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*methodology and teaching and learning.*

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# **AN EXAMINATION OF POVERTY AND HUNGER IN GORAKHPUR**

Authored by - Miss Saniya Parveen & Dr. Arvind Kumar Singh  
Student of Research, Professor  
Amity Law School, Amity University, Lucknow Campus, Uttar Pradesh

## **ABSTRACT**

This paper aims to provide an overview of the current body of evidence regarding persistent poverty in Gorakhpur. Due to their inability to meet even the most basic necessities, several areas of the city have extremely high rates of poverty. It is a socioeconomic phenomenon that is closely related to people's productivity, efficiency, and health, all of which have an effect on their capacity to work and support themselves. Likewise, the impoverished were greatly affected by COVID 19's effects. A tool like the qualitative research approach is utilised to engage the Gorakhpur public and learn what they believe about the persistent poverty in the city. Poverty leads to unemployment, which means no work and ultimately no income. The negative effects of poverty are very severe, including discrimination between the rich and the poor, a lack of employment prospects, an inability to make ends meet, and a low standard of living. The physical and mental suffering of the destitute causes them to engage in unlawful activities like dacoity, stealing, etc. As poverty is an outcome rather than a cause, it should not be disregarded. A human being's primary responsibility is to do everything in their power to reduce poverty. The purpose of this paper is to look at how hunger and poverty interact. Also discussed are a number of factors and suggestions for eradicating poverty in Gorakhpur.

**KEYWORDS:** Poverty, hunger, Gorakhpur, COVID-19, unemployment

## **INTRODUCTION**

India's delayed economic growth is a result of its social issues. The discussion of social concerns would be lacking without reference to poverty. As a social issue, poverty is characterised by a lack of the necessities of life. As a result, more individuals are losing their jobs. India has a population that is roughly one-third below the poverty line. The top spot is still held by Bihar, then U.P., Jharkhand, etc. Poverty has highly negative repercussions. Children who grow up in poverty have to deal with society, serious illness, health problems, and many other degrading influences. These deteriorating elements can occasionally result in both major health issues and death.

Poverty is accompanied by unemployment. A downtrodden, impoverished family's wages are zero due to a lack of employment. Families who experience this experience high levels of stress and violence, including elder and child abuse. Even though government authorities have listed thousands of programmes designed to reduce poverty, the amount of poverty is steadily rising. Everyone has the right to a standard of living that is adequate for their own health and the welfare of their families, including access to food, clothes, medical care, and other essential social services, according to Article 25(1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. However, many people are not able to exercise this right, which is helping to create poverty-related structural issues.

The epitome of extreme poverty is the city of Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh. The agriculture sector provides the majority of the population's income. Farmers rely on agriculture to support their way of life and to provide for their families' most basic necessities. Because damage to the agricultural industry results in lost revenue for the family, poverty and agriculture are intertwined. Hence, this causes the farmers to starve to death.

The creation of a biofuel plant, a wellness centre, and the rebirth of fertilisers (which would result in up to 4000 jobs and ensure that farmers had a sufficient supply of nutrients), according to CM Yogi Adityanath, who gave an overview of the problems, will enrich the new Gorakhpur.

Is Gorakhpur still able to eradicate poverty and hunger to a significant extent in spite of all these facilities?

This paper will assist in elaborating on this assertion in further detail.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH:**

1. The goal of the current study is to determine how much Gorakhpur's poverty rate has increased.
2. The current paper makes additional attempts to identify strategies for eradicating hunger and poverty.

### **RESEARCH QUESTION:**

Is Gorakhpur capable of significantly reducing the level of hunger and poverty in its city?

### **HYPOTHESIS:**

Due to challenges with hunger and poverty, Gorakhpur continues to lag behind other cities in

Uttar Pradesh.

### **SCOPE OF THE RESEARCH:**

The current paper will highlight the misery brought on by malnutrition and poverty for Gorakhpur residents. The study paper suggests using empirical evidence to support the claim that poverty is the primary contributor to the economy's decline and that it may be reduced by wise government action. The study will pay close attention to the causes of poverty and the COVID-19 pandemic, which significantly lowered living standards in Gorakhpur.

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:**

The research proposes to use qualitative research instrument methods and one-on-one interviews, to support the thesis that Gorakhpur is still lagging behind other U.P. cities due to concerns with hunger and poverty.

### **TOOL USED FOR DATA COLLECTION:**

Primary data will be gathered using surveys (questionnaires) that will be distributed to the general public of the concerned city.

### **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESEARCH:**

The importance of the study is that it makes Gorakhpur residents aware of how underdeveloped their city is and how poverty is largely ignored. High poverty levels may have a high population as their root cause. How is the family's working member going to have additional children in order to provide for their basic needs if they aren't even getting food on time to feed at least one member of the family who is hungry? These persons are frequently observed engaging in illicit activities like stealing, robbery, and other crimes. The first step to a better and more developed Gorakhpur is to reduce poverty:

### **Areas of concern and poverty alleviation: a requirement**

A series of actions conducted in an economically sound way to end poverty in a nation is known as poverty alleviation. As the overall number of individuals without access to basic necessities is rising, so is the rate of poverty. According to the World Bank's study through March 2023, the number of people living in poverty has increased from 648 to 659 million as a result of global poverty. This increases the urgency with which poverty relief is required. It encompasses

a multitude of advantageous social effects like access to clothing, food, education, and shelter. Access to food and shelter in Gorakhpur needs to be improved. The wealthy are getting richer while the poor are going poorer.

