

**THE PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES OF UNORGANIZED WORKERS IN TAMILNADU**

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**ABSTRACT**

India's economy is primarily based on agriculture. At the same time, our country is known to have a large, disorganized labor force throughout the country. Unorganized employment employs approximately 92 percent of the total workforce. In India, a sloppy worker faced a slew of issues. According to a recent estimate by a Sub-committee of the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector (NCEUS). The unorganized sector contributes roughly 50% of GDP (NCEUS 2008). The study examines the status, wage structure, and problems that unorganized workers face—the research is based on secondary data. The paper discusses the issues that unorganised sector workers face in India and government policy measures and recommendations for improving the situation.

Keywords: Unorganized workers, Agriculture, GDP, Wage rate, Gross Value Added.

**INTRODUCTION**

Agriculture is vital to India's economy. In the Eleventh Plan, the most important strategy for achieving inclusive growth has been to generate productive employment on a large scale, accompanied by decent working conditions, to employ the growing labour force. Agriculture and related activities use 54.6 percent of the population and contribute 17 percent of the country's Gross Value Added (census 2011). In the Institute for Social and Economic Change, India ranks second in terms of population and first in irrigated land (ISEC). However, agriculture in India is still at the mercy of the monsoon. The monsoon has an impact on farmer and labourer conditions. If the monsoon is good, so is the crop, and vice versa.

Agriculture labour is classified as part of the unorganised sector, so their earnings fluctuate. As a result, they live in insecurity and poverty, earning

Rs.300 per day and facing complete uncertainty. Agriculture is the country's largest economic sector. It plays a critical role in its development by providing food and raw materials and employment for a large portion of the population, capital for its expansion, and surpluses for national development. As a result, despite rapid industrialization, agriculture's importance has not diminished. It has become necessary to achieve self-sufficiency in food and agriculture and generate surpluses that can invest in other areas of the economy. As the number of agricultural workers grows, so does the size of the unorganised workforce. Evictions of small farmers, uneconomic land holdings, growing indebtedness, and deforestation are significant issues in the agricultural sector.

#### **Definition of Unorganized Sector:**

The term "Unorganised Sector" used by the Indian National Account Statistics is equivalently known as informal sector internationally. Unorganised, unregulated, traditional, household, and informal are different terms used interchangeably in contrast. By organized, regulated, modern, corporate and formal sectors.

#### **SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

The study is based on the problem of unorganised workers in Tamilnadu. In 2011, India's total population was 121 million. Where agricultural activities support 54.6 percent of the people. Land issues arise as the population grows. Landless agricultural labour makes up 61 percent of the workforce. The majority of the farmers own less than one hectare of land. In India, the government policy for bettering unorganised sectors such as agriculture labour, carpenter, and the blacksmith has not been implemented.

#### **IMPORTANCE OF UNORGANISED SECTORS**

Agriculture is the primary source of income for many people. Agriculture provides a direct source of income for roughly 70% of the population. This high proportion of people working in agriculture is due to a lack of non-agricultural activities to absorb the rapidly growing population. The majority of people in developed countries, on the other hand, do not work in agriculture. In most developing countries, agriculture is the primary source of revenue. Agriculture, on the other hand, contributes a smaller percentage of national income to developed countries. Agriculture is the primary source of raw materials for major industries such as cotton and jute fabric, sugar, tobacco, and edible and non-edible oils. Many other industries, such

as fruit and vegetable processing and rice husking, rely heavily on agriculture for their raw materials.

The agricultural sector accounts for a large portion of the country's export trade. Agricultural commodities such as jute, tobacco, spices, oilseeds, raw cotton, tea, and coffee, for example, account for roughly 18 percent of a country's total export value. According to the World Trade Organization's Trade Statistics, India's agricultural exports and imports accounted for 2.26 percent and 1.74 percent of global agriculture trade in 2015. Agricultural exports had increased from 12.14 percent of agricultural GDP in 2011-12 to 12.19 percent in 2014-15. Agricultural imports as a percentage of agricultural GDP increased from 4.66 percent to 5.66 percent during the same period. 5.88 percent of the population Exports of agricultural products fell from Rs. 2,62,778 crore in 2013-14 to Rs. 2,13,556 crore in 2015-16, a drop of nearly 18.73 percent. Agriculture imports increased from 3.16 percent of total imports in 2013-14 to 5.63 percent in 2015-16. Construction of irrigation schemes, drainage systems, and other agricultural-related activities is important because they provide more job opportunities. The agriculture sector creates more job opportunities for the labour force, lowering the high

unemployment rate in developing countries due to population growth.

### **OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY**

- To investigate the state of the unorganised sector, such as farm labour.
- The purpose of this study is to look into the wage rate of unorganised workers.
- To determine the issues that unorganised workers face.
- To make suggestions for improving the status of unorganised workers.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The analysis of India's agricultural labour problem is based on secondary data. Collected from a variety of government reports, books, magazines, and the Statistical Department, among other sources.

