



FEMALE WORK PARTICIPATION IN AGRICULTURE IN ANDHRA PRADESH: AN ANALYTICAL STUDY

Economics

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KEYWORDS

Agriculture is one of the important and crucial occupations in Andhra Pradesh. More than 66 per cent of population is involved in agriculture and allied activities in the state. Women's participation in agricultural activities has been continuously growing compared to that of men which not only implies increased dependence of women on agricultural sector but also reiterates their crucial role in the sustainable growth and future of the farm sector. In other words changes in relation to economic and social changes have crept in the villages since the launch of the liberalization, privatization and globalization (LPG). Youth in the villages in Andhra Pradesh have been migrated to the towns and cities to eke out livelihood and joined the construction works and other menial works. As a result of it, the role of women in rural India has become multiple and their share in the agriculture workforce has increased since 1991.

Growth of Agricultural Workforce

Particulars relating to the growth of agricultural workforce in the state of combined Andhra Pradesh are presented in the following.

There is a twenty seven fold increase in the total population growth from 1951 to 2011. But the growth of rural population has impressively risen to 30.54 millions in 2011 over 1951. More than 110 per cent of increase had been recorded in the rural population in Andhra Pradesh during 2011. The total agricultural workforce has increased from 0.63 million in 1951 to 23.46 millions in 2011, registering an increase of 17.07 millions between 1951-2011. In fact, these had been more than three and half fold increase in the total agricultural workforce in the combined state of Andhra Pradesh. Among the total agricultural workers, cultivators constituted 28 per cent in 2011 as against 90 per cent in 1951. The number of cultivators has risen by 2.1 million in 2001 over 1951 and later it declined by 1.37 millions in 2011 over 2001. On the whole, the growth of number of cultivators had an increase of 113 per cent in 2011 over 1951. But in the percentage terms, the share of cultivators to the total agricultural force steadily and continuously declined from 90 per cent in 1951 to 28 per cent in 2011 due to non-remunerative and low prices for the agricultural produce, lack of marketing facilities and ware housing and godown facilities.

Agricultural labourers accounted for 72 percent in 2011 as against only 9.86 per cent in 1951. It shows that the proportionate share of agricultural labourers has strikingly risen by more than 60 per cent between 1951 to 2011. There was about 27 times increase in total agricultural labourers during 1951-2011. In fact, the proportionate share of agricultural labourers was continuously increasing from 9.86 percent in 1951 to 72.34 per cent. With an increase of 10.58 million agricultural labourers during the same period. The above analysis reveals that heavy dependence on agricultural sector was recorded due to lack of alternative jobs/works for the villages in rural India.

Composition of Working Population with Sex wise Work Participation Rate in A.P

The position of Agricultural workforce is none else than agricultural workforce/labour force consisting of cultivators and agricultural labourers. The position of agricultural labour force has been changing from one census to another due to the prevailing agro - economic conditions and government's role in farm sector. The particulars relating to the total agricultural labour force available in 2001 and 2011

with sex - wise distribution of cultivators and agricultural labourers, in A.P are presented in the following.

Total agricultural labourforce in Andhra Pradesh. The table above reveals that the total agricultural labour force rose about 18 lakhs, registering an increase of 8.15 per cent in 2011 over 2001. Real working force accounted for 53 per cent in 2011 as against 54 per cent in 2001. The total male labour force rose by about 18 lakhs, registering an increase of 7 per cent during the source period. On the other, the female labour force rose by more than 9 per cent, showing a growth of 9.33 per cent during the same period. However, the proportionate share of female labour force has marginally increased to 47 percent in 2011 as against 46 percent in 2001. It shows that female workforce in agricultural sector has increased and replaced in the position of male workforce who migrated to the towns and cities for joining the construction works, sitting in rickshaw pulling and seeking in low level jobs in Industries.

