



Enactment of Three Infamous Laws and Emotional Experience and Future Plans of Farmers: An Empirical Evidence of Haryana and Punjab State

Usha Rani

Assistant Professor (Economics), M.P.College for Women, Mandi Dabwali

Abstract- During covid-19 and Lockdown, almost all the countries of the world were facing very tough time and India was no exception to it. But what makes the situation grimmer for both farmers community and current regime in India was the enactment of the three infamous farm laws as farmers were forced to take roads to be reside for more than expected time at Delhi borders while government had no option but to face farmers resentment to the large level as the government was being blamed for taking this action of enactment of laws in a covert way. The Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, and The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act were thrown as a big reform for Indian agriculture sector but received non-acceptance and became a greater cause for resentment among farming community of India. Government with the help of different agencies came forward to persuade farmers in favour of farm laws. But Farmers were relentless and kept criticise the means and ways adopted by Government of India as some of the incidence took place during that agitation were really intense and farmers remained very emotional and expressive about those incidents. To comprehend the emotional experience of farmers during this protest is one of the prime objectives of this study. The paper also tries to understand the satisfaction level and future plan of the farmers community. To fulfil these objectives, A primary-data based study was conducted in Haryana and Punjab state which had the majority of protesters staging protests at Delhi borders. A total of 280 farmers were selected randomly from Haryana and Punjab State by selecting 140 farmers each from both of the states who spent at least 15 days at Delhi borders.

Key Words: Enactment, Incident, Means and Ways, Movement, Agitation

1. INTRODUCTION

During Covid-19, three infamous farm laws were passed by Indian Parliament and eventually approved by president of India on 27 September, 2020. The arguments put forward to support these laws stated these laws as most instrumental in raising farmers income and profitability by raising market and price efficiency. But government of India had to face very strong reaction for that move and farmers from nearby states reached to Delhi borders to set the stage for a long agitation against this enactment but before reaching this formidable struggle a conclusion and to combat against government's move, farmers had to go through a very difficult journey and some of their family members and friends had to sacrifice their lives. It is the responsibility of the academia, researchers to conduct research focusing on the main stakeholders that were actually endured that harsh and long journey with full of courage and determination. To comprehend farming community's Knowledge and their perceptions about laws and other associated incidence took place during this strident journey and to know, what made them to feel that these laws are detrimental to their interest, to understand the ground reality, to understand their experience during that

tough and long journey from their perspective, the present primary data-based study was conducted on respondents from Haryana state as maximum number of protesters at Delhi borders were from Haryana Punjab.

STIPULATED OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- 1) To find out the most intense and emotional incidents during this protest.
- 2) To discuss about positive and negative experience of farmers at Delhi borders during the protest.
- 3) To know about farmers satisfaction level with the agreement and their future plan.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The stipulated objectives of the study have been fulfilled and the furnished results for the same have been reflected through the following heads

Most Intense Incident and Traumatic Factor

During Protest at Delhi Borders

It was surfaced during the survey that the most intense incident during this protest was remained the day when Rakesh Tikiat broke down due to the attempt to attack the protesters made by Govt supported groups as 74 per cent of the farmers from Haryana were of the view that it was really a heart touching incident that impacted them deeply while in case of Punjab,



the most intense incident was remained the incidence of Lakhimpur Kheri.

When enquired about most traumatic factor at Delhi borders when the farmers were engaged in protest, Majority of the proportion of the participant farmers were of the view that they did not have any kind of fear or trauma as they had only one objective in their mind and that was to make pressure on government to let the three farm laws repealed. Regarding participants from Haryana state, 66.8 per cent of the farmers had expressed their feelings that they did not have any fear or trauma in their mind. In the same way, 77.2 per cent from Punjab state were of the view that there was nothing that could create fear or trauma as they were determined and had only one goal in their mind and that was the nullification of the three farm laws. However, 13.6 per cent farmers in Haryana and 8.4 per cent farmers in Punjab were agreed to the fact that ignorance or ego of government during those days was the most traumatic factor they faced. A small chunk of farmers also shared that they had fear in their mind that they might lose war in the mid.

