Research Article

NEXUS BETWEEN COMMON PROPERTY RESOURCES AND SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMS FOR TRIBAL FOOD SECURITY

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ABSTRACT

Social protection is a menu of policy instruments that addresses poverty and vulnerability through social assistance, social insurance and efforts at social inclusion. Tribal people encounter socio-economic, cultural and political problems. They are considered as a weaker section of the society. Social protection has raised up their development policy agenda. Level of living has enhanced through the implementation of Common Property Resources. In contemporary democratic and political arrangements of India, policies obviously being made by politically demanded and publicly noticed rather than people's oriented and appropriate to necessities. This paper tries to investigate the effectiveness of Social Protection Programs and Common Property Resources in the tribal dominated backward districts of West Bengal viz Purulia, Bankura and Paschim Midnapur. Analysis gives powerful synergies between social protection and Common Property Resources with food security. A comprehensive social protection programme can have impact on food security level but it is also more important to build policy linkages from social protection to other sectors-agriculture, education, health, nutrition-and to institutionalize social protection within government systems that confers justifiable improvement in the social standard of the tribes.

INTRODUCTION

Background

Social protection has emerged as a strategic component in the policy agenda of developing countries. The challenges sought to be addressed by currently discussed social protection frameworks are not novel. Yet, a shift in focus is in evidence. In the past, especially in the context of many developing countries, social protection schemes were introduced as a "safety net" in periods of heightened risks due to rapid deterioration of living standards of households and individuals in (or near) poverty. Such cases of heightened risks and vulnerabilities have included, for instance, the aftermaths of environmental stresses and natural disasters, sudden food and fuel price spikes, episodic financial and economic crises, and the damaging social and economic consequences of structural adjustment policies and austerity programs. But now Social protection is an addition to the development policy agenda, but it has proliferated rapidly in terms of conceptual frameworks, policy influence, budget allocations, programmes and coverage. One reason for its popularity is that it tackles poverty and vulnerability directly, so its impacts are immediate and invariably evaluated as positive.

People who are already poor are vulnerable to hunger because they lack the resources to meet their basic needs on a daily basis (they face chronic food insecurity) They are also highly vulnerable to even small shocks that will push them closer to destitution, starvation, even premature mortality. So, social protection is therefore gaining attraction as a means to mitigate vulnerability and to tackle food insecurity. Simultaneously social protection has linkages and overlap with other policy interventions; this means that social protection measures can reinforce interventions in these other fields. Cash transfers through income security schemes can increase the local demand for food and stimulate local markets. Increased income security can enable access to microfinance and productive investments. Again Housing schemes, Health security and Educational schemes and Social Pension schemes act as Big Push for pulling out from their insecure position. As we know forests became the source for industrial and commodity crops, and of raw materials for construction, furniture, and paper and pulp. The massive and global scale of the demand for these commodities has been remarkably high rates of in the era of deforestation, particularly in the tropical world in the 20th century (Agarwal *et al* 2013). Forest dependency is an indistinct term and its usage and the concept is very

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problematic in sense that every people have some sort of dependence on forests either directly for timber and employability or indirectly for paper, pulp, etc. Here, however, it refers to a direct relationship between a people particularly the tribes and a forest. The livelihoods of tribal and forest dwellers are entirely dependent on forests, from which their socio-economic and cultural life has evolved (Shroff, 1997). Their interlinked dependency on forests varies from place to place (Akhter *et al.*, 2009). Forests in India always provided its valuable produce as main source of economy and livelihood to the near by village people and especially to the native tribes residing in the jungle who lack much of the advanced agricultural technology and is generally cut off from the main stream. Forest ecosystem has valuable timber trees, bamboos, mushrooms, canes, gums, oil seeds, drugs and spices, fibers, fuel woods etc. which is derived from more than 3,000 species of plants growing in forest of India (Kishwan Jagdish and Ratho, 2005).