Because of the large number of homeless and impoverished city dwellers, the streets are becoming increasingly crowded, especially at night. The number of slum regions is slowly but surely increasing, yet the government is doing nothing to help. Children growing up in slum regions suffer both physical and mental harm. As they observe their environment, they are now moving towards stealing food or meeting their requirements.

Ajay, a 14-year-old who sells water in Gorakhpur train cabins, according to my poll, claimed "Peaceful living is not suited for poor people." He continued, "Parents are ill, therefore, occasionally I have to work to generate money for providing food for the family." More than half of the respondents—nearly 78%—spend their earnings on staple foods like rice, chapattis, and dal. On good days, they can even purchase vegetables, though not the ones they want. Nitin, a head loader in a vegetable market, said, "Food prices, especially vegetables, are exorbitant, therefore we cannot afford to consume them daily."

Essentially, the areas of concern include Dharmshala, Rasoolpur, Kunraghat, Turkmanpur, and Sahjanwa, where 80% of Gorakhpur's impoverished reside.

I observed hungry children in Dharmshala licking food out of trash cans and occasionally fighting with stray dogs to get it. Also, there are no facilities for maintaining adequate hygiene, and as a result, individuals are not aware of the importance of doing so.

## **Gorakhpur's struggles with famine and poverty**

1. Lack of public awareness of poverty alleviation: The public is generally well-informed about poverty alleviation. This is because wealthy and middle-class families care little to nothing about the impoverished.
2. Inadequate healthcare system: Compared to Gorakhpur, impoverished people do not receive the greatest medical care. For instance, Gorakhpur's Sadar Hospital is still crowded with low-level individuals. But because of a lack of funding, the helpless cannot access private hospitals there. Due to the lengthy queues they are in, many of them even pass away immediately.
3. Recognition problem: The poor are reluctant to stand out and interact with others because they lack credentials and receive no recognition in society. Sometimes they are treated as inferiors, while other times they participate in harassment and bullying.
4. Lack of essentials: According to the 2011 census, Gorakhpur is a city in Uttar Pradesh with

a rural population of 9,06,721 people. These individuals do not have access to adequate housing, food, or educational opportunities—the necessities of life.

5. Increase in death rates: Rising death rates are a result of mounting debts for poor families, which also contribute to a rise in suicides. So that such suicides might be prevented, measures to reduce poverty should be taken.

### **COVID-19's effects on Gorakhpur's poor:**

Nearly every region of the world felt the effects of the 2019 pandemic, but Gorakhpur was particularly hard hit. It had an impact on everyone's quality of life, but it was most severe in Gorakhpur's rural, low-income communities. Because they were afraid of being attacked by police or contracting the virus, people, especially the impoverished, were unable to satisfy their hunger by venturing outdoors. The epidemic also indirectly afflicted the poor due to the government's strict lockdown measures, which had a long-lasting negative impact on their overall economic operations. It also had an impact on non-economic activities like love and affection.

Because Gorakhpur was underdeveloped at the time, the consequences of this illness had a detrimental effect on the city's poor. Poor families that subsisted on performing menial tasks were sacked from their occupations. The homeless and penniless walked on the streets with nothing but their bare hands, no clothes, and eventually no means of habitation or sustenance. Hence, COVID-19 was found to be the primary cause of poor people's deaths. The consequences led to severe economic misery, including poverty-related unemployment.

The inability to wear masks and carry sanitizers as required by COVID-19 was another disadvantage faced by the impoverished. The uneducated were not taught to adhere to such standards. Many of the underprivileged became covid positive as a result. CM Yogi Adityanath took the initiative to provide food, housing, sanitizer, masks, and financial assistance in order to address the dire situation in Gorakhpur. The cost of COVID-19 vaccines was waived for low-income households in order to reduce the number of people who died from the disease due to poverty.

## **CAUSES**

### **1. Individual:**

The philosophy of individualism, which attributes poverty to the individual, holds that the success and failure of an individual are his personal affairs.

It is one's own fault if they become poor if they are unmotivated, ineffective, dull, or sluggish. According to this viewpoint, society benefits from poverty since only the strongest will survive. Another component of this worldview places emphasis on a person's ability to succeed via personal effort, virtue, and honest labour. He is solely responsible for his failure because he has vices, is sedentary, and has unhealthy habits. The typical "victimblamer" is a member of the middle class who has a respectable level of financial success, a good job, and a reliable source of money.

## **2. The culture or subculture of poverty:**

The poor's way of life, or culture of poverty, is the second factor contributing to poverty. Such a culture thwarts any attempts made by society to alter the ideas, values, conventions, and way of life of the underprivileged. The idea of the "culture of poverty" contends that despite improvements in the economy, the poor have remained that way due to their culture and subculture. The poor's culture encourages behaviours and beliefs that are linked with poverty; it has kept the poor out of industrial society's mainstream.

## **3. Social Structure:**

While liberals, radicals, and sociologists link poverty to social structure or to miserable and unfair social conditions, conservatives accept "individual" and "cultural" causes of poverty as causes of poverty. Poverty is a result of and is sustained by our social structures, economic system, lack of employable skills, long-term unemployment, and underemployment. We will now examine the three causes of poverty: economic, demographic, and social.

### **Economic Causes:**

To understand the economic causes, we must first distinguish between those who are working and those who are not. Why are those people not working? Is it due to their own flaws, or "flawed character," or due to the flaws in society, or "limited chances," as the case may be? The following five elements can be taken into consideration while analysing this: poor development, inflationary pressures, a lack of capital, a lack of worker skill, and unemployment. Poverty has been attributed to inadequate development. Poverty has increased as a result of inflationary pressures.