Table 1
Most Intense Incident and Traumatic Factor During Protest at Delhi Borders

(Figures in Percentage)

Most Intense Incident of Farmers Protest			
Sr. No.	Particulars	Haryana	Punjab
i	26 January incident	0	0
ii	Breakdown of Rakesh Tikait (28 February)	74	4
iii	Incidence of Lakhimpur Kheri	22.4	93.6
iv	Suicide Cases at Delhi Border by farmers	3.6	2.4
v	Any	0	0
Total		100	100
Most Traumatic Factor faced at Delhi Borders			
i	Loosing war in mid (without gaining intended target)	9.2	4.8
ii	May be implicated in the false cases	1.2	2.8
iii	Stone-pelting by Government Supported group's Goons	0	0.8
iv	Lathi-charge/firing by Police	0	0
v	Ignorance/ Ego of Government	13.6	8.4
vi	Protest was taking longer than expected	9.2	6
vii	No Fear or Trauma	66.8	77.2
Total		100	100

Source: Field Survey

Worst Mean Used by Indian Government to Scuttle Farmers Movement and Most Important Achievement of Farmers

When enquired about the worst mean used by Indian government to scuttle farmers movement, most of the farmers were of the view that it was the misuse of mainstream media to malign farmers movement. The study revealed that 97.2 per cent from Haryana state and 89.2 per cent participant farmers from Punjab state stated that government tried to manipulate the facts by destroying the integrity of media. 1.2 per cent participant farmers from Haryana and 8.4 per cent from Punjab revealed that Ignorance or showing lack of interest in initiating effective talk with farmers was also the factor that was used to scuttle the farmers movement.

When asked about most important achievement except repealing of farm laws, very positive results were revealed. As a proportion of farmers revealed that they have learned new things as they came to the contact of farmers from other state. They also

discussed about new techniques of agriculture. They also exchanged views on the culture and traditions in their respective state or villages. It was also shared by farmers that movement at Delhi border increased their confidence to speak and to express and do the things in effective manner. It was also shared by farmers that this movement has increased their confidence to fight or raise their voice against the injustice done to them. Other most important achievement shared by respondents was that it was the movement which contributed most to broke the barrier of caste and religion.

When enquired about the change in the mood of the protest after the incident of 28th, 2021, a large proportion of the farmers shared that that the movement has always been fought on logics. There was no incident or point that was found able enough to make the protest illogical or emotional. It was not the movement that was fought on emotional ground. There were always facts, data, information put forward by different stakeholders to move the protest forward. 85 per cent farmers in Haryana and 85.71 per cent farmers were of the view that the movement has always been logical.

Table 2
Worst Mean Used by Indian Government to Scuttle the Farmers Movement and Most Important Achievement of Farmers

(Figures in Percentage)

Worst Mean Used by Indian Government to Scuttle the Farmers Movement			
Sr. No.	Particulars	Haryana	Punjab
i	Misuse of mainstream media to malign/slander farmers movement	97.2	89.2
ii	Misuse of Police to implicate farmers falsely	0.4	0.4
iii	Use of Lathi-charge on women and aged farmers	0.8	1.2
iv	ignorance/Intentionally not engaging Farmers in effective talk	1.2	8.4
v	any other	0.4	0.8
Total		100	100
Most Important Achievement except Repealing of farm Laws			
i	Learned new things	21.43	27.14
ii	Increased confidence	17.14	20.71
iii	Understood the power of unity	20	16.43
iv	Broke the barrier of caste and religion	25	20
v	Increased Courage and Strength to fight against injustice for our rights	16.43	15.71
Do you think that Kisan Andolan had become more emotional than logical after the incidence of 28 th January, 2021?			
i	Yes	12.14	9.29
ii	No	85	85.71
iii	Not sure	2.86	5
Total		100	100

Source: Field Survey

Perceptions of the farmers about the Challenges faced by Common Man/commuters

When asked about the challenges that were faced by common men or commuters, most of the farmers did not agree to the point. The farmers shared that they did not block roads. They were made their makeshift homes at the outer borders of Delhi. It was only the Government who blocked some of the Roads intentionally to create misunderstanding among locals or others road users. The government wanted to make commuters and other users to believe the lie that their problems were emerged just because of the protest. Although in Haryana, 91.43 per cent



farmers were of the view that there was no such type of problem that was created or took place due to the protest and 87.86 percent farmers from Punjab did not show their agreement to the query that the protest had created problems for others.

Table 3
Perceptions of the farmers about the Challenges faced by Common Man/commuters

(Figures in Percentage)			
Sr. No.	Particulars	Haryana	Punjab
i	Yes	8.57	12.14
	a They had to resort to longer routes	58.33	58.82
	b It creates panic and a sense of insecurity among them about their safety	0.00	0.00
	c They faced unforeseen diversions and traffic jams	16.67	17.65
	d They have to commute to reach their destination	16.67	17.65
	Protest deprived them from essential commodities/services may a time	8.33	5.88
ii	No	91.43	87.86

Source: Field Survey

Satisfaction with the Agreement and Possibility of such kinds of Protest in Future

The study revealed that albeit the three farm laws have been repealed but a major proportion of farmers are not satisfied with the conclusion as few of the important and major demands are yet to be met. These includes MSP, solution to the farmers problem of debt, subsidy etc. so, a proportion of the respondents did not feel satisfaction with the agreement.

