



A STUDY OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN BAREILLY REGION OF U.P

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Abstract

In the study area women workers are not only illiterate but are ignorant also. Whatever skills have been acquired by some of them is outside the formal school system. Without any job experience, they enter as new entrants. There small establishments employ casual workers with no job security. The size of employment in these establishments is very small. There is a single worker in some of the self-employed establishments. Local inputs are mostly used by these establishments because of small sector operations. There is no structural organization in family ownership enterprises in the study area. It has been observed that in many cases, the head of the family or a member of the family does the work himself with the help of other members of the family. In these enterprises there is neither an employee nor an employer.

Keywords : *Illiterate, Employment Family.*

INTRODUCTION

India is a developing country and near about 67% of its population lived in rural area. Since 1947 to 2013 the population of India increased many times but according the population literacy rate, growth rate and banking services in rural area has not increased. Uttar Pradesh literally translated as “Northern Province” in English is a state situated in northern India. Lucknow is the capital of Uttar Pradesh and Kanpur is economic and industrial capital of Uttar Pradesh. The state is surrounded by the country of Nepal and Uttarakhand to the north, Delhi and Haryana to the northwest, Rajasthan to the West, Madhya Pradesh to the south west, and Bihar to the East and Jharkhand to the southwest.

The state spread over an area of 243,286 sq km and has 75 districts. It is the 5th largest Indian state by area comprising of over 199,581,477 inhabitants as of the 2011 census, becoming the most populous state in the country. Uttar Pradesh has a number of historical, religious, natural and manmade tourist destinations, such as the Taj Mahal, Kaushambi, Varanasi, Kushinagar, Chitrakoot, Lucknow, Jhansi, Meerut, Allahabad and Mathura.

GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE OF UTTAR PRADESH

Uttar Pradesh has a total area of 243,286 sq km and is situated in the northern part of India sharing international borders with Nepal. The Himalayas are located in the north part of the state and the plains cover most of the state. Uttar Pradesh can be separated into three different hypsographical regions. The first one is the Himalayan region in the north. It has an extremely rugged and varied terrain. The topography varies to elevation ranging from 300m to 5000m. The second is the Gangetic plain in the center. It has highly fertile alluvial soils and a flat landscape which is dotted by numerous lakes, rivers etc. The third are the Vindhya hills and Plateau in the south. It has a hard rock Strata and a diverse topography of plains, hills, valleys and plateau. Water is limited in the region. The state shares its borders with the following states in India- Himachal Pradesh Haryana Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh Delhi Rajasthan and Bihar.

Economic Characteristics

Uttar Pradesh (U.P.) is the second largest economy in India after Maharashtra. It is notable that:

1. The State is contributing 8.17 percent to India's GDP.
2. It is home to largest number of Small Scale unites in the country, with 12 percent of over 2.3 million units.
3. Labour efficiency is higher in UP (26) than the National Average (25).
4. State is leading manufacturer of office machinery in the country (25 percent).

Agriculture is the supporting leg of Uttar Pradesh economy. In the State, the main occupation of the population is agriculture. The net cultivated area in the state is 168.25 lakh hectares.

Demography of Uttar Pradesh

As of March 1, 2011, the state of UP is home to more than 199.5 million people which makes it the top-ranking state in the country in terms of population. If the state were considered as a distinct nation, it would have ranked as the fifth most populated country in the globe, just after Indonesia, USA, India and China. As laid down by the census performed in 2001, the population of the state is represented by the following communities: Approximately 80% are Hindus, about 18% are Muslims and other communities include Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains and Christians.

Profile of Bareilly Division

Bareilly division has four districts i.e. Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Badaun and Pilibhit. District wise profile are given below-



Profile of Bareilly District

Bareilly is a metro city in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. Standing on the Ramganga River, it is the headquarters of Bareilly Division and is a center for the manufacture of furniture, zari. Geographically it forms the outer gateway to enter Uttarakhand State. Bareilly is the 4th city of Uttar Pradesh which has CNG fuel stations, after Lucknow, Kanpur and Agra. Bareilly is the 7th largest metropolitan city of Uttar Pradesh and 50th largest metropolitan city of India. This fast-growing city is also known as Bans-Bareilly, due to its big bamboo market. Bareilly is also known as the counter-magnet city because it is equidistant from New Delhi and Lucknow and has a lot of potential for setting up industries to attract people to settle. Historically it was the part of the ancient kingdom of Panchal. In the Medieval period it was under the Rohillas. The modern city's foundation was laid by Mukrand Rai in 1657.

