

# Occupational difficulties in agricultural labour and barriers to welfare Programs

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## Abstract -

Agricultural labor has been a major contributor to the economic development of rural areas in India. The village economy has been agricultural based since the beginning. Unemployment of agricultural laborers is a major problem in rural areas of Bihar including Bhagalpur district. They have to face social, economic, political and administrative hurdles related to government welfare schemes at the local level. Government welfare schemes to remove the poverty and unemployment of agricultural laborers have been becoming continuous since independence. But it does not land properly. Bindu, the center of contemplation of leading leaders of the country, has had problems of agricultural labor from the beginning. There is a long list of occupational difficulties of agricultural laborers and obstacles to welfare programs. The rural area of Bihar, including the Bhagalpur district, is passing through economic transitional dairies. The unemployed agricultural laborers here do not get the opportunity to work every day. Every agricultural laborer in the village does a lot of hard work, but Bhajan is also no luck. Nor does he get the opportunity to work for a whole year. In this way, his future seems bleak. This idea is also true in relation to India today, in the context of poor country, poor king, poor country, propounded in the 18th century by the French philosopher Quasne. As an agrarian country, the economy of India is dependent on farmers, farmers, laborers and advanced practices of agriculture. The profession of an agricultural laborer, ie, a laborer, makes a living by giving his labor in agricultural work. The condition of agricultural existence in India is very low and pathetic. They are very poor and have a very low standard of living. His life is full of poverty, unemployment, torture, oppression and uncertainty. In some places, the condition of agricultural labor is like that of slaves. The main problem of agricultural laborers i.e. their occupational difficulties is that they do not get regular employment throughout the year. They have to face short employment and sometimes even full unemployment. The contract or permanent agricultural majors are specially tied to the landlord, they are provided permanent employment throughout the year but such agricultural laborers are very less. As we are aware that near about 53% population of India is engaged in agricultural activities. But agriculture in India is still at mercy of the monsoon. Here, the condition of the farmers and agricultural labourers depend on the intensity of monsoon. If the monsoon is good then the crop is good and vice-versa. Agriculture labour is counted in the category of unorganized sector, so their income is not fixed. Hence they are living an insecure and underprivileged life and earning just Rs. 150/300 day along with full uncertainty. In terms of employment, the condition of agricultural laborers with casual or temporary employment is particularly bad. There are a large number of such agricultural majors in the country. According to the Agricultural Labor Investigation Committee, casual men get employment for 197 days in a year. for 40 days they do their own work. The remaining 128 days they do not get any work. And they remain unemployed. Similarly, women get only 141 days of agricultural labor. Along with being uneducated and ignorant, agricultural laborers are spread in the remote villages of the country. Due to which they are not able to organize. In the absence of organization, they do not have the ability to sell the land for more wages than the landowners. Due to which they fail to increase their wages and regularize working hours. The practice of forced labor, forced or involuntary wages is practiced in all parts of the country. Due to which conscription of agricultural labor is done. And their cost is also reduced.

Keywords- Agricultural labour, welfare schemes, low standard of living, unemployment, poverty.

Introduction- The biggest problem of agricultural labor is their poverty. Due to low wages, their income level is very poor and standard of living is very low. They also do not meet the minimum basic requirements of laborers, textiles, and housing. Agricultural laborers often remain indebted due to lower wages. Mostly