The, total number of cultivators decreased from 78.60 lakhs in 2001 to 64.92 lakhs in 2011, showing a decrease of 13.68 lakhs, i.e., 17.40 percent. The percentage of share of cultivators to the total agricultural workforce was 28 per cent in 2011 as against 36 per cent in 2001. Showing a decrease 8.56 per cent between 2001-2011. The male cultivators declined by 8.45 lakhs, registering a decline of 16.24 per cent between 2001-2011. The proportionate share of male cultivators had marginally declined from 66 per cent in 2001 to 66 per cent in 2011. The proportionate share of female cultivators to the total number of cultivators also marginally declined by 0.95 per cent during the same period. The above analysis reveals that the cultivating class decreased slightly from the census of 2001 to census 2011. On the other side, the number of agricultural labourers considerably increased from 138.32 lakhs in 2001 to 169.68 lakhs in 2011, registering an increase of 22.67 per cent. The share of agricultural labour in the total agricultural workforce has impressively increased from 64.04 per cent in 2001 to 73.33 per cent in 2011. Sex-wise classification of the agricultural labour exhibits an interesting feature in rural Andhra Pradesh. The total number of female agricultural labour surpassed the male labourers in the reports of both census reports. The number of male agricultural labour significantly increased from 64.54 lakhs in 2001 to 81.30 lakhs in 2011, registering 26 per cent of growth whereas the number of female workers also increased from 73.78 lakhs in 2001 to 88.38 lakhs showing 20 per cent growth. The proportionate share of female agricultural labour to total agricultural labour was higher than the male labourers. However, there was a slight fall in the percentage share of 53.34 per cent in 2001 to 52.09 per cent in 2011. The above analysis explains that the number of cultivators was declining whereas the number of female agricultural labourers tremendously increased by 2011 over 2001. Agricultural is neither profitable nor a remunerative occupation. It incurs a continuous loss due to damage of agricultural produce, low prices, higher cost of production leaving the farmers face many problems. But in the case of agricultural labourers, since they possess no other skills they cannot move out of the agricultural sector, and no alternative workers are available from them in the rural areas.

Sex - Wise and District - Wise Distribution of Cultivators

Details of District - wise and sex-wise distribution of total cultivators in Andhra Pradesh are presented in table. It can be observed from the

table above that the highest number of cultivators (5.55 lakhs) is found in Mahabubnagar district followed by Ananthapur (5.29 lakhs), Chittoor (5.28 lakhs), Warangal (4.60 lakhs) and Visakhapatnam (4.34 lakhs) whereas it is the lowest west Godavari (2.09 lakhs) followed by Nellore (2.13 lakhs) and East Godavari (2.19 lakhs) during the census report - 2011. In the census report - 2011 the highest number of cultivators was recorded in Mahbubnagar district (5.69 lakhs) followed by Chittoor (4.34 lakhs), Ananthapur (4.13 lakhs) and Warangal (4.02 lakhs). The number of cultivators reduced in 2011 when compared with that of 2001. There was a drastic decline in the number of cultivators in almost all districts except Ananthapur district and Mahbubnagar districts in 2011 occur 200%. This was due to the frustration of the farmers whose toil and troubles and struggles to fight against the low remunerative prices for their agricultural produce went in vain. The highest number of cultivators leaving the cultivation occupation was found in Vizianagaram district (1.20 lakhs) followed by Visakhapatnam (1.12 lakhs), Sri Kalahasti (1.01 lakhs) and Prakasam (0.98 lakhs). The rest of the districts witnessed an impressive decline in the number of cultivators in 2011 over 2001. The highest number (above 2.0 lakhs) of male labourers was found in nine districts namely Mahabubnagar, Adilabad, Ananthapur, Chittoor, Warangal, Medak, Karimnagar, Kurnool and Nalgonda districts in 2011. The highest number of male cultivators (above 50,000) who left the agricultural works (occupations) is recorded in eight districts namely Ananthapur, Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, Sri Kakulam, Chittoor, Guntur, Prakasam and Krishna District. The maximum decline of male cultivators was noticed in Srikakulam (33.90 percent) followed by Vizianagaram (32.92 per cent), Krishna (29 per cent), East Godavari (25.50 per cent), West Godavari (24.34 per cent), East Godavari (25.50 per cent), Visakhapatnam (21.09 per cent) and Prakasam (21.09 per cent) districts. With regard to the female labourers, more than 1.0 lakh female labourers on an average were found in twelve districts namely Mahabubnagar (2.11 lakhs), Chittoor (1.60 lakhs), Warangal (1.46 lakhs), Ananthapur (1.35 lakhs), Karimnagar (1.34 lakhs) Adilabad (1.33 lakhs), Medak (1.30 lakhs) Visakhapatnam (1.26 lakhs), Nalgonda (1.06 lakhs), Kurnool (1.05 lakhs), Nizamabad (1.03 lakhs) and Rangareddi (1.01 lakhs) districts. The highest decline in female cultivators was found in Sri Kalahasti (45.64 per cent) followed by Nellore (40.74 per cent), Vizianagaram (40.46 per cent), Prakasam (35.20 per cent), Guntur (29.40 per cent), Visakhapatnam (28.04 per cent) and Ananthapur districts (25.79 per cent). The rest of the districts had a positive reduction rate in the female cultivators between 2001 and 2011.

