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## A STUDY ON INTER-MANDAL AND INTER-DIVISIONAL VARIATIONS IN RURAL FEMALE WORK PARTICIPATION RATE IN CHITTOOR DISTRICT (ANDHRA PRADESH)

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CHITTOOR**

### ABSTRACT

Women in India play a crucial and contributory role in the field of agricultural production. Rural Indian women are extensively involved in agricultural activities. However, the operations performed by female labour in agriculture are varying from region to region and from one social group to another social group. There are number of studies on the agricultural sector in Chittoor district. Among these studies, the research on agricultural labour is very limited. The empirical investigations are needed to study the agricultural labour problems. Hence this empirical and scientific investigational study of rural female work participation rate in the rural economy of Chittoor district is an important phenomena. This study aims to study the Inter-Mandal variations in rural female work participation rate in three revenue divisions of Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh. Also, study looks at the Inter-Mandal inequalities in the employment status of female agricultural workers in three revenue divisions of Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh. For highlighting the Inter-mandal and Inter-divisional variations in Rural Female Work Participation Rate, Co-efficient of variation has been calculated, which will reflect the variations in Rural Female Work Participation Rate. The Inter-mandal and Inter-divisional inequalities in the real agricultural employment status of rural females have been shown by the co-efficient of equality. In the present study, the relevant data for explanatory and explained variables is collected from the Census of India 1991 : Population Census. Inter-Mandal variations of Rural Female Work Participation Rate and co-efficient of equality in the three revenue divisions namely Chittoor, Tirupati and Madanapalle of Chittoor District was studied. The co-efficient of variation confirmed less inter-mandal variations in Rural Female Work Participation Rate. The value of co-efficient of variation also confirmed that majority of the mandals have the high level of the real agricultural employment status of rural females. The average co-efficient of equality for rural females in the district was calculated. The results obtained revealed that less variation is noticed in real employment status of rural female agricultural workers in Chittoor division followed by Madanapalle and Tirupati divisions.

### JEL CODE

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### KEYWORDS

Co-efficient of Equality, Co-efficient of Variation, Female Agricultural Workers and Rural Female Work Participation Rate.

### INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is an important engine of growth and poverty reduction. Female population constitutes nearly half of the total rural population. The size of female population indicates the potential strength of women in the total human resources in the rural economy. Women in India play a crucial and contributory role in the field of agricultural production. Historians believe that it was women who first started cultivation of crop plants and initiated the art and science of farming. Beyond economic benefits, women's participation in the labour force can be seen as a signal of declining discrimination and increasing empowerment of women (Mammen and Paxson, 2000).

Rural Indian women are extensively involved in agricultural activities. However the nature and extent of their involvement differs with the variations in agro production systems. The mode of female participation in agricultural production varies with the landowning status of farm households. Their roles range from managers to landless labourers. In over all farm production, women's average contribution is estimated at 55% to 66% of the total labour with percentages, much higher in certain regions. In the Indian Himalayas a pair of bullocks works 1064 hours, a man 1212 hours and a woman 3485 hours in a year on a one hectare farm, a figure that illustrates women's significant contribution to agricultural production. (Shiva FAO, 1991)

The operations performed by female labour in agriculture are varying from region to region and from one social group to another social group. There are number of studies on the agricultural sector in Chittoor district. Among these studies, the research on agricultural labour is very limited. The empirical investigations are needed to study the agricultural labour problems. Hence the empirical and scientific investigational study of rural female work participation rate in the rural economy of Chittoor district is an important phenomena. This study aims to analyze these variations of Rural Female Work Participation Rate (RFWPR) and inequalities in the employment status of female agricultural workers in three revenue divisions of Chittoor district, Andhra Pradesh.

### OBJECTIVES

The following are the objectives of the study:

- To study the Inter-Mandal variations in rural female work participation rate in three revenue divisions of Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh.
- To study the Inter-Mandal inequalities in the employment status of female agricultural workers in three revenue divisions of Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh.

### METHODOLOGY

Rural Female Work Participation Rate (RFWPR) is the percentage of rural female workers engaged in agricultural sector. The females normally remain outside the labour market and are engaged in household duties except when the economic compulsions drive them to take up jobs. It is logical to expect that, if females take up wage employment, almost all of their male family members in working age groups will also do so. For, in Indian cultural value system, it is difficult to expect males to be dependent on the earnings of their females. So, the rural female work participation rate is low as compared to rural male work participation rate.

$$\text{RFWPR} = \frac{\text{Total female agricultural workers}}{\text{Total agricultural workers}} \times 100$$

To study the Inter-mandal and Inter-divisional variations in Rural Female Work Participation Rate (RFWPR), the following methodology is adopted. For highlighting the Inter-mandal and Inter-divisional variations in RFWPR, Co-efficient of variation has been calculated, which will reflect the variations in RFWPR. The Inter-mandal and Inter-divisional inequalities in the real agricultural employment status of rural females have been shown by the co-efficient of equality.

$$\text{Co-efficient of variation (C.V.)} = \frac{\text{Standard Deviation}}{\text{Mean}} \times 100$$

$$\text{Co-efficient of Equality for rural females} = \frac{\text{Percentage share of rural females in rural agricultural employment}}{\text{Percentage share of rural females in rural population}} \times 100$$

In the present study, the relevant data for explanatory and explained variables is collected from the Census of India 1991 : Population Census.