these loans are taken for meeting transportation expenses or for sustaining social traditions like marriage, marriage, death, and other activities. Due to lack of income, these agricultural laborers are not able to pay these loans on time. And generations remain indebted. Landless agricultural laborers often do not have their own personal residence. They usually live on landlord or non-Majarua land or government land by making a jhopri in their acceptance or compulsion. There is no entry of pure air and light in these jhapedias. It is mostly closed and not able to stay. Sometimes agricultural laborers also tie their cattle in it. Due to this, the health of agricultural laborers and other family members has deteriorated. Whenever the crop is destroyed due to flood, drought or any other natural phenomenon in the absence of ancillary business in the villages, the livelihood of agricultural laborers is also difficult. The number of landless agricultural laborers in the country increased by 35.24% to 14.43 crore in the year 2011 as compared to 10.67 crore in the year 2001. In the context of the occupational difficulties of agricultural labor, the use of modern machines and machinery in agricultural work has created problems of unemployment in agricultural labor. In the absence of other occupations, they face a crisis of razi rarity. It is clear that many social and economic difficulties exist in front of agricultural laborers. These occupational difficulties of agricultural labor are an election for the government. The proper permanent solution to these problems depends on the success of the government welfare program. In fact, the British looted the peasants and agricultural laborers, and after that the indigenous landowners and rich traders of their country have also paid them a lot. In the middle and north Bihar, more than half of the tribes have almost no land. They are all agricultural laborers. But the changed relations between the landlord and agricultural laborers made the situation worse. For non-payment of minimum wages and then fear of occupation by the landowners, the landlord confesses to laying the field. On the issue of minimum wages, he argues that farming should not be viewed along with other industries. This day too depends on the nature of nature. Rain, flood, overflow, rain, frost, the soil mixes all the income of the farmer in the soil. In this way, when there is no production, the insistence on applying the minimum agricultural wages is not unjust. At present, the landlord or landowner, agricultural laborers and low caste tribes have their own problems which cannot be ignored continuously. About 80 percent of the people of the state of Bihar live in rural areas and almost such a population is completely dependent on agriculture. If the condition of agriculture is good, the condition of laborers will also be good. But the condition of the farmers is getting worse here, due to which the economic condition of the agricultural laborers who depend on them is also getting worse. Due to the absence of employment, agricultural laborers have no option but to work in other states. Every year there is a migration of Majduras from various districts of Bihar. Only after changing the attitude towards agriculture, the status of agricultural labor can change. Those who consider themselves 'ultra modern' do not consider the work of farming to be right. For this reason, the family members of the farmer do not do farming. Today there is not much income in farming. It is becoming difficult to extract costs. Due to this, the laborers have to live with the most problems. Today the 'ponge' of paddy is not seen in front of any laborer's house. Three to four months after the end of wheat-paddy cultivation, a food crisis arises in front of them. There is a need to improve the agriculture sector to overcome such a situation.

#### Problems of Agriculture Labour:

**Marginalisation of Agricultural Workers.** The workforce in agriculture (cultivators plus agricultural labourers) was 97.2 million in 1951 and this rose to 185.2 million in 1991. As against this, the number of agricultural labourers rose from 27.3 million in 1951 to 74.6 million in 1991. This implies that (i) the number of agricultural labourers increased by almost three times over the period from 1951 to 1991; Agricultural labourers increased from 28 per cent in 1951 to 40 per cent in 1991. These facts indicate the fast pace of casualisation of workforce in agriculture in India. Moreover, the share of agriculture and allied activities in GDP at factor cost has consistently declined over the years - from 55.3 per cent in 1950-51 to 37.9 per cent in 1980-81 (at 1999-2000 prices) and further to 14.0 per cent in 2011-12 (at 2004-05 prices).

**Wages and Income.** Agricultural wages and family incomes of agricultural workers are very low in India. With the advent of the Green Revolution, money wage rates started increasing. However, as prices also increased considerably, the real wage rates did not increase accordingly. Currently laborers are getting around Rs. 150/day under the MGNREGA in rural areas.

Employment and Working Conditions. The agricultural labourers have to face the problems of unemployment and underemployment. For a substantial part of the year, they have to remain unemployed because there is no work on the farms and alternative sources of employment do not exist.

Indebtedness. In the absence of a banking system in the rural areas and trial process of sanction by the commercial banks, farmers prefer to take loans from un institutional sources like Sahukars (moneylenders), landlords at the very high rate (in some cases at 40% to 50%) . This exorbitant rate traps in the vicious circle of debt.

Low Wages for women in Agricultural Labour. Female agricultural workers are generally forced to work harder and paid less than their male counterparts.

High Incidence of Child Labour. Incidence of child labour is high in India and the estimated number varies from 17.5 million to 44 million. It is estimated that one-third of the child workers in Asia are in India.

Increase in Migrant Labour. The Green Revolution significantly increased remunerative wage employment opportunities in pockets of assured irrigation areas while employment opportunities nearly stagnated in the vast rain fed semi-arid areas.

