



## Socio-Economic Condition of Agriculture Women Labour:a Case Study

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### ABSTRACT

The woman is the backbone of agriculture 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 women suffer from a multiple burden on their time due to their home making, child rearing and income rearing responsibilities. Recent studies highlight that women in India are major producer of food in terms of value, and number of hours worked nearly 63 per cent of all economical active. The paper also highlighted the difficulties of agriculture women labour have face lots of problem and women do not know how to face the problem. According to my opinion Government has to take interest in solving their problems, government should not only invent the schemes, but they have to see whether the schemes are working successfully or not. By this, the agriculture women labour will come out of these problems and can lead a better life.

### KEYWORDS

Women, Labour, Agriculture, Occupation.

### Introduction

Agriculture is important sector of Indian economy as it contributes about 70 per cent to the total GDP and provides employment to over 60 per cent of the population. Agriculture is the largest sector of the rural economy and is a family enterprise since 50 per cent of its population is depended on it in India; India economic security is heavily dependent on agriculture. We can say that agriculture is the bed rock of Indian economy.

Yet founds the back bone of development beginning both a resources' of livelihood and food security for a vast majority of low income poor and vulnerable sectors of society its performance assume greater significance in view of the proposed national food security bill and ongoing Mahatma Gandhi national rural employment gantry act [MGNREGAS] given that India is still home to the largest number of poor and malnourish people in the world. A higher priority to agriculture will achieve the goals of reducing poverty as well as of inclusive growth since agriculture from the resources. It would be more meaningful to view agriculture not as forming alone but as a holistic value, chain which includes forming whole saving ware housing, processing and retailing. Agriculture is underperforming in many developing countries for a number of reasons.

Globally women constitute half of the world's population and produce half of the agricultural products according to a UN Report. This indicates the contribution of women in the economic prosperity of the nations whose lifeblood is agricultural through their participation in agriculture as cultivators agriculture labours and casual helpers.

The late Prime-minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi(1988) emphasizing the importance of women said, "we can't neglect the importance of women who comprise half of our population in nation building women the upholder of tradition must also be ushered for modernity ,we should look to science for greater social justice and equality of opportunity".

### Agricultural Women Labour in India

In India, adult population consists of nearly 50 per cent of women, 77 per cent of the Indian adult population lives in rural areas. Rural women participate for Agriculture and related activities. They contribute 75 per cent of the labour required for operations. About 36 million women are engaged on farm

operations as main workers; from showing to harvesting and storing in bins and bags. They also participate in off –farm activities like processing and marketing of farm products. Women play a significant role in farming and farm management activities, though most are engaged either as cultivators or helpers to cultivators or as agricultural labourers. They are actively involved in agricultural development and allied fields including crop production livestock production, horticulture post harvest operations, agro and social forestry, fishing etc.

### Role of Women Labour in Agriculture

In Indian society, women have a multi dimensional role. They have a major role to play in the development process also. For the last few years, programmes for women have been receiving particular attention under community and rural development programmes. The desirable socio-economic development can be achieved only when women in large are stimulated and motivated to accept and adopt new techniques.

The largest number of women in India is engaged in farming operations either as cultivators or as supervisors or as agricultural labourers. They are the main decision makers and participants in various agricultural operations like seed sowing, transplanting, weeding, harvesting, threshing, application of manure, storage of seeds and food grains and post harvest home level processing. Apart from all these they also involve in bringing fodder from field, chaff cutting, feeding and cleaning of cattle, maintaining cattle shed, compost making etc. In view of all these things, woman is recognized as a partner of man in agriculture and she is included in the effort of bringing new technology to the farmers because of her intimate involvement in agriculture as a manager, decision maker and labourer. The status of rural women is improving day by day.

### Objectives of the Study

The specific objectives are as follows:

1. To examine the working conditions of women agriculture labours in the study area.
2. To assess the contribution of agricultural women labourers to the farm development.
3. To suggest measure to promote gender equality for the all round development of women.

Methodology

Women in Mangundi village are of distinct types. Some women workers are members of family forms a unit. Some women work as independent labours and undertake different activities independently. This independent labours coming from different social divisions are specific in that independent living is virtue.

The economic status of groups of individuals can be studied by household survey. The researcher asks the question method for collecting information of working women labour. The study consists of simple random method was used for the study. There were 30 sample respondents of the women agriculture labours.

Results and Discussions

The detailed analysis of the socio-economic condition of the women agricultural labours and also their work efficiency has been indicated in table-1.

Table-1: Caste Groups of the Households

Sl. No.	Caste Groups	No. of Households	Percentage
1	SC/ST	12	40.00
2	OBC	10	33.33
3	OTHERS	8	26.67
	Total	30	100.00

Source: Field Survey

In the above table shows that SC and ST households were 40.00 per cent and OBC was 33.33 per cent and others were 26.67 per cent. The majority group of households were belongs to SC/ST.

Table-2: Religion Groups of the Households

Sl. No.	Religion Groups	No. of people	Percentage
1	Hindu	24	80.00
2	Muslim	02	6.67
3	Others	04	13.33
	Total	30	100.00

Source: Field Survey

Table-2 indicates that groups of religion, no. of people and what percentage population to be covered in the Mangundi village. So Hindu's are 80 per cent, Muslims are 6.67 per cent and others are 13.33 per cent and overall 30 households in Mangundi village.

