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Impact of the Rural Initiatives for Poverty Termination and Infrastructure (TRIPTI) on Employment Generation, Women Empowerment and Rural Livelihoods in Odisha

Seedari Ujawala Rani, Pramod Kumar and D.R. Singh*

The study analyses the impact of the Rural Initiatives for Poverty Termination and Infrastructure (TRIPTI) on rural livelihood, women empowerment, education and health in Odisha. The findings of the study on the performance of microfinance programme in Odisha state indicate that the programme needs improvement. Substantial progress has been made in bringing in the poor households. However, a lot of efforts need to be made in order to enable the remaining population financially included. The TRIPTI programme has significant impact on women empowerment and enabled them to generate income and employment and accumulate assets. This has resulted in better education and health facilities to the beneficiary families. However, to improve the performance of the programme, market and credit linkage needs more attention to improve the profitability of enterprises practiced and efficient monitoring could serve the purpose of the programme.

Economic Contribution of Women in Sugarcane Agriculture

A.K. Sharma and Brahm Prakash[†]

The paper focuses on the extent of employment of workers under women workers associated with sugarcane crop cultivation and processing and economic contribution of women in sugarcane agriculture. It also explores the way forward for improvement of their economic status based on secondary data collected from different published sources. The findings of the study indicate that about 883 million person days (mpd) are required as labour days annually for sugarcane cultivation out of which 485 million person days are accounted for by casual hired labour. The extent of attached/permanent labour is to the tune of 48 million man-days. It implies that sugarcane provides labour income to the hired casual labour to the extent of Rs. 9,700 crore at a wage rate of Rs. 200 per day. In addition, the crop also supports about 1.3 lakh poor families of attached labour providing about Rs. 1,000 crore income to them. On an average, these families get Rs. 80,000 income per annum. The women labour work is worth Rs. 3,355 crore per annum in sugarcane cultivation, out of

*Research Scholar, Principal Scientist and Senior Scientist, respectively, Division of Agricultural Economics, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi-110 012.

[†]Principal Scientist (Agricultural Economics) and I/c PME Cell and Assistant Chief Technical Officer, respectively, ICAR-Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow-226 002.

which around Rs. 1843 crore are paid as wages to hired women workers. The study suggests that there is a need for reorienting of the existing strategies by development of contract farming in sugarcane for social security of women, gender considerations in mechanization and technology development, making the working conditions in sugarcane cultivation more women friendly, removing wage disparity and undertaking sound educative and health related programmes for the overall welfare of women in their respective cane command areas by sugar mills.

The Role of Women in Production and Marketing of Cut Flowers in Nagaland: Some Field Evidences

Khriemenuo Pusa and Giribabu M.*

Cultivation of flowers in Nagaland has been in practice since time immemorial and production and marketing of cut flower are confined to a small area, however, since 2004-05 under the active support of Horticulture Mission for North-Eastern and Himalayan States (HMNEH) more areas were brought under floriculture for commercial purpose. Floriculture industry in Nagaland is mainly occupied by women as it is regarded as a feminine activity. Increase in the domestic demand for fresh cut flowers and support from the state government has encouraged more women to take up flower cultivation on a commercial basis. Under the technology mission four districts in Nagaland have been selected to grow flowers under poly-houses, namely Kohima, Dimapur, Mokokchung and Wokha but for the purpose of study the districts of Dimapur and Kohima have been selected because of the greater concentration of production and marketing in these districts. A total 100 flower growers in both the districts will be interviewed using pre-tested questionnaire for the collection of primary data. Commercialisation of floriculture is another step towards developing the economy. Floriculture sector has now become one of the fastest growing segments of horticulture, opening ways for Naga women and unemployed female youths to earn a living by engaging themselves in activities which were earlier a mere hobby for them, pushing the economy towards development. However, flower industry in Nagaland being a fresh industry is being faced with many challenges and shortcomings such as there is lack of awareness about its potential, no regulated price, no common flower market, no proper market structure, lack of post-harvest facilities, weak database, absence of information on income and employment generation from different flower cultivators and no strong support from the state Government. Further development of this industry will generate more income and create more employment opportunities for unemployed women and youth.

*Research Scholar and Assistant Professor, respectively, Department of Economics, Nagaland University, Lumami.

