Lyndon B. Johnson, who was the Vice-President, had became the 36th President of U.S.A. after the assassination of the President John F. Kennedy in November 1963. In the U.S. Presidential election of 1964, the Democratic Party nominated him as its Presidential candidate. He contested the election and got elected. During his election campaign, he declared his famous 'War on Poverty' Programme with a view to solve the economical problems of the people in America.

Lyndon B. Johnson was born on 27th August 1908 at Texas. He had completed his graduation from South-west Texas State Teachers College in 1930, when he was twenty-two years old. After his graduation, he joined the faculty of a high school in Houston as a tutor. He used to teach Public Speaking and debate at Houston.

Here, it is significant to note that his appointment as a Tutor has started his public career when he had helped and organized Wally Hopkin's successful campaign for a seat of the Texas Legislature. Hopkins
identified Johnson as being "gifted with a very unusual ability to meet and greet the public."

After this event, Johnson had always involved in public life and the politics. He worked as the Secretary to Congressman Kleburg. Meanwhile, he got married with Lady Bird, a well-known Journalist, on November 17, 1934 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in San Antonio, Texas. In his thirty-three years public life and in his personal life, Mrs. Lady Bird Johnson's place and her co-operation proved to be best and significant role.

Lyndon B. Johnson had begun his public and political career from 1931 to 1963 in various capacities. He worked and served the people and the nation as Congressman, as a State Director of National Youth Administration (NYA), as U. S. Representative, as Incharge of Democratic Congressional campaign Committee, as Democratic, as U. S. Senator, as the leader of Majority Whip, as a Minority Leader of Senate, as a Majority Leader and as a Vice-President. Thus, Lyndon B. Johnson rose from the ordinary tutor to the President of U.S.A.
It is an important fact to note that President Johnson was deeply moved by poverty and misery, which continued to hamper the glory of the nation. Therefore, he cared for hungry dispossessed poor, disabled, destitute and old-aged. He made up his mind to fight for better living of American poors. As a result of this, he was determined to wage a war against poverty.

As the President of U.S.A., he was worried for 35 million American poor, who had no voice and no champion as a matter of fact, he had decided to represent them and he declared unconditional war against poverty in America. Therefore, in this present study, the attempt has been made to critically evaluate President Johnson's War on Poverty Programme, its assessment, and its relevancy to India.

It is important to note that American society is known as an "Affluent Society", however, it is also afflicted with the malady of poverty. It has been pointed out that in America about 80 per cent of the population lives a comfortable life and about 20 per cent are poor. Therefore, an attempt has been made in this thesis to examine this phenomenon. Since the poors in America are surrounded by the rich, it is difficult to trace out them.
The criterion for determining the poverty not only differs from country to country but also within the same country from time to time. This is obvious from the fact that in 1904, Robert Hunter had pointed out "a family of four was poor if it had less than $460 per year as income. In the year 1960, the same family required at least $3,300 a year to be on the poverty line.

The thesis entitled "President Lyndon B. Johnson's 'War on Poverty' Programme, its assessment and its relevance to India" has been divided into five chapters.

Chapter I highlights the Nature and Scope of Poverty and it also describes poor families during the 19th and 20th centuries in the United States of America. Michael Harrington writes: "The poor are ill-housed, ill-clothed and ill-fed". Similarly, S.M. Millar points out: "Poverty is initially caused by circumstances such as - unemployment, low-income, size of family, personal disability and lack of opportunity". In this connection, it is important to note that poverty is also caused by social factors,
such as racial segregation and discrimination. For example, the Negroes have been a perpetual victims of economic exploitation and economic insecurity. Number of them are deprived of formal education and proper health facilities. Therefore, all these factors have been examined in this chapter.

Chapter II discusses the President Lyndon B. Johnson's 'War on Poverty' programme. The President sought to eradicate the poverty through his programme. He made certain attempts to uplift the poor from below poverty line. The following measures well-illustrate this:

(1) In 1964, President Lyndon Johnson declared a 'War on Poverty' by enacting the Economic Opportunity Act (EOA) and formed the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) in order to co-ordinate measures to fight for poverty. The Office of Economic Opportunity followed by a series of programmes designed to re-socialize the poor and remove their deficiencies.

(2) The Job Corps which provided vocational training in residence to disadvantaged youth aged 16-21.
(3) Volunteers in In Service To America (VISTA) domestic peace corps, enlisted volunteers to work and teach in ghettoes and slum areas.

- The work-study programme provided jobs to enable students of low-income families to work their way through college.

- The work experience programme provided child day-care and other support services to poor needs households.

(4) The Community Action Programme (CAP) administered Head Start, instruction for disadvantaged pre-scholars, upward bound, tutoring for disadvantaged high school students. Besides, it also provides legal aid services to the poor.

Chapter IIII has been devoted for the discussion of the evolution and implementation of the programme declared against the poverty in U.S.A. It highlights various aspects of the programmes, such as, areas undertaken to implement this programme, number of persons benefited by this programme, budget provisions of the programme and it also makes critical assessment of the programme.
Chapter IV deals with the nature and scope of poverty in India besides the factors which have aggravated this problem. The fast growing population is mainly responsible for this. The number of poor in rural area is more than that of in urban areas. The level of poverty also differs from state to state.

As far as the causes of poverty are concerned, various scholars have given different reasons. For example, Prof. C.M. Vakil points out seasonal unemployment, social system, educational system, climate, size of family and lack of determination to fight against poverty are mainly responsible for poverty.

Besides, this chapter explains various schemes and programmes adopted by Government of India for eradication of poverty. It emphasises various provisions in favour of poor made under Five Year Plans in India, specially poverty re-educuation programmes, such as Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), with special reference to Garibi Hatao, and the New-20 Point Programme of the Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi.

Chapter V concentrates on the comparative study of the problem of poverty in U.S.A. and that of in
India. The main conclusion drawn on the basis of this study is that by and large, the programmes adopted by the President Lyndon B. Johnson to eradicate poverty in U.S.A. and the programmes adopted by the Prime Minister of India Smt. Indira Gandhi to eradicate poverty are the similar in different styles, but they have relevance to each other.

It must be borne in mind that the problem of poverty can not be nipped in the bed. However, certain attempts which have been made by these two historical personalities, cannot be ignored. As a result of their efforts, they were successful in reducing the intensity of poverty and in minimizing the gravity of this problem in U.S.A. and India respectively.

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