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Effect of covid-19 on the socio- economic status of agricultural laborers and role of government welfare schemes

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Abstract

The problems of unemployment of rural agricultural laborers in Bihar are the most widespread in India. In this frightening situation, it does not appear as open unemployment. This is evident in the form of small employment and its nature is hidden unemployment. Due to poverty and unemployment in the rural area, social and economic problems arise in odd terms. Due to which the family environment of agricultural laborers is economically narrow and complex. These problems already existed. But these problems came to the fore in the category of covid -19 in such a way that not only their present but also the future of agriculture is starting to look black. There is darkness in his life. Covid -19 and lockdown have broken down on their lives like a thunderclap for these Majduras already surrounded by debt and poverty. India is an agricultural country. Agriculture workers have an important role in agricultural work. But during the Covid -19 epidemic it has had the most impact on the agricultural laborers and others worker. In that too, it has a wide impact on the majdoor related to agriculture sector. Their social and economic aspects have been affected due to the cash crunch. Agricultural laborers do not get employment for the whole year. The corona epidemic has changed the social and economic condition of agricultural laborers already facing unemployment. Doae Joon's problem is standing in front of him. About 53 percent of India's population is engaged in agricultural activities and agriculture in India still depends on the grace of the monsoon. Here, the activities of farmers and agricultural laborers depend on the intensity of the monsoon. If the monsoon is good then the crop will also be good otherwise. Agricultural labor is counted in the category of unorganized sector, so their income is also not fixed. Hence they are leading an insecure and deprived life with complete uncertainty of a daily wage of 200 to 300 rupees. Agricultural laborers are one of the most exploited and oppressed classes in the rural hierarchy. This class faces many types of problems in their personal life. The condition of agricultural laborers was already bad. But their standard of living has dropped further in the epidemic of covid-19. Now, the problem of maintenance of himself and his family is facing him in a formidable manner. There were many such laborers who worked in other state outside Bihar. They have come to their house in this dair. The economic condition was so bad that Majduraon, who came to his village in Bihar from other states including Delhi, Punjab, did not even have a train fare. All their earnings have been drowned in the Corona epidemic. Now the question of death is raised in front of them. From above, Mahajana's debt and future worries do not let them face it at night

Keywords: agriculture, economic, epidemic, agricultural laborers, social and economic aspects

Introduction

The government put a lockdown on the country in the last week of March to check the infection of Corana virous. But Majduras living in Pardesh did not find employment in the lockdown. Their employment was taken away and they were unemployed. The problem of filling his stomach was raised in front of him. The laborers came to their village from abroad. Those who got the vehicle did not take the vehicle and caught the path of the village on foot. Workers started walking on the road in number of bars. Most of the agricultural laborers were dependent on it. Those are called agricultural laborers. Such laborers live in the village at the time of farming and after the end of the farming season is over, they go to earn the land. On such occasions, the mountain of corona was so broken that their entire life came on the road and they started wandering in search of work. The worry of saving lives from above was troubling them separately. Due to the lockdown, millions of migrant and agricultural laborers returned to their homes with

great difficulty. Due to lack of livelihood measures, these laborers from Bihar who have reached their villages from many parts of the state are now migrating again. During the lockdown period, the migrant workers returned to their homes from where they were in various forms. On the hope that by doing anything here, they will make a living with the family. As expected, the government was also active and employment generation options were also considered. With a view to providing home employment to the migrants, their skill survey and registration was started so that they could get work to their potential. Under the immediate measures, employment opportunities were also found in those departments where most of the work was being done by machines. Under this, orders were issued to the chief, superintendent and executive engineers of the road construction, bridge construction, Development Corporation, water resources departments that manpower should be used in lieu of machines. In Bihar, the work of the state government's ambitious water-life-greening

