



## Challenges of Agriculture Labourer in Madhubani District of Bihar

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### Abstract

Agriculture is the main source of livelihood for the people of Bihar. About 80% population of the state are engaged in agriculture and allied activities. The percentage of agricultural labourer in the state is more than total average of the nation. Amongst all the district of Bihar, Madhubani is basically an agro-based and most of the agricultural labourer are landless. These labourers are facing various challenges like as – problem of low wages, disguised unemployment, problem of lean period, economic disturbances, no more ideas of govt. policies, lack of technical skill, indebtness etc. Govt. has launched various schemes for these labourers i.e. PMAY, PMJJBY, DMSBY, DDAY, AB - PMJAY, PM-SYM, MANREGA, PMKVY, PMSVANidhi, E – Shram Portal etc. for their betterment. The present research paper attempts to explore the challenges facing by the agriculture labourer and the role of govt. agencies for their better condition. Both qualitative and quantitative method of data collection are used in the research. While on the one hand primary data has been collected through Questionnaire, Schedule And Focus group discussion on the other hand secondary data has been collected through Books, Research Journal, Magazines etc

### Introduction

Agriculture is the base of livelihood for the people of Bihar, especially the Madhubani district. About 76 % population of the state are engaged in agriculture and allied activities. But the no. of workers who are engaged in agriculture sector are more than average of the nation. According to census 2011, about 54.6 % of total labourer are engaged in agriculture and allied activities. According to Agriculture Labor Enquiry Committee, those who derive their main source of income by working on farms of others for a wage are agriculture labourers.

Madhubani is an important district of north Bihar. The economy of region is completely depend on agriculture and related activities because the region had scarcity of mineral resources. The district has leading position in agriculture. About 80 % population of total labourers of the region are working in agriculture field. The agricultural labourers who are involved in this work has great contribution. They are doing work hard but their condition is not good. They are facing various challenges like as – low wages, poor health condition, economic crisis,

exploitation, indebtness, disguised unemployment etc. Agriculture slavery is very common in this sector. Govt. launched various schemes and training programme for the welfare of these farmers. Many of them get benefitted but they are very few in no. Lack of awareness obstruct them to get benefit.

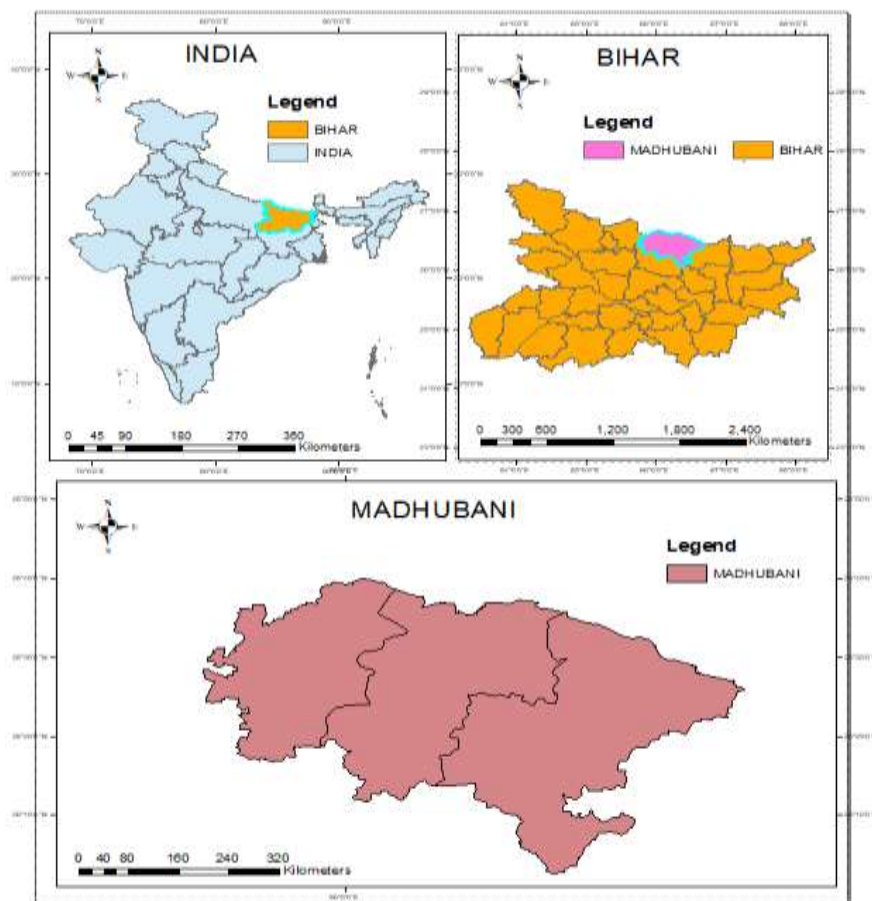
### Objective Of The Research:

The present research work is intended to highlight the condition of agriculture labourer. There has been limited research on the agricultural labourer particularly in Madhubani district. The main objective of this research is to find out the constraints facing by the agricultural labourer, how to overcome these challenges. The research analyse the present condition of these labourer and the schemes launched by the govt. agencies is beneficiary for them or not. It throw light on various government programs that how much they are helpful in improving the condition of farmers. These objectives of the research will be very helpful in eradicating the constraints facing by these labourers and also cooperate them in various way in near future.

