

GENDER INEQUALITY IN BIHTA BLOCK

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ABSTRACT :

Gender inequality refers to unequal treatment of perceptions of individuals wholly and partly due to their gender. Gender inequality refers to health, education, economic and political inequalities between men and woman.

Gender inequality is the idea that men and women are not equal and that gender affects an individual's living experience. These differences arise from distinctions in biology, psychology and cultural norms. Some of these types of distinctions are empirically grounded while others appear to be socially constructed.

KEY WORDS : Gender inequality, Marginal Activity, Farming Activity, General Crops, Eggplant, Cash Crop, Agrarian Society, Forms of production.

INTRODUCTION :

Bihta block is situated in Patna, Bihar, India. Its geographical co-ordinations are 25⁰33'0" North, 84⁰52'0" East. It is located 35 Km South-West of Patna. The block lies in the river plains of the basin of river Sone and Ganga. It is endowed with fertile alluvial soil with abundant water of Bihta block rich and diverse.



Bihta block of Patna district has total population of 261,427 as per the census 2011. Out of which 137,701 are males while 123,726 are females. In 2011 there were total 42,546 families residing in Bihta Block. The average sex ratio of Bihta block is 899.

Agriculture sector of Bihta is highly feminized. Women contribute 79.5% of the work force engaged in animal husbandry in Bihta Block. As against the contribution of agriculture to the GDP of 12% animal husbandry contributes 3.4%. When it comes to animal Husbandry, women all sorts of jobs right from cleaning and feeding the cattle to milking them and selling the milk in market.

The main objective of my research work is to study the gender inequality of Bihta block. Role of women in agriculture is also a sector of my study. Showing the real face of women as farmers is essential. Their social and economical conditions are not seen as Men farmers.

My aim of choose this topic is to draw attention to the role and position of women farmers and to highlight the gender inequality of Bihta Block.

Methodology :

Materials have been collected from the diverse sources, published and unpublished but a vast majority of the maps and the graph are based on field observation and intensive calculation of the available data. I did the field study work and also preserved.

Agriculture in Bihta Block :

Bihta is endowed with fertile alluvial soil with abundant water resources especially ground water resources. This makes agriculture of Bihta rich and diverse. Rice, Wheat and Maize are the major cereal crops. Arhar, Urad, Moong, Gram, Peanut and Khesari are some pulses cultivated in Bihta Block. Bihta Block is the largest producer of vegetables which is dominated by Potato, Onion, Eggplant and Cauliflower. In fruit cultivation, it is major producer of Mango, Banana and Guava. Sugarcane and Jute are two other major cash crops of Bihta.

Problems of Women Farmers in Bihta :

Women farmers contribute in big way to agriculture of Bihta but do not enjoy basic rights 50 % participation of women in agricultural activities in Bihta, Women are still not seen or recognized in a lead role. Education and awareness among them become crucial in order to give them their due in agriculture.

Gender Inequality :

Gender inequality refers to unequal treatment or perception of individuals wholly and partly due to their gender. Gender inequality refer to health, education, economic and political inequalities between men and women.

The population of children of age 0-6 years in Bihta Block is 44617 which are 17 % of the total population.

There are 23388 male children and 21229 female children between the ages of 0-6 years. Thus as per the census 2011 the child sex ratio of Bihta Block is 908 which is greater than Average Sex Ratio (899) of Bihta Block.

The total literacy rate of Bihta Block is 70.10%. The male literacy rate is 66.44% and the female literacy rate is 48.9% in Bihta Block.

	Total	Male	Female
Children (Age 0-6)	44617	23388	21229
Literacy	70.10%	66.44%	48.90%
Scheduled Cast	44435	23162	21273
Scheduled Tribe	219	124	95
Illiterates	109433	46212	63221

Gender in Agriculture :

Women in agriculture are a particular case of the block's patriarchy. Women share is the general density of women in their society but also face specific conditions. They are also vulnerable to change forces operating in the block.

Social control on women is in three areas- women's labor, Women's sexuality and women's reproduction.

Sexual division of labor is an inherent aspect of gender relation and an essential component of patriarchy. The basic division that we perceive today is that women do domestic labor while men do not do so or do little for it. If women do not earn, they are economically dependent on men for their sustenance.

