

1. What measures have been taken by the governments to protect and promote the rights and interests of the girl child? How are they performed? Discuss.

Introduction

A low child sex ratio (919), incidences of child marriage and child pregnancy, malnutrition and denial of education beyond primary show the dismal state of girl child in India.

Body

Measures for welfare of girl child:

- **Improving sex ratio**- Beti Padhao, Beti Bachao Scheme, Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act are meant to prevent sex selective abortions and improve sex ratio in the country.
- **Female education**- Sukanya Samridhi Yojana creates a fund for the future education of the girl child and Udan for higher education of girl child.
- **Child Marriage**- Prohibition of Child marriage Act 2006 has been enacted to prevent marriage of girls below 18 years of age.
- **Health and nutrition**- Supplying iron and folic acid tablets, Kishori Shakti Yojana, POSHAN abhiyan, Mid day meal scheme have been undertaken to provide sufficient nutrition to girl child.
- **Hygiene**- Ujjwala sanitary napkin at minimal cost under Suvidha scheme will support menstrual hygienic among girls.
- **Child labour**- The Child Labour(Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 has been enacted to make sure girls are not indulged in child labour and instead get education.
- **Sexual abuse**- Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 provides strict punitive action in case of sexual abuse against the child.
- **Human trafficking**- Ujjawala scheme to prevent, rescue and rehabilitate trafficked girl.

Performance of the above mentioned measures:

Positive

- Increase in child sex ratio in Haryana (913 in 2018 from 834 in Census 2011) which used to have the lowest sex ratio in the country.
- Increasing usage of sanitary pads among girls
- Improvement in health and nutrition, and reduction in anemia.
- Increased attendance and decreased drop out rates.
- Reduction in child marriages

Negative

- Sex ratio is still very low compared to developed countries and there exists a huge disparity among northern and southern states.

- Girls are still denied higher education due to burden to support family or patriarchal mindset (57% girls drop out by Class XI).
- Child labour is still prevalent especially as domestic labours, which do not come under formal employment and hence difficult to monitor.

Conclusion

The schemes have had mixed results and to achieve the real objective and SDG 5 robust structural and institutional mechanisms must be created to ensure proper implementation of these schemes in letter and spirit.

2. Discuss various farmer centric welfare measures taken by the government. What are the core areas of focus in these schemes? Examine.

Introduction:

India is an agrarian county with more than 70% of its rural population dependent on agriculture. Agriculture contributes 17% to the GDP and employees around 50% populations.

Body:

Government has taken many steps for the welfare of farmers such as,

- **PM-KISAN:** To provide income support of Rs.6000/- per year to all landholding eligible farmers to supplement the financial needs of the farmers in procuring various inputs.
- **Soil health card:** Soil Health Cards carry crop-specific recommendations for nutrients and fertilizers to help farmers improve their productivity.
- **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana:** Micro-irrigation is in place to ensure 'more crop per drop' and with the motto of 'Har Khet Ko Paani' for providing end-to-end solutions in irrigation supply chain for ensuring that every farm gets water.
- **Solar Subsidies:** To encourage farmers to install solar pumps for irrigation and reduce input cost.
- **Interest subvention scheme:** Short-term crop loans up to 3 lakh with low-interest rate made available to address the issue of farm credit and save farmers from being exploited in the hands of informal credit sources such as moneylenders.
- **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana:** It is the biggest risk cover insurance and safety net provided by the government to farmers at minimal premiums rates.
- **Minimum Support Price:** MSP announcement to support the farmer to get the right price for their produce.
- **National Agriculture Market scheme:** Also known as e-NAM has integrated markets across states. It has cut down the middlemen in agriculture trading

and facilitates online trade to give more choice of buyers to farmers and discover the better price of the produced.

