

GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT OF TEA GARDEN WORKERS OF ASSAM

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Abstract

This article tries to explore the link between good governance and human development. The problems of inequality and poverty are closely associated with development agenda. The government of India after independence implemented various legislations for the tea garden workers of Assam.. In this article an attempt has been made to critically examine the agenda for human development for tea garden women workers of Assam.

INTRODUCTION

The term 'Governance' is understood as a process of decision making and the process of implementation of laws, policies, schemes, welfare projects. Government machinery is the chief instrument in governance. The basic component of governance is establishing a government and vesting it with the power to exercise, control and authority. Government relates to the process what the government does. Development is largely becoming a function of governance given the depleting resources and galloping population of the country. Good governance refers to a 'Humane governance' which is dedicated to securing human development. Good governance is directly related to purposive and development oriented administration which is committed to the improvement of quality life of the mass people. It refers to the adoption of new values of governance with a view of establishing greater efficiency, legitimacy and credibility of the system. In simple terms good governance can be termed as citizen friendly, citizen caring and responsive administration. Thus, it is clear that good governance depends on the cooperation and an involvement of a large number of citizens and organization. Good governance issues gained currency in the development debate mainly through the concerns of multilateral agencies, donor countries, and through the activities of non-governmental organizations which became concerned about lack of transparency and accountability in government dealings and decision making process, lack of human rights in some Asian, African, South American countries and about wide spread corruption in the government. In Addition, internal struggle against oppressive and dictatorial governments in some developing countries, crystallized the importance of good governance issues and associated civil society value in maintain peace, encouraging development and fostering development. There is a very vital relationship between 'Good Governance' and 'Human Development'. Good governance is essential for non-discriminatory economic development and fair representation within a democratic society.

Now the question arise what human development is ? The Human Development Report, published annually has defined human development as process of enlarging people's choices to lead lives they value. Human development has two sides . According to UNDP(1995) one the formulation of human capabilities – such as improved health , knowledge, and skills. The other side of human development is the use that people make their acquired capabilities for productive purpose for leisure for being active in cultural, social and political affairs. Moreover, The 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms that “ every one has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well being of himself and his family including food , clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services Everyone has the right.... To education to work....(and) to social security” Thus, human development is associated with people and about expanding their choices to lead their lives they value.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. It also made an effort to study the human development measures adopting for the upliftment of this disadvantaged section
2. This paper intends to make an in-depth study about the exploiting condition of tea garden women workers due to the cultural social political contexts of gender inequality prevailing in their society .

METHODOLOGY

The present study is based on both primary and secondary data. Primary data are collected from two tea estates of Jorhat district -Cinnamara Tea Estate and Lohpohia tea estate. The secondary data are collected through books, journals etc.

The sample of 200 tea garden workers (TGW) are selected for the study from both the tea estates i.e, The Cinnamara Tea Estate and Lohpohia Tea Estate. The sample consists of 100 women workers and 100 men workers working in both tea gardens

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Good Governance and Human Development : Here, an attempt has been made to study the human development indicators like Literacy ,Morbidity, Access to health service, Family Planning, Child Immunization, Access to safe drinking water, Sanitation, Access to Balance diet, Standard of living.

A. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILES OF THE TWO SAMPLE TEA ESTATES

Table 1 Distribution of the participants on the basis of age group

Sl No	Age Group	No of Participants		Percentage
		Men	Women	
1	20-30	30	30	30%
2	30-40	30	40	35%
3	40-50	20	15	17.5%
4	50-60	20	15	17.5%
5	60 Above	00	00	00%
Total		200		100

Source field survey

Table represents the distribution of the respondents participants on the basis of age and sex. The table depicts that respondents in the age group of 40-50 years and 50-60 years are 17.5%, while 30% of the participants are in the age group of 20-30 years. Therefore, it is concluded that majority of the participants are in the age group of 30-40 years 70%.

B. Marital status of the participants

Table 2

Sl No	Marital Status	No of Participants		Percentage
		Men	Women	
1	Married	80	90	85%
2	Unmarried	20	5	12.5%
3	Widow/ Divorced	-	5	2.5%
		200		100

Source :field survey

It is very important to know whether the human development policies of the state and the management of the tea garden is able to target the married women or not. This is because the married women are often subject to domestic violence, and mostly suffer from financial matters. The tea garden women workers suffer from health diseases which often neglect due to overburden of works in productive and reproductive fields.

It is transparent from the table that 85% of the participant in the sampled tea estate are married which 12.5% of than are unmarried moreover, it is observed that 2.5% of the sample working in tea estates their marital status are widow.

C. Distribution of the respondents on the basis of Educational attainment

Table.3

Sl no	Educational Attainment	No of Participants		Percentage
		Men	Women	
1	Illiterate	70	90	80%
2	Primary	15	05	10%
3	High School	10	05	7.5%
4	Higher Secondary	05	00	2.5%
5	Graduate	00	00	0%
6	Post Graduate	00	00	0%
		200		100%

Source :field survey

Human development of the tea garden workers largely depend on their educational attainment . Different studies paint out that the tea garden workers are mainly literate and more literate (primary level). This often results economic insecurity. Education and development are considered as the two sides of same coin.Educated people relatively became conscious about environmental sanitation, personal cleanliness and necessary preventive, creative measures for health. Literate mothers takes decision in family planning which is reflected in the declining health rate of their infants table

It can be seen from the above table majority 80%of the participants are illiterate while 10% of participants have completed primary level 7.5% have completed high school level and 2.5% attained higher secondary. Therefore, it is analyzed that majority of the tea garden workers are illiterate .

