

Impact of Economic Condition of Agricultural Population in India

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ABSTRACT

This paper examine the economic condition of agrarian communities in India and to analyses the state level. This study also examines caste wise analysis of agrarian conditions. The major sources of data is National Sample Survey (NSSO) 70th round, report no 569.

1. INTRODUCTION

This paper divided into three sections; second session provide on demographic characteristics of agrarian communities, third section deals educational status of agrarian communities, fourth section provide on landholding possession of agrarian communities, fifth section provided on major sources of income and consumption expenditure, sixth section provide on public provision like NREGA job card and ration card facilities.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF AGRARIAN HOUSEHOLDS IN INDIA

The number of agricultural households in India has 90.2 million and it represented as 57.8 per cent of rural households engaged main activity as cultivation (including livestock). The proportion of non-farm employment households were 42.2 per cent. Therefore, the proportion of non-agricultural activity as increased over the years and at the same time still agriculture as the backbone in rural economy in India.

Among the states, the highest proportion of agricultural households states were Rajasthan (78.4 per cent), Uttar Pradesh (74.8 per cent), Madhya Pradesh (70.8 per cent), Chhattisgarh (68.3 per cent), Haryana (60.7 per cent), Jharkhand (59.5 per cent) and Odisha (57.5 per cent), these states were higher than national average. The states like Kerala (27.3 per cent), Tamil Nadu (34.7 per cent), Andhra Pradesh (41.5 per cent), West-Bengal (45.0 per cent), Telengana (51.5 per cent) and Maharashtra (56.7 per cent) shows low level of national average. This clearly evidence that the occupational diversification were more among southern states than northern states. An even industrially developed state like Gujarat and Maharashtra has insignificant level of non-farm employment.

In the caste wise analyses of agricultural communities of Other Backward Communities (OBC) were 45.4 per cent, Others were 24.9 per cent, Scheduled Castes (SCs) were 16.3 per cent, and Scheduled Tribes (STs) were 13.4 per cent. This numerically dominated caste in agriculture is OBCs.

EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF AGRICULTURAL HOUSEHOLDS

For educational status of agricultural households, 68.1 per cent were literate and 31.9 per cent were illiterate. The literate were subdivided into primary, middle, secondary, higher secondary, diploma, graduate and post-graduate. For the primary level of education was 14.0 per cent, middle was 16.1 per cent, secondary was 10.3 per cent, higher secondary was 6.6 per cent, diploma was 0.5 per cent, graduate was 2.7 per cent, and post-graduate 0.6 per cent.

In the inter-state analysis of educational status of agricultural households, Kerala (94.9 per cent) has registered highest rate of literacy level and lowest level registered Andhra Pradesh (55.7 per cent) and Telangana (55.7 per cent). The better literacy states were Assam (84.5 per cent), Punjab (76.5 per cent), West-Bengal (74.45 per cent), Maharashtra (74.2 per cent), Tamil Nadu (73.65 per cent), and Gujarat (70.85 per cent). The other lowest literacy state has Rajasthan (57.5 per cent), Madhya Pradesh (57.45 per cent), Jharkhand (62.05 per cent) Uttar Pradesh (65.7 per cent) and Bihar (60.5 per cent).

LANDHOLDING POSSESSION OF AGRICULTURAL HOUSEHOLDS

Over the years the household pattern has been changes in all over India. Indian agrarian communities have dominated to marginal & small farmers for 69 per cent of agricultural communities there possessed land 1 hectare, and 17 per cent have between 1.00 hectare to 2.00 hectare, 86 per cent have less than 2 hectare. Further, only 0.4 per cent of agriculture communities have possessed 10 hectare or more.

In this context of different caste, 82.7 per cent SCs have possessed land of 1 hectare of land. Land possessed only different social groups, 9.4 per cent STs, 28.0 per cent of SCs 52.2 per cent of OBCs and 10.4 per cent of others had the possessed less than 0.01 hectares. At the same time highest class categories 10.00 hectare OBC had 52.8 per cent Others had 41.1 per cent STs and 3.2 per cent SC had 2.9.

