

Article Topic - Assessment of increasing unemployment and social economic condition of agricultural laborers

Author name - Dr. Ritu Kumari, Guest Lecturer, Marwari College Bhagalpur,
Tilka Manjhi Bhagalpur University, Bihar.

AbSTRACT

There is a long history of social economic downturns in agricultural labours in villages. Whose past and present, but also the future is sad. Depression and frustration outside them. There is a cry within. Every agricultural laborer of the village does a lot of hard work today, but he is not the one who takes pleasure in his labor, but the capitalist farmers and landlords. He produces the produce on his own, but Bhajjan is not good for him. There is poverty and helplessness in his life. India is considered to be an agricultural country. But the social and economic condition of agricultural laborers here is not good. The rural agricultural society is based on the social economic vitality of agricultural communities in rural areas of Bihar. The village population runs their livelihood through rural agricultural work, animal husbandry system, dairy business, fisheries etc. Here are the two main sectors of the rural economy. The first includes food crops and commercial crops in the category of crops grown under the agricultural sector, and the second includes those economic activities under non-agricultural sectors, in addition to agricultural work, other works are done. A distinct aspect of the rural economy in India is the presence of agricultural laborers in crop production. In the context of agricultural laborers, there are problems of unemployment, development and additional wages. The condition of agricultural laborers is most pathetic in the Indian rural economy. The income of these laborers is very low and they also have problems in getting employment. Because these workers do not have extra skills due to lack of training, there is also the problem of getting employment elsewhere. Any laborer who works on wages in whole or in part, or on certain days of the year as the chief or facilitator in the agricultural sector, is called an agricultural laborer. The agricultural laborer has no right over the land, no right over the production. The agricultural laborer also stays away from the danger involved in the production process, that is, the agricultural laborer has no role in the inherent danger in agricultural production. The definition of agricultural laborer includes those laborers who are employed in a place which is based on agriculture, such as animal husbandry, dairy, poultry, etc. According to the Agricultural Wages Inquiry Committee, any person whose main means of income or who earns his income as a wage by working on an agricultural farm, is called an agricultural laborer.

Keywords- Agricultural labor, social, economic condition, poverty, unemployment, crisis, rural economy.

INTRODUCTION

Bihar is the third highest population in the country with 55.3 percent of rural population living below the poverty line. A large number of majduras are associated with the agriculture sector. Every year, 44 to 50 lakh laborers migrate to other states in search of employment. In the last few years, it has increased rapidly. Agricultural laborers do not get full employment in their village or locality. He has a deep connection with poverty and remittances. If we talk about the economic and social condition of agricultural laborers in Bhagalpur district of Bihar, we find that the wage system in rural areas of the district is also deeply rooted. It is spread in various forms. Taking advantage of the poverty of agricultural laborers, they have been conscripted. Even if the bonded laborer dies without paying the debt of the owners or goes out somewhere, the owners force their children to pay the arrears. But now the bonded labor system is no longer hereditary. Outside Bihar, mainly male laborers go out for work. Only one to three percent of women go abroad for work. Workers of Bihar go out to work in Punjab, Delhi, Mumbai, Gujarat and other states and cities. The Government of the Minimum Wages Act is strictly enforced for the benefit of agricultural laborers. Agricultural work is uncertain in other districts including Bhagalpur in Bihar. But due to the complete monsoon and the grace of nature, agricultural laborers here do not get work throughout the year. In this way, they are experienced

as an escape. They love their garbage and hoarders so much that they do not like to go outside the village permanently and wage it. But they have to do this due to the helplessness of filling the stomach. Most of the agricultural laborers are illiterate. In the absence of education, they do not understand their problems properly. Their awareness towards health is also very low. For this reason, they do not even try to understand it. Due to their poverty, they would definitely accept the membership of trade unions but they consider it a game of luck. Agriculture is the backbone of Indian economy. While it is a major employment provider sector. On the other hand, it contributes significantly to the gross domestic product (GDP). About 60 percent of the country's population depends on agriculture for its livelihood. But it is not possible to keep the agriculture sector strong without the progress and development of agricultural communities. Agriculture accounts for about 22 percent of GDP. In fact, in the developed countries, when India is included in developing countries, the percentage of agriculture's participation in the GDP is less, while the relatively small population is engaged in agriculture. For example, agriculture accounts for 2 and 3 percent of the national income of Britain and America. But the condition of agricultural laborers abroad is much better than India. Food is available through agriculture, as well as raw materials for many major industries (cotton textile industry, jute industry, sugar industry, tea industry, cigarette industry and tobacco industry, etc.). Agriculture is a major source of national income. Agricultural products form an integral and major part of trade (national and international). There is a world trade of tea, cotton, oilseeds, spices, tobacco etc. by India. The internal trade of agricultural products leads to an increase in the income of Tarkar from the transport tax and international trade, which is absolutely necessary for the strengthening of the economy.