Empowering Women through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)

Shalini Sharma[†], Amanpreet Kaur[‡] and Simran K.Sidhu[†]

The study aims to analyse the impact of DBT scheme on the women empowerment in Hoshiarpur district of Punjab. Two blocks were randomly selected and further four villages were randomly selected from each block. From each village ten women who derived the benefits of different welfare schemes through DBT were personally interviewed with the help of interview schedule, thus making a total sample of 80 beneficiaries. The study found that of Scheduled Castes women in the age group of up to 35 years had benefitted substantially from MGNREGS compared to other welfare schemes. The implementation of DBT had not only streamlined the financial transactions at administrative level but at household level also women had greater access to finances which had improved the socio-economic circumstances of women.

Power of Women-A Case Study of a Women Self Help Group

K.C. Sharma*

The paper attempts to present some aspect of a Women Self Help Group, namely, the Bajrang Bali Self Help Group in Lucknow district of Uttar Pradesh, with the help of some observations made over a period of four years during March 2011 to March 2015, though the group was operational since December 2001. Based on the observations, the following conclusions were arrived at. The SHG meetings are held regularly on monthly basis since its inception and the SHG members have mutual trust and understanding. The SHG members have benefited from the existence of the SHG as a source of finance. All members have individual saving of Rs.4900/- as on 31st March 2015 and a doorstep source of credit in times of need. Thus, SHG functioning has been sustainable as is demonstrated by its functioning for more than a decade. However, SHG Bank Linkage (Credit Linkage) has not been sustainable. Therefore it may be said that SHG has succeeded but not the SHG credit linkage with the bank. Two policy implications emanating from the case study are as follows: First, there is a need for a perpetual institutional link between SHG and the bank. The observations regarding the group mentioned above suggest that in the absence of such an institutional link between SHG and the bank, credit linkage has not been sustainable. The need for such an institutional arrangement is strong as there are currently lakh of groups such as this group in the country. This institutional link may be in the form of an NGO or a Bank Business Correspondent. Second, it appears that

[†]Associate Professor and [‡]Research Fellow, respectively, Department of Economics and Sociology, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana-141 004.

*Faculty Member, Bankers Institute of Rural Development, Lucknow.

bank staff at branch level particularly in large public sector banks do not see SHG Bank linkage as a business proposition. Therefore, sensitisation of bank staff in this regard is essential. Further, though there is a latent credit demand at SHG level that needs to be unleashed through adequate capacity building and entrepreneurship development interventions at the SHG level.

Economic Contribution of Women in Pre-Dominant Farming Systems of Western Plain Zone of Uttar Pradesh

Nisha Verma, Poonam Kashyap, M.P.S. Arya, M.P. Singh and Amit Nath[†]

Women play substantial roles in farming systems and are vigorously involved in farm and livestock management, but their contribution in farming systems is generally overlooked or under-valued which has reflected them as invisible workers. Considering the importance and extent of women's participation in farming systems, the present study was conducted to study the level and extent of work performed by women in pre-dominant farming systems of western plain zone of Uttar Pradesh (WPZ). A total of 60 farm women were selected as respondents through random sampling technique. The results of the study reveals that the farm women spent their maximum time in livestock management activities amongst which fodder collection and fodder preparation, dung collection and disposal of cow dung is strenuous and time consuming activities. In crop production, maximum time is spent on transplanting, weeding and harvesting of the crop besides sugarcane detashing and detopping activities. The farm women are found to be solely engaged in food preparation and household level processing activities. The status of farm women found low mostly due to her limited access to the economic resources, viz., agricultural land, animals, income from farm etc. Further in case of hired women workers the percentage difference between government wage rate and actual wage received was found 14 to 35 per cent. They had no access to training and extension services. Therefore farming systems research and extension must consider the multiple roles of women in farm enterprise. The innovation in farm technologies as well as technology transfers should be gender specific. Promotion of equal access for women to farm resources and opportunities would be helpful in increasing the family income and ensuring nutritional security of the small and marginal land holders.

Role and Performance of Tribal Farm Women in Agriculture in Maharashtra

M.N. Waghmare*, B.N. Pawar* and P.N. Shendagee**

A study was undertaken in Thane district to achieve the following objectives: (i) To analyse the extent of the participation of tribal farm women in agriculture, animal

[†]Indian Institute of Farming Systems Research, Modipuram, Meerut (Uttar Pradesh).

