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A SOCIO ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF AGRICULTURAL LANDLESS LABOURERS**DR. S. RAMASAMY****HEAD****DEPARTMENT IN ECONOMICS
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MUTHUR****ABSTRACT**

In these economics, the pace of economic development largely brings out the accelerated development of agricultural sector. Adam Smith, in his "wealth of nations" argued, almost two centuries ago, that agricultural output, in its widest senses, is the basic working capital of the nation in its critical stages of growth. Wage is the main problem in this sector. Through agricultural wages have been revised upward several times since independence the legislations are poorly implemented. Research is thus "Systematized effort to gain new knowledge". Research Methodology is a way to systematically solve the research problem. Convenient sampling was used to select the samples from the population. From the population the researcher has taken 200 respondents. The information collected from both Primary data and Secondary data. The present study is limited to cover only three blocks in Tirupur district selected at the rate of 2 villages from Kunnathur block in Tirupur District. In order to eliminate these socio-economic and cultural barriers, female children and women should be educated through formal and non-formal channels. A technology which best suit and fulfill the requirement of agricultural labours should be promoted in the direction of sustainable agricultural without affecting livelihood security of agricultural labour in India.

KEYWORDS

agricultural labours, landlessness, poverty and self help groups.

INTRODUCTION

In India, agricultural development is a necessary adjunct of economic development. In these economics, the pace of economic development largely brings out the accelerated development of agricultural sector. Adam Smith, in his "wealth of nations" argued, almost two centuries ago, that agricultural output, in its widest senses, is the basic working capital of the nation in its critical stages of growth. This proposition is still true in the case of all less - developed countries. Agriculture is ever destined with the law of diminishing returns. As such, one cannot develop very fast by putting more and more of additional doses of capital and other kinds of inputs. Yet, the element of labour has its own proverbial say to cause and effect radical returns and is ever crucial in revolutionizing the total average and marginal productivity of agriculture. Agricultural labours are mostly economically and socially backward people. They are divided into four types namely Landless labourers who are attached to the landlords, Landless labourers who are personally independent but who work exclusively for others, Small Farmers with tiny bits of land who devote most of their time working to others land and Farmers who have economic holdings but who have one or more of their children and dependants working for other prosperous farmers.

The rural society in India typically consists of two broad sections, the landless and the land owning households. The landlessness has increased in recent years, and has become a source of great public concern. Chandra in his article looks at the changing level of landlessness in different parts of rural India, both conceptually and empirically.

Landlessness can be visualized in three different ways, in terms of

1. Number of rural households owning no arable land,
2. Number of households operating no land and
3. Number of agricultural labour households.

Agriculture workers constitute the most neglected class in the Indian rural structure. Their income is low and employment irregular. Since they possess no skill or training they have no alternative employment opportunities socially a large number of agricultural workers belong to schedule castes and schedule tribes. Therefore, they are an oppressed class. They are not organized and cannot fight for their rights. Because of all these reasons their economic level has failed to improve even after four and a half decades of planning. It seems that exceptional pockets in Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh the Planning process has by passed them.

MODERNIZATION AND AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN INDIA

Being a country of agriculture, cultivation of crops for food and commercial use is the major activity of both farmers and labourers in India. Indian agriculture is marked by uncertainties and variables in monsoon. In addition there have been consistent occurrences of natural calamities. In India agriculture is the victim of such calamities and disasters. Obviously this highlights various issues in agricultural production and necessitates solution considerably. The programme of the middle of 1960^s as part of new strategies in agriculture or technology transformation in agriculture. This had set in mention agricultural modernization in India with far-reaching implications for the conventional method of cultivation including problems of agricultural labour. In addition the globalization programmes had further deteriorated the problems of farmers and labour in Indian agriculture. As a result the need for structural adjustment and social safety net has been highlighted. As a part of this capacity building and skill development programmes through formation of CBOs had also been initiated micro finance and enterprises with a overturn for promotion of social entrepreneurship.

