

REVIEW OF LITERATURE ON SOCIO- ECONOMIC LIFE OF PEASANTS IN VILLAGES OF UTTAR PRADESH (INDIA)

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Abstract: India has a long record of village surveys and resurveys, since pre-independence period to the post-independence period, which witnessed a sharp increase in the interest among social scientists, economists and policy formulators in village surveys across India. During the span of 10 years, since independence the union government and other institutions have been sponsoring researches on the conditions and structure of rural India and on the management and economics of farming etc. wherein, these data appeared to be a useful source of informations. But the secondary data generated by the various government departments or the data generated through population censuses or through large scale nation-wide surveys done by the National Sample Surveys could not serve the essential purposes of understanding the broad general purpose of larger contexts. This realization led to a series of village survey by various Agro-Economic Research Centres (AERCs) established and funded by the Union Government as well as by various individual researchers in the universities and other institutions. Village Surveys are the usual and common method of collecting rural data in India.

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Introduction: Peasant society or peasantry is a contentious concept in social sciences particularly in the context of societies like India. Even the social anthropologists and sociologists in India for whom the study of peasant society is of major interest, are not in agreement about the meaning attached to the concept of peasant society. Although the Indian society traditionally was characterised as a peasant society, the concept of peasant society acquired scholarly attention only in the mid-twentieth century following the discovery of peasantry by the American and Western anthropologists in response to the rising anthropological interest in the comparative study of the human conditions. Robert Redfield's studies in Mexico and his conceptualisation of peasant society, in fact, provided a model to many of his western followers and Indian scholars to view the Indian situation in a new light. Understanding of the intellectual heritage behind Redfield's conceptualisation of peasant society, and the discourse that followed it, is essential to have better clarity over terms such as peasant, peasantry and peasant society.

History, does not normally repeat itself. This adage is emphatically proven with the story two of the

greatest dynasties of Indian history. The history and cultural heritage of each and every community of a place express the composite nature of that place and its greatness. The world is changing every moment, and is therefore unreal, it has no permanent existence. But though it is constantly changing, it has something about it which persists and it is therefore to that extent real. Joy or what men call happiness may be, as it really is, a dream in a fleeting and transitory world. A peasant is a pre-industrial agricultural laborer or a farmer with limited land-ownership, especially one living in the middle ages under feudalism. Historians of the early medieval peasantry have tended to downplay the notion that an acquisitive instinct underlay medium owners' transactions, preferring to emphasize that in the small worlds of the early Middle Ages, reciprocity, gift and counter-gift, customary practice, and the exogenous pressures of lordship best explain economic developments. In early medieval village communities, peasants faced a socio-economic status characterized by hardship, limited social mobility, and the extraction of surplus by elites. Their lives were defined by labor, a dependence on agriculture, and a system with multiple layers of intermediaries

between them and the state, which included landlords, jagirdars, and village headmen. While some peasants had social mobility and land ownership, many lived under a heavy tax burden and faced recurrent famines, diseases, and natural disasters.

Review of Related Literature:

Review of related studies of immense importance in research and assures the investigator that his problems do not exist in a vacuum and that considerable work has already been done on problems related directly or indirectly to the present one. A careful review of the research journals, books, dissertations and other sources of information on the problems to be investigated is one of the important steps in the planning of any research study. It is no use to replicate a study when the stability and validity of its results have been clearly established. Early Medieval Indian Society: A Study in Feudalisation by R.S. Sharma. This period saw the emergence of regional powers after the decline of the Gupta Empire, which was accompanied by an increase in regional languages and the composition of royal biographies by court poets. Society was generally characterized by the expansion of the state and caste society. However, in regions like Bengal and South India, there was more social polarization due to the absence of intermediary castes. The period also saw significant developments in religion, including the growth of the Bhakti movement in both South and North India, and the development of philosophical schools like Advaita and Vishishtadvaita. A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India by Upinder Singh: This widely used textbook has sections dedicated to the society of the early medieval period. Aspects of Rural Settlement and Rural Society in Early Medieval India by B.D. Chattopadhyaya: This book specifically addresses rural society and settlements. Politics and Society During the Early Medieval Period by Mohammad Habib (Edited by K.A. Nizami): This two-volume work also touches upon societal structures. Kadoya & Yin (2011) the purpose of this research is to address the lack of a region-wide view of widow discrimination in India.

