/empowering-lives-future-without-poverty.

⁹ "The Evolving Role of the IMF and the Reduction of Poverty by Graham Hacche, Deputy Director, External Relations Department, IMF." IMF, 28 Sept. 2015, www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2015/09/28/04/53/sp021303.

most vulnerable populations, ensuring that safety nets are effectively designed to support those in need.

In summary, while the IMF's primary mandate is global financial stability, its policies significantly affect poverty reduction and the protection of human rights, with a growing emphasis on balancing economic stability with human rights and poverty alleviation.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR):

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), adopted in 1966, is a key international instrument designed to safeguard civil and political rights. While the primary focus of the ICCPR is on individual freedoms, it has significant implications for the intersection of poverty and human rights. The Covenant recognizes the right to self-determination, which enables people to determine their political status and pursue their economic, social, and cultural development (United Nations, 1966). This principle allows marginalized communities to demand policies and frameworks that prioritize poverty alleviation and the protection of human rights.

In addition to self-determination, the ICCPR guarantees fundamental freedoms such as freedom of expression, assembly, and association. These rights are crucial for individuals and communities to participate in political and social decision-making processes, including those related to poverty reduction and human rights (United Nations, 1966). Through these provisions, the ICCPR ensures that individuals can voice concerns and hold governments accountable for failing to address poverty.¹⁰

Furthermore, the ICCPR obliges state parties to provide effective remedies for violations of civil and political rights, ensuring that individuals can seek justice when their rights are violated. This includes addressing systemic issues that contribute to poverty and human rights violations (United Nations, 1966).

Overall, while the ICCPR does not directly address economic, social, and cultural rights, its provisions are crucial in supporting a broader human rights framework that underpins global efforts to combat poverty and promote dignity.

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR):

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), adopted in 1966, is a fundamental international treaty that commits its parties to work toward granting economic, social, and cultural rights to all individuals, including those in non-self-governing and trust territories.

The ICESCR enshrines a range of rights essential for human dignity and well-being. Article 6 recognizes the right to work, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to earn a living through freely chosen or accepted work. Article 7 mandates just and favourable conditions of work, including fair wages and equal remuneration for work of equal value, without distinction of any kind. Article 9 affirms the right to social security, enabling individuals to access necessary social services. Article 11 addresses the right to an adequate standard of living, including adequate food, clothing, and housing. Article 12 guarantees the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. Article 13 ensures the right to education, aiming to achieve the full development of the human personality and the sense of its dignity. Article 15 protects the right to take part in cultural life, enjoy the benefits of scientific progress, and the right to benefit from the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary, or artistic production.¹⁰

By ratifying the ICESCR, states commit to progressively realizing these rights, taking into account their available resources. This commitment underscores the importance of integrating economic, social, and cultural rights into national policies and practices to promote human dignity and well-being.

POVERTY ERADICATION – INDIAN PERSPECTIVE

In many underdeveloped countries with low per capita incomes, income inequality has led to various problems, with poverty being the most significant. Poverty is a socio-economic issue closely linked to inequality, impacting human health, productivity, and efficiency, all of which in turn affect income levels. It deprives certain segments of society of basic necessities like food, clothing, shelter, education, and healthcare. Poverty is more about social exclusion of individuals, households, or groups within the community than just insufficient income to meet

¹⁰ United Nations. (1966). International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/ccpr.aspx>

basic needs. While inadequate income contributes to marginalization, it is not the only factor. Poverty alleviation efforts should focus not just on increasing income levels but also on integrating marginalized individuals or groups into the broader development process. A country cannot claim to have achieved economic growth when significant portions of its population remain on the fringes of society. Economic growth should enhance access to essential services such as education and healthcare, particularly for marginalized citizens. Despite the progress made in India over the last five and a half decades, 34.3% of the population still lived on less than \$1 (PPP) a day, as per the international poverty threshold set by the World Development Report. Poverty in India remains a major challenge despite decades of economic growth. According to an IMF report, extreme poverty (living on \$1.90 or less in PPP terms) was at 0.8% in 2019. India's role in global poverty is significant, with nearly half of the world's poor living in South Asia. In 2003, out of 534 million people in South Asia living on less than \$1 per day, over 300 million were in India. To solve this problem the Government of India has initiated many programs to help in poverty eradication and human rights protection . some of them are stated below-

Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY):

The Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) was launched in 1993 with the aim of providing self-employment opportunities to educated unemployed youth by helping them establish economically viable activities. Since its inception, approximately 20 lakh units have been created under the scheme, generating 30.4 lakh additional employment opportunities. The targets for creating additional employment opportunities under the Tenth Plan and in the year 2004-05 were set at 16.5 lakh and 3.75 lakh, respectively. While the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) focuses on rural areas and small towns with populations of up to 20,000, aiming to establish village industries without restrictions on income, educational qualifications, or the beneficiary's age, PMRY specifically targets educated unemployed youth from families earning up to Rs. 40,000 annually. The scheme supports both urban and rural youth in pursuing any economically viable activity for self-employment.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA):

In 1991, the government of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao introduced a pilot scheme aimed at generating employment in rural areas. The primary objectives of this initiative were to provide employment opportunities for agricultural labourers during the lean season, develop infrastructure, and enhance food security. This scheme laid the foundation for the Mahatma

Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), which was enacted in 2005.

MGNREGA guarantees at least 100 days of wage employment per financial year to adult members of rural households who are willing to engage in unskilled manual labor. If employment is not provided within 15 days of application, beneficiaries are entitled to receive an unemployment allowance. This allowance is one-fourth of the wage rate for the first 30 days of the financial year and half of the wage rate for the remainder.

The act aims to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of assured and guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to at least one member of every Indian rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Women are guaranteed one third of the jobs made available under the MGNREGA, and efforts are made to ensure that at least 50%. Another aim of MGNREGA is to create durable assets such as roads, canals, ponds, and wells. Employment is to be provided within 5 km of an applicant's residence, and the minimum legal wage under the law is to be paid. If work is not provided within 15 days of applying, applicants are entitled to an unemployment allowance.

The act also mandates the creation of durable assets and infrastructure in rural areas, such as roads, canals, ponds, and wells, which can improve the quality of life and productivity of the rural population. Additionally, it aims to protect the environment and promote ecological balance by undertaking works related to water conservation, soil improvement, and afforestation.¹¹

MGNREGA has been instrumental in providing economic security to rural households, creating employment opportunities, and developing rural infrastructure. It has also contributed to environmental conservation and the empowerment of rural women. However, challenges remain in ensuring timely payment of wages, transparency in fund utilization, and effective implementation of the scheme.

Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP):

The Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), launched in 1978-79, was a pivotal

¹¹ Kumari. "POVERTY ERADICATION IN INDIA: A STUDY OF NATIONAL POLICIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMS." -Journal of Arts, Science & Commerce, vol. 4.

initiative by the Government of India aimed at alleviating rural poverty through self-employment opportunities and credit facilities for the poorest households. The primary objective was to uplift the living standards of rural populations by providing income-generating assets and financial assistance, thereby promoting sustainable economic development in rural areas.

The target groups for IRDP included small farmers, marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, and rural artisans. To ensure inclusivity, the program mandated that at least 50% of the beneficiaries be from Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and 40% from women, with a provision for 3% for disabled individuals. This approach aimed to empower marginalized communities and promote social equity.

Implementation of the IRDP was carried out at the block level through District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs). These agencies were responsible for identifying beneficiaries, facilitating funding, and ensuring the effective execution of the program. The DRDAs played a crucial role in coordinating with various stakeholders, including financial institutions and local bodies, to provide the necessary support to beneficiaries.

Funding for the IRDP was a collaborative effort between the central and state governments, with a 50:50 sharing arrangement. This financial structure enabled the provision of grants and subsidized loans to beneficiaries, allowing them to acquire productive assets and engage in income-generating activities. The combined financial support aimed to reduce the financial burden on beneficiaries and encourage their active participation in the program.

