

ROLE OF WOMEN IN SERICULTURE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: A STUDY OF MALDA AND UTTAR DINAJPUR DISTRICTS

**A Thesis submitted to the Raiganj University
For the Award of
Doctor of Philosophy in Sericulture**



ESTD. 2015

by

DEBJOY BHATTACHARJYA (M. Sc.)

Supervisor
Dr. Soumen Saha
Assistant Professor
Department of Sericulture
Raiganj University
Raiganj-733134, Uttar Dinajpur, West Bengal

Co-supervisor
Prof. Anil Bhuimali
Hon'ble Vice Chancellor
Raiganj University
Raiganj-733134, Uttar Dinajpur, West Bengal

2020

Chapter #6

CHAPTER 6

CONCLUSIONS

Sericulture is an agro-based, labour-intensive, cottage industry; whose end product is silk which is largely rural based and effort intensive. In various sericulture operations the involvement of men and women labor was not same in which their decision-making pattern was also not equal with their complete engagement. West Bengal holds third position in raw silk production in national level after Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh though land productivity is higher and more farmers were engaged in sericulture per village than other two states. Therefore, it was thirst of day to understand constraints and finds coops to boost up sericulture practice in West Bengal.

Constraints of the Seri-farmers:

In the present study, some chief constraints were identified related to sharing of women in sericultural practice were pointed below-

1. *Lack of adequate education:* Especially female farmers were hardly go to school and they had been enlighten through education.
2. *Lack of systemic mulberry plantation:* Due to lack of proper mulberry garden along with silkworm rearing house leaf harvesting by the female farmers was a time-consuming process.
3. *Lack of separate rearing house:* Due to these, Seri-farmers were forced to brush minimum quantity of *dfls* within their own house, though some of them

have received the government grants for making rearing houses, but that have been utilised for dwelling purposes.

4. *Lack of adequate time of women farmers:* As females were working in this field after completion all of their domestic responsibilities, they can't take this as a full-time practice.
5. *Lack of adequate knowledge and perception on seri-technology:* Merely female Seri-farmers were noticed with well perception for modern technologies introduced in sericulture.
6. *Lack of adequate knowledge about host-pest biology:* Due to inadequate information in silkworm rearing especially in disease management, farmers faced crop loss due to infestation of disease and or pests' attack.
7. *Lack of dominance of female in social system:* In the conventional system of our society males are always dominant over females and majority of the females do not have their recorded domestic land or mulberry garden in their own names. Therefore, the sharing by the women farmer is not as the optimum level though the government is trying hard in the line of women empowerment to increase their participation.

In the present investigation through field study and statistical analysis we revealed that like other agricultural practice seri-industry was also noted as male dominating sectors but women workers have a noticeable participation in sericulture. Social status of the farmers is the one of the major driving forces for their income generation. During the present study it was noted that most of the Seri-farmers are belongs to the group of marginal people of the society. They merely have proper education, lives in large house hold size and most of them are solely dependent on this seri-farming. Present study showed that decision making of the illiterate farmers was

easily driven by the pesticide traders in comparison to educated farmers. The proper social reformation is needed through continuous education programme for the financial upliftment of the rural peoples. Statistical analysis revealed that age, experience, house hold size, multi cropping pattern and education level of the seri-farmers have direct positive impact on their income. Like other agricultural practice, sericulture is women intense sector as they are engaged in very specific activities viz, leaf harvesting, chawki leaf cutting, mounting and cocoon harvesting. They also reported that since sericulture is a labour based farming in which people with large family member are engaged in this field as their family members curtailed cost of hiring workers. The majority of the Seri-farmers of the study area were belonging to the minority community. The Seri-farmers especially from the District of Malda earned satisfactory amount of money thus seri-farming can create more job opportunities for the minority peoples.

This agro-cottage industry is practiced in these study areas over many generations. Farming skill is transferred from one generation to other generation and many cases farmers retained their traditional practice skills. But introduction of new and scientific techniques is utmost of important to produce high quality raw silk which will ultimately boost up their revenue generation. During the present investigation it was recorded that more educated and experienced farmers were interested to attained training programme executed by the SEE and the trained farmers responded to accept new farming technologies with 26.31% impact change in their adoption level.

Improved farmers' learning programmes observed in developing countries are focused on scientific crop cultivation to get more yield. Crop clinics are established to teach farmers about biology of the pest and their host plants, and

suitable control measures have gained impetus in recent decade. Precise identification of pest and disease related problem, logical estimates of probable damage and implication of appropriate IPM programme have given in the ‘tool box’ of alternatives. Life-long education with practical approach and revitalising adult education programmes are the principal concepts that have been well-evidenced for the progress of agricultural policies amid the Seri-farmers. The success of sericultural development programmes in developing nations like India mainly depends on the nature and extent of helpful use of mass media to activate farmers and to spread improved agricultural technologies to them emphasized on appropriate training of the farmers through Government agencies to adopt new and improved agricultural technologies to achieve the goal of sustainable agriculture.