Tribals or Tribal population mean the members of the Scheduled Tribes declared under the Article 342 of the Constitution of India. They are known to be the descendants of the earliest inhabitants of our country (hence called Adivasis"). At present, in most parts of India, they form one of the economically weakest sections of the society. So far there has not been any systematic study for the impact of Social Program Programs (SPP) of Tribal livelihood. The tribal development planning is being implemented along with five-year plans under the control of Government of India. But, Indian tribes are facing some unsolved problems. Inspite of these efforts of five year plans there have been some unsolved problems and their status after the 66 years independence of India. (Devath Suresh).Governments Social Protection instruments can help or hinder the process of altering rigid gendered roles, and offers a critical evaluation of Social protection interventions from the standpoint of tribal's inclusion in economic life. Conditional cash transfers and employment guarantee programs can enrich the tribal livelihood. (Rania Antonopoulos)

This paper examines the effectiveness of other Social Programs and common property resources in the three Tribal dominated districts (Purulia, Bankura and Paschim Midnapur) of West Bengal. The three Districts of West Bengal (Puruliya, Bankura and Paschim Midnapur) is purposely chosen for the present study due to its dominance in tribal population. All the blocks of these districts are not equally important. Therefore, two blocks has been randomly selected from each sample district with tribal predominance. Within a block all villages are not equally important a respect of socio-economic characteristic. In view of this, two villages have been drawn randomly from each sample block with high density of tribal population. A house listing of all the households in the sample study villages has been conducted. This formed the sampling frame from which the households have selected for survey. Based on the house listing the households have been stratified into tribal sub categories, viz. Santals, Mundas, Bhumijs and Lodhas. 50 households have been selected randomly from each village based on these four categories which are not equally important. Thus 200 sample households from each district have been studied.

Weights of each category depend on the corresponding ratio of population belonging to the category obtained on the basis of village level data of census 2011. Numbers of households are proportional to the ratio of population belonging to these four categories.

Linking Social Protection, Common Property Resources and Rural Livelihood

Social protection can be defined more broadly still to encompass the range of socially protecting interventions and relationships. Preventing the onset of shocks or stresses, mitigating their impact through e.g. insurances of various kinds, enhance the resilience of households and individuals, through e.g. asset-building strategies, so that they are better able to cope with the impacts, and, for the longer term, and transforming households livelihoods by addressing the vulnerabilities arising from social inequities and exclusion. This framework articulates the various ways in which social protection can relate to rural development and food security. The social protection has goals as empowerment, capability promotion or institutionalized access to services. Different types of social protection are interrelated to each other. The success of one programme is very much dependent to the success of other social protection programme. The working dynamics of different type of social protection programme on food security can be analyzed with the help of Figure 1.
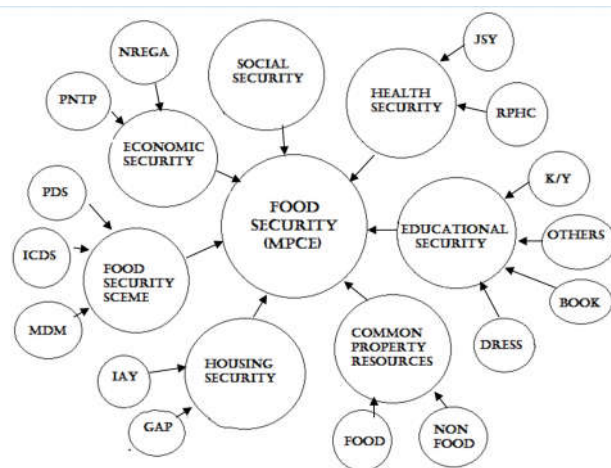

Fig 1 Working Dynamics of SPPs

Generally, we measure food security through Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure for tribal livelihood food mainly depends on Food Security Scheme in India Public Distribution System is one of the major policies of Food Security Scheme. Though there are also some schemes provides by government whosh have an impact on Food Security for example Mid Day Mile and Integrated Child Development Service for children of 5-14 years and peregrinated lactating mother respective through which food security also enrich. Again in case of tribal's they very much depend on food, non food forest resources that we have denoted here as CPR_F and CPR_{NF}.

But the programmers such as Education Schemes, Housing Schemes, Employment Schemes, Health Schemes and Social Security Schemes have also indirectly reflect an impact on food security so the individuals programs and sub- programs have an

impact directly or indirectly on Food Security are very elaborative designed as below.