Table-3: Income Groups of respondents

Sl. No.	Income groups	No. of Members	Percentage
1	Below 5000	14	46.67
2	5000-8000	6	20.00
3	8000-10,000	10	33.33
	Total	30	100.00

Source: Field Survey

In this table-3 analysis that various steps of income groups, no. of members and per cent of different income groups. So first group bellow 5000 Rs, in 14 members of 46.67 per cent, second group 5000-8000 Rs in 6 members of 20.00 per cent, and third group 8000-10,000 Rs in 10 members of 33.33 per cent and overall 30 members sampling in Mangundi village.

Table-4: Educational Status of Respondents

Sl. No.	Category	No. of Members	Percentage
1	Illiteracy	4	13.33
2	Primary	19	63.33
3	Secondary	5	16.67
4	College	2	6.67
	Total	30	100.00

Source: Field Survey

In this above table shows different categories of educational status like illiteracy, primary, secondary, collage and others. In this table also shows numbers of respondents and percentage. So first is illiteracy in 4 members of 13.33 per cent, second is primary education in 19 members of 63.33 per cent, third one secondary education 5 members of 16.6 per cent, 2 members in collage of 6.67 per cent. Others is nil and over all 30 members in Managundi village.

Table-5: Occupation Structure of Respondents

Sl. No.	No. of Occupation	No .of. Workers		Over All Percentage
		Male	Female	
1	Agriculture	16.66	3.33	20.00
2	Agriculture-labour	13.33	16.66	30.00
3	No-Agriculture	10.00	6.66	16.66
4	Job	16.66	-	16.67
5	Others	6.66	10.00	16.67
	Total	63.31	36.65	100.00

Source: Field Survey

Note : Figures are indicating percentage to total.

Table-5 shows the occupation and structure of the village. There are 30 workers including 19mens and 11 women engaging themselves in different activities the occupation data were agriculture in male ratio is 5 (16.66) and female is 1(3.33), agriculture labour is 4 (13.33) in male and 5(16.66) in female. Non agriculture is 3(10) in male and 2 (6.66) in female. Job members are 5 (16.66) male and female are nil. There are no business holders in village, others occupation male is 2(6.66) & in Female 3(10) & overall 30 sampling in Mangundi village.

Table-6: Economic Status of Respondents

Sl. No.	Category	No. of Members	Average
1	APL	6	20.00
2	BPL	19	63.33
3	AAY	5	16.67
	Total	30	100.00

Source: Field Survey

**APL= Above Poverty Line, BPL= Below Poverty Line, AAY= Anthodia Anna Yojane**

In this table shows that different economic status of Respondent like APL, BPL, AAY, in this table also shows number of households, what percentage of population are still there in the present time APL card holder is 6 and the percentage ratio is 20.00 per cent BPL card holder is 19 the percentage ratio is 63.33 per centin AAY the No. of card holder is 5 and the ratio of percent age is 16.66 and over all 30 members sampling in Managundi village.

**Table-7: Wage, Employment of the Respondents of the Kharif Season**

Sl. No.	Occupation	No of Respondents		Average Wage (In Rs.)
		No. of the Days	Total Wages (in Rs.)	
1	Agriculture	80	12,000	150
2	Non-Agriculture	35	7000	200
3	Government- Scheme	25	3750	150
	Total	140	22,750	162.5

Source: Field Survey

The table-8 shows the wage employment of the kharif sea-  
son. The people work in agriculture field is No of days is 80  
and the total wage 12,000, in no agriculture field is No of  
days in 35 and the total wage is 7,000 and the other govern-  
ment schemes are 25 and the total wage is 3,750 the over 30  
member sample in Managundi village.

**Summary**

Agriculture is the main occupation of the mangundi village.  
There are different communities are SC, ST. The SC and ST is  
more in this village. In this village there is a facility of school,  
hospital, temples, gram panchayat, bank dairy farm, govern-  
ment schemes available, But there is a scarcity of light, irriga-  
tion, wage problem etc. There is a cultivation of rice, cotton,  
sugarcane etc. Almost people are illiterates so they face many  
problems.

The women Labour work with family unit but the women like  
to work independently. Women face many problems like illit-  
eracy to less the burden of men. In this village there is a prac-  
tice of child marriage. The husband does not work properly,  
and if they earn also them don't give the money for the house  
expenses. The men's harsh the women by scolding, beating  
etc so the women go in the search of job by which the can  
look after the responsibilities and care her children. The wages  
are not paid properly to them, and the wage given to them is  
not fulfilled. So these are the problems faced by women agri-  
culture labour.

**Conclusion:**

Over all by studying and seeing the difficulties of agriculture  
women labour we can say that women has lot's problem and  
women does not know how to face the problem. According  
to my opinion Government has to take interest in solving their  
problems, government should not only invent the schemes  
but they have to see whether the schemes are working suc-  
cessfully or not. By this the agriculture women labour will  
come out of these problems and can lead a better life.

**Suggestion for Improvement**

- Equality in decision making regarding household activities.
- Equality in decision making regarding farm activities.
- Equality in getting education.
- Equal participation in social organization.
- Equality in wage employment.
- Equality sharing of households' activities, child care.

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