District - Wise Distribution of Agriculture Labourers

Sex-wise and district - wise distribution particulars of agricultural labourers of Andhra Pradesh.

It can be observed from table that the highest number of agricultural labourers (above 600 lakhs) was found in Guntur (10.73 lakhs) followed by East Godavari (9.90 lakhs), West Godavari (9.52 lakhs), Krishna (8.79 lakhs), Kurnool (80.26 lakhs), Mahbubnagar (7.79 lakhs) Prakasam (6.73 lakhs), Nalgonda (6.71 lakhs), Chittoor (6.29 Lakhs), Khammam (6.12 lakhs) and Warangal (6.06 lakhs) districts in 2001. The rest of the districts had a considerable number of agricultural labourers. The highest number of agricultural labourers was recorded in Guntur (12.28 lakhs) followed by, East Godavari (11.22 lakhs), West Godavari (10.62 lakhs), Kurnool (10.37 lakhs), Krishna (10.07 lakhs), Mahabubnagar (9.31 lakhs), Prakasam (8.89 lakhs), Ananthapur (8.80 lakhs), Nalgonda (8.63 lakhs), Khammam (8.04 lakhs), Warangal (7.58 lakhs), Karimnagar (7.57 lakhs) and Chittoor district (7.48 lakhs). The 13 districts were having more than 7.50 lakh agricultural labourers in Andhra Pradesh in 2011. The maximum increase in agricultural labour was noticed in Kurnool (2.35 lakhs) followed by Prakasam (2.16 lakhs), Ananthapur (2.09 lakhs), Nalgonda (1.92 lakhs), Karim Nagar (1.85 lakhs), Visakhapatnam (1.57 lakhs), Hyderabad (1.61 lakhs), Guntur (1.55 lakhs), Warangal (1.52 lakhs) and Mahbubnagar (1.52 lakhs) districts. In percentage terms the highest growth rate in agricultural labour was noticed in Adilabad (41.19 per cent) followed by Visakhapatnam (37.32 per cent), Khammam (32.33 per cent), Prakasam (32.12 per cent), Ananthapur (31.09 per cent), Nizamabad (80.06 per cent) and Kurnool (29.24 per cent).

Total Male Agriculture Labourers

The male agriculture labourers comparatively lower than the female agricultural labourers in the combined state constituting a large majority of the workforce in the state. The highest number of male

