

The scenario of Employment in Araria District Bihar: A Village Level Study

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Abstract

Since independence, India's employment share in agriculture is declining but non-farm employment has not yet got much attention for the employment. In most developing countries like India, the employment sector has an important role in their development. Bihar's rural population is predominantly dependent on agriculture and allied sectors for their livelihoods. Rural areas have features such as a poor productive base, limited absorptive capacity, limited linkages to use indigenous products to reinforce the local economy in a value-added sequence and disparaging institutional and market mechanisms foremost accentuation of the phenomenon of unequal exchange with other areas are, more or less, common to most poor areas. The present paper was examined the scenario of rural employment in Araria district of Bihar. Seven villages were selected for the study based on their social and physical infrastructure facilities. The stratified random sampling method was utilized for the study and 12 households were selected from each and every village. The data is collected from an interview schedule.

Keywords: Employment, Development, Agriculture, Non-Farm Sector, Livelihood

INTRODUCTION:

In a developing economy of India, the farm sector does not have the capacity to absorb surplus labours for the employment; hence the non-farm sector has its own importance for the employment. The Government of India's poverty eradication reduction programme and employment policies are more focused on non-farm employment that has been emerged as a leading sector of employment. The diversification in employment decisions of households is dependent on various factors for their livelihood such as their access to public/private, physical, financial, human and social capitals/assets. However, the promotion of Non-farm Sector is not necessarily consistent with improvement in the income distribution.

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access to infrastructure, markets, technologies, and the information is not only a cause of their underdevelopment but is itself a facet of poverty in terms of inaccessibility and non-participation in wider social, political and communication processes. Livelihood resources in rural areas of Bihar are more at risk to income insecurity than in other parts of the country. Risk element is high in local land-based income generating activities owing to the larger frequency of floods, drought, backwardness and non-availability of protective measures. Maintenance costs of livelihood resources, particularly land is exceptionally high. Access to markets is again affected by the high incidence of risks. Also, the risk of cut back in remittances from out migrants can further add to the vulnerability of livelihoods of rural households in Bihar.

Review of literature:

A number of studies have been done on importance, growth, and determinants of the non-farm sector but non-farm sector did not get much attention due to its nature of unavailability of data. Most of the labourers are engaged in non-farm sector but in recent time they are not getting 'decent work' as coined by the International Labour Organisation.

- ❖ **Jemol Unni (1996)** "expressed that older men specialize in agricultural activities and better-educated men specialize in non-agricultural employment in the selected 30 villages of Gujarat. High population densities and proximity to rural towns (markets) also foster such specialization. Many more women engage in casual and part-time work, particularly concentrated in the agricultural labour sector. RNF sector may be particularly important for a woman by drawing them away from poorly remunerated agricultural work."
- ❖ **NCEUS Report (2007)**, "the unorganized workers consisting of about 92 per cent of the total workforce of about 457 million (as of 2004-05)."
- ❖ **Amrita Datta, Gerry Rodgers, Janine Rodgers & BKN Singh (2014)**, "found that Chandkura, 46 per cent of household heads and 50 per cent of all workers reported a non-agricultural main occupation. Much of this non-agricultural work is outside the village. Over 200 villagers, depending on the season, were commuting up to 30 km away on a daily basis, for casual wage work in construction, brick kilns, railway yard, or marketplaces, while others worked as drivers or masons."
- ❖ **Annesha Mech (2015)**, "inclusive and progressive growth of the rural economy emphasis needs to be laid in the non-farm sector which has turned to be an emerging sector in case of employment generation. However, a more disaggregated level analysis regarding nature of employment generated in the different sub-sectors of the non-farm sector would further enhance this study of the impact of reforms in rural employment leading to the growth of the non-farm sector."

- ❖ **Amrita Datta (2016)**, “over time, the agrarian economy has moved towards a market-based system; the semi-feudal labour market, with the interlocked land, labour and credit arrangements, and attached labour has become a thing of the past. Broad-based migration and the inflow of remittances that accompany this migration have contributed to a tightening of the labour market and rise in rural wages over time. They have led to increases in household income and reduction of absolute poverty.”
- ❖ **Amrita Datta (2016)** “based on the longitudinal study- agriculture accounts for little over a quarter of total income (26.1%). Surprisingly, agriculture is not the primary source of income for both migrant and non-migrant households, indicating that “rural” and agriculture are not synonymous with one another in Bihar.”

