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## GS Advanced Program 2023

### Generic Booklet

Test Name/Code/No. : ..6.12.0.1)

|            |  |      |  |
|------------|--|------|--|
| Name       |  |      |  |
| Email ID.  |  |      |  |
| Roll No.   |  |      |  |
| Mobile No. |  | Date |  |

Allotted Time : 60 Minutes

#### Instructions to Candidates -

- There are 7 Questions in this Question paper.
- All Questions are Compulsory.
- For all updates, please visit the noticeboard -  
<https://noticeboard.forumias.com/gsap-2023/>

#### Important -

- Answers must be attempted in the QCA Booklet only.
- To upload the Answer Copies please visit to "My Course" section on -  
<https://academy.forumias.com/>
- Only those copies will be evaluated which will be submitted before the next class.

| Q. No.              | Grade/Score |
|---------------------|-------------|
| 1                   |             |
| 2                   |             |
| 3                   |             |
| 4                   |             |
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| 6                   |             |
| 7                   |             |
| Overall Grade/Score |             |

This Generic QCA booklet can be used to attempt all GS Advanced Program Tests.

**Start Writing Here**

Q.1)

Currently there are multiple commissions dealing with the vulnerable sections, namely National Commission for SC's, National Commissions for ST's etc.

Benefits of having separate commissions

- ① Special focus on the needs of the target population  
Eg: Separate issues for all ST's and SC's and women.
- ② Doesn't follow One-size-fits-all approach.
- ③ Increased accountability towards the target population.
- ④ Better understanding of various issues  
→ Evidence-based policy making can happen

## Issues with having multiple commissions

### ① Duplication of efforts.

Eg. Same administrative enrollment done multiple times for women, SC/STs, P.D.

### ② Scarcity of resources as they are spread very thin among multiple organs.

### ③ Additional fiscal burden due to wastage

However, the vulnerable sections in India are very diverse and face different problems. Thus, there is a need to have separate bodies for some. But Consolidation under NHRC may be thought of for a few organs.

#### Overall Grading (✓)

| Poor |   |   | Average |   |   | Good |   |   |
|------|---|---|---------|---|---|------|---|---|
| 1    | 2 | 3 | 4       | 5 | 6 | 7    | 8 | 9 |



Covid-19 has left nearly 3 billion people out of schools. But, the issue becomes even more severe as there is inter-sectional divide among the population.

How covid impacted educational inequality?

① Necessity is the mother of invention :

Covid-19 enabled many online education platforms sprout up within a very short period of time.

② Digital divide : this has hit many school going children.

→ Many poor families couldn't afford a mobile device for child's education

③ Huge drop outs during lockdown.

- ④ Rural divide can also be seen.
- ⑤ Girls form a huge percentage among the drop outs. (~68% according to a report)

### Remedial measures

- ① Provision of extra classes to ensure age-based enrollment of children.
- ② Ensure the enrollment of all drop-outs due to covid.
- ③ Provision of mobile handsets to access online education media  
↳ tackles digital divide
- ④ Increasing awareness among parents to send back children to schools.
- ⑤ Provide 2-meals a day as in Tamil Nadu.

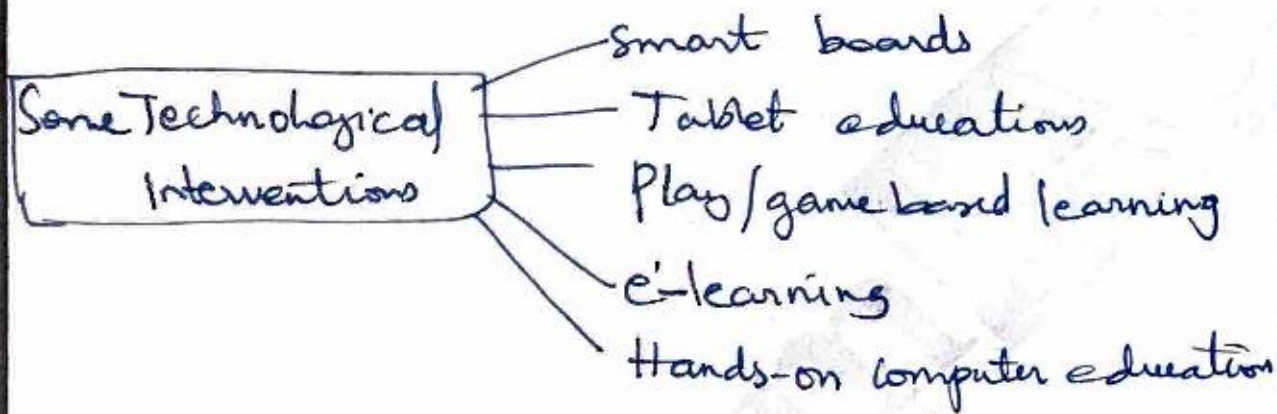
Thus there is an urgent need to tackle this educational inequality to ensure SDG-4 (Education for all)

