



Mains Practice Question

Q. How can we work to create a more just and equitable society through education, policy, and grassroots activism? (150 words)

14 Feb, 2023 GS Paper 2 Social Justice

Approach

- Start your answer by briefly introducing the need for creating just and equitable society.
- Discuss measures taken by government to create just and equitable society through education, policy, and grassroots activism.
- Conclude accordingly.

Introduction

- India is a country with immense diversity in terms of culture, religion, language, and socioeconomic status. However, this diversity often results in inequality and injustice, with marginalized groups facing discrimination, poverty, and limited opportunities.
- Therefore, there is a pressing need to create a just and equitable society in India that provides equal access to education, health care, employment opportunities, and social security to all citizens, regardless of their background. Achieving this goal requires a multifaceted approach that includes education, policy, and grassroots activism.

Body

- **Education:** Education is an essential tool for creating a just and equitable society. Here are some ways in which education can be used to achieve this goal:
 - **Equal Access to Education:** All children, regardless of their socioeconomic status, should have access to quality education. **The Right to Education Act, 2009**, was enacted to provide free and compulsory education to all children between the ages of 6 and 14. The government must ensure that this act is implemented effectively.
 - **Inclusive Education:** Inclusive education is a concept that **promotes equal learning opportunities** for all students, **including those with disabilities**.
 - The government has launched the **Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan** to provide an inclusive education to all students.
 - **Career Guidance:** Career guidance programs can help students make informed decisions about their future. The **National Career Service Portal** is an initiative by the government that provides career guidance to students.
- **Policy:** Policies are the backbone of a just and equitable society. Here are some ways in which policy can be used to achieve this goal:
 - **Poverty Alleviation:** Poverty is one of the leading causes of inequality in India. The government has launched several initiatives to alleviate poverty, such as the **National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005**, which provides a minimum of 100 days of wage employment to every rural household.
 - **Social Security:** Social security policies, such as pensions and insurance, can provide a safety net for vulnerable populations. The government has launched **several social security schemes**, such as the **National Social Assistance Program, which provides**

financial assistance to senior citizens, widows, and people with disabilities.

- **Gender Equality:** Gender inequality is a significant issue in India. The government has launched several initiatives to promote gender equality, such as the **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Yojana**, which aims to promote the education and empowerment of girls.
- **Grassroots Activism:** Grassroots activism is a powerful tool for promoting social change. Here are some ways in which grassroots activism can be used to achieve a more just and equitable society:
 - **Community Mobilization:** Mobilizing communities can create a sense of solidarity and promote social change. The **Self-Help Group movement** in India is an excellent example of community mobilization that has helped women become self-sufficient.
 - **Advocacy:** Advocacy is essential for promoting policy change. **The Right to Information Act, 2005**, is an example of successful advocacy that has empowered citizens to demand transparency from the government.
 - **Social Movements:** Social movements, such as the **Chipko Movement**, have played a crucial role in promoting environmental protection and sustainable development.

Conclusion

- Creating a just and equitable society requires a multi-faceted approach that includes education, policy, and grassroots activism. The government has launched several initiatives to promote equity, but there is still much to be done.
 - It is imperative to continue to promote inclusive education, poverty alleviation, social security, and gender equality. Grassroots activism can complement these efforts by mobilizing communities, advocating for policy change, and promoting social movements. By working together, we can create a more just and equitable society in India.

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