

Journal of Social and Economic Studies

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An Evaluation**
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**Remembering Professor Anup Kumar Kapoor: Anthropology,
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Economics and Politics of Planning in India, 1951-2014: An Evaluation

Bhaskar Majumder¹

Abstract

We have now a long history of twelve five-year plans in India completed till 2017 along with pledges and visions as understood by declared aims and objectives of each plan. The period since the beginning in 1951 till 2014 taken as the canvas of this paper is long enough to do justice to critically analyze each plan. Hence, we clubbed the plans to examine in sub-parts by time-span and tried to unearth the essence of the political economy of planning in India. The paper opens up eco-cultural angle in addition to conventional eco-statistical pedestal of planning and argues that unless the people at the bottom are made the willing participants in the processes, economic growth may be ensured by exclusion of this section but development will remain distanced.

Keywords: Economics, Politics, Planning, Planning Commission, Five-Year Plan

Background

Each of the two Prime Ministers as the Head of the Government of India and as ex-officio Chairman of Planning Commission of India and, in parallel, two sets of figures as the architects of planning in post-independence India need special mention to understand political economy of planning in India – first, Nehru and Indira Gandhi on the one hand, and second, P.C. Mahalanobis and Sukhamoy Chakraborty on the other. While Mahalanobis provided the intellectual-statistical basis of India's economy, particularly, chalking out the trajectory for rapid economic growth, that is, setting in motion the Second Five-Year Plan (1956-1961), Chakraborty provided the strategy of eradication of poverty of the people through economic mapping of the Fifth Five-Year Plan (1974-1979). While Nehru-Mahalanobis had a time advantage as well as unquestioned leadership environment, Indira-Chakraborty did not have that advantage for reasons to be examined later. What we do here is to review the thematic chronology in India's plans to understand what went right or wrong in the processes.

We take the time-span as 1951-2014 because after 2014 we are in a dilemma if the pre-2014 time-span of more than six decades can be juxtaposed with the one decade post-2014. The Planning Commission was dissolved on August 17, 2014 that was set up in March 1950. One of the reasons of this dilemma is changed leadership in

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Workplace Belongingness and Its Impact on Workers in Selected Ministries, Departments, and Agencies in Gombe State, Nigeria

Mubarak Saidu¹ and Saroj Kumar Dhal²

Abstract

Workplace belongingness is increasingly recognized as a critical psychosocial factor influencing workers well-being, motivation, and performance. However, empirical evidence from public sector organizations in developing-country contexts remains limited. This study examines workplace belongingness and its impact on workers in selected Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) in Gombe State, Nigeria. Anchored on Maslow's "Hierarchy of Needs" (Maslow, 1958) and "Social Identity Theory" (Tajfel and Turner, 1979), the study adopts a cross-sectional survey design complemented by in-depth interviews. A sample of 400 workers was selected using simple random sampling, with 393 valid questionnaires analyzed. Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and chi-square tests to examine associations between workplace belongingness and worker outcomes, while qualitative data were thematically analyzed to enrich the interpretation. Findings reveal that inadequate managerial support, limited recognition, and restricted career development opportunities significantly undermine workers' sense of belonging, resulting in reduced motivation, lower productivity and increased stress. The study concludes that fostering inclusive organizational practices, supportive leadership, and recognition systems is essential for enhancing workplace belongingness and improving worker's performance in public sector institutions. The findings offer policy-relevant insights for strengthening worker engagement and institutional effectiveness in Nigeria's public service..

Keywords: Workplace, Belongingness, Workers, Ministry, Department, Agencies

Introduction

One of the central tenets of industrial sociology is the scientific study of workers' behaviour in the workplace and the application of research findings to practice with the aim of overcoming organisational problems, enhancing worker wellbeing, and improving organisational productivity and performance. Thus, workplace belongingness is a significant factor that contributes to the psychological wellbeing of workers in any organization such as satisfaction and engagement (Chan 2016).

Belongingness is a multidimensional psychological construct that includes social, cognitive, emotional, and behavioural dimensions (Brown 2017). Achieving a sense of belonging has been suggested to be an innate universal need and a deeply rooted source of motivation that drives much of human thought, feeling, and

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Labour without Land: Feminisation of Agriculture and Gendered Inequality in India

Sanjay Kumar¹

Abstract

The feminisation of agriculture has emerged as a defining yet paradoxical feature of agrarian transformation in India. Although women's participation in agricultural labour has increased substantially over the past three decades, this shift has not been accompanied by corresponding gains in land ownership, control over productive resources, or decision-making power. Drawing on secondary data from the PLFS, NSSO rounds, the Census of India, and international sources such as the World Bank and the FAO, this paper argues that the feminisation of Indian agriculture reflects agrarian distress rather than women's economic empowerment. Using a feminist political economy framework, the study examines the structural conditions under which women's labour has expanded amid persistent constraints on access to land, credit, technology, and institutional support. With particular focus on rural India and the state of Bihar—where feminisation is intensified by male out-migration, land fragmentation, and poverty—the paper shows that rising female labour force participation is largely poverty-driven and informal. In the absence of reforms in land rights, wage equality, and rural employment diversification, feminisation risks reinforcing rather than reducing gender inequality.