agricultural labourers was concentrated in East Godavari (17.57 lakhs) followed by, Guntur (5.72 lakhs), Krishna (5.19 lakhs), Kurnool (4.69 lakhs), Prakasam (3.96 lakhs), Ananthapur (3.94 lakhs), Chittoor (3.74 lakhs) Khammam (3.62 lakhs) and Mahbubnagar (3.68 lakhs) districts in 2011. There was an impressive growth in the total number of male agricultural labour in 2011 when to that of 2001. It is also evident from the statistics that the highest increase in male agricultural labourers was found in Adilabad district with 43.50 percent followed by Karimnagar (42.40 per cent), Visakhapatnam (38.52 per cent), Nalgonda (37.98 per cent), Ananthapur (36.80 percent), Kurnool (35.83 per cent), Nizamabad (35.100 percent) and Prakasam (34.28 per cent) in 2011 over 2001. The increase in the female agricultural labourers was (34.28 per cent) in 2011 over 2001. The female agricultural labourers usually do not have any social mobility and stay in their villages with their siblings and old aged people. They remain stagnant and concentrated in agricultural activities as labourers with meagre sources of income. The highest number of female agricultural labourers was found in Guntur (6.56 lakhs), followed by Kurnool (5.68 lakhs), Mahbubnagar (5.63 lakhs), Nalgonda (5.17 lakhs), Prakasam (4.93 lakhs), Krishna (4.88 lakh), Ananthapur (4.81 lakh), Warangal (4.64 lakhs), Khammam (4.42 lakhs), West Godavari (4.30 lakhs) and Karimnagar (4.15 lakhs) districts in 2011. There was a spectacular increase in the number of the female agricultural labourers found in case Prakasam (1.15 lakhs), Ananthapur (1.03 lakhs), Kurnool (1.11 lakhs), Khammam (1.02 lakhs) and Nalgonda (0.97 lakhs) districts by in 2011 over 2001. The rest of the districts witnessed a significant growth in the female agricultural labourers by 2011 when compared with 2001. The highest significant growth was recorded in Adilabad (39.43 per cent), Visakhapatnam (36.14 per cent), Khammam (30.07 per cent), Ananthapur (26.78 per cent), Nizamabad (25.07 per cent), Kurnool (24.2 percent), Warangal (23.10 per cent), Nalgonda (23.00 per cent), Cuddapah (21.94 per cent), and Sri Kakulam (20.84 per cent) districts.

District - Wise and Sex -Wise Total Agricultural Labour Force

The total cultivators and total agricultural labourers among both male cultivators and male agricultural labourers and female cultivators and female agricultural labourers were distributed according to their sex and district and the details are presented in the following table.

The details of the total cultivators and total agricultural labourers and their growth trend in between 2001 and 2011. The total number of female and male cultivators and male and female agricultural labourers increased by 8.15 per cent in 2011 over that of 2001. The total number of cultivators and agricultural labourers increased by 17.68 lakhs during the same period. The total agricultural labourforce consisting of cultivators and agricultural labourers has ranged from 0.19 in Hyderabad and 5.82 lakhs in Rangareddi to 14.63 lakhs in Guntur in 2001. In 2011, the total agricultural labour workforce varied from 0.30 in Hyderabad and 5.13 lakhs in Rangareddi to 15.00 lakhs in Mahabubnagar district in 2011. The minimum total number of agricultural labourforce was above 6.20 lakhs in Rangareddi. All districts except Hyderabad maintained a large number (above 6.20 lakhs) of agricultural labourforce in Andhra Pradesh during the census 2011. The highest increase in the number of agricultural labour workforce was found in Mahbubnagar (1.66 lakhs) followed by Adilabad (1.64 lakhs), Kurnool (1.59 lakh), Khammam (1.32lakhs) Prakasam (1.18 lakhs), Karimnagar (1.13 lakhs), Prakasam (1.18 lakhs), Karim Nagar (1.13 lakhs) and Nalgonda (1.11 Lakhs) Vizianagaram district had shown a negative growth i.e., 0.34 lakhs, registering a decline of 4.20 per cent in 2011 over 2001. The rest of the districts witnessed a positive and impressive growth trend in the total agricultural labourforce in Andhra Pradesh during the census 2011 over the 2001 census. The above analysis reflects in the growth rates of different districts in the combined state of Andhra Pradesh. The highest increase within one decade from 2001 to 2011 in the total agricultural labour workforce was found in Adilabad district with 24 per cent of growth followed by Khammam (14.75 per cent), Kurnool (13.34 per cent), Mahbubnagar (12.44 per cent), Karimnagar (11.28 per cent), Prakasam (11.20 per cent), Nalgonda (10.26 per cent) and Nizamabad (10.00 per cent). The rest of the districts, except Chittoor (2.13 per cent) Nellore (4.70 per cent), had shown more than 5 per cent of the growth in the total agricultural labourforce in Andhra Pradesh in 2011 over that of 2001.

