

Gender Inequality in Livelihood Choice

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Abstract

Livelihood is defined as a means of living. It refers to the capabilities and activities of an individual to use assets, which include both material and social resources. Livelihood often encompasses income, as well as social institutions, gender relations, and property rights required to support and sustain a certain standard of living. Access to and benefits derived from social and public services provided by the state, such as education, health services, and other infrastructure are also associated with livelihood. Sustainable livelihood programs seek to create long-lasting solutions. In a patriarchal society like India, livelihood opportunities are often gendered. The practice is prevalent in both urban and rural societies. Women are ascribed a secondary position in the job market. However at the same time some jobs are considered to be women specific.

The present study through review of literature tries to understand the concept of livelihood; identify the causes of bifurcation of livelihood; and analyse the advantages and disadvantages of bifurcation of livelihood in Indian context. Economic independence is important for an individual as well as the society. In India we often come across gendered bifurcation of livelihood. The main causes of such discrimination include unequal access to natural resources and other productive resources, unequal access to finance, technology, and knowledge; discriminatory social, cultural, and legal norms and practices; and capacity gaps for women. Along with many disadvantages such bifurcation has been found to be of advantage to some women who cannot unbind themselves from social norms. Professions like teaching and nursing are often considered to be women specific. Women also feel safe and dedicate themselves in these professions.

Keyword: Gender Inequality, Livelihood, Choice

Introduction:

A person's livelihood refers to their "means of securing the basic necessities -food, water, shelter and clothing- of life". Livelihood is defined as a set of activities, involving securing water, food, medicine, shelter, clothing and the capacity to acquire above necessities working either individually or as a group by using endowments both human and material for meeting the requirements of the self and his/her household on a sustainable basis with dignity. The activities are usually carried out repeatedly. For instance, a fisherman's livelihood depends on the availability and accessibility of fish. According to Stage et al. (2002) household livelihood security is often influenced by the ability of the household to diversify livelihood sources and assets. This shows that the more livelihood strategy and asset (the bigger its capacity and asset) that have in the household are having a chance more secure livelihood than a household have less livelihood assets. Gender inequality in livelihood choice women in the labor force since the mid-20th century traditional gender roles are still prevalent in Indian society. Many women are

expected to put their educational and career goals on hold in order to raise a family, while their husbands become primary earners money to support a family breadwinner. However, some women choose to work and also fulfill a perceived gender role of cleaning the house and caring for children. Despite the fact that certain households might divide chores more evenly, there is evidence supporting the issue that women have continued being the primary care-giver in family life even if they work full-time jobs.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the present study are to:

- Understand the concept of livelihood ;
- Enumerate the causes of bifurcation of livelihood;
- Analyses the advantage and disadvantage of bifurcation of livelihood in Indian contexts;

Methodology of the study

The present research is a review- based study. The data sources have been taken from published peer-reviewed scholarly articles, relevant books, and internet sources.

Review of Literature

Livelihood is means of securing the basic necessities -food, water, shelter and clothing- of life". Livelihood is defined as a set of activities, involving securing water, food, medicine, shelter, clothing and the capacity to acquire above necessities working either individually or as a group by using endowments both human and material for meeting the requirements of the self and his/her household on a sustainable basis with dignity. The activities are usually carried out repeatedly. Rahman. S.Akter,S.(2014)attempted to find out the need for determinants of livelihood choices. This study focuses on households choose multiple livelihood options. A number of socio-economic factors and resources at the household level as well as the state of rural infrastructure significantly determine households' choice of livelihood options.Kantor,P.(2013)in his study Transforming gender relations: Key to positive development outcomes in aquatic agricultural systems The need for a new approach to gender integration in agricultural research and practice.Sharif,N.R.(1998)this paper focuses on Youth Livelihood Choices and Constraints in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Gender Perspective. Objective of this paper Women entrepreneurs have different objectives and attitudes than males in engaging in enterprises. Thi,L.Sue,P.Jou,C.Lin,J.H.(2019)to know the Gender Inequality and Adaptive Capacity: The Role of Social Capital on the Impacts of Climate Change in Vietnam This study emphasizes that gender norms influence every aspect of livelihood in the DM community, and they determine the roles of men and women in adaptation-related decision-making. The results of the focus group discussions showed that men overwhelmingly have louder voices than women in deciding the final adaptation solutions. Choudhuri,P.Desai,S.(2020)to know the objective of this paper gender inequalities and household fuel choice in India.

