



A STUDY ON SOCIO ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF LANDLESS AGRICULTURAL FEMALE LABOURERS IN THANJAVUR



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ABSTRACT

Economic Development is generally concerned and defined to mean growth in per -capita gross domestic production produced by the labour force of an economy. In that women labour constitute an important segment. Hence women labour should be considered with an equal footing with men. Participation of women in economic activity in India is very common from time immemorial. The women is the backbone of agricultural workforce but worldwide her hard work has mostly been unpaid. She does the most tedious and back-breaking tasks in agriculture, animal husbandry and homes.

KEYWORDS: *Economic Development, Rural Women, Agriculture, Modern Technology*

INTRODUCTION

Women make essential contributions to the agricultural and rural economies in all developing countries. Their roles vary considerably between and within regions and are changing rapidly in many parts of the world, where economic and social forces are transforming the agricultural sector. Rural women often manage complex households and pursue multiple livelihood strategies. Their activities typically include producing agricultural crops, tending animals, processing and preparing food, working for wages in agricultural or other rural enterprises, collecting fuel and water, engaging in trade and marketing, caring for family members and maintaining their homes. Many of these activities are not

defined as “Economically Active Employment” in national accounts but they are essential to the well-being of rural households.

AGRICULTURE WOMEN LABOURERS

Women’s role in agricultural operations is very significant as they contribute about three fourth of the labour required for agricultural operations. A female constitute about 50% of the total population and have got their employment mostly in the low primary sector and the nature of their employment is not permanent but seasonal in character. They are the back bone of the village economy of rural India. Women take up different works to eke out their livelihood and the majority of the rural



women depend on agriculture. Which the major unorganized sector in India. Many of these labourers are landless, homeless and belong to the socially depressed classes of the society. Despite the seasonal nature of employment in the field of agriculture enormous growth is witnessed in the size of the agricultural labourers since the beginning of the country.

OBJECTIVES

1. To know about the socio economic conditions of the landless women agriculture labourers in Thanjavur district.
2. To examine the standard of living of female agriculture labourers.
3. To study about the role of women agricultural labourers in economic development.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Agriculture still plays a significant role in developing countries like India. Modern technology is being used in most of the agriculture operations due to introduction of green revolution strategy. It has resulted number of bad and good effects in the economy, with regards to productivity, it increases productivity to a

greater extent. But over use of fertilized and pesticides lead to health hazards on human beings. So it is a good and bad effect. As far as agriculture labourers are concerned, they are severely affected by modern technology in agriculture. Especially women agricultural labourers are losing employment opportunity. This leads to lower income and lower standard of living. But this is mitigated by prime minister rural employment programme and the role of SHGs. So the impact on income of agricultural labourers will reveal certain important points.

METHODOLOGY

This study is based on the primary data which is collected from the Thanjavur district. The 100 samples selected through the random sampling method on October 2015. Tables, percentage are the tools used for the present study.

LIMITATIONS

1. Due to lack of time the researched is not able to cover all the women agricultural labourers in the Thanjavur District.
2. Most of the respondents are illiterate, So they did not maintain any records regarding their agricultural activities, earnings etc.

Table-1, Family Income of the Agricultural Women Respondents

Sl No	Annual Income (in Rupees)	No of Agricultural Women Labourers	Percentage (%)
1	Below 8000	15	15
2	8000 - 16000	25	25
3	16000 - 24000	40	40
4	Above 24000	20	20
	Total	100	100

Source: Computed from primary data.

This table explains details regarding the annual income agricultural women labourers. Nearly 15% of respondents lead a life which was below poverty line.

Only 20% of the Respondents have an annual income of Rs: 24000/- and above .

Table-2, Annual Expenditure of Agricultural Women Respondents

Sl No	Annual Expenditure (in Rupees)	No of Agricultural Women Labourers	Percentage (%)
1	Below 8000	20	20
2	8000 - 16000	30	30
3	16000 - 24000	35	35
4	Above 24000	15	15
	Total	100	100

Source: Computed from primary data.

This table explain the annual expenditure details of agricultural women labourers. Nearly 20% of respondents spend the Rs 8000/- Expenditure. 50% of

the respondents spend Rs 16000 to 24000 and above annually.

Table-3, Annual Saving of the Agricultural Women Respondents

SI No	Annual Saving (in Rupees)	No of Agricultural Women Labourers	Percentage (%)
1	Below 20000	10	10
2	20000 - 40000	25	25
3	40000 - 60000	40	40
4	Above60 000	25	25
	Total	100	100

Source: Computed from primary data.

The above table reveals that the savings details of agricultural women respondents. 25% of the respondents are able to save Rs 20000 - 40000 annually

and 65% of them are able save Rs40000 -60,000 and above.

Table-4, Annual Borrowing of the Agricultural Women Respondents

SI No	Annual Borrowing (in Rupees)	No of Agricultural Women Labourers	Percentage (%)
1	Below 20000	25	25
2	20000 - 40000	30	30
3	40000 - 60000	30	30
4	Above 60000	15	15
	Total	100	100

Source: Computed from primary data.

This tables explains the borrowing particulars of the agricultural women labourers. 55% of the Respondents are borrowing annually up to Rs40000/- remaining 45% borrow Rs 60000 above due to many

reasons like celebrating festivals, marriage of their children,constructing houses, education and other purposes.

Table-5, Other Problems Faced by Agricultural Women Respondents and Suggestions

SI No	Problems	No of Agricultural Women Labourers	Percentage (%)
1	Problems like drinking habits of husband and their wrong financial decisions	55	55
2	Over spending attitude	25	25
3	Fight among the members of the family and other issues due to illiteracy	20	20
	Total	100	100

Source: Computed from primary data

The table source the various problem faced by agricultural women respondents. 55% of the women are facing problems from their drunkard husband. 25% of them unnecessarily over spending money by next generation. 20% of women are facing fight among the members of their family and neighbors etc. Otherwise all agricultural women labourers facing the common problems like seasonal unemployment, low wages compared with men in agricultural sector.The

Solutions to the problems faced by agricultural women labourers are stated as follows.Certain issues can be solved by seeking the guidance from the village head so that they could get out from the problem in a better manner. Apart from this educating their children and bringing awareness about the importance of small savings can nodoubt improve their standard of living. The research

efforts at the ICAR institutes have been tried to relieve agricultural women labourer by providing time and labour saving tools. Vocational trainings are also being conducted, to impart skills to undertake different avocations. In extension activities the women is now the centre point and activities are being planned keeping her in view. So that her enlightenment will change the face of rural India.

CONCLUSION

Women suffer from a multiple burden on their time due to their home making, child rearing and income earning responsibilities. When they work the whole day in fields and forests, they need appropriate support services like crèches and child care centers. A Gram panchayat mahila fund should be established to enable SHGs and other women's groups to undertake community activities that help to meet essential gender specific needs.

The feminization of agriculture, due to male out migration, needs specific attention with reference to gender sensitive farm and credit policies. All research, development and extension programmed in *agriculture and all services must be engendered* essential to the well-being of rural households direction. because agricultural women could not be replaced by technological changes and their productivity always accelerates the growth rate of the economy.

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