

SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF SOCIAL & ECONOMICAL CONDITION OF RURAL WOMEN UNDER POVERTY LINE WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO : LATUR TALUKA

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There has been a rapid increase in the social problems in Indian society in the post independence period comparing to the pre-independence period. In this, poverty is one of the important social problem. To eradicate the problem of poverty, efforts were made out of 20 Points Programme, 'Remove Poverty' Programme. Due to these efforts only, the proportion of rural poverty in the year 1973-74 was 56.4 %. There has been an excellent reduction in it in the year 2007 and reduced to 21 %. In the recent times, although there is reduction in poverty in rural and urban areas, yet its speed is slow. To increase the momentum of Poverty Eradication programme, there is high need to make overall changes on governmental and adm

If the improvement in the social and economical condition of the women under rural poverty line is to be done, then it is necessary to give proper remuneration of the work done by her. The only way available with them is to do more labour for getting more income. And so for getting maximum income in the less efforts, so for this, it is necessary to give small and big machinery, implements, education, training, capital, grant. As a result, there is an increase in their income and their social and economical condition shall be improved.

***CONCEPT OF POVERTY**-The concept of poverty has been presented by various economists and sociologists in various ways. Poverty is not only an economical problem but it has also become a social problem. Because due to poverty, the families of the community face many problems for fulfilment of their basic needs. It is difficult to fix the line of poverty, scaling poverty and criteria, it is very difficult to make its exact definition. Because the theme - poverty can change the place, period and personality. While defining the poverty in sociological attitude, emphasis is given on three constituents, deprivation, inequality and comparability. Miller and Robi says "The definition of poverty from sociological attitude means inequality in clear terms."

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***STUDY AREA** - There are a total of 10 talukas in Latur District. In this District, there is some irrigated land and some hilly, waste lands. The weather here is hot, simple and dry one. In Latur, there are various small and big trades that make process on agricultural goods. As per census of 2001, the population of Latur taluka is 5,42,414. Out of this, rural population is 2,42,429 whereas civic population is 2,99,985. Accordingly the proportion of male literacy is 85.20% whereas the proportion of women literacy is 64.70%. Out of 10 talukas of the District, I have selected Latur Taluka for this study. In Latur Taluka, there are a total of 120 villages. In the present study, ten villages - Shivni, Tandulja, Bori, Harangul, Jawala, Bhuisamudraga, Ganjur, Tadaki, Khadgaon, Sarsa, Akarwai, these villages are selected.

***AIMS OF RESEARCH** -1) To undertake study of social condition of the women under Rural Poverty Line. 2) To undertake study of economical condition of the women under Rural Poverty Line. 3) To undertake study of the government schemes in the progress of women under Rural Poverty Line.

***HYPOTHESIS**-1) There has been a slow change in the social and economical condition of the women under Rural Poverty Line. 2) The needy women under poverty line are not aware of the government schemes.

***SCOPE AND LIMITATION OF RESEARCH**- By way of the present research subject, the study of social and economical condition of the women under Rural Poverty Line in Latur Taluka, changes in the status of women, government schemes and its benefits etc. aspects have been undertaken for this study. Accordingly the limitation of research i.e. the present research is limited to the women under Rural Poverty Line of Latur Taluka only. However the conclusion of the research shall be applicable at least to the rural women under poverty line in the Marathwada region.

***IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH SUBJECT**-So far upto the present time, the study of the poverty problem has been done in Sociology and Economics.

However, sufficient study of the social and economical condition of the rural women under poverty line has not been done so far. The problems of rural women under poverty line are different than other women. The women under poverty line are today also prominently exploited, unattended, neglected, uneducated, unorganised, under immense mental torture. The awareness of all these aspects is going to be done from this research. This research will be, beneficial to the rulers, planners, social welfare officers, voluntary organisations, local self institutions and the women under poverty line and their families. Accordingly, it is going to boost the progress and improvement of rural women. It shall help in removing the problems and solving the questions of these women.

***RESEARCH METHODOLOGY-**While undertaking research, has been taken in to consideration support of Descriptive and Diagnostic Research Design. Accordingly, the primary and secondary sources related with the research subject have been collected. By way of the selection of Purposive Sampling, 100 women from 10 villages of Latur taluka under poverty line are selected as "Sample". From these 100 women, primary data have been collected by way of technique of questionnaire from these women. Classification is done by taking special basis of the collected facts and then statistical analysis is done. Its use has been done for drawing the conclusion and presentation of recommendations.

