

Rural transformation – Structural and Social Changes in Haryana

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Abstract: *Transformation refers to the process of fundamental changes in the way things operate and the form of their structure, reflecting the change of things from one qualitative state to another. Rural transformation can improve poverty reduction, living standard and health outcomes in developing countries. Overall studies showed that rural transformation typically leads to positive outcome for women regarding employment, income and empowerment. It also leads to social changes in villages as it is very hard to lose obstacles of casteism. We see many changes in terms of social reforms in rural areas because of many government policies, higher education level for both male and female, empowerment of women socially, financially, politically due to their education level. These types of changes have taken place for the last few years. So, it is needed to study the impact of rural transformation as it effects large population ratio of our country.*

Key word – rural transformation, employment, social obstacles, casteism

Introduction – Rural transformation is a proactive and positive process of change and development of rural communities in the context of national and global social and economic changes (Long, Zou, Pykett, & Li, 2011; Wang, Khan, & Zhang, 2013). It involves bringing features of urban environments into rural settings, changes to systems and processes that favourably impact rural people’s standard of living and livelihoods. Rural transformation is a more dynamic concept than rural development as it embodies a transformation in people’s perspective on life (Shaw, 2011). It is usually characterised by changes in civic amenities, female literacy, gender ratio, employment structure, agricultural intensity, crop selection pattern, farm income, labour productivity and major improvements in rural housing and economic and social conditions resulting from industrialisation and urbanisation (Kurien, 1980; Ravallion & Datt, 2002). Rural transformation or change economic sector from agriculture to non-agriculture providing more employment and reduce poverty. Rural transformation is linked to structural transformation. Structural transformation refers to the transition of an economy from low productivity and labour intensive economic activities to higher productivity and skill intensive activities (UN – habitat 2016, p. 1). Clark observed that as economy grow, there is structural change in income and employment from agriculture dependent to industrial led and later



to service dominated economics. It is now well recognized that women play an important role in agricultural and rural economies, particularly in low income countries. This is particularly crucial considering that in 2019, women composed the majority of the agricultural workforce in eastern and southern Africa (62%), South Asia (57%), and sub Saharan Africa (53%) (World Bank 2022a). Research methodology - This study is based on the secondary data.

Objective – the main objective of this research paper is to study social, economic and political structure of rural areas of Haryana. How their social pattern and economic development are connected with each other. Social and economic structure leads to rural transformation that may change the thinking, approach and adaptation new social norms. It is required to understand deeply the social structure of rural people. It is also necessary to study political journey of rural region in Haryana from the period of centralized govt policies to decentralization in 1994 that brought Panchayati raj system in Haryana.

Social structure of rural areas – It has been observed by a number of students that there is a close correlation between the position of cast in the hierarchy of the Hindu social order and the respective status of its member with regard to wealth, economic rank, class position, political power and accessibility to education and culture. As has been indicated by a number of studies, an overwhelming Majority of agrarian labourer or unprivileged class of the Indian society come from the untouchable, some of the backward classes. The casteism system has been deeply rooted in all the group of society. Based on caste, respect and place in society is given. Upper caste exploited lower class. There was some reason behind it. First reason is the low literacy late in lower class group thus they are less aware about their right and they don't raise their voice against exploitation by upper class in rural areas. It has been found that industrialization uproots the old division of labor, creates new occupational patterns demanding new training, new discipline, a new mode of living. it has been found that in introducing a program of industrialization all building of great public works and large factories, such countries have introduced radical change in the standard of living. (A.r desai p.p 29, 43). Lower class people got more opportunities provided by government and industrial sector. So, they preferred to get new opportunities than doing their agricultural labour work whose owner used to be big farmer and upper caste. Literacy is the main indicator of social development in the analysis. Progress of any state or region reflects with literacy status of the population. It is constituting a necessary condition for development of society, economic progress and transformation of the state.

The gap between male and female literacy is a sensitive indicator of social discrimination. The disparities in literacy existing among male-female are most drastic in nature and are results of our countries old



discriminatory social ideas. According to the census 2011, in Haryana, the literacy rate has increased 67.91% (2001) to 76.64% in 2011. Women literacy rate was 40.47 % in 1991, increased 56.31% in 2001 and reached at 65.94 % in 2011 in Haryana (statistical abstract).

There is significant improvement in female literacy but there are disparities in the level of literacy, today situation of women and girl's education is one of the critical areas of concern in Haryana. Beti bachao, Beti pdhao, Dhanlaxmi scheme, the ladlii scheme, Sukanya smridhi yojana, Apki beti hmari beti are such scheme to enhance the empowerment of women in haryana.

