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SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS: A CASE STUDY IN KURNOOL DISTRICT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

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ABSTRACT:

Indian agriculture has made enviable strides in the planned area of economic development. As a result of introduction of High Yielding Varieties (HYV) with emphasis on intensive cultivation, India's food grains production trebled from 50 million tons during 1950-51 to 190 million tons during 1990-91 and further to 283.7 million tons during 1990-91 to 2018-19. Fertilizer application has played a pivotal role in increasing cropping intensity and agricultural productivity. Other factors which contributed towards this development include introduction of intensive land reforms, mobilization of village level administrative machinery to implement development programmes, nation-wide net-work of agricultural research and education facilities, a number of surface and ground water irrigation schemes, large-scale production of chemical fertilizers, credit and inputs distribution facilities, were housing and storage facility. the highest family only 10 Per cent of the sample women agricultural labourers are having small families with 3 members that mean they are practicing the small family norms. agricultural women labourers is forced in case of the saving level group of below Rs.5000. more than 51 Per cent of the sample women labourers are saved Rs.5000. The highest number of sample agricultural women labourers (48 Per cent) work experience is less than 5 years. The majority of the respondents, i.e., 172(45.98 per cent) of the respondents are earning Between Rs. 20001-40000. The singularities of lower than employment, under-development and remaining population are separately demonstrated in the day-to-day survives and living of agricultural labourers.

INTRODUCTION

In our society women plays a multi dimension role. In rural area women mainly engaged in agriculture and allied field. Women participation in agriculture is decided by several factors like- socio-economic factors, their family income, age, education, owner of field, caste. In present time women carried out almost field task. In some areas of India women are trained and they know how to operate machines. They are doing levelling on their own field. But unfortunately, in some area's women have no decision-making rights related to field. They perform all un-mechanized tasks in agriculture and carry out task which add more burden to them. Women plays significance role at home and in field. They also collect the wood from field and these woods are used as a fuel at home. Rural women have very difficult life. In a developing country like India, agriculture contributes 13.5 per cent to the GDP of the economy. It provides 55 per cent employment in the country out of which a good number of work forces is shared by women. Role of women in this sector cannot be ignored they comprise 33 per cent of the agriculture labour force and 48 per cent of the self-employed farmers.

In developing countries like India, agriculture continues to absorb and employ female work force but fails to give them recognition of an employed or hired labor. Women constitute 38 Per cent of the agricultural labor force in developing nations. It is also estimated that 45.3 of Per cent the agricultural labor force consists of women only. A rural woman work in farm handles her responsibilities and also does her household activities. Among the household activities the primary job is of taking care of livestock or poultry farm. Livestock and poultry not only feed her family but also allow her to earn that extra income. Rural women single handedly performs the back breaking activity of cattle management in most parts of the country. Cattle management involves cleaning of the shed and animals, watering the cattle, milking, fodder collection, making of farm manure etc. women play a dominant role in livestock production and poultry. with the increase in rural men migrating to cities for better opportunities, women silently adorns many roles in the agriculture sector - from homemaker to laborer to cultivator and even entrepreneur , roles of rural women is changing very rapidly in India. Women have started to predominate every level of agriculture and its value chain.

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introduction of intensive land reforms, mobilization of village level administrative machinery to implement development programmes, nation-wide net-work of agricultural research and education facilities, a number of surface and ground water irrigation schemes, large-scale production of chemical fertilizers, credit and inputs distribution facilities, were housing and storage facilities. The well thought out strategy has paid us rich dividends from scarcity to self-reliance in food-production, despite enormous population grown witnessed during the last few decades. About 53 Per cent population of India is engaged in agricultural activities. But agriculture in India is still at mercy of monsoon. Here, the condition of the farmers and agricultural labourers depend on the intensity of monsoon. If monsoon is good then crop is good and vice-versa. Agriculture labour is counted in the category of unorganized sector, so their income is not fixed. Hence they are living an insecure and underprivileged life and earning just Rs.150/day along with full uncertainty.