Replying to the question if such kind of protest can be initiated in near future also, 37.1 per cent of the farmers were of the view that such kind of movement can be initiated in future also from Haryana while 30.7 per cent farmers in Punjab were agreed to the fact that such kind of protest can be initiated in future also. It was revealed by the study that a large chunk of the framers was of the view that such kind of protest can not be raised again in future as 63.2 percent farmers in Haryana and 53.2 per cent farmers in Punjab revealed the same fact.

It was revealed through the discussion that farmers have very positive attitude towards the efficiency and sincerity of the farmers leadership as during conversation it was found that 88.57 per cent of the protesters believe in the ability and integrity in their leadership while 80 per cent of the farmers in Punjab were found to be of the same thought. However, 8.57 per cent farmers in Haryana and 13.57 per cent farmers in Punjab were of the view that the farmers leadership convert into political organisation.

Table 4
Satisfaction with the Agreement and Possibility of such kinds of Protest in Future

(Figures in Percentage)			
Sr. No.	Particulars	Haryana	Punjab
i	Yes	8.57	12.14
	a They had to resort to longer routes	58.33	58.82
	b It creates panic and a sense of insecurity among them about their safety	0.00	0.00
	c They faced unforeseen diversions and traffic jams	16.67	17.65
	d They have to commute to reach their destination	16.67	17.65
	Protest deprived them from essential commodities/services may a time	8.33	5.88
ii	No	91.43	87.86

Source: Field Survey

Major issues which are yet to be resolved

It was revealed through discussion that Minimum support prices have been the most important issue that farmers explained, should be resolved at the earliest possible. 80.7 per cent in Haryana and 66.4 per cent in Punjab state was found to be worried about MSP. Besides that, some of the other issues which should be met were remained as issues related to electricity bills, subsidy on other inputs, loans, infrastructure, lack of high-quality seeds and lack of water facility.

Table 5
Major issues which are yet to be resolved

(Figures in Percentage)			
Sr. No.	Particulars	Haryana	Punjab
I	MSP	80.7	66.4
ii	Electricity Bills	6.4	9.3
iii	Subsidy on other Inputs	2.1	3.6
iv	Loans	3.6	13.6
v	Infrastructure	1.4	2.1
vi	Lack of high quality seeds	4.3	2.9
vii	Lack of water Facility	1.4	2.1

Source: Field Survey

Conclusion

On the Basis of the above discussion, it was found that the broke down of Rakesh Tikiat was really a heart touching incident that impacted he farmers from Haryana deeply while in case of Punjab, the most intense incident was remained the incidence of Lakhimpur Kheri. Majority of the proportion of the participant farmers were of the view that they did not have any kind of fear or trauma as they had only one objective in their mind and that was to make pressure on government to let the three farm laws repealed. Most of the farmers during the survey revealed the fact that it was the misuse of mainstream media to malign farmers movement which remained the worst mean used by government to scuttle the agitation. A proportion of farmers revealed that they have learned new things as they came to the contact of farmers from other states. They used to discuss about new techniques of agriculture and also exchanged views on the culture and traditions in their respective state or villages. It was also shared by farmers that movement at Delhi border increased their confidence to speak and to express and do the things in effective manner. Other most important achievement shared by respondents was that it was the movement which contributed most to broke the barrier of caste and religion. Most of the farmers did not agree to the point that they blocked roads. A major proportion of farmers are not satisfied with the conclusion as few of the important and major demands are yet to be met. These includes MSP, solution to the farmers problem of debt, subsidy etc. so, a proportion of the respondents did not feel satisfaction with the agreement. It was revealed through discussion that Minimum support prices have been the most important issue that farmers explained, should be resolved at the earliest possible.

So, it was the biggest peaceful protest took place at Delhi borders against government's move of enactment three laws. Besides, it was the war against



big corporations as farmers thought these laws were enacted to give benefits to the big farmers. To protect their interest, farmers community took decision to fight against this injustice till the win and they fought it enthusiastically without losing hope and fear against the adamant of government of India.

References

- Basu, Ranjini (2021): "The Threat of Corporate Interests Is a Key Unifying Factor in the Farmer Protests," Wire, 21 January, <https://thewire.in/agriculture/farmers-protests-agriculture-laws-corporate-interests>
- Gudavarthy, Ajay (2021): "Mobilisation and Composite Culture," Hindu, 21 January, <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/mobilisation-and-composite-cultur...>
- Hind, Dan (2021): "We Are All Living in Rupert Murdoch's World," Jacobin, 3 March, <https://jacobinmag.com/2021/03/rupert-murdoch-news-media-australia-facebook>
- Sen, Ronojoy (2021): "Charisma Through Communication: Comparing Modi's Media Strategy to Nehru and Indira," Economic & Political Weekly, Vol 56, No 10,