### Overall Grading (✓)

| Poor |   |   | Average |   |   | Good |   |   |
|------|---|---|---------|---|---|------|---|---|
| 1    | 2 | 3 | 4       | 5 | 6 | 7    | 8 | 9 |



There have been various technological interventions in the field of education from Smart classes to online interactive sessions.



### Government measures

- ① NCERT portal online enables free education for all principle (Art 21A)
- ② Other resources like NPTEL by IITs for higher education.
- ③ Online channels on Youtube. ~~It~~  
Eg: T-SAT channel enables free education for Group-I Aspirants of Telangana.

Non-governmental measures

- ① Huge penetration of online education  
Eg: BVTV's, Salman Khan Academy
- ② AI based education platforms  
Eg: Quizlet, Anki
- ③ Myriad youtube channels on education  
from pre-primary to graduation levels
- ④ Virtual reality / Augmented reality based  
engaged learning startups

Along with these government is also coming up with "Digilocker" initiative to store authentic certificates etc. Thus technology has changed the nature of education for the better. But there is a need to tackle Digital Divide to ensure equitable educational opportunities.

## Overall Grading (✓)

| Poor |   |   | Average |   |   | Good |   |   |
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| 1    | 2 | 3 | 4       | 5 | 6 | 7    | 8 | 9 |



Q.4)

Urbanisation refers to migration of people towards urban towns and cities. According to UN, ~~60~~ 60% of Indian population will live in urban areas by 2030.

### Benefits of Urbanisation

- ① Increase in number of jobs.
- ② Reduction in poverty due to higher income levels.
- ③ Improved Standard of living of people.
- ④ Rise in educational levels.
- ⑤ Better health facilities in urban pockets.

However, this has seen mixed results in Indian context.



## Issues with government's response

- ① Unplanned expansion of cities leading to huge urban slums. Eg Dharavi
- ② Huge population density → stress on resources Eg Shortage of water in Chennai, 2018
- ③ Unscientific construction leading to issues like Urban flooding.
- ④ Phenomenon like Heat Domes due to heavy pollution.
- ⑤ Inadequate transport infrastructure.
- ⑥ Huge urban prob.

## Solutions

- ① Creation of satellite cities
- ② Consultative/scientific expansion
- ③ Sustainable infrastructure
- ④ Cheap and efficient urban transport
- ⑤ Urban Employment Guarantee scheme

We also need to focus on improving Rural opportunities to create "Sheji effect" in Indian villages

## Overall Grading (✓)

| Poor |   |   | Average |   |   | Good |   |   |
|------|---|---|---------|---|---|------|---|---|
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Q.5)

According to UNDP, Covid-19 has gravely increased inequalities. The rich have become richer and the poor, poorer.

Increase in class inequalities and poverty in India

- ① Estimation is that crosses of people above Poverty line (APL) have been pulled below Poverty line (BPL)
- ② Loss of huge number of jobs due to lock down.
- ③ Negative growth ( $\sim -3\%$ ) seen in both manufacturing and service sector during Covid.
- ④ Reduction in income, coupled with inflation led to reduce in spend on essentials like education.



- ⑤ Covid treatment has also been very costly due to dependence of private
- Eg Packages amounting to ~5 lakhs per bed
- ⑥ Loss of Breadwinner in many families
- ⑦ Many children were left orphans due to death of both parents.