Agriculture affects the entire nation. Agricultural production curbs inflation, empowers industries, increases agricultural income and provides employment. Agriculture has economic importance as well as social importance. This region can play an important role in the eradication of poverty, because most of the poor people are employed in this area and if the agriculture sector is developed then poverty will also disappear automatically.

Agricultural laborers can be mainly divided into two parts -

Landless agricultural laborers: Those laborers who do not have land are called landless agricultural laborers. Land agricultural laborers can be further divided into two parts. Permanent landless agricultural laborer. Temporary landless agricultural laborer. Permanent landless agricultural laborers on agricultural farms under a contract. Wages are fixed according to a tradition. Temporary landless agricultural laborers are those laborers who work for only a short time in agriculture. Employment is temporary and stays in line with prevailing rates in the wage market. The workers are not associated with any landlord. It is difficult to define agricultural laborers separately from industrial laborers. The reason for this is that as long as capitalism remains in the agriculture sector, it is difficult to find out the rise of a class in this region which is dependent only on wages. However, capitalism is now only in those areas which are not developed in our country. It is also difficult to define agricultural laborers because many marginalized and small farmers are also working in this field to increase their income. Therefore, to what extent they are considered agricultural laborers is a difficult question.

The first Agricultural Labor Inspection Commission has given the following forms:

- 1) attached labor
- 2) informal laborers

It is the laborers who are attached to any farming family by any type of oral or written contract. In this, their employment is permanent. On the other hand, such laborers are free to work in the fields of any farmer. These types of workers are often employed on a daily basis.

Problems of agricultural laborers - There are many difficulties of agricultural laborers in India which are as follows.

- seasonal employment
- indebtedness
- Low wages
- Housing problem
- layoffs of workers

1. Seasonal employment - Most of the agricultural laborers are unable to get work throughout the year. Their demand is high at the time of sowing and harvesting of the crop. Serves agricultural workers 40 days. And four months later he remains idle.
2. Indebtedness: - Indian agricultural workers get low wages. They remain unemployed for several months in a year. Due to this, their poverty increases. And for their social functions like marriage, birth etc. they take loan from the Mahajans. And as a result, their indebtedness becomes higher. N. released in the year 2005 s. s. According to a report by D. D., the average debt load on farming families in India is Rs. 12,585.
3. Low wages: - The rate of wages of agricultural laborers in India is very low which is determined by their gender etc. For example, women, children and old people are given low wages. Their requirements are not met with that. And due to this, their standard of living and health becomes low. And for this reason, there is also a decrease in labor efficiency.
4. Housing problem: - The residential status of agricultural workers is pathetic. Their houses are made of raw clay. In which there is lack of protection in winter heat and rain. All families and animals live in the same house at night. Due to which the environment remains contaminated.
5. Layoffs of laborers: - Industrial workers sometimes have to do goods of unemployment. Entrepreneurs close the factories due to lack of demand for the goods, sometimes located in the industry. In this situation, workers face permanent or temporary unemployment. An economic problem arises in front of them.

 Efforts made by the government to solve the problems of agricultural laborers

After India became independent, one of the major tasks that the government paid attention to was the welfare of workers. The government has taken the following steps to solve the problem of agricultural laborers -

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- End of bonded labor system
 - Land arrangement for landless laborers
 - Organization of Agricultural Labor Cooperatives
 - Development of cottage and small scale industries
 - debt relief law

 1. End of bonded labor system: - There is a large number of landless laborers in the villages who used to work as bonded laborers. In July 1975, under the 20-point program Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi declared that if there are bonded laborers So they should be freed. And this system should be declared illegal. The Union Labor Ministry has abolished the bonded labor system by issuing an ordinance.