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#### Measures Taken by the Government

In terms of employment, the condition of agricultural laborers with casual or temporary employment is particularly bad. There are a large number of such agricultural majors in the country. According to the Agricultural Labor Investigation Committee, casual men get employment for 197 days in a year. for 40 days they do their own work. The remaining 128 days they do not get any work. And they remain unemployed. Similarly, women get only 141 days of agricultural labor. Along with being uneducated and ignorant, agricultural labourers are spread in the remote villages of the country. Due to which they are not able to organize. In the absence of organization, they do not have the ability to sell the land for more wages than the landowners. Due to which they fail to increase their wages and regularize working hours. The practice of forced labor, forced or involuntary wages is practiced in all parts of the country. Due to which conscription of agricultural labor is done. And their cost is also reduced.

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#### Number of agricultural labourers increasing, employment decreasing

The number of agricultural laborers has increased 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 38 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. The total number of farmers in the country was found to be 119 million. By the way, there are many families in our country whose members are also small farmers and laborers, so 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 reason 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 have also come on the market for this. 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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Migration from rural to urban areas has increased in recent years, especially from Bihar. This indicates that most of the developed regions of India have been utilising labour force of backward areas. An effort has been made to examine the labour migration with details of socio-economic factors and its impact. The study was based on primary data, carried out in three villages of the Bhagalpur district. A sample of 60 respondents, constituting 30 migrants and 30 non-migrants. The analysis of socio-economic variables revealed that the most of migrants belonged to 30-40 years age group (40%), scheduled caste being 53.3%, medium size family accounting for 63.33% of migrants, 40% of sample migrants acquiring matric level education and 76.6% them owned less than 0.5 acre farm size. It was found that companies' (private business organisation) labour work was considered as the main occupation for almost 50% of migrants, while non-migrants (83.4%) had farming as their main occupation. Remittances contribution was higher than 90% of total annual income of migrant households. Per household Overall annual income of migrant households was enumerated as Rs.103091.59, comparatively higher than that of nonmigrant households (Rs.77492.0). Migrant household's annual expense (Rs.56826.2) per household was comparatively low than that of non-migrant household (Rs.56976.3), It may probably be due to more expenses on agriculture and allied by non-migrant household, though infrastructure was same for both households. Larger proportion of migrants (60%) rushed to north-India viz. Haryana & Punjab, Delhi, and Rajasthan. Both types of migration occur viz. Seasonal (short term) and long term. Inter-state male migration has been on rise over the years. The analysis of factors of migration showed that income and education exerted positive impact i.e one unit increase in income and education separately, increased the probability of migration by 99.9% and 23.1%, respectively. The negative impact was observed on migration of labour in the study area on account of several factors such as age, cultivable land, loan avail, number of dependent under study. Furthermore, it is revealed that one unit increase in age, reduced the probability of migration by 30.6%, whereas the probability of migration stepped up to 99.1% with one unit decrease in cultivable land. Impact of migration is supposed to have some influence on the economic condition of migrant households. It was pointed out that the remittances received from the migrants led to higher standard of living of migrant families. It has been reported in the study that received remittances have increased the consumption of high valued food. It has encouraged the migrant family towards better education of their children. Housing conditions as well as non-farm assets of migrant households were found to improve than that of corresponding non-migrant households. Migration has also impacted positively on health care.

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#### Discussion -

The benefits of various government welfare schemes implemented from time to time to provide employment to agricultural laborers along with rural development in various districts of Bihar, including India, were generally well received by the same villagers. One of the main reasons for this has been that the development programs so far implemented were either regional or regional or they were program targets. Changes in this situation and the benefit of government welfare programs have been only to provide for very poor families. Gender structure is also very important in the rural population in the occupational difficulties of agricultural labor. According to the data of the National Sample Survey, the number of unemployed women in rural areas has always been higher than that of male agricultural laborers. Apart from certain agricultural operations, there is a lack of work in rural areas for rural women. Their inclusion in rural construction works is extremely low. Due to illiteracy, family responsibilities and family attachment, there is a lot of lack of mobility in them.