- **Operation Greens:** To address the price volatility of perishable items like tomato, potato and onion, the government provided better logistics and cold storage supply chain.
- **Rashtriya Gokul Mission:** To conserve and develop indigenous bovine breed for higher productivity.
- **Fertilizer:** The government has implemented 100% Neem coating of Urea; it has resulted in improving the soil quality and also prevented the diversion of fertilizers to other purposes. The government also provides fertilizer subsidy to farmers to reduce input cost.
- **Kisan service centre:** To provide information related to better farming practices.
- **Loan waivers:** In the case of crop failure, the government provides loan waivers to farmers.

Challenges:

- Only big farmers reap the benefit of schemes and small farmers are excluded.
- Corruption and leakages don't let the benefit reach the farmers.
- Delay in payments of MSP is an issue.
- Lack of irrigational facilities as many farmers in the country still do not have access to water.

Way Forward:

The government should provide a boost to the ailing agriculture sector and look beyond short-term measures such as loan waivers and cash transfers.

- The Government should promote exports, as a lot of wastage is reported in the sector due to lack of domestic demand.
- The government should promote agricultural start-ups in rural areas.
- Invest more in Agri-research to come up with better technology for farmers.
- Enhance the scope of private investment in food processing and agri-based start-ups.

Conclusion:

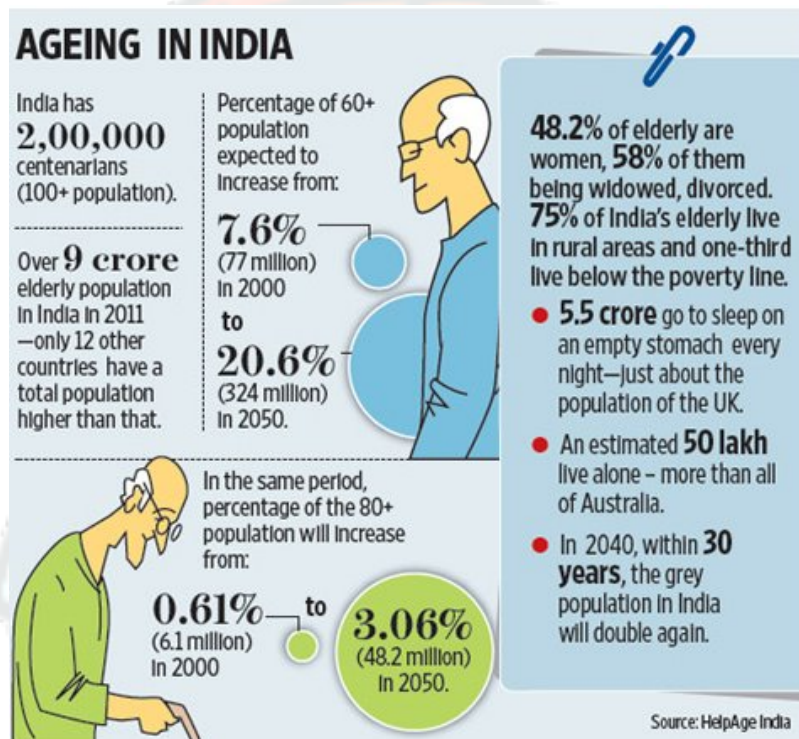
Enabling the farmer to capture maximum value on every grain, every drop and every ounce of his produce is a must for Doubling Farmers income by 2022 as recommended by Ashok Dalwai committee.

3. The old population will pose serious socio-economic challenges in the future. Discuss. What measures can be taken to manage those? Suggest.

Introduction:

The global population of elderly (60 years and over) has constantly been increasing during the second half of the last century due to easy availability of life saving drugs, control of famines and various communicable diseases, better awareness and supply of nutrition and health facilities and comparatively better overall standard of living. During the last thirty years, this has been emerging as a significant socio-economic challenge in developing countries.

