

Family Life in India: An Epitome of Culture and Tradition

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Family life in India is different from that in the western world. The former has tremendous cultural and ethnic diversity, which is why it is appreciated a lot by people from all around the world.

Every region in India has its own characteristics and traditions, like the palm-leaf houses in the south are nothing similar to the stone houses of the Himalayas or the houseboats of Kashmir. Every state has its own identity which is respected by people in India and the world. Family life is equally varied in Indian states. India is a country with many states in which people from different cultures, religions, castes, etc., live. The language, clothing, customs, and traditions of people are influenced by the respective regions they reside in.

Most of the families in India are extended ones, wherein, every member has his/her own role. The family structure in India is typical.

Financial Support -

If Indian children are unable to do something on his own, the parents are always there to support them in monetary terms. It is just like the children taking care of their parents after they retire.

Poverty in India is a historical reality. From late 19th century through early 20th century, under British colonial rule, poverty in India intensified, peaking in 1920s.^{[11][12]} Famines and diseases killed millions each time.^{[13][14]} After India gained its independence in 1947, mass deaths from famines were prevented. Rapid economic growth since 1991, has led to sharp reductions in extreme poverty in India.^{[15][16]} However, those above poverty line live a fragile economic life.^[17]

Poverty in India -

60 years of fighting poverty in India-

India's government is well aware that poverty is a giant barrier to overcome if it is to fully develop the nation. A wide range of anti-poverty policies have been introduced since the 1950s.

The line in poverty went from 60% to 35% between the 1970s and the early 1990s, globalization and liberalization policies have made this trend go backwards in the 90s.

In 2012 - Indian Government stated that 21.9% of population is below poverty limit. Or to say lived \$1.25 per day on purchasing power parity.

Defining Poverty in India is different than in rest of world.

In India - Its income based poverty definition & Consumption based statistics used,

In 2007 - India set its own -limits--26 Rs for Rural areas & 32 Rs for urban areas to define poverty.

Causes - Mainly its population growth-

While services & Industry has grown at double digit Fig, but Agriculture has dropped from 4.8% to 2%, 52% is employed in Agricultural areas, contribution of Agriculture to GDP IS 18%

For 40yrs of Independence, India used Soviet System of Planning, Nationalisation, Govt Ownership of Industry.

But Since-1991- Growth rates have increased & Poverty line is reduced.

Poverty in India - the statistics

- 50% of Indians don't have proper shelter;
- 70% don't have access to decent toilets (which inspires a multitude of bacteria to host their own disease party);
- 35% of households don't have a nearby water source;
- 85% of villages don't have a secondary school (how can this be the same government claiming 9% annual growth?);
- Over 40% of these same villages don't have proper roads connecting them.

Considering the size of India, poverty differs greatly from one state to another, so poverty lines is defined differently in each state.

This disproportionate the economic growth in country. The same goes of another tragedy that the country is infamous for: **child labour in India**. Solving this issue requires completely different approaches whether you're tackling it in towns (factories) or in rural areas (agriculture).

Jobs and housing shortage

As with many developing countries, urban poverty in India is a direct effect of rural migrations fleeing poverty. This creates a massive unemployment and underemployment issue but also a disproportionate housing problem.

Slums & cities - a source of instability?

The spectacular growth of cities has made poverty in India incomparably more visible and palpable through its famous slums. If, proportionally speaking there are less urban poor nowadays, their sheer number has been increasing. They spend 80% of their income on food.

Agriculture, hunger and rural poverty

Since there are so many people working in agriculture and living in rural areas, the agricultural sector has (and should have) an unrivalled priority in policies aimed at poverty in India.

National Poverty alleviation Programmes by Government of India----

It can be categorised on the basis of, if it's for Rural Area or Urban Area.

Most of the programmes are targeted at rural Poverty as its more prevalent in rural areas.

Globalization's effects on poverty in India

1991 is the year that India embraced globalization and started, like many countries, its market liberalization coupled with privatization and deregulation while ensuring macroeconomic stability. Where China has been one of the few countries that has successfully managed their transition to the global market, the picture is more mixed with India, with lots of ups & down.

Alleviation of poverty in India - some successes -

On the bright side, when anti-poverty programs did work, they've had a great influence on the social structure and helped people move up the social ladder. The problem is mostly that reforms have been conservative and incomplete while something more direct and "beefy" was needed (no offense to vegetarians).

Programmes are grouped in four major categories -

- Wage employment programmes
- Self-employment programmes
- Social Security programmes
- Urban Poverty Alleviation programmes
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National Old Age Pension scheme - Effective since 1995---a small amount of money is given to old age

Persons, who could not fend for themselves or who did not have any means of support.

National Family Benefit programmes - It also started in 1995, & restructured in 2003-05, is operated at state level & is mainly for the families below Poverty line -labeled as BPL Families.

National Maternity Benefit scheme - Is for poor pregnant mothers,given 1-2 weeks before the birth of the child.

Integrated Rural development Programme - Its role is to raise families of identified target group below poverty line by creation of sustainable opportunities for self-employment in rural sector. Which may be farmers, labourers, Artisans, more so 40% would be women & 6 % physically challenged.

In addition are **Rural Housing schemes**.

Rural Employment Generation Act -

Now New Poverty line limit is --32 Rs in Villages & 47 Rs in Urban areas per day.

Reducing its poverty rate to 12.4%

Why - because improved infrastructure, specifically rural electrification

Changed Earning, "Rural electrification in India has caused changes in consumption and earnings, with increases in the labour supply of both men and women, and promote girls' schooling by reallocating their time to tasks more conducive to school attendance."

Role of IW Clubs In India towards it

With nearing 1500 IW Clubs all over India --targeting at community for Service projects--almost cover all age groups to alleviate poverty,

- be it by providing free education to children of labour class.
- Adult education ---
- Providing toilets in schools for girls to come & get education.
- Micro financing for numerous vocational courses or helping in starting a self-help programme to start earning money by doing small scale industry.
- Providing computer education/ skills for job probabilities.
- Starting cyber hubs by sponsoring computers--providing opportunity to earn lively.

- Starting tailoring courses or providing sewing machines to girls, women to earn money through tailoring.
- Adopting senior citizen homes to provide - clothes, medicines, food etc for those who have no one to support.
- Adopting orphanages for support - in education, jobs, healthcare.
- Providing employments to unemployed either at home or in their family owned businesses.
- Sponsoring shelters to homeless.
- Sponsoring vending machines of coffee making, selling vegetables, etc to earn living.
- Organising Picnics, outings for children or for senior citizens staying at orphanage or old age homes.

Poverty in India is an important issue in India. With one of the fastest growing economies in the world, clocked at a growth rate of 7.6% in 2015, India is fast on its way to becoming a large and globally important consumer economy. According to Deutsche Bank Research the estimates are nearly 300 million people for all Middle Class.^[1] If current trends continue, India's share of world GDP will significantly increase from 7.3 in 2016 to 8.5 percent of the world share by 2020.^[2] In 2011, less than 22 percent of Indians lived under the global poverty line, nearly a 10 percent reduction from 29.8 percent just two years prior in 2009.^[3]

We have high hopes to be a status as of a developed nation in coming years
Thank you all for patience hearing

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