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Socio-Economic condition of Women Agriculture Labours in India

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Abstract

“Agricultural labourer is one who is mostly unskilled and unorganized and has nothing except his labour to earn livelihood. As such, the major part of the income of such worker is copied from wages for work on land”. Thus, agricultural labourers mean those workers who work on others land for wages. They accept their wages in cash or kind.

Key Words: Women Agriculture Labours, Socio-Economic Status, Problem, Features.

Introduction:

Since antique time, the women are participating in economic activities of society. Indian women were also participating in economic system as in other societies. Since thousands of years women were maintaining household work apart from agricultural work. Thus human relations have been near to women in society. In India, the customer rural societies were kept their service towards handicrafts apart from agriculture life. Women had been concerned in customer sector for her livelihood. Mainly she choose agriculture, household work, horticulture laboring, some customary industries of khadi, handloom. As aforesaid to correctly explain the development of Indian rural women further study is essential. Identifying the role of women in developed society, it is necessary to know their relations. But, under the circumstances the women have uphold the economic and social values as well as men. Now a day's considering the status of women absolutely it can be answered the women has been regarded as second grade. The active participation of women in various sectors was condemned and also made her place not to take any decisions. For view of the society in considering the women as a family provider and not considering her economic value, in this way women has been exploited for gender inequality. Mostly the women labours are held in the hands of men oriented society and from economists. Therefore, categorical study of conditions of women labours is very much necessary.

Meaning of Women Agricultural Labour:

The term agricultural labour in India is used to indicate that section of labour force which works in agriculture, but mainly, in the land owned by others, In other words, all those persons who obtain a major part of their income as payment for work performed on the farms of others can be elected as agricultural labours. The First Agricultural Labour Enquiry Committee of 1950-51 regarded



those people as agricultural workers who were occupied in raising crops on payment of wages. The committee laid down that those people should be regarded as agricultural workers who worked for 50 per cent or more days on payment of wages. The Second Agricultural Labour question Committee of 1956-57 accepted a broad view and included all those workers into agricultural labours who were engaged in agriculture and related activities like animal husbandry, dairy, piggery, poultry farming

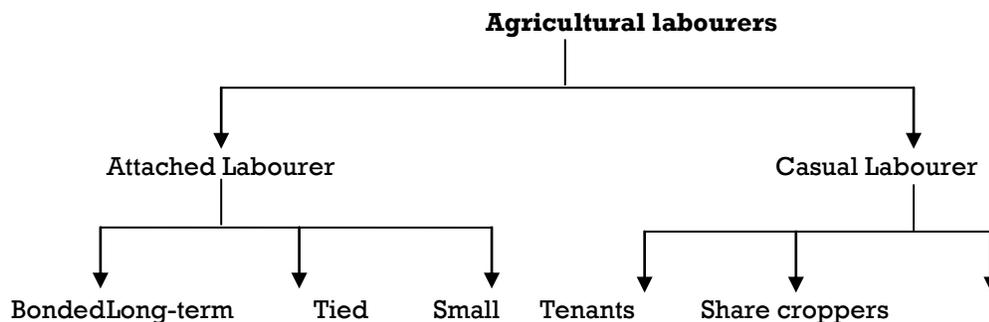
Features of (WAL) Women Agriculture Labour:

- Women agricultural labours have not combined.
- Women agricultural labours are being illiterates, unawares and expected.
- Women agricultural labours are not so trained.
- Women agricultural labours are having only few days' employment and they are getting Very meagre wages.
- Their social and economic condition is inferior; they have measured as weaker section.
- Women agricultural labours are affliction from poverty.
- Women agricultural labours were being incessantly exploited.
- Women agricultural labours suffering from economic liability.
- Number of Women agricultural labours is growing day by day and status of their status of life is lowering.

Socio-Economic Status of Women Agriculture Labours:

1. Unorganised:

Women agriculture labours are illiterates, unawares, separated and customary therefore they are detached hugely at villages. So, it is very complicated to organize them in unions. The First Agricultural Labour analysis Committee had classified agricultural workers into two categories, they are.



I. Attached labourers, and

ii. Casual labourers.

