CHAPTER 9
ROLE OF GOVERNMENT AND FINDINGS

9.1 Govt Projects in Birbhum

According the Indira Abash Yojona (I A Y) 1999-2000 and Prime Minister Gramin Yojona 2005 play an important role.

The major three projects were I.R.D.P, TRISEM and DOKRA. Among them DOKRA worked for the women education and health.

We can observe various changes for time to time. The 80’s and end of 90’s the I.R.D.P /Jahor Rojgar Yojona become Swarna Gram Swa-Rojgar Yojona.

In the year of 1999 the Swarna Jayanti Gram Swo Rojgar Yojona connected with the previous Self Help Groups.

In Bolpur District the CDAC group help the women in kantha stich. They produce various computer designs for those women’s who worked under their projects.

In Mayureswar the Nivedita group help a lot in dairy farming. There almost 100lt milk produces every day.

Another important thing also notified that according 2001 here almost 30.13% out of 91.43% are Schedule Tribe and 7.20% are Tribal. Here almost 9 I.R.D.P blocks get facility from various Self Help Group. Many Self Help Group worked for the Tribal women also. The project Amshi helped 658 women in the year of 2004-05. S.C.P, T.S.P project helped almost 6880 and 2560 women. That information collected from Birbhum District Backward Class Welfare Section.

In recent year the Rural Development Cell worked hard for the women. They contact with the National Institute of Fashion Technology in Kolkata and gave them contact of 67 lakh for the training of rural women. They organised various classes for
 kantha stitch, batik, sola, macron and terakota. They arranged 21 days project in a year for 5 times, 21 specific groups attend there.

9.2 Case study 1

9.2.1 Abhartana Self Help Group

First one observed in Rampurhat 2 where the labourers are very poor. Almost 4 of them are belonging to the tribal family, who have no land property. In the year of 1997 a SHG Abhartana started their work here. At first the member’s salary was only Rs 350. The rural development cell helped a lot them. They organised blood donation camp, immunisation, and many other social work, to increase their fund. In the year of 2001 their salary becomes Rs 1100. But still the group didn’t get proper attention. At last in February, 2001 The Union Bank of India gave them loan. They organised a project of Rs 1 lakh 65 thousand. After this project the group become more expert in their work. Now they spread their business outside of the district. Now a day’s their monthly income become Rs 4500. The total information collects from primary survey. They enrich their skill by various training. And in recent days they visit various fair in Birbhum, Kolkata and other districts. It not only increases their income but also make them self-confident. Now most of the women have right to take their decision.

9.3 Case study 2

Minati is working in the water sanitation project in Suri. She has 2 daughters; all of them are married and settled. They completed their higher secondary education. Minati received different types of training from the Govt NGO and now she is working in a project. She is very satisfied with her work and her monthly income is almost Rs 2800.
9.4 Case study 3

Siuli worked in 100 days project work at Visva Bharati in Santiniketan. She took her training from the Mahila Yojona Samiti. Her income is almost Rs 2000. She has 3 children. Siuli is the only earning member in her family because her husband died 2 year ago. She is very thankful to the Govt NGO.

9.5 Case study 4

Pushpita is working in the ICDC. She is illiterate and only earning member in her family. She is working here for last 9 years and has built her own house. Despite having no education she is able to earn almost Rs 3000 per month. So this work has not only provided her with job but also with respect and Self Reliance.

In Birbhum there 1000 SHG where 85% only for women. Almost 1 lakh benefited by those groups. Those groups helped a lot to change their social, cultural and educational life. Most of the women are now highly confident, they all are earning money and having right to take their decision making.

• The reversal of employment generation for urban women, as well as the large male-female wage-gap in urban work, requires focussed intervention.
• The low nutritional status of women and young children requires urgent attention. Areas of public intervention that can be usefully pursued in his regard include the provision of sanitary facilities and campaigns to improve food consumption practices to ensure adequate nutrition.
• In education, certain spatial and social pockets of illiteracy need to be addressed. In occupational terms, agricultural labour households (and especially females in such households) require special policy attention. Scheduled Tribe households (especially females) also require a focussed drive to increase literacy.
Table 9.1