In the past, various studies related to households of rural families and its various other aspects were conducted in India and many other countries. Numerous numbers of literatures are available which are discussed in the following paragraphs: Dev. S. Mahendra (2004b), says that the Socio – Occupational factors have been known to be important determinants of the consumer expenditure pattern. Coming to the discussion of individual items

the per capita consumer expenditure on food grains mostly. Dev, S Mahendra (2004a) says that in the post-economic reform period, there has been a debate about the impact of reform policies on important indicators such as economic growth and other macro variables poverty, inequality, human development and employment. There have been improvements in some indicators such as the balance of payments higher growth in service higher accumulation of foreign exchange reserves. Tilak G.B. Jandhyala (2002), says that using a recent household survey data on rural India, an attempt is made in this short article to estimate coefficient of elasticity of household expenditure one ducation to a) Government expenditure on education and to b) Household income. Increase in government expenditure would induce households to spend more about and more on education. Thus, leading to a significant rise in the total expenditure on education in India. It means that one- until increase in household incomes would result in a less than proportionate increase in household expenditure on education. This is indicative of the strong relationship between poverty and education.

Jain L.R (1983), says that the simplest hypothesis allowing for the effect of variation in household size is given by supposing that consumption per person depends only on the level of income per person. A better approach, however will be one which introduce explicitly the effect of household size in addition to that of household income in the estimation of Engel functions. Minhas B.S. (1988), found that many simplistic comparisons have recently been made between the NSS estimates of household expenditure and the independent data on private consumption form the national accounting system (NAS) Two supplementary notes, one dealing with standard eras of the NSS estimates of consumer expenditure and the other with the possibilities of nonsampling biases in the appendices. Behrman R. Jere and Knowles C. James (1990), say that the stronger are the association between household income and child schooling. The lower is intergenerational social mobility and the less equal is opportunity. The estimates indicate that this association is considerable- for example the income elasticity of completed grades is five times the median estimate of earlier studies. Thomas Duncan (1993), Most economic models treat the household as a black box this paper has attempted to poke into that box by examining household commodity demand patterns under a model of altruism (or common preferences of all household members) then the distribution of income within the household should

have no impact on expenditure patterns. The proportion of the budget spent on food (at home and away) declines more if the income is in the hands of women although food composition also changes with nutrient intakes rising faster as women's income increases. The results suggest that the key to understanding household resource allocation may lie in a better understanding of household composition pattern and labor supply decisions. Haque H. Mohammed (1995) says that an alternative method of estimating the increase in consumer demand for various consumption items is presented. The presented method of estimating the increase in consumer demand with respect to changes in total expenditure and total expenditure inequality makes an empirical contribution in the field.

In India, the average landholding of small farmers is declining, placing them at the brink of being classified as marginal farmers. There is an urgent and compelling requirement for sustainable agriculture and food security, underscoring the need for comprehensive rural development planning (Chandrakar et al., 2021). Marginal farmers rely on formal sources of information such as Kissan Sahayak, a government agricultural support program, and Gram Pradhans, who are village heads responsible for local governance. In addition to these formal channels, farmers gather information from informal sources including discussions with family members and television programs focused on agriculture and farming broadcasted through mass media (Singh et al., 2023). There is a worrying trend indicating a decrease in the interest of young individuals in pursuing careers in agriculture. This decline is largely attributed to the reduced financial viability of agricultural pursuits, prompting many to seek opportunities in the tourism and related service sectors instead. To address this trend, it is crucial to enhance the profitability of agriculture, thereby creating a compelling reason for individuals to remain engaged in farming. This can be achieved through improved access to credit, markets, and International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research and Development www.allsubjectjournal.com 3 extension services (Reddy et al., 2017). The farmers demonstrate moderate levels of economic motivation, indicating a balanced desire for financial advancement, and scientific orientation, suggesting a basic understanding and openness to adopting modern agricultural practices (Singh et al., 2023). Farmers' decision-making process in crop production scheduling is significantly influenced by a multitude of socio-economic factors. These factors encompass

aspects such as access to capital, market conditions, government policies, and technological advancements in agriculture. The adoption of agricultural technologies is also greatly impacted by factors such as education, age, awareness, financial limitations, land ownership, labour availability, and environmental considerations. Governmental policies and subsidies have the potential to enhance the well-being of farmers. Furthermore, clear communication from agricultural scientists can promote the uptake of cost-effective and environmentally sustainable production technologies (Mukherjee et al., 2023). Das et al. (2020) in their study pointed out that 62% of marginal households in India are directly involved in livestock activities, such as raising cattle, poultry, and other animals. This increasing trend in livestock adoption among farmers is influenced by a variety of factors, including the farmers' level of experience, their occupation, the amount of land and labour they have access to, and the overall socioeconomic environment. Livestock plays a significant role in not only providing a source of income for these farmers but also in improving their overall socioeconomic status and livelihoods. Singh (2012) in his study stated that to ensure the sustainable viability of marginal and small farmers in India, it is imperative to focus on providing job opportunities in rural areas. Additionally, suitable policy support for the development of the livestock sector and other allied activities is essential.

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