
Women agricultural labourers in rural areas of Ranipettai district – a theoretical assessment

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Abstract: Women play a significant and crucial role in all spheres of the socio – economic development of any country. The agricultural sector is the largest employer of women. Majority of the women workforce in the rural areas depends upon agricultural sector and its allied activities. Farming expansion and related pasture counting, key harvest manufacture, live-stock production, horticulture, post-harvesting operations, agro social forestry, fishing, etc, it is a fact long taken for granted but ignored since era. The huge number of factors economic and non economics is accountable for the trouble of scarcity among the agricultural labourers. Several discussions are going on the problem of women agricultural labourers in the world in general and in the study area in particular. Women as farming labourers are categorized in earnings disbursement on masculinity source. The earnings disparities is in all key agriculture process as well as transfers and prepare in which women serious process along with recovered is inclusive by women agricultural labourers. The women agricultural workers are supplementary to poor on agriculture sector. The comparative deficiency of non-agricultural employment among women labourers is reliable with the argument that women expression restriction to physical mobility and prefer employment near their homes. Women agricultural labourers in the study area suffer from a multiple burden on their time due to their home making, child rearing and income earning each day to day jobs in arrange to convene the day to day house expenditures. Here this background, this research paper mainly concentrates on women agricultural labourers in rural areas of Ranipettai District an theoretical perspectives.

Keywords: Socio-Economic Development, Agricultural Development, Agricultural Labourers, Problem of Poverty, Economic Activity, Physical Mobility and Technological Transformation.

INTRODUCTION

Women's responsibility in cultivation is of the greatest significance not only for rising the rural economy but also in ensuring food security. Women's unpaid workload in both domestic chores and care for family has obviously bigger. As well as women play a significant and crucial role in agricultural development and allied fields including, main crop production, live-stock production, horticulture, post-harvesting operations, agro and social forestry, fishing it is a fact long taken for granted but ignored since ages.

Statement of the Problem

Women participate a important and critical position in agricultural progress and allied pastures. The environment and scope of women's participation in farming varies really from region to region. As per Census 2011, out of total female main workers, 55 per cent were agricultural labourers and 24 per cent were cultivators. In the study area, a major percentage of population live in village and majority of the population depends upon agricultural sector and allied activities for their livelihood. Women contribution towards the agricultural development through directly and indirectly is highly significant. Agricultural development process includes transfer of new farm technology and its related concerned. Since the women agricultural labourers in the process of technological transformation in agricultural sector are the key aspects of the modern days. The present paper therefore, makes a special attempt to inspect the position of women farming labourers in the evolution of agricultural progress in the rural areas of Ranipettai District of Tamil Nadu. Most probably MBCs, SCs, and STs are concentrated among agricultural labourers in the study area, and the risk of debt is even greater for the Dalit family's socially disadvantaged sections as depend on agricultural daily wage work for their livelihood.

This requires that women agricultural labourers should have enhanced access to resources like land, water, credit, technology and training which warrants critical analysis in the context of the study area. In addition, the entitlements of women agricultural labourers will be the key factor to improve agriculture productivity in the study area.

The differential access of women agricultural labourers to resources like land, credit, water, seeds and markets needs to be addressed. With women predominant at all levels of production, pre-harvest, post-harvest

processing, packaging, marketing of the agricultural value chain, to increase productivity in agriculture, it is imperative to adopt gender specific interventions. An inclusive transformative agricultural policy should aim at gender-specific intervention to raise productivity of small farm holdings, integrate women agricultural labourers as active agents in rural transformation, and engage in extension services with gender expertise. Consequently, this research paper mostly discussed the core aspects of women agricultural labourers in rural areas of Ranipettai District of Tamil Nadu in Theoretical perspectives.

OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of this research paper is to discuss the core aspects of women agricultural labourers in rural areas of Ranipettai District of Tamil Nadu in Theoretical perspectives. The specific objectives of this paper are:

- (1) To find out the general information of agricultural labourers in the rural areas of Ranipettai District of Tamil Nadu.
- (2) To assess the monetary contribution of agricultural labourers in supporting the household activities, and
- (3) To suggest measure to promote gender equality for the all round development of women.

METHODOLOGY

This study is based on descriptive and diagnostic analysis. This study was focused in the one block, namely, Nemili, of Ranipettai districts of Tamil Nadu. Two villages from Agavalam and Reddyvalam, one block purposively selected for collecting the required information on women agricultural labour. Survey method by personal interview was used to collect the data of 60 sample randomly selected, in production process, utilization of agricultural labourers economic activity, participation wage determination of women agricultural labourers. Introduced new agricultural technology in selected villages.

Some women agricultural personnel are members of relations forms a element. A few women work as independent agricultural labourers and undertake different activities independently. This independent labourers coming from dissimilar common divisions are precise in that independent existing is asset.

The profitable position of cluster of those be able to be considered through domestic review for this purpose the researcher used per – determined and well structured interview schedule for collecting information relating to the theme of the research paper. For this purpose simple random sampling method was used for the study. The sample size was determined as 120. The simple statistical tools were used wherever necessary for the convenient of the study.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Torero Maximo (1993) has made an attempt to explain a particular application with reference to the problems pertaining to planning and policy making adopted towards development of the agricultural sector.

Mani K.P. (2004) made an interpretation that since 1990's, the implications of the patterns in cropping and decline in the crop productivity were the main determinants of the development of agriculture in Kerala.

Rameshkumar .S.& Alexpandi M (2014) have tried to examine the degree at which the farmers in the district of Madurai in Tamil Nadu have utilized the agricultural credit and also, they repayment structure. Both primary and secondary data has been used for the study.

Sonu & Ramola Premalatha J (2018), examined the challenges that were faced by the farmers in the Vellore district of Tamil Nadu in getting access to the financial services. Even the governments have taken enormous reforms pertaining to ease out the financial needs of the farmers, the rural farmers sorry state of affair resulting due to lack of financial aid remains unchanged.

Lyon, France (2020) pointed out that the agriculture sector has undergone a series of transformation since the 19th century, including mechanized agriculture as well as green revolution.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS

Age of the Respondents

The age of the agricultural labourers were classified into six categories. The categories are (i) below the age group 20 years (ii) 21 – 30 agegroups, (iii) 31 – 40 age groups, (iv) 41- 50 age groups, (v) 51 – 60 age groups, (vi) 61 – 70 age groups. See the table 1. Out of 120 sample respondents, 2.5 per cent were below the age 20, 16.7 per cent were 21-30 age groups, 19.1 per cent were 31-40 age groups, 25.8 per cent were 41-50 age groups, 18.3 per cent were 51-60 age groups, 17.5 per cent were 61-70 age groups. The minimum age of the respondents has 18 and maximum age of the respondents has 69 years.

Table 1: Age -wise Classification of the Respondents in the Study Area

Age wise classification	AgaValam	Reddy Valam	Total
Below 20	0(0.0)	3 (5.0)	3 (2.5)
21-30	12 (20.0)	8 (13.3)	20 (16.7)

31-40	10 (16.7)	13 (21.7)	23 (19.1)
41-50	17 (28.3)	14 (23.3)	31 (25.8)
51-60	10 (16.7)	12 (20.0)	22 (18.3)
61-70	11 (18.3)	10 (16.6)	21 (17.5)
Total	60 (100.0)	60 (100.0)	120 (100.0)

Source: Primary Survey

Note: Figures in parentheses are percentages.

