

# CLASS 9 ECONOMICS LESSON 3 POVERTY AS A CHALLENGE



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## WHO IS POOR AND WHAT IS POVERTY?

- The Poor are those who do not have the basic facilities to live.
- A condition of destitution, hardship and deprivation.
- No House, No clothing and No food.
- Thus they remain in the vicious circle of poverty ever.
- Poverty is a situation in which one person is unable to secure even his basic requirements to live comfortably.



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## POVERTY IN INDIA



- Poverty is one of the most formidable challenges that India faces today.
- Poverty position of India is still third in the world, Nigeria and Bangladesh are the first and the second respectively.
- A travel to various parts of our country reveal a truth that even today many people are homeless, live in very poor conditions.
- The landless labourers of rural areas
- The casual labourers of urban areas
- The tribals, artisans, servants, rickshaw pullers, widows, disabled and the aged and weak persons.

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## TWO CASE STUDIES OF POVERTY

### • Urban Case

• Thirty-three year old Ram Saran works as a daily-wage labourer in a wheat flour mill near Ranchi in Jharkhand. He manages to earn around Rs 1,500 a month when he finds employment, which is not often. The money is not enough to sustain his family of six — that includes his wife and four children aged between 12 years to six months. He has to send money home to his old parents who live in a village near Ramgarh. His father a landless labourer, depends on Ram Saran and his brother who lives in Hazaribagh, for sustenance. Ram Saran lives in a one-room rented house in a crowded basti in the outskirts of the city. It's a temporary shack built of bricks and clay tiles. His wife Santa Devi, works as a part time maid in a few houses and manages to earn another Rs 800. They manage a meagre meal of dal and rice twice a day, but there's never enough for all of them. His elder son works as a helper in a tea shop to supplement the family income and earns another Rs 300, while his 10-year-old daughter takes care of the younger siblings. None of the children go to school. They have only two pairs of hand-me-down clothes each. New ones are bought only when the old clothes become unwearable. Shoes are a luxury. The younger kids are undernourished. They have no access to healthcare when they fall ill.

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## TWO CASE STUDIES OF POVERTY

### • Rural case

• Lakha Singh belongs to a small village near Meerut in Uttar Pradesh. His family doesn't own any land, so they do odd jobs for the big farmers. Work is erratic and so is income. At times they get paid Rs 50 for a hard day's work. But often it's in kind like a few kilograms of wheat or dal or even vegetables for toiling in the farm through the day. The family of eight cannot always manage two square meals a day. Lakha lives in a kuchha hut on the outskirts of the village. The women of the family spend the day chopping fodder and collecting firewood in the fields. His father a TB patient, passed away two years ago due to lack of medication. His mother now suffers from the same disease and life is slowly ebbing away. Although, the village has a primary school, Lakha never went there. He had to start earning when he was 10 years old. New clothes happen once in a few years. Even soap and oil are a luxury for the family.

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## STORIES REVEAL MAIN DIMENSIONS OF POVERTY

- Poverty refers to hunger, lack of shelter and proper clothing.
- Parents are unable to get their children educated.
- The poor people are not able to access to medical facilities and treatments.
- Malnutrition among the children make them weak while growing too.
- Poor people have large families to look after.
- Unemployment and underemployment are widespread among them.
- Poverty generates child labour.
- Poor people are denied with the basic facilities to live in – no proper environment, no clean water and sanitation facilities.



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