### **PRESENT SCENARIO OF UNORGANIZED SECTOR**

One of the most prominent features of India's labour market has been the prevalence of informal employment. While the informal economy contributes roughly half of the county's GDP, it has such a stronghold on work that it employs more than 90% of the total workforce, according to a recent estimate by a Sub-committee of the National Commission for

Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector (NCEUS). The unorganised sector contributes roughly 50% of GDP (NCEUS 2008).

The government plans to invest Rs 402 crore to create a national platform for unorganised workers and issue them a unique ID by 2019 to provide social security to people working in the unorganised sector.

"In India, there is no national database of unorganised workers. As a result, a national platform for unorganised workers has been decided," Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Minister of State for Labour and Employment, told the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday. "The central government has approved a proposal to issue a Unique ID, namely the Unorganised Workers Identification Number (UWIN), and allotment of an Aadhaar-seeded identification number to them without issuing any smart card at an estimated cost of Rs 402.7 crore," the minister continued.

## **PROBLEMS FACED BY UNORGANISED WORKERS**

### **1. Excess Working Hours**

The working hours of these laborers are not only irregular but also excessive. They have to work from

morning to late at night. His operating hours change with harvest, season, and work.

### **2. Seasonal Employment**

The agricultural labor does not get work for the whole year. According to the Second Agricultural Labor Investigation Society, Seasonal labor receives an average of 197 days of work in a year. Similarly, child labor gets 204 days, and women get 141 days of employment. Thus, their average annual income is significantly lower.

### **3. Low Wages**

The wage level of agricultural laborers very low as compared to that of industrial labor. It has two reasons increase in landless laborers and the lack of non-agricultural areas in rural areas.

### **4. Indebtedness**

Due to lower-income, the indebtedness of agricultural farmers is increasing. They hesitate in negotiating their wages with the landowners in the fear that services would be terminated. The laborers remain indebted even after working with the landowners for their whole life.

### **5. Not United**

Since the agricultural laborers spread in millions of villages all over the country, they lack unity. Thus, they

are unable to negotiate their wages, etc., with the landowners by uniting themselves.

### **6. Exploitation of Child and Women Laborers**

Due to lower income, the children and women of agricultural laborers are also forced to work for their livelihood. The child and women laborers made to work more for livelihood.

### **7. Lower Social Status & Shortage of Other Jobs**

Most of the agricultural laborers are of backward classes who have been exploited for centuries. Due to this reason also their social status is lower. There is a shortage of other jobs in villages. Thus, if floods, famines, etc., destroy the crop, it becomes difficult for the agricultural labor to survive.

### **8. Housing Problem**

The landless laborers have no private house. They live in cottages, made on the useless land of the landowners with their permission, and in its return, they have to work without payment from the landowners. When several people live under the same roof, physical, social, moral, and religious problems arise.

### **9. Unemployment due to mechanization**

Due to the increase in the use of machines, the unemployment rate among illiterate agricultural

farmers is increasing, which is a severe problem for them.

### **FINDINGS OF THE STUDY**

According to the findings, India's agricultural labour shortage is worsening due to the country's high birth rate and shrinking agricultural land. In India, government policy does not work as well as it should. Unorganized illiteracy, poverty, a lack of alternative occupations, seasonal unemployment, and modernization are all found in India, dominated by a few large farmers and landless agricultural laborers. As a result, India faces agricultural labour shortages.

### **SUGGESTIONS**

Improved application of the minimum wage act: - To take the minimum wage act seriously and to review it regularly in light of the country's changing price level.

Developing Small Scale and Cottage Industries in Rural Areas: - To create small-scale and cottage industries in rural areas as alternative sources of employment.

Surplus Land Distribution: - To rehabilitate agricultural labourers on acquired land declared surplus under ceiling laws and newly reclaimed land.

**Improved Bargaining Power:** Agricultural workers could be organized to effectively bargain for better working conditions and ensure that laws are followed.

**Cooperative Farming:** Because these farmers will continue to own their land and share the fruits of their labours, cooperative farming provides a better incentive to improve farm productivity.

**Fixing working hours:** - To improve agricultural labour conditions by enforcing fixed work hours, prohibiting child labour, etc.

**Modern Method:** - To improve agricultural working conditions by implementing improved intensive methods and multiple cropping to increase agricultural labourer productivity and promote cooperative farming in rural areas.

**Economic Measures:** Agriculture must be moved forward by introducing remunerative active financial measures. In rural areas, subsidiary agro-based industries must be established.

## CONCLUSION

Due to India's most significant population pressure, unorganised sectors predominate in our economy.

Women and excluded communities make up the majority of those who rely on unorganised sectors. These disorganized workers are confronted with a slew of issues. According to the findings of this study, unorganized workers' living and working conditions are not very good. The government should take appropriate steps to improve the unorganised sector by enacting wage reforms, implementing new agricultural methods, implementing rural development programs, establishing work hours, and enforcing labour laws. To enhance the status of unorganised workers in Tamilnadu, this should be made easier.

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