Workers who lack the necessary human capital, such as the necessary skills and competencies, are unable to find satisfying work that will increase their income. The ability to develop skills and abilities is more dependent on the accessibility and availability of opportunities than it is

on innate talent or genetic predisposition. The lack of chances for the poor means that they remain untrained, which has an impact on the development of the industrial sector.

### **Demographic Causes:**

Population expansion is the main cause of poverty, according to demographics. Moreover, a rise in family size is associated with poverty. The standard of living and per capita income decrease as family size increases. Health and poverty are associated issues. A healthy person is not only able to work but also pays less on medical expenses. If a significant portion of the city's population is chronically undernourished or lives in a filthy environment, they are likely to develop a multitude of illnesses that prevent them from working and earning money. Finally, poverty is also influenced by the country's population's level of education.

### **Social causes:**

Employment chances and gross income are also impacted by discrimination, prejudice, casteism, communalism, and parochialism. The state is also compelled by conflicts and the possibility of war to spend enormous sums of money on defence rather than growth.

### **Causes of Rural Poverty:**

1. The implementation of anti-poverty programmes is insufficient and ineffective, which is a cause of rural poverty.
2. A small percentage of people work in non-agricultural industries.
3. The absence of irrigational infrastructure
4. Low educational attainment.
5. Failing to enlist women's participation in developmental efforts.
6. Rivalries and conflicts between castes
7. The expenditure of a significant portion of yearly income on social ceremonies such as weddings, funeral feasts, etc., and the unwillingness of people to abandon the pricey customs

### **Some Successful Rural Poverty Alleviation Techniques:**

1. Providing agricultural areas with affordable power
2. Allocating funds to a programme to combat poverty (PAPs).
3. Developing human resources by emphasising programmes for health, education, and skill development.
4. Raising public awareness to stop the poor's rising debt levels

### **CODIFICATION AND TABULATION OF DATA:**

The provided sheets below illustrate the codification and tabulation of the data that were gathered. The responses were uniformly coded for this purpose using the following codes:

AGREE-1

DISAGREE-2

NEUTRAL-

3

The first answer on the questionnaire page was "YES," and the second was "NO."

The residents of Gorakhpur were the population selected for the survey.

S.No.	Name	Region Of Gorakhpur Where Poverty Is More Prevalent	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8
1.	Esha Khan	Rasoolpur	3	2	2	2	1	3	3	2
2.	Suraj Singh	Dharmshala	1	2	2	1	3	1	3	3
3.	Mayukh Srivastava	Dharmshala	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	3
4.	Pratyush Rai	Sahjanwa	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1
5.	Pavneet Kaur	Sahjanwa	2	2	2	1	1	3	2	3
6.	Rajveer Mall	Dharmshala	3	2	2	1	2	1	1	1
7.	Aditi Singhal	Dharmshala	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	1
8.	Pragya Singh	Dharmshala	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2
9.	Siddhant	Rasoolpur	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	2
10.	Harshit Ranjan	Kunraghat	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1
11.	Harsh Dalmiya	Dharmshala	3	2	2	1	2	1	1	3
12.	Mantasha Naaz	Turkmanpur	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	1
13.	Sameera Habib	Dharmshala	3	1	2	3	3	1	1	2
14.	Palak Singh	Sahjanwa	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2
15.	Devesh Shikhar	Kunraghat	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1
16.	Anshika Srivastava	Dharmshala	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	3
17.	Sneha	Kunraghat	2	3	2	1	3	1	1	1
18.	Ilma Ali	Kunraghat	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	2
19.	Anushka	Rasoolpur	3	2	2	1	2	1	1	2

20.	Soumya	Turkmanpur	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	3
21.	Muskan Chirania	Sahjanwa	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1
22.	Radhika Khetan	Dharmshala	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
23.	Sheetal Chand	Dharmshala	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	3
24.	Samarth Upadhyay	Kunraghat	3	2	2	1	2	1	3	1
25.	Ramsha Siddiqui	Rasoolpur	3	2	2	1	1	1	3	1
26.	Vansh Goel	Rasoolpur	1	3	2	1	3	1	1	1
27.	Nitya Kesharwal	Rasoolpur	2	3	2	1	1	1	1	1
28.	Abhay Singh	Sahjanwa	2	2	2	1	3	1	1	2
29.	Hiba Arshad	Turkmanpur	2	3	2	1	1	1	1	1
30.	Shreya Yadav	Kunraghat	1	3	2	1	2	1	1	3
31.	Kanak	Kunraghat	1	1	2	1	1	3	3	3
32.	Hamza Khan	Kunraghat	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	2
33.	Aaisha Khan	Turkmanpur	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	3
34.	Mohd Imran	Turkmanpur	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	1
35.	Vanshita Singh	Sahjanwa	3	1	2	1	2	1	1	1
36.	Smriti Pandey	Sahjanwa	2	2	3	1	3	1	1	3
37.	Arslan	Sahjanwa	2	3	1	3	2	1	1	1
38.	Ishant Sonthalia	Dharmshala	1	2	2	3	2	1	3	3
39.	Divyansh	Dharmshala	1	1	2	1	2	3	3	1
40.	Janvi Gupta	Sahjanwa	3	3	2	3	1	1	1	1
41.	Amogh Shorewala	Turkmanpur	3	3	2	1	1	1	3	1
42.	Vrinda Pal	Kunraghat	3	2	2	1	2	1	1	1
43.	Adarsh Singh	Kunraghat	2	1	3	1	2	1	1	1
44.	Kamran Khan	Kunraghat	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1

