

Journal of Social and Economic Studies

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ANSISS Section

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Habibullah Ansari



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Formation, Indicators and Feelings Associated with Collective Identity: A Case of Bihari Migrants in Mumbai

Jyoti Verma¹

Abstract

This paper is part of a major Indian Council of Social Sciences Research project on 'Bihari migrants in Mumbai.' At this instance, the objectives included (a) Studying the 'connecting factors' that facilitated the formation of a collective to identify with, (b) getting an idea of the manifest indicators of collective identity and (c) understanding the feelings associated with the migrants newly founded collective identity. The observations are based on descriptive data collected from 152 adult male migrants belonging to several districts of Bihar. Though, the project used both the qualitative and quantitative methods in a big way for collecting data, the collective identity part of the study used only quantitative data gathered with the help of 'forced choice' answers against separate lists of questions developed to address to the three respective objectives of the study. The descriptive data confirmed the propositions regarding the 'formation,' 'indicators,' and 'feelings,' associated with collective identity. The findings showed that doing day to day activities together and sharing similar fear, pain, and pleasure, with the fellow Biharis, promoted bonding and helped forming a collective. As regards to the manifest features (i.e., indicators) of collective identity, it appeared that collective identity made the migrants like being addressed as 'Biharis,' feel affinity with each other, and strongly attached to their identity as 'Biharis.' Additionally, the migrants could also meet their social support needs by identifying with their regional group. However, the migrants' feelings of happiness and courage to face tormentors remained unaffected by identifying with their regional collective.

Keywords: Bihari migrants, collective identity, migration, Connecting Factors, Indicators, ICSSR

Background

This paper is part of the Indian Council of Social Sciences Research, (ICSSR) New Delhi's, Grant in Aid (2008-2010) supported major project on 'Bihari migrants in Mumbai'. The project was an exploratory study with three major research objectives, one of which was to investigate the migrants' 'collective identity,' a term inspired by the notion of 'social identity' (Tajfel, 1982, 1986). Coming from the Indian state of Bihar, known for being low on the indicators of socio-economic development and strong migration history and present, the researcher was curious to know how the uprooted Biharis, often forced to choose a migrant's hard life away from their homes were able to subsist, emotionally, and psychologically, in their new circumstance by formulating a group identity with people with whom they

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Kinship Systems and Son Preference in India: Divergent Trajectories among Hindu and Muslim Communities

Rosina Nasir¹

Abstract

This paper examines the role of kinship systems in shaping regional disparities in son preference and fertility behaviours across Hindu and Muslim communities in India. It highlights how the patrilineal kinship structures of northern India and the matrilineal traditions of the south engender distinct sex preferences among Hindu populations, with northern regions exhibiting pronounced son preference due to patrilocal exogamy, dowry systems, and male-centric inheritance. In contrast, southern Hindu communities, influenced by Dravidian bilateralism, demonstrate comparatively moderated gender biases. Muslim kinship systems, however, present a unique hybridity: while sharing marriage patterns (e.g., consanguineous alliances) and inheritance norms with Dravidian traditions, they retain Indo-Aryan kinship terminology, resulting in a lack of regional divergence in son preference.

The review underscores that while Hindu son preference is perpetuated through sex-selective abortions and dowry practices—despite legal reforms like the Hindu Succession Act (1956)—Muslim communities, bound by religious prohibitions on abortion, rely on elevated fertility to achieve desired family compositions. Socio-economic marginalization, patriarchal norms, and limited female agency among Muslims foster son preference as a form of "socio-economic insurance," despite the absence of systemic daughter aversion. Empirical evidence reveals that Muslim women's higher fertility rates reflect structural constraints rather than doctrinal mandates, contrasting with global examples where Muslim-majority nations have achieved fertility decline through education and policy interventions. By synthesizing demographic, anthropological, and socio-economic studies, this analysis argues that kinship systems intersect with religious norms and economic realities to produce divergent gender outcomes. It calls for policies addressing structural inequities—education, economic empowerment, and healthcare access—to mitigate son preference, transcending simplistic religious or cultural determinism.