*Assistant Professor and **Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics, College of Agriculture, Pune-411 005 (Maharashtra).

husbandry and household activities along with correlations and (ii) To study the tribal farmwomen's involvement in decision making at home as well as crop and animal husbandry activities. From total selected 6 tribal dominated villages, 120 respondents were selected. Further, from the same list of tribal farm families, the tribal women who were decision makers and within the age group of 20-55 years were randomly selected. The findings of the study indicated that farmwomen's participation was seen highest in sowing, weeding and nipping/picking and threshing activities. The farmwomen took a self-decision for decoration of house and selection and preparation of food in case of home management. Farm management was dominated by males and majority of the farm management decisions was taken by their husbands, however animal husbandry management was completely dominated by women's self-decision. The relationship between independent variables like age, education, herd size, land holding, family size and number of children of the respondents and their participation in crop husbandry was observed positively significant, whereas the negative relationship was observed in case of occupation, type of family and age at marriage. The relation between independent variables of the respondents and their participation in animal husbandry was found negative for all of the independent variables except type of family only.

A Study on Participation of Rural Farm Women in Production, Processing and Marketing of Agro-Products

R.P. Singh and Jai Prakash[†]

The study was undertaken to examine the participation level of rural farm women in agricultural production and allied activities and marketing of agro-products particularly vegetables. The study is based on primary and secondary data collected from various sources in 2013-14. Fifty farmers comprising 33 marginal farmers and 17 small farmers from five villages are selected purposively in Kanke block of Ranchi district. The data on marketing of agro-products are collected from daily/weekly markets organised in the rural area/sub-rural area of Ranchi town. The study revealed that the participation rate of women were considerably high in crop production in respect to men on the farms. Similarly the rural farm women contributed more than 57 per cent in total farm activities in post-harvest operations. The study further examined that rural women shared roughly 62 per cent in rearing of dairy animals/draught animals and more than 69 per cent were engaged in keeping goats on the farm. They also played an important role on the farm in food processing and other activities. The significance of farm women was further observed from the analysis of marketing of agro-products that the overall participation was than 50 per cent which was up to 69 per cent in the rural market. The number of female workers

[†]Former Director, Centre for Agribusiness Management and Teaching Associate, respectively, Department of Agricultural Economics, Birsā Agricultural University, Kanke, Ranchi (Jharkhand).

in agricultural sector has shown declining trend in the country against increasing trend in total female work force in the country except 2011-12. The study further indicates that the participation of female workers has reduced significantly in paddy and wheat crops due to use of more machines in the operation of these crops. The declining trend is expected to continue owing to factors like climate change, delay in onset of rain, labour scarcity in peak season, improvement in the economic condition of rural people particularly below poverty level.

Economic Valuation of Female Family Labour in Agriculture and Animal Husbandry in a Prosperous Agricultural Region

Kavita Baliyan*

The present paper seeks to examine the economic contribution of women of the cultivating households in agriculture and allied activities. The paper quantifies the labour time spent by household women in activities related to farming and animal husbandry. It also seeks to measure the economic contribution of women in the household income in monetary terms. The study is based on primary data collected through a survey of 240 farm households belonging to Muzaffarnagar and Baghpat districts located in agriculturally developed western Uttar Pradesh. The study reveals that household women contribute about 20 per cent of agricultural income and 61 per cent of animal husbandry income in farm households. The contribution of female workers in family income was significant in all the farm size categories, though the share of women in family income was found to be negatively correlated with the farm size. The study clearly shows that women household members contribute a significant amount of family labour and income in the farm households. It is, therefore, important that these women are treated as workers and their contribution is duly accounted for in national income statistics. Government agencies working in the field of agricultural development should focus on women workers as a special category. They should be provided proper training in agriculture and animal husbandry to improve their efficiency and knowledge. Steps need to be taken to ensure the access of rural women to agricultural and livestock extension services and other support mechanisms.

Analysis of Female Labour Use Pattern in India

S. Chatterjee[†], A.K. Nandi[‡] and A.K. Giri[‡]

The study attempts to elicit the characteristic feature of women work force particularly in rural sector of India. It is clearly evident that the female participation

*Assistant Professor, Giri Institute of Development Studies, Lucknow - 226 024.

