



A STUDY ON SOCIO ECONOMIC STATUS IN AGRICULTURAL LABOURES OF KAKKARAKOTTAI VILLAGE IN THANJAVUR DISTRICT TAMIL NADU

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ABSTRACT

The dominant movement of people in the mega-deltas of south India is from agriculture-dominated rural areas to urban settlements, driven by growing opportunities, but resulting in new human development challenges. Growth in agricultural output has been attributed largely to the adoption of biochemical, technological innovations and expansion of irrigational facilities. The descriptive data on agricultural wages also reveal a few noticeable rural labor market phenomena particularly pertaining to agricultural wage workers. It also finds that migration takes place mainly for survival and repayment of debts, and that a large proportion of their earnings from migration are utilized for day to day expenses.

Keywords: Migration, Income, Expenditure, Deltas Regions and Agricultural Labour.

Cite this Article: B.Balambika and Dr.A. Arulraj, A Study on Socio Economic Status in Agricultural Laboures of Kakkarakottai Village in Thanjavur District Tamil Nadu, International Journal of Management (IJM), 11(10), 2020, pp. 2495-2499.
<https://iaeme.com/Home/issue/IJM?Volume=11&Issue=10>

INTRODUCTION

In general, the pace of economic development in the third world countries depends mainly on the development of agriculture. In our country agriculture is the backbone of our economy. It is therefore the efforts of labor which really initiate the process of development in agriculture and raises total agriculture production either to earn Foreign exchange through increased exports or to provide the base for capital Formation through increased savings in terms of agricultural good or provide additional good to feed the growing population. It is obvious that agricultural labor has a vital role in the building of any modern nation through its contribution to the total development.

Agriculture labor constitutes and continues to be one of the most important factors of productions in spite of the significant technological advancement in this sector. Thus human labor continues and has to continue to be a more preponderant factor in the agricultural economy. This is because of the simple fact that machine cannot be a perfect substitute for labor in the process of farm production (Gopinath, 2019b). An analysis of farm labor and its problems are to be developed in a two dimensional format.

AGRICULTURAL GROWTH IN INDIA

Growth in agricultural output has been attributed largely to the adoption of biochemical, technological innovations and expansion of irrigational facilities. The descriptive data on agricultural wages also reveal a few noticeable rural labor market phenomena particularly pertaining to female agricultural wage workers (Kartjick et al., 2020). First, the estimated all India agricultural average daily real wage rates for male and female wage workers show that female workers' wages continue to be lower than male workers wage a trend that holds across the 16 states; second, substantial cross stage differences continue to exist in the daily wage rates of female agricultural wage workers (Gopinath.2019a). Third, although the overall male - female earnings gap has declined over time quite large differentials continue to exist across the major agricultural regions of the country. Fourth, and rather surprisingly, some of the regions relatively high levels of yield and agricultural development are also characterized by a continuation of relatively lower female agricultural workers wages and higher male-female wage differentials than are the poorer states with comparatively low agricultural yields. D. Ramesh (2007) in his study has noted that about 60 percent of the agricultural laborers interviewed reported that they usually move to others places as there was not sufficient work in the local villages another 21 percent go to other places as they are already part of some informal group working in those places. Only 8 per cent go in the expectation of higher wages. Whereas, 34 percent of rural workers reported as those was insufficient work in the local villages or as the village work was not suited to their skills another 32 percent go to other places, as they are already part of some informal group only 17 percent go in the expectation of higher wages (Gopinath e al., 2016).

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN INDIA

According to 2001 census 58.4 percent of the total workers of the country are either cultivators or agricultural laborers.

Out of these, 37.52 percent is engaged in agriculture related industry and are thus employed indirectly by the agricultural sector for itself.

In Bihar 77.35% of the total workers are engaged in directly in agricultural of which 29.17% are cultivators and 48.18% are landless agricultura laborers.

In Madhya Pradesh 42.93% are cultivators and 28.66% are landless agricultural laborers respectively. The states like Kerala, Punjab, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu have succeeded largely in diverting its work force to non-agricultural activities only 23.26% of Kerala's total workers are engaged in Agriculture. The numbers was 39.36% in Punjab and 43.99% and 49.55% in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu respectively. B.N. Singh (2006) in his study has found that the main occupation is agriculture and allied activities, involving them either as cultivator or agricultural laborers (Gopinath & Chitra, 2020). About 60-70 per cent of labor import is provided by women. Processing and storage of grain rural women have low level of literacy (Gopinath, 2011). Broadly it can be economic factors, like job or better jobs and lending money social factors, like poverty, indebtedness, monsoon failure and business failure, personal factors, like pursuing of higher studies or for getting access to better educational, medical and health facilities and sometimes natural calamities high density of population, exploitation, and the problems of loneliness and feeling of insecurity. These helpless unemployed labor as they leave their village home and join to swell the already over populated areas viz., urban and cities. (Vijay korra, 2011)

Objectives

1) To socio economic status agricultural labor wages in kakkarakottai village in Thanjavur district.