I. Attached labourers: Attached labourers are those workers who are attached to some farmer household on the basis of a written or oral conformity. These workers are not allowed to move on to an employer of his choice. Attached labourers execute very long hours of work, and their nature of work is regular. The attached labourers are additional classified into: a) bonded labourer, b) long-term farm servant, and c) tied labourer.

a. Bonded labourer: Bonded labourer is one who pledges himself or occasionally a member of his family against a loan. The bonded labourer binds himself to work for the creditor for a certain number of years or till the loan is at last repaid.

b. Long term farm servant: Long-term farm servants are those who serve in the field of landlords for significantly long period of time.

c. Tied labourer: Tied labourers are the permanent labourers who are attached to agricultural households.

ii. Casual labourers: All workers not falling in the category of attached labourers are known as casual labourers. They are at their liberty to work on the farm of any cultivator and they usually obtain wages on a daily basis. Casual labourers are further classified into:

a. Small farmers' b. Tenant, and c. Share croppers.

a. Small farmers: Small farmers are those who have very small holdings and are thus strained to work on the farms of others.



b. Tenants: Tenants are those who work on leased land but this is not their main source of income. The main source of their income is work, performed on the land of others.

c. Share croppers: Share croppers are those who also sharing the produce of land cultivated by them, also work as labourers.

2. Unskilled

From start the women agriculture labours are unskilled, they are not having skill in agriculture or sowing. Therefore, their importance is not having any stability. Their inexpert status made them exploited.

3. Migrating attitude

Women cultivation labours having migrating attitude. They are not having employment for whole year at their place. Therefore, they are migrating from place to place in search of employment.

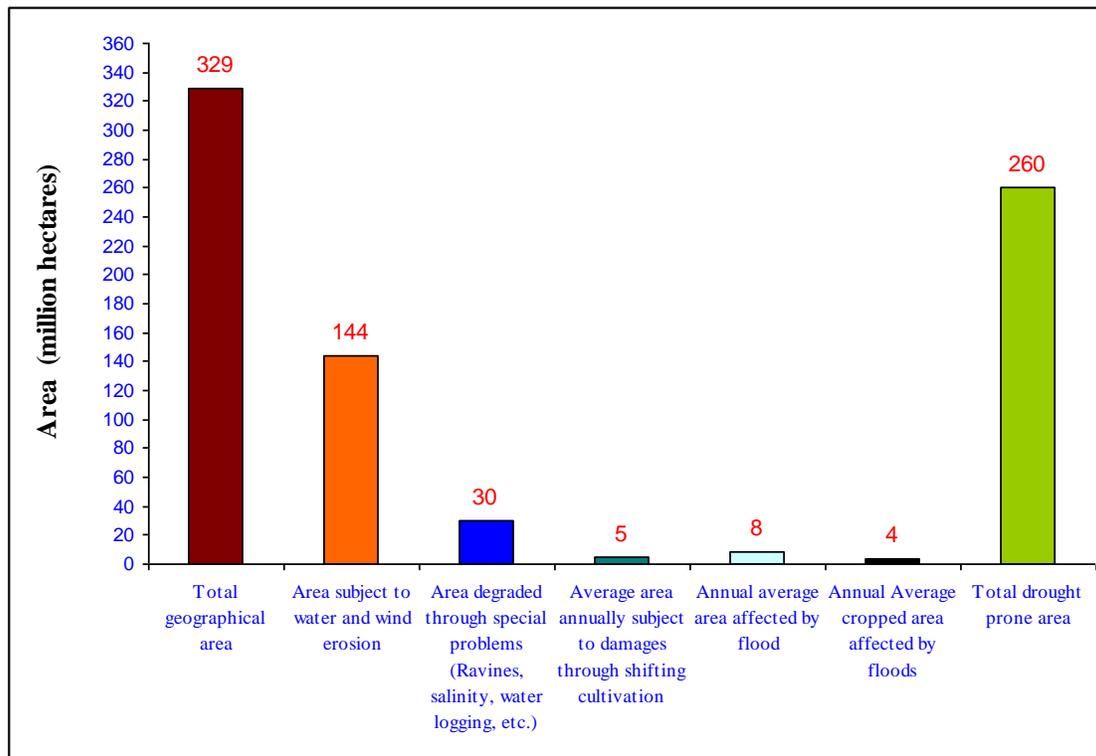
4. Seasonal unemployment

Continuous employment is not obtainable to women agriculture labours. Because the agricultural employment is based on climate. Therefore, the employment for undeveloped labours is available in sowing and harvesting busy seasons only. They are suffering from unemployment and foodless.

Table .1
Seasonal Unemployment

Sl. No.	Particulars	Area (million hectares)
1.	Total geographical area	329
2.	Area subject to water and wind erosion	144
3.	Area degraded through special problems (Ravines, salinity, water logging, etc.)	30
4.	Average area annually subject to damages through shifting cultivation	5
5.	Annual average area affected by flood	8
6.	Annual Average cropped area affected by floods	4
7.	Total drought prone area	260

Source: H.R.Krishnamurthy Hosabeedu, "Economic Development of India", Sapna Book House Bangalore, 2009-10. Pp-167.