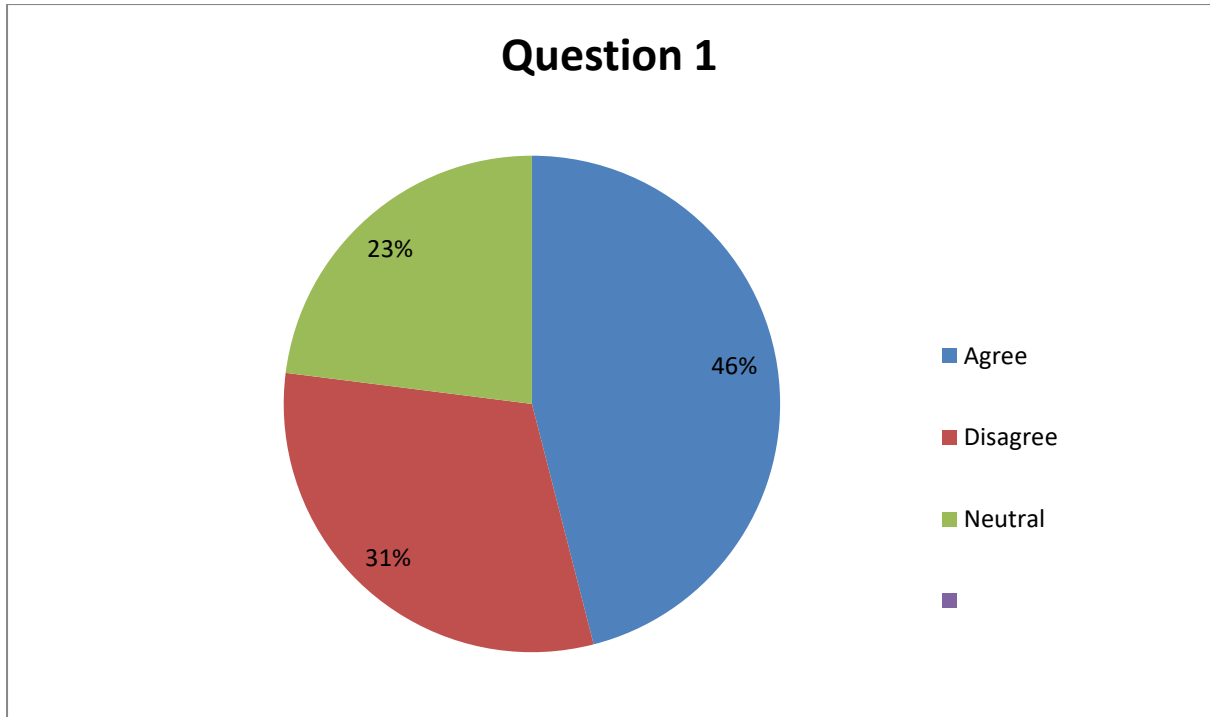
45.	Shubh Jaiswal	Turkmanpur	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
46.	Rimsha Iram	Turkmanpur	2	3	2	1	1	1	1	3
47.	Aditya Singh	Sahjanwa	3	2	2	3	3	1	1	3
48.	Shivangi Singh	Sahjanwa	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
49.	Fazal Rehman	Sahjanwa	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	3
50.	Nausheen Lari	Dharmshala	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1
51.	Satyam Jaiswal	Dharmshala	1	3	2	1	3	1	1	2
52.	Aaryan Verma	Rasoolpur	2	1	2	2	1	3	1	3
53.	Sufiyan	Dharmshala	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	2
54.	Rana Tiwari	Dharmshala	1	1	3	1	3	1	1	1
55.	Sandeep Dubey	Sahjanwa	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	3
56.	Harsh Rathour	Sahjanwa	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
57.	Shivani Kaushik	Dharmshala	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1
58.	Vitthal Agrawal	Dharmshala	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	3
59.	Aditee	Dharmshala	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	1
60.	Saksham Dwivedi	Rasoolpur	3	2	2	1	2	1	1	1
61.	Ankita Singh	Kunraghat	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	1
62.	Ayush Shukla	Dharmshala	1	2	2	1	3	1	1	1
63.	Shruti Singh	Turkmanpur	1	1	2	1	3	1	1	1
64.	Sparsh Srivastava	Dharmshala	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
65.	Ishita Verma	Sahjanwa	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	1
66.	Janvi Chhabra	Kunraghat	2	3	3	3	1	1	1	1
67.	Devesh Dwivedi	Dharmshala	1	1	2	3	3	1	1	1
68.	Adarsh Jaiswal	Kunraghat	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
69.	Aarsh Bajpai	Kunraghat	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	3