Despite its well-intentioned objectives, the IRDP faced several challenges during its implementation. Issues such as inadequate infrastructure in rural areas, delays in fund disbursement, and difficulties in monitoring and evaluation hindered the program's effectiveness. Studies have highlighted the need for improved infrastructure and better coordination among implementing agencies to address these challenges.

In summary, the Integrated Rural Development Programme was a significant step towards rural poverty alleviation in India. While it made notable contributions to improving the livelihoods of many rural households, the program's success was tempered by implementation challenges. These experiences have provided valuable insights for subsequent rural development

initiatives, emphasizing the importance of infrastructure development, effective monitoring, and community participation in achieving sustainable rural development.

National Food Security Mission (NFSM):

The National Food Security Mission (NFSM) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched in 2007, based on the recommendations of the agriculture sub-committee of the National Development Council (NDC). The committee emphasized the need for improved agricultural extension services, technology transfer, and decentralized planning, leading to the conceptualization of NFSM as a mission-mode program.

NFSM encompasses several major interventions aimed at enhancing food security and agricultural productivity:

- **Cluster Demonstrations:** States assist farmers in conducting demonstrations of improved agricultural practices, showcasing effective methods to boost crop yields.
- **Seed Distribution:** The mission focuses on producing and providing high-yield seeds and hybrids to farmers, thereby enhancing crop output and ensuring better quality produce.
- **Farm Mechanization:** NFSM promotes the use of modern machinery and resource conservation tools to improve farming efficiency, reduce labor costs, and minimize post-harvest losses.
- **Plant Protection:** The mission implements strategies for pest control and effective nutrient management, aiming to protect crops from diseases and pests, and ensuring optimal growth conditions.
- **Oilseeds Production:** The NFSM-Oilseeds initiative enhances production through seed subsidies, effective cultivation demonstrations, and essential resource distribution, aiming to reduce the country's dependence on imported edible oils.

These interventions collectively aim to increase the production of food grains, oilseeds, and pulses, thereby contributing to the overall food security of the nation. By focusing on sustainable agricultural practices and technological advancements, NFSM seeks to empower farmers and improve their livelihoods.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, poverty continues to be one of the most important human rights issues of our day, having significant ramifications for both human dignity and global justice. As this article has shown, poverty is more than just an economic problem; it is a complex human rights violation that denies people their fundamental liberties, opportunities, and capacity to lead satisfying lives. The main causes of poverty are social exclusion, economic inequality, and the denial of basic amenities like healthcare, education, and decent housing. These factors combine to create a vicious cycle that impedes development and upholds injustice.

Drawing from international frameworks such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), and various UN initiatives, it is evident that addressing poverty requires a coordinated, rights-based approach. Governments, international organizations, and civil society must work together to create policies and programs that not only alleviate material deprivation but also empower individuals and communities. In this light, poverty must be seen as a shared responsibility, with both moral and legal obligations to ensure the fulfilment of fundamental human rights for all. The case study of India highlights the challenges faced by nations in eradicating poverty, especially in the face of systemic inequality. Despite significant strides in economic growth, large segments of the population remain excluded from the benefits of development. This underscores the importance of policies that prioritize inclusivity, ensuring that marginalized groups have access to essential services and opportunities for upward mobility. The role of international bodies like the United Nations and the World Bank is crucial in shaping global efforts to reduce poverty and safeguard human rights, but they must continue to refine their approaches to address the complex, intersecting factors that contribute to persistent inequality. Ultimately, the fight against poverty is inextricably linked to the broader struggle for human rights and social justice. By recognizing poverty as a violation of fundamental human rights, we can forge a path toward a more equitable world where everyone has the opportunity to live with dignity and fulfill their potential. It is only through collective action, guided by the principles of human rights and justice, that we can hope to achieve a world free from the scourge of poverty.