



Women's problems in paddy field: With reference to Madiga women

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Abstract

Women constitute 70 per cent of the world's poor population means they are 1.3 billion. They produce 50 percent of the food worldwide but receive only 10 percent of the income. Contribution by the women in the development of rural sector has been one of the most neglected and discriminatory areas. The active involvement of women in the development of rural as well as other sectors as been overlooked, by passed, underestimated and even neglected. The absence of proper recognition of women's positive contribution and participation is due to the contention that their activities are economically unproductive, supplementary, optionally intermittent and dispensable.

Keywords: paddy, sector, decades

Introduction

We are convinced that it is essential to design, implement and monitor with the full participation of women effective, efficient and mutually reinforcing gender sensitive policies and programmes, including development policies and programmes at all levels that will foster the empowerment and advancement of women.

—Platform for Action and the Beijing Declaration, 1995

We are in the there should of the twenty first century. During the past fifty years we are witnessed a positive transformation in women's empowerment and economic development. But in other side we are still has to go a long way in attaining gender equality and gender justice and social justice also.

We had about six decades of planned economic development. It is ironical that we are still trying to tackle basic needs for minimum standard of living such as a drinking water, shelter, cloth, food, sanitation employment. Still we are fighting against poverty. In all these and many other essential aspects of economic development, women have been left far behind.

About the study area

Along the Sirwar is a village in Manvi Taluk in Raichur District of Karnataka State, India. It belongs to Gulbarga Division. It comes under Hyderabad Karnataka (371j). It is located 41 kilometres towards west from District Headquarters Raichur. 20 KM from Manvi. 422 KM from state capital Bangalore. Here most of the women are illiterate, they are marginalised. And women are working in unorganised sector in particularly coolie workers and working in paddy field for daily wages. Socio economic conditions are very low. In working, employment, earnings, education, decision making power is very less. In the name of culture they are exploiting. It means there is clear difference between male and female they are discriminating in every step of life. The property ownership is in the hands of males. He is controlling all the resources. Women are not aware of banks and all. Their

position is very vulnerable. The paucity of sufficient food, women and children has been suffering from malnutrition. They have no health consciousness. Gender discrimination is higher. The wife battering is common. The reality is that women lag behind men in terms of every set of life. The research survey says school dropout ratio is comparatively more than male dropouts. Child marriage is common. Women's political representation is very low.

The SC/ST is higher than other communities. These sections are among the poorest of the poor. The developments schemes of the government have not reached to this people. Maximum SCs are below the poverty line. Dropout rate is higher than the general people. Most of the children do not enter schools due to socio economic conditions. Infant mortality rate is high and they are facing nutrition deficiencies. Their educations, income, health, employment the ownership of land lag behind than general people. Actually they have no land and they have to work in others land owners for daily life. Main growing crop is paddy the more women workers are doing work in paddy field. Social discrimination like untouchable still alive. Still they (Madiga, Holeya) should not enter public places Such as temples, wells, lakes, Hotels. Because if they enter the places, that place will become polluting. To address these, it is necessary to focus on the special group Ichoose this place as research area and selected SC (Madiga) women.

Research Methodology

The based on primary data collected from the Madiga women by direct interview, observation method. Scheduled had been prepared by including the questions regarding their reproductive health factors. A sample of 50 Madiga women were selected of Sirwar from Raichur District of Karnataka. From each women had been selected by using simple random sampling method.