campaign of twenty-four thousand crores was decided to take work from migrant workers instead of machines. Job cards were made for the migrants so that they could get work in the village itself under the Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Scheme (MNREGA). Also, an attempt was made to find out how to accommodate the migrant workers in the industrial units which are currently operational. But these efforts did not yield the expected results. The stomach flame and discomfort of the maintenance of loved ones is forcing the migrants to return again. Contrary to government claims of providing employment, migrant laborers are skeptical about the plans turning into reality. As such, the reasons for the exodus of workers from Bihar were earlier still present today. Despite epidemics like Corona, there has been no major change. But this epidemic has brought them back to the state they were before. All their earnings are over. They are living day and night worrying about how to burn the house stove and how to feed their children. All the departments of the government are creating employment opportunities and claiming that the migrants are being provided employment, but the reality is the opposite. This is breaking the patience of migrants. Exodus is the only solution to them. Actually, the state government is giving employment through MNREGA immediately. Even those who got work from this are being paid only Rs 194. However, there is a plan to increase this to Rs 206. Along with this, there has been a demand to increase the working day of hundred days to two hundred days. At present, they are facing difficulty in maintaining the entire family with such a small amount. This is the reason why many migrant workers did not even take interest in it. Through the MGNREGA, construction of rural roads and the filling of soil along its banks, ponds or Ahar-Peen are done. They require hard work. Due to this also, the migrants did not show relatively interest here. The character of MNREGA work is such that only unskilled workers can get employment in it. Skilled or semi-skilled workers do not see any employment at present. Corona sent them home, now they are forced to go to foreign land again due to fear of flood. Another aspect of the workers' return is that due to the large number of workers returning home, work in other states is being affected. There was a severe shortage of laborers for agriculture and other works all over Punjab. Therefore, the farmers of the state started sending buses from village to village with the help of laborers' brokers (meth) for the return of laborers. At the same time, they are also giving a cost-effective price to the workers. This was the reason that workers from many areas including Sitamarhi, Motihari, Kishanganj, Saharsa and Supaul started returning to their jobs. The extent is that a farmer spent 70 thousand rupees to bring 11 laborers from Motihari to Jalandhar. The government may be making claims to provide labor to the villages as per the skill, but the reality is that there is no confidence of migrant workers-workers and agricultural laborers to implement these schemes.

Mnrega could not stop the migration

Bihar is industrially backward. After the division of the province, the areas of natural mineral also kept going. Due to the increase in population, the size of the holdings decreased, so it became difficult to go through farming. Compared to the

population, the number of small or medium industries is negligible here. Except ITC, Britannia or Pepsi-Cocoa Cola, even large industries are negligible. For this reason, there is a migration of workers and workers from here. A skilled worker was able to run a hoe under MNREGA by cutting and hauling soil. He will return today or tomorrow. Now when the migrants return home, the government has started inviting the industrialists. They have no plans. "The number of opportunities in an agricultural-dominated state is limited anyway. Whatever the claims and counter-claims, till the state's industrial situation does not change drastically, the process of migration of manpower continues unabated. Will remain.

The Central Government started a special campaign to deal with the unemployment of the workers who returned home in the Corona lockdown. The name of this scheme is poor welfare employment. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the scheme. This is an important initiative of the Central Government. In the Corona lockdown, migrant workers faced many misdeeds. He was largely forced to return home. In such a situation, the employment crisis was faced by the workers. To deal with this situation, the central government has started a special campaign. The name of this scheme is poor welfare employment. Poor farmers and workers stand on their own. They do not need any support. This is the purpose of this plan. Poor welfare will protect the self-esteem of the workers. It is necessary for life and livelihood..

Providing employment to agricultural laborers and other migrant laborers is a challenge

Millions of people returned to Bihar during the lockdown amid the threat of infection with the Corona Virus. Employment is a challenge for the government. The government of Bihar needs to work towards turning this challenge into an opportunity.. Recently, the Bihar government has made a positive change in the industrial policy of Bihar, which will lead to large-scale investment in the state, large-scale investment in the food processing sector related to agriculture. This will provide employment opportunities among the people. 32 districts of Bihar have also been included in the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana. This will also provide large scale employment to agricultural laborers and other workers of Bihar. The state government is also seriously trying to provide employment to people in many other areas including agriculture. The field of agriculture also has immense employment potential. The government is also working fast on this. 14 special crops including Makhana, Mushroom, Honey in the state of Bihar are also planned to provide employment to the unemployed through the Horticultural Product Development Scheme. Nevertheless, by providing employment to agricultural laborers and other migrant laborers, they have an election for the government of migration from migration. However, in the corona period this year, people are getting employment on a large scale in agriculture related works. Due to timely rains in the state, where more and more employment opportunities are available for the migrants returning to Bihar in the field of agriculture, the farmers of the state are also getting the availability of

laborers in paddy cultivation, due to which the farmers Transplanting paddy easily.