OBJECTIVES

- To analyze the role of Female workers in agriculture sector of India.
- To study the Socio-Economic conditions of the sample women agricultural Labourers in the study area.

SAMPLE DESIGN

The Data was collected from secondary and primary sources. First objective is based on the secondary data collected from various Census reports, article papers and various journals. For second objective field survey was conducted. Data collected through interview schedule. The criteria for the selection of the villages are based on the high concentration of the agricultural labourers particularly women agricultural labourers. In the third stage, 50 per cent of the sample women agricultural labourers have been randomly selected from the total women agricultural labourers available from each village. Thus, the total sample size was 374.

COMMUNITY-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF AGRICULTURAL WOMEN LABOURERS

The particulars relating to the category-wise and community/ caste-wise distribution of the sample agricultural women labourers in the study area, are presented in table-1

Table-1

Caste/ Community-wise Distribution of Agricultural women labourers

S. No	Category	SC	ST	BC	OC	Total
1	Land Less Labourers	202 (67.79)	28 (9.40)	52 (17.45)	16 (5.37)	298 (79.68)
2	Cultivator Cum Labourers	28 (53.85)	4 (7.69)	13 (25.00)	7 (13.46)	52 (13.90)
3	Casual Labour	6 (11.54)	2 (8.33)	9 (37.50)	7 (29.17)	24 (6.42)
Total		236 (63.10)	34 (9.09)	74 (19.79)	30 (8.02)	374 100
Chi-square		$\chi^2 = 30.673^{**}$; (p = 0.000) ; df= 6; Significant at 0.01 level;				

Source: Primary Data.

The table above explain that scheduled castes (SCs) accounted for more than 63 Per cent of the total sample agricultural women labourers scheduled tribes (STs) constitute more than 9 Per cent whereas Backward class and forward caste sample women agricultural labourers form about 20 Per cent and 8 Per cent respectively. Generally agricultural labourers, mostly land less constitute the poorest segment of the Indian agricultural population. They belong to the economically and socially backward and oppressed sections of rural society. They mainly belong to the scheduled caste and other backward class communities. 68 Per cent of the SC women labourers are land less followed by SC cultivators and SC casual labourers. The highest number of SC, ST, BC and FCs cultivators cum labourers and casuals labourers are found in case of B.C labourers. The highest number of SCs and BCs are found in case of cultivators cum labourers is noticed in case of BCs followed by OCs women beneficiaries. From the chi-square output table, we see that significance level 99 % has been achieved. This means that chi-square table is showing systematic association between the above two variables at 99 % level of confidence. Hence it conclude that there is significant relationship between agricultural women labourers with category wise respondent.

AGE-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN LABOURERS

Particulars relating to the age-wise distribution of the sample agricultural women labourers, are given in table-2.

Table-2

Age-wise Distribution of women agricultural labourers

S. No.	Age Group (Years)	No. of Women	Per centage
1	Below 25	42	11.23
2	26-35	118	31.55
3	36-45	124	33.16
4	46-55	68	18.18
5	56 and Above	22	5.88
Total		374	100.00

Source: Primary Data.

The table above shows that women agricultural labourers belong to 36-45 years are found to be the greatest. Next highest number of women labourers found in the age group of 26-35 years. A considerable number of women labourers (11 Per cent) are fall the age group below 25 years. About 43 Per cent of the sample women agricultural labourers are having the age below 35 years of young age working in the agricultural fields in the study area. Only 18 Per cent of the women labourers are found in the age group of 46-55 middle age groups. About 6 Per cent of the women labourers are noticed in the age group of above 56 years age. An interesting feature in found in the data collection women above sixth years of age are not found in the sample in the study area become they are getting old age pension of Rs.30,250 per month from the government of Andhra Pradesh.

SIZE OF THE FAMILY

The particulars relating to the size of the family of the sample women agricultural labourers in the study are shown in the following table-3.