Percentage Distribution of Cultivators out of Total Workers

The percentage of total cultivators to the total workers was higher in Adilabad district with 27.48 percent in 2011 as against 30.38 per cent

in 2001 and that of Mahbubnagar district against 30.38 per cent in 2001. The Mahbubnagar district stood second with 27.33 per cent in 2011 which was lower than 30.43 per cent recorded in 2001. The percentage of cultivators among state total workers in the districts, Medak, Warangal, Chittoor and Nizamabad had shown 24.49 per cent, 23.55, 22.48 and 22.05 per cent respectively in 2011. All the above districts were recorded having the percentage of cultivators to the total workers as 30.16, 29.38, 30.14, and 27.25 per cent respectively in 2001. The above analysis reveals that the majority of the districts were having the highest percentage of cultivators to total workers in Andhra Pradesh. The highest percentage of male cultivators to the total male workers appeared in Mahbubnagar (31.41 per cent) followed by Adilabad (30.84 per cent), Medak (26.05 per cent), Warangal (26.58 per cent), Nizamabad (25.61 per cent), Ananthapur (23.03 per cent), Chittoor (22.85 per cent), Karim Nagar (21.53 per cent) and Kadapa district (21.43 per cent) in 2011. But in 2001 census, the highest percentage of cultivators to the total male workers was found to be concentrated in eight districts namely Mahbubnagar (35.68 per cent), Medak (33.28 per cent), Adilabad (32.71 per cent), Ananthapur (32.31 per cent), Warangal (32.14 per cent), Nizamabad (3.133 per cent), Nellore (30.76 per cent), and Chittoor (30.30 per cent). The above analysis shows that a large number of male cultivators were found in the above districts with more than 30 per cent of the cultivators to the total male workers.

The percentage of female cultivators to total female workers in different districts in Andhra Pradesh varied from 4.16 percent in Krishna District to 32.72 per cent in Visakhapatnam in 2001 whereas it varied from 13.54 per cent in Krishna district to 23.10 per cent in Adilabad district in 2011. The highest percentage of female cultivators to total female workers was found in Adilabad district (23.10 per cent) followed by Mahbubnagar (22.40 per cent), Chittoor (21.87 per cent) and Medak (21.49 per cent). The rest of the districts had considerable higher percentage of female cultivators to the total female cultivators except East Godavari, Hyderabad, Krishna, West Godavari and Nellore districts.

Percentage of Agricultural Labourers to Total Workers

The percentage of agricultural labourers to the total workers varied from 20.84 per cent in Rangareddi district to 56.71 per cent in West Godavari 2001 whereas the percentage of agricultural labourers varied from 15.89 in Rangareddi district to 59.88 in West Godavari district. It shows that a large number of agricultural labourers were available in 2011 over 2001. The highest number of agricultural labourers is found in West Godavari (59.58 per cent) followed by Khammam (57.06 per cent), Sri Kakulam (54.32 per cent), East Godavari (53.59 per cent), Prakasam (52.29 per cent), Guntur (51.56 per cent) and Kurnool (51.11 per cent) in 2011. In 2001, the percentages of agricultural labourers to the total workers were found to be above 40 percent in 2001 and above 50 per cent of the districts in 2011.