D. Occupation and Nature of employment

Table.4

SL No	Occupation and Nature of Employment	No of Participants		Percentage
		Men	Women	
1	House Wife	00	00	00
2	Permanent Workers of T.E.	40	50	45%
3	Temporary Workers of T.E.	60	50	55%
4	Other	00	00	00
		200		100

Source : field survey

The economic security is the main provision for human development of the tea garden workers. The food culture and the food diet of family depends on the economic condition of the bread earner of the family. It is seen that in most of the tea garden families both husband and wife are engage in the plantation work. They receives wages for their work. They also receives food grains along with wages both the tea estates provides a sum of Rs490(weekly)to both permanent and temporary workers irrespective of sex.

It is analyzed in the table that the tea garden workers in the study are having two different type of occupation one is permanent and other is temporary. It is seen that 45% of the respondents are permanent nature of employment while 55% of them are engage in temporary nature of employment. Thus, from the above table it is clear that majority of participants are engage as temporary workers.

E.Average monthly income of the family

Table 5.

SL No	Average monthly income of the family	No of Participants		Percentage
		Men	Women	
1	1000-5000	90	100	95%
2	5001-10000	10	0	5%
3	10001- 15000	00	00	0%
4	15000-20000	00	00	0%
		200		100

Source : field survey

Income is the most important indicator of human development. Income is the most important tool to judge the economic status of the family. It is also services as an instrument to measure health security of people. The above table clearly reveals that 95% participants have their average monthly income from Rs1000-Rs500 while 5% of them have monthly income Rs500-Rs10000. Thus, it is concluded that majority of participants have their average monthly income Rs1000-Rs5000.

F.Distribution of Tea Garden Married Workers Utilizing Family Planning Facilities among the

Sample population

SL.No	Total No. of Married Men Workers	Total No. of Married Men Workers adopting F.P.	Total No. of Married Women Workers	Total No. of Married Women Workers interviewed	Total No. of Married Women Workers adopting F.P.

	Intervie wed			Oral contace -ption	Sterilis ation	Total
	80	35	90	10	40	50

From the above table, it is clear that there are total 170 married men and women in sample of total 200. Out of which 80 are men and 90 are women respectively. Among the 80 men workers 35 adopted family planning measures and out of 90 married women 50 are adopted family planning measurers. It is found in the table that the sample men workers are less interested in practicing family planning devices.

Both the tea gardens has introduced family planning programme among the tea garden workers in order to control the unplanned population of the tea gardens. Both the sample tea garden have the facility of family planning in the garden hospitals. The garden doctors are trained in modern methods of family planning. Management in both gardens motivate the tea garden workers by means of organizing monthly camp in this regard. Birth control means such as oral pills, contraceptive are distributed free of cost among the tea garden women workers under NRHM scheme. Regarding the decision making in the process of family planning it is seen that

Health condition of the tea Garden workers

Health is the basic requirement for fulfillment of all human aspiration. Health refers to a state of complete Physical , mental and social wellbeing. Health security , as discuss in the earlier chapter refers to minimum protection from diseases and unhealthy lifestyles. Health security now regard as a major component of Health security. In this 21st century, about half of the world population are unable to achieve their full health potential. The poor, marginalized and included have higher risk of dying than other privileged group. These disparities are found not only among the developed and underdeveloped or developing countries, but also within the risk and poor people and men and women of the country itself with regard to women health , it may be noted that along with other factors likes food and drink , personal hygienic and environmental sanitation ,etc , reproductive performance and the nature of care taken during the reproductive activities are also important determinant Tea garden population in Assam stands at the darkest corner of evolution. The tale of these workers in a tale of torture, exploitation and deprivation till India attained freedom in 1947. These workers were reduced to sub-human serfdom, to the extent of being beasts of burden only to earn more and more profit for their masters .

'Morbidity' or 'State of ill health' is defined as human disorder that that disturb the development of normal physical and mental health as well as social functioning of man. The tea garden workers of Assam have to experiment high level of morbidity among infants, children, women and elders. The health status of the tea garden workers of Assam is relatively low as compare to national and state average. Anaemia increase infant mortality rate(IMR),increase maternal mortality rate(MMR)and Tuberculosis(TB) are burning health problems of tea estate in Assam. The tea garden workers seem to have a relatively poor defence system, and also seem not to very prompt in taking Medicare services. The women folk among the tea garden workers very often get affected with different kind of diseases

CONCLUSION

In the light of above theoretical perspective of **Governance and Human Development**, in this research work an attempt has been made to examine how various legislation and social security measures adopted for the tea garden workers to increase human Development. The tea garden workers constitute a major part of the total work force of Assam. Tea garden women workers also contribute to building up economy and also plays an important role in social and political activities.

But, still the tea garden labour community of Assam recognizes as the most exploited and backward class of people who lives in the interior places and works in the tea garden for livelihood. The poverty, addiction to the people to local beer, poor standard of living, poor education, health and hygiene facilities, lack of political awareness are the malice of their lives which makes them most disadvantaged section of the society. They are exploited socially, economically, politically, culturally and educationally. They engages themselves in plucking of the tea leaves without destroying the quality is a crucial work but provides low wages compare to the men workers. These women are overburden due to productive and reproductive works, enjoy no time for relaxation. The lag behind man and other women in the societies in every spheres and lives in the discriminatory treatments. Though some human security measures and government programmes are available in the tea garden, still they take no part in decision making process, enjoys low health status and works and lives almost in insecurity atmosphere.

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