



Three Infamous Farm Laws in India and Motivational Forces Behind Farmer's Participation in Historical Protest: An Empirical Evidence from Haryana and Punjab State

Usha Rani

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

Abstract- The formulation and enactment of three famous laws created resentment among farming community in some of the agricultural -based states of India and that in the end, did not take longer for farmers leadership to get succeed in to propose plan of action that proved very convincing in bringing thousands of farmers together to settle down in makeshift camps installed at different borders of Delhi. These were focused on and aimed at proving the arguments that were put forward by sect of academia were not based on logics but imaginary and devoid of evidence. The arguments against the laws were given that if big corporations are allowed to play free in the market, it may defunct and spoil the Indian agricultural market in no loss of time. So, the farmers had to take roads and highways to raise their voice that generated enthusiasm among farmers and other workers associations that eventually opened vistas for joint mass protest and brought agreements among more unions other than farming to unite to raise voice in solidarity to get three farm laws repealed. The present paper tries to study the motivational forces working behind their participation. To achieve the stipulated 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. Garret ranking were used to extract results.

Key Words: Lockdown, Enactment, MSP, Procurement Price, Essential Commodities

1. INTRODUCTION

2020 is characterised by misfortunate intense impact of coronavirus and lockdown in the world. Besides covid-19, India was preparing itself to another very complex and serious challenge also that took place in the garb of a very giant and strong agitation by Farming community. The agitation had its roots in the enactment of three farm laws by the present dispensation of India, National Democratic Alliance (NDA). That move of the Government was presumed to be taken covertly and almost stealthily in the excuse of Covid-19 when these laws in point were passed by Indian Parliament and eventually approved by president of India on 27 September, 2020. 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. 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.

Besides farming community, the forming of laws raised concern with academia world also and provoked a very serious discussion and criticism. The present study revolves around the objectives related to knowledge of farmers about three infamous farms laws and the dominance of farmers at the protest site. Except to it, the motivational factors have also been examined in the present study.

2. STIPULATED OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- 1) To know the level of Knowledge of farmers about Three Farms Laws and related terms.
- 2) To find out the motivational force behind participation and most instrumental factor in the farmer's protest

Results and Discussion

The furnished results related to the stipulated objectives have been presented through following heads:

Knowledge about Terms/Act

Regarding their knowledge about various terms that are relevant in regard to farmers laws, it was found that in Haryana and Punjab state, a majority of the protesters are aware about the term minimum support prices as 73.2 per cent farmers in Haryana have



knowledge about MSP while that of remained as 69.2 per cent in Punjab state. It was also observed that some percentage of the participants of the protest was found to have some idea about MSP. But it was also revealed that farmers were not found aware about procurement prices irrespective of the state as a large chunk of farmers replied in negative when they were asked about procurement prices. The percentage of participants who do not have knowledge about procurement prices was remained higher in Punjab in comparison to Haryana. As far as three infamous laws are taken into consideration, it was essential commodities act about which participants farmers were observed to have knowledge in comparison to rest of the two farms laws in Haryana whereas in Punjab, participants farmers were found more aware about Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services for Agriculture Act, 2020.

Table 1
Knowledge about Terms/Acts

Sr. No.	Particulars	Haryana				Punjab			
		Yes	No	To Some Extent	Total	Yes	No	To Some Extent	Total
i	MSP	73.2	12.8	14	100	69.2	4.4	26.4	100
ii	Procurement Price	4.8	66.8	28.4	100	9.2	74.4	16.4	100
iii	Farmers produce, Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020	32.4	37.2	30.4	100	29.2	42	28.8	100
iv	Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services for Agriculture Act, 2020	13.2	77.6	9.2	100	12.4	82	5.6	100
v	Essential Commodities Act, 2020	40.8	34.8	24.4	100	27.6	49.2	23.2	100

Source: Field Survey

The Source from where the Respondents knew that the three farm laws are against the farmers

Regarding the source of information from where the respondents knew about the fact that farm laws were against the farmers, the majority of farmers revealed that they knew it from Media as 41.2 per cent of respondents revealed that fact in Haryana. Besides media, 24.4 per cent of the farmers also revealed that they were informed by their fellow farmers and explained that these were against them as far as farmers from Haryana is taken into consideration. In relation to Punjab also, a majority of farmers revealed the same fact as was found in case of Haryana as 44 per cent of the farmers accepted the fact that media was the major source from where they got the news that government formulated three farm laws which were against them. So, in relation to both of the states, it was found that, regarding the possible negative impact of three infamous laws, the source for maximum percentage of participant farmers were remained as media.

