Society & Social Justice · GS - I

In dealing with socio-economic issues of development, what kind of collaboration between government, NGOs and private sector would be most productive?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2024	GS - I	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Public-private partnership, government regulation, NGO grassroots presence, private innovation, CSR, social enterprises, outcome-based financing, convergence, capacity building, social audit, accountability

Model Answer

Introduction

Complex socio-economic problems such as poverty, malnutrition, skilling and healthcare cannot be addressed effectively by a single institution. Productive collaboration should combine the State's legitimacy, NGOs' community connect and the private sector's technology and efficiency.

Complementary Roles

1. **Government:** Provide policy direction, public finance, regulation, infrastructure and universal entitlements.
2. **NGOs:** Bring grassroots knowledge, community mobilisation, social trust and last-mile delivery capabilities.
3. **Private sector:** Contribute technology, managerial expertise, innovation, investment and scalable solutions.

Productive Collaboration

1. **Outcome-based partnerships:** Define measurable social outcomes rather than merely activities.
2. **Convergence:** Integrate government schemes with NGO implementation and private-sector technology.
3. **Social enterprises and CSR:** Encourage sustainable solutions in areas such as healthcare, education, sanitation and skilling.
4. **Data sharing:** Develop interoperable systems while protecting privacy.
5. **Community participation:** Include beneficiaries in design, monitoring and evaluation.
6. **Independent evaluation:** Use social audits and third-party impact assessments to ensure accountability.

Conclusion

The ideal partnership is neither government outsourcing nor private-sector dominance. It is a clearly regulated ecosystem where responsibilities are defined, incentives are aligned and public interest remains the central objective.

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