The Table .1 reveals that the seasonal unemployment in India the total geographical area 329. Area subject to water and wind erosion area is 144. Annual average area affected by flood area is 8. Annual average cropped area affected by floods is 4 and total draught prone area is 260 million hecters area. 174 million hectares or 53 percentage of total land area in India is suffering from serious degradation.

Wages and income

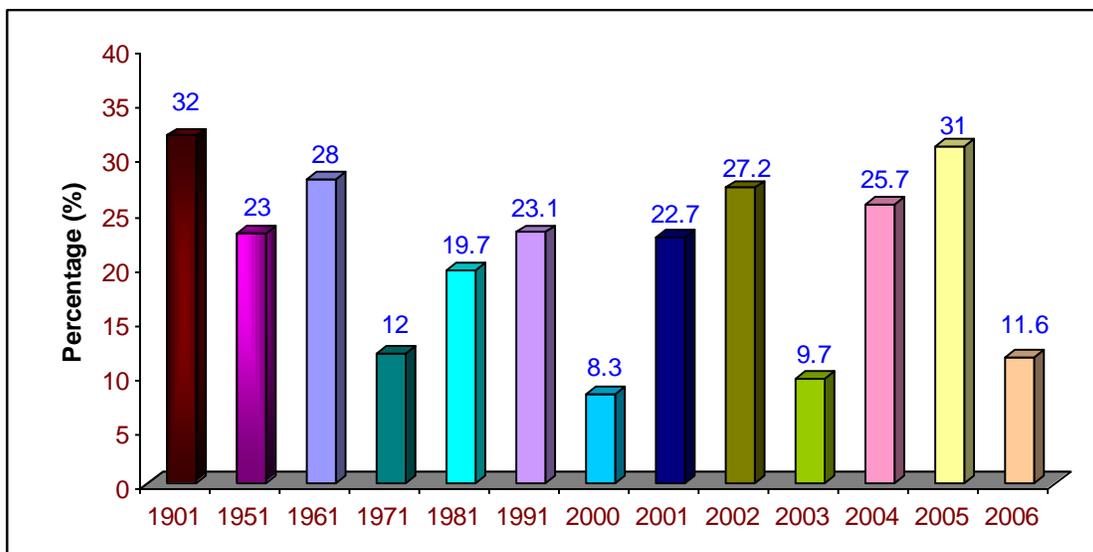
Agricultural wages and family income of agriculture labours is very meagre. Therefore, their life status and cost of living is very less.



Table .2
Meagre wages and Income

Year	Female labour wage
1901	32%
1951	23%
1961	28%
1971	12%
1981	19.7%
1991	23.1%
2000	8.3%
2001	22.7%
2002	27.2%
2003	9.7%
2004	25.7%
2005	31.0%
2006	11.6%

Source: H.R. Krishnamurthy Hosabeedu, "Economic Development of India", Sapna Book House Bangalore, 2009-10. Pp-185.





The Table 3.2 reveals that the meagre wages and income in India had declined in the year 1901 the female labour wage 32% in the year 1951 the female labour wage 23% in the year 1961 the female labour wage is 28% and in the year 1971 the female wage is 12% and in the year 1981 the female labour wage is 19.7% in the year 2000 8.3% is female labour wage. In 2002 the female labour wage is 27.2% and in the year 2004 25.7% of the wage, in the year 2006 the female labour wage is 11.6%.

6. Liabilities:

Women agriculture labours are affliction from more liabilities. According to National Model Survey (N.S.S.) 52.32 percent families of agriculture labours were having liabilities. Poverty, lesser family income, nature of migratory agriculture etc., made them to have liabilities. The social and economic status of women can be decided on the basis of her income and loans. In Indian people 80 percent of women were not having any income. They will depend upon their family members for every necessity. Expenditure of many women is higher than what they are earning. Therefore the liability is increasing. It is relevant to study about the particulars for which the women agriculture labours are taking loans. Here it is significant that, for which reasons the women cultivation labours were taking loans and for which reasons they are utilizing it.

7. Lowered social status:

Women agriculture labours are having very lowered social status in India. More agriculture labours are being lower status and they do not dare to raise voice about their rights. For the said social infirmity they are being oppressed.

8. Lengthy working:

Women agriculture labours are not definite as business labour. Commonly they are working for protracted period. The same will cause heavy loss to their health skill.

