

ROSA SANSTHAN, VARANASI

AN ANALYSIS OF THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STATUS OF
MUSAHAR COMMUNITY OF 26 HAMLETS OF TARWA,
JAHANAGANJ AND MEHNAGAR DEVELOPMENT BLOCK OF
AZAMGARH DISTRICT DURING LOCKDOWN

LOCK DOWN 22nd MARCH, 2020 – 20th JUNE, 2020



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A Brief background of “ROSA”

ROSA Sansthan is a registered social organization which is currently working for the social upliftment of underprivileged communities in 124 villages of Uttar Pradesh of district Azamgarh, Maharajganj and Chandauli.

Organizations are working on the prevention of human trafficking, bonded labor and child labor under the guidance of The Human liberty network in 60 villages of Tarwa, Jahanaganj and Mehnagar development block of Azamgarh District. The organization focuses on the issue of health, education, livelihood and social security and people advocacy with survivor community participation for the welfare of the unorganized laborers and their family members. Particular efforts are made for social and economic upliftment of child laborers, bonded laborers and persons affected by trafficking, especially in villages.

According to the Uttar Pradesh Census 2011, the population of the Musahar community in the state was 257135, which would have been around 3 lakhs by now. Most of the family unorganized sector, especially Brick Kiln, had a challenging time in the work of Pathera and the development of children. Different districts had different effects.

We found during lockdown during Covid – 19 that the economic situation had a negative impact on the people of Musahar society especially the issue of development of children of Muslim society as a whole. A study of the social and economic status of the Musahar society was done during the lockdown in June 2020 through a focus group discussion by ROSA Sansthan. The details of which are as follows –

1. LIVELIHOOD STATUS BEFORE LOCKDOWN

Based on the focus group discussion, it was found that before the lockdown the Musahar were connected to the livelihood of the people of the society. It was learned in the discussion that he was involved in the work of learning on brick kilns, work of daily wages, work on lift machine, work of agricultural labor etc.

2. LIVELIHOOD STATUS DURING LOCKDOWN

In the focus group discussion, the people of the Musahar community said that during lockdown, they made 2 yards for a few days, the work of brick work, shoveling in brick kilns, wheat harvesting and moving. The work of Gara Mati, the opportunity of working as a farm laborer, but the work of most people was closed due to which their income was zero. Due to which he had to face troubles.

3. DIFFICULTIES DURING THE LOCKDOWN

In the focus group discussion, the people of Musahar community said that there was lack of availability of food due to the closure of income. His family members lived life with hunger and it was difficult to afford the house. Sick people used to get drug treatment very difficult and ration etc. was getting expensive in the market. The income was closed due to which he had to take a loan on unwanted terms. The poor have become worse. The children of the society are not getting enough food.

4. WHAT SERVICES WERE RECEIVED DURING THE LOCKDOWN

In the focus group discussion, the members of the Musahar community said that during the lockdown, there was some help from the people of the cooperative nature of the village, the ration shop and other shops by the government and three times dry ration kit was provided by the ROSA Sansthan. But all these could not fully meet their expenses. They had to take a loan.

5. FULFILLMENT OF ESSENTIAL INTOXICATION DURING LOCKDOWN

In the focus group discussion, the people of Musahar community told that for the supply of drugs through lockdown, the local market was secretly getting double and triple the price. Done and he controlled the expenses.

6. INITIATIVE ON PREVENTION OF CORONA DURING LOCKDOWN

In the focus group discussion, the members of the Musahar community told that when they went out during the lockdown, they used to cover their mouth with sari or stole, taking care of the physical distance, cleaning the house used to wash hands with soap, did not eat meat, fish, etc., used neem leaf and alum solution as sanitizer. But all this effort lasted for a few days after which people came back to their old ground.

7. FEAR SITUATION IN THE SOCIETY ON THE NEWS OF CORONAVIRUS

In the focus group discussion, the people of Musahar society said that many people in the society felt afraid that they could not get sick and untreated. So, people were not going out of the house, many people were not going out for fear of the police. But due to the helplessness of bread, many people were going out of the house and they were rescuing, but gradually the fear subsided and the remedy of rescue remained negligible.

8. SITUATION OF CHILDREN DURING LOCKDOWN

In the focus group discussion, the members of the Musahar community said that the children of the society lived at home, played in the hamlet, some children were afraid even if they were clean. However, there was no separate arrangement for the children and gradually the children also started living as before. Fear is no more fear.

9. IMMEDIATE EXPECTATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT AFTER THE LOCKDOWN

In the focus group discussion, the people of Musahar society said that the people of Musahar society should also get mustard oil, pulses and vegetables besides quota ration and it should be run as Mukhyamantri Garib Annan Yojana. Everyday wages should be arranged and wages should be paid promptly, facilities of transport should be made available, regular work should be done in MNREGA. His main focus was to arrange such employment so that money regularly came into the house.

10. LONG-TERM EXPECTATIONS FROM THE GOVERNMENT AFTER THE LOCKDOWN

In the focus group discussion, the people of Musahar society said that the government should create long – term employment opportunities in the village for the proper development of the society. 300 days of MNREGA work to be done. Provide a machine for Musahar society for making plate and provide employment options regular income.

