



Problems of Women in Extremist Area: A Social Study

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ABSTRACT

Women of Magadh region are always demoralized and have never been given the importance they deserve. They are always threatened, sexually assaulted and kept under control. They are never allowed to become self-independent. In addition, the problem of extremists in this region has made it worse for them. The lives of women are under constant fear and they also struggle for their family. In this paper, the lives of women are discussed and presented with the problems they face in their daily live in Magadh region. The impacts of extremists on their lives are also discussed with the new changes which are brought in their lives because of the new schemes introduced by the government.

Keywords: Women, Naxalbari, rural development, Extremist Area.

INTRODUCTION

Women in India are casualties of a numerous financial and social components. They are a vital piece of each economy. All around progression and agreeable development of a country would be conceivable just when Women are considered as equivalent accomplices in progress with men. Freedom of Women is a pre-essential for country's financial advancement and community upliftment. Destitution is the principle deterrent for the improvement of the Women. The job of women and the need to enable them are integral to human improvement programs including neediness easing. Regardless of different projects identifying with destitution lightening has been begun, it was seen that women in country territories, particularly from the poor families could be profited. A strengthening development among women the nation over has been currently turned by quick advancement. Monetary strengthening of country women brings about ladies' capacity to impact or settle on choice, expanded self-assurance, better status and role in family unit and so forth.

Widespread discontent among the people has plagued the Magadha polity for some time now. It has often led to unrest, sometimes of a violent nature. Over the years, statutory enactments and institutional mechanisms for addressing the various aspects of deprivation have been brought into being. But the experience has been that the discontent and unrest continue to surface notwithstanding such measures. For a large section of the population, basic survival is the problem. Magadh is highly affected by the extremist and their activities. The most affected one are the women who really have to struggle for their survival. Starting from household issues to member of extremists, they have to take several survival steps to keep themselves and their families safe.

Problems of extremist in Magadh

Like many places facing violence from multiple groups, Bihar's state weakness, poverty, and violence were all rooted in a power structure that enabled extreme privilege and impunity for an elite few, politicized security forces, and outsourced the monopoly of violence to militia groups. Thus, Maoist insurgents, a multitude of militias, and state security forces were locked in a vicious cycle of retaliatory violence.

People of Magadh region have been facing the terror of these extremists group since a long time. Moreover, women are the one who are highly affected. Their lives have been thrown in dilemma because of the continuous fight they have to make with their living. Their development has not only consequently stopped but it is dragged decades back. Lack of education, knowledge and daily needs such as food, water, etc. has restricted their life to limited resources. In addition, day to day fight among the extremists' troops with the state's armed forces has made their lives more miserable. They are suspected of being informers and forced by both the legal and illegal forces to support them. They suffer hunger and sexual assaults and get no proper support even from their families. Even after multiple actions taken by the government to eradicate the extremists' revolutions, no benefits and resources are provided to women of these parts of the country. Basic amenities are also lacking in this region.

Violent Maoist insurgents have plagued India since the late 1960s. By the turn of the millennium, the Maoists, also known as Naxalites for their origins in the village of Naxalbari, were fighting in nine Indian states. The fighting was serious: Maoists killed more than 4000 people from 2002 to 2006.

In Bihar, however, Maoist guerrillas were only one among many perpetrators of violence. When Nitish Kumar took the reins as chief minister in 2005, he faced a series of groups locked in a vicious cycle of what could be called compounded violence—multiple types of violence where fighting between armed groups and linkages among political, criminal, and state violence served to entrench bloodshed.

On the other hand, not a single proper research can be seen and observed over these parts which can help in providing support to the lives of women.

Lives of women in Magadh

Since Magadha division is under high influence of the extremists' groups, therefore lives of women is negatively affected by it. Few of these problems are exhibited below:

Education:

The day to day fight among the extremists and law forces has impacted the education in the Magadha division. Many times, extremists blew up the schools or captured them which prevented the parents from sending their children to school. Especially, the girl child is prevented from going to the school [2].

Sexual assaults:

The lives of the women in this region have stopped because of the regular reports of new cases of sexual assaults made by the extremists over them. They are brutally raped and threatened for their own and families' lives.

Suspected of being informers:

The lives of those women, whose family members are involved with terror activities, makes it tough for them as they have to choose a side. The armed forces approach them for informing them of any suspected activities made by their family members and the extremists' groups target them of being informers. This has made it very hard for them to decide their own stand and has highly compromised their safety.

