

Understanding Poverty

Chapter 18: Poverty as a Challenge · Topic 1

Key Concept

Poverty can be measured in absolute terms (based on a fixed minimum income or consumption level) or relative terms (compared to the average living standards in a society).

The poverty line is a specific income level used to determine who is considered poor, though this measure has limitations and doesn't capture all aspects of deprivation.

Poverty affects access to education, healthcare, and opportunities, often creating a cycle where poor families struggle to improve their circumstances across generations.

Understanding poverty's causes and effects helps governments and organisations design better policies and programs to reduce poverty and improve living standards.

Quick Revision Notes

- Poverty means lacking resources to meet basic needs.
- Absolute poverty uses a fixed minimum income level.
- Relative poverty compares to average living standards.
- The poverty line determines who is considered poor.
- The poverty line has limitations in capturing all deprivation.
- Poverty affects education, healthcare and opportunities.
- Poverty can create a cycle across generations.
- Understanding poverty helps design better policies.

Practice Questions

- 1 Discuss the difference between absolute and relative poverty.
- 2 Research India's poverty line definition.
- 3 Explain how poverty can affect a child's education.
- 4 Discuss why poverty can persist across generations.
- 5 Research a government scheme aimed at reducing poverty.
- 6 Discuss why measuring poverty accurately is challenging.