Table-5.3

Distribution of Sample Households: Family Size

S. No.	Size of Family (in Nos)	No. of Household	Per centage of Total
1	Below 3	38	10.16
2	3-6	142	37.97
3	6-9	184	49.20
4	9 and above	10	2.67
Total		374	100.00

Source: Primary Data.

The table above reveals that the highest number of sample women agricultural labourers is found in the size of family group of 6-9 members of the family, more than 49 Per cent of them are fall under 6-9 number group. 38 Per cent of the women labourers are placed in the size of family group of 3-6 numbers of the family. More than 10 Per cent of the women keep their family size below 3 numbers. About 3 Per cent of the women have above 9 numbers of the family. It is the highest family only 10 Per cent of the sample women agricultural labourers are having small families with 3 members that mean they are practicing the small family norms.

TYPE OF THE FAMILY

The Nuclear families emerging in the place of joint family system as the grownup children in the family divided and going to town for employment. Particulars relating of the type of the family of the sample agricultural women in the study area are given in table-4.

Table-4

Distribution of Women Agricultural Labour Households: By type

S. No.	Type of Family	No. of Households	Per centage
1	Joint Family	43	11.50
2	Nuclear Family	331	88.50
Total		374	100.00

Source: Primary Data.

The table above reveals that only 11.50 Per cent of the agricultural women labourers live in the Joint families 88.5 Per cent of the sample women labourers are living in the nuclear type of families due to the inadequate accommodation and limited earnings in the families. The above analysis shows that the Joint family system is gradually disappearing in both urban and rural areas. In the place of joint family system, nuclear type of independence family system is emerging in the modern India.

MARITAL STATUS OF THE WOMEN LABOUR

Marital status denotes the elderliness of the persons. A married person is a respectable citizen with wideness and capability of doing things in a proper way to get the fruits. There are categories namely married, unmarried and widow and deserted women. Particulars relating to the marital status of the sample women agricultural labourers in the study area given in table-5.

Table-5

Distribution of Respondents by their Marital Status

Type of Labour	Marital Status			
	Married	Unmarried	Widows	Total
Landless Labour	244 (81.88)	16 (5.37)	38 (12.75)	298 (100)
Cultivator	44 (84.62)	1 (1.92)	7 (13.46)	52 (100)
Casual Labour	20 (83.33)	2 (8.33)	2 (8.33)	24 (100)
Total	308 (82.35)	19 (5.08)	47 (12.57)	374 (100)
Chi-square	$\chi^2 = 1.996^@$; (p = 0.736) ; df= 4; Not Significant;			

Source: Primary Data.

There are three categories namely marital unmarried and widows and deserted women. The table shows that the majority of the respondents (82 Per cent) are married, 5 Per cent and 13 Per cent of the sample women agricultural labourers are unmarried and widows and also deserted women respectively. Among the different types of the labourers, 82 Per cent of landless labourers are married, only 5 Per cent and 13 Per cent of the landless labour are unmarried and widows/deserted women. Cultivators cum labours are in less number when compared to the landless labourers. About 85 Per cent of the cultivating labourers are married only 2 Per cent are unmarried and 13 Per cent of the cultivating classes are widows and deserted women with regard to the casual women labour more than 83 Per cent are married women, 8 Per cent are unmarried and 8 Per cent are widows and deserted women. The above analysis shows that the numbers of unmarried are very few in case of cultivating sample women labour. Moreover, unmarried women are comparatively very low in all categories of labourers. This means that chi-square table is not showing systematic association between the above two variables at 99 % level of confidence. Hence it concludes that there is no significant relationship between women labourers with marital status in the type of Labour respondent.

EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Education can change the lives of the people and it creates social mobility for the people to move anywhere to get employment. Education can make the people to gain knowledge and skills to work in the agricultural fields our

anywhere in the country. Work efficiency and ability to work can be increased and strengthens the economy, primary level, high school and intermediate and above. The particulars of the sample women agricultural workers relating to their educational levels among the deferens types of labour are presented in table-6.