In the state of Tamil Nadu, 42.1 per cent at agriculture communities were belongs to 4.0 per cent is less than 0.01 hectare 27.1 per cent in 0.01 – 0.40 hectare, 42.1 per cent in 0.41 to 1.00 hectare, 15.6 per cent in 1.01 to 2.00 hectare, 8.5 in 2.01 to 4.00 hectare of 2.6 per cent in 4.01 to 10.00 hectare and 0.1 per cent in above 10.00 hectare

PRINCIPAL SOURCES OF INCOME AND CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE

Major sources of income of the agricultural community had cultivation, livestock, other-agricultural activity, non-agricultural enterprises wage/salaried output & others. At the all India level 68 per cent of the agricultural households reported that the major sources of income as cultivation livestock, & other agricultural activity. The other major sources of income of the agricultural households were wage employment, 22 per cent of agriculture households reported that

wage/salaried employment as a main source of income. 47 per cent agricultural households reported non-agricultural enterprises as a major source of income.

In the social groups, 96.8 per cent of STs, 87.9 per cent of SCs, 91.9 per cent of OBCs, 94.7 per cent of Others were the major sources of cultivation. In the non-agricultural activities, 11.5 per cent of STs, 8.0 per cent of SCs, 8.7 per cent of OBCs and 10.4 per cent of Others were non agricultural activity. For STs, the non-agricultural activity shows higher level due to insufficient of agricultural income and push factors like migration as the factor to increase non-agricultural sources.

This can be further evidence that the wage/salaried output, 36.9 per cent of Others, 45.8 per cent of OBCs, 64.1 per cent SCs & 67.8 per cent STs. Non agricultural enterprises have more favoured to Others (18.1 per cent) OBCs, (15.0 per cent), SCs (13.5 per cent) & ST (67.8 per cent). Therefore, income from cultivator had favoured to others & OBCs income from wage work for SC/STs.

PUBLIC PROVISION ON JOB CARD AND RATION CARD

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) have aim to provide 100 days of employment those who are failed in getting sufficient level of employment days. This scheme has landmark rural employment programmes in India and it can be provide through job card. The NSSO collected on information for job card holder in agricultural households and NSSO revealed that MGNREGS job card was lower for the highest size class of land possessed compared to higher classes landholding. In the social groups, 68.8 per cent of STs 59.3 per cent of SCs 39.2 per cent of OBCs & 13.1 per cent of Others having the job cards.

To ensure food securities in rural areas have through public distribution systems. The NSSO collect information on 4 types of ration card possessed by landholding classes. These are Antyodaya, BPL, Others and no ration card. The result revealed that lowest landholding classes had Antyodaya, BPL, Others, no ration card. Similarly among social groups, Antyodaya card holder's 6.4 per cent of STs 7.8 per cent of SCs 4.4 per cent of OBCs & Others 3.2 per cent and all social groups only 4.9 per cent of agricultural community had Antyodaya card.

For BPL card 54.9 per cent of STs, 46.3 per cent of SCs 33.4 per cent of OBCs & 25.6 per cent of Others. In all Indian level 36.4 per cent of agricultural households had BPL card. In the case of no ration card 15.0 per cent of STs, 12.1 per cent of SCs, 13.4 per cent of OBCs, & 9.0 per cent of Others. In the agrarian households, 12.3 per cent of had no ration card.

2. CONCLUSION

The above information on agricultural households indicates as some positive improvements in literacy, landholding patterns, sources income and consumption and public provisions. However, these are not much impressive and it shows clear segregation between agrarian societies and others. There is different states have indicated different economic level of agricultural households and to demonstrate the disparities in economic conditions agricultural households. Similarly inequality has widened among different social groups of STs, SCs, OBCs and Others. Therefore, the policy framework should adopt regional specific oriented than universal oriented.

3. REFERENCE

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