

IRMA : Issues of Social Concern - 2017

Q. 1-3. Read the following passage and answer the given questions.

In pre-British India, *annachhatras* (charity dining halls) were patronized by royalty and the rich to feed the needy. In England, the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 emphasized the importance of 'workhouses' as a means of giving food relief to the poor. The philosophical basis for the act was guided by the utilitarian ideas of Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832), known for his axiom, 'it is the greatest happiness to the greatest number that is the measure of right and wrong.' However, the actual problems encountered in running of the workhouses are movingly narrated by Charles Dickens in his novel, *Oliver Twist*. Nine-year-old Oliver, like the other residents, was entitled to 'three months of thin gruel a day, with an onion twice a week, and half a roll on Sundays'. Not getting their due share, the starving children held a council and it fell upon Oliver to famously ask, 'Please, sir, I want some more.' The above account shows that historically, society had recognized hunger and basic health as a **market failure**, and tried to make provision for such **public good** either through private charity or public policy.

A similar public policy initiative was lifted up a couple of notches in India when the NP-NSPE, also popularly known as the _____, was launched at the national level in 1995. The objective of this programme was to give a boost to the universalization of primary education and to impact the nutritional intake of the students.

Q.1. What is not true about 'Market Failure'?

1. Non-rivalry in consumption, non-excludability, natural monopoly, information asymmetries and externalities etc. are some of the factors that contribute towards market failure.
2. A probable outcome of market failure is disturbance in Pareto optimality.
3. Externalities, public goods, asymmetric information and monopoly provide necessary- as well as sufficient- conditions for government interventions to be justified.
4. Many social welfare programmes of Government of India find their theoretical justification in market failure.
5. Some remedies for market failure (e.g. Patent system for addressing under-investment in research) can resemble other market failures (e.g. creating artificial monopolies).

Correct Answer- 3

Q. 2. The blank space in the above passage is talking about-

1. *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*
2. Mid-Day Meal Scheme
3. *Saakshar Bharat Abhiyaan*
4. *Rashtriya Prathamik Shiksha Abhiyaan*
5. National Food Security Act, 2013

Correct Answer-2

Q.3. Find out the correct statement-

1. The private goods face the problem of freeriding more acutely than a public good.
2. The market demand curve for a private good is either non-existent or significantly understated.
3. The market forces fail to appropriately deliver the private goods.
4. Ahmedabad-Vadodara expressway can be cited as a rough example of a public good/service.
5. Exclusion from the consumption of a public good is difficult or impossible.

Correct Answer- 5

Q. 4-7. Read the following passage and answer the given questions.

Simplicity and reliability in **financial inclusion** in India, though not a cure all, can be a way of liberating poor from dependence on indifferently delivered public services and from venal politicians. In order to draw in the poor, the products should address their needs- a safe place to save, a reliable way to send and receive money, a quick way to borrow in times of need or to escape the clutches of money lender, easy to understand life and health insurance and an avenue to engage in savings for the old age.

Q. 4. Which of the following best describes the concept of 'financial inclusion'?

1. Opening new bank branches in rural areas and providing each family with at least one bank account.
2. Taking steps to make financial markets more amenable to the participation of retail investors.
3. Both (1) & (2)
4. Provision of formal financial services to the hitherto unbanked population.
5. Direct transfer of subsidies in the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.

Correct Answer-(4)

Q. 5. What can be a favorable outcome of financial inclusion?

1. Enhanced social spending by government leading to creation of infrastructure in rural areas.
2. Favorable policy environment for foreign investors.
3. Reduction in government's subsidy bill owing to improvement in delivery efficiency.
4. Banks would be able to use some part of this rural liquidity to cover losses from NPA thereby ensuring macro-economic stability of the country.
5. All of the above.

Correct Answer- (3)

Q. 6. Consider the following initiatives by Government/RBI.

(A) Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, (B) Establishment of MUDRA Bank, (C) New licenses granted by RBI to Payment Banks, (D) Priority Sector lending norms, (E) Promotion of e-KYC (F) in-principle approval to a new monetary policy framework in the country (G) www.paisaboltahai.rbi.org.in

Which of the following are conceived as a direct intervention in promoting financial inclusion?

1. A, C & E
2. A, B & C
3. A, B, D & E
4. A, B, C, D & F
5. A, B, C, D, E, F & G

Correct Answer- (1)

Q. 7. Which of the following is a major roadblock in the path of financial inclusion in India?

1. Lack of physical outreach and rural footprints of Indian banks
2. Absence of a commercially viable & scalable business model for banks to adopt in rural areas
3. Financial illiteracy and a general lack of trust of rural public in banking institutions
4. Lack of regulatory push by RBI and demand pull from unbanked areas
5. All the options mentioned above

Correct Answer- (2)

Q. 8-9. Read the following passage and answer the given questions.

“The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are our shared vision of humanity and a social contract between the world’s leaders and the people. They are a to-do list for people and planet, and a blueprint for success.” UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon had said of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted unanimously by 193 Heads of State and other top leaders at a summit in New York in September 2015.

