



Full Length Research Article

ASPIRATIONS OF MUSLIM COMMUNITY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

Muslims are religious minority in India. Their population is about 201319 and the rate of population growth is about stable over last 10 years. Hazaribag district of Jharkhand state of India have a rural population of approximately 73 % and out of which 13.7% is of Muslim Community. As a matter of fact they have failed to match pace of development with majority community. Although various governmental schemes are available so that they can develop socioeconomically at par to other people, but the result so far found is not satisfactory. This situation is obviously not in accordance to philosophy of sustainable development. In present paper socioeconomic status of Muslim community of Hazaribag district of Jharkhand, their aspirations, causes of their backwardness and some suggestive measures are presented.

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INTRODUCTION

Jharkhand state of India is boasting for its Minerals and natural Resources but the same time it is suffering a situation of poverty, inequality and hunger. The state represents a classical case of poverty among plenty. Rural poverty of Jharkhand is 42.9% against national average 28.7% whereas urban poverty is 20.7% against national average 25.9%. This clearly depicts the rural urban gap and inequality in almost all indicators. About 42.9 % of rural population and 20% of urban population are depicting poverty. The rural population of Hazaribag accounts for 73% of the total population out of which 13.7% population is of Muslim Community. The district Hazaribag has predominantly rural population which accounts for nearly 73% of total man force. Muslims are the religious minority constitute about 13.7% of total population and their number is stable over last ten years. Nearly 31% of Muslim population are below poverty line. Illiteracy and orthodox thinking is the major problem for the community. Muslim community is religious minority in India. They have a sense of insecurity among them although communal conflict is a matter of past.

Hence they prefer to live in isolation and do not mix with the majority of people. This has left them away from mainstream of development. They live in separate locality and even after increase in their population they do not move to other places. This creates serious health and sanitation problem. They still prefer to follow traditional education system which fails to provide them good job. A few of them with broader outlook have got quality education, good jobs and have strong economic condition. Muslim society is more conservative than the others and hence women are not allowed to go out to work. In present era depending on the salary of only one earner is difficult and leads to financial crunch. Family size of Muslim population is generally larger than the majority community. This creates another bottle neck in their development. The above mentioned facts are disturbing for any responsible person and hence it was selected as topic of study.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Different sectors of community were identified and their representatives were taken into confidence. Members of the community were convinced that the aim of present study is to know the status and aspiration of their community. After a few initial interactions people came forward and started responding. Two methods, interview and group discussions were adopted keeping the target audience in mind. When there

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was group of literate respondent, group discussions were done. Illiterate and shy respondents were personally interviewed to record their opinion and response. Number of people participated in interview/group discussion were of age group 18-60, including students, workers in unorganised sectors and unemployed. Among the respondents there were 1028 males 812 females of the total population i.e. 201319(as per last census)

General description about the Muslim Community

Study Area

The study area is Hazaribag District of Jharkhand state, India.

RESULTS

The general thought of this community was that they are being discriminated on the basis of religion.

Socio-economic Status of Muslims Community Hazaribag District (Jharkhand)

Table 1. Age Groups With %, Participated in the Survey

Age in Years (Age Intervals)	N = 1840	%
10--20	121	6.58
20--30	920	50.00
30--40	218	11.85
40--50	194	10.54
50--60	218	11.85
60--70	145	7.88
70--80	24	1.30

Table 2. Participants under different Income Groups

Income □ (Intervals)	N = 1840	%
1000 - 10000	775	42.12
10000 - 20000	436	23.70
20000 - 30000	436	23.70
30000 - 40000	97	5.27
40000 - 50000	73	3.97
50000 - 60000	0	0.00
60000 - 70000	0	0.00
70000 - 80000	23	1.25

Table 3. Answer Range (variation)

Total number of Participants – 1840	
Total number of Questions in Questionnaire - 21	
Range	Interpretation
0	Not Applicable
1	Very Good
2	Good
3	OK/ Not Clear
4	Bad
5	Very Bad

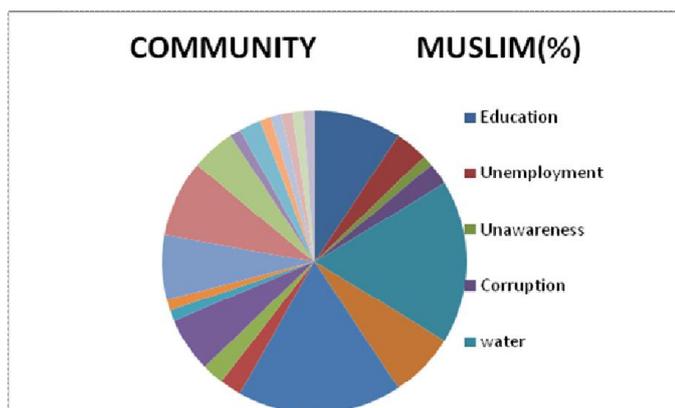
Table 4. Answer of the respondents to various questions related to their wellbeing on scale 0-5