Marital Status of the Sample Respondents

Table 2: Marital Status of the sample Respondents

Marital Status	Aga Valam	Reddy Valam	Total
Married	38 (36.7)	43 (40.0)	81 (67.5)
Unmarried	5 (8.3)	4 (6.7)	9 (7.5)
Widow	17 (28.3)	12 (20.0)	29 (24.1)
Divorce	0 (0.0)	1 (1.6)	1 (0.8)
Total	60 (100.0)	60 (100.0)	120 (100.0)

Source: Primary Survey

Note: Figures in parentheses are percentages.

The below table 2 marital status of the sample respondents was classified four categories. The categories are (i) Married, (ii) Unmarried, (iii) Widow and (iv) Divorce. Out of 120 sample respondents, 67.5 per cent of the respondents reported that they Married, 7.5 per cent of the respondents reported that they in Unmarried, 24.1 per cent of the respondents reported that they in Widow and 0.8 per cent of the respondents reported that they in Divorce. The maximum respondents entering the agricultural field for married women

Religion – Wise Distribution of the sample Respondents

The below table 3. Religion wise distribution of the respondents the maximum respondents were entering the agricultural field Hindu, 92.5 per cent of the respondents reported that they in Hindu, 0.8 per cent of the respondents reported that they in Muslim, 6.7 per cent of the respondents reported that they in Christian.

Table 3: Religion – Wise Distribution of the Sample Respondents

Religion- wise Distribution	Aga Valam	Reddy Valam	Total
Hindu	54 (90.0)	57 (95.0)	111 (92.5)
Muslim	0 (0.0)	1 (1.6)	1 (0.8)
Christian	6 (10.0)	2 (3.3)	8 (6.7)
Total	60 (100.0)	60 (100.0)	120 (100.0)

Source: Primary Survey

Note: Figures in parentheses are percentages.

Caste wise classification of the respondents

The below table-4 Caste – wise classification of the respondents in the villages of 50.8 per cent of the respondents reported that they in SC, 30.8 per cent of the respondents reported that they in MBC, 17.5 per cent of the respondents reported that they in BC, 0.8 per cent of the respondents reported that they in ST. majority of the respondents earring the Caste of SC.

Table 4: Caste -Wise Classification of the Respondents

Caste	Aga Valam	Reddy Valam	Total
SC	29 (48.3)	32 (53.3)	61 (50.8)
MBC	21 (35.0)	16 (26.7)	37 (30.8)
BC	10 (16.7)	11 (18.3)	21 (17.5)
ST	0 (0.0)	1 (1.7)	1 (0.8)
Total	60 (100.0)	60 (100.0)	120 (100.0)

Source: Primary Survey

Note: Figures in parentheses are percentages.

Educational Status of the Sample Respondents

The below table 5, educational status of the sample respondent majority of the agricultural labourers illiterates and primary level, 51.7 per cent of the respondents in Illiterates, 35.0 per cent of the respondents in Primary level, 10.0 per cent of the respondents in Secondary level, and 3.3 per cent of the respondents in Higher Secondary level.

Table 5: Educational Status of the Sample Respondents

Educational Status	Aga Valam	Reddy Valam	Total
Illiterates	34 (54.8)	28 (46.7)	62 (51.7)
Primary	19 (31.7)	23 (38.3)	42 (35.0)
Secondary	6 (10.0)	6 (10.0)	12 (10.0)
Higher Secondary	1 (1.6)	3 (5.0)	4 (3.3)
Total	60 (100.0)	60 (100.0)	120 (100.0)

Source: Primary Survey

Note: Figures in parentheses are percentages.

Table 6: Monthly Income of respondents in the study area

Sl. No.	Income groups (in Rs.)	No. of Respondents		Total
		Aga Valam	Reddy Valam	
1	Below 7000	16 (26.67)	18 (30.00)	34 (28.33)
2	7000-10000	29 (48.33)	26 (43.33)	55 (45.83)
3	Above 10000	15 (25.00)	16 (26.67)	31 (25.84)
	Total	60 (100.00)	60 (100.00)	120(100.00)

Source: Primary Survey

Note: Figures in parentheses are percentages.