There are two way causalities between the social protection and vulnerability. The social protection reduces vulnerability and the vulnerability in most of the cases reduces the access of some kind of social protection. To avail a certain type of social protection one has to spend an amount of money whatever it is minimal, so all types of social protection programs are to be introducing simultaneously to support different type of programme for the betterment of vulnerable people. Social security programmers like nutritional programmers and health programmers create a working capability to a destitute which helps him to drive to the economic security. On the other hand the programmers of economic security like employment guarantee schemes will provide him a minimum amount of earnings to avail the other kind of social securities.

Effect of Social Protection Programs (SPP) and Common Property Resources (CPR) over food security

There are so many social protection programs in our rural economy. But among them some are very closely related to food security and done are not but little. Among them Public Distribution System (PDS), Mid Day Meal (MDM), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) are the most popular and well-known program that affect food-security. But there are a lot of Social Security Programs that affects the food security indirectly thought Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE).

Table 1 Correction coefficient between MPCE with different Social Protection Programs and Common Property Resources

MPCE	PURULIA	BANKURA	MIDNAPUR
PDS	-0.46	-0.45	-0.42
MDM	-0.33	-0.29	-0.19
ICDS	-0.27	-0.2	-0.25
CPRF	0.95	0.79	0.9
CPRNF	0.61	0.72	0.75
CPRI	-0.06	-0.22	-0.14
NREGA	-0.25	-0.11	-0.11
SPS	-0.08	-0.05	0.05
HOS	-0.3	0.04	0.03
RPHC	-0.19	-0.2	-0.37
JSY	-0.11	-0.01	-0.09
EDS	-0.09	-0.09	-0.12

Source: Primary data and author's calculation

Moreover from MPCE we can measure food security obviously only for the food program factors. But for the non-food program factors MPCE does not directly can measure food security. Since the non food programs can provide security like education, housing etc., so the aspect of forming regression equation between the factors in following manner.

MPCE ➜ Food-programs
MPCE ➜ Non-food programs

We have analyzed all types of data that can make us understand the characteristics of MPCE through the social Protection Program. However we will discuss them one by one thoroughly.

In case of PURULIYA district

When we put our empirical results for the district of Puruliya the equations between MPCE and all other variables are like these:

$$MPCE_1 = (5752.57) - (346.517)PDS + (59.8234)MDM + (8.64768)ICDS \quad \text{.... (I)}$$

$$MPCE_2 = CPR_F + CPR_{NF} \quad \text{... (II)}$$

$$MPCE_3 = (1373.93) + (0.214608)CPR_I - (0.320016)MGNREGA \quad \text{... (III)}$$

$$MPCE_4 - (1230.19) - (0.12944)SPS \quad \text{..... (IV)}$$

$$MPCE_5 = (1200.06) + (0.0353191)H_OS \quad \text{..... (V)}$$

$$MPCE_6 = (1342.09) - (0.581514)RPHC - (4.57411)JSY \quad \text{..... (VI)}$$

$$MPCE_7 = (1252.38) - (0.26687)EDS \quad \text{... (VII)}$$

From equation I, we can say that if we increase PDS and decrease both of MDM and ICDS, MPCE will be improvised more. From equation II, both variables make MPCE positive, so from the angle of them both should be minimized. From equation III, to improvise MPCE, we have to increase MGNREGA and have to decrease the CPR_I. From equation IV, SPS should be increased. From equation V, H_OS does not make tribes develop. Because actually more housing security make them pore prove to maintain better lifestyle that again make them more prove to expend life high. From equation VI equation, more RPHC and JSY both make MPCE better. From equation VII equation, more education security becomes more helpful for them.

Actually food security directly depends on PDS, MDM, and ICDS mainly. But in our research we are trying to express food security as an indirect function of CPR_I, MGNREGA, Housing Scheme, SPS, Education, RPHC, JSY etc. via MPCE. Because all of them have direct relationship with MPCE and after all MPCE has a great reflection upon the food security. So parallel we are trying to illustrate a second picture which is con-concentric with 1st picture, where 1st picture represents the distribution of co-relation (PDS, MDM, ICDS) with MPCE and 2nd picture represents the correlation of (CPR_F, CPR_{NF}, CPR_I, MGNREGA, Housing Scheme, SPS, Education, RPHC, JSY) with MPCE.
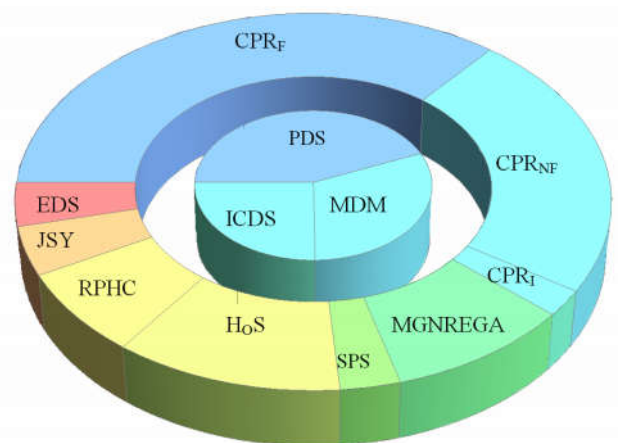

