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Topic of Research: **Caste, Class and Gender in Agrarian Struggles: Bihar since Independence**

### **Findings**

This study is all about understanding the agrarian struggles in Bihar since the independence of India through the categories of caste, class and gender. Caste and Gender factors played crucial roles in agrarian struggles to mobilise labouring agrarian classes. Class consciousness and solidarity were not detached from caste consciousness.

The nature of the struggles was not homogeneous all over Bihar. The struggles were inspired by several ideological creeds, such as Maoism, Marxist-Leninist and Gandhian-Socialist principles. However, in some villages, the struggles were fought without any ideological impetus.

The leadership of the struggles primarily came from lower castes. This was remarkably different from the leadership of the peasant movements led by upper castes in the 1930s. The study also observed the ascendancy of some middle castes, which manifested in several massacres. The massacres were the manifestation of caste, class and political dominance.

The study focuses on the role of lower caste women in the agrarian struggles. Women played important roles in the struggles and they were not passive victims of caste, class and gender based violence, subjugation, humiliation and discrimination.

The nature of agrarian struggles had gradually changed since the late 1980s. Class struggles got enmeshed with caste conflict that manifested in mass killings on the basis of caste identity. In 1990s, mass killings had some specific feature such as Dalit femicide and casteist patriarchal convictions. The study attempts to contextualise the typology of the agrarian struggles in Bihar.