Finding

90% of workers lost employment in lockdown

The lockdown can prove disastrous for the poor and especially for the working class. According to a recent survey conducted by an NGO, Jan Sahn, about 90 percent of the workers in the country have lost their means of income in the last three weeks. The central government has announced compensation to workers associated with the construction sector who were unemployed due to the lockdown. But it will not be easy for most of the workers to get compensation. In fact, a survey of 3196 workers in the construction sector across the country has shown that 94 percent of the workers do not have the building and construction workers identity card necessary to avail the compensation of the government. According to the survey, there may be 5.1 crore laborers who may be ineligible for compensation. The survey says, "According to statistics, 5.5 crore workers are employed in the construction sector in the country. In such a situation, 5.1 crore workers will not get the benefit of government assistance." The survey suggested that these laborers should be brought under the purview of the board. There are many laborers who have not yet opened an account in the bank. 17 percent of the workers surveyed do not have bank accounts. In such a situation, it may be difficult for them to get financial benefits from the government. NGOs have also given some advice to deal with this difficulty. The advice is that they can be paid using Aadhaar identification, gram panchayats and post offices. It has been said in the survey that most of the workers do not know about the announcement of any relief package by the government. They do not even know how to take government financial relief. According to the survey, 62 percent of workers said they did not know how to access the government's emergency relief measures, while 37 percent said they did not know how to take advantage of the government's current plans.

86% of the people work in the unorganized sector in India. Work was stopped for small workers, factory workers, daily wage laborers in cities. Due to dwindling income of the people, closure of work, loss of job or no wage work, these people migrated from the cities to their villages. The present young generation had never seen the scene of ill-fated people migrating to the villages. Farmers were not getting laborers for harvesting. The big farmers were successful in harvesting harvesters but they also faced shortage of laborers for loading the crop. Small farmers also needed laborers. The central and state governments took strict steps to prevent workers from migrating. Arranged food for them. It is true that if the agricultural sector of the country stumbles, then the entire economy will be affected. And agriculture majduras have a big and important role in keeping this agriculture standing. But the corona epidemic has pushed back their social and economic condition in today's society. In the present situation, it has become clear that along with agriculture, the existence of industries in cities rests on rural laborers. Production will be affected if the laborers do not come to work for factories with small and cottage industries. In an article printed on 23 June 1946, the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi wrote -

Rural blood is the cement from which buildings of cities are built. If the laborers are not available then how will the construction work be done in the cities. It is true that there will be no shortage of food grains in India due to the strength of agricultural laborers and farmers. The government is giving more food items than entitlement to the ration card holders, but in the last few years, the situation has worsened in agriculture and allied sectors. There has been a slight increase in real income and wages. Due to the lack of agriculture being beneficial, the number of farmers is decreasing. The agricultural growth rate has been less than three percent for some time. To double the income of farmers by 2022, 15 percent agricultural growth is needed, which is impossible. Agricultural costs have risen but demand continues to weaken. Due to the Corona crisis, the agricultural sector will start to suffer, the government will have to take some other measures to keep agriculture intact. The amount of Kisan Nidhi will have to increase by more than 6 thousand only then the hopes of the farmers will remain intact.

The main reasons for migration of agricultural laborers from villages-Screws of the traditional caste system

The gripes of the traditional caste system are so strong that even governance and administration remain indifferent to those who fight collective injustice. As is evident in the recent days of unjust cruel orders of the Khap Panchayats in some states of North India, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, etc. in which people prefer to flee the village instead of rotting and suppressing. In Bihar, even in villages, discrimination is being done on the basis of ethnicity with the caged Majduras. The way to get respect in society has been money power and caste. It needs to be recorded.

Establishment of industrial units in cities

Industrialization is the first step of urbanization. After independence, India launched a campaign to establish small and big industries with the intention of promoting the economic development of the country. All these industries were set up in cities, due to which it became necessary for rural people to migrate to cities for employment and livelihood.

City dazzle

The migration from Bihar villages to the city is very high in India. Where the prevailing poverty, unemployment, low wages, seasonal unemployment in the village, social trends based on caste and tradition, unutilized land, lack of rain and natural outbreaks, etc., not only did it inspire people to send out their dazzling facilities, Left no stone unturned to draw in the dreams of youth, employment opportunities, economic disparity, fixed and sustained opportunities. Thus a large group of men and women have migrated from the village to the city. From 2001 to 2011, the urban population increased by 5.16 percent.

Lack of education and literacy

The lack of education and literacy is a major negative aspect of rural life. There are neither good schools in the villages nor rural children get opportunities to grow there. For this

reason every rural parent migrates to urban environment to provide good education to their children.

