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Section—I

20 Marks Questions - 500-600 words Each

Q. - "The poor in cities suffer from multiple deprivations." Discuss.

ANS.- The Poor in Cities Suffer from Multiple Deprivations

Urban poverty has become one of the most pressing challenges in contemporary society. While cities are often associated with economic opportunities, better infrastructure, and access to services, the urban poor frequently face multiple deprivations that hinder their well-being and limit their ability to escape poverty. These deprivations are interrelated and manifest in various dimensions including housing, health, education, employment, and social security.

Housing and Shelter Deprivation

One of the most visible forms of deprivation among the urban poor is inadequate housing. Many slum dwellers and informal settlers live in overcrowded, unsafe, and unhygienic conditions. These settlements often lack basic amenities such as clean drinking water, proper sanitation, and electricity. The insecure tenure of housing also exposes them to eviction threats, making long-term stability and investment in their homes difficult. Poor housing conditions directly impact health and safety, increasing vulnerability to diseases and accidents.

Health and Sanitation Deprivation

Health deprivation is another significant challenge faced by the urban poor. Lack of access to affordable healthcare, coupled with poor nutrition and unsanitary living conditions, increases susceptibility to diseases such as tuberculosis, cholera, and respiratory infections. Urban slums often have limited access to public health services, and private healthcare remains unaffordable for most low-income families. Moreover, inadequate sanitation and polluted environments exacerbate health risks, creating a cycle of illness and poverty.

Education and Skill Deprivation

Education is a key pathway out of poverty, yet the urban poor often experience educational deprivation. Children from low-income families face barriers such as high school fees, lack of transport, and the necessity to contribute to household income through child labor. This results in high dropout rates and limited access to quality education. The lack of skill development opportunities further reduces their employability in formal sectors, forcing many to rely on low-paying informal jobs with little security or social protection.

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Employment and Economic Deprivation

Employment insecurity is a major aspect of urban poverty. Many urban poor work in informal sectors such as construction, domestic work, street vending, and daily wage labor. These jobs are often irregular, low-paid, and lack social security benefits such as health insurance, pension, or paid leave. This economic vulnerability prevents families from planning for long-term needs and exposes them to shocks like illness, unemployment, or inflation.

Social and Political Deprivation

The urban poor are often excluded from decision-making processes that affect their lives. They have limited access to legal services, social protection schemes, and urban governance structures. Marginalization reduces their ability to claim rights or participate in civic life, reinforcing social inequalities and exclusion.

Conclusion

In conclusion, urban poverty is multidimensional, and the poor in cities suffer from interconnected deprivations in housing, health, education, employment, and social participation. Addressing urban poverty requires integrated policies that combine housing reforms, accessible healthcare, quality education, skill development, and inclusive governance. Without addressing these multiple deprivations simultaneously, efforts to improve the living conditions of the urban poor remain incomplete and unsustainable.

Q. - Examine the dependency approach to the study of underdevelopment.

ANS.- The dependency approach emerged in the 1960s and 1970s as a critique of the traditional modernization theory, which suggested that underdeveloped countries could achieve development by following the path of developed nations. Dependency theorists argued that underdevelopment is not merely a stage in the developmental process but is structurally produced and maintained through historical and economic relationships between countries. This approach emphasizes the global system of unequal economic relationships, highlighting how the development of rich nations is often dependent on the underdevelopment of poorer nations.

Historical Context and Origins

The dependency approach has its roots in Latin America, particularly in the work of scholars such as Raúl Prebisch, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, and André Gunder Frank. These thinkers analyzed the economic conditions of Latin American countries and observed that despite the adoption of industrial policies and foreign aid, these countries remained underdeveloped. They traced the origins of underdevelopment to colonialism, arguing that the integration of peripheral economies into the world capitalist system perpetuated inequality. Colonial powers extracted resources and structured local economies to serve the needs of the colonial centers, leaving these regions dependent on external markets and technologies.

Core Concepts

The central idea of the dependency approach is the **center-periphery relationship**, which posits that the global economy is divided into developed "core" nations and underdeveloped "peripheral" nations. The core benefits from technological advancement, capital accumulation, and market control, while the periphery is exploited for raw materials, cheap labor, and as a market for surplus goods from the core. This relationship is mutually reinforcing: the wealth of the core depends on the poverty of the periphery, and peripheral countries remain trapped in a cycle of dependency.

Another key concept is **structural distortion**, which refers to the way economic structures in peripheral countries are shaped to meet the demands of the global economy rather than local needs. For example, monoculture production of cash crops or resource extraction for export may generate wealth for multinational corporations but leaves local

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populations vulnerable to market fluctuations and economic shocks. Dependency theorists argue that underdevelopment is not an internal deficiency but a product of external exploitation and unequal integration into the world system.