Profile of Shahjahanpur District

Shahjahanpur is founded in 1647 named for the Mughal Emperor Shahjahan. Shahjahanpur district is a part of Bareilly Division in Uttar Pradesh of India. As per Government notification it was established in 1813 by the British Government. Previously, it was a part of Bareilly district. Geographically the main town is Shahjahanpur city which is its headquarter. Shahjahanpur district is one of the historical districts of Uttar Pradesh in the republic of India. Shahjahanpur town is also known as 'Shaheedon Ki Nagari' or 'Shaheed Gadh'. On 9th August, 1925 the British treasury was robbed near Kakori Railway Station. On 26th December, 1925 forty persons were arrested in this Kakori conspiracy case from all over India. Freedom fighter Pandit Ram Prasad Bismil, Thakur Rosan Singh, Banarsi Lal, Lala Har Govind, Prem Krishna Khanna, Indu Bhushan Mitra, Ram Dutta Shukla, Madan Lal and Ram Ratan Shukla among them were from Shahjahanpur district. Murari Lal Gupta with a fake name of Murari Sharma head also actively participated in the train robbery, he went underground and could not be traced out by the Police till the end of the case. His son Damodar Swaroop Gupta became a famous revolutionary poet with the pen name of 'Vidhrohi'. Shahjahanpur also known for its Kalin Udyog (Carpet Industry) as well as for Sarrafa Bazar (jewellery Market). It is city where Ganga Jamuni culture flourishes for a long time. People of all community use to live in a very cordial manner. Total population of district Shahjahanpur is 30,02,376 (Census 2011).

Profile of District BADAUN

Badaun is in the Bareilly Division and having 45 positions in the state as per area is concerned. It was an independent local kingdom before 11 Dec. 1949. Subsequently on July 1949 in the state of Badaun was merged into the republic of India and became a district. The Badaun district is a famous religious spot for Muslims. The pilgrims going to Ajmer- Shariff first get down at Badaun and offer namaz here then only they proceed to Ajmer-Shariff. It is saying that the people coming from Eastern part of the country going to Ajmer- Shariff pilgrimage is not accepted by Ajmer-Shariff if they don't pay Namaz at Badaun first.

Badaun district is lying between 78.54 and 69.20 longitude east and 28.25 and 29.10 latitude north. The district is bounded on the north by Jyotiphulenagar, Muradabad, Rampur and Bareilly district and on the south by Kashiram nagar and Aligarh, on the east by Shahjahanpur and Farrukhabad District and on the west by Aligarh and Bulandshahar district. The height from sea level is 192 meter in North and 166.4 meter in South. It is well connected by railway and roadways. River Ganga flows through the district making the land very fertile. The Badaun district covers an area of 5168 sqkm within six sub-Division and 18 Blocks.

Profile of District PILIBHIT

In 1801 when Rohilkhand was ceded to the British Pilibhit was a Pargana of The District Of Bareilly, which lost it in 1833, the arrangement being temporary and the tract being again united with Bareilly in 1841. In 1871 was formed the Pilibhit subdivision comprising Jahanabad, Pilibhit and Puranpur which was eventually converted into a separate District in 1879. At the introduction of the British rule the parganas of Pilibhit, Jahanabad & Bisalpur was formed into separate Tehsils. Puranpur was united for this purpose with Khutar. A redistribution of the area was effected in 1824, when the Bisalpur Tehsil contained the Parganas of Bisalpur and Maurari, which afterwards become a single area; Jahanabad was joined with Richha to form tehsil Pareva & Pilibhit with Bilheri, the HQ being at Pilibhit. In 1851 Bilheri and the other *tarai* pargana were taken under direct management and in 1863 Richha was attached to the new Baheri Tehsil, Pargana Jahanabad being assigned to Pilibhit which also received Puranpur on its transfer in 1865. The latter, in 1871, became subtehsil dependent on Pilibhit. The promotion of Puranpur into a full Tehsil occurred in 1879, while Bisalpur throughout remained a separate subdivision. Thus the area is now divided into three Tehsils and four Parganas. Puranpur & Bisalpur constituting individual Tehsils and Parganas & the Tehsil of Pilibhit comprising the parganas of Pilibhit and Jahanabad.