70.	Aman Verma	Rasoolpur	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
71.	Alisha Alam	Turkmanpur	1	1	3	2	3	2	2	1
72.	Afreen Shoaib	Sahjanwa	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	3
73.	Aakanksha Gupta	Dharmshala	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	3
74.	Sandeep Tripathi	Dharmshala	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	2
75.	Adnan Ahmad	Dharmshala	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	1
76.	Devika Tripathi	Kunraghat	2	1	2	1	3	1	1	3
77.	Samaira Parveen	Turkmanpur	2	2	2	1	1	1	3	3
78.	Ambar Saxena	Turkmanpur	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	1
79.	Sajda Tabassum	Sahjanwa	1	1	2	1	3	1	1	1
80.	Saquib Khan	Sahjanwa	2	1	2	2	3	1	1	2
81.	Rahul Rai	Rasoolpur	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	2
82.	Amar Kumar	Rasoolpur	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
83.	Shabana Parveen	Rasoolpur	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1
84.	Nitish Tripathi	Sahjanwa	3	2	2	1	2	1	1	1
85.	Arsalan Ahmad	Turkmanpur	1	1	2	1	3	1	1	2
86.	Vidushi Dhawan	Kunraghat	3	3	2	1	2	1	3	3
87.	Avika Kesarwani	Turkmanpur	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	3
88.	Swati Mishra	Turkmanpur	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
89.	Shafayat Khan	Sahjanwa	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	2
90.	Shivika Rai	Sahjanwa	2	2	2	3	2	1	1	1
91.	Vaibhavi Verma	Sahjanwa	1	1	2	1	1	3	1	1

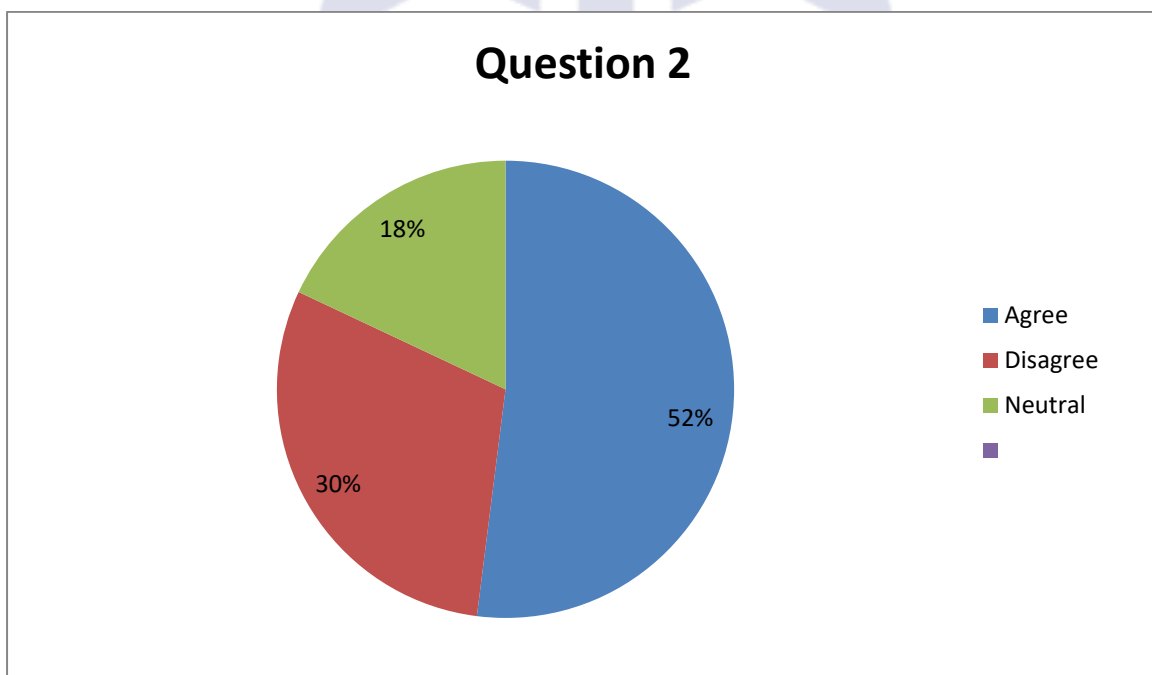
92.	Tahreem Sadiq	Dharmshala	3	2	2	1	2	1	3	2
93.	Richa Mishra	Dharmshala	3	1	2	2	3	3	3	1
94.	N A Warsi	Sahjanwa	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1
95.	Rehana Khatun	Turkmanpur	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	1
96.	Tussar Jaiswal	Sahjanwa	1	3	2	1	3	1	1	1
97.	Nasruddin Ahmed	Dharmshala	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1
98.	Praneet Tripathi	Dharmshala	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
99.	Mohit Yadav	Dharmshala	1	1	2	1	1	3	1	1
100.	Laeeba Noor	Dharmshala	1	1	2	1	3	1	1	1

