Economic Condition of Muslims in India

Why in news?

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According NSSO labor force survey the economic condition of Muslims does not show any signs of improvement in India.

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What are the report findings of NSSO?

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- The NSSO's 68th round (2011-12) provides estimates of education levels and job market indicators across major religious communities in India.
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- The educational attainment of Muslims is the least among all these communities.
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- In urban areas, the number of male Muslim postgraduates is as low as 15 per 1,000.
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- This number is about four times lower than that of other communities, including Hindus, Christians and Sikhs.
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- The number of male graduates among Muslims is 71 per 1,000, less than even half the number of graduates (per 1,000) in other communities.
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- Similarly, the number of Muslims educated up to the secondary and higher secondary levels is 162 and 90 per 1,000 persons, respectively, again the least among all the communities.
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- The average per capita consumption expenditure (used as an indicator of income) among Muslims is just Rs. 32.66 per day, which is the least among all religious groups.
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What are the concerns spotlighted by the report?

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- An analysis of the data on economic and educational indicators for various religious groups reveals that Muslims are facing a vicious circle of poverty.
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- Poor achievement at higher levels of education is partly a reflection of similarly low levels of school education or of illiteracy.
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- Around half the Muslim population over 15 years is either illiterate or has only primary or middle school education.
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- Muslims have the lowest attendance rates and educational attainment especially in higher education, this can be explained by their income level and higher costs for post-secondary education.
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- The signs of Indian Muslims being caught in a vicious circle of poverty are visible in terms of their low consumption expenditure and poor job market indicators, including LFPR, employment status, and worker population ratio.
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What measures needs to be taken?

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- The Central and State governments could take concerted steps to help Indian Muslims escape this vicious circle of poverty.
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- One way to improve their situation is to provide a special incentive and subsidy system for higher education.
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- That will ensure that school going students continue to higher levels of schooling and higher education.
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- Similarly, students who don’t wish to continue in general academic education must have access to vocational education from Class 9 onwards.
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Source: The Hindu

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