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1. SOCIETY

Having proper social infrastructure ensures better impact on the learning outcomes for children in the country. Discuss

KEY POINTS

- The Social Infrastructure includes the health care, the management of the education and health services in India that form the basic social infrastructure.
- Inadequate access to safe drinking water and clean cooking fuel leads to serious health concerns.
- The 2019 NSSO Time Use survey shows that 42.8 per cent of households in rural areas continued to use firewood as their primary source of cooking fuel.
- This is consistent with a CAG report (2019) that notes that the average refill consumption is not at par with the increase in LPG coverage for Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana households, with the high cost of LPG refill being the primary deterrent.
- Only 38.76 per cent of rural households have indoor piped water connections.
- The “Har Ghar Jal” initiative under the National Jal Jeevan Mission (NJJM) aims to provide piped water for all rural households by 2024.
- Data from the 2011-12 Indian Human Development Survey (IHDS) suggest, on an average, women spend nearly 45-50 minutes per day in collecting water or fuel, with huge variation across states.
- The Annual Survey of Education Report 2020 survey indicates that only 30 per cent of rural children received learning materials.
- Providing both physical and financial access to time-saving infrastructure such as LPG and piped water that frees up mother’s time to supervise children’s learning outcome.

The idea of poverty line needs to be established comprehensively to recognise the state of the poor people in the country. Analyse

KEY POINTS

- The World Bank \$2-a-day (poverty line) might be inadequate but it would be a start and higher than the last line proposed by the C. Rangarajan committee.
- A survey in 2013 had said India stood at 99 among 131 countries, and with a median income of \$616 per annum, it was the lowest among BRICS.
- The fall of India in the Global Hunger Index to serious hunger category, National Family Health Survey or NFHS-5, which had worrying markers of increased malnutrition, infant mortality and maternal health.