Table 2
The Source from where the Respondents knew that the three farm laws are against the farmers

(Figures in Percentage)			
Sr. No.	Particulars	Haryana	Punjab
i	I myself went through the Farm Laws Copy	6.0	7.2
ii	From Kisan Unions Leader/s	13.6	4.4
iii	From Fellow Farmers	24.4	29.6
iv	From Media	41.2	44.0
v	From leaders of Opposition	6.0	1.2
vi	From Relatives	6.4	9.2
vii	Any other Source	2.4	4.4
Total		100	100

Source: Field Survey

Motivational Factor Behind Participation in Protest and Reason for Discarding Farm Laws

It was revealed from the study that a large chunk of farmers accepted the fact that they had to take roads to show their protest because of the implementation of three infamous farm laws because they fear that they might lose their land. In Haryana, 49.6 per cent of the farmers were

Table 3
Motivational Factors Behind Participation in Protest and Reasons for Discarding Farm Laws

(Figures in Percentage)			
Sr. No.	Particulars	Haryana	Punjab
i	Fear of Losing Land	49.6	64.4
ii	Farm laws are the first step towards abolishing Minimum Support Prices	46.4	30.4
iv	Brotherhood Ness	2.8	3.2
v	Effective Leadership	0.8	1.6
vi	Attack on our Sovereignty	0.4	0.4
Total		100	100
Reasons for discarding Farms Laws			
	These were anti-farmers	9.2	4.8
i	Bereft of Evidence	3.2	2.4
ii	Based on Ideological and Imaginary Justification	1.2	0.8
iii	Lack of Analysis	2	0.4
iv	Non-involvement of stakeholders during formulation of Farm Laws	23.2	10.4
v	It was intended to give benefits to big Corporations	61.2	81.2
Total		100	100

Source: Field Survey

of the view that the laws were sufficient to deprive them of their land while that per centage were remained as 64.4 per cent in case of Punjab. The second most negative factor which made the farmers aggravated was the apprehension that the farm laws would ultimately wipe out their minimum support prices.

Regarding discarding farm laws, it was found that a majority of farmers were of the view that the laws were formulated to give advantage to big corporation and the interest of the farmers were not taken into account during the formulation of the law. Non-involvement of the stakeholders was also remained a determined factor.

Most Instrumental Factor in Farmers protest in Haryana (Garret Ranking).

Table 4.1 (A)
Most Instrumental Factor in Farmers protest in Haryana (Garret Ranking)

Scale and Score Value of Ranks												(Figures in Percentage)	Mean Score	Rank	
Ranks	Scale value	x factors	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X			
			83	71	64	59	54	49	45	40	35	28			
Khap Panchayat	F	0	0	0	0	7	0	14	7	28	84		33	X	
	Ex	0	0	0	0	378	0	630	280	980	2352				
Leadership	F	49	14	7	7	0	0	21	7	21	14			II	
	Ex	4067	994	448	413	0	0	945	280	735	392		59.1		
Market Traders	F	0	28	7	7	0	0	21	21	35	14		47.1	IX	
	Ex	0	1988	448	413	0	343	945	840	1225	392				
Women's Participation	F	0	14	21	7	0	21	21	49	7	0		49.5	VII	
	Ex	0	994	1344	413	0	1029	945	1960	245	0				
Youth Generation	F	21	14	0	21	21	14	21	7	14	7		55.05	VI	
	Ex	1743	994	0	1239	1134	686	945	280	490	196				
Social Media/Freelance Journalist	F	28	21	14	14	28	21	0	7	7	0		61.45	I	
	Ex	2324	149	896	826	1512	1029	0	280	245	0				
Support from Gurudwara/NGO	F	7	14	42	21	21	21	7	7	0	0		59	III	
	Ex	581	994	2688	1239	1134	1029	315	280	0	0				
Indian Diaspora (Funding from Foreign Countries)	F	7	21	35	28	7	21	7	7	7	0		58.25	IV	
	Ex	581	1491	2240	1652	378	334	945	280	245	0				
Geographical Significance Site of protest	F	14	7	14	21	35	21	7	21	0	0		56.2	V	
	Ex	1162	497	896	1239	1890	1029	315	840	0	0				
Brotherhood Ness	F	7	7	0	14	28	28	14	7	21	14		48.75	VIII	
	Ex	581	497	0	826	1512	1372	630	280	735	392				
Source: Field Survey															

Source: Field Survey

Regarding most significant factor of the farmers protest, it was found that social media/freelance journalist was identified as the most significant factor in farmers protest in Haryana while farmers leadership was given second rank closely followed by help received from gurudwara which was ranked as third

Most Instrumental Factor in Farmers protest in Punjab

Garrett's Ranking Technique was used to reach the results for finding out the most important factor in farmers protest regarding Punjab respondentsis summed up in table 4.2. (B). It is revealed by the findings of the study that maximum mean score representing the most instrumental factor which played major role to win this war has been leadership in Punjab state. Besides, Support from Gurudwara/NGO and social media/ freelance journalist were played very important role for ensuring positive results for the protesters as these factors were ranked as second and third. The farmers shared that when mainstream media was working against them it was only the unconditional help from social media, youtubers, freelance journalist who helped them to provide them wide coverage and spread their message in mother tongue and local dialect and helped the farmers to understand the pros and cons of three farm laws and the discussion/ debate covered by social media and other different platform youtubers which

was being done during this protest were proved significant to win this war.