9. Lack of social security facilities:

Social security facilities like accident insurance, pension, unemployment fund, medical facilities are not available to agriculture labours in India. But, these facilities are available to industrial labours.

10. Age formation in caste-wise distribution:

Caste system was combined with their employment of usual occupations in Indian society. Now a day's some recreation seen in caste based employment. It is less in urban area and more in can be seen in rural area. Now also agricultural works depends upon the caste scheme in rural area, mainly its influence can be seen in lower caste people. To understand the personal differentiation of socio-economic status age factor is the main way, in view of study of women labours age factor is very much obligatory. But, for the sake of work and economic pressure poor women has not restricted by



the age. Factors of age and caste of women labours are very much necessary to come a termination about the employment of women in industries, there is no choice of employment for the women opposite poverty. Therefore they have to work in obtainable employment which is necessary for their economic essential. Keeping all these factors in view status of women agriculture labours was perused. Women agriculture labours were facing many problems at domestic place and working sectors. In this way they have created atmosphere of two ends for their life. It is very important for them to lead life within these ways.

Table .3
Percentage distribution of India's population by age groups

Year	Age Group		60 and above
	0-14	15-60	
1911	38.8	60.2	1.0
1921	39.2	59.6	1.2
1931	38.3	60.2	1.5
1951	37.4	57.1	5.5
1961	41.0	53.3	5.7
1971	41.4	53.4	5.2
1981	39.7	54.1	6.2
1991	36.5	57.1	6.4
2001	37.3	55.4	7.3

Source: H.R. Krishnamurthy Hosabeedu, "Economic Development of India", Sapna Book House Bangalore, 2009-10. Pp-105.

The table. 3 reveals that the percentage distribution of India's population by age groups in the year 1911 the age of 0-14 is 38.8 and age of 15-60 is 60.2 and 60 and above 1.0. In the year 1931 the age group of 0-14 is 38.3 and 15-60 is 60.2 and above age 60 is 1.5 percent. In the year 1961 the 41.0% of 0-14 age and 15-60 is 53.3 of 15-60 age group and 60 above 5.7. In the year 1981 the age 0-14 age 39.7% and in the year 15-60 age group 54.1% and above 60 is 6.2% and in the year 2001 the age group 0-14 is 37.3% and 15-60 age group is 55.4 percent and 60 and above is 7.3% with the fall in the birth rate, the age construction of population is likely to change.

11. Education level:

As per the census of 2001 44.34 percent of women literacy can be seen in India. So many reasons can be seen for the same. Primarily among them is slow progress of girls admissions to the school along with negative ambience of girls education and increasing family responsibilities of girls are main reasons. Adoption of household works by the girls also being reason for same. Younger and



elder family brothers were connecting in income based business. For all these factors lowered education level among girls can be seen.

Now a day it is essential to generate and implement various programmes for development and bring and equality among the general qualities and women like free education scheme etc. It is imperative to know about the age and education facto.

12. Employment of husband:

Employment is playing an important role in identification of social status and economic condition in the society. To identify social and economic situation of women labours it has importance, so also it has close relative with employment.

13. Number of children:

Family is the elementary organization in Indian social system. In this family scheme the status of wedded women and development mainly depends upon size of her family.

Number of children of women labours can be seen from the following table.

Table .4

Details of Children of Women Labours

Number of children	Edition	Percentage
1-2	20	05.00
3-4	112	28.00
5-6	155	38.75
7-8	60	15.00
9-10	07	01.75
11-12	--	--
Childless	10	02.50
Unmarried	36	09.00
Total	400	100.00

Sourcr: Dr. Anjanappa B.H., Women and Work, "Kalpaja Publication" 2010. Pp-110.

Looking to the above table it can be seen that more in number having more children, in this research the members having one to ten children can be seen. As a say, poor people having more children, measure of observers having 3-8 children is more at 81 percent. In this research childless



observers are 2.50 percent. At the time of knowing the number of children it is pertinent to note as above. Condition of women labours is being very miserable at the time it is very difficult of life of their children, education and their livelihood for them. Therefore, only having one or two children and given that the good future has becomes necessity of every citizen parents.

14. Family Income source:

Income is an important factor of social and economic position of a person. Everyone has to work for income. Poor particularly women have to work more for having income. Situation of women agriculture labours is depressed among them. Ratio of wages is very scanty even though working for whole day. Their economic level is much lowered.

Conclusion:

This research is having very importance to know about the socio-economic status of women agriculture labours and structure of their life. After minutely describing the factors as stated before the pictures of their life will come know.

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