Q. 8. The greatest significance of SDGs lies in the fact that-

1. SDGs are first ever attempt by UN towards a goal-specific target-based developmental approach at global scale
2. SDGs attempt at harmonizing of three critical elements: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection
3. SDGs are universal- they are for all nations, developing as well as developing
4. Resource mobilization for implementation of SDGs has the potential of rewriting the old North-South relationship equation
5. SDGs are a result of a wider consultation process in which all the member countries of UN participated

Correct Answer- (2)

Q. 9. What was India’s response to adoption of the new set of SDGs targets?

1. India hailed SDGs and has shown enthusiasm towards the implementation of SDGs domestically
2. India was not satisfied as some of its proposals like counter terrorism-related cooperation and intelligence sharing were not made part of SDGs
3. As India was overshadowed by China & US during SDGs negotiations India has accepted SDGs only in a subdued manner
4. NITI Aayog is studying the feasibility of implementing SDGs in India and only after that India will ratify SDGs
5. India exhibited an ambivalent stand with environment ministry appreciating the SDGs while Finance ministry was critical of it

Q. 10. Maternal mortality ratio (MMR) is the number of women who die from pregnancy-related causes while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy. MMR is counted at the base of—

1. Number of deaths per 100 live births
2. Number of deaths per 1000 live births
3. Number of deaths per 100,000 live births
4. Number of deaths per 1,000,000 live births
5. None of the above

Correct answer- (3)

Q. 11. In October last year, World Bank has altered the Global Poverty Line from the existing \$1.25-a-day benchmark — popularly called the dollar-a-day poverty line — to better reflect the 2011-based Purchasing Power Parity prices. The new Global Poverty Line is-

1. \$1.00 per day
2. \$1.50 per day
3. \$1.90 per day
4. \$2.00 per day
5. \$2.25 per day

Correct Answer- (3)

Q. 12. Who wrote "Everybody Loves a Good Drought"?

1. M. S. Swaminathan
2. Amartya Sen
3. Muhammad Yunus
4. P. Sainath
5. Yoginder K. Alagh

Correct Answer- (4)

Q. 13-15. Read the following passage and answer the given questions.

The developmental challenge in rural India is not about making a choice between the imperatives of industrial development and the compelling need for agricultural growth; it is essentially about helping the rural sector realize its potential for development by using the gains of modern science and technology and industrial development as such. It does not make good economic or political sense to reduce the whole issue to one of a choice between one sector or other. We have to strive for **growth with a human face** that is socially equitable and regionally balanced, where all the sectors and entire population partake of the fruits of our growing economy.

Q. 13. What emerges as the major theme of the above passage?

1. The existing developmental strategy of the government is flawed
2. Agriculture sector has failed to adequately tap the benefits of modern science and technology
3. Focusing on rural development does not make economic or political sense and that is the reason for lower priority for this sector
4. It is possible as well as essential to have a balanced development
5. Social equality and regional balance are important objectives to achieve

Correct answer- (4)

Q. 14. What is meant by the expression 'growth with a human face'?

1. Growth that brings smiles on the faces of maximum number of people
2. One person or a group of person or a party play the leading role in the process of growth i.e. he/she is the face of that growth
3. Economic growth which simultaneously brings human resource growth
4. Pro-poor growth
5. Not only physical but spiritual as well as psychological growth

Correct answer- (3)

Q. 15. Agricultural growth in our country is skewed. Eastern part of India is agriculturally backwards compared to northern and northwestern parts. What can be one of the chief cause of this regional imbalance?

1. Benefits of green revolution has not been realized in Eastern region
2. Large scale migration of agricultural workers to Northern India from Eastern parts
3. Better political organization of farmers in North India into unions and groups thereby giving them a considerable leverage in political decision making
4. Agroclimatic conditions in Eastern India support a small crop growing season compared to Northern India
5. Widespread poverty and illiteracy in Eastern part of India

Correct answer- (1)

Q 16. Which Five Year Plans (FYPs) of India achieved more than targeted GDP growth rate?

1. Second, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth
2. Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Tenth
3. Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth
4. Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth
5. First, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth

Correct answer- (5)

Q. 17. What percentage of seats are reserved for women in legislative assemblies of the states?1. 0%

2. 33%
3. 50%
4. Varies from state to state
5. None of these

Correct answer- (1)

Q. 18. Kyoto protocol is an international agreement that compels its member nations to reduce emission of Green House Gases (GHGs). It was signed in 1997 and its first commitment period ended in 2012. What is the duration of its second commitment period?

1. 2012-2015
2. 2013-2020
3. 2013-2023
4. 2015-2020
5. 2012-2017

Correct Answer- (2)

Q. 19. The flagship scheme of newly founded Skill Development ministry that aims to train 24 lakh youths during 2015-16 is called-

1. *Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana*
2. *Deen Dayal Upadhyay Grameen Kaushalya Yojana*
3. National Skill Development Scheme (NSDS)
4. *Aajeevika*
5. *Swarna Jayanti Swarozgar Yojana*

Correct Answer- (1)

Q. 20. Who is the regulator of Microfinance sector in India?

1. Finance Ministry
2. RBI
3. SEBI
4. NABARD
5. MUDRA Bank

Correct Answer- (5)