Suggestions

Present study revealed that majority of the seri-farmers who were very much concerned about their profession was categorized between medium (Rs. 80,000.00 -1, 50,000.00) to high (Rs. 2, 00,000.00-2, 50,000.00). Based on these findings we can suggest that there are definite scope of revenue generation for both male and female Seri-farmers in these two Districts that harbors accurate agro-ecological for sericulture-

1. *Seri-farmers should be educated so they can take more precise decision on their own.*
2. *More focused research to develop farmer (especially women) friendly agro-techniques.*
3. *Proper designing of appropriate infrastructure for market in favours of women.*

4. *Liaison of different agencies viz., Central Silk Board, Department of Sericulture of Universities, Department of Forestry, Women and Child Welfare, Rural Development, Tribal and Minority Welfare, Finance, Textile and Industry to promote raw silk production.*
5. *Converging association between Government Insurance sector and Directorate of Textiles to promote financial benefits.*
6. *Central and State government should introduce compensations for the loss of crop due to biological and of environmental influences like other agricultural crops through crop insurance programme..*
7. *More conduction of training programmes by SEE or other governmental agencies to evaluate knowledge, attitude and perception of the Seri-farmers towards their farming and to improve their output by introducing more improved technologies in sericulture.*
8. *Promote direct liaison between mulberry cultivators, silk worm rearers, reelers, twisters and weavers.*
9. *Direct association between Seri-farmers and the government marketing agencies to offer them optimal price of their products.*
10. *Government should promote more loan facilities through nationalized banks to upgrade their occupation through cluster mode approach.*
11. *Women farmers should train to produce value added products from cocoons and other things.*
12. *Private industrial participation with public sector and NGOs to encourage entrepreneurship development in seri-industry.*
13. *Provision of the Women Development Officer at government level for engagement in the Department of Sericulture from the end of state or central*

government, both, to ensure the proper sericultural training especially to the women which may enhance their participation by numbers, more and more.

14. *In reeling segment, the extension support for the development of reeling enterprises amongst the women to be encouraged.*
15. *State or District Administration should extend their active support to the licensed create reelers of these Districts while transporting cocoons and raw silk in intra-state or inter-state level, so that, silk cocoon can be marketed easily and thereby promoting their interests in sericultural activities without any hindrances and for the advancement of the Seri-industry.*
16. *The District level cocoon markets are to be reinstated by the State Government with providing all kinds of facilities and conveniences to the reelers and weavers like Karnataka Model to get back their confidence at the ground level.*
17. *Government may merge the sericultural SHGs with the SGSY under DRDA to provide the government benefits directly to the Seri-farmers those who are involved in the field of silkworm rearing and silk reeling.*
18. *The government officials or staffs are now inadequate in number to provide supports and services to this huge number of Seri-farmers. Government should initiate immediate step to protect this golden and traditional livelihood of the farmers.*

Chapter #7

CHAPTER 7

SUMMARY

Women empowerment encompasses wide range of socio-physiological, Literary and Philosophical aspects. It is mostly a construction of an atmosphere where women can think and grow on one's own and trust her decision-making. The integral aim of women empowerment are to promote the women in every phases of life; create an surroundings for apprehension of their full potential; to avail all human rights equally; employment wage; equal right to use to decision making process; no inequity in health care, quality education, carrier, and at last but not the least, reinforce the legal systems to abolition all forms of infringement and biasness.

The contents of the study have been organised in five chapters.

Chapter-1 deals with introduction and significance of the study, theoretical framework, objective of the study, Limitation of the study and the general methodology followed in the study and also plan of the study.

Chapter-2 carries the review of past studies conducted on sericulture related aspects and the gaps in the existing studies.

Chapter-3 deals with the sampling procedure followed in the present study to select the respondents, and carry a brief profile of the selected area based on secondary information collected from the concerned departments and also carry brief socio-economic profile of the selected sericulturists. A case study in Malda and Uttar Dinajpur Districts, Construction of women empowerment index in sericulture, Conclusion

Chapter-4 deals with introduction and the production and marketing of cocoons. It also gives an outline of the growth and development of silk industry in India and West Bengal, Status of West Bengal in production & trade, Performance of West Bengal artisanal silk Industry in planning periods, Productivity comparisons with other traditional states, Gender involvement, Women workers in artisanal silk sector, Income generating issues, District level Analysis: Malda and Uttar Dinajpur in particular.

Chapter-5 deals with the various roles of women in community development through sericulture instead they are performing other household activities besides silk cultivation and make them potential to enhance their family income and self-reliant in the context of the Malda and Uttar Dianjpur Districts

Chapter-6 provides summary of the analysis of the study, findings, conclusions, and suggestion for the development of women entrepreneurship in two Districts as well as in the state.