

Understanding mobility among Rural Women – Time for a Strong Policy Making

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Abstract: Rural women are facing several problems in a changed economic scenario. The mobility among rural women has been increasing ever since the post liberalization period in India. The increase in rural women mobility has been a severe question of debate as rural women have been made to find a livelihood in urban/ semi urban / industrial areas along with their children & aged members of the family. Studies have shown that rural women mobility has been on the increase & the urban shift of the male people has been causing great problems for women. Policy makers have been very negligent on the issue of rural women mobility. This paper attempts to find the impact of adoption of agricultural technologies on farm people & influences of post liberalization period on rural families towards diversification. This paper spot lights strategies & initiatives essential for raising the productive empowerment capacities in rural India towards reducing migration of women.

Key words: rural women, liberalization, empowerment

Introduction

Indian rural women who had a sustainable living in rural years decades ago are now forced to become land less laborers & work in urban & semi urban

outlets for meager amount of wages. Their livelihoods have shifted f their health problems have been aggravated their income levels have increased but not to give them futuristic

sustainability . Their residential requirements have been very pathetically adjusted Instead of hutments they live in industrial shed instead.

Changes since the Liberalization of Economy

The increase in rural women mobility has been a severe question of debate as rural women have been made to find a livelihood in urban semi urban areas along with their children as direct consequences of Migration of their male counterparts. Studies have shown that rural women mobility has been on the increase & the urban shift of the people has been causing great problems for women. (Bhagat R. B.- **Conceptual Issues in Measurement of Internal Migration in India - 2012**).Policy makers have been very negligent on the issue of rural women mobility & women who had a sustainable living in rural area decades ago are now forced to become land less laborers & work in urban & semi urban outlets for meager

amount of wages. Their livelihoods have shifted their health problems have been aggravated their income levels have increased but not to give them futuristic sustainability. Their residential requirements have been very pathetically adjusted. Instead of hutments they live in industrial shed instead

Methodology

This paper has adopted findings of several primary, Government & secondary NGO researches on rural migration in India.

Objectives of the Study

1. To find the impact of adoption of agricultural technologies on farm people
2. To find influences of post liberalization period on rural families towards diversify & this diversification has led to migration to urban centers
3. To find out initiatives essential for raising the productive capacities in rural India & preventing migration

Impact of rural transformation

The rural India is transforming itself following the changes post liberalization period caused due to the innovative the new found availability & adoption of agricultural technologies farm people now get access to improved living through:

- ✓ improved access to farm markets
- ✓ addition of value to agricultural products
- ✓ implementation of developmental programs through government
- ✓ improved connectivity through construction of new roads
- ✓ seasonal employment generation through several governmental programs
- ✓ easier access to information communication systems
- ✓ spread of educational facilities
- ✓ improved facilities of sanitation ,drinking water

- ✓ improved access to living through rural reconstruction programs
- ✓ right to use to information technology through internet & ICT
- ✓ enhanced rural banking facilities
- ✓ supportive financial aid
- ✓ periodical micro loans
- ✓ diversity in crop agriculture

There have been several changes in rural life as post liberalization period of Indian economy has resulted in

1. non crop agriculture
2. animal farming techniques
3. fish farming techniques
4. increase in nonfarm employment opportunities
5. increase in service sector employment opportunities
6. development of intermediate market
7. increase in multinational agro business & employment opportunities
8. agro technology based career opportunities in marketing & manufacturing.

9. employment opportunities in value added agro products marketing

Thus the dynamics of rural livelihood has been changing. Poverty inequality & food security situation has changed. (The Report of the Planning Commission of India on Urbanization 2011). All these changes have led the rural families to diversify & this diversification has led to migration to urban centers adoption of agricultural technologies farm people. (The Rural Urban Population Spread -The Report Of The Census Of India 2011).

Prospective strategies

1. Mobilizing political motivation at the national and international level in order to target rural women as participants and direct beneficiaries of all development policies, programmes and projects.
2. Ensuring that the economic needs and well-being

of rural women are taken account of in all sectoral policies and programmes by bringing into sharp focus the role of women in household, productive and community work, in the design of development interventions and the adequate allocation of resources.

3. Improving rural women's access to resources through alternative policy instruments that ensure more equitable gender-based distribution of land, labour, capital, technology, social services and infrastructure.

4. Launching initiatives essential for raising the productive capacities of both men and women, with special attention to rural women from disadvantaged households, female-headed households, young rural women, disabled women, and migrant and displaced women.

5. Promoting national and household food security by supporting the critical role of women in food production and income generation.

6. Alleviating women's heavy workload, which often involves long hours spent daily gathering fuel, collecting water, producing and preparing food, maintaining their homes, nurturing their children and, in addition, earning incomes that are essential to the survival of their families.
7. Improving the health and nutritional status of mothers and their children and thereby the quality of life of the family.
8. Reorienting the information, communication and educational systems so that they meet the specific needs of rural women while preserving and promoting their cultural identity.
9. Optimizing the role of rural women as agents of change, and create conditions for their social, political and economic empowerment.
10. Creating opportunities for rural women to assume leadership positions in the decision-making process.
11. Promoting ,strengthening and disseminating rural women's organizations in order

to establish effective channels for their access to decision-making bodies at all levels.

12. Developing a constructive partnership between men and women In rural areas, based on social mobilization and an enhanced understanding of women's multiple roles and economic need.

The need for unifying the threads of inter linkage is the need of the hour. Launch initiatives essential for raising the productive capacities of both men and women.

Conclusion

Thus the question of rural mobility among rural women is drawing the attention of the policy makers. Developing a constructive partnership between men and women based on social mobilization and an enhanced understanding of women's multiple roles and economic needs has to be attended immediately. Optimizing the role of rural

women as agents of change, and create conditions for their social, political and economic empowerment. Creating opportunities for rural women to assume leadership positions in the decision-making process would help the question of rural women mobility & influence the socio economic structural changes positively.

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