Men consume the products of women's domestic labor. A man may enjoy the labor of his wife directly by commanding it or indirectly by disposing of the products she produces.

The issue here is the intensity of a women's work time spent and the reward she gets. But women don't do only house works, they also work outside. This was (and still is) very much a matter of class position.

In Agrarian societies and pleasant agriculture given the low level of technology, extended families are needed for women labor. Women even in landed families perform a great deal of productive activities within the household, managing various agro-processing tasks and supervising labor.

The division of labor primarily pertained to 'inside-outside' dichotomy and paid and unpaid labor. This confinement of women in the upper classes/caste to 'inside' be a way to control caste boundaries and class status was by segregation. Where it becomes necessary that women's labor is needed then segregation take the forms of women's jobs and men's jobs. With declining opportunities for whole to contribute to family income without resource to wage-labor, the strain between traditional form of social control and development of the economy has depended.

Forms of Production :

While social division of labor by class and caste exists between production units or kinds of good, sexual division of labor exist across technical, social and reproductive spheres. Social relation of production, determined by forms of ownership and control over maenads of production are class/caste relation but are overlaid with gender. In present context, rural producers in agriculture are heterogeneous in their access to means of production and forms of the use of surplus. Given the small size of majority of holding in India, output tends to be low, and arising out of low levels of technology. Women's farms labor in this context becomes critical. In extended production, there is partly commoditization (sale of produce) and we use of hired labor which implies some women are hired. Women continue to be heavily involved in non-market production which is non-contractual and hence their household based activities lose value. This is the reason for under valuation of women's work. Given women's inferior access to land, labor and other means of production, they have less potential for direct gains in market terms. This lays the ground for gender related poverty.

Thus women in agriculture are operating in transitional economy where pre-capitalistic and domestic modes persists along with an increasingly monetizing, commercial, market economy.

Block's Name	Panchayat Name	Total Geographical Area (In Hec.)	Reporting area for land utilization
Bihta	1. Purusotampur Painathi	745	685
	2. Daulatpur Drmti	400	395
	3. Musepur	709	709
	4. Anandpur	1448	1448
	5. Katesar	880	880
	6. Pareo	161	161
	7. Kauriya	1018	988
	8. Dayalpur Daulatpur	999	999
	9. Sikandarpur	942	942
	10. Sadisopur	405	405
	11. Bisunpura	469	469
	12. Painal	841	841
	13. Srichanpur	453	453
	14. Makhdumpur	881	831
	15. Newara	485	485
	16. Belala Chhmanpur	746	746
	17. Kunjawa	759	759
	18. Bindaul	1410	1390
	19. Machdalpurlai	607	607
	20. Tarangar	676	676
	21. Yamunpur	487	487
	22. Kanchanpur Kharagpur	588	588

Sl. No.	Land under misc tree crops and groves	Culturable wasteland	Follow lands other than current follows	Current follows
1.	01	60	0	49
2.	0	05	0	0
3.	0	0	0	0
4.	0	0	0	0
5.	0	0	0	0
6.	0	0	0	0
7.	0	30	0	0
8.	0	0	0	0
9.	0	0	0	0
10.	0	0	0	0
11.	0	0	0	0
12.	0	0	0	05
13.	0	0	0	0
14.	0	50	0	0
15.	0	0	0	10
16.	0	0	0	0
17.	0	0	0	0
18.	0	20	0	0
19.	0	0	0	0
20.	0	0	0	0
21.	0	0	0	0
22.	0	0	0	0

Observation, Conclusions and Suggestions :

There is incontrovertible evidence that Indian agriculture today rests on tender shoulders of women. Only fifty percent of male works are in agriculture 70 percent of female workers overall and 85 percent of females in rural areas continue to be in this sector. While men are holding on to it because they have now where else to go. It is a critical sector neglected in policy in the last few decades with diminished public investment with the result that the yields are low and the cost of cultivation of exceeds the returns.

"Thus, if essential measure will be taken by the government of upliftment of women in agriculture sector honestly, women farmers will serve as a boon to the Agricultural Development in India.

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