Body:



Socio-Economic Challenges as a result of the old population:

It is projected that approximately 20% of Indians (324M) will be elderly by 2050, marking a dramatic jump from the current 8%. Thus it may pose serious socio-economic challenges in future:

- **Health care expenditure:** As a result of nuclear families and disintegration of traditional systems, there is increasing number of elderly left on their own or to the care of the State. Old age also implies increasing physical, mental and psychological disabilities, imposing a high cost of healthcare on them to meet the shift in the disease patterns from communicable to non-communicable, which itself calls for re-gearing the health-care system toward “preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative aspects of health”.
- **Need for support institutions and Social Security net:** There is also need for various types of institutions to accommodate the increasing number of elderly parents whose children have abandoned them or are unable to take care of them. Rehabilitation, community or home based disability support and end-of-life care will have to be economically funded by the State. Also,

Increase in the fiscal allocation to social security schemes may impose a burden on the State.

- **Fiscal and macroeconomic stability:** Increased government spending on pension, healthcare, and social benefits programs for the elderly may hurt economic growth and overall quality of life if governments need to divert public spending from education and infrastructure investment to finance programs for the elderly.
- **Increasing vulnerability of elderly:** Indian society is undergoing rapid transformation under the impact of industrialization, urbanization, technical and technological change, education and globalization, disintegration of joint families and ever increasing influence of modernization and new life styles, the care of elderly is being neglected.
- **Feeling of loss of status, worthlessness and loneliness:** In modern society, in which improved education, rapid technical change and new forms of organization have often rendered obsolete the knowledge, experience and wisdom of older persons. This realization of neither having authority in the family, nor being needed, leaves them frustrated and depressed resulting in a deteriorated overall mind-set looming across the elderly.
- **Ethical dilemma:** Conflict between ethical obligations and affordability to support the old-age population has already caved into the young population resulting in reduced productivity, harming of personal relationships and thus disturbance in mental peace.

However, there are very enriching contributions the elderly population comes with:

- Older people have a wealth of skills and experiences and can contribute on a macro level to the workplace and financially and at a local level to their communities.
- They provide a psychological strength and behave as an emotional support system to the ever-changing, easily disturbed youthful minds.
- Help in retaining various traditional systems of living, medical home remedies and valuable wisdom to enhance our lives.

What can be done?

- a) **Phased-in retirement:** Phased-in retirement entails a scheme whereby older workers could choose to work fewer hours yet remain longer in the labour force, including after they retire. This allows continuity in tax revenues and reduced expenditure on pensions and older workers can be valuable to organizations and younger colleagues due to their knowledge and experience;
- b) **Comprehensive healthcare infrastructure:** It is of prime importance that good quality health care be made available and accessible to the elderly in an age-sensitive manner. Health services should address **preventive measures**, in addition, effective care and support is required for those elderly suffering from various diseases through primary, secondary and tertiary health care systems.

- c) **Strengthen the family care:** The preferred source of support for the aged is still the family - informal system where the notion of care is embedded within a tradition of social obligations that are understood and reciprocated. The reciprocal care and support within multi-generational families of parents, grandparents and children should be encouraged. Traditional values of filial obligations can also be reinforced in school curricula and through the media.
- d) **Efficient welfare policy for the old-age population:** Schemes like Varishta Pension Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana, and IGNOAPS etc have to be strengthened and made aware to reach the right beneficiaries.
- e) **Promoting and rewarding volunteering:** Governments could promote and reward volunteering and care work among citizens and NGOs. Such unpaid activities improve the quality of the social fabric, help the well-being of those engaging in them, contribute to the economy, and reduce healthcare and welfare costs.

Conclusion:

In the future, the success of a nation will critically depend upon its ability to address such sweeping demographic changes effectively through policies and programmes. This underutilized resource available to humanity should be integrated into the lives of communities and where they can make a substantial contribution to improving social conditions.

4. How is minority centric welfare measures performed in India? Do a critical assessment.

Introduction

The Indian Constitution is committed both to the idea of equality and to the preservation, protection and assurance of rights of minorities. Five religious communities such as Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis) as minority communities under Section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.

Body

Measures for development of minorities:

- **12th five year plan:** Aims at Faster, Sustainable and More Inclusive Growth, all efforts should be made to apply it to the Minority Sector too.
- **Steering committee:** Steering Committee was constituted under the Chairpersonship of Dr. Syeda Hameed, Member, and Planning Commission, which deliberated upon and reviewed the schemes of minorities.

