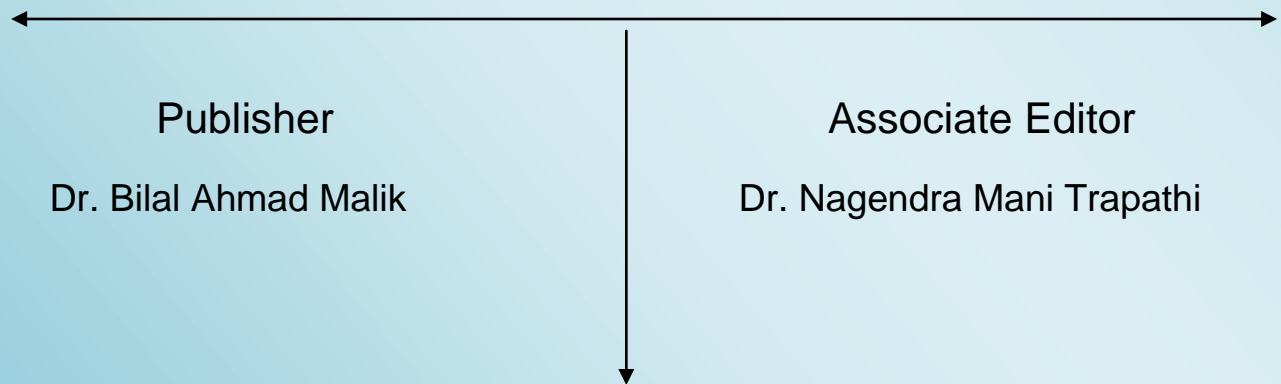


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IMPACT OF ECONOMIC LIBERALIZATION ON EMPLOYMENT AND MIGRATION OF RURAL ARTISANS

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INTRODUCTION

The caste system has shown resilience in adopting itself to changing situations. However, the castes that were responsible for the creation of wealth in the country were never given the status that they deserved. As a result, the OBCs and Dalits who are actually involved in production activity are given very low positions; while those who do not contribute anything but are involved in exchange and implicated in contributing intangible services obtain a higher status in India. In European society, particularly in France during the French Revolution, they were considered a sterile class.

Most of the artisan occupations which the Shudras and Dalits performed were appropriated once the occupation or skill gained significance and economic return. Similarly several traditional occupations were slowly transformed into secular professions after interaction with the western world. Some of the occupations have been modernised with the use of modern technology and are considered advanced. The OBCs and Dalits who were denied access to education have failed to modernise their occupations and they have failed to enter modern sectors of the economy. Therefore, once these occupations *were* appropriated by upper castes with the use of modern technology (for example, fishermen were displaced by upper castes using trawlers and mechanised boats), lower caste artisans lapsed into much lower positions than they previously held; such as the agriculture sector or menial occupations in the urban areas. Thus, they fail to participate in the process of modernisation with" dignity owing to the legacy of their past. Access to education and the reservation of positions of power in civil society appear to be the solutions to this malady in the immediate future.

There is lot of discussion on the heterogeneous nature of back ward classes as it is alleged that some of the OBC in the rural areas are responsible for atrocities on Dalits. The question of atrocities on Dalits is different from that of the educational backwardness of a caste. It is also true that there is one or two OBC castes that have emerged as dominant in mobilising their kinship relations ill the democratic process. But that cannot

be cited as an argument against their educational improvement as education is a universal right and is to be extended to everyone. It is the failure of the Protection of Civil Rights (PCR) Act 1955 that failed to book the dominant OBCs or others who are perpetrating crimes against Dalits, It is ironic that those who sympathise with the Dalits do not raise their voice against discrimination.