Keywords: Feminisation of agriculture, Female labour-force participation, PLFS, Land ownership, Gender Inequality, Bihar

Introduction

Agriculture in India has always been shaped by deeply rooted relations of caste, class, and gender. From the earliest forms of cultivation to the present agrarian system, women have been central to agricultural production. Yet their work has largely remained invisible in official statistics, undervalued in economic analysis, and marginalised in structures of ownership and decision-making. Although the Economic Survey of India (2017–18) formally acknowledged the feminisation of agriculture, this recognition has frequently been framed in ways that equate rising female participation with empowerment, thereby masking the underlying inequalities. In practice, the feminisation of agriculture in India represents a shift in labour responsibilities rather than a redistribution of productive assets or authority. As men increasingly move out of farming in search of non-agricultural employment, women are left behind at home to sustain agricultural production. However, control over land, credit, technology, and access to markets continues to rest largely with men. This growing reliance on women's labour alongside their continued exclusion from ownership and power forms the core concern of this paper.

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Bridging the Gaps: Analyzing Public Health, Nutrition, and Socioeconomic Vulnerabilities in Odisha and Jharkhand, India

Ruth Sangita Kerketta¹, Rajesh Khanna², Anuj Bhatnagar³, Rashi Goel⁴,
Trapiti Malviya⁵ and Shruti Cheriyan⁶

Abstract

The present study - a comprehensive baseline assessment, evaluates Tata Steel Foundation's (TSF) Nutrition Program, aimed at addressing malnutrition among children under five and anaemia among women aged 15-49 years in eight blocks across Jharkhand and Odisha. It evaluates key health and nutrition indicators, employing a mixed-method design. The study surveyed 8,490 respondents- 5,239 mothers of young children, 1,635 reproductive-age women, and 1,616 adolescent girls, while conducting 72 qualitative interviews and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). Key findings reveal alarming health gaps: approximately 80 percent anaemia prevalence among women and adolescents, 8.6 percent severe child malnutrition, limited minimum dietary diversity (MDD-W: 50-53 percent compliance), and persistent WASH challenges (55 percent open defecation). These align with NFHS-5 benchmarks, showing Jharkhand's higher stunting (39.3 percent) versus Odisha (31 percent). Socioeconomic vulnerabilities, including 95 percent disadvantaged castes, low literacy (25 percent unschooled women), and income constraints (majority Rs 5,001-10,000/month), exacerbate outcomes. Breastfeeding practices show strengths (84.4 percent exclusive for six months) but gaps in early initiation (40.8 percent). Frontline workers (FLWs) demonstrate knowledge yet face irregular training, supply shortages, and infrastructural deficits at Anganwadi centres. Triangulated with UNICEF's Conceptual Framework, the findings underscore multi-sectoral needs across food, health, WASH, education, and social protection systems. TSF's lifecycle interventions - nutrition gardens, AWC enhancements, and awareness - align with SDGs 2 (Zero Hunger), 3 (Good Health), and 5 (Gender Equality), complementing state schemes like Odisha's Mamata and Jharkhand's SAMAAR. Evidence-based recommendations prioritize FLW capacity building and infrastructure upgrades for sustainable impact.

Keywords: Maternal and Child Nutrition, Anaemia, Adolescent Health, Malnutrition, IYCF, WASH

Introduction: Contextualizing the Study

India's public health landscape reflects paradoxical progress amid entrenched vulnerabilities. Despite economic growth, healthcare expenditure remains below 1 percent of GDP, with over 50 percent financed through out-of-pocket

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Guns, Garrison, and Gorakhpur: Tracing the Sepoy Rebellion and Military Disobedience in Eastern Uttar Pradesh during 1857

Nikhil Gangwar¹ and Kumar Prasant Shekhar²

Abstract

The Revolt of 1857 was the first War of Independence against colonial rule. It was not a single uprising. It occurred in various ways across different locations at the regional level, depending on local socio-political conditions and military circumstances. Although significant research has already been conducted on major centres such as Delhi, Lucknow, and Kanpur, the eastern part of Uttar Pradesh (then known as the North-Western Provinces) remains underexplored, despite strategic importance and its active involvement in the rebellion. This paper argues that Eastern Uttar Pradesh served as the decisive hinge between the revolt's rural and military dimensions, offering a critical yet overlooked perspective on the revolt. The paper uses a historical approach, drawing on colonial administrative reports, district gazetteers, mutiny narratives, and available oral traditions from Eastern Uttar Pradesh. It is particularly concerned with the military aspects of the revolt, including sepoy mutineers, deserting soldiers, their disobedience, and their alliances with local rebel leadership and zamindars. The study concludes that the underlying causes of discontent in the military in Eastern Uttar Pradesh were rooted in poor service conditions, religious and caste-based grievances and the economic pressures of rural life. These factors, including the difficult terrain of dense jungle and rivers and the need to cross into Nepal, made it difficult for British forces to track the resistance's movements. In this context, the rebellion is characterised by localised military operations rather than campaigns organised from the centre. The study argues that the Eastern Uttar Pradesh revolt constituted a major, but arguably overlooked, military front in 1857. It emphasises the agency of these local and sepoy actors and therefore allows a more regional understanding of the revolt that challenges major cities' centric understandings of resistance to colonialism.