Despite the above mentioned facts, there are many women who work for the naxals and have dedicated their life for them. They have a long history of being involved with many of such movement which signifies terrorism in the state especially in Magadh region.

The ascetic masculinity of the armed anti-colonial movements dictated the terms of gender relationships within the Naxalbari movement as well. The histories of women's participation in the armed anti-colonial movements – Shanti and Suniti, two girl students of Comilla district of undivided Bengal, who successfully assassinated the district magistrate of Comilla on December 14, 1931; Preetilata Waddaddar, who became the first woman martyr during the armed raid of a European Club in Chittagong district on September 24, 1932; Bina Das, who attempted to assassinate the governor of Bengal on February 6, 1932 – were rarely

invoked as examples of women's agency. Such memories of women's active roles in perpetrating political violence faded behind the hyperbole of the patriotic masculinity.

Though the official Naxalite documents occasionally refer to organising women's squads, women's participation in violent acts – if they were not specifically guided by male activists – was seriously criticized and resented. In case of women's transgression of the gendered script of revolution, the water soon closed in smoothing out the ripples by providing the justification that she 'reacted' to an earlier personal suffering of sexual violence. This justification marks the pathology in women's performance of pre-meditated violence. It also situates the pathology within the familiar terrain of sexual violence instead of the more ambiguous revolutionary violence. Labelling the woman militant as a victim of sexual violence is an act of segregating her from the 'normal' category of women. The 'action' is designated as personal revenge is a method of re-integrating abnormal victim through the general presumption of aberration [3].

If upper-caste, middle-class urban women with university education were considered the 'rear guard', poor peasant women from rural areas suffered under the double registers of marginalisation – 'non-metropolitan' and 'women'. The standard story of the Naxalite memory of activism in the rural areas represent rural women as shadowy figures who gave food and shelter, who carried their messages and occasionally arms, who guided them from one village to another, and yet had almost never been considered an equal partner in revolutionary activism. Utpal Dutt's representation of tribal women's capacity of interpreting the Maoist guerrilla strategy is, therefore, significant. In the same play Dutt depicts another character – Debari, a Rajbangshi woman peasant – who can read and who teaches her fellow villagers the philosophical moorings of revolution. It is in this domain of imagination (and extensive field research as Dutt toured the Naxalbari area for weeks immediately after the mass shooting in Prasadujote village in May 1967) we meet women revolutionaries who displayed courage, resilience and intelligence in scripting a vision of people's movement.

Role of women in rural development:

Woman is no longer confined to the role of home maker rather her roles are redefined in this new millennium. Women have been contributing to economic productivity since the dawn of human history. The rural women have a long tradition of doing various economic and productive activities although their role has been visualized as a passive one.

Women's role in agricultural sector: In a rural economy almost 80 % of the population earns their livelihood from agriculture. The rural women are extensively involving agricultural activities. However the nature and extent of their involvement differ with the variation of agro production system. The mode of women participation in agricultural production varies with the land owing status of farm household.

Women agricultural work takes place largely in June to November. The first peak period of work in agriculture is June to August when women engage in breaking up sods of earth, transplanting and weeding. The second peak period is October to November, when women are involved in harvesting, drying, pounding or threshing paddy. Participation of women in planting and weeding is significantly higher than that of men [1].

Small Scale Industries: Women in rural economy are directly or indirectly involved in processing of Non Timber Forest Product (NTFP) particularly in the small scale enterprises. This includes basket, broom, rope making, tasar silk cocoon rearing, lac cultivation, oil extraction and bamboo works etc. Women constituted almost 41% of the total employed in to forest based small scale industries.

Some job opportunities for women in rural areas: There are some other job opportunities for women which generally notice in the rural area at a large scale. These are the insurance agent, company representative, NGO workers etc. who are generally belongs to the highly educated group. As an effect globalization and IT sectors on the rural area, the Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) has grown exponentially across the country in recent year. The gigantic growth of is now reaching out to the most conservative part of the rural India as well. For instance, the "sources of change" in rural Rajasthan is a classic point. Rajasthan is highly conservative states where rural women are remain backward for centuries. But the "source of change" BPO, a socio economic initiative launched by the Piramal Foundation, presents a different picture of hope, with rows of rural women sitting behind the computers and running the BPO centre with great efficiency. Therefore the Rural BPOs have successfully communicated the message that women can supplement family's primary income. In Assam, the rural women who are staying near to the urban communities have taken the batter chance regarding the IT sectors and successively get the employment opportunities.