2. Land arrangement for landless laborers: - By fixing the extent of land holdings, the government made arrangements to distribute the excess land to the landless farmers. And the land received from Bhoodan Gramdan movement etc. was divided among the landless laborers. Special emphasis was laid for this work in the Fourth Five Year Plan.

3. Organization of Agricultural Labor Cooperatives: - Agricultural labor cooperatives have been set up with the objective of providing facilities to small and marginal farmers, villagers and workers. Such committees undertake contracts for construction of roads, digging of canals and ponds. Due to which the workers get employment opportunities. So far, around 213 such committees have been established.

4. Development of cottage and small scale industries: To reduce the burden of population on agriculture, the government gave importance to the development of cottage and small scale industries in rural areas.

5. Debt exemption law: - Uttar Pradesh and many other states enacted legislation through ordinance to provide debt relief to agricultural laborers. According to this law, workers whose annual income is Rs 2,400 or less, have been exempted from the old debt. In 1975, small farmers were declared free from the debts of landless farmers and artisans. The government has tried to improve the standard of living of agricultural laborers by enacting and implementing various laws.

The future of agricultural labor is connected with Indian agriculture -

Decades after independence, agricultural production has increased manifold. But some factors prevailing in Indian agriculture are hindering its balanced growth and development. But agriculture has made great progress in the country. But according to that the condition of the Majduras who sweat their sweat day and night in this area has not changed. Now the nature of agriculture is also increasing in terms of scientific and mechanization. In this way, there is an election to change oneself in front of the farming community in the traditional way of farming. And they do not change themselves and their employment will be in danger. Agriculture and agricultural laborers complement each other.

Still, the level of production per hectare of land in India is very low. If we step into the field of agriculture by adopting new technology, machinery and newly developed seeds for the development of agriculture, we can achieve more than the production level of major countries of the world. It is absolutely necessary to give agriculture the status of industry. Most of the agricultural areas in India are of low rainfall and irrigation facilities are also very limited there. Many areas are plagued by natural calamities like floods and droughts. Here the distribution of soil is also uneven in different areas, so different types of crops are produced.

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Census data has shown that the number of agricultural laborers has grown very rapidly during the last decade. Where the number of agricultural laborers was 10.6 crores in the first census of this century, till the last census this number increased rapidly to 14.4 crores. That is, the growth of 3.8 million agricultural laborers in a decade is unprecedented. With this, it has been found for the first time in the last census that the number of farm laborers in the country has exceeded that of farmers. This year the total number of farmers in the country was found to be 119 million. Although there are many such families in our country whose members are also small farmers and laborers, there are some practical difficulties in collecting data. Nevertheless, it can be believed that there has been a rapid increase in the number of farm laborers. One of the reasons for this is that the dependence on wages has increased due to less land per generation. The second reason is that due to the agrarian distress and indebtedness, many farmers families have lost their land. The number of displaced farmers has increased very rapidly. Many farmers have committed suicide amid growing misery. Due to the destruction of many traditional artisans, unemployed people have also come to farm labor due to lack of options. Due to shrinking opportunities, many farm laborers also work in mining and construction etc. The people engaged in farm labor are the poorest and neglected sections of the country. Some places are still working as bonded laborers who are unable to repay the loan. Earlier, they used to get the highest employment and highest wages at the time of harvesting. But as the use of Combine harvester has increased, this employment has decreased rapidly. They also get a lot when planting paddy. But now machines for this have also come on the market. In some places, the wages of farm laborers have increased, especially after the arrival of MNREGA, but at present, their economic condition is very worrisome. The phenomenon of the number of farmers and the rapid increase in the number of agricultural laborers is pointing to a major change in Indian agriculture. It is possible that in future, agricultural work will become less dependent on farmers and more dependent on laborers. The policy regulators are yet to see any thinking of dealing with this future situation and problems. Some work that needs to be done immediately. Such as providing fair wages to agricultural laborers, and making arrangements for their health and future protection.

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Women play a significant and crucial role in agricultural development and allied fields. The nature and extent of women's involvement in agriculture varies greatly from region to region. But regardless of these variations, women are actively involved in various agricultural activities. As per Census 2011, out of total female main workers, 55 per cent were agricultural labourers and 24 per cent were cultivators. However, only 12.8 per cent of the operational holdings were owned by women, which reflect the gender disparity in ownership of landholdings in agriculture. Moreover, there is concentration of operational holdings (25.7 per cent) by women in the marginal and small holdings categories. Rural women perform numerous labour intensive jobs such as weeding, hoeing, grass cutting, picking, cotton stick collection, separation of seeds from fibre, keeping of livestock and its other associated activities like milking, milk processing, preparation of ghee, etc. Details of activities taken up by women in Agriculture and its allied activities are as follows.

