

Green revolution and society

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Abstract

The Green Revolution refers to a set of research and the development of technology transfer initiatives occurring between the 1930s and the late 1960s, that increased agricultural production worldwide, particularly in the developing world, beginning most markedly in the late 1960.

One of the main consequences of 'green revolution' in Haryana had been a rapid 'enlargement of agricultural income. As a result, Haryana emerged as a second richest state in India during 1960 – 70. Although secondary and territory sectors had also contributed to the growth of income in the state. The impact of green revolution is most obvious in the emerging pattern of consumption in rural Haryana. The green revolution in Haryana helped to increase the output, income and production of all categories of cultivator's who had adopted the new technology. New technology created a demand for more labour indicating that the 'green revolution had also had to enlarge employment of labour because basically the green revolution was both capital and labour intensive.

Keywords: consequences, enlargement, consumption

Introduction

With almost 80% of India's people being directly or indirectly depend on agriculture. We have seen that between 1901–1966, growth in agricultural production was in fact sluggish If not stagnant some progress was made between 1950–60. It was in the 1960's. That some genuine progress actually becomes evident. What is commonly known as the 'green revolution'?

More production is bound to generate more capital but the green revolution beneficial all sections of rural society but the new agricultural technology might accentuate economic disparities and tension between privileged and unprivileged groups.

Green Revolution

State income

One of the main consequences of 'green revolution' in Haryana had been a rapid 'enlargement of agricultural income. As a result, Haryana emerged as a second richest state in India during 1960 – 70. Although secondary and territory sectors had also contributed to the growth of income in the state. For example, the total output of all Food grains had been doubled over the period 1960–61 to 1969–70. Wheat output increased by 2½ times in the period An Economic change of such magnitude was bound to have a profound impact on the socio-economic and cultural character on the rural society in the region.

Economic Impact

The impact of green revolution is most obvious in the emerging pattern of consumption in rural Haryana. Total consumption varies from Rs. 2877 per annum for lowest household to Rs. 10518 per annum for the richest. It is maximum in items like education, marriage and social activity, ornament etc. While it is least in food, fuel etc. We have saw the investment trends in essential food, milk and milk product, other foods, intoxicant, fuel and light clothing and bedding, footwear, utensils, miscellaneous non durable items like bicycle, motorcycles, radio, television, watches, ornament education and other service. As we move up the income ladder, the consumption level too increased along

with the rise income. The richest category of cultivator's expenditure on social ceremonies and marriage was a way of asserting their prestige and social status in rural society. While expenditure on essentials likes food constitute as much as 42.8% of total consumption. Expenditure on marriage and social ceremony increased sharply with the rise in income, increasing from 5.3% for lowest category to 16.8% for the highest. Proportion of expenditure on clothing remained about 10–12%. That peasantry during the 1960 decade had caught the green revolution firmly.

The green revolution in Haryana helped to increase the output, income and production of all categories of cultivator's who had adopted the new technology. New technology created a demand for more labour indicating that the 'green revolution had also had to enlarge employment of labour because basically the green revolution was both capital and labour intensive. It has resulted in accentuating regional income imbalance. The northern part of Haryana (Ambala, Karnal, Kurukshera and Jind) Seem to be much better of than the southern region (Gurgaon and Mahendergarh). The central region occupies an intermediate position. This is due to the wider use of improved agricultural techniques and availabilities of water. The agricultural labour households all over Haryana have had a very low level of income. Vicious circle of Poverty & less education exposed the Laboring class to exploitation which woos their economic situation. However the impact of 'green revolution in providing more employment to agricultural labour was limited in scope. On education small cultivator spent 2.2% on this vital subject. But the largest land holding cultivators spent on 8.2%. That is more than 10 times. This shows the trend of increasing disparity in educational level between poorest and richest section of rural community.

Agricultural capital

Nature of investment Capital expenditure in agricultural consist of expenditure on land improvement, land development, land conservation, reclamation, agricultural implements and machinery. In irrigation it includes sinking, boring and Deeping of wells, diesel and electric pump sets,

tube wells and also purchase of cattle etc.

Non-Farm investment

Include residential construction, cattle poultry and farm investment. Proportion of farm investment is 52% of total investment, 26.5% on farm equipment, 16.3% on drought cattle, 5% on farm building, 3% on land improvement. But now large cultivators spent 33.6% of total investment on residential consumption. The investment pattern of rural economy of Haryana appeared to be passing through a transitional stage during the current period, some farmers switching over to modern technology of today. It is obviously difficult to interpret some specific statistical information. But overall trends suggest many control and state policies of Narega, JLNEP, had tremendous increase in their wages.