- **“Empowerment of the Minorities”**: The Planning Commission constituted a Working Group on “Empowerment of the Minorities”.
- **Key parameters**: (I) Educational Empowerment, (II) Area Development (III) Economic Empowerment and institutional strengthening (IV) social empowerment
- **Decent finance allocation**: Minority Affairs Ministry has been allocated Rs 4,700 crore in the 2019-20 budget, the same as the previous fiscal.
- **Government initiatives**: The Ministry of Minority Affairs took a number of initiatives in the year 2018 for the welfare of the minorities in the country. These, among others, include Skill Development, Education, Haj, Waqf, Dargah Ajmer, Pradhanmantri Jan Vikas Karykram (earlier Multi Sectoral Development Programme), Secularism & Empowerment, Swachchhta and Mushairas on the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi.

Minority centric welfare schemes:

- **More initiatives every year**: Increase the scale of key interventions by greater financial outlays across the board for brings a larger number of schemes within the scope.
- **Broader distribution**: Re-vamp the design, expand the scope and strengthen implementation structures of key initiatives led to efficient implementation.
- **Education reaching all villages**: “Free Coaching and Allied Scheme for the candidates and students belonging to minority communities” all over the country including North Eastern States.
- **Pilot project for minority**: Cyber Gram for digital literacy in a minority dominated village Chandauli in Alwar district of Rajasthan.
- **Nai Udaan** - Support for students clearing Preliminary Examination conducted by UPSC, SSC, State Public Service Commissions, etc.
- **Jiyo Parsi** – Scheme for containing population decline of Parsis.
- **Nai Roshni** – Scheme for leadership development of minority women.
- **Seekho Aur Kamao** – Skill development initiative for minorities.
- **Nai Manzil** – Scheme for formal school education & skilling of school dropouts.
- **USTAD** - Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development.
- **Hamari Dharohar** - Scheme to preserve rich heritage of minority Communities under the overall concept of Indian Culture.

Lag in development of minorities:

- **Declining enrolments**: 58 per cent of the illiterates were concentrated in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, which together accounted for 46 per cent of the Muslim population. Declining enrolments at successively higher levels of education remains an area of concern for all religious communities.

- **Ghost beneficiaries:** There are many people who are misusing with fake identities and beneficiaries are in dearth
- **Health care:** It is found that Muslims, among all other religious communities, suffer most in terms of healthcare, including access to medicine, maternal healthcare and sanitation.
- **Role of women:** role of women is still the same due to illiteracy, total fertilization rate, economic background, domestic violence etc

Conclusion

Inter-ethnic tensions, divisions and exclusion that remain unaddressed can easily become a source of instability and conflict. Dealing efficiently with minority-majority relations in the aftermath of ethnic conflict is central to achieving a durable peace

5. Discuss various schemes launched to promote tribal culture and entrepreneurship. How are they performing? Examine.

Introduction

There are a total of 705 individual ethnic groups notified as scheduled Tribes in the length and breadth of the country. As per 2011 census. The tribal population of the country is 10.43 crore, constituting 8.6% of the total population.

Body

Ministry of Tribal Affairs was set up in 1999 to uplift tribal communities of India which is extremely marginalised simply because of their cultural practises and habitation in faraway areas thereby getting geopolitically excluded.

Schemes to promote Tribal culture:

a. Aadi Mahotsav

- a celebration of the spirit of Tribal Culture, Craft, Cuisine and Commerce, was successfully conducted by the tribal ministry in Delhi. It has been organised in the memory of legendary tribal leader Birsa Munda.
- The Festival showed exquisite craftsmanship of tribal artisans. This included beautiful sarees, dress materials, jewellery, bamboo & cane products, paintings and hundreds of other items.

a. Swadesh Darshan Scheme Tribal circuit

- Union Ministry of Tourism has inaugurated India's first tribal circuit project connecting 13 tourism sites in Chhattisgarh under Swadesh Darshan Scheme Tribal circuit project
- Major components sanctioned under tribal circuit project in Chhattisgarh includes developing eco log huts, craft haats, souvenir shops, open

amphitheatre, tribal interpretation centres, workshop centres, tourist amenities centres, viewpoints, nature trails, solar illuminations etc.