Discussions

Understand the concept of livelihood

'Livelihood' has been coined as an umbrella concept. The idea behind this framework can be summarized in the definition formulated by Robert Chambers and Gordon Conway in the mid 1980s, which stated that livelihood, comprises the capabilities, assets including both material and social

resources and activities required for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shock and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future, while not undermining the natural resource base. The livelihood approach is an important actor-oriented perspective in development studies, including geography of development, which strongly influenced development oriented research and development practice. This paper deals with the original outlines of that approach and its subsequent critique and evolution. According to 2011 census data, women constituted almost half of the total population in the world and out of which two thirds of the world's adult illiterates were women. The status of women in a society is a significant reflection of the level of social justice in that society. Women in a tribal society play a vital role in their social, cultural, economic and religious ways of life and they are considered as an economic asset in their society

Enumerate the causes of bifurcation of livelihood

The main causes of bifurcation of livelihood are. Inequality and poverty job satisfaction, illiteracy. Climate change flood unemployment etc Women and girls are often the hardest hit by the socio-economic impacts of both sudden and slow-onset disasters and climate change. Climate-related hazards, including subtle shifts and trends to extreme events, affect poor people's lives directly through impacts on livelihoods, such as losses in crop yields, destroyed homes, food insecurity, and loss of sense of place, and indirectly through increased food price

Women's livelihoods are often dependent on natural resources, which can increase risk of food insecurity and livelihood losses. In addition, women and girls typically carry a disproportionate burden of unpaid care and domestic work, and this is being exacerbated by climate change and other threats such as COVID-19. For example, women and girls are responsible for water collection in 80 percent of households without access to piped water. Climate-induced drought and scarcity also affects the time and effort required to collect, secure, distribute, and store water, fuel and other resources with implications for livelihoods.

Women's economic empowerment is central to resilience building. The participation and leadership of women in sustainable livelihood interventions is critical as well as ensuring that financial recovery programmes and economic recovery planning are targeted equally to women and men. Investing in women's economic empowerment sets a path towards gender equality, poverty eradication, inclusive growth, and resilience.

Investing in women's economic empowerment and resilient livelihoods will help women withstand, cope, and recover from disasters. This includes providing support for women to maintain or enhance their access and control of resources, capacity, knowledge and assets,

Analyses the advantage and disadvantage of bifurcation of livelihood in Indian context

Livelihood & bifurcation main importance advantage and disadvantage are:

Advantages of livelihood & bifurcation

Life-centric

Livelihood bifurcation is fully involves the people whose life are affected. A livelihoods approach identifies based on the priorities and goals defined by people themselves and supports their own livelihoods strategies. It builds on people's strengths, and in emergencies, people are assisted in becoming less vulnerable and more resilient to the impact of disasters.

Holistic approach: Livelihoods bifurcation is a holistic approach it influences on people at different levels, and seeks to understand the relationships between these influences and their joint impact upon

livelihoods. This includes influences at the macro level national and international and at the micro-level community and household. It also recognizes the multiple actors from the private sector to national level ministries influencing livelihoods. It acknowledges the multiple livelihood strategies that people adopt to protect and secure their livelihoods and multiple livelihood outcomes.

Dynamic

Livelihoods change over time. A livelihoods approach aims to understand and learn from change so that it can support positive patterns of change and help mitigate negative patterns. It explicitly recognizes the effects on livelihoods of external shocks and the longer-term processes that may. It also recognizes the potential for competing livelihood strategies. And this makes it difficult for everyone to achieve simultaneous improvements in their livelihoods. This is particularly important in emergency situations where competition for access to resources may increase.

Disadvantage of livelihood & bifurcation

Poverty: Poverty is one of the major processes that act uniformly across all the regions of the Livelihood and bifurcation habitations to make them highly vulnerable. Likelihood of having higher vulnerability increases with higher intensity in the poverty measures.

Climate change: climate change is another major disadvantage of livelihood bifurcation Climate is a complex and interactive system it consist of the atmosphere, land surface, Climate change will affect the livability of regions primarily by increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events which damage physical built and natural and social infrastructure, rendering them unable to support individuals, households and communities.

Inequality: inequality is most importance major disadvantage of livelihood bifurcation choice. Inequality is not just about wealth (net worth) or income (pre-tax salary). It can also be seen in life expectancy, or how easily a person can get healthcare, quality education or public services. There are inequalities between sexes and social groups. Every aspect of inequality greatly hampers our ability to meet the livelihood of bifurcation choice.

Unemployment: unemployment is another major disadvantage of livelihood bifurcation. The term unemployment refers to a situation where a person actively search to work but is unable to find work. Unemployment is considered to be a key measure of the health of the economic wealth.

Conclusion:

The Livelihood of bifurcation approaches learnt from participatory assessments that vulnerability is a core dimension of poverty. Therefore, resilience to external shocks and vulnerabilities is the ultimate solution for eradicating poverty from the face of the earth. The major finding of this paper is inequality livelihood bifurcation choice is depends on poverty unemployment climate change

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