Our objective here is to identify the impact of improved agriculture facilities and growth in production on important social feature like, standard of living, material possession, caste attitude, religiosity etc.

- 1. Standard of living:** Growing income due to the introduction of new farming methods has influenced the quality of life in rural Haryana. This statement is based on the following indicators: annual expenditure on items like clothing, education, medicines, social ceremonies etc.
- 2. Per capita annual expenditure:** The per capita annual expenditure on non – cereals, food, clothing, education, medicines, social and religious ceremonies, traveling, fuel, lighting and recreation was noted to be many times higher among the ‘progressive’ cultivators than those who had not adopted facilities of the ‘green revolution.
- 3. Durable consumer Goods:** Growing use of durable consumer goods like radio sets, transistors, electric appliances, watches etc. Reflect the change in the standard of living in rural Haryana. Most of the progressive cultivators have been enjoying a number of modern goods like radio, transistors, TVs, watches, motorcycles, car and other electric appliances.
- 4. Material Possessions:** The most attractive form of investment seems to be construction, renewals or purchase of houses is considered a status symbol all over rural and urban India. Almost 83% of houses in ‘progressive’ villages had concrete structure and just 16% houses had mud structures. On the other hand 58% lived in concrete cum- mud structure in less progressive villages.

Approach towards caste system

It can be summarized that, majority of rural Haryana respondents surveyed felt that social distance between high and low castes had to some extent narrowed in recent years. Important agricultural caste groups of Haryana are jats, Rajputs, Ahirs, Rors, Gujjars, and Sainis etc. Of course no longer can rural society be identified purely on these caste lines. In fact new technology in agriculture has converted farming from a purely physical based work into somewhat of an industry. Some very progressive farmers belong to neither of the traditional farming communities. But it must not be overlooked that Haryana remains a deeply insular and caste ridden society. Modern development in agriculture may have added mobility, awareness etc. but has not diluted the hold of caste.

Religious belief

It is perhaps possible that mechanization and agricultural

development has to some extent affected the religious belief of the farmers. Progressive and affluent farmers may have become more liberal and less religious minded than the poor and less – progressive farmers. This phenomenon is possibly related to the dependence of agriculture on nature and since new technology has made farming predictable, dependence on nature has relatively decreased.

Aspiration as Occupational

Farming has as a profession become unpopular in rural Haryana, since even after putting in hard work it often has failed even to provide a reasonable living. It is rarely chosen by the peasantry in Haryana as a first choice profession. Shri Chhotu Ram had said in the 1920's that a clerk in the government was better than a farmer owning 25 acres of land. Stories of young men compelling their parents to sell their share of land to arrange the amount required for petty jobs in the government are fairly common in the country side.

Educational Aspirations

It has been observed that greater percentage of farmers are now aspiring for high school education for their children. It may be concluded that farm mechanization and the aspirations of people for higher education have gone side by side. Free education for girls and with nominal fees for boys has given a fair boost to education in the state. In fact a fairly good education is now somewhat necessary for modern and progressive farming, particularly keeping in mind the variety of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides etc. Higher education remains related to the income factor and is beyond the means of middle level and small farmers.

Social Relations

Rapid progress in agriculture and mechanization has definitely affected social relations. In fact status in rural Haryana society has now become even more dependent upon the economic soundness of an individual or a household. The determining factor of social status having changed from caste basis to economic basis. One impact of this had been that even the so called low castes have now come to enjoy a better social status if they have attained a particular level of economic prosperity. Increase in income as we have seen has improved mobility and avenues of information which together have greatly influenced social attitudes. All the advantages of the new agricultural revolution notwithstanding, there has been a major drawback too, because it has also created rural income disparities, which in turn, are deeply related to income and responsible for social tension. The adoption and non – adoption of new farm technology has resulted in two rural classes of ‘haves’ and ‘have-nots’. The differences in the income levels of progressive and less progressive farmers in the different land – holdings size groups has been widened considerably ‘as also between land owners and land labourers.

Joint Family System

Joint family has been a distinguishing feature of Haryana's rural society. However of late it is breaking under the stress of changing economic and social conditions. While break down of joint families is more marked in urban areas, in rural Haryana like other peasant based societies it is also related to the sub – division of ancestral land holdings which get smaller with every generation. The net results of this sub division of land are that joint families are unable to

subsist on it. With the creeping in of financial problems for obvious reasons, social tensions are never far behind. It is a classical syndrome, where younger people tend to leave the hold of joint families in search of employment. Starting an exodus to urban areas. Haryana has been particularly witnessing this for the last man years.

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