In pre-industrialized India, the village community was self-sufficient in economic terms. The rural artisans such as potters, carpenters, weavers, cobblers, blacksmiths, tailors, goldsmiths, plumbers etc. helped rural economy sustain on its own. In the earlier time they most often adopted their forefathers' vocations; their role was significant in maintaining rich cultural life. Consequently, this enclosed self-sufficient life-style paved the way to rich cultural traditions and practices in self-sufficient isolated villages. After the harvesting operations were over peasants households used to give a traditionally determined share out of their output to craftsmen and artisans and others. Due to progress of market economy this age-old bond of community living was destroyed and the artisans and craftsmen started getting payments for their services in rupees, right at the time of doing the work. Due to increasing magnetization of trade in rural areas enterprising artisans started to go out of their villages in the search of customers. This process continued throughout the independence movement.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To critically examine the developmental of artisans class.
2. To analyse the employment and migration levels of sample rural artisans before and after economic liberalization.

During the first fifty years of Independence, India has put in massive efforts towards modernization, aimed ultimately _ at raising the standard of living of her teeming millions. The thrust has been focused primarily on modernization of industrial and agricultural practices. Notable gains have been made on both the fronts. There has, however, been a continuing and growing realization of one major lacuna in these efforts. The impact of modernization has by and large failed to percolate down to a prominent segment of the rural economy—the unorganized sector of artisans. For a variety of reasons, a majority of these artisans have continued to persist with traditional tools and practices with adverse consequences for themselves as well as for the rural economy. The implements made by these artisans fail to stand in competition with their' machine-made counterparts. Thus, over the years, the artisans' financial position has been declining, and they are discarding their professions in large numbers. This is imposing a serious imbalance in the rural social, cultural and economic structures on the one

hand and creating a big social group seeking newer avenues of employment in the organised sector on the other. There is, therefore, obvious need for a critical look at the whole gamut of issues relevant to this major social and economic problem.

NO. OF DAYS OF EMPLOYMENT FROM ARTISAN WORK

The percentage of the respondents by the number of days of employment days for artisan work per year before and after economic liberalization is presented in table 1. The table reveals that 61.67 per cent of respondents getting employment less than 100 days after liberation. The corresponding percentage before economic liberalization is only 20 per cent. The percentage of respondents in this case increased more than six times with regard to weavers. Before liberalization only 9.17 per cent of weavers reported less than 100 days of employment. But the percentage sharply increased to 59.17 per cent after liberalization. The percentage of respondents who got 101 to 150 days of employment reduced from 18.61 per cent to 12.22 per cent after liberalization. With regard to 151 to 200 days of employment the percentage fall down own 26.74 per cent to 11.94 per cent after liberalization. About 18.33 per cent of sample artisan respondents got 201 to 250 days of employment before liberalization and it sharply declined to 6.94 per cent after liberalization. In this case the difference is high i.e. 17.67 (24.17-7.50) per cent with regard to weavers and low (6.66 percent) in case of potters. It can be mentioned that 10.83 per cent of the respondent were getting employment of 251 to 300 days before liberalization and it reduced to 5 per cent after economic liberalization. The percentage of respondents who got more than 300 days of employment before liberalization is 5.28 per cent and it decline to 2.22 per cent after economic liberalization. It can be noted from the table that the liberalization has negative impact on employment days from artisan work of sample artisans.

Table-1
Employment days before and after Liberalization from artisan work

| Employment Days | Weavers | | Carpenters | | Potters | | Total | |
|-----------------|---------|---------|------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | Before | After | Before | After | Before | After | Before | After |
| Below 100 | 11 | 71 | 8 | 61 | 53 | 90 | 72 | 222 |
| | (09.17) | (59.17) | (06.67) | (50.83) | (44.17) | (75.00) | (20.00) | (61.67) |
| 101-150 | 19 | 16 | 21 | 14 | 27 | 14 | 67 | 44 |
| | (15.83) | (13.33) | (17.50) | (11.67) | (22.50) | (11.67) | (18.61) | (12.22) |
| 151-200 | 31 | 11 | 47 | 25 | 19 | 7 | 97 | 43 |
| | (25.83) | (09.17) | (39.17) | (20.83) | (15.83) | (05.83) | (26.94) | (11.94) |
| 201-250 | 29 | 9 | 24 | 11 | 13 | 5 | 66 | 25 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | (24.17) | (07.50) | (20.00) | (09.17) | (10.83) | (04.17) | (18.33) | (6.94) |
| 251-300 | 19 | 8 | 15 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 39 | 18 |
| | (15.83) | (06.67) | (12.50) | (05.83) | (04.17) | (02.50) | (10.83) | (5.00) |
| 301 and above | 11 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 19 | 8 |
| | (09.17) | (04.17) | (04.17) | (01.67) | (02.50) | (00.83) | (5.28) | (2.22) |
| Total | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 360 | 360 |
| | (100.00) | (100.00) | (100.00) | (100.00) | (100.00) | (100.00) | (100.00) | (100.00) |