Data shown in table-6 observed that monthly income of the respondents in the study area. Therefore key collection bellow 7000 Rs, in 16 respondents of 26.67 per cent, second group Rs. 7000-10000 in 29 respondents of 48.33 per cent, and third group above Rs. 10,000 in 15 respondents of 25.00 per cent and overall 60 respondents sampling in the Aga Valam village of Ranipettai District in Tamil Nadu. Where as in the Reddy Valam village, the first group bellow 7000 Rs, in 18 respondents of 30.00 per cent, second group Rs. 7000-10000 in 26 respondents of 43.33 per cent, and third group above Rs. 10,000 in 16 respondents of 26.67 per cent and overall 60 respondents sampling.

Table 7: Employment formation of Respondents

Sl. No.	Particulars	No. of Respondents		Total
		Aga Valam	Reddy Valam	
1	Agriculture	15 (25.00)	17 (28.33)	32 (26.67)
2	Agriculture-labour	20 (33.33)	22 (36.67)	42 (35.00)
3	Non-Agriculture	10 (16.67)	14 (23.33)	24 (20.00)
4	Job	07 (11.67)	05 (8.33)	12 (10.00)
5	Others	08 (13.33)	02 (3.33)	10 (8.33)
	Total	60 (100.00)	60 (100.00)	120 (100.00)

Source: Primary Survey

Note: Figures in parentheses are percentages.

Table-7 shows the employment and formation of the study area. There are 120 women agricultural workers engaging themselves in different activities the employment data were clearly stated. Job members are 10(8.33). There are no business holders in the study area.

Table 8: Monetary conditions of the Respondents

Sl. No.	Particulars as per Ration Card	No. of Respondents		Total
		Aga Valam	Reddy Valam	
1	Above Poverty Line	08 (13.33)	05 (8.33)	13 (10.83)
2	Below Poverty Line	39 (65.00)	43 (71.67)	82 (68.34)
3	Anthodia Anna Yojana	13 (21.67)	12 (20.00)	25 (20.83)
	Total	60(100.00)	60 (100.00)	120 (100.00)

Source: Primary Survey

Note: Figures in parentheses are percentages.

In this table-8 shows that dissimilar pecuniary circumstances of Respondent in this table also shows figure of households, what percentage of inhabitants are immobile there in the present time Above Poverty Line card holder is 13 and the percentage ratio is 10.83 per cent, Below Poverty Line card holder is 82 the percentage ratio is 68.34 per cent in Anthodia Anna Yojana the figure of card holder is 25 and the ratio of percent age is 20.83 and over all 120 respondents sampling in the study area.

Women agricultural labour participation in production process and support for economic activities.

Women agricultural labour force participation in sample area. The agricultural labourers force is measured as a ratio of male and female labour force participation was higher than that of male and female labour.

Table 9: Operation wise utilization of Agricultural labourers in production process

S. No	Operations	Percentage of Total labour force	
		Male	Female
1	Land Preparation	72.60	28.40
2	Sowing	75.35	24.65
3	Transplanting	18.00	82.00
4	Irrigation	82.00	18.00
5	Fertilizer	57.25	47.25
6	Weeding	43.32	56.68
7	Harvesting	35.45	64.55
8	Threshing	49.00	51.00
9	Winnowing	36.73	63.27
	Total	45.89	54.11

Source: Primary Survey

Note: Figures in parentheses are percentages.

The above table - 9 operations with utilization of agricultural labourers male and female in production process of study village. Majority of the work Women agricultural labourers contributed a higher proportion of total labourers input. The various operations involved transplanting, weeding, harvesting, threshing, winnowing irrigation and sowing so many activity in the women participation of agricultural activity.

Participation of Women Agricultural Labourers in the decision-making process

Full participation of women agricultural labourers in the decision making process for fixed in wage, how many hours worked per days, with respect of adoption of new technology. New innovation is the pre- condition for rapid transfer of technology, as most of the farm operation and economic activities are performed by them.

