

**A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON PROBLEMS FACED BY AGRICULTURE
LABOURERS AND CONSTRUCTIVE LABOURS IN TENKASI**

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ABSTRACT

Agriculture in India is the vertical backbone of the country and is regarded as the largest sector of the country's economic activity. It is the major sector of the State economy, in which the majority of people earn their livelihood. Though the share of agriculture in the aggregate economy has declined rapidly during the planned development of the country, it assumes a pivotal role in the rural economy. The contributory share of agriculture in GDP has declined from 55.4 per cent in 1950-51 to 18.5 per cent in 2006-07. Agriculture at present, provides livelihood to 60 per cent of the total population. The sector provides employment to 58.4 per cent of country's workforce and is the single largest private enterprise. By this way income and expenditure patterns of the agricultural laborers' have been changed. At present conditions the number of people living below poverty line has been declining to a certain extent the study focus on the historical background of the female agricultural laborers', factors contributing towards the backwardness of the female agricultural laborers' and the decision making process of female agricultural landless laborers' in adjacent to urban and rural villages.and problems faced by agriculture labours and contraction labours .

Key words:

Agricultural labour, Urban and Rural villages. Government, contraction labours, Women's

Introduction

In all agricultural operations though the entire household is involved, woman's contribution is significant. Her participation is indispensable in carrying out the whole range of

agricultural activity. Her involvement is right from preparing the land, sowing and weeding, transplanting, threshing, and winnowing. She is also involved in pouching, which is always considered as a man's job. She makes substantial contribution to the household food production, ensuring food security

In addition to food processing, cooking, fetching water, taking care of children and maintaining the household, she spends lot of hours in the fields too. In almost the activities she is involved right from land preparation till storage of harvested grains. During land preparation, men go to the field early in the morning and women, after finishing their household activities, take food for men and assist them in breaking clods of earth, bundling etc. She also takes part in pouching and it is not considered as a taboo. Men do collection of green leaf manure from various plants while women carry the leaf bundles to their field². Participation of women in rice planting, tapioca planting and weeding is significantly higher than that of men. Both men and women participate in harvesting and threshing operations. Women along with men carry the harvested crop bundles to the threshing field. While men hit the bundles against the rough floor to separate the grains from straws, women assist them in passing the bundle.

Review

Harris and Todaro (1970) pointed out that the higher expected earnings in the modern sector relative to those in the traditional sector sustain a continuum of migration to the urban areas in search of employment. Higher expected earnings however do not be equated with the real wage gap between the rural and urban areas. Wages in the urban sector are kept at a higher level than that the free market would allow because of unionism or government legislation or because it is in the employees' interest to keep on stable and loyal labour force.

Barnum and Sabot (1976)¹¹ examined the relationship between educational status and migration of seven urban areas in Tanzania. They found out that the tendency for migration was greater among the more formally educated rural people. The study also revealed that rural-urban income differential as well as probability of finding employment in urban areas determined the magnitude of rural urban migration. The study gave emphasis only on human capital investment, education and the relationship with migration behavior of the rural residents.

Premi (1980)¹⁴ examined some of the characteristics of female migration in India. The analysis was based mainly on 1971 census data. The study showed that the number of female

migrants was more than double that of male migrants, but their migration was largely limited to the rural-to-rural stream within the district of enumeration. As the distance of migration increased the sex-ratio fell sharply. The proportion of married female migrants below the age of 25 declined consistently with the increase in the distance of migration.

Objectives

1. To study the historical background of the female agricultural laborers’.
2. To trace the factors contributing towards the backwardness of the female agricultural laborers
- 3 To examine the decision making process of female agricultural landless laborers’ in adjacent to urban and rural villages.

Scope of the study

This study is mainly concerned with the women agricultural labourers. The researcher makes an attempt to study the socio- economic background of the labourers in Tirunelveli, the trace the factors contributing towards the backwardness of the female agricultural laborers, the decision making process of female agricultural landless laborers’ in adjacent to urban and rural villages.

Hypothesis of the Study

Based on the objectives of the studies the following null Hypothesis was formed.

1. There is no significant relationship between the age of the respondents and their level of satisfaction.
2. There is no significant relationship between the educational qualification of the respondents and their level satisfaction.

Research Methodology

Designing suitable methodology and selection of analytical tool is important for a meaningful analysis of any research problems. This selection is denoted to the statement of the methodology, Data were collected from both primary data and secondary data were collected

from the annual credit plan of the lead bank scheme, sampling procedure, Method of analysis and tools for a analysis. Sampling Design: There are taluks,. For the purpose of collecting primary data from the beneficiaries, The 100 beneficiaries are selected under convenient sampling method.

Sample design:

The research has selected the convenience sampling methods. The researcher has chosen 100 laborers on of the female agricultural laborers were from the population as per the convenience of the researcher.

SERVICE QUALITY GAP

This section discusses the of the female agricultural laborers gap measured for each of the agricultural laborers

Limitation of the study

This study suffers from all the limitation of a student's research work. Time and money being the main constraints, the study was confined to only a few villages of a state with a total sample of 100 female landless labourers. However, proper care and considerate thought have been exercised in making the study as empirical systematic as possible.

