

SHIKSHA SAMVAD

International Open Access Peer-Reviewed & Refereed
Journal of Multidisciplinary Research

ISSN: 2584-0983 (Online)

Volume-02, Issue-02, December- 2024

www.shikshasamvad.com



“Nature of Changes in Agrarian Social Relations in a Village”

Mr. Pradeep Kumar

Research Scholar,
Department of Sociology, C.C.S.
University, Meerut

Dr. Arvind Sirohi

Assistant Professor,
Department of Sociology, C.C.S.
University, Meerut

Dr. Alok Kumar

Professor & Head,
Department of Sociology,
C.C.S. University, Meerut

Abstract:

Indian society is overwhelmingly rural. Indian rural life provides a spectacle of acute mystery, social disintegration, cultural backwardness and above all an all-enveloping crisis. The village is the unit of the rural society. It is the theatre where the quantum of rural life unfolds itself and functions. Like every social phenomenon, the village is a historical category. The emergence of the village at a certain stage in the evaluation of the life of a man (Sharma, 2014). Agrarian societies are those which combine horticulture and animal husbandry in system of farming. Agrarianism also refers to the romanization of the rural farm as the ideal place for family. In the 1970s, there was promising new work on the nature of capitalist agricultural production, and its social consequences for rural populations and the wider society. The emergence of a new sociology of agriculture occurred alongside a similar transformation of urban sociology. This paradigmatic shift opened up many new areas of research, for example regarding the peculiar nature of land as a factor of production, the role of differing patterns of land-ownership, and the study of rural power structures and social stratification (oxford dictionary: 574).

India means rural India. It was the census of 1901 that about 89.2 per cent of Indian live in villages. Historically we all know India as an agricultural country. However, the shift of rural population to urban areas was started since 1901. In the first census of 1951 the rural population sharp shifted towards urban life reducing with 82.7 per cent of the population. According to 1991 census the three-fourth of Indian population 74.3 per cent lives in villages (Doshi: 2014). Land is the hope and glory of village India. A villager is tied to land for his sustenance. He survives on land and, therefore, he is emotionally attached to it (Joshi, 2014:114). Agriculture was the corner-stone of ancient India's economy, and agriculture was all along the chief industry of the people (Samaddar: 87). In agrarian societies land is the pre-eminent form of wealth. Due to the enhanced agrarian character of Indian society in early medieval period, land became the principal form of wealth, the principal symbol of social status and the principal source of economic and political power (Kar, 1990:1). Agriculture continues to be the principal economic activity in India even though the country has experienced significant industrial and urban development in recent years. In India, agriculture is not merely an occupation or a business; it is a way of life for centuries which has shaped the thoughts and outlook of the rural people. All these facts more than justify the continued interest of social scientists on Indian rural life in general and agrarian social structure in particular (Bernstein, 2010). Agrarian structure means all mutual relations among the landlords, tenant and agricultural labourers (Joshi quotes in Caubey, 1988). The term agrarian structure denotes a framework of social relationships in which all agricultural activities such as production, marketing and consumption are carried out. The institution or the framework of social relationships determines how and by whom land is cultivated, what kind of crops can be produced and for what purpose, how food and agricultural incomes can be distributed, and in what way or in what terms the agrarian sector is linked to the rest of economy or society (Sahay, 2009).

Agriculture still plays a key role in the economy of India. Nearly one-third of the gross domestic product is accounted by agricultural sector. About two-third of the workforce is engaged in agriculture. Agricultural inputs account for an important part of the raw material base of Indian industries. Agricultural exports contribute significantly to the total exports of country (Vyas, 2003: 41). The nature of agrarian change in India has been a subject of much debate. In the 21st century agrarian change coupled with livelihood issues have stirred significant debates in India's rural

economy, while there has been a transformation in the agrarian economy of the country. There has not been much change in terms of the nature of its relationships (Das, 2017:219-232).

Thus, the present study focuses upon the following specific questions:

1. What is the nature of agrarian relations in a rural setting?
2. What are the changes occurring in the agrarian relations in social, economic and political spheres?

The first question elucidates of the nature of agrarian relations in a rural setting in terms of formal, informal and both.

The Second question examines into the changing patterns of agrarian relations in terms of social, economic and political spheres.

So, the present research is helpful to know the gaps of knowledge in changing patterns of agrarian society in the emerging scenario. It also helps to understand the changing patterns of agrarian social relations in the socio-economic and political spheres of rural society in a northern Indian village of Western Uttar Pradesh.

Area of Study

Geographical Area

The area of the study was conducted in Bulandshahr district of western Uttar Pradesh. Bulandshahr district lies in western part of Uttar Pradesh, which is located between the Yamuna and Ganga Doab. This district extends between 77°-78° longitudes and 28°-28.4° latitude, which is 237.44 meter above sea level. It is administratively divided into 7 tehsils; 16 blocks and 1244 villages. A village having various castes and sufficient number of farmers and labourers who made use of the agrarian relations has been purposively selected for study. The village Firozpur is situated in Khurja Block, which is situated at 15 kms from the Block and 35 kms from district headquarter in the Northeast. The main source of income of the villagers is depending on agriculture and related work.