Economic structure of rural area- Structural changes of an economy that lead to the dynamics of sector shares that are related to each other, agricultural sector, industry sector, service sector, and economic growth as well. Economic development has been regarded as the process of structural transformation where the relative share of agriculture in national output falls and the shares of industry sector and service sector rises. Haryana has also experienced structural changes in its output and employment structure during last four dacade. It is highlighted that sharp decline in the share of agriculture sector in the state income and there is increasing trend or it can be said that accelerated the growth rates is industrial and service sector also. The share of agriculture and allied sectors in GSDP declined from 60.7% in 1969-70 to 21.3% in 2006- 07, while the share of industrial sector increased from 17.6% in 1969-70 to 32.1 % in 2006-07 in haryana. The share of service sector increased from 21.7 % to 46.6% during this period. During this period and onwards, the share of service sector in GSVA further strengthened to 50.2% in 2018- 19 with a decrease in the share of agriculture and allied services at 17.5%.

Political structure - Five Year Plan attempted to overtime the countryside development. Balwant Rai Mehta Committee (1957) Shanthanam Committee (1963). Ashok Mehta Committee (1978) GVK Rao Committee 1985, L.M. Singhvi Committee 1986. 73'd Constitutional Amendment Act,1992. Narshimha Rao Government sanctioned the democracy at grass root level means at village level, local self-government. According to Gandhiji, greater the power of the Panchayat, the better for the people as true democracy. Community Development Programme was started in 1952. Rajasthan was the first state where the local self-government was sanctioned in Nagaur district in October 2,1959 by lighting the lamp of J.N.Nehru. Village Panchayats since Independence Gandhiji said that realisation of Indian freedom has to begin from bottom. Thus every village has to be a republic or Panchayat. Pandit J.L. Nehru viewed Panchayati Raj as a new device that may help us in making village life prosperous and joyful by our own efforts without looking to cards external assistance. On August 15, 1985 while speaking from Red Fort, New Delhi Sh.



Rajiv Gandhi our then Prime Minister, referred to the ideas of Mahatma Gandhi and asserted “we shall strengthen the Panchayati Raj institution to give Them responsibility and to ascertain the most possible participation of common man in the pattern of planning.

Panchayati Raj system is often believed to be the most important political invention of independent India. It is a system of governance, has got ebbs and flows in India polity since independence. Panchayati Raj has been identified as a suitable vibrating and viable unit of development administration. Mahatma Gandhi ardently believed in Gram Swaraj. Dr. Ambedkar was repulsed by it. Sh.Rajiv Gandhi cradled and nursed it. P.V. Narshimha Rao institutionalised it. Almost five decades after independence on April 24, 1993, the Government of India revolutionalized the concept of decentralisation of power through the 73'd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 by making the Panchayat Raj institution are example of decentralization of power. The Panchayat system in India, survives in the Article-40 of the Constitution as Directive Principles of the State Policy. Now Panchayati Raj institutions (PRI's) have been proclaimed as the vehicles of the socio-economic transformation in rural areas.

Effects of 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments: The following changes have been affected by 73rd and 74th Amendments.

1. Elections shall be held for all the seats of the Panchayat.
2. One-third of the seats shall be reserved for SCs and STs.
3. One-third of the seats shall be reserved for women.
4. Out of the seats reserved for SCs and STs, onethird of the seats shall be reserved for women of these very categories.
5. There shall be reservation of seats for the SCs and STs for the post of the Chairperson of the Panchayat.
6. There shall be reservation of seats for women for the post of the Chairperson of the Panchayat.
7. SCs and STs shall not be debarred from contesting elections for such seats as are not reserved.
8. Women shall not be debarred from contesting elections for such seats as are not reserved.

Haryana Panchayati Raj Amendment Bill, 2015

Panchayati Raj System provides opportunities to the PRIs to understand needs of The village and explore means to tackle the whole range of community problems Related to modernisation processes both economic and social. Taking note of large-scale illiteracy among the elected members of PRIs in 2010, Haryana Government enacted ‘Haryana Panchayati Raj’ Amendment Bill, 2015’ by which, Matriculation has been



fixed as minimum educational qualification for candidates Of general category; 8th class for women (general) and SC candidates and class 5th For SC women Panch candidates for election to the PRIs. It was also mandatory for the candidates contesting PRI elections to have functional toilets at their homes and no standing payment of power bills. Candidates should not have been charge- sheeted by any court of law and must not have be loan defaulters. The government has taken this decision to improve the quality of leadership and governance in rural Haryana. It was considered that educated elected Representatives of PRIs will be more accountable to people than their earlier Illiterate counterparts. Thus, Haryana became the second state in India after Rajasthan to fix educational qualifications and other conditions for the candidates contesting Panchayat elections.