Source: Field Data

t-test for correlation coefficient

$r=0.364524$

$r^2=0.132878; n=6$

$$t = \frac{r\sqrt{n-2}}{\sqrt{1-r^2}} \sim t_{n-2}df$$

$$t = \frac{(0.364524) \sqrt{6-2}}{\sqrt{1-0.132878}}$$

$$t = \frac{0.729048}{0.93119}$$

$t=0.78292$

at 5% LOS $t_{n-2}df=t(4, 0.05)$

$=2.776$

$|t| < t_{(4, 0.05)}$

Accept HO

MIGRATION OF SAMPLE ARTISANS

Lack of employment opportunities in the native place of an individual forces him to migrate for livelihood. The frequency of migration of sample respondents is detailed in table 2. As per the table 5.16 the economic liberalization forced good number of artisans to migrate to one place or the other for employment or better employment. As per the reports of 85.83 per cent of sample respondents they never migrated before economic liberalization. But after liberalization 78.02 per cent of respondents started migrating for employment to towns/cities and some timed to other states. Among the migrants 45.83 per cent migrating to nearest towns,

24.44 per cent to State Capital i.e. Hyderabad and the remaining 7.78 per cent to the neighbouring states like Maharashtra, Karnataka etc.

Table 2
Migration of Sample Artisan Households before and after Liberalization

| Frequency of Migration | Weavers | | Carpenters | | Potters | | Total | |
|------------------------|----------|----------|------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | Before | After | Before | After | Before | After | Before | After |
| Never | 107 | 27 | 93 | 29 | 109 | 23 | 309 | 79 |
| | (89.17) | (22.50) | (77.50) | (24.17) | (90.83) | (19.17) | (85.83) | (21.94) |
| Nearest Town | 9 | 61 | 14 | 45 | 8 | 59 | 31 | 165 |
| | (07.50) | (50.83) | (11.67) | (37.50) | (06.67) | (49.17) | (8.61) | (45.83) |
| State Capital | 3 | 23 | 11 | 38 | 3 | 27 | 17 | 88 |
| | (02.50) | (19.17) | (09.17) | (31.67) | (02.50) | (22.50) | (4.72) | (24.44) |
| Other States | 1 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 11 | 3 | 28 |
| | (00.83) | (07.50) | (01.67) | (06.67) | (00.00) | (09.17) | (0.83) | (7.78) |
| Total | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 360 | 360 |
| | (100.00) | (100.00) | (100.00) | (100.00) | (100.00) | (100.00) | (100.00) | (100.00) |

Source: Field Data

t-test for correlation coefficient

$r=0.05208$

$r^2=0.002712; n=4$

$$t = \frac{r\sqrt{n-2}}{\sqrt{1-r^2}} \sim t_{n-2}df$$

$$t = \frac{(-0.052081) \sqrt{4-2}}{\sqrt{1-0.002712}}$$

$$t = \frac{0.07365}{0.99864}$$

$t=0.07375$

at 5% LOS $t(2,0.08)$

$=4.303$

$|t| < t(2, 0.05)$

0.07375* 4.303

Accept HO

CONCLUSION

A look at the overall development process in India over the *past 50 years reveals that a plethora of modern and appropriate technologies of special relevance to various segments of the rural sector have been developed.* A basic flaw has been that the outcome of the R&D system has by and large failed to filter down to the level of artisan in the unorganized sector. In the process, he has been largely ignored. No worthwhile efforts have been made to involve him in the evolutionary process and to make him a component of the newer linkages that have emerged in place of the age-old linkages that pervaded the rural environment.

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