Particulars	0. NOT APPLICABLE		1. VERY GOOD		2. GOOD		3. OK/NOT CLEAR		4. BAD		5. VERY BAD	
	N = 1840	%	N = 1840	%	N = 1840	%	N = 1840	%	N = 1840	%	N = 1840	%
a. Paying Ability	0	0	169	9	678	37	508	28	460	25	24	1
b. Effort for maintaining SOL	0	0	169	9	557	30	412	22	654	36	48	3
c. Lives of Children	48	3	291	16	654	36	605	33	194	11	48	3
d. Lives of Adult over 60	460	25	97	5	412	22	533	29	291	16	48	3
e. Lives of People living with disability	702	38	315	17	24	1	557	30	194	11	48	3
f. Access to Food	0	0	266	14	702	38	533	29	339	18	0	0
g. Access to Health care	0	0	169	9	629	34	605	33	412	22	24	1
h. Access to Education	0	0	339	18	726	39	436	24	315	17	24	1
i. Quality of Services	0	0	145	8	702	38	363	20	508	28	121	7
J. Social Relationship	0	0	484	26	1089	59	73	4	194	11	0	0
k. Position of women	0	0	654	36	896	49	121	7	121	7	48	3
l. Level of happiness	0	0	412	22	823	45	436	24	121	7	48	3
m. Level of inequality (rich vs poor)	0	0	97	5	581	32	315	17	726	39	121	7
n. Wellbeing of the poor	0	0	48	3	460	25	339	18	872	47	121	7
o. Quality of the surrounding env.	0	0	194	11	387	21	605	33	581	32	73	4
p. Resouce Supply	0	0	218	12	581	32	557	30	436	24	48	3
q. Competition for access to resources	0	0	97	5	872	47	484	26	315	17	73	4
r. Political stability	0	0	48	3	339	18	412	22	872	47	169	9
s. Corruption	0	0	48	3	605	33	508	28	484	26	194	11
t. Conflict	0	0	121	7	751	41	387	21	557	30	24	1
u. City problems	0	0	48	3	339	18	436	24	751	41	266	14

This impression is so deeply rooted among them that are not ready to analyse the main cause of their poor socioeconomic condition.

Table 5. Statistical analysis (t value) Different questions

Questionnaire	t' VALUES
a. Paying Ability	0.06
b. Effort for maintaining SOL	0.03
c. Lives of Children	0.12
d. Lives of Adult over 60	0.79
e. Lives of People living with disability	0.69
f. Access to Food	0.09
g. Access to Health care	0.20
h. Access to Education	0.09
i. Quality of Services	0.01
J. Social Relationship	0.10
k. Position of women	0.06
l. Level of happiness	0.10
m. Level of inequality (rich vs poor)	0.03
n. Wellbeing of the poor	0.00
o. Quality of the surrounding env.	0.17
p. Resouce Supply	0.01
q. Competition for access to resources	0.03
r. Political stability	0.02
s. Corruption	0.00
t. Conflict	0.01
u. City problems	0.13



Causes of backwardness according to people of

There is significant gap in social and economic status among the community itself. A handful of Muslims, who have managed to obtain better and modern education are well placed in the society and are at par to the mainstream. Majority of them are deprived of good education or their education is not at all in tune of modern market requirement. There is still a trend of getting only religious education which is not enough for getting job. Family size is large, 6-7 offspring each couple is common feature further adding to their hard ship. Insecurity, lack of education and not willing to accept modern thoughts are major causes of this condition. Being religious minority and some sporadic cases of communal conflict after independence is major cause of insecurity. Although the situation is changing, still most of the people do not believe in family planning resulting into larger families. Education is not a priority for this community. Children are pushed in unskilled jobs instead of going to schools. They wish proportionate share in politics and administration which according to them help in sustainable development of their community. Surprisingly, their urge for better education was not as strong. They did ask for better roads, electricity, water supply and

health facilities. Nearly 11% of members felt that education can only change the society and help to develop on social and economic fronts. 21% of people felt that cleanliness and hygiene is a serious obstacle felt by their society. 17% persons observed that water availability is a major problem. Apart from that eradication of poverty, job opportunity, good electricity and road connectivity are some other issues which people felt, if addressed properly, can lead to better life. There is a major thinking in this community that because of being religious minority, they are being discriminated at different fronts and they are not equal to majority. Some do believe that they have failed to pick up pace in education which resulted in their backwardness. It is also a general feeling that they fail to get appropriate share of resources like water, electricity, road and health facilities causing hardship in their life.

Summary and Conclusion

Muslim have definitely failed to develop at par with national or regional average. Muslim community are religious minority in our country. Most of their social problems are ramification of political reasons. Independence of India was associated with creation of a new state based on religion, Pakistan. Although a large number of Muslim preferred to stay in India. Immediately after independence, communal hatred was spread which resulted into bloody clash. The fear psychosis is still there in their mind. They still believe that if they will have large family size, they can easily tackle adversity. They however fail to properly educate their children and push them in unskilled jobs. Family keep on increasing in size but they prefer to live in same congested house and locality. This creates serious problem of sanitation and hygiene. The average health status of Muslims is not good which hamper their working capacity. The community is conservative and women practically do not enjoy equity with men. This fact has got its own impact on society and economy of the community. Educational status is poor and whatever education is there is unfit in job market. Most of the young children get religious education and they are far away from modern technical or vocational education. A remarkable contrast is also visible in the society. A handful of families have managed to get bigger chunk of facilities and opportunities and their socioeconomic status is excellent. Muslim community is concerned, once again difference in approach towards development was noticed but here it was because of already existing gap among haves and have not's. The first category is in microscopic minority. Majority of Muslims were not very much aware about the benefit of modern education and were more interested in following conservative tradition in all sphere of life. They were less interested in joining main stream and wish to simply protect their identity. Those who have understood the importance of modern education are actually at par to developed society.

Suggestions

There should be different approach for this community as their aspirations are similar but their background and cause of backwardness is different. They still have deep sense of insecurity because they are religious minority. The most urgent requirement is to wipe out this wrong notion. It is responsibility of every section of society to convince them that are at par to any other community. They should be impressed

on the benefit of small family. They should be encouraged to adopt a clean and hygienic way of living. Importance of modern technical and vocational education must be underlined as this is the only route to development. Too much dependence on governmental aids should be discouraged. Women education is not in good state. Until and unless this aspect is properly address, development of this community is not possible.

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