**Study Area:**

Madhubani is an important district of Bihar located in the foothill of Himalaya, was carved out from the Darbhanga district in 1972. The region lies in the northern part of the middle gangetic plain and is very close to the tarai of Nepal. It extends between latitude 26°34' N and longitude 86°7' E. The total area of the district is 3,501 sq. km. It is divided into % sub – divisions and 21 blocks. The population of the region is 3,570, 651 sq. km. Flood is the major problem of here. About 70% population of the region are

wholly or partially suffering from flood. The monsoon of the district is influenced by the south – west monsoon (from June to September). The average annual rainfall of the district is 1368 mm/ 54.6 inch per year. The important river of this region are Kamla Balan, Bhutahi Balan, Jeewach, Adhwara, Dhaus and Sugarwae. The region has scarcity of mineral resources. So, only agriculture and agro-based industry will develop here. Henceforth, agriculture is the economical backbone of this region.

**Locational Map of Study Area****Challenges Facing By The Agricultural Labourers Of The Madhubani District:**

The climatic change of the region create great impact on the productivity of crop and agricultural labourer don't have any proper solution to overcome it and they face heavy loss. To meet the demand of present population is a big challenge because productivity is less as compare to demand. It is very difficult for them to provide food to such a large population. The farmers did not get actual price of their crops. They don't have more ideas of market. It is also not easier for them to visit market for crop

selling. They sell their products to broker in less price and broker sell them in high amount in the market. During lean period, they move another place in search of job. Their economic condition and no more work in agricultural field forced them to visit another place to earn money. But the problem of fooding, lodging, unfavourable work place, lack of skill, low wage, job competition, agricultural slavery, lack of sanitation etc are also a big constraint. They use obsolete machinery and follow traditional method of farming because of lack of technical skills. It is also the major reason of

less production of agricultural crops. Sometimes lack of storage facility are also responsible for crop destruction. Disguised unemployment is very common to them. All member of the family are engaged in **Agricultural labourer in Madhubani district**

farmland during the crop season. Excess use of fertilizer in the farmland gradually make land unfit for agriculture. Their work hour is not limited. Due to their economic problems, they work extra in other field in low wages.

	Year 1991	Year 2001	Year 2011
<b>Total worker</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>1228</b>	<b>1637</b>
<b>Agriculture Labourer</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>971</b>
<b>Agriculture Cultivator</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>396</b>

Source : Census of India 1991, 2001, 2021.

#### **Schemes For Agricultural Labourer:**

The govt. has been launched many programme for the welfare of agricultural labourer. It wants to provide social safety to them and secure their life and health. Some of these schemes are given below:

1. Pradhan Mantri Jeewan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)
2. Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)
3. Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana ( AB – PMJAY)
4. Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan – Dhan Yojana ( PM – SYM)
5. E – Shram Portal
6. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA)
7. National Food Security Act.
8. Pradhan Mantri Gramin Aawash Yojana
9. Kisan Credit Card.

#### **Suggestions To Improve The Condition Of Agricultural Labourer:**

1. The govt. should implement the minimum wage policy. It will save agricultural labourer from exploitation and also improve their economic condition.
2. Cooperative farming will be a good step for agricultural labour.
3. The working hours and condition of agricultural labourer should also be fixed like as industrial labourer and it will be very helpful for them.
4. Agriculture slavery must be abolished. According to Indian constitution, it is a serious crime and there is a punishable act against it.
5. Those labourers who are landless and not having shelter , Govt. should provide some lands and housing facilities to them.

6. There should be a proper storage facility to protect the agricultural products from destruction.
7. Many times agricultural labourers did not get benefit of Govt. schemes due to lack of information. So, time - to - time govt. staff related with these schemes must visit village to introduce its benefit to agricultural labourer.

#### **Conclusion:**

As a conclusion, we can say that agriculture is the base of economy of Bihar, especially the Madhubani. Region has lack of mineral resources. Henceforth, only agriculture and allied sector will develop at here. The workers who are engaged in agriculture and sector are not in good condition. Many of them are landless. Hard work in low wage, agricultural slavery and disguised unemployment is very common among them. Weather also create challenges to them. They are not technically active that's why using obsolete machinery and following traditional method of farming. They are economically very weak. Govt. and other agencies has launched various programme for them but it did not give proper result because of lack of awareness among them.

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