Policy Implications

The dependency approach influenced development strategies in many countries. Scholars suggested that peripheral nations should reduce reliance on foreign capital, diversify their economies, and adopt import-substitution industrialization (ISI) strategies to reduce dependency on core nations. These policies aimed to strengthen domestic industries, control foreign investment, and achieve greater economic autonomy. However, critics of dependency theory argue that it overemphasizes external factors and underestimates the role of domestic governance, corruption, and policy choices in shaping development outcomes.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the dependency approach provides a critical lens to examine underdevelopment as a structural phenomenon rooted in historical and global economic inequalities. It challenges the linear assumptions of modernization theory, highlighting that development in one part of the world may perpetuate underdevelopment elsewhere. By emphasizing the importance of external dependency and center-periphery dynamics, this approach remains influential in understanding the persistent inequalities in the global economic system and in shaping alternative development strategies.

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Q. - Outline the main characteristics of modern cities.

ANS.- Main Characteristics of Modern Cities

Modern cities are distinct from traditional urban settlements due to their advanced infrastructure, diverse population, and dynamic socio-economic environment. These cities serve as centers of economic growth, cultural development, and technological innovation. The characteristics of modern cities can be broadly outlined under several key aspects:

1. Advanced Infrastructure and Facilities:

One of the most defining features of modern cities is their well-developed infrastructure. This includes an organized transportation system with roads, highways, railways, and public transport facilities that ensure smooth mobility within the city. Modern cities also have reliable water supply, electricity, sewage systems, and telecommunications networks. The presence of such facilities enhances the quality of life for residents and supports economic activities. Skyscrapers, commercial complexes, hospitals, schools, and recreational spaces are commonly found, reflecting the city's modern architectural and urban planning standards.

2. Economic Diversity and Employment Opportunities:

Modern cities function as economic hubs with diverse occupational structures. They provide a wide range of employment opportunities in sectors like information technology, manufacturing, services, trade, finance, and tourism. Unlike traditional settlements, where agriculture dominated the economy, modern cities are service-oriented and knowledge-driven. Industrial zones, business districts, and technology parks are integral parts of these cities, attracting

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both national and international investments. The economic dynamism contributes to higher income levels and improved living standards.

3. Cultural and Social Diversity:

Modern cities are melting pots of various cultures, languages, religions, and lifestyles. They attract people from different regions and countries, leading to a multicultural society. This diversity is evident in cuisine, festivals, arts, and social interactions. Social institutions like educational institutions, art galleries, theaters, and sports complexes play a significant role in nurturing creativity and cultural expression. Urban populations often exhibit a cosmopolitan mindset, embracing innovation, openness, and inclusivity.

4. Technological Advancement:

Modern cities are characterized by their adoption of advanced technology. Smart cities, a concept widely implemented today, utilize digital systems for traffic management, public safety, waste management, and governance. Internet connectivity, digital services, and automation in businesses and households contribute to efficiency and convenience. The integration of technology into urban management enhances resource utilization and promotes sustainable development.

5. Planned Urban Development:

Unlike older settlements, modern cities are usually planned with zoning regulations and development policies. Urban planning focuses on residential, commercial, and industrial areas, ensuring organized growth. Green spaces, parks, and pedestrian zones are incorporated to improve environmental quality. Modern cities also emphasize sustainability through initiatives such as energy-efficient buildings, public transportation promotion, and pollution control measures.

6. Social Challenges and Urban Dynamics:

Despite the advantages, modern cities face challenges such as overcrowding, traffic congestion, pollution, and socio-economic disparities. Migration from rural areas to cities often leads to the formation of informal settlements or slums. Cities also demand continuous adaptation to changes in population, technology, and the global economy.

Conclusion:

In essence, modern cities are centers of economic, cultural, and technological progress. Their advanced infrastructure, diverse population, planned development, and adoption of technology distinguish them from traditional urban areas. While offering opportunities and improved living standards, they also pose challenges that require innovative planning and governance to ensure sustainable urban growth.

Q. - Critically examine the ecological perspective to the understanding of social life.

ANS.- The ecological perspective in sociology and social sciences views human behavior and social life as deeply interconnected with the environment. This approach, inspired by the work of early sociologists like Robert Park and later Urie Bronfenbrenner, emphasizes that individuals and groups cannot be fully understood in isolation from their physical, social, and cultural environments. Ecological theory proposes that social structures, institutions, and interactions evolve in response to environmental conditions, much like organisms adapt to ecological niches in nature. One of the central contributions of the ecological perspective is its focus on the **interdependence between humans and their surroundings**. It recognizes that social life is shaped by multiple layers of context—ranging from the immediate microsystem (family, peers, and workplace) to the broader macrosystem (cultural norms, political institutions, and economic conditions). Bronfenbrenner's ecological systems theory, for instance, highlights that development and social behavior result from ongoing interactions across these nested environments. By considering

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