Fig 2 Effect of SPPs and CPR in Puruliya

The above said equations for the case of Bankura districts are as follows:

$$MPCE_1 = (1686.8) - (33.6493)PDS - (19.1033)MDM - (0.4739)ICDS \text{.... (VIII)}$$
$$MPCE_2 = CPR_F + CPR_{NF} \quad \text{...... (IX)}$$
$$MPCE_3 = (1325.8) - (0.480822)CPR_I - (0.0482506)MGNREG \quad \text{....... (X)}$$
$$MPCE_4 = (1147.11) - (0.0652717)SPS \quad \text{..... (XI)}$$

$$\text{MPCE}_5 = (1132.16) + (0.0153936) \, H_OS \qquad \text{..... (XII)}$$
$$\text{MPCE}_6 = (1314.56) - (0.834537) \, RPHC - (0.427185) \, JSY \qquad \text{..... (XIII)}$$
$$\text{MPCE}_7 = (1167.97) - (0.280971) \, EDS \qquad \text{......... (XIV)}$$

Here unlike Puruliya increase in every variable make MPCE better expect Housing Security and obviously CPR_F and $CPR_{NF.}$
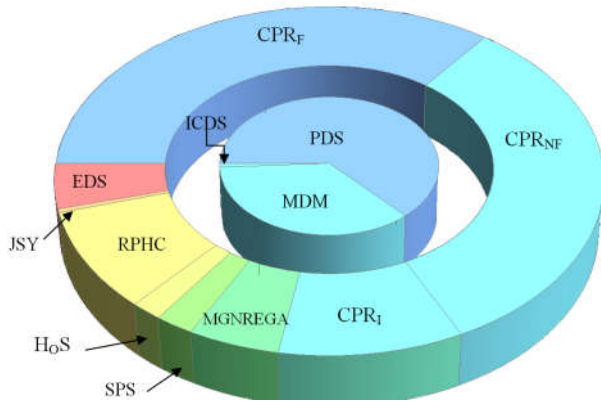

Fig 3 Effect of SPPs and CPR in Bankura

In case of Midnapur

The above said equations for the case of Midnapur districts are as follows:

$$\text{MPCE}_1 = (1691.66) - (26.577) \, PDS - (6.85633) \, MDM - (16.37) \, ICDS \, \dots \, (XV)$$
$$\text{MPCE}_2 = CPR_F + CPR_{NF} \qquad \text{...... (XVI)}$$
$$\text{MPCE}_3 = (1353.47) - (0.858134) \, CPR_I - (0.244366) \, MGNREGA \quad \text{.... (XVII)}$$
$$\text{MPCE}_4 = (1156.2) - (0.0567754) \, SPS \qquad \text{........ (XVIII)}$$
$$\text{MPCE}_5 = (1160.9) + (0.0104414) \, H_OS \qquad \text{........ (XIX)}$$
$$\text{MPCE}_6 = (1515.74) - (1.82611) \, RPHC - (0.3742) \, JSY \qquad \text{..... (XX)}$$
$$\text{MPCE}_7 = (1202.3) - (0.785678) \, EDS \qquad \text{...... (XXI)}$$

All variables expect CPRF, CPR_{NF}, SPS and H_OS have given the same result like the above districts. But the most important matter is that

