

Executive Summary

An executive summary of the final report of work done on the minor research project of **Dr. P P Sajimon** entitled, “**Economic and Psychological Limits of the Intergenerational Transfer of Rice Based Farming System in Kerala**”., vide UGC letter number MRP(H)-0815/13-14/KAMA002/UGC-SWRO dated 28 March-2014.

In agrarian societies, land is the most substantial means of wealth and cause of command, esteem and right in land are often hereditary with power, and prestige tending to be astringent attributes. Kerala has one of the most multifaceted agrarian structures in India. Hence, the transformation that has occurred in the agreement and participation of class forces in the state of Kerala need to be systematically analyzed. During the last decades, Kerala economy had shown an incredible vitality. Numerous social, economic and political factors have played a significant role in this vitality. In order to study the agrarian dynamics of a major Panchayat, Pattanchery, in Palakkad district in Kerala, historical and structural environment of the state has to be evaluated. This study examines the possibility of economic and psychological limits of the intergenerational transfer of rice based farming system in Kerala. Sample size of 200 households was analyzed, and applied various statistical tools to derive a conclusion.

A secured job is an inevitable condition for successful life. The money received from farming is not sufficient to lead a decent living. This may force them to discourage next generation to continue with rice cultivation. As we know that, farming is not a secured job because of visible and invisible constraints. It is insecure due to controlled and uncontrolled occurrences. The risk associated with it never met the return. Other sector jobs give some amount of social status which is always greater than the status given to the farmers by the society.

Material wellbeing considered to be the basis of social life, then, the priorities of a farmer set accordingly, ignoring the limited possibility of income generation from farming. Demonstration effect is influential and which stops their next generation to continue with rice cultivation. More expectations about the future of their children forced them to keep away next generation from farming. Farming is a forced priority because of tradition. Even it is less attractive, they need to follow their predecessors and do the only job they know well. Only few among the respondents perform farming as a matter of passion.

If this is the case, how intergenerational transfer of rice based farming technology is possible? Farmers in Pattanchery Panchayat, want to see a constructive transformation in the broad approach towards rice cultivation. They accept as true that people involved in paddy cultivation should be well-trained; who take pride in their jobs, and who are make certain enhanced income and living environments. It is easy to say, rice cultivation is drastically reducing, farmers are shifting to other sectors of the economy, land conversion etc. Only economic and the like factors are highlighted for this transformation. But, from the study, it is clearly observed that, if economic factors are only responsible for the non-transfer of rice farming technology over generations, it is easy to formulate certain economic policies which enhance the price thereby resolve the problem. But, the most dangerous transformation that occurred in the mindset of the farmers, which is a gradual process, in which no solution is identified and once such a mindset is established, it will proceed and finally affect the intergenerational transfer of rice farming technology, which never be transferred over generations.

Key Words: intergenerational transfer, constraints, social status, priorities, Demonstration effect

Mangalore,

Date: 28/04/2016

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