### INTERPRETATION OF SURVEY RESULTS:

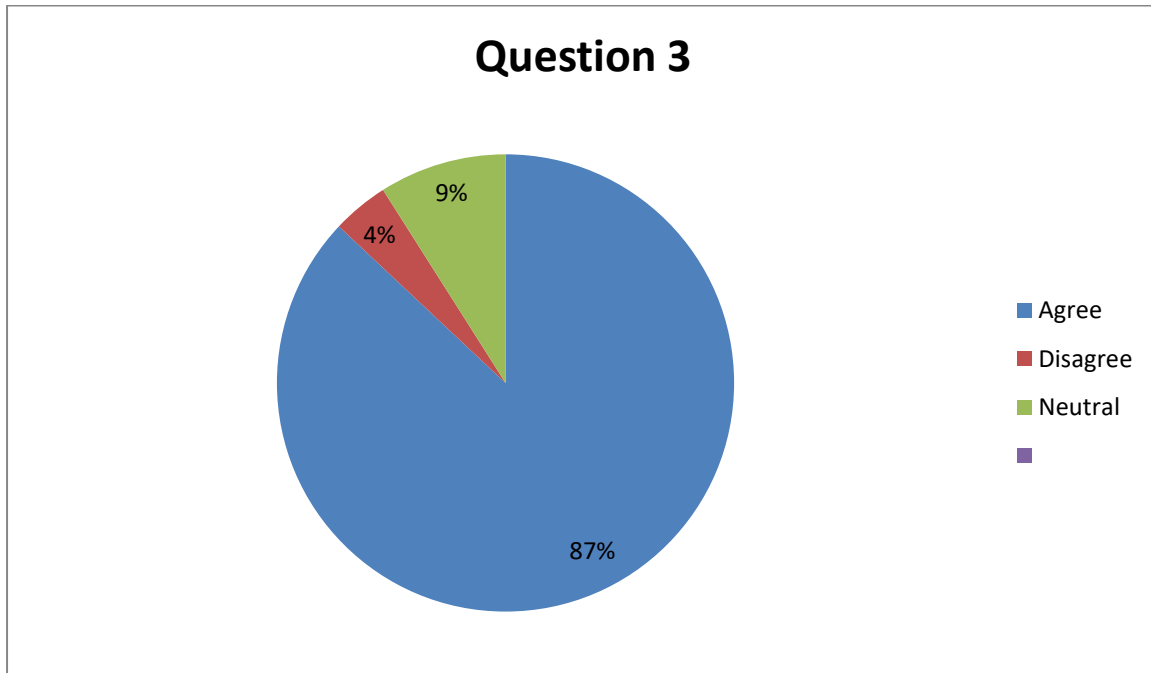
1. I believe most people are poor because they are lazy and simply don't have the drive to go out and work.
  - a. Agree
  - b. Disagree
  - c. Neutral



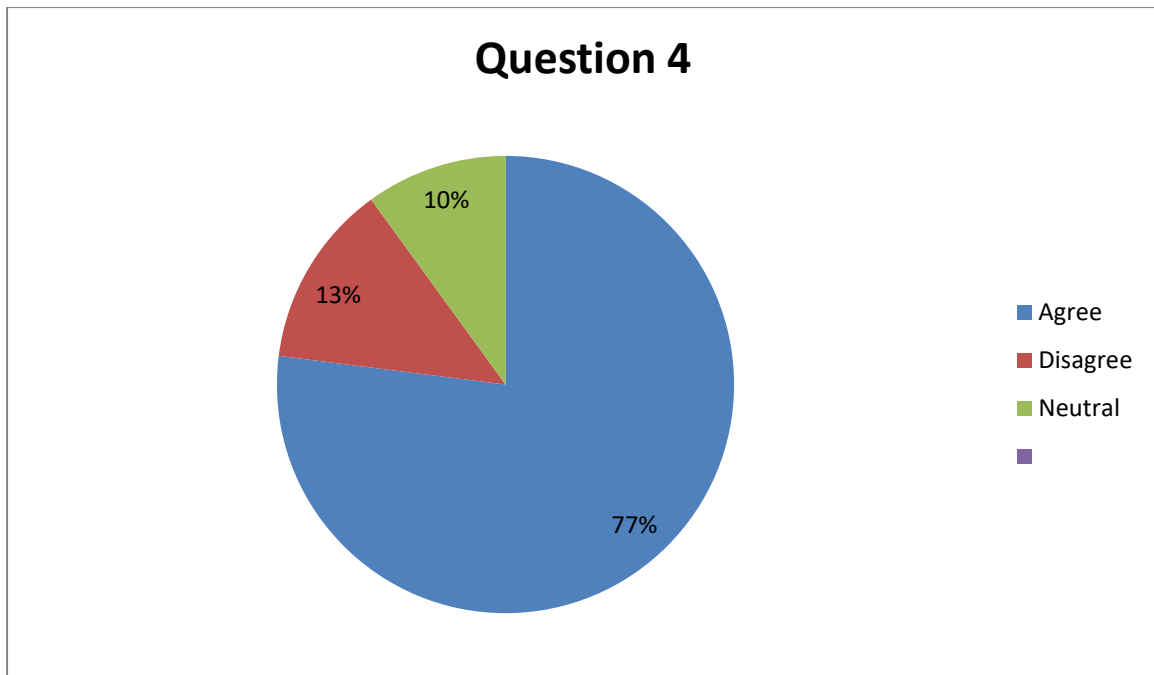
2. I believe we should end all foreign aid until we take care of poverty in this country.
- a. Agree
  - b. Disagree
  - c. Neutral