- These components will improve the existing tourist facilities, enhance the overall tourist experience and help in getting more visitors which in return will increase promotion of tribal culture and job opportunities in the area.

b. Construction of Museums for Tribal Freedom Fighters.

c. Tribal Handicrafts

- TRIFED has setup **TribesIndia** a chain of showrooms where several categories of handicrafts are being marketed like tribal textiles, tribal jewellery.
- TRIFED is also working on the capacity building of the tribes

Schemes for Promotion of tribal entrepreneurship

a. Van Dhan Scheme

- The scheme aims at economic development of tribals involved in collection of Minor Food Produces (MFPs) by helping them in optimum utilization of natural resources and provides them with a sustainable livelihood.
- Under it, 10 Self Help Groups (SHGs) of 30 Tribal gatherers will be constituted.

b. TRIFED– It is engaged in the marketing development of tribal products and provides marketing support to the products made by tribals through a network of retail outlets.

c. Minor Forest Produce is the main source of livelihood of tribal in the country. Recently the government initiated the fixing of the MSP of the Minor Forest Produce and its range.

d. Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojana -aimed at the social-economic empowerment of the tribal

- It aims at the overall development of tribal people with an outcome-base approach by bringing the tribal population of the country at par with other social groups and include them in overall progress of the nation.

e. Tribal Entrepreneurship Summit

- India's first Tribal Entrepreneurship Summit was organised at Dantewada in Bastar region of Chhattisgarh. The summit is part of 8th Global Entrepreneurship Summit being held in India. The event was organized by National Institute of Transforming India (NITI) Aayog in partnership with Government of USA.
- It was organised to inspire, nurture and promote the spirit of entrepreneurship in tribal youth. It aims to ensure another step towards tribal-centric sustainable and inclusive development.

f. Stand-Up India

- Launched in 2015, Stand-Up India seeks to leverage institutional credit for the benefit of women entrepreneurs, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- At least one women and one individual from the SC or ST communities are granted loans between Rs.1 million to Rs.10 million to set up greenfield enterprises in manufacturing, services or the trading sector.

Performance of schemes

- Under **Tribal Sub Plan**, 37 central government ministries and departments are required to earmark 2-20% of their total budget outlay for tribal welfare. The ministries identify targeted schemes and then earmark the funds scheme-wise to different states.
- However, 16 of the 37 ministries have spent less than half the amount to date.
- The Centre's bid to spend an unprecedented allocation of over Rs 39,000 crore for tribal welfare this fiscal hasn't been going well with almost half of the ministries unable to spend even 50% of the allocations

There are several **discrepancies** in the implementation of the TSP, including:

- Non-adoption of specific norms for release of funds,
- Weak programme management,
- A deficient monitoring system,
- Non-implementation of information programmes.

Minimum Support Price for Minor Forest Produce:

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) has added nine minor forest produce (MFP) items to its minimum support price (MSP) for MFP scheme thereby taking the total number of MFPs covered under the list to 49
- Extension of the scheme from schedule V states to all over the country.

Skill Development:

An amount of Rs. 165.00 Crore has been released to various states under Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme and Grants for skill development of tribal youth.

Recommendations

- **Financial management** - strict adherence to earmarking of funds into a separate head at every level should be made mandatory for release of funds.
- **Non-lapsable pool for TSP fund**

- **Central nodal unit** for an overview which will facilitate better coordination and efficient implementation of TSP through an online monitoring system.
- **Involvement of the local community** in the planning process inputs/ suggestions of the local tribal community should be sought before finalising the plan for implementation of any programme under TSP.

Conclusion

As more number of tribes are being assimilated into the mainstream, there is an urgent need for effective implementation of these schemes to safeguard tribal culture and uplift their lives socially and economically.