Until the women are not made part of the mainstream of agriculture, the income of the farmers will not double. But it is not so. Women are also being discriminated against in the field of agricultural wages in rural India. This is revealed in the research of The Review of Agrarian Studies. The wage rate of women farmers has increased much less than that of male laborers. Women are also being treated step-by-step in

wages, as in other fields. Data from the NSSO (National Sample Survey Office) shows that both the number of women and men has declined in the agriculture sector in the last three decades. While the number of males has fallen from 81% to 63%, the number of females has come down from 88% to 79%, as the decline in the female population is much less than the decline in the population of males, so this trend in Indian agriculture can be called womanization. Rural women have the largest contribution to the economy of most developing countries including India. 80 percent of the economically active women are employed in agriculture. Of these, 33 percent are working as laborers and 48 percent as self-employed farmers. According to the NSSO (National Sample Survey Office) report, about 18 percent of agricultural households in India are headed by women. There is no work of agriculture in which there is no participation of women. In the last five decades, due to the high rate of migration of men from Bihar, the responsibility of family farming has fallen on the shoulders of women. The IHD study found that 70 percent of women working in the agricultural sector were from migrant families. In addition to household responsibilities, the men are also responsible for running the family by taking wages in addition to household responsibilities. Among workers employed in the agricultural sector in Bihar

Half are women. This reinforces the principle of womanization of agriculture. Nevertheless, the role of women in the agricultural sector is poorly recognized and excluded from agricultural policies and programs. The work of women is not as important as the work of men. Their income as a laborer is also low. Women working as agricultural laborers receive about 60 percent of the wages of men, partly because men are more involved in high-wage tasks such as irrigation and harvesting, while women work in weeding, transplanting, and head transportation. Huh. payment

In the mixed form of cash and commodity, daily rates or piece-rates are done. But now it is changing. Women are now doing 'menial work' such as tillage plowing, marketing, irrigation and overall management. She also drives a tractor. These actions of women should be encouraged and promoted

Is required. About 80 percent of the total manpower in animal husbandry is women and hence it is a female dominated profession. It is only the women of the agricultural laborers who do animal husbandry and try to alleviate poverty by arranging some income separately. It is considered as a 'sustainable enterprise' for the poorest people. Animal husbandry accounts for 3.4 percent of the contribution of agriculture to 12 percent of the GDP. Similar to agricultural produce, some portion of milk of cows / buffaloes is kept for domestic consumption and the remaining milk is sold locally. Wherever Sudha Cooperative is present, it has given families

Have tried to link their centers to get the assured price of milk. The tendency of forest dwellers to have symbiotic relationship with nature

As some women in i say, 'Our God (Pahari Baba) lives in the jungle.' They are small forest products including jalavan, mahua, tendu leaf, datun, chironji for their consumption and some for sale. Collects. Their income is 30-60 rupees per day. Forest right here

The Act has not yet been implemented. If implemented, it can increase both the income and productivity of forest dwellers.

Traditional hand and craftsmanship is scattered everywhere in Bihar and it is not like that. Mithila painting, Sikki and bamboo products, Suzani embroidery, all kinds of Khadi, Tussar silk production, wool spinning and weaving, cotton cloth weaving, jute

The products of jute and lac products are the pride of Bihar, but by handing these arts from one generation to another for centuries, the artisans present in groups in villages and towns have survived till today.

They sit in their homes and prepare goods and sell them in the market. But it seems that some homegrown independent craft work is declining due to customer choice, technology and other market conditions such as weaving blankets and jute carpets made from sheep wool. This has forced the men from these families to flee. Other works remain a source of livelihood for many women including weaving, scarf making, Sikki, Sujani and painting. Madhubani or Mithila painting has been encouraged by the All India Handicrafts Board. This traditional craft has a unique function and trade organization due to its tremendous promotion by the government. Nevertheless, co-operatives have yet to find their feet among these craftsmen. The income from these activities is very low due to most hand craftsmanship not getting any kind of protection. Only between Rs 30-35 per day to Rs 50-60 per day. But many of these are skills that can be helped in making a

viable profession. The tradition of working from home at a peerage rate from contractors is quite widespread in Bihar. One of the oldest examples of housekeeping work is bidi making. Beedi workers make an average of 1000 beedis a day. Many labor laws exist but most women in the unorganized sector do not take advantage of them. There are many laws whose due to proper interpretation and implementation, they can be beneficial for women workers. The case of non-implementation of Construction Workers Act across the country is the most amazing. Under this Act, a cess is levied on all building construction activities to create a fund.

