

SUJATA SOY

Centre for Jawaharlal Nehru Studies

Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

Topic: Women, Labour and Technology in Coal Mines: A Case Study of the Impact on Local Economy of Korba District (Chhattisgarh)

Guide- Prof. Archana Prasad

Abstract

Key notes: Women, Labour, Technology, Local Economy, Coal Mines

Though mining industry falls under the formal sectors, yet it has failed to recognize women as productive labourers and has pushed them to the margins. In addition, mining has not only introduced more technologically advanced industrial economy in the area but has also brought about changes in the social division of labour through keeping patriarchy intact. It is argued that “introduction of New Technology has displaced women from different spheres and thrown them out of employment. The introduction of technology in India has not only changed the rural social structure through change in ownership control and access to modern inputs which has been explicitly class and male biased, but also deepened the cleavages between male and female employment and household status with technological advancement. The thesis focuses upon the triadic relationship between Women, Labour and Technology in the Coal Mines within the local economy of Korba. It deals with the issue of exclusion faced by women in mining industry which reveals their disadvantageous position in this sector. The study highlights the changes in sexual division of labour and the structures of patriarchy which throws light on gender based occupational structures, both within the family and in the local economy.

Women and labour are intricately linked to each other in a technology embedded industry and how the introduction of technology has a bearing on lives of women. The aim of the thesis is to study the impact of mining on women’s work and lives. These impacts can be studied both within the mines and around the mines. It also studies the impact of mining on the local

economy, which will focus on the public sector mines of South Eastern Coalfields limited of Korba district in Chhattisgarh and how its impact on industrial labour market is replacing the agricultural economy. The thesis will also concentrate on the changes in sexual division of labour .It studies the structures of patriarchy which throws light on gender based occupational structures , both within the family and in the local economy. This study deals with the issue of women's exclusion in mining industry which reveals their disadvantaged position in this sector. The case study of South Eastern Coal field Limited (SECL).Korba region has been included in the study for a better understanding of the field reality.