11. FUTURE IMPACT ON LIFE FROM LOCKDOWN

In the focus group discussion, the people of Musahar society said that if there is no income, then the interest on the loan taken will have to be paid more or loan to pay interest. Life will drown in debt. Unable to repay the debt, they will have to live long lives in bondage. Many very poor families of the society will fall victim to starvation. The girls of the society will not be able to marry, which will make the lives of girls insecure. The entire family will have to work as a hostage for a lifetime.

12. IMPACT OF THE LOCKDOWN ON THE LIVES OF THE CHILDREN OF THE SOCIETY

In the focus group discussion, the people of the Musahar community said that if there are no quick livelihood measures, the parents will also force the children to work in compulsion to bridge the debt. Children will stop going to school. Children will also go on water carts. Children who went to study have forgotten the information of the previous class. Children will not be able to get enough food, which will make them malnourished and will not develop. Most children will go on a brick kiln with their parents.

13.EFFECTS OF LOCKDOWN ON THE LIVES OF GIRLS IN THE SOCIETY

In the focus group discussion, the members of the Musahar community said that mismatches of the girls in the society will have to be married and people from other sections of the society will take advantage of the helplessness and oppress the girls. Girls will go to work instead of school. Due to lack of proper food, there will be lack of blood in the girls, which will affect the future generations of the society. The feeling of running away from the house of the girls will prevail when the delay in weddings.

14.DEBT STATUS WITHIN 3 MONTHS IN THE HAMLET

In the focus group discussion, the people of Musahar society said that most of the people in the society have taken loan and they do not have work to repay it so that their entire family has more time to cover the debt and will have to work till the debt is paid off.

15.MAXIMUM EXTENT AND PURPOSE OF THE LOAN

In the focus group discussion, the people of Musahar society said that people in the society have taken loans up to a maximum of Rs. 20,000 and a minimum of Rs.

1000. They said that people took loan for delivery service, medicine, household expenses and chandeliers, etc.

16.DID THE GOODS GET A FAIR RATE IN THE MARKET?

In the focus group discussion, the people of the Musahar community said that during the lockdown, some goods and rations were getting expensive in the market. The shopkeeper was refusing to give the goods at a bargain price.

17.PROBLEMS AND SOLUTION OF STARVATION IN THE HAMLETS

In the focus group discussion, the people of Musahar society said that some people did not have problems during the lockdown but most people had to take support from others. To solve the problem of starvation, those families took care of the family's expenses by providing relief from the ROSA Sansthan, taking loans from the brick kiln owner, earning from the harvesting of wheat, selling animals, and with the help of the government from the ration and cash in the family's expenses and relieved them.

18.DIFFICULTIES IN AVAILING GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

- *FREE RATION – Ration is being provided, but it is happening.*
- *NUTRITION – only pregnant women were found but midwives and children could not be found.*
- *MID-DAY MEAL – School was completely closed and no mid-day meal was found.*
- *PENSION – Some people are getting it but many people said that it was not received even after filling the form.*
- *UJWALA YOJANA – People said that some people have been found but those who have not taken gas on regular basis did not get the money.*
- *LABOR BENEFITS – People reported that labor benefits have not been received.*

- *JAN DHAN YOJANA – People told that some people got some people got but some people are not eligible due to having joint account. Even the bankers are not giving information.*
- *FARMERS PENSION – People told that they are landless and hence they are not eligible for this scheme.*
- *COMMUNITY KITCHEN FOOD – People said that they did not get community kitchen food.*
- *RELIEF KIT FOR MIGRANT LABORERS – People said that some people have got the benefit and people have been enlisted but have not received the benefit.*
- *MNREGA – People told that money has come into the account of the workers during the lockdown, but Pradhan got some 10% after withdrawing the money and they worked with JCB.*

19.AVAILABILITY OF WORK DURING LOCKDOWN

In the focus group discussion, the people of Musahar society said that during lockdown, brick kiln owners in some hamlets gave advance for work and the people of Musahar society took work day. But this type of opportunity was not available for everyone. People said that a total of couple have taken workday.

20.PRAYER OR CHANDELIER TO PREVENT CORONAVIRUS IN THE HAMLETS

In the focus group discussion, the people of the Musahar community said that during the lockdown, people from all the communities in the hamlets offered prayers to protect them from Coronavirus.

21.DEMAND FROM THE GOVERNMENT FOR PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT FROM THE EFFECT OF LOCKDOWN

In the focus group discussion, the people of Musahar society said that the government should pay attention to the following points: -

- *Those eligible who have been left out of government facility should be identified and linked to the facility.*
- *Musahar society should be given 300 days employment guarantee in MNREGA.*
- *The government should get sanitization work done in Musahar hamlets on regular basis.*
- *Give a grant to Musahar society for easy upbringing or provide a child of a succor.*
- *Provide skill training to the youth of Musahar society.*
- *Health care camps in Musahar society should be conducted and coronavirus should be investigated.*
- *Every month, the status of child protection in Musahar society should be reviewed by the local police.*

Yours' Faithfully,

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