(MPCE, SPS)>0 and (MPCE, HS)> 0

Here housing security is clear.
But pension scheme give the unrealistic result. But there the distribution of pension scheme was beneath the fog which is very clear for the result.
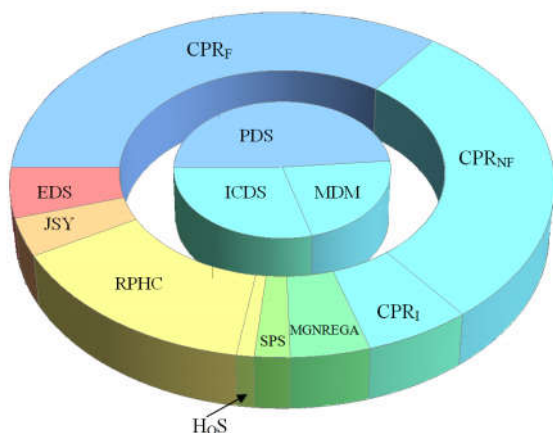

Fig 4 Effect of SPPs and CPR in Midnapur

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Social protection policies are expected to address insecurities related to the failure to meet basic economic and social needs as well as those related to sudden change for the worse. While the former type of insecurity-persistent poverty and deprivation -would require various 'promotional' policies with the broader goal of poverty eradication and enhancement of human capability, the latter calls for 'protective' measures to provide security in the face of contingencies. Social protection covers a wide array of instruments designed to address the vulnerability of people's lives and livelihoods-through *social insurance,* offering protection against risk and adversity throughout life; through *social assistance,* offering payments and in kind transfers to support and enable the poor; and through *social inclusion efforts* that enhance the capability of the marginalized to participate fully in economic and social life and to access social protection and other social services.

To an outsider studying the impact of SPPs of the tribes anywhere in India in general and our study area in particular it is clear that though slowly yet gradually tribes are adopting the benefits of various Social Protection Programs .But also due to the Governmental Policies as a consequence of gradual reduction of their forest dependence due to the economies' policy towards expansion of agriculture, reduction in Common Property Resources lands and rapid urbanization. In terms of their lifestyle including their dwelling houses the traditional eco-friendly nature is also changing. Through the main objective of our study has been to point out the impact of SPPs for removal of inequality and poverty of the tribes. It is crucial that governments explicitly recognize the role of social protection in reducing inequality and poverty and commit resources towards building systems of social protection. Even if public resources are limited, governments can lay out an institutional foundation for social protection by introducing programmes of limited scale with a view of subsequent expansion and scaling up. At the same time, tackling structural social inequalities requires policies that go beyond the sectoral remit of social protection. It necessitates the need to link social protection with other policy areas and to ensure that economic, social and political initiatives complement each other. In particular, strengthening the linkages between social protection and other social and productive sectors can help address complex social problems in an integrated manner, tackle multiple, inter-related drivers of poverty and social exclusion, and improve well-being.

Case Study

Manida chitrakar, a bhumij tribes of Majramura village of Puruliya district. Manida is a 62 years old man living in this village from his childhood. He has been living in a one room house made by government under Gitanjali Awash Prokolpo with others mine members. He is one of the traditional Chitrakar of West Bengal who generally told mythological stories in public places with hand drawing placards. In modern era of economy these traditional cultures of Bengal have been in the path of extinct.

Minada have no cultivable land and living in government allocated land with other chitrakar families. His Drijalal acts as a labour under NREGA schemes, and his wife Baruni get ST pension of 1000 per month. Nayanmani and Sangeeta the grand daughters of Manida are the beneficially of Midday Meal, book

grant, shoes grant and dress grant whereas other two granddaughters Purnima and Puja are getting ICDS benefits.

Total monthly income of the Manida family is Rs 4250 (approx), out of which Manida earn nearly Rs 1100 per month, his earn get Rs 1000 under Social assistance schemes, and his son earn rests though NREGA, the employment Security Scheme of the government. Again in case of consumption fuel have been supplied from forest resources, electricity have been provided without cost, meals have been substituted though Midday Meal and Integrated Child Development Schemes, three Jangal Mahal Ration cards provide the subsidized rice and wheat. Dresses for children and basic educational amenities' have been provided by the government, basic health disorders have been recovered through rural primary health centre.

The Manida family is one of the Chitrakar families of Bengal who are just surviving and living far below the Below Poverty Line with Rs. 395.33 monthly per capita consumption expenditure, though they are maintaining their traditional livelihood. This family is surviving by getting the government social security benefits and common property benefits. For surviving this Chitrakar family, benefits of social protection and common resources should be maximized so that they can continue to maintain their tradition.

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