### Steps taken by government

- ① Pradhan Mantri Griib Kalyan Anna Yojana
- food for poor people at subsidised rates
- ② Govt. has not imposed a second lockdown to avoid dip in economic growth.
- ③ Compensation to families who lost members to Covid.
- ④ Free Oxygen cylinders and beds for treatment
- Thus, we need to take a lesson from this and stay ready for any unfortunate incident in future.



### Additional steps needed

- ① Increase in jobs  
→ Urban employment guarantee schemes
- ② Universal basic income for purchasing essentials.
- ③ Controlling inflation → especially food inflation.
- ④ Implementation of One Nation - One Ration scheme.

#### Overall Grading (✓)

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Q.6)

Global Hunger Index is given by "Concern Worldwide" and "Wealth Hunger Life" organisations. This has placed India at 107 out of 121, second-last in South Asia, above Afghanistan.

Reason for poor performance in GHI

① High levels of wasting in India.

↳ ~33% child population faces this.

② focus on Cereal-centric policies

→ Lack of balanced nutrition.

→ goes against Nutritional Security.

③ Huge food inflation especially Protein

Inflation ↳ makes milk, meat, eggs costlier.



- ④ Huge procurement under MSP, skewed  
in favour of Rice and wheat.  
→ oilseeds, pulses etc. are underprocured
- ⑤ Huge wastage of food.  
Eg → ~40% of food gets wasted in India
- ⑥ Lack of proper coldchains, storage  
and transportation facilities lead  
to further wastage.
- ⑦ Fall in prices during bumper crops →  
disincentivising agriculture for youth  
"The Big Indian Grain Drain"
- ⑧ Reduction in wheat output due to heatwave  
→ led to export ban → no remunerative  
price for producers.

### Solutions to deal with this issue

- ① Focus on Nutritional Security
- ② Procurement and distribution of pulses and other proteins by FCI.
- ③ Availability of balanced diet in schools during mid-day meals.
- ④ Fortification of cereals.
- ⑤ Increasing awareness among people regarding "Hidden Hunger".
- ⑥ Distribution of food stamps.

Thus government interventions is a must to ensure hunger doesn't go unanswered and reach the SDG-2 (No Hunger). This can improve our ranking in Global Hunger Index.

#### Overall Grading (✓)

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Q.7)

ASER report is a biannual report  
by Noto Pratham.

### State of Education in India

- ① Many class & students were unable  
to read, write, understand a story  
meant for class 2.  
→ This indicates lacunae in learning
- ② It has a large number of dropouts due to  
Covid.
- ③ Crores of children face the issue of  
digital divide  
→ cannot attend online classes  
→ left out of school for ~2 years.
- ④ Age-appropriate admission leads to  
bullying and harassment after many  
years.

⑤ Rampant child labour due to various reasons

→ loss of income/jobs during covid.

→ Suitability in certain kinds of jobs

Eg. beedi rolling, textile.

Reasons behind this suboptimal performance

① Outdated Curricula.

② Lack of education - Industry connect

③ Skewed definition of child labour

④ Lack of awareness among people.

⑤ Loss of income during covid requires  
Children to work.

⑥ Lack of education infrastructure and  
no proper maintenance.

Eg. girl dropouts due to lack of  
toilets, sanitation facilities.



## Remedial measures

- ① Increase investment in education to 6% as suggested by National Education Policy
- ② Tackle the issue of child labour.
- ③ Use Nudge theory to enroll children
- ④ focus on Outcome-oriented learning
- ⑤ Update curricula
- ⑥ Train teachers and ensure capacity building
- ⑦ Regular testing for teachers.
- ⑧ Improve school infrastructure.
- ⑨ Provide 2-meals a day at schools for nutrition
- ⑩ focus on extra-curricula as well.

Thus much care needs to be taken to improve school education to take the benefit from Demographic Dividend in the future.

### Overall Grading (✓)

| Poor |   |   | Average |   |   |   | Good |   |  |
|------|---|---|---------|---|---|---|------|---|--|
| 1    | 2 | 3 | 4       | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8    | 9 |  |