[†]Assistant Professor in Agricultural Economics, AICRP on Integrated Farming Systems, Directorate of Research, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Kalyani, Nadia, West Bengal-741 235 and [‡]Professor and Ex-Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Mohanpur, Nadia, West Bengal-741 252.

rate, as a whole, decreased in rural areas as compared to male counterpart. On the other hand, defeminisation trend was found to set in some of the states. Further, defeminisation in female cultivators and in female agricultural labourers in some states and feminisation of agricultural labour force in some other states were noted. Besides this, a phenomenon of depaeasantisation of female cultivator class into agricultural labour class was also evident. The agro-based industries, non agro-based industries, plantation sector and MGNREG were substantial sources for engaging female labour. Mandatory stipulation for engaging female labour and gender neutral wage structure are some of the suggestions made in the study.

Participation of Women in Agricultural Works: A Study of Farrukhabad District in Uttar Pradesh

Babu Singh, Birendra Kumar and Rakesh Singh*

A study was undertaken in Farrukhabad district of Uttar Pradesh with the following objectives: (i) to study the socio-economic structure of selected farm worker households, including availability of female farm workers and (ii) to study the role of participation of farm women workers in various field operations of different crops under changing conditions. For the purpose a total of 100 labour households were randomly selected from 10 villages of two selected blocks, namely, Barhpur and Chhibramau and the study was conducted during the year 2012-13. It emerged from the study that women are the most important productive work forcing the economy. They helped in increasing farm production and improved livelihood of the farming community. Thus women participation in agriculture is an important key to improving rural farming communities.

Bhutti Weavers Co-operative Society Ltd.: An Avocation for Rural Women for Generating Income and Fulfilling Basic Needs

Ashok Kumar[†], Divya Sharma[‡] and Anju Thakur[‡]

The tradition of wool weaving in Himachal Pradesh is of very ancient origin. A group of 12 weavers from Bhutti village came together in the year 1944 and established a co-operative society known as the Bhutti Weavers Cooperative Society Ltd. Bhutti Weavers is the most reputed name in the hand-woven woollen shawl industry in Kullu and since its inception in 1944; Bhuttico has been keeping alive the Himalayan traditions in step with the latest trends. Among various items of Bhutti

*Department of Agricultural Economics and Statistics, C.S.Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur-208 002 (Uttar Pradesh).

[†]Professor and [‡]M.Sc. Students, respectively, Department of Agricultural Economics, Extension Education and Rural Sociology, Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Palampur-176 062.

Weavers; namely Caps, Pattus, Shawls, *Loies*, Stole, Mufflers, Jackets, Suits, Kullu shawls occupy a place of pride among the native handloom producers and are registered under the “Geographical Indication (GI) of Goods Act 1999. It has also received ISO 9001-2008 mark. Bhutti Weavers Co-operative Society ltd. popularly known as Bhuttico was found to providing whole time and part time gainful employment to 131 personnel in its head office as well as in its own showrooms and more than 900 weavers engaged in weaving at factory of the society and in their houses during 2013-14. Bhuttico is now providing direct and indirect employment to more than 1,000 families. Nearly 200 weavers weave traditional Kullu shawls in many shifts on handlooms at Bhuttico campus located in Bhuttico Colony that was constructed in 1960. In addition, 500 families prepare different products for Bhuttico at their home and majority of them were rural women. While earning the wages they get economically empowered and fulfill their basic needs without depending upon the other members of the family. The study revealed that membership of the society grew at the rate of 3.53 per cent per annum; the share capital and working capital were found to be growing at the rate of 10.28 per cent and 13.62 per cent respectively. The sale proceeds of the society were found to be growing at the rate of 15.5 per cent per annum over a period of 53 years (1960-2013). The study also found that woollen products were exported to United Kingdom, U.S.A Canada, Spain, France, Israel, Italy, Norway, Denmark, Russia and Japan since the year 1980 onwards. Thus, Bhuttico played a vital role in shaping the future of the rural women and their children by fulfilling their basic needs.