With regard to the female agricultural labourers, more than 50 per cent of the districts were having more than 63 per cent of the agricultural female labourers. All other districts except Hyderabad and Rangareddi were having above 40 per cent of the agriculture labourers to the total female workers in 2011. The highest percentage of Agricultural female workers to total female workers was found in West Godavari (74.85 per cent) followed by Khammam (72.90 per cent) Guntur (69.86 per cent) Prakasam (69.54 per cent) Srikakulam (69.36 per cent) PSR Nellore (67.66 per cent) Krishna (67.65 per cent) Nalgonda (67.61 per cent), East Godavari (66.65 per cent) Kurnool (65.12 per cent), Vizianagaram (62.61 per cent) and Warangal (62.61 per cent) districts. The above districts had highest of above 62 per cent of agricultural labour to total female workers in those districts. The rest of the districts had an impressive growth in percentage of agricultural female labourers to total female workers. With regard to the male agricultural labourers, the percentage of agricultural male labourers to the total male labourers varied from 23.40 in Visakhapatnam to 52.68 per cent in West Godavari is 2011. But in 2001 census, the percentage of male agricultural labour to the total male agricultural labourers is varied from 12.18 per cent in Rangareddi and 19.57 per cent in Visakhapatnam to 48.32 per cent in West Godavari district in 2001. The above analysis reveals that the highest number of agricultural labourers increased at a higher rate in 2011 when compared with that of 2001. The highest percentage of male agricultural labourers to the total male workers was found in West Godavari (52.68 per cent) followed by East Godavari (48.96 per cent) Khammam (45.08 per cent), Srikakulam (44.04 per cent), Kurnool (40.30 per cent) and Prakasam

(40.00 per cent) in 2011. The above analysis shows that the number of male labourers did not increase as female agricultural labourers increased in 2011.

The Percentage of Cultivators and Agricultural Labourers to Total Workers

The percentage of both cultivators and agricultural labourers to total workers was very much higher i.e., above 48 per cent in all districts except Hyderabad and Rangareddi districts in 2011. The percentage of both cultivators to total agricultural labourers and the total workers varied from 48 percent in Visakhapatnam to 73 per cent in Khammam in 2011. Same trends appeared in 2001. The highest percentage of cultivators agricultural labourers to the total workers was found in Khammam (73.01 per cent) followed by Mahbubnagar (72.04 per cent), Prakasam (68.76 per cent), West Godavari (68.64 per cent), Nalgonda (68.23 per cent), Warangal (67.99 per cent), Sri Kakulam (67.13 per cent), Vizianagaram (66.46 per cent) and Kurnool (66.44 per cent). Rest of the district recorded above 48 per cent in 2011.

The highest male cultivators and male agricultural labourers together constituted 64.47 per cent of the total male workers in West Godavari 64.47 per cent of the total male workers in West Godavari District followed by Khammam (64.01 per cent) Mahabubnagar (63.67 per cent) and Prakasam (59.57 per cent) districts. All other districts except Rangareddi (21.36 per cent) and Visakhapatnam (39.27 per cent) recorded 49 per cent in 2011. The percentage of total male cultivators and male agricultural labourers to the total male workers in 2001 also ranged from 63 per cent in Khammam to 50 per cent in Krishna District. All other districts witnessed an increase above 50 percent except Hyderabad (1.17 per cent) Rangareddi (29.80 per cent) and Visakhapatnam (43.82 per cent). But in the case of female cultivators and female agricultural labourers it was very much higher i.e., 84.92 per cent in Khammam followed by Mahbubnagar (82.16 per cent) Warangal (81.96 per cent) Prakasam (81.62 per cent) and Nalgonda (81.42 per cent) 19 districts out of 23 districts in the combined state of Andhra Pradesh were having more than 70 per cent 2 districts recorded nearly 60 and above percentage which means that more than 70 per cent of the female cultivators and female agricultural labourers to the total female workers were involved in agricultural activities in Andhra Pradesh in 2011. The same results in respect of female cultivators and female agricultural labourers were found to be in different district in 2001.

Conclusions

The number of agricultural cultivators had gone down by 7.8 million in 2011 over 2001. On the other hand, the number of agricultural labourers increased by 3.5 per cent. The proportion of male cultivators in the combined state of Andhra Pradesh, was 24.01 per cent which is decreased to 11.05 per cent in 2001. That of female cultivators was only 5.49 per cent in 2011 as against 20.08 per cent in 2001. The female agricultural labourers decreased from 55.67 per cent the 2011 to 22.42 per cent in 2001. This is due to the shift of cultivators in to agricultural labour in the state. The percentage of female agricultural labour is higher than that of female agricultural labour in all the district in Andhra Pradesh.

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