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A STUDY ON A PROLETARIAT SECTION OF A SOCIETY APPLYING THE CONCEPTS OF MARXIST THEORY

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Abstract: *Karl Marx did not change the world by leading the life of a political activist, but by leading the life of a revolutionary philosopher and scholar. He changed the world just by interpreting it. Class consciousness is a core facet of Marx's theory of class conflict; it focuses on the social, political and economic relationships between workers and owners within a capitalist economy. Karl Max believed that society divided into two main groups; the bourgeoisie, who owns the means of production and the proletariat or working class who must sell their own labour power. Proletariat are the class of exploited workers and wage earners who depend on the sale of their labour for the means of existence. Therefore, this paper aims to understand the basic Marxist ideas and thoughts through studying proletariat section.*
Keywords: Class Struggle, Proletariats, Bourgeoisie, Labour, Surplus Value, Alienation.

Introduction: Karl Marx was a German philosopher, economist, historian, sociological, political theorist, journalist and socialist revolutionary. Marxist philosophy and Marxist approach is strongly influenced by Karl Marx works and his writings. It originates from the works of 19th century by German philosopher Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. In 1848, Marx and Engels published the ''Manifesto of the Communist Party'' a great book of about thirty pages with a great explanation of their ideas. In this book Marx and Engels were criticising the western capitalist system. They wanted to form a stateless society through giving importance of proletariat section of the society. They said that the history of human beings was the history of class struggle. Marx said that every society is divided into two hostile camps; that is haves and have-nots. The 'have' class owned the means of production whereas the 'have-nots' class sold its labour. According to them bourgeoisie and the proletariat are the main two classes prevailing in society. Marx's most popular theory was his 'Materialism'. He believed that morality social structure and other things are all rooted in economics.

The proletariat is the class of wage-earner in a economic society whose only possession of significant material value is their labour party (how much work they can do). A member of such a class is a proletarian.

In Marxist theory, a dictatorship of the proletariat is for the proletariat, of the proletariat and by the proletariat. On the Marxist view, this will endow the proletarian with the power to abolish the conditions that make a person a proletarian and thus build communism.

Under capitalism, according to Marx, labour power becomes a commodity; it is sold and bought on the market. The capitalism can then sell these and obtain surplus value, since the wages paid to the workers are labour than the value of the goods or services they produce for the capitalist.

Proletariat, they are one of lowest economic and social classes in a society. In ancient roman the proletariat consisted of the poor landless freedom. It included artisans and small tradesman who had been gradually impoverished by the extension of slavery. The proletariat was the lowest rank among. In some periods of Roman History, it played an important role, not as an independent force but a mass following in the political struggles between the Roman patricians and the wealthy plebeians. Because it had little opportunity for productive work, which was performed in the main by slaves, its existence was largely parasitic on the Roman economy.

In Marxian theory Proletariat, are the class of exploited workers and wage earners who depend on the sale of their labour for the means of existence. Marx believe that the seizure of power by the proletariat section of a society by applying the tools or concepts of Marxist theory.

Assam plays a leading role in the production of tea. Similarly, the tea industry provides a good number of employments in the tea industry. Thus, in this study select the tea community workers to understand Marxist approach indeed.

Objective:

- To understand basic Marxist ideas and thoughts.
- To analyzing proletariat section of a society applying the concepts of Marxist Theory.

Methodology: The study is based on analytical and descriptive. In this study both primary and secondary resources of data have been explored. The primary data's were collected from some remote area of tea garden in Golaghat district. The Secondary information and data are collected from various sources like: books, articles, journals, Ph.D. thesis etc.

Area of the study: To explore the above mention objectives, some remote area of tea garden in Golaghat district has been chosen through purposive sampling technique. In these tea garden separate area or village established for workers livelihood, it's called line or bosty. The villagers are basically tea tribe people. They are very much hard working people.

Data Analysis: For the purpose of this paper, data's were collected from 45-50 villagers as sample from the tea garden areas of Golaghat district, using face to face interview and focussed group discussion. The questions mostly related with their living status and working status.

In these survey, we found about 80-85% of villagers were illiterate. There are 80-85% people works in tea factories with very less wages and rest of people engaged with other works. There lifestyle is very simple. Though they work in private company, they have very less facility. They lived poor condition, where they less used sanitary latrine, bathroom etc. Somewhere sanitary system is there but also in very bad condition. Villagers used their drinking water from pond, pure drinking water facilities not available in there. But, recently some good steps taken by the tea garden authority regarding their developments, which are definitely help to develop workers, lifestyle and they would be live good life. After those challenge and problems, they always work hard and serve their labour. They give full effort to produce highest number of tea production.

