



UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, BANGALORE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, GKV, BENGALURU-560 065

Name : Deinichwa Dkhar
ID. No. : PAMB 0026
Class : II Ph.D. (Agril. Extn.)

Venue : Dwarkinath Hall
Date : 24-09-2022
Time : 9:30 am

Seminar II
Emerging North-East India: Social and Economic Inclusion
Synopsis

The North-East region of India comprises of eight states i.e., Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Tripura and Sikkim. This region is poorly connected to the Indian mainland by a small corridor –Siliguri Corridor (also known as Chicken Neck – with a narrow width of only 23 kilometers). For nearly 5 decades North-Eastern India has been facing problems of insurgency, but things are now settling down and peace started to prevail. This region shares international borders with China and Bhutan on its North, Myanmar on its East and Bangladesh on its south and western side. The Northeast region with 99 per cent of its boundary being the international border, the problems and peculiarities are even more accentuated. The population density in this region varies from 16 per sq km in Arunachal Pradesh to 397 per sq km in Assam. The region is host to an overwhelming proportion of the tribal population. The partition of India turned the North-East region into a landlocked region and affected it economically. Due to this isolation from mainstream India, the region remained backward in terms of development. The isolation of the region and its complex social character resulted in weak communications between the north-east region and rest of India which fueled the anger and soured the relationship between center and this region, which led to varied demands of people inhabiting in this region. In 1972, a regional body, North-Eastern Council was set up to provide a forum for inter-state coordination regional planning and integrated development of the region to avoid intra-regional disparities.

With this background, the present seminar has been conceptualized with the following objectives:

- To understand the scenario and concept of social and economic inclusion in north-eastern region
- To know the existing initiatives for social and economic inclusion
- To elucidate the potential areas for inclusive development
- To review the research studies related to social and economic inclusion

Concept of social and economic inclusion

The concept of social inclusion and exclusion was first used in France in the mid-1970s. and was later adopted by the European Union in the late-1980s. Social exclusion is not only prevailing in India alone but around the globe. It is based on race, class, region and gender. Social exclusion in India is visible in many forms but the caste-based exclusion is more vital than the other. According to World Bank Group, social inclusion is the process of improving the terms on which individuals and groups take part in society by improving the ability, opportunity and dignity of those disadvantaged on the basis of their identity. Economic inclusion means that all consumers have access to safe, affordable financial products and services.

Factors causing exclusion of north east India

Gender, geographical, developmental, industrial growth, agricultural, natural resource base, globalization, social disorganization, racism, military, external support etc.

Existing initiatives for social and economic inclusion

North East Special Infrastructure Development Schemes (NESIDS), Schemes of the North Eastern Council, North East Road Sector Development Scheme (NERSDS), Financial Support to the students of Northeastern Region for Higher Professional Courses, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), North-East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy, Act East Policy etc.

Potential areas for inclusive development

(i) Agriculture and allied sector, (ii) human resource development and employment, (iii) industries, (iv) information, public relations and culture, (v) irrigation, flood and watershed management, (vi) tourism, (vii) power and renewable sources of energy, (viii) science and technology, (ix) medical and health and (x) transport and communication.

Research Studies

Mukherjee and Dutta (2018) revealed that Delhi is the most popular destination for migration of northeast women because it offers both economic as well as educational opportunities. However, the city of Delhi remains hostile for most northeast women migrants, because of their different physical and cultural attributes, as they continue facing harassment both at their place of work and at their residence leading to increased vulnerabilities.

Bora (2020) revealed that Tripura is the most financially inclusive state among eight states of North-East India depicting an intermediate level of financial inclusion followed by Assam, Sikkim, Mizoram and Meghalaya.

Maity and Sahu (2021) indicated that there is a significant difference between Assam and India in financial inclusion and the status of Assam is somewhat lower as compared to the financial inclusion status of India as a whole.

Conclusion

In a country like India, diversity is what exists and inclusion is what must be done to embrace the existence of diversity. Therefore, it is of vital importance to promote social as well as economic inclusion. To be socially and economically included, people must be given the equal opportunity to secure a job, access to different services, access to social interactions and so on.

References

- BORA, N. M., 2020, Financial inclusion in India: a case study of the north-eastern states. *Int. J. Sci. Technol. Res.*, **9** (2): 1319-1323.
- MAITY, S. AND SAHU, N. T., 2020, Financial inclusion in north-eastern region: an investigation in the state of Assam. *Vilakshan - XIMB J. Manag.*, **19** (2): 206-221.
- MUKHERJEE, M. AND DUTTA, C., 2018, Migration of north-east women in Delhi: a macro level analysis. *J. Social Inclusion Stud.*, **3** (1-2): 95-112.