Although efforts are being made today to increase rural education, both government and privately, but when it comes to employment and high-stratification, children in rural areas tend to lag behind urban children. The rural children, due to living in the village with their parents, get involved in the traditional work of the parents, so that they do not have access to higher education opportunities. For this reason the parents want to get them enrolled in the city and then the student tries to stay in the city, which is a major cause of migration, affected by the urban glare.

Lack of employment and basic facilities

Due to the continuous depletion of agricultural land in the villages, increasing population, and natural disasters, villagers have to go to cities in search of livelihood. Lack of basic needs in villages is also a major reason for migration. Many facilities like employment, education, health, electricity, housing, roads, transport in villages are much less than in cities. Along with these basic shortcomings, due to the discriminatory social system in the villages, many people also get fed up with exploitation and oppression.

Major tips to stop migration of agricultural laborers from villages

Establish a society based on equality and justice

Establishing a society based on social equality and justice is very important to prevent rural migration. Therefore, special concessions should be given to neglected sections in all development schemes. Apart from this, various programs are being run for women through self-help groups, self-employment training, National Family Benefit Scheme (Old Age Pension Scheme, Widow Pension Scheme, Scholarship Scheme, National Family Benefit Scheme) which benefits poor and neglected people. People of the classes can uplift themselves and their families. Most of the heads and five illiterate persons and women have been made in the village. Educational qualification must be determined for head and panch only then rural development can take place. There is social inequality and injustice. For this reason, people are migrating to cities in their livelihood by being dissuaded from political work. Therefore, it should be addressed appropriately.

Providing employment opportunities

First of all, employment opportunities should be provided in the villages in a continuous manner, which will provide economic security to the people and they will automatically improve their lifestyle. The MNREGA scheme was launched by the Central Government on 2 February 2006 in 200 districts of the country. In the second phase, MNREGA program was conducted in 130 districts and in the third phase on April 1, 2008, in the remaining 265 districts of the country, which created employment opportunities for the villagers and migration from the villages has also stopped.

Providing Basic Facilities

Facilities like cities should be made available in rural areas,

including transport facilities, roads, hospitals, educational institutions, power supply, drinking water facilities, employment and proper justice system. To improve the condition of villages, one can hope to solve this problem with the Right to Education Act, which came into force on April 1, 2010. This law aims to increase the status of schools in schools, attendance of teachers and admission of children. By implementing this law through Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, by spreading the light of education in villages, employment opportunities will increase, inequality, exploitation, corruption.

Establishment of corruption-free administration

The scheme is implemented by the government to do public welfare and to prevent rural migration, but these schemes are taken over by corrupt people, so that the public does not get the full benefit. Arrangements should be made to monitor these schemes in the rural Panchayati Raj region, as the first "social audit" was introduced in Bhilwara (Rajasthan). This has aroused confidence in the villagers.

In place of traditional agriculture in rural areas, capital-based and high-income farming should be encouraged so that marginal farmers and laborers can get maximum benefit as well as farmers. Agricultural land area should be expanded through irrigation facility, water management etc. which will not only increase the production but also increase the income and instill confidence and self-confidence in the farmers which will prevent rural migration.

Financial assistance and training facilities for self-employment for laborers and other unemployed youth and training centers should be opened in the villages. Alternative means of employment such as weaving, handloom, cottage industries, as well as food processing centers should be established. Self-help groups, collective employment training, prompt wages to laborers and better health, education and other recreational facilities should be provided to their children.

Public distribution system should be made organized and transparent in the states, mainly in rural areas, so that food security and food grains can be made available to the people at reasonable prices and rural migration can be stopped.

The conclusion

For the first time after Independence, the village Majduraon and agricultural Majdura and the country have seen this situation of corona epidemic and have suffered. In order to improve the economic condition of agricultural laborers due to the corona epidemic, they not only have to be brought at a cheaper rate but there is also a need to make arrangements for their permanent livelihood. At the same time, there is a need to provide education to their children in this bad diet, make good arrangements for their health, and increase their manpower. In the Panchayati Raj system, the focus has been on improving the condition of the villages and creating employment opportunities for the villagers through community development and many other schemes of planned development. Through the 73rd Constitutional Amendment, Panchayati Raj institutions were made stronger and more empowered and the role of Panchayats in rural development

has increased considerably. With the reservation for women and marginalized sections in the panchayats, all sections have started participating in the process of development of villages. In this way, the tendency of migration can be stopped with accessible means by providing basic needs like cities in the villages.

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