Keywords: Kinship system, Fertility, Son preference, Sex Ratio, Muslim and Hindu

Introduction

India's demographic gender imbalance, characterized by a significant deficit of females, remains a pressing socio-demographic crisis. While Hindus, constituting approximately 80 percent of the population, exhibit pronounced disparities, the issue persists across communities, rooted in entrenched cultural, economic, and institutional practices. Although historical factors like female infanticide laid the

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National Education Policy (NEP) 2020: Rhetoric and Reality

Vidyarthi Vikas¹

Abstract

Since its inception, education policy has not been structured in favour of society's marginalized sections, nor has it been compatible with its needs or fulfilled its objectives. Education policies have been defined without incorporating the aspects of Nicomachean ethics, which offer timeless insights for our society. Influx of time, the situation of education among marginalized sections has worsened, necessitating introspection and drawing the attention of society's intellectuals while introducing the National Education Policy (NEP). The long-awaited NEP 2020 was introduced in India with many well-intentioned goals, including an emphasis on the Indian ethos. It resonated across the country as it aims to transform the fate, thought, and direction of the nation, as outlined in the policy. The NEP, a condensed version of the draft National Education Policy (2019) submitted by the K. Kasturirangan Committee, offers a plethora of promises for improving the quality of education through a "philanthropic" approach reliant on public resources. However, there is apprehension that this policy may ultimately promote traditional ideas, centralization, privatization, commercialisation, Sanskritization, isomorphism, and marginalization in the country, resulting in unequal access to education, systematic exclusion of the poor, an unscientific temper, anti-constitutional thought, and the revival of Manusmriti's ideas. The NEP may be remembered as "of the people, by the government, and for the philanthropist-capitalist," requiring scrutiny. This paper also illustrates the findings of a selected case study, observations, and select practices in the state of Bihar under the NEP and examines the expected consequences along with the impact of the NEP on marginalized sections of society.

Keywords: NEP, School Education, Higher Education, Philanthropic, Commercialisation, Unequal access

*We are like prisoners in a cave
... Plato*

Introduction

A question arises - why is education not given the weight it deserves? What is education? Kant states that education encompasses nurture, discipline, and instruction, with humans progressing through stages as infants (requiring nurture), children (requiring discipline), and scholars (requiring teaching) (Heath Pedagogical Library, 1906). Over time, education policies have been defined but often fail to incorporate the timeless insights of Nicomachean ethics, which offer valuable guidance for our society. Education is difficult to define, but it carries the idea of a deliberately planned or structured curriculum, at least partially formalized

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Gram Panchayat's Response to the Demands of Poor SHG Women: Study of PRI-CBO Convergence Project in Jharkhand

Rajesh Kumar Sinha¹

Abstract

Panchayats are mandated to plan and implement schemes for social justice and economic development, including poverty alleviation. Poor women, organised into SHGs and led by village organisations and their federations, need to make demands to these Panchayats and engage with them to ensure that their needs are addressed and local area development occurs. The PRI-CBO project of DAY-NRLM aims to facilitate the registration of such demands through Gram Sabha and address poor SHG women by integration of GP Poverty Reduction Plans into the GP Development Plan. This paper has attempted to understand the efficacy of this project in enhancing the participation of poor SHG women in Gram Sabha, in the registration of their demands and the response of GPs to those demands. The paper argues that there has been an increase in participation of poor SHG women in Gram Sabha as well as in accessing individual rights and entitlements in GPs where the project activities have been carried out. However, the project has a very limited positive influence on the response to community demands.

Keywords: DAY-NRLM, SHG, PRI, CBO, Gram Sabha, GPDP

Introduction

Panchayats are local self-governments in rural India. Gram Panchayats (GPs) are the lowest tier of the three-tier Panchayati Raj System in India. GPs, as local governments, have a critical role in ensuring the participation and inclusion of the poor, the marginalized and vulnerable groups in decision-making. The GP consists of elected members – GP President (Sarpanch/Mukhia/Pradhan), Ward Members (Panch) and GP officials such as Secretary, Accountant, etc. Article 243G of the Constitution of India has mandated State legislatures to empower Panchayats, including GPs, enabling them to prepare plans for economic development and social justice and to implement schemes for economic development and social justice for about 29 matters listed under the Eleventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution. These matters also include poverty alleviation and many other subjects directly and indirectly related to poverty alleviation in rural areas.