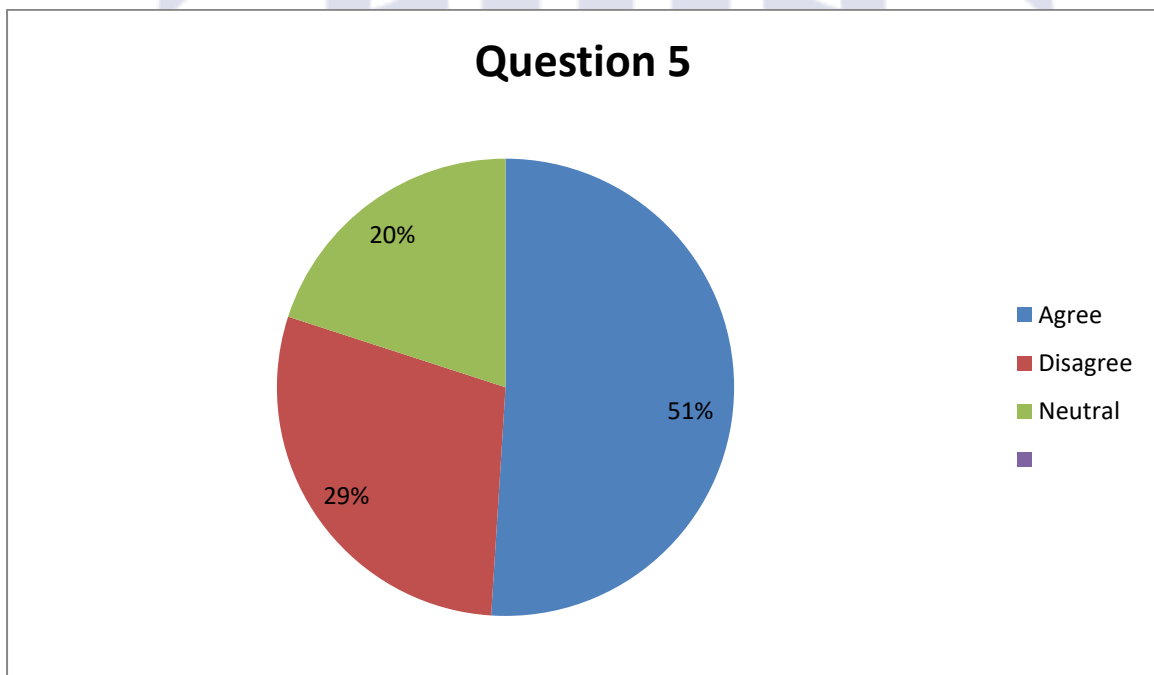
- 3. I believe increase in death rates in Gorakhpur occur mostly because of poverty and hunger issues.
  - a. Agree
  - b. Disagree
  - c. Neutral



- 4. I believe poverty has a strong connection with starvation.
  - a. Agree
  - b. Disagree
  - c. Neutral

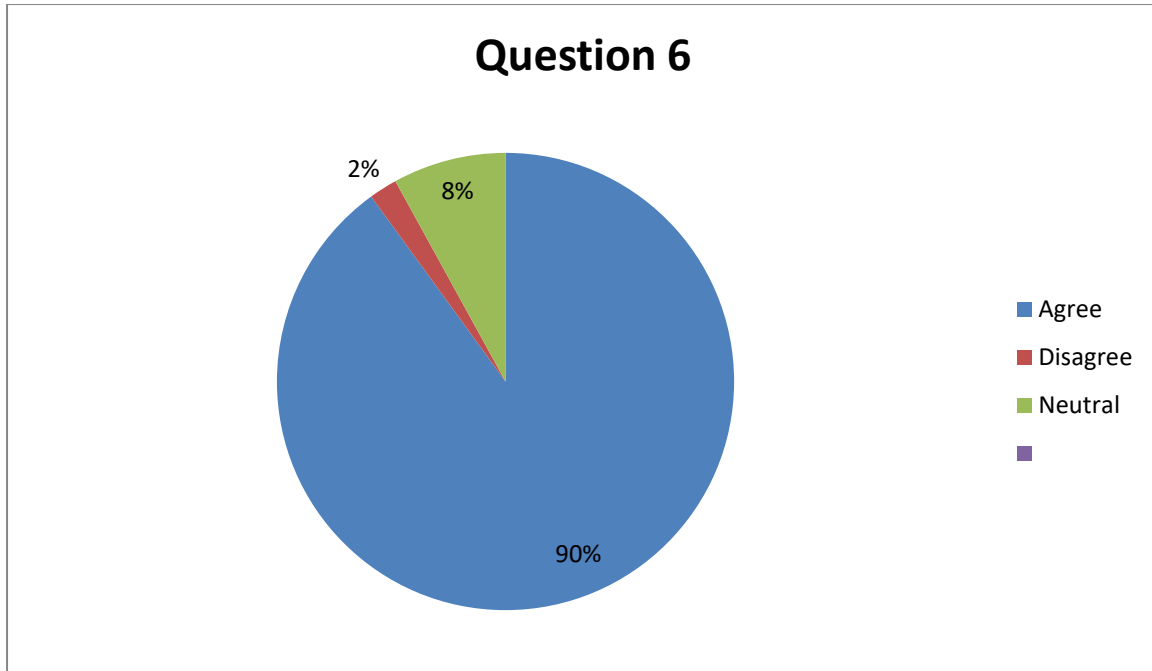


5. I believe minorities are poor because they have been mistreated. They were not given any job opportunities etc.
- a. Agree
  - b. Disagree
  - c. Neutral

