

Exclusion of Tribal from all Welfare Schemes

Situation of Food Right of Kol Community

Mal nutrition and starvation can be seen together as in normal circumstances it is malnutrition that leads to starvation or in another term it is starvation that leads to malnutrition. In Indian context it is well accepted fact that around 40% of the population of the country living below official poverty line. Another alarming situation is that nearly 60% of the population is suffering from malnutrition, 48% of the children in the early age group and more than 50% of the women are suffering from malnutrition. Maternal mortality rate (MMR) is very high in India with Uttar Pradesh is on the top of the list where MMR is 706, it clearly reflecting that around 36,000 pregnant women are dying every year and there is no doubt about the fact that malnutrition among women in general is one of the key factor responsible for these deaths occurring during pregnancy. The situation is worse in the rural areas as the coverage of the government health services is below to 20%.

The malnutrition is not a cause for the starvation or early death, it is a combined effect of changing land relations, shrinking opportunities for gainful employment, lack of access to minimum basic services like health, education and appropriate opportunities for livelihood. According to official data even the potable drinking water is not available in for more than 50% population.

The situation of the resource less rural poor can be assessed with help of one case study.

Hamlets : Naibasti

Village Panchayat : Devghat

Block : Korao

District : Allahabad, U. P. India

- There are around 50 households are in the village and total population of the village is 290 out of which 171 are adults and 101 are children in the age group of 5 - 10 Years.
- There are 15 Elders, 6 Widows, 2 Disables and 9 pregnant women in the village.

The village is tribe dominated the caste composition of the 50 house hold of the village is as given below:

Kol	-	42
Chamar	-	05
Gausain	-	01
Dharikar	-	02
Total	-	50

The village is situated near rocky area. Agricultural land of the village is un-irrigated and villagers are only able to get one crop in one year depending upon rain. Daily wage earning is the only way of livelihood for most of the families.

There are only 9 families in village having 1 - 2 Acre of agriculture land and all other families are land less and daily wage earners. The most unfortunate part of it is that these land less family having no working opportunity and normally they are able to get 10 days work in a month at the rate of Rs. 10/ day. Their livelihood is based either on the extremely low paid and rarely available daily wage work. Majority of the families are somehow surviving on the collected and selling of firewood from the jungle.

There is only one well in the village, which is the only source of drinking water and the water is dirty.

In spite of the extreme poverty none of the government services are available for the poor villagers. As per the information by the villagers no one in the village is benefiting by the following schemes -

1. Mid-day meal for eligible children
2. Pension to Handicapped
3. Widow Pension
4. Red Card (Antoday Ration Card)
5. Annapurna Ration Card
6. SGRY(Sampoon Grameen Rozgar Yojna)
7. Maternal Benefit Scheme

Average annual income for majority of the families is as low as Rs. 1500/ annum but none of the state welfare facility is available for them.

This is not the story of one village; there are thousands of the villages in the state where people are struggling for the survival and means of livelihood.

[Case Study of Village Naibasti of Devghat Panchayat, Korao, Allahabad U. P. conducted by Kusum and Kanchuki of AIM, Lucknow]