

1. In tackling malnutrition, public policy needs to take a comprehensive 'life cycle approach'. Throw light on this 'life cycle approach' and role of stakeholders in it.

(150 Words)

Answer:

- Human health and development is a dynamic process, and early intrauterine life conditions can influence a variety of adult outcomes, including lifestyle-related diseases, the process of aging, and geriatric morbidity.
- The problem of malnutrition is complex, multi-dimensional and inter-generational in nature, and cannot be improved by a single sector alone.
- The causes are varied and include inadequate consumption of food, frequent infections, lack of availability of safe drinking water and proper sanitation, illiteracy specially in women, poor access to health services, low purchasing power, socio-cultural factors such as early marriages of girls, lack of care during pregnancy and infancy, ignorance about nutritional needs of infants and young children etc.
- To handle the situation policy needs to take a life-cycle approach.
- The life cycle approach to health is a concept that emphasizes on prevention and early intervention at every stage of life. Outcome at one point in the life-cycle might be a determinant for health elsewhere further in the cycle.
- The first 1000 days ranging from conception to the end of the second year of life is crucial for any intervention to ensure adequate nutrition and development, which will bring benefits throughout life. Focusing on this period increases the child's chance of having a healthy and productive life in the future, and helps to break the inter-generational cycle of poverty. Many children are born malnourished because their mothers are malnourished, highlighting the significance of nutrition for women of child-bearing age. Therefore, to tackle the issue of malnutrition, we need to have a life cycle approach.
- For success of this approach different stakeholders such as the government, development partners, non-government organisations, the private sector, research institutions and United Nations agencies have to work in coordination.
- For example, rural institutions in areas like land, water, marketing of agricultural and non-agricultural products, credit, technology, and infrastructure are needed for better governance. Similarly, people-centric programmes and institutions are needed for better implementation of social protection schemes.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Answer the following Questions

1. India needs to collaborate and participate in international scientific projects in order to place itself as a major player in cutting edge research. Discuss in the light of ongoing global mega science projects. (150 words)
2. What is Mitochondrial Replacement Therapy? Discuss its potential in reducing genetic disorders. Also, list various issues around its use in fertility medicine. (150 words)

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