Agriculture...

Mainly rural women are engaged in agricultural activities in three different ways depending on the socio-economic status of their family and regional factors. They work as:

Paid Labourers.

Cultivators doing labour on their own land.

Managers of certain aspects of agricultural production by way of labour supervision and the participation in post harvest operations.

The types of agricultural activities taken up by women include the following :

Sowing

Nursery management

Transplanting

Weeding

Irrigation

Fertilizer application

Plant protection

Harvesting, winnowing, storing etc.

Livestock

Livestock is the primary livelihood activity used to meet household food needs as well as supplement farm incomes. It is a common practice in the rural areas to give an animal as part of a women's dowry. Studies have revealed rural women earn extra income from the sale of milk and animals. Mostly women are engaged in cattle management activities such as

Cleaning of animal and sheds

Watering of cattle

Milking the animals

Fodder collection

Preparing dung cakes

Collection farm yard manure

Except for grazing, all other livestock management activities are predominantly performed by women. Men, however, share the responsibility of taking care of sick animals. It is evident that the women are playing a dominant role in the livestock production and management activities.

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Poultry-

Poultry farming is one of the major sources of the rural economy. The rate of women participation in poultry farming at household level is central in the poultry industry.

Feminisation of Agriculture

Economic Survey 2017-18 says that with growing rural to urban migration by men, there is 'feminisation' of the agriculture sector, with an increasing number of women in multiple roles as cultivators, entrepreneurs, and labourers. Globally, there is empirical evidence that women have a decisive role in ensuring food security and preserving local agro-biodiversity. Rural women are responsible for the integrated management and use of diverse natural resources to meet the daily household needs. This requires that women farmers should have enhanced access to resources like land, water, credit, technology and training which warrants critical analysis in the context of India. In addition, the entitlements of women farmers will be the key to improve agriculture productivity. The differential access of women to resources like land, credit, water, seeds and markets needs to be addressed.

With women predominant at all levels-production, pre-harvest, post-harvest processing, packaging, marketing – of the agricultural value chain, to increase productivity in agriculture, it is imperative to adopt gender specific interventions. An 'inclusive transformative agricultural policy' should aim at gender-specific intervention to raise productivity of small farm holdings, integrate women as active agents in rural transformation, and engage men and women in extension services with gender expertise.

suggestion -

Economic and social condition of agricultural laborers can improve with these steps

- Land should also be made available for agriculture by agricultural laborers
 - Agricultural laborers whether male or female equal wages for all
 - Migration of agricultural laborers should go to rake and they will get arrangements to get work done throughout the year.
 - The benefits of government welfare schemes should not reach them through intermediaries
- Accept the importance of agricultural labor from the farmer to the government
- Go to provide employment opportunities to agricultural laborers in MNREGA too
 - According to the changing trend of agriculture, there should be a system of training.
 - The government should arrange good education for the children of agricultural laborers.

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conclusions- The government remains very concerned about the problems of farmers. But the government should also worry about agricultural labor. If the agricultural laborers are no more, the farmers will not be able to do the work of farming. In today's time, a large number of workers are moving out of Bihar in search of work. Its effect is on farming. The Department of Agriculture should ensure that the farmers as well as agricultural laborers get the benefit of government schemes on time. Former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam said in the context of Bihar that there is a possibility of a second Green Revolution in Bihar. The second Green Revolution cannot take place without agriculture. The number of workers needed for agricultural work in Bihar is reduced due to migration to other states. The trend is particularly heavy on agricultural labor. As a skilled laborer, agricultural laborers of Bihar are also included in Haryana topping Punjab and other states in agriculture. In this way, the interest of agricultural laborers should not be ignored. At present, agricultural laborers are struggling with problems ranging from employment to health, education and more. However, in the changed situation, when the agricultural rad map has been made in Bihar, then the Agriculture Department of Bihar has got its eye on such expert cultivators and due to this, the department is preparing to make Bihar topped in the field of agriculture and agricultural products. has gone.

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