Methodology

Respondents and Sample Design

The respondents were select by purposive sampling method, because agrarian society is stratified in various occupational groups of persons as farmer, peasant, tenants, sharecroppers and landless agricultural labourers etc. Number of respondents was depended on availability of sources, suggestion of supervisor and circumstances.

Technique of Data Collection

The study was based on primary and secondary data. Primary data was collected from the respondents with the help of structured interview schedule, observation, and group discussion through a field survey in the village. Secondary data was collected from Govt. census, statistical records, published and unpublished material etc. The observation technique was also used for collection of data.

Methods of Data Analysis

Data collected with the help of interview and schedule/interview guide technique for respondents was analyzed quantitatively by using simple statistical techniques and also associations and co-relations were also looked to indicate the degree of relationship between socio-economic profiles of the respondents. A qualitative analysis was also under taken of facts collected through observation and case studies.

Findings

Nature of Agrarian Relations in a Rural Setting

1. **Relations of Labourer with Their Owner:** Large number (55.44%) of the labourer have formal relations with their owner and the small number (5.43%) of the labourer has any other type of relations with their owner.
2. **Types of works engagement:** Large majority 81.53% of the respondents are engage in agricultural work as a labourer, while a very few 2.17% of the respondents are engage in any other type of agricultural work as a labourer.
3. **Types of wages:** Large majority 83.70% of the respondents are getting their wage in cash form, while a very small number 5.43% of the respondents are getting their wage in the form of goods.
4. **Participation in Ceremonial Functions:** Large majority 91.30% of the respondents are participating in ceremonial functions organized by their owner while small number 8.70% of the respondents are not participating in ceremonial functions organized by their owner.
5. **Pattern of Participation in Ceremonial Functions:** Large majority 79.76% of the respondents are participating without family in ceremonial functions

organized by their owner while small number 20.24% of the respondents are participating with family in ceremonial functions organized by their owner.

6. **Data Information About the Wages of Female Labourer in Comparison with Male Labourer:** All 100% of the respondents have responded that female labourer is not getting equal wage as male labourer.

7. **Reason Behind the Difference of Wages:** Majority of the respondents have responded that female labourer is not able to do heavy work as male labourer, female labourer is not able to take risk as male labourer at work place and female labourer works at work place for very specific and limited time. However, the small number of the respondents does not support the fact that female labourer is not able to do heavy work as male labourer, female labourer is not able to take risk as male labourer at work place and female labourer works at work place for very specific and limited time.

8. **Relations of Cultivator/Owner with Their Labourer:** Large majority (63.88%) of the respondents have formal relations with their labourer and the small number (04.62%) of the respondents have any other type of relations with their labourer.

9. **Types of Works Engagement:** Large number (67.59%) of the respondents are engage in agricultural work as a cultivator/owner, and the small number (12.04%) of the respondents are engage in any other type of work as a cultivator/owner.

10. **Types of wages:** Large majority 85.18% of the respondents are giving the wage to their labourers in cash form, while a very small number 6.48% of the respondents are giving the wage to their labourers in the form of goods.

11. **Participation in Ceremonial Functions:** Large majority 87.04% of the respondents are participating in ceremonial functions organized by their labourer, while small number 12.96% of the respondents are not participating in ceremonial functions organized by their labourer.

12. **Pattern of Participation in Ceremonial Functions:** Large majority 90.74% of the respondents are participating without family in ceremonial functions organized by their labourer, while small number 9.26% of the respondents are participating with family in ceremonial functions organized by their labourer.

13. **Place of Hired Labourers:** Majority 72.22% of the respondents hired labourers from own village, while small number 2.78% of the respondents hired labourers from the town/city.

14. **Types of Employment:** Majority 72.22% of the respondents hired the labourers as casual type employment, while small number very few 5.56% of the respondents hired the labourers as other type of employment.

Changes in the Agrarian Social Relations

1. **Change in the Relationship Between Different Castes:** Large majority (97.50%) of the respondents have agreed about change in the relationship between different castes, while 2.50% of the respondents do not agree about change in the relationship between different castes.

2. **Type of Changes About the Relations Between Different Castes:** Large majority of the respondents have responded that the relations are changing from informal to formal between different castes, the relations are changing from traditional to contractual between different castes and relations are changing from jajmani to occupational between different castes. However, the small number i.e. very few of the respondents does not support the fact that the relations are changing from informal to formal between different castes, the relations are changing from traditional to contractual between different castes and relations are changing from jajmani to occupational between different castes.

3. **Information About Caste Conflict:** Large majority (90.50%) of the respondents have responded that the caste conflict in rural society are decreasing and the small number (9.50%) of the respondents have responded that the caste conflict in rural society are increasing.

4. **Information About Caste Hierarchy:** Large majority (90.50%) of the respondents have responded that the caste hierarchy in rural society are decreasing and the small number (9.50%) of the respondents have responded that the caste hierarchy in rural society are increasing.

5. **Change in Family Status:** Large majority (73.50%) of the respondents have responded that the family status in rural society are increasing and the small number (26.50%) of the respondents have responded that the family status in rural society are decreasing.