Above this discussion, we can relate this survey with Marxist theory. In a tea company labours always be as a proletariat and owners always be as a bourgeoisie.

i. **Class Struggle**:

The social relations of production involve different classes. According to Marxism, there are two main classes of people; the bourgeoisie controls the capital and manes of production, and the proletariat provide the labour. Karl Marx and Fredrich Engels say that for most of history, there has been a struggle between those two classes. This struggle is known as class struggle. There are great differences between two classes. They are not equal in economic status. So we have seen class conflict or class struggle since ancient time. Marist says that capitalist class always want to dominate the proletariat section in many aspects. History determines class struggle.

The higher authority of the particular tea gardens does not give any sympathy or give very less sympathy for the villagers. Marx says that, proletariats have nothing to lose but their chains. These because the villagers or the workers sell their labour in less wages, they have nothing to lose, but chain. Workers are always treated as commodities, where they have no values.

ii. **Labour:**

The worker are always an important part of any industry, work on anything. These workers or labours are always getting exploited by the owners or capitalist class. The capitalist thinks they are higher than labours because they have all the facilities, utilities and tools but the workers do not have that. Capitalist exploit labours. They compel them to work more time but they did not provide the workers extra wages for that.

The places which we choose for study, the workers of those villages also had to face some kind of problems related to high and low class. They do not get much time for themselves as they are bound by the industry rules to come early to work at 7:00 A.M and go home about 6:00 or 7:00 P.M. During their lunch break labourers get very little time to spend. They serve for industry as like machine because after returning home, labours with tiredness they could not give much time to their family. They always abide by the rules and regulations of the company.

iii. **Surplus Value:**

Surplus value is the difference between the amounts raised through a sale of product to manufacture. Marx used the word surplus value, because he wanted to describe the yield, profit or return on production capital invested. According to Marxist theory, surplus value is equal to the new value created by workers in excess of their own labour cost, which is appropriated by the capitalist as profit when products are sold.

The study found the same thing in those villages that for the higher benefits, the owners of the industry make their worker to do double amount of time. And hence the worker feels or gets harassed and exploited in all these.

iv. **Alienation:**

Karl Marx believed the work at its best is what makes us human. It helps to fulfil our desire. Work allows us to live, to be creative, to flourish etc. However we know the reality in 19th century Europe was that works destroyed workers. To the mill and factory owners and worker was simply an abstract idea where the stomach that needed to be filled. The labourers or workers had no choice but the twelve long hours for the produce wages. What was worst there, labour alienated them. Alienation is a disorienting sense of exclusion and separation. Factory labour under capitalism alienated the workers from the product of their labour. They could not afford to buy which disappear to shops in far off places. To make money for who paid them meant to nothing. Workers stay few hours at home when they could not eat, sleep and relax. This work also alienated them from each other. The workers get alienated from the act of production. They also get alienated from the means of production. It can divided two forms, wage compulsion and the imposed production context.

In this study we can observed or noticed that the people of workers working in the tea factory gets alienated always. Some village workers inform that regarding their work, they said that the industry owner pays very less to them but they had to do work full time without nay rest. Even most of times the owners give them pressure to increase the production level in less time. So, without caring for anything labours, continuous have work for a long time.

Therefore, labours are alienated from the product, workers from the other workers because of specialisation of work or division of work and alienated from the act of production.

Conclusion:

This study based on data, research, observation and the collected information from the tea industry workers. It is fact that, labour class always had to suffer a lot despite they give everything to their work. According to their hard work, they are not paid that much of sufficient wage. They pay to

serve work from morning to evening, most of the time night. They work for ten or eleven hours per a day. In a day they get half an hour break for lunch. In industry owners does not give that much importance, facility which the labours deserves. For their self benefit the owners use labours to do double work in less time for surplus value. Hence it is shows that the theory forwarded by Marx is still prevailing in today's world. There is a vast distinction between rich and poor. In Marxist theory, a dictatorship of the proletariat is for the proletariat, of the proletariat and by the proletariat. Proletariat, they are the lowest on one of lowest economic and social class in a society. In the case study we observed that labours are proletariat who always exploited by the capitalist class. And capitalist class played role, who called bourgeoisie. According to Marx and Engle, bourgeoisie and the proletariat are the main two classes prevailing in society. The surplus value theory is very important in the support of the labours but when it comes to the owners, this theory has its own week points. The theory does not completely support or are against the system of capitalism. The concept of the theory is not practically possible. Marxist ideas are still alive and relevant in today's world. His ideas can answer the complex and difficult questions faced by capitalism in the 21st century. Karl Marx ideas and methods of analysis can still be used to interpret the world in order to change it for the better.

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