PROBLEMS OF LANDLESS AGRICULTURAL LABOUR

The problem of agricultural landless labourers was increasing year after year and in order to evaluate the economic conditions of this class the First Agricultural Labour Enquiry was conducted in the year 1950-1951 by the Ministry of Labour. The enquiries revealed the following problems of agricultural landless labourers. Wage is the main problem in this sector. Through agricultural wages have been revised upward several times since independence the legislations are poorly implemented. For instance wages in U.P, Bahar, Orisa and M. Pranges from Rs.20. to 30 per day per man compared to the wage range between Rs. 7.50 and Rs. 9.50 in Punjab and haryana there is exploitation by landowners low wages generate the vicious cycle of poverty. The no members increased in the families are other problems of landless agricultural labours. Their income earning available sources only in the field of agriculture land. The incomes of agricultural labourers are very limited. So their standard of living is not improved way social status of the labourers are very low level compare with other income group of people. Agriculture workers in the country do not have any social security. The existing legislations are also not enforced permanently by concerned authorities.

IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY USED IN AGRICULTURAL LANDS

The introduction of machines in farm sectors had its own impact on the landless agricultural labour with the difficulties faced in agricultural production during the year 1956-57 which continued in the year 1990 specific attention or wards agricultural development became imperative the third five year plan therefore emphasized this aspect as a result of this technological transformation and modernization have taken place in agriculture. High yield variety programmes, intensive agriculture area programme and agricultural demonstration programme were introduced in year 1960. Government thus started the green revolution. As a result of all the modernization programmes and modernization and technological transformation only the rich farmers are benefited but large section of the rural population which possessed very small land holdings and a sizeable possessed very small land could not gain any benefit and similarly the areas with low potential for agriculture could not develop.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To examine the causes of landlessness and to study the general level wage differential function among the landless agriculture labourers.
2. To find out the structure of income and expenditure patterns of the landless agriculture labourers.
3. To analysis the levels of assets and liabilities of landless agriculture labourers.
4. To estimate the extent of poverty of landless agricultural labourers.
5. To examine the problems faced by the landless agriculture labourers and to offer suitable solutions.
6. To examine the role of governments in the economic upliftment of landless agricultural labourers and to suggest additional measures to be followed by governments.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research is thus "Systematized effort to gain new knowledge". Research Methodology is a way to systematically solve the research problem. It may be understand as a science of studying how research is done scientifically. In research it is responsibility of the researcher to expose the research decision to evaluate before they implemented. The researcher has to specify very clearly and precisely what decisions he selects them so other can evaluate on it. A sample is a part of the target population carefully selected from the universe to constitute a sample. From the population the researcher has taken 200 respondents. Convenient sampling was used to select the samples from the population. The information collected from both Primary data and Secondary data. The data collected on the basis of a detailed questionnaire given in the appendix have been consolidated and exploited in shaping this thesis. The secondary data for the study have been collected from the village Administrative officers, Taluk officers, Block Development Officials, District Collector, District statistical office and related publications and journals. The present study is limited to cover only three blocks in Tirupur district selected at the rate of 2 villages from Kunnathur block in Tirupur District. The statistical tools as simple percentage and chi-square analysis are used for the study.

LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

Due to constraints of time and resources, the present study is limited to cover only three blocks in Tirupur district selected at the rate of 2 villages from Kunnathur block in Tirupur District is spread over a vast area. Under the scheduled interviews with the selected landless agricultural labourers in the selected villages, the researcher had to struggle in view of problems of illiteracy and poor memory power. Data under expenditure were not accurately furnished by them since they did not maintain any book of accounts or dairies. As such, the researcher had to arrive at an overall or an average estimation of expenditure from their oral commitments. The data under income to follow the foot prints of expenditure. The ecological and economic conditions of any kind of worker in any period change. As such, the limited period and area of study covered by this thesis and the findings arrived there from may fail to withstand the test of time and space. It may vary from area to area and time to time. Under the data of income and expenditure; certain factors have been purposely ignored. If the members of households fall below the age group of ten and age group of sixty-five and above, they were excluded from the angle of income and not from the angle of expenditure. Further, the school going population of the selected households were taken into account in the treatment of expenditure, assets and liabilities. Though the bonded agricultural labourers have been relieved of their bondage from their feudal lords in the district under the law in force, yet, the element of bondage has taken a new shape in different forms i.e. panner all system. Under this system, the landless agricultural labourers have to serve and work under old feudal masters.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Jeemol Unni (1998) Agricultural workers of the first group have been more or less in the position of serfs or saves they are also known as bonded labourers. They do not normally receive wages in cash but are generally paid in wages. They have to work for their masters and cannot shift from one to another. They provide forced labour. In some cases, they have to offer cash and supply flows and goats to their masters. Among the other groups mentioned above the second and the third are quite important. The problem of landless labourers is the most serious problem in the rural sector.