Sampled Area

In this study, both primary and secondary data have been used to examine the participation of working women in selected rural development programmes in Bareilly Division of Uttar Pradesh.

Primary data were collected with the help of questionnaire cum schedules which were prepared for this purpose. For sampling purposes, the area of the division was divided into two parts viz. rural and urban. For taking the representation of rural women the villages of the study area were chosen for drawing a sample of villages and women respondents. A special survey of the area was conducted for this purpose. In view of resources, it was decided to restrict the survey up to 5 percent villages of different Development Blocks. The number of inhabited villages in the development blocks is 4675. Out of these development blocks 236 Villages were selected for study.

CONCLUSION

Women Workers-Illiterate and Ignorant

In the study area women workers are not only illiterate but are ignorant also. Whatever skills have been acquired by some of them is outside the formal school system. Without any job experience, they enter as new entrants.

Small Size of Establishments

In the study area small establishments employ casual workers with no job security. The size of employment in these establishments is very small. There is a single worker in some of the self-employed establishments. Local inputs are mostly used by these establishments because of small sector operations.

Family Ownership of Enterprises

There is no structural organization in family ownership enterprises in the study area. It has been observed that in many cases, the head of the family or a member of the family does the work himself with the help of other members of the family. In these enterprises there is neither an employee nor an employer.

Traditional Technology

The informal sector in the study area uses indigenous technology of production which is a labour intensive and low level technology. As these production-units are very small, they do not have enough financial resources to put modern technology at the desired level. The old technology is cheaper for them.

Unhygienic Conditions of Work

The working conditions of informal sector workers in the study area are miserable. In most of the work places there is no sufficient ventilation and natural light. Thus, the workers suffer from eye strain. In some cases they do not have proper sitting arrangements. Thus, there are no minimum facilities at work place. The workers under these conditions are exposed to several health hazards.

Low Wages

In the study area the informal sector workers are paid very low wages. In this matter, women workers are differentiated from men workers as they are paid much less than their counter parts even for the same work. In most of the cases the contractors assume wage rate determination as they directly recruit the workers. In such cases contractors ensure a higher margin of remuneration for themselves.

Lack of Workers' Unions

In the study area there are no trade unions of informal sector workers. Thus, they always live with uncertainty of not knowing how much would be available and when. Lack of organization or unions hampers the bargaining power of both men and women workers and their power to resist exploitation. The workers, therefore, suffer as they have no voice to put their grievances before the employers.

Long Hours of Work

In study area, the working hours of informal sector workers are not fixed. Sometimes, they work for long duration i.e. from 9 to 12 hours continuously and there are no regular holidays for them. For women workers, there are no crèche facilities for their young and nursing children. The status and quality of life of women workers has worsened due to dual work-house hold work and work at the employment place.



Exploitation and Harassment of Workers

In study area, the employers exploit the women workers. These workers also face ill treatment from the employers. It was reported by the women workers that their children were also exploited, especially their daughters. In some cases sexual harassment with domestic women workers was reported. Rural women and girls who become domestic for families are no more than slaves are, while at work, they are paid negligible pay and provided with very low quality of food. In most cases daughters are rarely sent to schools because they help their mothers at work and home.

Lack of Safety and Security

There is no system of social security on which informal sector workers can fall back. The position of women workers in the study area is worst in this matter. The women labour force is particularly excluded from social security benefits as the nature of their employment is casual or on daily wages or on piece rate.

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