Animal husbandry: In animal husbandry, women have played a multiple role. With regional difference, women take care of animal, grazing, fodder collection, cleaning of animal sheds to processing milk and livestock products. In livestock, Management, indoor jobs like milking, cooking, cleaning etc. are done by women in 90% of families.

Allied sectors: Sericulture, handloom and textile industries in rural economy specially Assam and the other state of north eastern region, has huge potentiality for women employment generation, gives that the communities has some basic skill and the local market has demand for the product.

Government initiatives for women development in rural Bihar

Livelihoods projects have been an important modality of development assistance in many parts of the developing world for at least two decades. Such projects aim to reach out to the rural poor and link them with sustainable livelihoods opportunities, and are in place or proposed in India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Malawi, Madagascar and Zambia.

As implemented in India, these programs build on the platform of small (10–15 members) women's self-help groups (SHGs). Through these groups, members can access low-cost credit, learn about new income-generating opportunities, and acquire basic literacy and livelihoods training. In these programs, SHGs are federated into village organizations (VOs) and further into cluster-level federations (CLFs), each of which aims to facilitate collective action and political participation by the poor, and provide a structure for linkages to financial services and government entitlement programs. While livelihoods projects have often been described as an exemplary method of reducing poverty and empowering women, only a few independent evaluations of such programs, in India or elsewhere, exist. Only one published randomized controlled trial of which we are aware evaluates the impacts of an SHG-based livelihoods intervention. The authors evaluated the impact of the Integrated Rural Livelihoods Program, implemented by the Self Employed Women's Association in a rural district of Rajasthan, India. This program formed SHGs, which provided vocational and other training. Women were encouraged to contribute savings to a revolving fund managed by the SHG and were linked to formal banks, but lending capital was not directly provided. After two years of exposure to the program, find that women report being more likely to participate in household decisions and civic life. They also report some evidence that non-farm employment is more likely among SHG members, but find no impact on income or consumption levels [4].

Two previous large-scale, government-implemented livelihoods programs, similar in design to the subject of the present evaluation, were the Andhra Pradesh District Poverty Initiative Project (DPIP), and the Madhya Pradesh DPIP. Both these projects targeted large segments of the poor and provided significant capital infusions to SHGs for use in a revolving loan fund

An author evaluated the Andhra Pradesh DPIP using propensity score matching with two rounds of panel data and controls drawn from a random sample of mandals where the project had not yet entered. They find small but positive impacts with long-term program exposure on consumption, nutritional intake, and asset accumulation.

Kumar (2007) evaluates the impact of the Madhya Pradesh DPIP on governance and empowerment by comparing villages in Madhya Pradesh with neighboring villages in Uttar Pradesh using a difference in differences approach. She finds that DPIP had a positive impact on information flows and political behavior, and in particular, that DPIP villages were better able to target resources to disadvantaged groups. A group of researchers documented collective actions for public goods provision taken by SHGs mobilized by a non-governmental organization with the goal of providing financial intermediation. They use exogenous variation in the formation of SHGs over time to show a positive impact of such actions on the responsiveness of local government officials. There has been a fair amount of qualitative work on livelihoods projects, but this has, in most cases, been done by consultants to the project, so cannot be considered objective. One of the few independent studies is by Powis (2003), who finds that these programs have encouraged the emergence of local leaders who create parallel structures of authority to local governments. Many women are benefitted by these programs especially in the Magadh region. The motive of making the women self-dependent though has not been achieved completely but the initiatives have started to work.

CONCLUSION

Extremists have highly impacted the lives of the people and despite the ill-consequences of their acts; many women have picked their sides because of

hunger, torture or sexual assaults. On the other hand, many women stood against the extremists to fight them by becoming the informer for the police and other legal armed forces. Other women who are not involved in any of these activities are also being suspected of being connected. Overall, in all the cases, lives of women are always in danger in extremist areas of Magadh division. Many initiatives are taken by the government to make the women of the Magadh region self-dependent through providing them with schemes, education and training for small scale businesses. Even though the present scenario exhibits some improvement in the situation, many more aspects are yet to be covered like their safety. They must be motivated towards new businesses and provided with government jobs. Instead of short term training, long term training must be programmed and the lives of the women living in these regions must be surveyed.

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