6. **Change in Social Status:** Large majority (72.50%) of the respondents have responded that the social status in rural society is increasing and the small number (27.50%) of the respondents have responded that the social status in rural society is decreasing.

7. **Change in Economic Status:** Large majority (82%) of the respondents have responded that the economic status in rural society is increasing and the small number (18%) of the respondents have responded that the economic status in rural society is decreasing.
8. **Change in Political Participation:** Large majority (97.50%) of the respondents have responded that the political participation in rural society is increasing and the small number (2.50%) of the respondents have responded that the political participation in rural society is decreasing.
9. **Emergence of New Pressure Groups:** Large majority (87%) of the respondents have responded that the new pressure groups are emerging in the village on the basis of caste, occupation and political power and the small number (13%) of the respondents have responded that there no groups are emerging on the basis of caste, occupation and political power in the village.
10. **Emergence of New Leadership:** Large majority (70%) of the respondents have responded that the new leadership is emerging in different castes on the basis of political participation, ideology and desire of representation and the small number (30%) of the respondents have responded that there is no new leadership is emerging in different castes on the basis of political participation, ideology and desire of representation in the village.

References:

- Bailey, F.G. 1958: **“Caste and the Economic Frontier: A Village in Highland Orrisa”**, Bombay: Oxford University Press.
- Bernstein, H. 2010: **“Class Dynamics of Agrarian Change”**. Black point, Nova Scotia: Fernwood Publishing.
- Beteille, Andre 1969: **“Caste, Class and Power: Changing Patterns of Stratification in a Tanjore Village”**, Bombay, Oxford University Press
- Beteille, Andre 1974: **“Studies in Agrarian Social Structure”**, Delhi, Oxford University Press
- Das, Sarmistha 2017: “Agrarian Change and Women: Explorations from the Field”, **The Eastern Anthropologist**, Vol.-70, No.-3-4, pp: 219-232

- Doshi, S.L. and P.C. Jain, 2014: **“Rural Sociology”**, New Delhi, Rawat Publications, pp:225
- Dube, S.C. 1955: **“Indian Villages”**, London, Routledge and Regan Paul.
- Dube, S.C. 1960: “Ranking of Caste in Telangana Village”, in D.N. Majumdar (ed.). **Rural Profiles**, Lucknow, Ethnographic and Folk Culture Society
- Joshi, V. H.1974: **“Some Observations on Changing Agrarian Relation in Two Villages of Gujarat”**. Paper presented in Seminar on Changing Agrarian Relations in India, held at National Institute Community Development, Hyderabad.
- Mishra, G.P. 1977: **“Some Aspect of Change in Agrarian Structure”**. New Delhi: Sterling Publishers.
- Patel, Ramya Ranjan 2018: **“Political Economy of Agrarian Distress in India”**, Social Action Vol.-68, No. 3, pp: 250-264
- Patnaik, Utsa 1971: “Development of Capitalism in Agriculture”, **Social Scientist**, 1 (2-3):15-31
- Patnaik, Utsa. 1986: **“The Agrarian Question and the Development of Capitalism in India: First Daniel Thorner Memorial Lecture”**. Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- Redfield, Robert 1956: **“The Little Community and Peasant Society and Culture”**, Chicago, University of Chicago Press
- Sharma, K.L. 1986: **“Caste, Class and Social Movements”**, Jaipur, Rawat Publication.
- Sharma, K.L. 2010: **“Perspectives on Social Stratification”**, New Delhi, Rawat Publication
- Singh, J.P. 2006: “Changing Agrarian Relationship in Rural India”, **Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics**, Vol.-61, No. -1, pp: 36-64
- Singh, J.P. 2006: “Changing Agrarian Relationship in Rural India”, **Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics**, Vol.-61, No. -1, pp: 36-64

- Singh, Yogendra 1974: “Concepts and Theories of Social Change: A Trend Report”, **A Survey of Sociology and Social Anthropology**, Vol.-I, Bombay, Popular Prakashan



SHIKSHA SAMVAD



An Online Quarterly Multi-Disciplinary
Peer-Reviewed or Refereed Research Journal
ISSN: 2584-0983 (Online) Impact-Factor, RPRI-3.87

Volume-02, Issue-02, Dec.- 2024

www.shikshasamvad.com

Certificate Number-Dec-2024/15

Certificate Of Publication

This Certificate is proudly presented to

Mr. Pradeep Kumar, Dr. Arvind Sirohi & Dr. Alok Kumar

For publication of research paper title

**“Nature of Changes in Agrarian Social Relations in
a Village”**

Published in ‘Shiksha Samvad’ Peer-Reviewed and Refereed Research
Journal and E-ISSN: 2584-0983(Online), Volume-02, Issue-02, Month
December, Year- 2024, Impact-Factor, RPRI-3.87.

Dr. Neeraj Yadav
Editor-In-Chief

Dr. Lohans Kumar Kalyani
Executive-chief- Editor

Note: This E-Certificate is valid with published paper and the paper must be
available online at www.shikshasamvad.com