METHODOLOGY

A revenue village of Kakkarakottai in Thanjavur district has been selected to study the gender differences of agricultural laborers. There are four hundred male and female agricultural laborers in Orathanadu village, of 100 agricultural laborers have been randomly selected. The required data have been collected by interview method with the help of a pre- tested schedule. The investigation has been conducted during the months of July and August 2019. Collected data covers detailed in the social status, household composition, wages received, expenditure, extend of indebtedness, awareness of public utilities and participation in women agency like self-help groups and other related factors. Gender differences of agricultural laborers have been analyzed by means of statistical tools like average and standard deviation.

ANALYSIS & DISCUSSION

Agriculture is the backbone of Indian economy. Three- fourths of the populations are directly depending on agriculture. The whole humanity in one way or other depends heavily on the success of agriculture. In most of the developing societies, it is common to find a large number of poor people who are living out with a subsistence level of income could not able to come out of the grip of poverty. A multitude of factors- both economic and non-economic are responsible for the problem of poverty. Any discussion on the problem of poverty in the Indian context is complete without references to landless agricultural laborers, who are facing several problems on many fronts, are inevitably more vulnerable to the malice of unemployment, inequality and poverty. Faced with the seasonal nature of employment along with their poor resource capacity, they are forced to work very hard to make a decent life.

The age at which a person enters an occupation and his continuance in the same, will have a telling effect on his level of skill, productivity, earning capacity and also his capacity to run a family. In the socio economic environment obtaining most of the developing nations, and it is particularly so in his part of sub-continent. An attempt, thus, has been made in the present enquiry to evaluate the age structure of the sample

Table 4.1 Distribution of sample Respondents by Age Group

Age (Years)	Number of person
21-30	6
31-40	32
41-50	29
51-60	19
61-70	11
71-80	3
Total	100

Source: Primary data.

The table 4.1 shows that the majority 32 respondents of the sample agricultural laborers are from the age group 31-40, while 29 respondents of them are from the age group 41-50, while the 19 respondents of the sample agricultural laborers are from the age group 51-60, and the 11 respondents are in age group from 61-70 and 6 respondents are from the age group 21-30. Less number of 3 sample agricultural laborers is from the age group of 71-80. It is clear from the above table that younger laborers dominate this sector in this particular study area. The very hard nature of agricultural operations forces out the aged and weak persons.

Income is the most important variable that determines the economic conditions of people in general and landless agricultural laborers in particular. As agriculture depends on monsoon, so is the economic condition of agricultural laborers. If the monsoon is erratic, employment opportunities to the agricultural laborers will remaining the household income is the total of contribution from all the earning members of the family. The income of agricultural household is tabulated as follows.

Table 4.2 Distribution of Sample Households in terms of Monthly Income

Income (Rs.)	Total Number of Families
1001 — 4000	6
4001 — 7000	90
7001 — 10000	4
Total	100

Source: Primary data.

The above table 4.2 shows that majority 90 numbers of the families have been in the income range of Rs.4001 to

7000 per month, while 6 numbers of the households have monthly income of Rs.1001 to 4000 and only 4 number of the household have Rs.7001 to 10000 as monthly income. Considering the seasonal nature of agriculture that the present study is found that very nearly most of the sample households are vulnerable to the malice of poverty.

CONCLUSION

The present study revealed that agricultural laborers are fully engaged in agricultural activities in order to contribute their family economy. The majority 32 respondents of the sample agricultural laborers are from the age group 31-40. Yet, they are not empowered economically. Low educational status and other social factors lead them to follow their parental occupation despite their earning from agriculture is very low. Wide gender differences persist among agricultural laborers that affect of especially female agricultural laborers (Gopinath, 2020b). In order to improve their living condition government, Non- Government organizations and local agencies must take innovative steps that target specifically the agricultural laborers.

Awareness about public agencies and self-help group will pave the way for success in the shorter term.

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