SHG is a small autonomous, non-political group of people living in the vicinity/ neighbourhood and sharing common concerns, who come voluntarily to work jointly for their personal, social and economic development. SHG consists of 8 to

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Marriage or Job? A Case of Girls in Rural Bihar

Sangita Kumari¹

Abstract

Educational levels of women have historically been very low in rural Bihar. During the 2023-24 Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), the Worker Population Ratio (WPR) of females aged 15-29 years was 14.9 percent (lowest among the States) in rural Bihar. The enrollment of girls in schools has only started increasing after the year 2005. The present paper enquires to find out the trend of enrolment of girls of the 15-19 age group in secondary and senior secondary schools and how it is affecting their lives (by making a preference for marriage or job) in rural Bihar. The study is based on quantitative data from secondary sources and qualitative data from the interview method. Convenience and simple random sampling methods have been used to select 90 girls (60 girls from secondary and 30 from senior secondary, respectively). General levels of education in rural Bihar against the backdrop of government schemes have remarkably improved because of the rising enrolment of girls in secondary schools. The trend of attending schools by young girls validates that the spread of education is rising smoothly in rural areas of Bihar. On the contrary, girls' attendance in senior secondary has come down considerably. Their preference for work is in rural non-farm employment, particularly in the health and education sectors and not on the farm after attaining education. Marriage is a better return to education in the absence of the will to do work and quality jobs.

Keywords: Education; Labour Force; Worker Population Ratio; Gross Enrolment Ratio.

Introduction

In rural Bihar, amongst all states, the Worker Population Ratio of women of the age group 15-29 years is the lowest (14.9 percent), whereas it is 28.3 percent for all India based on the usual principal and subsidiary status (ps+ss) as per PLFS (Periodic Labour Force), 2023-24. The abysmally low rate of WPR is a cause of concern, particularly in a situation where a girl's enrolment in school and further pursuit has increased remarkably. The trend of the female Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) has been falling in a steep manner since 2005 till 2017 as per the PLFS Report. The probable elucidations for the downfall in countryside female LFPR may underlie that females in the countryside are continuing higher education and hence not present to participate in the labour force (Chowdhury 2011; Rangarajan et al. 2011; Mehrotra and Parida, 2017). The Mukhyamantri Balika Cycle Yojana (providing cycles to every girl studying in standards 9 and 10) was taken up by the Government of Bihar in 2006 to make secondary education more accessible for rural girls. The increasing Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in

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The Role of Anxiety and Achievement Motivation in Career Decisions among Adolescents

Anjali Kumari¹ Kirti Chaurasia²

Abstract

The objective of the current research is to better understand how anxiety and achievement motivation affect adolescents' career decisions. The sample consisted of 100 male/female students in the 11th and 12th grades enrolled in the school and college of CBSE and the State Boards in Darbhanga city. The results revealed that students of the CBSE Board scored higher than those in the Bihar Board did in terms of anxiety and achievement motivation when making career decisions. The results of the ANOVA demonstrate that the main effects of different Boards, anxiety and achievement motivation are significant at the $P < 0.01$ level, whereas the interactive effect between various boards and anxiety is also significant at the $P < 0.01$ level, but not significant between different Boards and achievement motivation.

Keywords: Achievement Motivation, Anxiety, Career Decision, Education, Gender

Introduction

Education is the basic means of development and reorganisation for the students. It is a dynamic field that is essential to the advancement of both individuals and society. A person's entire personality can be developed, and all of his innate talents can be realised with the aid of education. Education is the means by which we advance in our careers. According to Joslin (1984), a career is a continuous sequence of tasks comprising employment, education, and knowledge. Parsons (1909) asserts that selecting a career is the most important decision. Making the wrong career choice has a negative effect on one's educational objectives, future employment prospects, and physical and mental well-being.

Career decision-making is a complex process that involves several stages and factors influencing an individual's choices about their future professional paths. Self-assessment, exploration, decision-making, implementation, reflection, and adjustment are some stages of career decision-making.