***SOCIAL & ECONOMICAL CONDITION OF RURAL WOMEN UNDER POVERTY LINE** -In comparison with the medium, class educated women of the urban area, the social condition of the rural women under line of poverty is most critical and lower one. Basically, Indian tradition has counted women and shudra as equal one. The women are kept away from education and independant thoughts. Today also, the dominance is seen in the rural women about fatalism, rites and observances, dependence, following religion etc. Women do not have awareness of their capacity and so they falls victim to the evil traditions and conventions of the society. They are treated as permanent and secondary in the family as well as in the society. Women are introduced as daughter, daughter-in-law- wife, mother of some one. due to which, the feeling gets strengthened that her existence is due to some other person. In all, the social condition of the rural women under poverty line has not been improved much.

After independence, there have not been anticipated change in the economical condition of the rural women under poverty line. Rural women are engaged in house works, she works in farms, she helps husband, such works are not taken cognizance anywhere. At present in the agricultural occupation there are approximately 75% whereas in the non-agricultural occupation, there are 38% women, who are working as Helper labours on daily wages. That means, approximately, 75% women are working in unorganised sector. Due to this, in the labour oriented sector, they have to work for more time on meagre remuneration in the present time. The remuneration of the work done is given less than that of, men. Accordingly at the place of work, there is economical & sexual exploitation of women. There is no healthy atmosphere at the place of work. She has to face many tension and problems. Although she earns herself, she is not free to make saving as per her mind. She cannot undertake other occupations, business, industry. Women have to face many types of economical problems.

In all, the social & economical condition of the rural women under poverty line in Latur taluka, the government schemes that are for them, the information relating to these aspects are explained by way of following tables.

***CONCLUSION-** 1. There has been a slow trend of changes in the social status of the rural women under poverty line. 2. The view of looking at women in the rural community has not been changed due to which they are given treatment of secondary nature. 3. The 80% of beneficiary women have not received any kind of govt. help for the construction of house. 4. At present, majority of women under poverty line are engaged in agricultural labouring. They are unorganised and they are not given proper remuneration of their labour. 5. At present, 44% rural women under poverty line have not been able to avail any of the governmental schemes. 6. The benefits of various government schemes are not received by needy beneficiaries.

RECOMMENDATIONS- 1. It is necessary to create self, confidence, educational and vocational qualification in the rural women under the line of poverty. 2. It is necessary to make women aware of their inherent intellect, capacity and to give awareness to them. 3. The various schemes that the government is implementing for eradication of poverty, its information should be given at village level and the hurdles in the

implementation of these schemes should be removed. 4. Awareness propagation should be done for increasing the saving of families of women under povertyline, for their education, for the removal of addiction, for

taking vocational training etc. 5. For undertaking agriculture, occupation, industry, business, supply capital should be made by charging meagre rate of interest.

TABLE 1 - RURAL POVERTY IN INDIA

Year	Population (ten lacs)	Rural Poverty Proportion of poverty
1973-74	261.3	56.4
1977-78	264.3	53.1
1987-88	231.9	39.1
1993-94	244.0	37.3
1999-2000	193.2	27.1
2007	170.5	21.1

Source : Economic Survey - 2001-2002 (Planning Commission)

TABLE 1 - TYPE OF FAMILY OF REPLYING WOMEN

S.N.	Type of Family	Total Number	Percentage
1.	Joint Family	43	43
2.	Nuclear Family	57	57
	Total	100	100

TABLE - 2 - DETAILS OF HELP RECEIVED BY REPLYING WOMEN FOR CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSE

S.N.	Help for construction of house	Total Nos.	Percentage
1.	Received help for construction of house	20	20
2.	Not received help for construction of house	80	80
	Total	100	100

TABLE - 4 - PROFESSIONAL CONDITION OF WOMEN

S.N.	Profession	Total Nos.	Percentage
1.	Wages	80	80
2.	Agriculture	15	15
3.	Household	02	02
4.	Sewing work	01	01
5.	Business	01	01
6.	Conventional profession	01	01
	Total	100	100

TABLE - 5 - NATURE OF BENEFITS OF GOVT. SCHEMES

S.N.	Benefit of Scheme	Total No.	Percentage
1.	Benefit availed	56	56
2.	Benefit not availed	44	44
	Total	100	100

TABLE - 3 - INFORMATION OF FAMILY OF WOMEN ABOUT ADDICTION

S.N.	Addiction Families	Total Nos.	Percentage
1.	Addicted Families	61	61
2.	Non-addicted families	39	39
	Total	100	100

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