Economic Conditions and Wage Structure of Women Agricultural Labourers in Andhra Pradesh – An Analytical Study

Narendra Kumar Illuru and Suneetha Kondeti*

The objectives of this paper are to examine the working conditions of women agricultural labourers in the study area; to find out the nature wages of female agriculture labour through the operations wise in the study area; to assess the contribution of agricultural women labourers to the farm development and suggest measure to promote gender equality for the all-round development of women. To examine the objectives of this study, relevant data were collected from both primary and secondary data. The primary data included information collected directly from the sample respondents through a field survey in the study area of Andhra Pradesh. The secondary data are collected from published sources. A multi-stage stratified random sampling frame is used for collection of the primary data. The suggestions are the equality in decision making regarding household activities, the equality in decision making regarding farm activities, the equality in getting education, the equal

*Department of Econometrics, S.V. University, Tirupati-517 502(Andhra Pradesh).

participation in social organisation, the equality in wage employment, the equality sharing of household activities and child care. The recognition of labour work of working women in the rural economy may be accounted in monetary terms, the more facilities should be provided to poor rural women for land, agricultural and livestock extension services, the priority must be given to women in accessing credit on soft terms from banks and other financial institutions for setting up their business, for buying properties and for house building, the measures should be taken to enhance women literacy rates. A separate education policy for women may serve the purpose. The women must be involved in decision-making bodies that have the potential to introduce structural changes. This action will bring some changes in the gender relations in the society. The women must be aware regarding their existing rights, access to judicial relief and redress, removing discrimination through legal reforms and providing legal aid, assistance and counseling. Finally it is concluded that the rural women are exploited by land lords for their personal good and enrichment. The women are treated as sub-servant or personal property. In this regard Government must formulate policies to enhance their skills and their work should be counted in economic indicators.

Gender Based Wage Discrimination in Agriculture and Allied Activities: A Case Study of Narayanpur Block in Mirzapur District of Eastern Uttar Pradesh

Sharad Kumar[†]

An attempt has been made in the paper to assess the role of women in the agricultural production and the gender based wage discrimination in agriculture employment, knowing the fact of wage discrimination between man and women we have select the five gram panchayats (GP) of Narayanpur block in Mirzapur district of Eastern Uttar Pradesh for the proper study. Five GPs have been selected from the block for collecting data from each selected GPs a total number of 25 beneficiary households were selected for seeking the requisite information through interview schedule. Thus, a total number of 125 beneficiary households have been selected from the five GPs name are Deoria Bhagwatipur Rampur, Mmolapur, Navapurva, Gharvaspur Pahari and Bangla Rasulpur. In all GPs, we surveyed that the share of farm women in land preparation are 32 per cent, seed cleaning and sowing are 80 per cent inter cultivation activities are 86 per cent, harvesting, reaping, winnowing, drying, cleaning and storages are 84 per cent. Wages are not very satisfactory from the point of women farmers in the area of selected Gram Panchayat. It was also observed that for ploughing on an average male were getting Rs. 150-200 per day while for the same activity female were getting Rs. 110-140 per day for 8 hours on an average for other agricultural activities male and female were getting Rs. 110 per day

[†]Associate Professor and Head, P.G. Department of Economics and Research, Hindu P.G. College, Zamania, District Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh.

and Rs. 50 to 60 per day respectively. It is not enough to create more jobs for rural men and women. Since gender differences in rural employment are many and often inter-related, a package of complementary policy measures are needed including legal reforms that promote gender equalities, social safety nets, support to the creation of farmers, women and youth's organisations, child care programme, female education, are some of the instruments to improve access to information and labour markets. The study found that gender divisions are acute in all activities involving manual labour or monotonous work assigned to women while men generally performed all operations involving machinery. Agricultural wages for women on an average was 30-40 per cent less than those for men despite putting up equal hour and intensity of labour inputs. Over all in the light of findings it is suggested that the government should strengthen the existed legislation and empower to give equal wages to men and women for same work and same working hours and enforce the minimum wages act effectively.

Impact of Male Migration on the Roles and Responsibilities of Farm Women and Farm Productivity

Usha Rani Ahuja, Rajni Jain and Sonia Chauhan*

The paper aims to examine the impact of male migration on the roles and responsibilities of farm women of the eastern states of India. The study is based on the data collected through household surveys conducted in six districts of three states, namely, Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha. Over all 480 households from different farm size groups were selected for the study. The sample households were then divided into migrant and non- migrant households to assess the impact of migration. This study mainly focuses on the changing role of farm women in different activities, access to production resources and role in decision making. It has been observed that the work load of women has increased due to male migration. Further participation of farm women in decision making and access to resources have also been enhanced. Regression analysis has depicted better input use efficiency in case of migrant households as compared to non-migrant households.

*National Institute of Agricultural Economics and Policy Research, New Delhi-110 012.