Society & Social Justice · GS - I

“An essential condition to eradicate poverty is to liberate the poor from the process of deprivation.” Substantiate this statement with suitable examples.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2016	GS - I	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~ 150 words

Answer Hint

Multidimensional poverty; capability deprivation; education; healthcare; social exclusion; livelihood security; empowerment

Model Answer

Introduction

Poverty is not merely a shortage of income; it also involves deprivation of education, healthcare, nutrition, housing, dignity and opportunities. Therefore, poverty eradication requires expanding people's capabilities and choices.

How Deprivation Sustains Poverty

- **Educational deprivation:** Children lacking quality education face limited employment opportunities, perpetuating intergenerational poverty.
- **Health deprivation:** Illness, malnutrition and high medical expenses reduce productivity and may push households into debt.
- **Social exclusion:** Caste discrimination, gender inequality and disability can restrict access to jobs, assets and public services.
- **Economic insecurity:** Landlessness, informal employment and indebtedness prevent poor households from investing in productive activities.
- **Political marginalisation:** Limited awareness of rights and weak access to institutions can prevent vulnerable groups from receiving welfare benefits.

Measures to Break the Cycle

- Strengthen school education, skill development and digital literacy.
- Ensure accessible healthcare, nutrition and sanitation.
- Expand employment opportunities through programmes such as MGNREGA and promote secure livelihoods.
- Improve access to credit, land rights, housing and social protection.
- Empower women through education, property rights and self-help groups.
- Ensure effective delivery of welfare schemes and eliminate discrimination.

Examples

MGNREGA provides wage employment and a safety net to rural households. Self-help groups can improve women's access to credit and collective decision-making. Public health and nutrition programmes help prevent illness and developmental disadvantages.

Conclusion

Sustainable poverty eradication requires moving beyond income support to remove structural barriers and expand human capabilities, enabling poor people to participate meaningfully in economic and social life.

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