Number of Gram Panchayat, SHG

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the Panchayat Samity</th>
<th>Number of the Gram Panchayat</th>
<th>Number of SHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suri 1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suri 2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sainthia</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Md.Bazar</td>
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<td>101</td>
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<td>Rajnagar</td>
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<td>Dubrajpur</td>
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<td>Ilambazar</td>
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<td>191</td>
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<td>Bolpur-Santiniketan</td>
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<td>153</td>
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<td>Nanoor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labhpur</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mayureswar 1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayureswar 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rampurhat 1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rampurhat 2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nalhati 1</td>
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<td>228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nalhati 2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murarai 1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murarai 2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>167</strong></td>
<td><strong>3511</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source—Suri District Administrative Office, 2007

9.6 The Various Other Governments and Non-Government Projects

- N.R.E.G.P
- S.R.D
- Swarna Jayanti Gram Sworajgar Yojona (S.T.G.S.Y)
- Indira Abash Prokolpo
- Jal Bibhajika Unnayan Karmasuchi
- Sishu Sikha Karmasuchi (S.S.K)
- Madhya Sikha Karmasuchi (M.S.K)
- Jatio Samajik Sahayata Karmasuchi
- Prodhanmontri Rojgar Yojona
- LAMPS
9.7 Major Findings of the Study Area

➢ Between 1991 and 2011 the female literacy level has increased.
➢ Female empowerment has also increased.
➢ The sex ratio which is an important factor for the society has also improved. It means the parent’s aspiration for male child might have slightly reduced.
➢ This is a glorious situation that the parents are more concerned in the education and empowerment of their daughter than their marriage. Here it observe that the males and females work more or less for same length of time, but the males get more wages than female
➢ The average working hour for both the sexes is between eight to nine hours per day and for which the wage male get Rs 13 to 14 and females get Rs 8 to 9 per day.
➢ Another thing is there that 97.2 percent men workforce get the above wage. Only 1.5 percent women sometime get the same wage as men get on some particular time.
➢ When there is no agricultural work both the male and female engage in mud digging, construction, gardening, milking, fishing etc. Here also it can observe the wage disparity.
➢ We find that ‘male earning households’ are slightly better than the ‘male-female earning household’. The reason is that women folk are forced to go out for work from those households which are absolutely poverty stricken and below the subsistence level.
➢ The male female earning household spend more money on non-based items where as only male earning households that are better off than the other group spend more money on basic item.
➢ The disparity observed in health status also. Generally men were being treated by the registered medical practitioners but whereas women were treated with local medicines or by the totals. Here economic independence does not make much of a difference in women’s status.
➢ The difference between men and women in the level of education also. From the personal survey it observed that men are much literate than the
women. In the families girl child rarely get proper opportunity for the education.

➢ Even almost eighty five percent women had reported that the number of child women would like to produce is a choice of the men. At the time of sex preference was asked 85% parents were in favour of son.

➢ Lastly the female members are more interested in their studies and economic freedom. There is a tendency of female population to earn and become dependent.

9.8 Income from work

a) Gross Earnings

The situation of women in the labour market must also be analysed in terms of income from work. Basically it is accepted that the shift of workers from self employment to paid work is an improvement and hence is desirable. Exploitation and discrimination in the wage labour market are also frequent. It is notified that the average weekly earnings of paid women worker in 1990 were only Rs 240, increasing to Rs 480 in 2009. This is equal to about 70 percent of the average weekly earnings of paid male workers, indicating as substantially poorer condition of women even when they are in the wage labour market.

b) Wage Rate and Gender Disparity

Since the wages and earnings of the farming class are determined in a completely different manner than those of the rest of the workers. We leave out the farmers, fisherman, and hunter class of workers from our study and concentrate on the non farm workers. It is also normal that difference occupations would have different wage levels, which depends on the skill requirement and the actual demand.