Table 4.1 B
Most Instrumental Factor in Farmers protest in Punjab (Garret Ranking)

Scale and Score Value of Ranks														(Figures in Percentage)	Mean Score	Rank
Ranks		I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X					
	Scale value of x factors	83	71	64	59	54	49	45	40	35	28					
Khap Panchayat	F Ex	10 830	5 355	5 320	5 295	5 540	10 490	25 1125	20 800	30 1050	20 560		45.46	IX		
Leadership	F Ex	35 2905	20 1420	15 960	10 590	10 540	40 490	25 600	15 350	10 280	10 560		59.71	I		
Market Traders	F Ex	10 830	10 710	15 960	20 1180	25 1350	20 980	10 450	20 200	5 525	10 280		33.32	VI		
Women's Participation	F Ex	10 830	15 1065	10 640	10 590	25 1350	15 735	15 675	15 600	10 560	20 175		51.37	VIII		
Youth Generation	F Ex	10 830	10 710	15 960	15 885	20 540	10 1225	15 675	25 1000	10 350	10 560		52.32	VII		
Social Media/Freelance Journalist	F Ex	15 1245	20 1420	15 960	20 1180	10 810	20 490	10 900	40 400	5 175	10 280		56.34	III		
Support from Gurudwara/NGO	F Ex	10 830	20 1420	25 1600	20 1180	10 810	15 735	10 450	5 200	15 525	5 140		56.35	II		
Indian Diaspora (Funding from Foreign Countries)	F Ex	25 2075	15 1065	15 960	10 590	10 810	15 490	10 450	5 200	15 525	20 560		55.17	IV		
Geographical Significance Site of protest	F Ex	10 830	20 1420	15 960	15 885	5 270	10 490	15 675	30 1200	15 525	5 140		52.82	V		
Brotherhood Ness	F Ex	5 415	5 355	10 640	15 885	10 540	15 735	15 675	10 400	20 700	35 980		45.17	X		

Source: Field Survey

Dominance in Farmers Protest

It is revealed from the study that each and every farmer confirmed the fact that it was the protest of all farmers that includes large, land-owning farmers, small farmers, all caste farmers. Besides, they shared that it was not only leadership that dominated but decision-making power was decentralised and all the decision were taken unanimously. It was not the particular caste or land holders who was dominating the protest. Even the persons do not have land came together to show their solidarity with protesting farmers. It the protest which attracted the Indian currently residing in foreign countries. even if a person does not have land but their father or grandfather had farming history came forward to support the farmers as they feel connection with farming and felt a sense of belongingness as they saw their father or grandfather as farmer.

Sr. No.			Particulars		(Figures in Percentage)	
					Haryana	Punjab
I	Large Farmers				0	0
ii	Landowning farmers				0	0
iii	Small Farmers				0	0
Iv	Upper Caste				0	0
V	Kisan Leadership				0	0
Vi	Panchavats				0	0
Vii	Political Parties in Opposition				0	0
Viii	All Farmers				100	100

Source: Field Survey

Conclusion

It was revealed through the study that most of the farmers from Haryana and Punjab were remained aware about the term MSP. It was also revealed that regarding information about the possible negative impacts of three infamous laws, the source for maximum per centage of participant farmers were remained the media. It was also highlighted through the study that the fear of losing their land made the farmers to jump into the battle with the existing



regime. Regarding most significant factor of the farmers protest, it was found that social media/freelance journalist was identified as the most significant factor in farmers protest in Haryana while farmers leadership was given second rank closely followed by help received from gurudwara which was ranked as third. Regarding Punjab State, it was revealed by the study that maximum mean score representing the most instrumental factor which played major role to win this war had been leadership in Punjab state. Besides, Support from Gurudwara/ NGO and social media/ freelance journalist were played very important role.

References

- [1] Ananth, Venkat (2021): "Tractor to Twitter: How Farmers Developed Their Social Media Plan to Convey Their Views," Economic Times, 3 January
- [2] ,<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/tractor-to-twitter-how-farmers-developed-their-social-media-plan-to-convey-their-views/articleshow/80075943.cms?from=mdr>
- [3] Chaba, Anju Agnihotri (2020): "Explained: Point-by-point, Why Farmers Still Oppose the Centre's Proposals on Farm Laws," Indian Express, 16 December, <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/government-farmer-talks-deadlock-explained-7106698/>
- [4] Gandhi, Rahul (n.d): "LIVE: My interaction with Prof Kaushik Basu @Cornell University," <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-uzxxnhEZQE>