Table-6
Educational Status of the Sample Agricultural Labour

Type of Labour	Levels of education				
	Illiterate	Primary	High School	Intermediate And above	Total
Landless Labour	176 (59.06)	88 (29.53)	22 (7.38)	12 (4.03)	298 (100)
Cultivator	17 (32.69)	18 (34.62)	9 (17.31)	8 (15.39)	52 (100)
Casual Labour	12 (50.00)	7 (29.17)	3 (12.50)	2 (8.33)	24 (100)
Total	205 (54.81)	113 (30.21)	34 (9.09)	22 (5.88)	374 (100)
Chi-square	$\chi^2 = 21.209^{**}$; (p = 0.002) ; df= 6; Significant at 0.01 level;				

Source: Primary Data.

The table above shows that among 374 sample women labour 55 Per cent, 30 Per cent, 9 Per cent and 6 Per cent sample women labourers belong to illiterate, primary education completed and finished intermediate and above studies. The highest number of illiterates is found in case of landless agricultural women labour followed by cultivator cum labour and casual labour. About 35 Per cent of the cultivating labourers have completed primary education to follow by landless labour (30 Per cent) and casual labour (29 Per cent). The highest Percentage of cultivators cum labourers have completed high school education and intermediate and above education followed by casual labour. From the chi-square output table, we see that significance level 99 % has been achieved. This means that chi-square table is showing systematic association between the above two variables at 99 % level of confidence. Hence it concludes that there is significant relationship between agricultural women labourers with category wise respondent of the educational status in the study area.

WORK EXPERIENCE IN AGRICULTURAL WORKS

The poor people in villages, the weaker sections and the marginalized groups of rural society generally all the adults will work in the agricultural fields. The minor girls and some of the children in their families are also working in the agricultural field along with their parents. The work experience of the sample agricultural women labourers in the agricultural operations in the study area is presented in the following table-7.

Table-7

Distribution of Respondents by their work Experience in Agriculture

Type of Labour	Years of Experience			
	≥ 5 Years	5 to 10 Years	≤ 10 Years	Total
Landless Labour	146 (80.66)	114 (78.62)	38 (79.17)	298 (100.0)
Cultivator	20 (11.05)	24 (16.55)	8 (16.67)	52 (100.0)
Casual Labour	15 (8.29)	7 (4.83)	2 (4.17)	24 (100.0)
Total	181 (48.40)	145 (38.77)	48 (12.83)	379 (100.0)
Chi-Square	$\chi^2 = 4.035^{\text{a}}$; (p = 0.401) ; df= 4; Not Significant ;			

Source: Primary Data.

The sample women labourers work experience in agricultural operation is divided into three categories such as less than 5 years, 5 to 10 years and greater than 10 years of experience in the agricultural works. The highest number of sample agricultural women labourers (48 Per cent) work experience is less than 5 years. 39 Per cent of the sample workers are having 5-10 years of experience in agricultural activities and only about 13 Per cent of the sample labourers are having more than 10 years of experience in agricultural operations. Among the different types of labourers, 81 Per cent of the landless labourers, 11 Per cent of the cultivators cum labourers and 8 Per cent of the casual labourers are having less than 5 years of agricultural work experience. 78 Per cent of the landless labour, 16 Per cent of the cultivating labourers and about 5 Per cent of the casual labourers are having 5-10 years of agricultural field experience. 79 Per cent of the landless labour, 13 Per cent of cultivating labour and 4 Per cent of the casual labour are having greater than 10 years of experience in agricultural operations in the study area. This means that chi-square table is not showing systematic association between the above two variables at 99 % level of confidence. Hence it concludes that there is no significant relationship between women agriculture labourers their work experience in agriculture sector of the respondent in the study area.

Table-8**Debt position of the Agricultural Labourers in the study area (Rs.)**

S. No.	Debt (Rs.)	No. of Respondent	Per cent
1	No Debts	25	6.68
2	Below 10000	24	6.41
3	10001-20,000	37	9.89
4	20001-40.000	43	11.49
5	40001-60000	152	40.66
6	60001 and above	93	24.87
Total		374	100.00

Source: Primary Data.