Influencing Factors of Career Decision-Making

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Continuities in Identity: Sociological Reflections on the Bhojpuri Diaspora's Connection with India

Shweta Sagar¹

Abstract

The Bhojpuri diaspora in Mauritius represents a unique example of cultural preservation and transformation within a multicultural context. Originating from indentured labour migration in the 19th century, the community has maintained its Indian heritage through language, religious practices, festivals, and social customs. However, globalisation, modernisation, and generational shifts have reshaped the nature of the community's connection to India. While earlier generations retained an experiential bond rooted in lived memories, younger generations increasingly experience a symbolic connection mediated through Bollywood, Indian festivals, and social media. This shift marks a transition from direct cultural practices to hybrid identities that are influenced by both Indian and Mauritian elements. The study also explores the impact of global media, which has reinvigorated cultural connections while introducing competing influences that challenge traditional affiliations. The resilience of cultural identity is evident in the diaspora's ability to adapt and maintain Indian traditions while integrating into Mauritian society. Additionally, the community's role as cultural ambassadors has enhanced India's soft-power influence globally. This paper highlights the dynamic nature of diasporic identity, underscoring the interplay between cultural retention, adaptation, and global influences.

Keywords: Bhojpuri diaspora, Mauritius, cultural identity, globalisation, generational shifts

Introduction

Diaspora studies, particularly those examining Indo-Mauritian communities, have highlighted the intricate processes of cultural retention, adaptation, and re-invention that occur when a migrant population settles in a new environment (Cohen, 1997; Vertovec, 1999). The Bhojpuri diaspora in Mauritius stands out as a compelling example of how a community transplanted through 19th-century indentured labour migration not only preserves its linguistic, religious, and social traditions but also adapts to a multicultural society (Eisenlohr, 2006; Eriksen, 1998). This process has spanned multiple generations, each shaped by shifting socio-political landscapes, global media influences, and transnational networks.

Indo-Mauritian identity, in general, and the Bhojpuri community, in particular, have been significantly influenced by historical patterns of migration and settlement. Scholars such as Carter (1995) and Allen (1999) have documented how

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The Role of Micro Enterprises in Employment Generation in Bihar

Ranjeet Kumar¹ and Vidyarthi Vikas²

Abstract

Bihar has long struggled to provide employment opportunities for its millions of people, primarily due to the underdevelopment of its industrial base. However, in recent decades, the state has made significant strides in developing this base through strategic changes to promote industrial growth, particularly within the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector. These efforts have contributed to notable economic growth. Yet, a critical question remains: Has this economic growth translated into increased employment opportunities for the population? This paper examines micro enterprises' role in generating employment in Bihar. Using descriptive statistical tools to analyze secondary data, the study finds that the MSME sector, particularly micro-enterprises, plays a crucial role in creating employment opportunities within the state. The analysis also reveals that Bihar's employment generation potential per micro-enterprise is nearly on par with the national average.

Keywords: Micro Enterprises, MSMEs, Employment Generation, Bihar, NSSO

Introduction

Despite Bihar's status as one of the backward states in India, the state has been able to leap forward in economic development by strategic changes in recent decades. From 2017-18 to 2021-22, the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of this state has remained 10 percent and excluding the year 2020-21, which witnessed 7.2 percent GSDP growth. The main reason for this slowdown is the COVID-19 pandemic. The secondary and tertiary sectors have contributed significantly to economic growth with a percentage share of about 20 percent and 60 percent in GSDP respectively; while such share of primary sector has squished to about 20 percent (Economic Survey, Bihar, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23). This correlation between economic growth and the growth of the secondary sector implies that the secondary sector is the main driver of economic growth in Bihar. The major contributors of the secondary sectors are manufacturing and construction (Economic Survey of Bihar, 2022-23, 2023).

Bihar has had a comparative advantage in agro-based industries for a long time due to the obvious favourable agro-climate conditions and other related features. The

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A Study on Emotional Maturity of Substance users and Substance non-users among adults

Kamini Kumari¹ and Meenakshi²

Abstract

In this study, young individuals from India's rural and urban populations participated. In all, 170 male respondents between the ages of 20 and 45 who abuse substances were chosen from both rural and urban de-addiction centres, in addition to male respondents who do not abuse substances and fall within the same age range. The study's correlational design sought to determine whether there were any notable differences in emotional maturity between substance users and non-users in rural and urban areas. The findings showed that substance-using adults in urban areas had higher emotional maturity than those in rural areas. The study also sought to determine whether there were any notable differences in emotional maturity between substance users and non-users who were employed and those who were not. Compared to working people, substance-using adults without jobs had higher results. Lastly, the findings suggest that greater emotional maturity is associated with greater resilience, enabling people to cope with stress and adversity without turning to substance abuse. As a result, psychologists and other mental health professionals must address the persistent concern for addressing substance-related disorders to ensure that adults have high levels of emotional balance and positive, healthy well-being.