Status of women - Political status of women implies a degree of equality and freedom enjoyed by women in sharing of power and importance given by the society to the role of women in the political system. The equality and active political participation are inseparable. Participation of women in political arena is integral to the advancement of women. Their political participation means not only using the right to vote, but also power-sharing, co-decision-making, and co-policy-making at all levels of governance of the State. Women's equal status in every sphere is inextricably linked to country's progress and development. Political participation of women in India has been neglected even since independence. Though our country has adopted democratic system of government and the women constitute 48.9 per cent of population of the country, but their political participation is very low. Due to various constraints they could not occupy the positions of power and assume leadership roles. Women's participation has been increasing rapidly but it is not satisfactory. They are also denying opportunities to participate in the administration, even in the making of decisions that affect their life and welfare. Though Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi had believed that women had a positive role to play in the reconstruction of society and the recognition of their equality was an essential step to bring about social justice. This added to the massive participation by the women in the freedom movement and had a direct impact on the political and social elite, including women. After independence, when the constitution was adopted women like Smt. Sarojini Naidu, Hansa Mehta, Renuka Roy, Durgabai Desmukh etc. took part in the constitution-making. In our Constitution there is guarantee of equality and dignity of the individual and it claimed the fundamental rights of women to political and legal equality and guaranteed non-discrimination in employment and office under the states. Our Constitution had provided many channels for the development and progress of the women. The preambles of the Constitution, the chapters of Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles of the State Policies etc., are the specific objectives of this purpose. These



constitutional provisions are meant to empower 48.9 per cent women population in India. Many government and non-government agencies are working for the development of women but in practice we find a wide gap between the stated social objectives and achievements, between the legal framework and imperial realities, between the symbolism and actuality. And this is the reason that after these constitutional safeguards and legal frameworks, the participation is still very low. There are three indicators to assess the political participation of women.

- i. Participation in the political process as the voters and candidates in election.
- ii. Political attitudes such as awareness commitment and involvement in politics and autonomy in political action and behaviour.
- iii. Their impact on the political process.

Consequences

1. Feminization of agriculture – one effect to migrate urban area is to change the workload ratio according to gender differences. Mostly male members out migrate for their earnings. That change the economic pattern and women have to do all agricultural works. One key driver of gendered difference in rural transformation outcomes is male out migration, where male leaves rural areas for better employment opportunities in non-agricultural sector (mu and van de walle 2011). This male out migration increases the workload of women who remain in rural areas and contributes to the feminization of agriculture (slavchevska etal 2016).
2. Non-agricultural sector – With overall economic growth, better infrastructure and declining rural – urban travel time distance, the composition of the rural non-farm sector in India has changed, construction and manufacturing sector have become major employment sources. According to the estimate based on the national sample survey (NSS), construction sector employs 30.1% of the total nonagricultural employment (Chand et al 2017).
3. Less space between urban -rural- As India is expected to be 60% urban by 2050, better infrastructure and communication networks are expected to reduce physical distance and cultural barriers between rural and urban residents. Agriculture, therefore may no longer continue to be the defining feature of the economic and cultural life in rural areas.
4. Participation of women and lower caste people in panchayat system– it was considered to be prominent to upper caste in politics. After 1994 , reservation policy was made for schedule caste , women so that their participation may increase in politics and social gap and discrimination may be abolished.



Conclusion

This rural transformation and essential part of structural transformation – entails greater interaction along the rural – urban spaces, thereby promoting agricultural productivity and greater marketable surpluses. This could then facilitate Overall production diversification, new forms of livelihood And better infrastructure provision in rural areas, a spatial boundaries across the rural urban dichotomy are increasingly getting blurred as with larger rural areas becoming indistinguishable from small urban areas, especially regarding the occupational patterns and built up area characterization (chatterjee.murgaiand rama, 2015)This finding provides justification for rural areas first growth strategy. More steps like employment, economic empowerment, strengthening of drinking water, education and electricity are required to upgrade villages like cities. At the disaggregated level, policies targeting rural populations appear to have achieved some successes in reducing infant mortality and female literacy urban–rural differentials. At the same time, the inter-sectoral differences in labour productivity between agriculture and non-agriculture sectors have widened significantly. It means that there is a strong need for industrialization of agricultural labour. The Government of India skill development programmes should focus on rural areas. The rural India called for employment-oriented education and establishment of community colleges for facilitating rural transformation. In addition, large interstate disparities in rural transformation are observed. The analysis indicates that states of the southern region are generally better developed in comparison of the eastern states. There is a strong economic case for granting discretionary packages to backward regions. Compared to international experience, we note that the level of rural transformation witnessed by India during the last decade is below that of another Asian giant, China, mainly on account of an almost stagnant share of manufacturing and service sectors in the employment. Absorption of labour in the urban economy has been slow, and urban–rural migration has been far less than could have been expected in a rapidly growing economy (BinswangerMkhize, 2013).

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