Estimation of efficiency

Resource use efficiency estimation examines the relative performance of the process used in transferring given input to output Maximum output was calculated by linear programming method solving with computer software QSB. Optimum output was estimated by lagrangian multiplier technique. Allocative efficiency was estimated as the ratio of maximum output to optimum output. Economic efficiency is the product of technical efficiency and allocative efficiency

Efficiency class	TENKASI	
	Frequency	Percentage
<.50	-	-

.50-.60	-	-
.61-.70	-	-
.71-.80	-	-
.81-90	-	-
.91-1.00	4.20	34.6
total	3.42	24.3
Maximum Efficiency	3.2	21.1
Minimum Efficiency	5.2	11.1
Mean Efficiency	3.6	21

Source : Computed from Primary Data

The technical efficiency presented in the table 4.4 is derived from Data Envelopment Analysis. The results shows that the TE of the respondents was less than 1 (100%) hence the variation in TE exists among the respondents. This means that all respondents produced below maximum efficiency. The minimum efficiency for SRI farmers was .7164 while their maximum efficiency was .9834 and their mean efficiency was .933. The distribution of farm efficiency of the SRI farmers shows that all the farmers (100 per cent) operate above 70 percent efficiency level. 57 per cent farmers operated above 90 per cent efficiency level that is close to maximum efficiency. But in case of conventional farmers 81 per cent farmers operated over 70 per cent efficiency level. Rest 19 percent operated at the range of 50-70 per cent efficiency level. Majority of the conventional farmers i.e. 53 per cent operated in the range of 70-80 per cent efficiency level. The magnitude of the mean technical efficiency shows that SRI farmers are technically more efficient working closer to maximum efficiency while conventional farmers carry out rice production under technical conditions, involving the use of inefficient tools, management practices and so on.

CORRELATION AND REGRESSION ANALYSIS

To understand the statistical relationship among economic variables relating to women agricultural labour households in both the study taluks, correlation and regression analysis have

been carried out. The variables have been chosen on the basis of logical connection among them, which is generally correlated in many related studies. Before going for regression models, the correlation between the variables has been worked out. If the variables are strongly and significantly related, the regression results may be considered reliable. In order to understand the association between the variables, simple linear correlation coefficient matrix has been worked out for each of the study taluks and presented in Tables 5.29 and 5.30. The results show that the direction and strength of the relationship between the variables are not uniform and indicating the taluk specific differences. The association between the variables identified may be studied systematically. When education X2 is for example, the average of the Schooling, years has got positive association with the number of days employed by women agricultural labour households X3 in both the taluks

Correlation Coefficient Matrix – Women Agricultural Labour Households

	X1	X2	X3	X4	X5	X6	X7	X8	X9
X1	1.03	5.5	3.56	5.76	5.6	7.8	6.7	8.9	7.9
X2		5.6	4.0	4.4	5.6	6.7	5.7	7.8	7.3
X3			6.8	5.6	4.4	5.5	3.3	3.3	3.1
X4				3.1	1.1	2.2	1.3	2.1	3.3
X5					2.3	2.1	3.3	3.4	5.6
X6						6.6	4.7	6.4	3.3
X7							2.2	1.1	3.2
X8								2.1	1.1
X9									1

'a' Significant at 1 per cent level 'b' Significant at less than 1 per cent level

X1 Age of the women

X2 Edu. Status of Women

X3 Size of the family

X4 Social Status

X5 No. of days employed (women)

X6 Wage from agricultural activities

X7 Wage from non-agricultural activities

X8 Husband's Income

X9 Total family Income

FINDINGS:

1. Agriculture is a very complex pursuit requiring unskilled to highly skilled job. Similarly, the variations among seasons and crop are very wide like coarse grain to plantations. Efforts have not been made to analyse and understand the dynamics of specific requirements of specific crops season specifically from women folk. Centre for study for Women in Agriculture must have such details for Mthly planning

2. Awareness level of Non-Loanee farmers is very low compare to Loanee farmers whereas crops covered under agriculture insurance schemes are limited. There is no association between age group of sample farmers and their level of awareness. There is association between land holding of sample farmers and their level of awareness. There is association between education level of sample farmers and their level of awareness

As per above analysis farmers face many difficulties in getting their agriculture insurance and after getting insured they are facing problems in receiving claims. Majority of marginal farmers having very low level of education and awareness about agriculture insurance. It is also found that the procedure of insurance schemes taken as well as for settlement of claims very difficult. Therefore it is clear that the agriculture insurance is not very much popular among Indian farmers hence no question is arisen to left the agriculture insurance schemes in development and progress of agriculture sector in India hence the null hypothesis, i.e. The performance of agriculture insurance sector in India is not up to the mark, is accepted.

CONCLUSION:

Women labourers are employed generally in transplanting, weeding, winnowing, pluckers of seedlings, sowing and harvesting. Women's wages even in operations such as weeding and transplanting, for which they are particularly suited, are much lower than men's wage. The rationale of Equal Remuneration Act is to provide wage to women labourers on par with male labourers. It is clear that there is definitely social injustice in the study area and it has to be removed without delay. Many alternative ways are available to fight this injustice.

The enforcement of the Equal Remuneration Act strictly is the most important fact. Even though strict enforcement will require a large administrative set up and consequently huge administrative cost, gender injustice has to be removed.

Laws can be passed to punish the erring employers and officials are to be appointed to see that equal wage is given to male and female labourers. Second alternative is to provide equality and creating awareness since village women are not only illiterate but also ignorant of their rights and privileges. Government and voluntary agencies can spread the message of the need for gender equality and creating legal awareness about the Equal Remuneration Act. Public media such as television, radio, magazines and books can be used to remove this social injustice

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