Keywords: Colonial rule, Sepoy Rebellion, Revolt, Zamindars, Military

Introduction

The Revolt of 1857 was a turning point in the history of colonial resistance in India. Though often understood as a cohesive nationalist revolt, recent literature highlights the rebellion as "highly fragmented and varied by region"¹ (Bayly 1983). What was once depicted as a centralised collective insurrection is now more clearly seen as a series of localised movements, each with its own context of socio-political, economic, and military discontent. Unlike Mukherjee's Awadh-centric account or Roy's Bundelkhand study, this paper focuses on the Eastern Uttar Pradesh region, which has traditionally been overlooked in the historiography of

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“Love Isn't Enough”: Why Marriage Needs More than Romance

Jyotima Pathak¹

Abstract

This paper discusses how modern marriages need more than just love, although love can be the powerful force that can spark deep connection and intimacy but in contemporary life, the complexities from individual choices and shifting roles to evolving expectations of partnership, modern marriages demand a more holistic foundation. This paper critically analyzes how gendered expectations and family dynamics, intersected with individual subjectivities to shape the couple's lived experiences. Through this case, the paper contributes to broader discussions on marriage, intimacy and relational fragility in contemporary India, especially the context of love-based unions. This paper is based on an ethnographic study of a couple who had had love marriage which slowly led to a mutual separation and then divorce.

Keywords: Love Marriage, Ethnography, Marital Expectations, Divorce

Introduction

Marriage is a fundamental institution in human society, deeply rooted in cultural, religious and legal traditions. It is a union between two individuals, often based on love, commitment and mutual support. Marriage is considered as a universal social institution. It is a culturally defined system of norms and structures that formalizes relationships between partners, regulating sexual life, reproduction, and family formation, providing social stability, economic support, and companionship while establishing new social statuses and roles. There is no single universally accepted definition of 'marriage' as it has also evolved in its forms and functions with societal changes. It's a primary way societies organize kinship, ensure child-rearing, and create bonds, linking individuals to broader communities and passing on property and rights.

Throughout history, marriage has evolved to reflect changes in social values, gender roles and personal expectations. In modern times, marriage takes different forms, from traditional arranged marriages to partnerships based on personal choice, and its meaning continues to be redefined. India has witnessed a significant transformation in its marriage traditions over the years. While arranged marriages have been the cornerstone of Indian society for centuries, modern marriages are now evolving to reflect changing societal norms, individual aspirations, and global

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Ego-Strength and Life Satisfaction Among Home Makers and Working Women

Meenakshi Kumari¹ and Meenakshi²

Abstract

The aim of this research is to examine how working and staying at home as a mother differ for women, and what relationship there is between having a strong sense of self and being happy with their lives. We used a type of research where we collected data and then examine the relationship between two variables - in this case the strength of a person's ego and life satisfaction. We looked at 400 women for this study. Half of them were employed, and the other half were mothers who stayed at home. We picked our sample using a method that made it easy for us to recruit the types of women we wanted. After that, we used a range of statistical techniques as per the requirement of the study obtain results. The results show that there's a modest positive correlation between how happy someone is with their life and how strong their sense of self is. We also found that working women generally reported being a lot happier and having a stronger sense of self than mums who stay at home. That shows that the job someone have a big impact on how well they think they're doing. The fact that working women had such higher scores for happiness and self-strength also makes it clear that women need support systems and policies that make it easier for them participation in workforce. This study also demonstrates that developing a strong sense of self is an important part of being happy, regardless of whether you work or not.

Keywords: Ego strength, life satisfaction, working women and home makers

Introduction

Ego strength is the ability of an individual to successfully manage stress, challenge, and adversity while upholding a coherently consistent sense of self. It includes factors such as resilience, flexibility, emotional control, and capacity for compromise between internal need and external requirement. People with sound ego strength can weather downturns constructively, sustain good relationships, and accommodate easily to new situations. In contrast, low ego strength is associated with poor management of emotions, heightened susceptibility to stress, and reduced ability to sustain psychological health.

Life satisfaction is a core aspect of subjective well-being and reflects an individual's overall cognitive evaluation of their life quality. It is influenced by various personal and social factors, including role identities and responsibilities.

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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 Aryabhatta 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.