

Economic inequality is the worst form of social injustice

Outline

I) Introduction

Economic inequality is the worst form of social injustice leading to devastating effects, such as minimum education opportunities, high poverty rate in the society, rise in terrorism, and suppression of women.

II) Explaining the interdependence of economic inequality and social injustice

III) Economic inequality is not the worst form of social injustice: A counter perspective.

A) Deterioration of basic human rights

(World Bank: Primary task of states is to ensure human rights)

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B) Lack of job opportunities
(Human Development Index:
Over 300 million graduates are
jobless, worldwide)

IV) Economic inequality is the
worst form of social injustice
because it leads to,

A) Minimum education opportunities
(Rawanda, 90% people
illiterate in Rawandan rural areas)

B) Lack of health facilities
(Al-Jazeera: Highest mortality
rate is in economically weak
states)

C) High poverty rate
(SAARC report: over 70%
poverty in South Asia)

D) Rise in terrorism
(GTI: Top 5 most vulnerable
states, among the poorest
countries in the world)

E) Devastation of agriculture
lands

(Agrarian states depend upon economy)

F) Suppression of women
(GGI: worst five states
are among the poorest)

V) Suggested ways forward to ensure
economic equality

A) Equity in economic distribution
of resources

(Pakistan: NFC Awards)

B) Penalize the culprits of
economic inequality

(Criminal Justice System of
the U.S.)

VI) Conclusion

Inequality in economy
deprive the people from basic
societal needs, thus, it is the worst
form of social injustice.

Economic inequality is the worst form of social injustice

Essay

"Equal economic opportunities is what we, the citizens of the state deserve at any cost."

- Martin Luther King Jr.

In 1996, a strong revolutionary movement erupted in the Republic of Congo, demanding equal economic opportunities. The revolutionary movement was led by an individual named Nelson Mandela, who was the first individual to raise voice against economic injustice in Congo. Mandela demanded the basic societal and economic rights for those living in devastating conditions in the rural areas of Republic of Congo. The harsh reaction of the government of Congo could not stop its citizens from demanding their rights,

hence, the movement forced the government to fall on its knees. Laws for equal distribution of economic resources were enacted, and people started receiving multiple social and economic resources. The equal division of resources lead to prosperity and sharp incline in the realm of development of the state. It illustrates that economic inequality deprives the people from their basic needs and rights. Unequal economic opportunities force the people of any country in the world to adopt illegal ways to fulfil their basic requirements. At this point, one must think, is it only the economic inequality, that is causing unrest in the world? Will economic equality curb all the prevailing societal issues? Indeed! Economic equality plays a significant role to help people pave their ways to diminish their problems in one way or the

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other. The fact cannot be denied that economic inequality is the worst form of social injustice leading to devastating effects, such as minimum education opportunities, high poverty rate in the society, rise in terrorism, and suppression of women.

Economic equality plays a key role to bring social justice and curb all the prevailing challenges of a society. The prime reason of social unrest is the lack of economic opportunities. It can be further cleared by the excerpt from the Ola Joseph's opus, The prevailing issues of the society, states, "People of any civilisation, living in any society of the world have certain needs, which could only be fulfilled through certain laws and the prime one is economic prosperity." Economic inequality deprives people of getting basic education and health facilities,

curb their sources of legal income. It further deteriorates the infrastructure and legal income means of poor societies, forcing people to adopt illegal ways to generate income. Hence, economic inequality is the prime reason, and worst form of social injustice.

Proponents of opposite school of thoughts claim that economic inequality is not the worst form of social injustice. Considering basic human rights, food, shelter, and clothes are the prime needs of any society, which determine justice and strong rule of law of any state. Deterioration of such basic human rights can prove to be worst form of social injustice. As per the rules driven by the World Bank, it is the primary task of the state to ensure that all its citizen fall under the umbrella of basic human rights. Thus, economic

justice tends to be the secondary task of the states, keep human rights at the top.

