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Comprehension Test Questions for SBI PO Mains, IBPS PO Mains, and RBI Grade B Exams.

Passage No 136

Direction: Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Development is about expanding the capabilities of the disadvantaged, thereby improving their overall quality of life. Based on this understanding, Maharashtra, one of India's richest States, is a classic case of a lack of development which is seen in its unacceptably high level of malnutrition among children in the tribal belts. While the State's per capita income has doubled since 2004, its nutritional status has not made commensurate progress.

Poor nutrition security disproportionately affects the poorest segment of the population. According to NFHS 2015-16, every second tribal child suffers from growth restricting malnutrition due to chronic hunger. In 2005, child malnutrition claimed as many as 718 lives in Maharashtra's Palghar district alone. Even after a decade of double digit economic growth (2004-05 to 2014-15), Palghar's malnutrition status has barely improved.

In September 2016, the National Human Rights Commission issued notice to the Maharashtra government over reports of 600 children dying due to malnutrition in Palghar. The government responded, promising to properly implement schemes such as Jaccha Baccha and Integrated Child Development Services to check malnutrition. Our independent survey conducted in Vikramgad block of the district last year found that 57%, 21% and 53% of children in this block were stunted, wasted and underweight, respectively; 27% were severely stunted. Our data challenges what Maharashtra's Women and Child Development Minister said in the Legislative Council in March — that "malnutrition in Palghar had come down in the past few months, owing to various interventions made by the government."

Stunting is caused by an insufficient intake of macro- and micro-nutrients. It is generally accepted that recovery from growth retardation after two years is only possible if the affected child is put on a diet that is adequate in nutrient requirements. A critical aspect of nutrient adequacy is diet diversity, calculated by different groupings of foods consumed with the reference period ranging from one to 15 days. We calculated a 24-hour dietary diversity score by counting the number of food groups the child received in the last 24 hours. The eight food groups include: cereals, roots and tubers; legumes and nuts; dairy products; flesh foods; eggs; fish; dark green leafy vegetables; and other fruits and vegetables.

In most households it was rice and dal which was cooked most often and eaten thrice a day. These were even served at teatime to the children if they felt hungry. There was no milk, milk product or fruit in their daily diets. Even the adults drank black tea as milk was unaffordable. Only 17% of the children achieved a minimum level of diet diversity — they received four or more of the eight food groups. This low dietary diversity is a proxy indicator for the household's food security too as the children ate the same food cooked for adult members.



1. Which of the following is/are true as per the passage?

- I. India's situation is worse than in some of the world's poorest countries — Bangladesh, Afghanistan or Mozambique.
- II. Development is more than just economic growth.
- III. On an average, the nutrition expenditure as a percentage of the Budget has drastically declined from 1.68% in 2012-13 to 0.94% in 2018-19.

- A. Only II B. Only I and II C. Only II and III D. Only I and III E. None of the above

2. What could possibly be a/some possible reason/s for such extreme food insecurity among tribal households as has been shown in the passage?

- I. Loss of their traditional dependence on forest livelihood.
- II. Weak implementation of public nutrition schemes.
- III. A worsening agriculture situation.

- A. Only II B. Only I and II C. Only II and III D. Only I and III E. All of the above

3. Which of the following strengthen the claim that the nutrition indicators fare poorly in India?

- I. Stunting declined from 46.3% in 2005 to 34.4% in 2016.
- II. As per an NHFS survey, wasting rates have increased from 16.5% to 25.6% over a period of 10 years.
- III. The underweight rate (36%) has remained static in the last 10 years.

- A. Only I B. Only III C. Only I and II D. Only II and III E. All of the above

4. What is ironical about the situation mentioned in paragraph 1?

- A. States do not have adequate resources to feed the poor even when there are enough resources with the Centre.
- B. Even though states may be classified as rich with a high per capita income, they may not really be developed.
- C. Development of states depends on sustained economic growth which in turn leads to high per capita income.
- D. The level of malnutrition is abnormally high in states which have a high growth level and better than average per capita income.
- E. None of the above

5. As per the passage, which of the following is/are needed for an adequate meal?

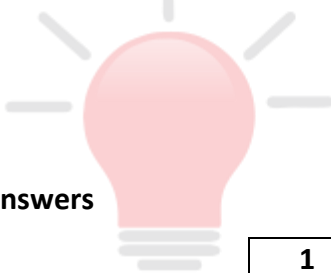
- I. Macro and micro nutrients
- II. Multiple food groups
- III. High level of Intermittent fasting

A. Only II B. Only I and III C. Only I and II D. Only II and III E. All of the above

6. Which of the following is/are fed most regularly to the children belonging to poor households as per the study conducted in the passage?

- I. Rice
- II. Legumes
- III. Milk products
- IV. Fibre and protein

A. Only II and III B. Only I and II C. Only I, II and IV D. Only I, II and III E. None of the above



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Correct Answers

1	2	3	4	5	6
A	E	D	B	C	B



Explanations:

1. Statements I and III have not been mentioned in the passage and are incorrect.

Statement II is correct as can be seen from the first paragraph of the passage.

Hence, option A is correct.

2. All the statements are valid as all give probable reasons for the prevailing condition of food insecurity.

Hence, option E is correct.

3. Statement I is positive and weakens the claim.

Statements II and III are negative and show the poor state of nutrition in India.

Hence, option D is correct.

4. The passage gives the example of Maharashtra and states that even though its growth is high and it has a high per capita income, yet its development is low due to prevalence of malnutrition.

Option A is incorrect as this is clearly untrue.

Option C is incorrect as this may be correct factually but does not represent the irony.

Option D is incorrect as this cannot be concluded from the information given in the paragraph.

Only option B makes sense. The irony specified above is portrayed well here.

Hence, option B is correct.

5. Refer to:

‘Stunting is caused by an insufficient intake of macro- and micro-nutrients. It is generally accepted that recovery from growth retardation after two years is only possible if the affected child is put on a diet that is adequate in nutrient requirements. A critical aspect of nutrient adequacy is diet diversity, calculated by different groupings of foods consumed with the reference period ranging from one to 15 days.’

As per the highlighted points, I and II are correct while III has not been mentioned in the passage.

Hence, option C is correct.

6. Refer to:

'In most households it was rice and dal which was cooked most often and eaten thrice a day. These were even served at teatime to the children if they felt hungry. There was no milk, milk product or fruit in their daily diets. Even the adults drank black tea as milk was unaffordable.'

As per the above paragraph, only I and II are correct while III and IV incorrect.

Hence, option B is correct.



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