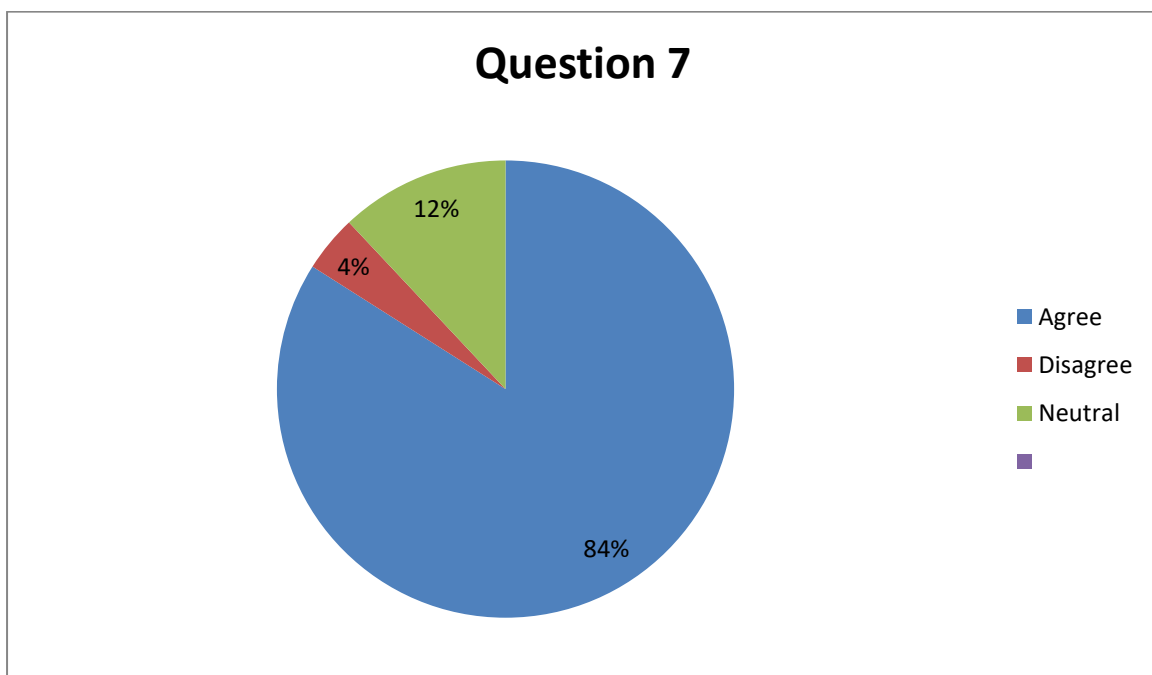


6. I believe poor people should receive all of the free medical help they need.

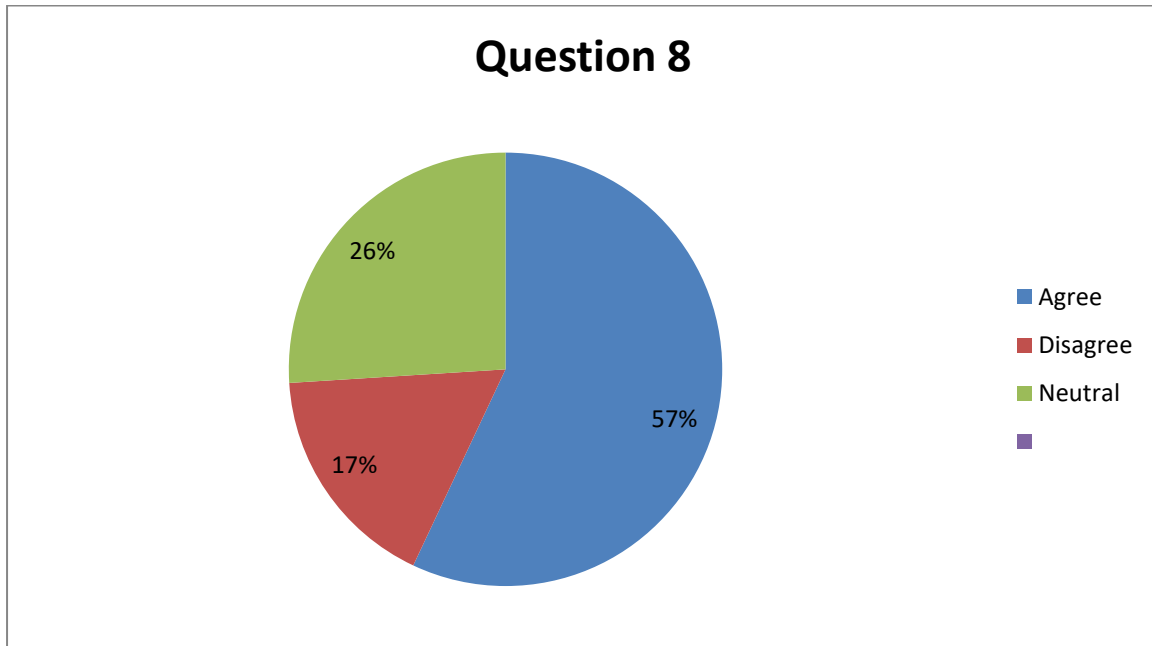
- a. Agree
- b. Disagree
- c. Neutral



7. I believe poor families should receive a free college education for their children.
- a. Agree
  - b. Disagree
  - c. Neutral



8. In Gorakhpur, I believe a person makes in income what his labor is worth.
- a. Agree
  - b. Disagree
  - c. Neutral



### CONCLUSION:

With the data previously gathered, codified, and tabulated, it is clear that Gorakhpur is still lagging behind other U.P. cities in terms of poverty and hunger because these problems are spreading quickly and there are no effective solutions in place to address them on a large scale. Nonetheless, a minority of the public believes that most people are poor because they are lazy and lack motivation to work. In light of the consensus, it can be said that Gorakhpur's rising death rates are not a result of starvation or poverty. Encephalitis is one of the health problems that have killed many people in the city.

But instead of ignoring it, the needs of the poor should also be carefully considered. Wealthy people should have a more inclusive mindset to ensure that the underprivileged are not subject to unfair treatment. Planning must take into account the fact that poverty is an effect, not a cause. The level of political and social awareness of the populace has an impact on social and political concerns related to the elimination of poverty. In order to make Gorakhpur a developed city in terms of poverty and hunger, it is vital to place emphasis on certain regions of concern, such as Dharmshala, Rasoolpur, Kunraghat, Turkmanpur, and Sahjanwa.

Furthermore, it should be swiftly handled by putting in place appropriate counter measures. Also, the elimination of poverty is now essential for the inclusive and sustainable development of the population, society, nation, and economy.

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