

LESSON 16

SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS

SUMMARY

Social problems refer to the situations faced by the people in which achievement of genuine goals of a community or group are not achieved due to difficulties at the level of system. **Educational problems** refer to issues of school dropout, stagnation and wastage. They are also social problems. These problems have many aspects including social, economic psychological and historical and other solution requires efforts from many angles.

Indian society is undergoing socioeconomic transformation. It has a very rich and old cultural heritage and aspiring to be a strong country at a global level. All these pressures are causing problems and other kinds of development.

Poverty

By thinking, 'feeling' and 'behaving' we come to form an attitude towards the people, events, objects etc. Poverty denies individuals and their family of basic rights such as equality, justice, dignity, health, basic comforts and personal security. It is defined in terms of **objective** and **subjective** poverty. **Objective poverty** is lack of material belongings, lack of economic resource, leading to difficulty in

achievement of an adequate level of living. **Subjective poverty** refers to the perception and experience of poverty as felt by a person.

Deprivation on the other hand refers to loss of opportunities and privileges that are normally available to the general population. It means lack of basic necessities for the survival of an individual. This can take the form of inadequate environmental conditions, impoverished experiences and characteristics of the socially disadvantaged sections.

Causes and Consequences of Poverty



Malnutrition and Development- Malnutrition influences both physical growth and affect psychological development. Malnutrition and social impoverishment are major factors that bring about mental retardation.

Socialization Patterns – Under poverty, these are characterized by inadequate stimulation, poor or no schooling, lack of role models, and

lack of social and emotional support from the peer group. Lack of such aspects has a detrimental influence on the cognitive and emotional development of the growing child.

Personality Development - Different personality patterns are suggested for the deprived and non-deprived groups. Highly deprived children are likely to be high on neuroticism and introversion, and low on extraversion than non-deprived children.

Deprivation is also related to social maladjustment, immaturity, and withdrawal. It also predisposes children to delinquency, and proneness to more external and chance orientation than non-deprived young adults.

Motivational Consequences - The experiences of rewards and punishments helps in the formation of one's motivational orientation, poverty condition leads to low need for achievement, low extension need, and a high need for dependence.

Mental Health - Although mental illness occurs in all ages, gender and backgrounds, the risk is higher among the poor and homeless, unemployed, and with low education.

Psychological Interventions - Helping the individual by building up and increasing support to the deprived person in terms of cognitive, motivational and

behavioural skills. But it should be kept in mind that, continuous help may lead to psychological dependency and reliance on others. So, caution should be taken. Also, Psychological interventions should be operable at all three levels: the individual, community and societal.

Some other social problems

Drug addiction is a chronic problem that involves compulsive drug seeking and dependence on it despite the fact that it has harmful effects on the individual. Some of the risk factors that are involved in drug addiction are- individual biology, socioeconomic status, peer pressure, stress, quality of parenting, role models, and age etc. Genetic and environmental factors interact with developmental and maturity stages in a person's life. The earlier a person takes to consuming drugs the more serious the addiction. It is a common problem and a challenge during adolescence, when peer pressure to experiment with new things is present. Drug addiction is closely related to crime and HIV/AIDS. The effects on physical and mental health are also extensive.

Treatment is available to help people counter their addiction; however, prevention of drug addiction is a better approach. Involving families, schools, colleges, community and media are effective ways of countering addiction.

Dowry refers to the cash, gifts, property and material goods the man receives from the wife's family at the time of marriage. It is a social custom, practiced for generations. Changing such customs is very difficult. This custom puts the young woman at very high risks.

In India, the **Dowry Prohibition Act** came in **1961**. Effective implementation, active involvement and cooperation of society in removing of this evil must be sought. Boys and girls must be educated, taught to respect each other, and refusals of dowry are some ways of eradicating this social evil.

School Dropout, stagnation and waste

Dropout rate is defined as the proportion of children who discontinue school after enrolling in the schooling system. Thirty percent of children leave school before completing five years of schooling and 50 percent leave before completing 8 years of schooling.

Two additional concepts of **stagnation** and **wastage** are important in the educational setting.

The educational system needs to keep pace with demands and needs of the context and bring about changes in the curriculum and content of different educational fields. If it is not done,

then **educational stagnation** takes place. When the education received is of little or no help to the person then it is termed as **wastage of education**. The reasons for school dropout, stagnation and wastage are - socio-economic, psychological and educational.

Efforts to decrease the school dropout rate by government can be seen through programs such as **National Literacy Mission, Sarv Sikhsha Abhiyan** (Total Literacy Campaign) and **Mid Day Meal Scheme**.

Kerala has the highest literacy rate in the country, and other states are also doing their best to decrease school dropouts.

These problems are closely related to each other and in fact influence each other also. Hence the solutions to these problems are not easy, inputs from various disciplines are required to help out these social problems.

The role of psychology to understand human behaviour cannot be under estimated. Modification of attitudes, feelings and pattern of behaviour are significant. Psychologists along with other social scientists can provide strategies for achieving these changes.

Evaluate yourself

1. Discuss the different consequences of poverty.

2. What does stagnation and wastage mean in terms of education?