Table 10: Participation of Women Agricultural Labourers in the decision-making process

S. No	Activities	Participation ratio (per cent)	
		Male	Female
1.	Wage fixed	33.35	66.65
2.	How many hours worked per day	35.45	65.25

Source: Primary Survey

Note: Figures in parentheses are percentages.

Access to scientific and technological knowledge

Agricultural women access to scientific and technology knowledge not only increases agricultural productivity but could be helped to help farm women to produce goods and services or minimum needs. Women total involvement in the technological knowledge has to be increased to transform Tamil Nadu agricultural where rice productivity is almost lowest among the rice growing areas of the country.

Table 11: Problems of Women Agricultural Labourers in the study area

S.No.	Details of Problems	No. of Respondents		
		Aga Valam	Reddy Valam	Total
	Marginalization of Agricultural Workers.	12 (20.00)	08 (13.33)	20 (16.67)
	Wages and Income.	14 (23.33)	10 (16.67)	24 (20.00)
	Employment and Working Conditions.	05 (8.33)	06 (10.00)	11 (9.16)
	Indebtedness.	13 (21.67)	11 (18.33)	24 (20.00)
	Low Wages for women in Agricultural Labour.	08 (13.33)	09 (15.00)	17 (14.17)
	High Incidence of Child Labour.	06 (10.00)	12 (20.00)	18 (15.00)
	Increase in Migrant Labour.	02 (3.33)	04 (6.67)	06 (5.00)
	Total	60 (100.00)	60 (100.00)	120 (100.00)

Problems of Women Agricultural Labourers

There are several problems faced by women agricultural labourers in the study area. Some of them are Marginalization of Agricultural Workers, Wages and Income, Employment and Working Conditions, Indebtedness, Low Wages for women in Agricultural Labour, Female agricultural workers are generally forced to work harder and paid less than their male counterparts, High Incidence of Child Labour and Increase in

Migrant Labour. The details of the problems of women agricultural labourers in the study area are presented in table – 11.

Data shown in table -11, reviewed that the details of the problems of women agricultural labourers in the study area. Out of 120 samples in both the study area, 40 per cent of the respondents facing wage and income related problems as well as indebtedness problems, while 31.67 per cent of the respondents facing Marginalization of Agricultural labour relating problems and High incidence of child labour. In spite of these, they faced number problems such as, exploitation, long works hours, and unhealthy working condition. in security of Job, low wages, health hazards and low socio economic status etc. This study focus on socio-economic status regarding women agricultural labour. They relate to increased demands on female labour; changing sex roles and responsibility for farm management, especially on small farms; gender differences in access to resources, including land, water, credit and technologies; time use and the division of labour; demographic changes relating to family size; dependency.

Women still provide more unpaid farm labor than men, but the share of women who do so as their primary employment is decreasing. Women's participation in agricultural and non-agricultural self-employment, as well as paid employment, rose over time. These changes could indicate increased economic empowerment of women.

CONCLUSION

The evident from the results of the present study that women agricultural labourers played a significant role in Agricultural production, economic activities family wage earning and decision-making process regarding the adoption of new farm technology. Although the respondents have opportunities of upgrading their skills and acquiring technological know-how, a visible inequality of women agriculture workers in relation to training, inputs and knowhow still exists. This is primarily due to limited facilities of farming and training centers in the region. Over all by studying and seeing the difficulties of agriculture women labour it can be observed that women agricultural labourers in the study area has several problems and difficulties, in addition to women agricultural labourers does not know how to face the problems.

Based on this research work it can be identified that supervision have to get attention in solving their evils, administration authorities be supposed to not merely create the systems except they encompass to observe whether the systems be effective productively or not. Through this the respondents in the learn district determination approach out of these difficulties and can guide a improved living.

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