

Social Justice Previous Year Questions (PYQs): 2025-2013

2025

1. Women's social capital complements in advancing empowerment and gender equity. Explain. (Answer in 150 words)
2. Inequality in the ownership pattern of resources is one of the major causes of poverty. Discuss in the context of 'paradox of poverty'. (Answer in 250 words)
3. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has to address the challenges faced by children in the digital era. Examine the existing policies and suggest measures the Commission can initiate to tackle the issue. (Answer in 250 words)

2024

1. **Poverty and malnutrition** create a vicious cycle, adversely affecting human capital formation. What steps can be taken to break the cycle?
2. In a crucial domain like the **public healthcare system** the Indian State should play a vital role to contain the adverse impact of marketisation of the system. Suggest some measures through which the State can enhance the reach of public healthcare at the grassroots level.

2023

1. The crucial aspect of development process has been the inadequate attention paid to **Human Resource Development** in India. Suggest measures that can address this inadequacy.
2. Discuss the contribution of **civil society groups** for women's effective and meaningful participation and representation in state legislatures in India.
3. "Development and **welfare schemes for the vulnerable**, by its nature, are discriminatory in approach." Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.
4. **Skill development programmes** have succeeded in increasing human resources supply to various sectors. In the context of the statement analyse the linkages between education, skill and employment.

2022

1. The **Gati-Shakti Yojana** needs meticulous coordination between the government and the private sector to achieve the goal of connectivity. Discuss.
2. The **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016** remains only a legal document without intense sensitisation of government functionaries and citizens regarding disability. Comment.
3. Reforming the government delivery system through the **Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme** is a progressive step, but it has its limitations too. Comment.
4. Besides the welfare schemes, India needs deft **management of inflation and unemployment** to serve the poor and the underprivileged sections of society. Discuss.
5. Do you agree with the view that **increasing dependence on donor agencies** for development reduces the importance of community participation in the development process? Justify your answer.
6. The **Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009** remains inadequate in promoting an incentive-based system for children's education without generating awareness about the importance of schooling. Analyse

2021

1. Discuss the desirability of greater **representation to women in the higher judiciary** to ensure diversity, equity and inclusiveness.
2. Can the vicious cycle of **gender inequality, poverty and malnutrition** be broken through microfinancing of women **SHGs**? Explain with examples.
3. “Though women in post-Independent India have excelled in various fields, the **social attitude towards women and the feminist movement** has been **patriarchal**.” Apart from women education and women empowerment schemes, what interventions can help change this milieu?

2020

1. In order to enhance the prospects of **social development, sound and adequate health care policies** are needed particularly in the fields of geriatric and maternal health care. Discuss.
2. “**Micro-Finance as an anti-poverty vaccine** is aimed at asset creation and income security of the rural poor in India”. Evaluate the role of **Self-Help Groups** in achieving the twin objectives along with empowering women in rural India.
3. **National Education Policy 2020** is in conformity with the Sustainable Development Goal-4 (2030). It intends to restructure and reorient the education system in India. Critically examine the statement.

2019

1. Despite Consistent experience of high growth, India still goes with the lowest indicators of **human development**. Examine the issues that make balanced and inclusive development elusive.
2. There is a growing divergence in the relationship between **poverty and hunger** in India. The shrinking of social expenditure by the government is forcing the poor to spend more on non-food essential items squeezing their food-budget – Elucidate.

2018

1. Appropriate local community level healthcare intervention is a prerequisite to achieve ‘**Health for All**’ in India. Explain.
2. Multiplicity of various commissions for the **vulnerable sections of the society** leads to problems of overlapping jurisdiction and duplication of functions. Is it better to merge all commissions into an umbrella Human Rights Commission? Argue your case.
3. The **Citizen’s Charter** is an ideal instrument of organisational transparency and accountability, but it has its own limitations. Identify the limitations and suggest measures for greater effectiveness of the Citizen’s Charters.

2017

1. How do **pressure groups** influence the Indian political process? Do you agree with this view that informal pressure groups have emerged as more powerful than formal pressure groups in recent years? (150 words)
2. ‘**The emergence of Self Help Groups(SHGs)** in contemporary times points to the slow but steady withdrawal of the state from developmental activities’. Examine the role of the SHGs in developmental activities and the measures taken by the Government of India to promote the SHGs. (250 words)

3. Initially **Civil Services** in India were designed to achieve the goals of **neutrality and effectiveness**, which seems to be lacking in the present context. Do you agree with the view that drastic reforms are required in Civil Services. Comment (250 words)

2016

1. **Professor Amartya Sen** has advocated important reforms in the realms of **primary education and primary health care**. What are your suggestions to improve their status and performance?
2. In the **integrity index of Transparency International**, India stands very low. Discuss briefly the legal, political, social and cultural factors that have caused the decline of public morality in India.
3. **“Traditional bureaucratic structure and culture have hampered the process of socio-economic development in India.”** Comment.
4. **“Demographic Dividend in India will remain only theoretical unless our manpower becomes more educated, aware, skilled and creative.”** What measures have been taken by the government to enhance the capacity of our population to be more productive and employable?

2015

1. How can the **role of NGOs** be strengthened in India for development works relating to protection of the environment? Discuss throwing light on the major constraints.
2. The **quality of higher education** in India requires major improvements to make it internationally competitive. Do you think that the entry of foreign educational institutions would help improve the quality of higher and technical education in the country? Discuss.
3. **Public health system** has limitations in providing universal health coverage. Do you think that the private sector could help in bridging the gap? What other viable alternatives would you suggest?
4. Though there have been several different estimates of **poverty in India**, all indicate reduction in poverty levels over time. Do you agree? Critically examine with reference to urban and rural poverty indicators.

2014

1. The penetration of **Self Help Groups (SHGs)** in rural areas in promoting participation in development programmes is facing socio-cultural hurdles. Examine.
2. An athlete participates in Olympics for personal triumph and nation's glory; victors are showered with cash incentives by various agencies, on their return. Discuss the merit of **state sponsored talent hunt and its cultivation** as against the rationale of a reward mechanism as encouragement.
3. Should the premier institutes like IITs/IIMs be allowed to retain premier status, allowed more **academic independence** in designing courses and also decide mode/criteria of selection of students. Discuss in light of the growing challenges.

2013

1. **Pressure group politics** is sometimes seen as the informal face of politics. With regards to the above, assess the structure and functioning of pressure groups in India.

2. The legitimacy and accountability of **Self Help Groups (SHGs)** and their patrons, the micro-finance outfits, need systematic assessment and scrutiny for the sustained success of the concept. Discuss.
3. The basis of **providing urban amenities in rural areas (PURA)** is rooted in establishing connectivity. Comment.
4. Identify the **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)** that are related to health. Discuss the success of the actions taken by the Government for achieving the same.
5. Though **Citizen's charters** have been formulated by many public service delivery organizations, there is no corresponding improvement in the level of citizens' satisfaction and quality of services being provided. Analyse.