
Earning Discrimination in Agricultural Households: A Comparative Study of Bihar and West Bengal

Panchanan Das*

The study quantifies discrimination in earnings among workers of different types who belong to agricultural families in India and from two eastern region states Bihar and West Bengal by using data from employment and unemployment surveys (EUS) and periodic labour force survey (PLFS). The concept of discrimination used in this study is closely related to inequality of opportunity. Wage discrimination has been worked out using parametric method very similar to the methodology developed in Wendelspiess and Soloaga (2014). The Shapley decomposition is used to find out the relative contribution of gender, caste and religion to discrimination. Majority of wage workers from agricultural households are males, but their distributional patterns by circumstance characteristics are not similar for workers from cultivating families and agricultural labourers' families. Wage discrimination is notably higher among regular paid workers than casual workers and it is much higher in Bihar. Caste difference is the major contributory factor for wage discrimination in Bihar, while gender difference is instrumental for wage discrimination in West Bengal and all-India.

Gender Disparity in Crop Productivity and Input-Use Efficiency- An Empirical Data Analysis

Raj Kishore Panda†

The study attempts to examine the disparity in crop productivity and input use efficiency between self-cultivated male-headed and female headed farm households and within female-headed households between the de jure and de facto ones in a coastal district of Odisha. The study is based on 221 gender headed farm households selected from a coastal district of Odisha following a multi-stage sampling procedure. Three categories of gender headed farm households are studied following a two-stage classification: the male-headed, the female-headed - the latter being further classified into two categories - the de jure and the de facto ones. Analysis of variance is applied to assess the differences in the crop yield in relation to gender. Tukey's test is used to identify differences in the means between and within the gender categories. Multiple regression analysis is fitted to examine input use efficiency between farms across gender. The Cobb-Douglas production function technique is fitted to the data for

* Professor and Head, Convener, Ph.D. Research Advisory Committee, Department of Economics, University of Calcutta, Kolkata 700 050 and Director, CUES, University of Calcutta.

† Formerly Professor of Economics, Utkal University and Director, Nabakrushna Choudhury Centre for Development Studies, Bhubaneswar.

analysis. The findings of the study indicate disparity in the crop yield and input use efficiency between and within genders (between the male and female headed farms and within female headed farms between the de jure and de facto ones). The male-headed farms are found better than the female-headed farms both in crop yield and input use efficiency. Within the female-headed farms, the de facto female heads are placed in a better position over the de jure ones in both these respects. Based on the findings the study suggests for reshaping the country's agricultural policy favouring women farmers to improve their capability in input use and achieving higher crop yield. Natural disasters affect the vulnerable sections more than others. The study district being graded as a high risk region from the point of view of frequent occurrence of natural calamities, the female-headed farms and particularly the de jure ones with their poorer resource base need to be supported for improving their access to inputs, technology and extension services for adopting resilient agriculture practices for higher and sustainable crop production.

Wage and Income Disparity: Women Agricultural Labourers in Rural Andhra Pradesh

K. Madhu Babu*

The objective of the present study is to assess the problems of women agricultural labourers. The study has examined the various problems faced by the agricultural labourers such as seasonal employment, lack of sufficient alternative employment opportunities, gender-wise discrimination in wage rates, low wage rate in agriculture compared to non-agriculture, delay in wage payment, mechanization of agriculture, Migrated labour and occupational hazards, and average number of days employed in the agricultural sector in a year and percentage of economic contribution of the respondents to the household income. The study finds that seasonal employment nature of agriculture is one of the major problems for majority of the sample respondents, followed by lack of sufficient alternative employment opportunities, low wage rates. Three fourths of the sample respondents are strongly agreed that mechanisation of agriculture displaced labour. As many as three fourths of the sample respondents opined of facing problem in getting employment due to labour migrants. Nearly half of the sample respondents reported occupational health hazards as a problem. It is suggested that the Government should take initiatives to avoid gender-wise discrimination in the agriculture wage rates for the same kind of work. Further, women agricultural labourers must be encouraged to work under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme during the seasons, where there is no agricultural work.

* Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Acharya Nagarjuna University, Andhra Pradesh.

Inequalities in the Distribution of Livestock Assets by Gender – An Empirical Evidence of Karnataka

R.Vijayamba[†]

This paper examines the inequalities in the distribution of livestock assets by gender. It basically analyses the patterns of ownership of livestock assets by gender using the Karnataka Household Asset Survey (KHAS) data and the primary data collected from two different agro-climatic villages in Karnataka during February-March 2020. 2012). The eight districts in the study were Mysore, Tumkur, Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Shimoga, Bidar, Gulbarga, Gadag. Out of the 4800 sample households, 2800 were in rural areas. In each household, two interviews, one with male and female each, were conducted. The study brought out the inequality in the ownership of livestock assets by gender. With the complexity of collecting data on livestock ownership, the study finds that all members owning livestock is a predominant form. Women owned animals of lesser value than individual men and family ownership. Caste exercised a major role in determining women's ownership of animals.

Livelihood Enhancement through Collectivisation of Women Farmers: A Case Study from Odisha

Sayantani Satpathi, Pritha Banerjee and Subhdeep Basu^{*}

Women farmers, who constitute a major percentage of the total rural women workforce are in an even more difficult situation since they do not have proper land rights and entitlements. Studies have found that the collectivisation of farmers can ensure food security and improve their income through better bargaining powers, access to financial credit, and farm insurance. In this paper, we study how the collectivisation of women farmers, in particular, can contribute to their economic and social well-being. It focuses on the Agricultural Production Cluster (APC) programme running in Odisha exclusively by women farmers through the creation of Producer Groups (PG). Focus group discussions (FGDs), Key Respondent Interviews (KRIs) and Yearly Project Outputs (YPO) revealed that the collectivisation led to the augmentation of the bargaining power of the farmers and has the potential of creating strong market linkages. This led to crop diversification toward high-value crops and income enhancement for women within the project area. However there exists significant scope for improvement in marketing of the agricultural production. The number of storage facilities created was not adequate. Also, a proper transportation

[†] Senior Research Fellow, Indian Statistical Institute, Bangalore.

^{*} Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation, New Delhi-110 049.

system was not in place which is essential in bringing the crop to the market. There have been attempts to establish strong forward linkages through contacts with big market players. Based on the progress of the APC, the paper suggests scaling up such initiatives across other Indian states, simultaneously addressing the implementation challenges.

Empowerment of Women through Entrepreneurship in India: A Literature Review

Maitreyee Tripathy,[†] Sarba Narayan Mishra[‡] and Bishnupriya Mishra[†]

Based on the literature review an attempt has been made to identify the various factors influencing women, the reasons for slow progress of women entrepreneurs and offer suggestions for the growth of women entrepreneurs in India. Specifically study aims to (1) identify the needs for women empowerment. (2) evaluate the reasons for empowerment of women. (3) evaluate the factors responsible for encouraging women to become entrepreneurs. (4) study the impact of assistance by the government on women's entrepreneurship. (5) study the policies, programmes, institutional networks and the involvement of support agencies in promoting women's entrepreneurship. And (6) critically examine the problems faced by women entrepreneurs. The analysis suggest the need for creating an environment through positive economic and social policies for development of women to enable them to realize their fullest potential will be the implication of the study. Analysing of the role of the women through Caroline Mosher's triple role framework will help us to prepare right framework for women as women are involved in productive, reproductive and community roles simultaneously. Equal access to participation and decision making of women in social, economic, political life of the nation in general and family in particular plays a major role in empowering women. Most importantly changing social attitude and community practices by active participation and involvement will be possible by increasing their value, respect, dignity and confidence in society which can be achieved by involving women in entrepreneurship i.e. by becoming self-dependent.

[†] Ph.D. Scholar and Professor, respectively, Department of Extension Education, [‡] Professor and Head of the Department, Department of Agricultural Economics, College of Agriculture, Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, Bhubaneswar.