And is to be used only for the welfare of the construction workers of that state. Surprisingly, every state has collected hundreds of crores of rupees on this item which are lying with the governments but they are not being used for the welfare of construction workers. Domestic workers, brick kiln laborers, construction workers, agricultural laborers, etc. are all victims of sexual violence at work places at some time. Even some are raped. But very few cases of sexual harassment are reported. Most women tolerate it quietly because one is helpless with the situation, second they are in dire need of money. The Bihar government has yet to enact this act with informal sector workers Not implemented for Bihar's labour department has some very effective social security schemes like the Inter-State Migrant Labor Scheme and Bihar unorganized field workers and craftsmen social security scheme. There is a need to bring these schemes and other such schemes under one Act. Poor women need to be part of the financial mainstream as they do not have any safe place to save so they are unable to save any kind. In this way, the borrowers have to go to the moneylenders, so that they are kept under the burden of debt. There are important road-fixing mechanisms and factors as disinformation in the unemployment removal programs of agricultural labor, among them the main ones being insensitive government machinery and corrupt officials sinking in selfishness. Without dealing with them, the concept of eliminating unemployment of agricultural laborers can never be fully realized. The only option is the role of the organization of loyal, laborious, honest and dutiful minds. There is a need for such dedication in eliminating the unemployment of agricultural laborers in the village, who should realize their responsibility fully.

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conclusion -

In a developing economy the change in the pattern of employment indicated by a fall in the number at agricultural labourers and labour households should be welcome unless the erstwhile agricultural labourers shifted to less productive jobs or were rendered unemployed. It is possible that among agricultural labourers those who were comparatively better off readily took the opportunity to shift to better occupations. But the supply of agricultural labour being still far in excess of demand, the wage rate failed to rise as a result of the reduction in the total number of agricultural labourers, This is, of course, a hypothesis but some indirect evidence in support of it is found in the fact that the number of land-holding agricultural labour households fell, while that of non-landholding households increased. Further, increase in the number (and proportion) of child labourers, the decrease in the extent of self-employment and the comparatively higher net income of the non-landholding households all this may be construed to confirm the assumption that the comparatively better off among agricultural labourers have shifted to other occupations.

There is also a lack of contact between the administrative officers and agricultural majors in the implementation of government welfare programs. The complicated administrative process takes more time in the decision to implement government welfare programs, which deprives agricultural laborers of many benefits. Agricultural labourers are poor. There are several government sponsored schemes for poverty alleviation. Meaningful efforts are being claimed towards their implementation and poverty alleviation. But the poverty of agricultural laborers is not taking the name of reduction. The workers are forced to flee and the middlemen dominate. Dandimari continues in poverty alleviation schemes. The brokers and commissioners are rich. Many forms of poverty also emerged. The war on the poverty of the government continues. Every year, schemes for eradication of poverty are made and buried in paper. A large number of laborers got work under MGNREGA. But due to lack of allocation, payment of wages is pending. Hence the workers were forced to flee. Names of a large number of poor were recorded in the list. The poor are included in the waiting list of Indira Awas. But they do not get accommodation without commission. Under MNREGA, irrigation, plantation, pond blows, road construction and puddle construction etc. are also a scam

of corruption. Antyodaya Against Poverty, schemes operated under PHH have been three steps backwards after going two steps ahead. Funds are provided to the people under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension, Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension, Indira Gandhi National Disabled Pension, Laxmibai Widow Pension, State Disabled Pension, National Family Benefit Scheme and Social Security Pension. Only those who have access to officers or brokers get them. The loan from the banks is also not available to the agricultural laborers at the time of need. In this way, the people of Mahajanas help to fulfill their needs. Mahajan asks them to pay the loan at the agreed rate of interest and not to repay the money along with interest. It is necessary to make sincere efforts to get the benefits of government schemes, at the right time, from the right agricultural laborers. Majduras will also come out of illiteracy and be aware of their rights and rights. Only then can their problems be solved.

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