The wage rates for women workers on the average wage per day Rs 28 in 1990 increased Rs 49 in 1995 and increased Rs 88 in 2013 according to various survey reports. The gender wage disparity in absolute years increased consistently during the
periods 1999-2009 though in proportionate terms, the female wage rate increased from 1990 to 2010 and has stayed at the level since. Women workers, therefore receive a wage rate that is less than three fourth of the male wages. Another part may be pure discrimination in wage setting, whereas workers with the same endowment and engaged in the same occupation are paid lower wages, which is known as ‘remuneration gap in wage setting’. The availability of women workers as substantially lower wages than men and declining labour market conditions forcing women to take up whatever jobs are available are possible reasons behinds such dynamics condition.

c) Disparity In Income

It is already noted that the gross earning of women workers are less than three fourths of that of males. It result open up when we decompose the disparity into its components. It is noticed that the contribution of occupational segregation to lower female earnings has been negative, indicating that even with current occupational structure. Women labours would have earned higher than men if the wage structure were uniform across the gender. Thus the main reason behind the lower income of women workers has been wage disparity within the same occupation rather than their being concentrated in low paying occupation.

9.9 The Main Results of the Research Work can be summed up as follows-

- While the Birbhum rural female labour force participation rates of women are almost half that of male’s rates, including all work categories they show higher work participation among women than men. This is because male participation in work is relatively more homogeneous through the year as compared to women who combine both paid and unpaid work.
- According to all work categories reduces the co-sufficient of variation for interstate variations in women’s work from 0.5 to 0.1 and variations in the labour force are systematically related with the variation mainly in poultry, production for use rather than with domestic duties.
• Those variations in women’s paid and unpaid work are related to change in the severely of indebtedness and uses of resources such as land, and livestock but have no connection at all to per capita income or even to per capita agricultural product.

• Here agrarian change can lead to either greater entry to women into the wage labour force or greater gender based specialisation of women in unpaid work.

• The proportion of women willing to combine such work with income rising work is higher for lower class Non Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe women but study across classes for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe women.

• Almost half of these women are engaged in various activities and almost 20-40 percent of the women among Non Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe women went to take up dairy, poultry whereas 14-28 percent of the Non Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe women prefer tailoring like kantha or batik. However a majority of these women are unable to start such work due to the unavailability of initial finance on easy terms.

• In general, the work participation rates in agriculture have declined, but for women, agricultural work is still the predominant work. Rather than women work as agricultural labourers. As noted above, the levels of illiteracy are highest among agricultural workers.

9.10 Conclusion

What this implies for women’s empowerment is one, that increased paid work participation would increase work load for women if their specialisation in childcare continues, and that regardless of whether better livelihood opportunities are paid or unpaid, these may not be sufficient to empower them if the specific gendered constraints faced by women of various classes and caste are identified. Above all more than such occupational disparity, wage disparity between male and female is the cause of women’s deprivation. Most of the disparity is due to discrimination of wages prevailing in the market. The rising share of women in the wage labour market, therefore need to be evaluated and preventing such male wise should be as important as the extension of education and skills among them. This calls for improving the condition of work and also empowering people to carry those jobs. The policy makers also need to specify the demand
of labour across a much wider physical space and across a much broader education base. This would be solving the problems of disparities in wage rates as also in job opportunities. Birbhum which has experienced almost no growth in urbanization in the recent period.

An important demographic feature that influences Birbhum’s progress is high proportion of traditionally disadvantaged people, viz. Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe in total population. Specifically some blocks with very high population of any of these groups need special attention. The distribution of land patta, for example, benefited more Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Households than their share in total households.

- For the possibility of better educational attainment, it is important to understand various inputs as components of education infrastructure and their potential contribution to education outcome. In development policy discourse literacy has a fundamental role in income generation.
- Most of the rural women marriage at the age of 18. The number of divorced women is quite low. The number of inter caste marriage is low. Here the dowry system is very wide spread in rural areas. But among the Scheduled Castes and Tribal’s the system of bride price still exist.
- We have already said that above 80 artisans have performed in different place and outside the district
- Birbhum has a potential for development in certain areas that could provide livelihood to a wider range of people. The three areas that have been identified are horticulture, cottage and handicrafts and tourism.
- From various analysis initiatives in achieving better coordination among different Government Departments. One such initiative is Community Health Care Monitoring Initiative, which is intended to involve the local community through the Panchayati Raj Institution to monitor public health issues at the community level.
One important aspect of illiteracy is that a substantial number of persons in the age group 15 to 24 were found to be illiterate in 2011, which means that they are now in the prime of their working life being in the age group 22 to 31. Unless an effort is taken to impart basic literacy skills at least to this group of adults, they will be figured as illiterate in the next Census.