The above table explains the particulars of the debt position of the sample respondents in study area out of 374 respondents, majority of the respondents, i.e., 152(40.66 per cent) of the respondents are debt position Between Rs. 40001-60000, 43 (11.49 per cent) of the respondents are debt position range between Rs. 20001- 40000, 37(9.89 per cent) of the respondents are debt position range between Rs. 10001-20000, 25 (6.68 per cent) of the respondents are no debt, 24(6.41 per cent) of the respondents are debt position below Rs. 10000 and the remaining 93(24.87 per cent) of the respondents are debt position above Rs. 60001.

SAVING PATTERN OF THE SAMPLE WOMEN LABOUR

The particulars relating to the saving amounts of the sample agricultural women labourers are given in table-8. The highest number of the sample agricultural women labourers is forced in case of the saving level group of below Rs.5000. more than 51 Per cent of the sample women labourers are saved Rs.5000. Next more than 20 Per cent of the women labourers are having the savings of Rs.5001-10,000. 11 Per cent of the women labourer fall in the group of Rs.10001-20,000 saving level of Rs.20001-30000. Only 2 Per cent of the women labourers are having the saving level of above Rs.30,001.

Table-8**Saving Pattern of the Agricultural Labourers (Amount in Rs.)**

S. No.	Savings	No. of Respondent	Per cent
1	No savings	35	9.36
2	Below 5000	192	51.34
3	5001-10000	76	20.32
4	10001-20000	42	11.23
5	20001-30,000	20	5.35
6	30,001 and above	9	2.41
Total		374	100.00

Source: Primary Data.

On the whole, the woman labourers are inculcating the habit of savings due to send the monthly saving instalment to the Self-help group. In some cases, the forced savings are also appeared in case of landless agricultural women labourers with a fear of removing them as members of the self-help groups. About 91 Per cent of the women of labourers do not have habit of the keeping the savings, so that they did not join the main stream of women labourers in the study area.

The income particulars earned by the selected sample from different sources are presented in the following Table-10.

Table-10**Annual Income Pattern of the sample Agricultural Labourers (Amount. In Rs)**

S. No.	Annual income	No. of Respondent	Per cent
1	Below - 20000	35	9.36
2	20001-40000	172	45.98
3	40001-60000	88	23.55
4	60001-80000	52	13.90
5	80001 and above	27	7.21
Total		374	100.00

Source: Primary Data.

The above table explains the particulars of the income of the respondents, in study area out of 374 respondents, majority of the respondents, i.e., 172(45.98 per cent) of the respondents are earning Between Rs. 20001-40000, 88 (23.55 per cent) of the respondents are earning range between 40001- 60000, 52(13.90 per cent) of the respondents are earning between Rs. 60001-80000, 35 (9.36 per cent) of the respondents are earnings below Rs. 20000 and the remaining 27(7.21 per cent) of the respondents are earnings above Rs. 80001.

CONCLUSION

In the developing countries like India, agriculture continues to absorb and employ female work force but fails to give them recognition of an employed or hired labor. Women constitute 38 Per cent of the agricultural labor force in developing nations. It is also estimated that 45.3 of Per cent the agricultural labor force consists of women only. A rural woman work in farm handles her responsibilities and also does her household activities. Among the household activities the primary job is of taking care of livestock or poultry farm. Livestock and poultry not only feed her family but also allow her to earn that extra income. They are the important part of our country. Women face several problems throughout their work like wage discrimination, gender discrimination they come to be low excellence of work for the reason that of illiteracy. From time to time it's very difficult for a woman to change to work because of male leading society of rural India. But women top quality to go through all the problems and portion their family economically. The involvement of women in agriculture will be determined by on various factors like their economic condition, education status, age, marital status, category of agricultural accomplishments, whether the agricultural creation is cash or maintenance yield.

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