



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Arts

AN ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF HEALTH ISSUES IN AGRICULTURAL WORKERS OF DAVANGERE DISTRICT OF KARNATAKA STATE

KEY WORDS:

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ABSTRACT

The present study conducted to know the health issues of agricultural workers. This study is based on primary data collected from the 200 selected farmers of four villages from four taluks of davanagere district. The total 200 from agricultural workers of age 16-60 years were interviewed in their households/fields. The present study reveals that most of the agricultural workers facing many health illness and health hazards. In order to overcome the situation special health check-up camps need to be conducted with emphasis on improvement of health.

INTRODUCTION

The term 'Agriculture' is generally used in a broad sense including all activities directly related to cultivating, growing, harvesting and primary processing of agricultural products, animal and livestock breeding including aquaculture, and agro forestry. The term also refers to all agricultural undertakings, irrespective of size. An estimated 1.3 billion workers are engaged in agricultural production worldwide. This represents half of the total world labour force. Almost 60% of them are in developing countries. A great majority of agricultural workers are found in Asia, which is the most densely populated region of the world, with more than 40% of the world's agricultural population concentrated in China and more than 20% in India. (ENVIS NIOH)

Agriculture is not a safe occupation. Agricultural workers face a large number of health problems in the form of physical factors like extreme weather conditions, sunrays, etc.; chemical, toxicological hazards in the form of pesticides/fertilizers, etc. many of which arise from their work. Clinically well recognized group of occupationally acquired health problems may be respiratory, dermatological, traumatic and poisoning in nature. Prevalence of some specific zoonotic diseases and behavioural health problems are also found to be more among them.

The work is carried out in the open air, exposing the workers to climatic conditions. The work is of a seasonal nature and certain tasks are urgent in specific periods. The same person must perform a variety of tasks. There is great variation in working postures and the length of the tasks performed. Contact with animals and plants bring exposure to bites, infections, allergies and other health problems. There is contact with chemical and biological products viz: pesticides. A variety of machines are used.

Generally, the context in which an individual lives is of great importance on health status and quality of life. It is increasingly recognized that health is maintained and improved not only through the advancement and application of health science, but also through the efforts and intelligent lifestyle choices of the individual and society. According to the World Health Organization, the main determinants of health include the social and economic environment, the physical environment and the person's individual characteristics and behaviours. (Dr.A.Sangamithra 2017)

According to ILO, the agricultural sector is one of the most lethal to health worldwide. Agricultural work has several characteristics that are hazardous for health: Exposure to wealth, close contact with animals and plants, extensive use of chemicals and biological products, difficult working posture, lengthy house, and use of hazardous agricultural tools and machinery.[11]

Objectives

- 1)To find out the health problems in agricultural workers in Davanagere district.
- 2)To find out health hazards in agricultural workers

Methodology

The present study was based on primary data. Primary data was collected from 200 respondent of agricultural workers and farmers working in agricultural field. Agricultural workers are located in the study area for at least 1 year prior the date of survey, aged between 16 years and 60 years were comprised in the study. Migrants, prenatal and lactating women working as agricultural workers were excluded from the study. The study was conducted in Davanagere district of Karnataka. A multistage random sampling procedure was adopted for the selection of the district, taluks, villages. Tabular analysis, percentages technique were used to analyse the data to find out the percentage of agricultural workers and farmers in the agriculture sector of Davanagere district of Karnataka.

RESULTS

Among the 200 total respondents of agriculture workers, a majority of 93 workers 46.5 % reported that they had an average health status, 22 workers 11 % had a good health, and 85 workers 42.5% had bad or sick health condition. It is noted when respondents were asked to state their overall health status, a majority of them reported that their health status was average.

Health Status Of Agricultural Workers

Table 01

Overall Health status	Frequency	Percent
Good	22	11
Average	93	46.5
Bad (Sick)	85	42.5
Total	200	100

The agricultural workers health problems is explained in the table 2, that among 200 respondents in total, a majority of 42(21%) respondents were affected from respiratory problems, next to 32(16%) respondents were affected by musculoskeletal problems, 31(15.5%) respondents were affected Dermatitis problems, Haematological problems were affected to 26(13%) respondents due to their occupation, where 22(11%) respondents were affected by gastrointestinal, diabetes problems affected to 15(7.5%) of the agriculture workers, 8(4%) respondents were affected Thyroid problems affected 12 (06%) of agriculture workers suffering from eye disease, Neurologic problems affected 12(06%) of agriculture workers.

Table-02

Health problems	Frequency	Percent (%)
Respiratory problems	42	21
Musculoskeletal problems	32	16
Endocrine problems	8	4
Gastrointestinal disease	22	11
Dermatitis	31	15.5
Neurological problems	12	6
Eye diseases	12	6
Haematological problems	26	13
Diabetes	15	7.5
Total	200	100

Health Hazard

Percentage of health hazard of agricultural workers in the study area was presented in Table2. The study revealed that 36.5% (73) of the reported health risk from toxic hazards. Next to 29 %(58) workers from occupational accidents, 34.5%(69) were reported from physical hazards

Table-03

Types of health Risks	Frequency(200)	Percent
Toxic Hazards	73	36.5
Occupational accidents	58	29
Physical Hazards	69	34.5
Total	200	100

Findings

The overall health status majority of them reported that their health status was average. Most of the agri workers and farmers mainly suffering from respiratory disorders and next to Musculoskeletal and haematological problems. Mainly agri workers and farmers working from different climate conditions therefore they are facing many health risks viz, toxic, occupational accidents and physical hazards, here mainly toxic hazards is more.

CONCLUSIONS

It's very clear observations of that most of the agricultural workers and farmers are facing many health illness mainly they have respiratory syndromes musculoskeletal problems, and they have been facing toxic hazards during working in the field. Due to lack of health facilities in rural area they are seeking health facilities in proper time.

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