Likewise, they also claim that lack of proper income and job opportunities are creating social unrest in almost every society of the world. Engaging people in legal activities and providing them numerous job opportunities will tend to bring peace in social domain. As per Human Development Index report 2023, over 300 million highly qualified individuals do not possess any legal source of income, hence, they are roaming jobless. Lack of job opportunities will lead to rise in poverty, and unfortunately rise in terrorism. It proves that governments must focus on providing job opportunities to curb the social injustice in societies.

Despite these claims, the fact cannot be undermined that

economic inequality is the worst form of social injustice because any prevailing challenge in society is directly or indirectly ~~being~~ linked with economic justice. The first and the foremost factor leading to social injustice due to economic inequality is minimum education opportunities. Economically weak societies are deprived to get basic education because of lack of schools and colleges. Rwanda, for example, have one of the highest illiteracy rate in the world, surpassing 90% in Rwandan rural areas, and the primary reason is economic injustice. Hence, economic inequality is forcing people to lack behind in the realm of education leading to social injustice in society.

Similarly, lack of health facilities is also due to unequal distribution of economic resources. Devastating

health centres are unable to help reduce the rate of mortalities. As per A-Jazeera, the highest rate of mortality lies in the economically weak states of the world. In such states due to lack of health facilities, even the slightest diseases are difficult to cure. Thus, economic inequality in such societies are becoming the source of social injustice.

Furthermore, high poverty rate is also one of the devastating factors of economic inequality. Economic inequality curb the means of people to generate legal income, thus; the poverty rate rises. The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) generated a report in 2023, stated, "There are over 70% people living under extreme poverty in South Asia." It illustrates, high rate of poverty is due to economic inequality, which

is deteriorating the social structure of the society.

Likewise, unequal economic opportunity is causing rise in terrorism. Insufficient job opportunities, and lack of legal source of income due to unequal distribution of economic opportunities are forcing people to adopt criminal ways of earning livelihood, leading to rise in terrorism. Global Terrorism Index report states, "The top five most vulnerable countries to terrorism are among the economically weakest states of the world."

The report proves that the reason for the rise in terrorism, which is creating social injustice is due to economic inequality.

In the same way, the primary source for income of people of rural areas is agriculture, and unequal economic resources are deteriorating the

agriculture lands making the lands unfeatile to grow crops. As per The Economist magazine, the agrarian state's economy depend upon the sole source of enhancing economy ~~and that~~ through agricultural lands. Thus, economic inequality deteriorates agriculture lands leading to inbearable social injustice in the society.

In addition to that, economic inequality is causing suppression of women as having no income by the male counterpart leads to frustration, who find women an easy target to ^{take} their aggression out in the form of violence. Global Gender Index, reports that worst treatment of women is taking place in the five poorest states of the world in terms of economy. Hence, economic inequality is worsening social justice by suppressing

women in the society.

However, there are multiple ways to curb the menace of economic inequality. Primarily, ensuring equity in economic distribution of resources must take place in order to give equal opportunities to all the citizens of any state to have legal means to fulfil their basic needs. National Financial Commission Awards in Pakistan is an example of ensuring equal distribution of economic resources to all the citizens of Pakistan.

In addition to that, governments must hold into account those individuals who tend to create economic inequality in nations. Governments ought to penalize the culprits, irrespective of their positions, who are drowning people in the quagmire of social injustice

due to economic inequality. The Criminal Justice System of the U.S is a great example, that ensures every citizen must get equal economic opportunities to live a prosperous life.

In a nutshell, it is not wrong to say that the worst and primary form of social injustice in any society is economic inequality. Economic inequality steers the people to adopt illegal means to fulfil their basic requirements, it deprives the citizens to get their basic needs, such as quality health facilities leading to rise in mortality rate, sufficient educational opportunities leading to rise in illiteracy. The forms of social injustice have devastating outcomes like, steep rise in terrorism, and high poverty rates. Economic equality plays

a pivotal role to create a prosperous society where every individual enjoys the basic needs and rights. The unequal economic distribution of resources deprive the people from basic societal needs, thus, becoming the worst form of social injustice.

"A prosperous state reflects a socially just society, and social justice in a society reflects equal economic opportunities for all."

-Abraham Lincoln