Study Area

According to census 2011, the Araria district has a population of 2811569 of which 2642792 persons are living in rural areas while only 168777(6%) belongs to urban areas of the district. This shows that the majority of the population of this district lives in rural areas. The population density of the district is 993 persons /Sq. Km. The total literacy rate of 53.53 per cent which consists of 62.30 % Male and 43.93 % Females are literate. Sex -ratio of the district 921. Total workers are 38.05% which consists of 24.77% of main workers and 13.28 % of marginal workers. Category of workers (Main and Marginal Workers) in Araria district are cultivators (20.84%), Agricultural labours (64.67%) other workers (14.49%).

Data Collection Technique

The Primary data **was** collected from seven villages (Lahtora, Sharmpur, Sonapur, Jamuwan, Rampur, Rampuradi, and Bistoria) of Araria district of Bihar. the method of sampling was Proportionate Stratified sampling method and Random Numbers will be utilized for selecting the sample from the population. I.e. Sampling Method used by Labour Bureau and data was collected through interview **schedule** from the above seven villages of the district.12 households from each village were selected for the study. Secondary data was collected through the census, various reports, magazines etc.

Data Analysis and Interpretation:

1. Employment Sector :

The type of employment plays a very crucial role in the deciding of the standard of living. the respondents of rural areas of Araria district have a very poor standard of living dye to highest involvement in farm employment.

Table No.1 Employment sector

| Employment sector | Percentage of Households |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Farm sector | 60 |
| Non-farm sector | 40 |
| Total | 100 |

Source: field survey

In table No.1 the data reveals that the highest percentage of respondents was involved in farm sector after non-farm sector. data also reveals that around 60.00 % of households are dependent on the agricultural and allied sector or farm sector and 40.00% of households are dependent on non-farm sector employment mainly they are small shopkeepers, street vegetable vendors and medicinal stores etc.

2. Educational Status:

Educational status of the rural population plays an important role in employment opportunities because those who are illiterate have less opportunity to get good jobs. Nowadays if we want good salary jobs at least graduation is required but in Araria district only 14.64 % of the household's members having graduation and above degree.

Table No.2 Educational status of respondents

| Educational status | Percentage of households members |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Illiterate | 24.35 |
| Literate | 18.39 |
| Primary and middle | 25.35 |
| Secondary and Senior secondary | 16.09 |
| Graduation and above | 14.64 |
| Total | 100 |

Source: field survey

Table 2 shows that a maximum number of household's members is literate and those who are graduates and above are self-employed.

3. Income Level:

Income plays a vital role in human being life. Person's standard of living depends on his income. Araria district of Bihar the wages are low in agricultural sector and absence of industries.

Table No.3 Income level of households

| Monthly Income Group | Percentage of households |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Up to 5000 | 24.00 |
| 5001-10000 | 20.00 |
| 10001-20000 | 41.00 |
| 20000 & above | 15.00 |
| Total | 100.00 |

Source: field survey

From the above table 3, it is clear that. most of the households having an income range between 10001-20000 and only 15 % of respondent have 20000 & above monthly income. Income groups between 10001-20000 and 20000 & above family household's members are mainly migrated to other states of India and abroad.

4. Migration factors:

Migration from one area to another area is a common phenomenon of a human being because all of us want a luxurious life. For that purpose, people move from one area to another area but factors of migration played an important role in people's migration. Pull factors are high wages, a better standard of livings, urban amenities etc. Push factors are lack of employment, high pressure on land, low wages, dependency ratio, natural calamities etc.

Table 4 Migration Factors

| Type of migration | Percentage of Respondents |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Pull factor | 40 |
| Push factor | 60 |
| Total | 100 |

Source: field survey

Data reveals that the main factor of migration is pushed factor because the district has witnessed frequently flooded situation almost every year and heavily dependent on agriculture and allied sector. The district does not have industrial units which can absorb labourers during seasonal unemployment.

Conclusion:

Migration of labour played a very crucial role in the economy of Araria district of Bihar. Most of the labours are migrated to another part of India as well as abroad. Livelihood sustainability is more vulnerable because of natural disasters. In fact, the frequency of flood is almost every year but still, employment is dependent

on agriculture. Labourers who are migrated are mostly got employment in non-farm sector. The district has a lack of physical and social infrastructure facilities.

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