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Poverty is a direct threat to humanity.

while on a train journey I met a family of four, migrant parents and a boy and a girl of 3 and 8 years respectively. They did not know the place they were going to nor they had mobile phone to contact nor money if need be. The older girl had been taken out of the school so that she can look after the sibling when parents would work in sugarcane field for 300 ₹ each. for these 300 the mother last year got her uterus removed as her employer felt that during periods women's output decreases therefore they should get half wages. In spite of that, the family is happy as visible by the loveable bond they share. The mother brags to me the fair complexion of her son and how his light brown hairs are unique in the family. I half smiled not knowing whether to break her heart by letting her know that her son's fair looks,

brown hair along with sagging chest and pot belly are signs of acute malnutrition.

The above incident is daily life of 22 % population of India according to Tendulkar Committee report. A lot of water has gone under the bridge since then including recent COVID pandemic which according to World Bank thrown again to poverty 155 million Indians.

This is bad situation and therefore whosoever is poor is not poor by choice. Then what led to emergence of poverty, what is humanitis and is there any way we can salvage this situation?

Going back in time, the universe popped out around 13.7 billion years ago, followed by Earth and life on it. Around 4 million years ago humanity took its first step and around 10,000 years ago we started agriculture and settled

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living. This last period is called revolution as it freed agriculturalist from dependence on nature for food. Archaeologists put their finger on this period for the origin of poverty which spread its tentacles to every human group on every continent. During this period the struggle to have more land for more crop, war for cattle of other groups and genocides for economic hegemony started. This was an omen for what poverty would do to humanity.

Coming to our present state, poverty is estimated in number of ways ranging from caloric poverty, nutritional poverty, multi-dimensional poverty to recently proposed Basic necessities index by economic survey. They have different methods and indicators but broadly they take the vitiges of disparity in access to

resources.

Thereby, those who are poor do not get sufficient access to education, skill and employment. On one hand it is the question of disguised employment in agriculture and petty trades. On the other hand the perennial problems like caste in India and racism in USA is rooted in poverty. Isabel Wilkerson in her book caste: the origin of our discontent traces the commonality between these two worlds where rich subjugated the poor through cultural myths.

The above factors do not fit in the ideas of humanity we have created. Humanity is what separates us from other animals, characterised by empathy, emotions, cooperation

kindness and an uncontrollable urge to relieve the suffering of others. Ideally by virtue of protective humanity these large differences including poverty should not exist.

Gandhiji in his seven sin gave principle of science without humanity is a sin but in a broader sense humanity ought to be the bedrock for activities and institutions of ours. Thus, poverty is a sin committed over underprivileged and a threat to humanity.

Another dimension we can trace from Marlow's pyramid of hierarchy of needs wherein lower order needs must be satisfied such as food, shelter in order to achieve pinnacle stage of self actualisation. But the poverty

restricts the grains one could have, reduces the possible ~~of~~ number of mates and so on creates hurdles in achieving one's human potential. Thus group level disabilities as a whole is threat to the humanity for subverting its ideals.

Similarly the problems of our modern world are rooted in the poverty. This could be economic poverty, moral poverty, social poverty or intellectual poverty to name a few.

Economists has traced one of the cause of female infanticide to be poverty - girl child in a poor home would further cause drain of wealth in the form of dowry. With her humanity got killed. A new wed bride burned by in laws due to blinding moral poverty - humanity sitting in the corner with

bowed head. Also relation of poverty and crime is well established such as broken window theory presented evidence small petty crimes in poor neighbourhood later turned into serious crimes. Drug peddling for example is concentrated in poor youth (NFHS 5)

Beyond racial level, poverty is going to make severe suppositions on the pursuit of humanity. Present Rohingya crisis, Afghanistan crisis and Bangladeshi migrant crisis has poverty in common. There are prime face political reasons which started the crisis but historical poverty and inequality made the defenseless leading to present day. Coupled with intellectual poverty of the leaders it became crisis of humanity rather than of a country.

as noted by UN Human Rights Commission.

So far we have seen how poverty emerged in humans, what are its implications on the ideals of humanity and how our contemporary world is dealing with this seemingly pervasive phenomenon. The next logical question comes what & how can present poverty in that goal enshrined in humanistic ideals can be realised.

According to Oxfam Inequality report world's 10% richest hold 60% of wealth. This wealth needs to be diverted towards those who do not have means to survive in the spirit of redistributive justice. Mill & Bellinda Gates foundation, Azim Premji are stellar examples of doing this.

Next possibly, the most ~~app~~ important, would be development of capabilities and Agency (Amartya Sen) by providing education, skills and resources to those who are in the bottom of pyramid. Our constitution provides fundamental duties (13, 14, 15, 16, 21A) and guide for policy makers in the form of directive principles.

And lastly, handholding by the State is paramount in wading through the path historically closed for the poor. Here every citizen shall feel humanity to help others equalise. As Indian philosophies says "Sarve Bhavantu Sukhina" means the good of mine is in the good of everyone. May be we need to overcome the poverty of humanity within by removing poverty of wealth.

that migrant families still does not have wealth but by the end of journey they understood, what nation entitlement of subsidised seats they can avail.

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Question No.

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employment opportunities under MGNARESS and
measures suggested for undernourished child. Surely
it would not end their poverty in one day but
it is a good beginning.