

Social Empowerment in India

[UPSC Notes]

Social Empowerment in India

Social empowerment is the process by which people are made aware of their rights and responsibilities and empowered to achieve social goals. In India, Social empowerment has been defined as follows: "Social empowerment is a condition in which all individuals are able to participate in decision-making processes, especially those relating to their health care needs, education levels and employment opportunities."

Social empowerment means providing all people access to basic resources such as food, shelter, and education. It also means ensuring equal access for every individual, regardless of race or gender identity, so everyone has equal opportunities while achieving social justice through educational programs focused on youth development (which may include parenting skills).

The major Social Empowerment initiatives in India are:

Women Empowerment

Women empowerment is a process of enabling women to exercise their rights and achieve equality with men. In short, it is about giving women opportunities that would allow them to live better lives than men do.

- **Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP)**

BBBP is a campaign of the Government of India that aims to generate awareness and improve the efficiency of welfare services especially educational rights intended for girls.

- **Pradhan Mantri Matritva Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)**

PMMVY is a maternity benefit program run by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, which provides partial compensation for the wage loss in the form of a cash incentive so that the woman can take adequate rest before and after delivery of the first living child.

- **One-Stop Centre Scheme**

The One-stop Centre (OSC) is an initiative of the Ministry of Woman and Child Development, Government of India. OSC was launched in January 2014. It aims to provide a comprehensive package of services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Poor and Marginalised Sections

Poor and marginalized sections are the most affected by social exclusion, poverty, and unemployment. They also experience caste-based discrimination, religious discrimination, and gender-based violence (GBV). In addition, the poor and marginalised groups are usually disadvantaged in accessing education opportunities due to their lack of financial resources. This can lead to under-representation at the school level, which makes them unable to avail themselves of such opportunities or, even worse - drop out altogether!

Poverty reduction efforts are aimed at helping those who need it most - including families living below the poverty line.

- **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)**

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) was launched in 2014 with the aim to provide banking facilities among the poorest section of Indians who did not have access to formal banking services before its launch. This scheme aims at bringing all adults above 18 years old into formal financial structures within six months after opening their bank account through the Aadhaar verification process.

- **Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY)**

Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) was launched in 2015 with the aim to provide low-cost loans through Micro Units Development Agency (MUDRA) banks and other financial institutions. These funds can be used for any livelihood activity like trading, manufacturing, or service businesses as per their needs and goals.

PMMY has three categories, namely Shishu (up to Rs. 50,000/-), Kishore (between Rs 50,001/- and Rs. 2 lakhs), and Tarun (between Rs. 2 lakhs and Rs 5 lakhs). In addition, skill India Mission was launched in 2015 to train the youth of our country to meet the requirements of various industries. The National Skill Development Mission aims to make education more focused on industry needs by enhancing employability skills through skill development programs. Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) is a flagship scheme aiming to develop model villages with basic amenities.

Scholarships have been started for girls and women under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme. Under the BBBP scheme, there is a provision of pre-matric and post-matric scholarships for girl students to promote education among girls from low-income families.

- **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)**

The Prime Minister launched Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) on 28th August 2014. PMJDY is a national mission for financial inclusion to ensure access to financial services such as banking savings & deposit accounts, remittance, credit, insurance, and pension in an affordable manner.

Senior Citizens

Social empowerment of senior citizens is a major issue in India. With the increasing number of elderly people, it is important to ensure they enjoy their freedom and dignity as much as possible. The government has launched various schemes to provide financial assistance to senior citizens, but these are not enough for them to lead dignified lives.

To address this problem, we will discuss how social empowerment can help you live better with less money:

- **Atal Pension Yojana**

This scheme provides retirement benefits at an age lower than what was offered by private companies or insurance companies (65 years old). It also ensures no waiting period between obtaining employment and receiving pensions; you get it right away after completing 15 years of service in any organization registered under EPFO Act 2006 (Employees Provident Fund Organisation).

- **Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana**

This program aims at providing financial assistance towards healthcare costs incurred during sickness or injuries suffered while on duty during emergencies like floods etc., provided they have been working continuously as members since March 1st, 2017, till December 31st, 2020

- **Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana**

This scheme is designed to provide financial assistance towards medical expenses incurred due to chronic diseases such as diabetes mellitus type II, asthma, etc. It also provides incentives like cash payment if you are unable to work because of sickness.

Social Empowerment – Disabled Group

Social Empowerment is a key component of the social sector, which aims to increase the opportunities for disabled people. It encompasses many different forms of activity and has been an important part of the development process in many countries since its introduction in the mid-1990s.

Social empowerment is about enabling people with disabilities to achieve their full potential through access to education, employment, and independent living. The concept has been applied across a range of areas, including health care services, legal rights (such as housing), leisure facilities such as parks or swimming pools, transport services, etc.

Social Empowerment – Scheduled Tribes

Scheduled Tribes (STs) are a heterogeneous group of people. They define themselves as India's most disadvantaged, vulnerable, and backward community. Dalits make up over half of the ST population. The Scheduled Tribes are listed at 9th position in National Commission for Scheduled Castes/Tribes' Inquiry Report No.6-2001, as well as 12th position on the list of Backward Classes (BCs).

ST communities have been affected by globalization since ancient times; They have been subjected to various types of displacement, including forced migration due to war.

Social Empowerment And Communalism

Social empowerment is a step towards communal harmony. It aims at creating conditions that will make the people take interest in the development of their own lives and make them socially responsible.

In the last ten years, there has been an upsurge in social consciousness among the people. They have realised that they are not only producers but also consumers and hence feel obliged to look after themselves as well as their families as far as possible. They understand that this is necessary so that they can lead a happy life and contribute something towards nation-building or social upliftment.

Social Empowerment and Regionalism

Social empowerment is the process of giving people a sense of belonging to a particular community, which in turn leads them to feel part of their society. This makes it possible for them to have an identity and be proud of who they are. The role played by social empowerment in promoting regionalism can be seen through its impact on ethnic groups that have undergone assimilation into mainstream societies over time due to migration or forced conversion.

Need for Social Empowerment

Social empowerment is a process of enabling people to improve their quality of life. It is important for society and the economy, as well as for the environment. Social empowerment is a process of improving the quality of life through empowering individuals or groups with knowledge and skills that allow them to shape their own destinies. Social empowerment involves providing citizens with opportunities, resources, and information needed to make informed decisions about their lives, thus allowing them more control over their futures.

This explains the need for social empowerment in India. It is a challenge for all of us to work towards it. We have been able to achieve some success by putting our efforts together but there are still many areas that need to be addressed.