Gunjal K.R., and Ram G.S (1977) the socio - economic status of agriculture labourers who constitute nearly one-third of the total rural work force depends largely on wage paid employment. Unfortunately, the wage rates as well as levels of agricultural employment are so low in many regions of the country and that agricultural labourers are forced to live below the poverty line. According to the 50th Round of National Sample Survey (RNSS) for 1933-94, nearly 57 per cent of agricultural labour households live below the poverty line, while the average rural poverty ratio in the country is 37 per cent.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

1.1 AGE AND WAGES SYSTEM OF THE RESPONDENTS

With a view to find the degree of association between age of the respondents and the working conditions two ways table is prepared and result is shown
AGE AND WAGES SYSTEM OF THE RESPONDENTS (ANOVA TWO WAY TABLE)

TABLE 1

S.No	Age	Wages System				Total
		Daily Wages	Weekly Wages	Monthly Salary	Contact Wages	
1.	Up to 30	32.5 _(10.8)	5 _(2.7)	2.5 _(1.8)	5 _(2.7)	45
2.	31-40	42.5 ₍₁₈₎	12.5 _(4.5)	7.5 ₍₃₎	12.5 _(4.5)	75
3.	41-50	35 _(13.2)	7.5 _(3.3)	5 _(2.2)	7.5 _(3.3)	55
4.	Above 51	10 ₍₆₎	5 _(1.5)	5 ₍₁₎	5 _(1.5)	25
	Total	120	30	20	30	200

Source: Computed

χ^2 calculated value is 3.449. Degree of freedom (r-1) (c-1) = (4-1) (4.1) = 9 table value is 19.9 for 9% degree of freedom at 5% level of significance. There is no significant relationship between the age of the respondent and the wages system.

AGE AND WAGES SYSTEM OF THE RESPONDENTS (CHI-SQUARE TEST)

TABLE 2

Factors	Calculated value	Table value	Degree of freedom	Level of significance
Age	3.449	16.9	9	5%

The calculated value of χ^2 (3.449) is less than the table value (16.9). Hence the null hypothesis is accepted. There is no significant relationship between the age and wages system.

INCOME Vs. WORKING HOURS

Between income and working hours is the correlation coefficient - 0.63 but the significance value is 0.576, >.05 which indicated that the correlation is not significant.

SEX Vs. INCOME CODE

There is significant association between male and female with regard to their income. In the lower income side, the % of women is more compared to men. The value 0.015 is less than 0.05. There is significant association between education up to class 5 and class 6-10 with regard to their type of House. In the lower education side, the % of the class 6-10 is more compared to up to class 5. There significant association between education up to class 5 and class 6-10 with regard to their nature of house. In the lower education side, the % of the class 6-10 is more compared to up to class 5. There is significant association between education up to class 5 and class 6-10 with regard to their reason for landless. In the lower education side, the % of the class 6-10 is more compared to up to class 5. There is significant association between education up to class 5 and class 6-10 regard to their reason. In the lower education side, the % of the class 6-10 is more compared to up to class 5. There is significant association between male and female with regard to their reason for landless. In the lower landless side, the % of male is more compared to female.

FINDINGS, SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION

Tiruppur is one of the important agricultural districts in Tamil Nadu. The landless agricultural labourers constitute the economically weakest and socially poor section of rural-specify in India. A large majority of them continue to live on the verge of poverty in spite of the fact that several central government schemes of poverty alleviation such as IRDP, NREP, TRYSEM, Jawahar Rojgar Yojana etc., have been implemented.