Farm Mechanisation and Farm Feminisation: Recent Trends and Consequences

Chinmoy Sarkar and Sujit Majumder*

The paper attempts to examine the correlation between farm mechanisation and farm feminisation, the scope of women empowerment in farm sector with farm mechanization and hindrances faced by women labour force and finally evaluate the various government policies undertaken to mitigate the gender inequality. In terms of the involvement of rural men and women in different activities such as agriculture, mining, manufacturing, construction, transport, service etc. involvement of women in agricultural activities is much significant compared to other activities. They not only playing a crucial role in crop production besidesut are equally contributing in allied sectors of farming to develop livestock, horticulture, fishery, post-harvest activities, agro-forestry etc. Farm mechanisation has opened great opportunity to women labourer to take part in farm sector immensely. Present low landholding farming activities successfully handled by women to make profit. Numbers of highly gender friendly farm mechanisation extent the active role of women farmers. However many shortcomings are present but proper government initiatives and consistent support will intensify their active participation in agricultural activities.

Role of Women-led Self-help Group in Socio-Economic Development of Rural Households

M.N. Waghmare and Y.C. Sale†

The paper examines the role of women-led Self-help Group (SHG) in the socio-economic development of rural households in Osmanabad district and the activities of these self help groups in the study area . For the present study, three villages from Osmanabad district of Maharashtra were purposively selected because the SHGs in these villages are functioning in a very successful manner. The data for the study has been compiled with the help of the primary data for the period 2016-17 with the help of specially prepared interview schedule. A total of 90 respondents were selected from six SHGs of three villages by using simple random sampling method. The analysis indicated that the rural people have been vastly benefited by SHGs. It has helped them in their socio-economic upliftment of women. The rural poor now feel that they can also be partners in the process of rural development by joining the SHG movement. Besides even though the members have joined the SHGs for various reasons, all of them have one common goal, which is enhancing the income and a better standard of living. The SHG thus helps in enhancing their economic and social

* Assistant Professor in Economics, Silguri College of Commerce, Siliguri, Darjeeling- 734 001 and Assistant Professor in Economics, Samshi College, Malda, respectively.

† Assistant Professor, Agricultural Economics, College of Agriculture, Pune (Maharashtra).

status, decision making role and increased participation in outdoor activities. These SHGs play a very important role in social change. SHG not only changes the outer form of a community or a society but also the social institutions as well as ideas of the people living in the society. In other words it also applies to change the material aspects of life as well as in the ideas, values and attitudes of the people. The self help groups contribute substantially in uplifting the conditions of the women population and in turn help in poverty eradication as well. Self-help Groups have been playing significant role in training of self employment, infrastructure development, production, processing, marketing and technology support, self confidence among members, frequency of interaction with outsiders, change in the saving pattern of SHG members, change in the cumulative saving pattern of SHG members per month, involvement in politics, achieving social harmony, achieving social justice, involvement in community action and sustainable quality and accountability. Overall microfinance through SHG has played a significant role in alleviating poverty and rural development.

Gender Gap in Wage Rates: Exploring the Role of Female Labour Supply

Arindam Das*

The paper describes and examines the possible factors determining female wage rates and the gender wage differential for agricultural field operations, drawing from village surveys conducted under the Project on Agrarian Relations in India (PARI) by the Foundation for Agrarian Studies (FAS). Basically it discusses the extent and magnitude of the gender gap in wage rates, followed by an explanation of the composition of female labour supply, to understand who participates in the wage labour market and what determines their participation and then explore how the variation in female labour supply influences women's wages and leads to variation in the gender differential in wage rates. For the purpose of study data on wage rates for wage-worker households from 16 villages surveyed between 2005 and 2012 across nine states of India with different agro-ecological zones, and have varying cropping patterns and different socio-economic indicators have been used for the analysis. The village survey data indicated that the level of wages for women was generally low. Except for two villages, wage discrimination against women in the form of a gender wage gap was experienced by all female labourers. Male and female labourers were differentially paid and generally paid lower wages as compared to male counterparts despite their high participation rates for the same operation. Also in terms of the proportion of female agricultural labourers and the gender gap in wage rates a more complex relationship was observed which needs to be rigorously tested in future research.

* Joint Director, Foundation for Agrarian Studies, Bangalore- 560 038.