
INDIA STUDIES

0447/02

Case Studies

May/June 2015

INSERT (Resource Booklet)

1 hour 45 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Insert (Resource Booklet) contains Sources which you should use to answer Question 3 (Section B).

You should spend approximately 10 minutes reading the sources before attempting to answer the question. This is allowed for within the time set for the examination.

This document consists of **2** printed pages.

Source A

In India, the female life expectancy of 66.4 years is lower than that in many other countries and it is placed 139 out of 194 on the United Nations' list. In rural families many women are victims of nutritional discrimination and therefore suffer from anaemia and malnutrition. Maternal mortality in India is the second highest in the world. Not all forms of contraception are readily available to women, particularly in rural areas where sterilisation is the most common form. A 1995 survey showed an all-India average of 34.2% of currently married women had been sterilised.

Source B

Violent action against Dalits suggests that caste-based discrimination still exists. Fringe groups, largely run and dominated by 'upper' caste landlords have been established. They oppose the equal treatment of Dalits and use violence to suppress them. However, these limitations to progress need to be weighed against the development of primary education and health facilities. These have enhanced the opportunities and the life expectancy for many, particularly when seen alongside the campaigns to end child-labour and promote literacy. There have been anti-poverty programmes, rural employment guarantee schemes and income generating schemes with provisions for subsidies and loans. These have helped the development of agricultural schemes for dairy farming and goat rearing. Housing programmes have also done much to improve rural life. This has been very important, as it has taken away an instrument of control from the upper castes that had earlier had the power to remove people from the land. However, some of the positive steps taken by governments to improve the position of the Dalits have also created a backlash. There have been recorded attacks on Dalits by those who are jealous of the gains they have made.

Source C

The Green Revolution: In order to keep yields increasing, farmers have had to draw on underground water and in many places it is now running out. The quality of water is also declining because of the increased use of pesticide and fertiliser applications that are needed to maintain yields. As yields decrease, the cost of the crops rise and many can no longer afford to purchase food and become reliant on government schemes.

Crop failure: if a crop fails, as often happens because of the unpredictable droughts and floods, then the farmer faces not only a food crisis, but also a cash crisis, because he has no income to repay his loan and no income to pay for next year's seeds. The result is that many Indian farmers have been trapped in a web of debt from which they can see no escape.

Income and standards of living: Large numbers of Indians live on less than a dollar a day. Nearly half of all Indian children are malnourished. Half of all adult women suffer from anaemia. A massive 40% of the world's poorest people live in the Indian countryside. There has been slow progress on infant mortality and literacy rates.

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