

Agriculture and Poor Minority Women: A Study of Adha Khonda Village, Nagaon (Assam)

Iftikhar Islam

Assistant professor Department of Political Science Rupahi College, Nagaon

ABSTRACT: Agriculture is a very important area of the Indian economy. Its contribution sizable to the domestic product as also to exports. More than two thirds of the work force in agriculture depends upon it. Being engaged in trade in agricultural products, agro based industries etc. Agriculture has a significant role to play in the economic development of a growing economy like that of India. It is a very common phenomenon that the population living mainly on small scale agro area. Rural people are mainly dependant on agriculture. Women are the mother, sister, wife; they play a pivotal role in human life. Without women we can't think about a society. In human development they play very important role. After birth of a child at first he/ she learn from his /her mother. Both male and female are engaged in agricultural sector. There is a division of work between male and female workers in agriculture. The participation of female workers in agriculture is low. In such a rural economy women are playing significant role. This paper seeks to explain the role of poor minority (religious) women in agriculture and how it contributes to changes the socio-economic scenario of rural economy of Adha Khanda village.

KEY WORDS: women rights, human development, women education.etc.

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I. INTRODUCTION:

Agriculture is a very important area of the Indian economy. Its contribution sizable to the domestic product as also to exports. More than two thirds of the work force in agriculture depends upon it. Being engaged in trade in agricultural products, agro based industries etc. Agriculture has a significant role to play in the economic development of a growing economy like that of India. It is a very common phenomenon that the population living mainly on small scale agro area. Rural people are mainly dependant on agriculture. Women are the mother, sister, wife; they play a pivotal role in human life. Without women we can't think about a society. In human development they play very important role. After birth of a child at first he/ she learn from his /her mother. Both male and female are engaged in agricultural sector. There is a division of work between male and female workers in agriculture. In such a rural economy women are playing significant role. Such phenomenon has been observed in the rural areas of Assam.

Statement of the Problem:

It is a common fact that the population living mainly on small scale agi-based sector in the rural areas and specially in the developing nations. Rural people are mainly dependant on agriculture. Our rural economy has a dualistic nature of employment, one is organized sector and other is engaged in unorganized sector such as seasonal industries, daily wage workers, motor repairing, cycle repairing, fishing, printing workers etc. The engagement ratio of women population is low in side area. Almost 60 percent people are engaged in agricultural sector and remaining percent are engaged in business, service, cottage industries, transport, etc. Both male and female are engaged in agricultural sector. There is a division of work between male and female workers in agriculture. In such a rural economy women are playing significant role. Such phenomenon has been observed in the areas of Adha Khanda village in the district of Nagaon Assam.

The present problem is studied in the context of the rural area of Adha khanda, to understand that the role of minority (religious) women in agriculture and how it contributes to changes the socio-economic scenario of rural economy of Adha Khanda village.

Need of the study:

It is highly conscious matter that the participation of women in agriculture, basically for rural area is the need of the time for a positive change in the development of the people to eliminate poverty and increase their income. Here mentions the need and importance of the study.

Scope of the study:

To study the present problems is significant in solving various agrarian problems in a populated area like Adha Khanda village area under the Juria Panchayat, Juria block in the district of Nagaon Assam. So far as Assam and NE India concerned several researchers have done such studies. But very little work has been done in this area. In the present study, the author has attempted to carry out this work on basic features of participation of women in agriculture and socio-economic change in Adha Khanda area.

Objective of the study:

The main objectives of the study are:-

- To study the relationship between women's participation and growth of agriculture.
- To make a study to understand how participation of women in agriculture.

Hypothesis:

In order to achieve the objectives mentioned above the following hypothesis are proposed and attempt has been made to examine hypothesis in this work.

- Participation of minority women in agriculture is low in Adha Khanda area.
- Women are less skilled and college droops out.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND DISCUSSION:

This study is primarily based on observations, primary and secondary data. Three agro based areas of the village are selected in the first stage and five percent farmers are selected by simple random sampling from the three selected areas in order to collect primary data to the topic of the study. The selected areas are North, South, and East corners side of the village. Primary data are collected from the five percent household of the each village randomly and from the primary data it is clear that in these village areas both male and female are engaged in agriculture. From the collected sample data, it is seen that male workers are directly engaged in field work and female workers do not prefer to go to the field for work, they do most of the works at home. At home they do the agriculture related works such as clean seeds, prepare the seeds to sow, fence the nursery bed, prepare food for farmer, collect rice from paddy plant etc. From above mentions villages, 80- 90 percent of the female workers not agree to go to the field for work. Only 6\7 percent female workers go to the field for helping male workers in related works, remaining others busy in different works. These 6-7 percent women workers are economically very poor, who have no land to cultivate and only the physical labour is the main source of income of this section of workers. Due to poverty they don't have other suitable options to earn money, as a result of which they have to go to the field. Despite the unwillingness this type of female workers sometimes do plantation , supplying water to prepare nursery bed and main field of the plantation , weeding , harvesting ,etc. Again most of the female workers are less educated and some are illiterate and they have no idea about the agricultural technology or different types of agriculture. In this case all the decisions made by the male farmers and the female workers support them. According to primary data they use power tiller, pump set, fertilizer, pesticide etc. in agriculture. In this village area organic farming is still unknown fact. From the primary data of the three corners of the village, it is found that most of the household of the farmers have seasonal vegetables for their domestic consumption as well as for sale and female workers are fully involve in this type of cultivation. Along with these women workers as well as women of these areas have their own duck, hen, pigeon, cow goat, sheep etc. these are the source of extra income of the family .Though the male farmers play significant roles to decision making, both male and female workers have substantial role in maintaining the family. These village areas are same in nature of cultivation and social customs.

III. FINDINGS:

Analyzing the problem in the study area of Adha Khanda village is based on 5 percent sample farmers of these rural areas following outcomes are as follows-

1. The areas(North, South and East)are highly populated area
2. These areas have agro based economy
3. Both male and female are engaged in agriculture
4. Female workers are dependent on male workers in decision making
5. Female workers are less skilled than male workers.
6. Productivity in agriculture is low in each areas of village.
7. Modern agricultural techniques are not so much used in agriculture.
8. Female workers are socially restricted to do work in various field and female workers prefer to do their duties at home.

From the data we find that there is also a positive correlation in between women engaged in farming and agricultural productivity .Growing women engagement in agriculture leads to increase in productivity and

their economy. We also find that the typical work of the female agro-workers are less skilled such as sowing, weeding and harvesting, some female workers are working as an unpaid labour.

SUGGESTIONS:

From the study following suggestions can be made:

1. It is clear that both male and female workers should be educated to increase the agricultural productivity and their status socio economic life.
2. Socially and culturally they should be reformed to develop the female as well as over all section of the society.
3. The work division between male and female workers in the village should be eliminated. They should be in a position to enjoy all forms of rights.

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