FINDINGS

- Majority 37.5% of the respondents of landless agricultural labourer are belonging to the age group of 31-40 years.
- Majority 57.5% of the respondents are male.
- Majority of the respondents are married.
- Majority 79% of the respondents are studied up to 5th standard level of education.
- Majority 52.5% of the respondents of landless agricultural labourer are having above 5 members in the family.
- Majority 94% of the respondents are coming under the categories of the joint family.
- Majority 35% of the respondents are coming under the categories of the Pacca house.
- Majority 52.5% of the respondents are coming under to categories of the Rental house.
- The most of the respondents are earning in the daily wage of in between Rs.101to 200.
- Majority 60% of the respondents are engaged of Agricultural and allied activity.
- Majority 60% the respondents are daily wage holders.
- From the above analysis the researcher fined that the calculated value is more than the table value. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected. There is significant relationship between the age group of the respondents and range of wages.
- From the above analysis the researcher fined that the calculated value is more than the table value. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected. There is significant relationship between the caste group of the respondents and range of wages.
- From the above analysis the researcher fined that the calculated value is less than the table value. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted. There is no significant relationship between the age of the respondents and working conditions.
- From the above analysis the researcher fined that the calculated value is less than the table value. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted. There is no significant relationship between the caste of the respondents and working conditions
- From the chi-square test Table, the chi-square value is 1.916 and the significance value is 0.384 which is greater than 0.05, the level of significance, we conclude that there is no significant association between caste and mode of payment. Here, it is proved that the workers are not discriminated in the mode of payment of wages based on their castes.
- There is significant association between male and female with regard to their income. In the lower income side, the % of women in lower income group is more compared to men.
- From the chi-square Table, there is significant association between age group, with regard to their income. In the lower income side the % of above 50 is more compared to other age group. The income earning capacity after 50 is not increasing in agricultural sector.
- There is significant association between education up to class 5 and class 6-10 with regard to their type of House. In the lower education side, the % of the class 6-10 is more compared to up to class 5.
- There is significant association between education up to class 5 and class 6-10 with regard to their nature of house. In the lower education side, the % of the class 6-10 is more compared to up to class 5.
- There is significant association between education up to class 5 and class 6-10 with regard to their reason for landless. In the lower education side, the % of the class 6-10 is more compared to up to class 5.
- There is significant association between education up to class 5 and class 6-10 with regard to their reason. In the lower education side, the % of the class 6-10 is more compared to up to class 5.
- There is significant association between male and female with regard to their reason for landless. In the lower landless side, the % of male is more compared to female.

24. From the chi-square tests Table 4.69, there is significant association between male and female with regard to their reason for landless. The landless percentage of male is more compared to female.

SUGGESTIONS

In the light of these finding the following suggestion are presented below: A social factor acts as obstacles. In order to eliminate these socio-economic and cultural barriers, female children and women should be educated through formal and non-formal channels. The voluntary agencies have also got a significant role to play in this regard. More importance must be given to the female in family also to improve the status of female agricultural labours. Since agricultural labourers are unaware of various social welfare legislations and provisions available to various social divisions, the voluntary agencies in collaboration with Governments must give wide publicity through community organization. Particularly the Minimum Wages Act (1948) should be effectively implemented. Normally women agricultural labourer are paid lower wage than the men even in doing identical jobs, although there is constitutional backing in the form of equal wage for equal work. The Government must effectively enforce the concerned Act. Co-operation of agricultural labourers in the local self governing institution must be extended in order to provide representations to this section. In the National Commission on rural labour, representation to agricultural labourer must be provided, so that their economics interest is protected. Recently the concepts of SHG, (SELF HELP GROUP) is pronounced more. But it mainly concentrates on women alone. The focus on men is also necessary at this moment. The Government should take necessary Legislative measures were taken to confer occupation rights of house sites and agricultural land for the rehabilitations of landless labourers, the newly reclaimed lands were distributed to the landless labourers.(Land Gift Mission).

CONCLUSION

The Government of India conducted agricultural Labour Enquiry and Rural Labour Enquiries. The main objectives of their Enquiries have been to collect vital information on the Socio- Economic conditions of Rural Agricultural Landless Labourers. These enquiries formulate the policy measures to uplift the economic life of population in rural areas. The wage employment programs and employment guarantee scheme of MAHATHMA GANDHI RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE SCHEME is regulate the right direction to ensure livelihood security to the agricultural labourers. This Scheme Safeguard the agricultural landless labours sources of income earnings and improve standard of living. A technology which best suit and fulfill the requirement of agricultural labours should be promoted in the direction of sustainable agricultural without affecting livelihood security of agricultural labour in India. A balanced approach towards capital intensive technology without affecting the interest of manual labour in the Indian.

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