Keywords: Emotional Maturity; Substance Users; Substance non-users, Rural, Urban.

Introduction

Millions of people worldwide are impacted by substance misuse, which is a growing problem for people of all ages, socioeconomic backgrounds, and cultures. Although a lot of work has been done to better understand and treat substance use disorders, little is known about a holistic strategy that considers the psychological and emotional aspects of addiction. Emotional maturity, or the ability to successfully control emotions, uphold positive interpersonal connections, and exhibit resilience in the face of hardship, is one such emotional component. Self-awareness, emotional control, empathy, and the capacity for adaptive stress management are all components of emotional maturity (Chrétien, Giroux and Smith 2025).

Global substance use has been on the rise since 2022, impacting millions of people globally. In 2022, 292 million individuals took drugs, a 20 percent increase over the

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ANSISS Section

Women's Mental Health in India: Issues, Challenges and Way Forward (Conference Report)

Habibullah Ansari¹

The mental health of women in India is a pressing concern due to the unique social, cultural, and economic challenges they face. In the present-day society, women's mental health is particularly affected by fast social change, including the dual role of women - one at the workplace and another in the family. Even non-working women face various types of burdens as the traditional support system is diminishing and urban life is becoming more self-dependent. Thus, women's mental health is multifactorial in nature, which is determined by both biological and social factors. The greater vulnerability of women can be owing to physiological changes as well as social factors such as poverty, sexual abuse, stress, intimate partner violence, and so on. Mental health during pregnancy and postpartum deserves special attention as untreated maternal depression results in serious ill effects in both the mother and the child.

Gender seems to be a critical determinant of mental health and mental illness. The morbidity associated with mental illness has received substantially more attention than the gender specific determinants and mechanisms that promote and protect mental health and foster resilience to stress and adversity. Analysis of mental health indices and data reveals that the patterns of psychiatric disorder and psychological distress among women are different from those seen among the men. It is important to view mental health programmes in a gender-based approach to circumvent the unique challenges posed by women's mental health today. It is not only a psychological issue but also a public health issue. In addition to feeling too ashamed to seek help for a mental disorder, many women simply aren't aware that their symptoms constitute an illness that can be treated. So, awareness and interventions are needed to improve the mental health of women.

Additionally, women may be less likely than men to seek treatment after experiencing symptoms of mental illness. This is due to "internalized or self-stigma" that results from their self-image being formed by how others perceive them. Women are more prone than men to feel stigmatized for seeking assistance with a mental health issue. Women tend to rely on the opinions of the outside world

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A.N. Sinha Institute of Social Studies, Patna was founded by the Government of Bihar in the memory of Dr. Anugrah Narayan Sinha, one of the key architects of modern Bihar. It was inaugurated on 31st January, 1958 by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the then President of India. It was, however, made a statutory autonomous body on 8th October, 1964 under the A.N. Sinha Institute of Social Studies Act, 1964. The institute is governed by the Board of Control and funded by the Department of Education, Govt. of Bihar and Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) through Ministry of Education, Govt. of India. Presently, it is one of the most prestigious Social Science research institutes in India. It has been recognised by the ICSSR, as the Centre of Excellence in the field of Social Science research.

Since its inception, the institute has been working with a broad theme of development and change through multi-disciplinary approach. The institute runs a full-fledged doctoral programme affiliated with Aryabhata Knowledge University and supported by the ICSSR. It has produced more than 160 Ph.Ds. in social science and has also completed more than 300 research projects and published more than 160 books. The institute is actively involved in research, teaching as well as training and dissemination.

The institute has been expanding its academic networks through collaborative research and entering into Memorandum of Understanding with Stanford University, U.S.A.; University of Nottingham, U.K.; Institute of Poverty Alleviation and International Development, Yonsei University of South Korea; and International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, Kathmandu, Nepal. The institute has acquired high status in the scholastic world by virtue of the quality of its academic activities. Efforts have usually been to produce knowledge base, within appropriate theoretical and conceptual framework of social science research.