Scope of the study

The study mainly focuses the problems faced by Madiga

women in paddy field

Analysis and Interpretations

Table 1: Socio Demographic Profile of the Respondents

Sl. No	Socio-demographic factor	Response	frequency	Percentage
01	Age	20-30	20	40%
		30-40	15	30%
		40-50	09	18%
		60-70	06	12%
			50	100%
02	Education	Illiterate	40	80%
		Primary level	10	20%
		Secondary level	00	00%
		High level	00	00%
			50	100%
03	Marital status	Married	21	42%
		Unmarried	11	22%
		Widow	16	32%
		Separated	02	04%
			50	100%

Source: Primary data

Table 2: No. of children of the Respondents

No. of children	No. of respondents	Percentage
1-2	04	8%
3-4	13	26%
5-6	10	20%
Above 6	23	46%
Total	50	100%

Source: Primary data

Table 3: Economic status of the Respondents

S. No	Economic factor	Response	frequency	percentage
1.	Family income	Below-5000	25	50%
		5000-6000	21	42%
		Above-6000	04	8%
			50	100%
2.	Expenditure made	Below-3000	07	14%
		3000-5000	10	20%
		5000-6000	33	66%
			50	100%
3.	Saving habits	Yes	15	30%
		No	35	70%
			50	100%

Source: Primary data

Table 4: Health status of the Respondents

Health problems	No. of the Respondents	percentage
Neck pain	15	30%
Shoulder	07	14%
Upper back	04	8%
Lower back	05	10%
Knee	13	26%
Thighs	02	4%
Legs	04	8%
Total	50	100%

Source: Primary data

Findings of the study

1. Out of 50 respondents 40 per cent of the respondents are 20 to 30 years age group and 30 percent of the respondents are 30 to 40 years age group. The 18 percent of respondent’s worker are working in paddy field at the age of 40 to 50 years.
2. Most of the respondents have landless. They are doing work in others land.
3. Out of 50 respondents 80% of the respondents are illiterate and only 20 percent of the respondents have primary level education.
4. 42 percent of the respondents are married and 32 percent of the respondents are widows 22 percent of the respondents are unmarried. It is only way to run the life.
5. Regarding economic factor most of the respondents are below poverty line. The study revealed that 50 per cent of the respondents family income is below 5000, and 42% per cent of the respondents family income is between 5000 to 6000. Because wage rate are very lower for women compared to men. And they are doing longer work if will ask increase for wage it will not workout.
6. The study revealed that 46% of the respondents have more than five children and 26 percent respondents have 3 to 4 children and they don’t have awareness of the family planning.
7. The study revealed that 50 per cent of the respondent’s expenditure is more than their earnings. Because their earnings is less than expenditure. And the children are more it is too difficult to rearing them.
8. The study revealed that 70 per cent of the respondents have no bank savings.
9. Regarding health, Respondents are facing multi problems. 30 percent of the respondents are suffering from neck pain. Because while root transplanting they are in bending posture. 26 percent of the respondents have knee pain 14 per cent have shoulder pain. They are doing work like Weeding, reaping, threshing etc. And during illness they are not going to hospital for treatment. If the problem is very serious then only they will go. Because treatment is expensive and to travel to health centres for away from the home.
10. In terms of food habit women suffer greater deprivation because they eat last. As part of the culture they feel their service is to others. What it shows is systematic sex bias in the allocation of food it reflects in higher nutritional deficiency among women.
11. The study revealed that 80 percent of the respondents are working on the basis of daily wages. Women’s average earnings are constantly lower than those of men.

Suggestions

1. The government should provide alternative strategy for the improvement of their life.
2. The government should take care of their health by providing health facilities.
3. The NGOs should come forward for awareness health camps for effecting health improvement.
4. The government should take strict action against land owners regarding wages.
5. Provide skill generation for employment, income and loan

facilities

6. Government should provide adult literacy classes.

Conclusion

After independence India has undoubtedly seen significant progression the economic and industrial front. But this progress has been imbalance and inequitable. With disparities widening between the urban and rural sectors and between the privileged upper classes and socially disadvantaged like SC Madiga women. Still they are living below poverty line without access basic facilities.

Apart from their regular work in the paddy field they perform numerous household chores it leads to increase their discomfort. While observing in the in the interview time they perform different types of hand intensive jobs in an awkward posture for a prolonged period of time which may lead to discomfort feeling in different parts of their body. Especially at the lower back, knee, shoulder and neck. Due to high level of physiological workload they face so many problems.

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