## FINDINGS

Women play a crucial role in the development of rural economy. They occupy nearly 50 percent of the total population. A majority of female workers in rural areas are engaged in the agricultural sector. The contribution of female labour is significant in agriculture. The operations performed by female labour in agriculture are varying from region to region and from one social group to another social group. To analyse these variations of RFWPR in three revenue divisions of Chittoor district, the co-efficient of variation is considered. The co-efficient of variation is calculated to find out the variations in Rural Female Work Participation Rate (RFWPR). To detect the inequalities in the employment status of female agricultural workers, the co-efficient of equality is computed. Inter-Mandal variations of RFWPR and co-efficient of equality in the three revenue divisions namely Chittoor, Tirupati and Madanapalle of Chittoor District are studied. The RFWPR in Chittoor division is 34.85 percent and it ranges from 30.02 percent for S.R. Puram Mandal to 37.57 percent for Vijayapuram Mandal. Eleven mandals out of 20 Mandals having RFWPR between 30 and 35 percent and remaining 9 mandals are having RFWPR between 35 and 40 percent. The co-efficient of variation is 5.54, which confirms less inter-mandal variations in RFWPR.

**TABLE-1: RFWPR AND CO-EFFICIENT OF EQUALITY FOR RURAL FEMALES : CHITTOOR DIVISION – 1991**

Sl.No.	Name of the Mandal	RFWPR	Co-efficient of Equality for Rural Females
1.	Chittoor	34.57	70.34
2.	Gudipala	33.95	67.64
3.	Yadamarri	34.06	69.68
4.	G.D. Nellore	34.94	70.94
5.	Penumur	33.88	69.47
6.	Puthalpattu	32.02	65.15
7.	Bangarupalyam	34.83	71.02
8.	Thavanampalle	36.20	73.29
9.	Irala	32.06	65.16
10.	Puttur	36.45	73.58
11.	Narayanavanam	35.80	71.97
12.	Karvetinagaram	35.90	72.22
13.	Vedurukuppam	37.19	76.04
14.	Ramachandrapuram	36.08	72.74
15.	Vadamalapeta	33.89	68.56
16.	Palasamudram	33.55	67.94
17.	S.R. Puram	30.02	61.32
18.	Nagari	37.26	75.49
19.	Nindra	36.76	74.56
20.	Vijayapuram	37.57	76.41
	<b>Chittoor Division</b>	<b>34.85</b>	<b>70.68</b>
	<b>C.V.</b>	<b>5.54</b>	<b>5.44</b>

The co-efficient of equality for rural females in various mandals of Chittoor division also exhibits a similar consistent pattern as shown in the table-1. The co-efficient of equality for Chittoor division is 70.68 and varies from 61.32 for S.R. Puram to 76.41 for Vijayapuram Mandal. It is clear from the table that the variations in the co-efficient of equality is same as the variations in RFWPR. In eight mandals out of 20 mandals, the co-efficient of equality lies in between 60 and 70 and in the remaining 12 mandals it is above 70 but below 80. It leads to the conclusion that in majority of the mandals, the real agricultural employment status of the rural females is more than 61 percent. The value of co-efficient of variation for rural agricultural employment status of the rural females is 5.44.

**TABLE-2: RFWPR AND CO-EFFICIENT OF EQUALITY FOR RURAL FEMALES : TIRUPATI DIVISION – 1991**

Sl.No.	Name of the Mandal	RFWPR	Co-efficient of Equality for Rural Females
1.	Tirupati (Urban)	41.41	85.84
2.	Tirupati (Rural)	35.91	72.12
3.	Chandragiri	36.61	75.22
4.	Pakala	30.86	62.84
5.	Pulicherla	32.27	66.25
6.	Renigunta	33.20	67.95
7.	Yerpedu	33.54	67.92
8.	Srialahasti	36.16	73.83
9.	Thottambedu	39.82	80.87
10.	K.V.B. Puram	37.41	76.83
11.	B.N. Kandriga	38.81	78.31
12.	Varadaiahpalem	39.64	80.26
13.	Sathyavedu	38.91	78.02
14.	Nagalapuram	42.82	86.02
15.	Pitchatur	41.11	82.15
	<b>Tirupati Division</b>	<b>37.23</b>	<b>75.63</b>
	<b>C.V.</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>9.06</b>

Table-2 shows the RFWPR and co-efficient of equality for rural females in various mandals of Tirupati division. The RFWPR in Tirupati division is 37.23 percent and it ranges from 30.86 percent for Pakala to 42.82 percent for Nagalapuram Mandal. Four mandals out of 15 mandals have RFWPR below 35 percent, 8 mandals are having RFWPR between 35 and 40 percent and in remaining 3 mandals the RFWPR is above 40 percent but below 45 percent. The co-efficient of variation is 9.3, which indicates less inter-mandal differences in RFWPR. The co-efficient of equality for rural females in Tirupati division is 75.63 and it ranges from 62.84 for Pakala Mandal to 86.02 for Nagalapuram Mandal. In four mandals out of 15 mandals in the division, the co-efficient of equality for rural females is below 70 but above 60, whereas in 6 mandals it ranges between 70 and 80 and in remaining 5 mandals it is above 80 but below 90. The co-efficient of variation is 9.06. It reveals that there are less variations in the real agricultural employment status of rural females.



TABLE-3: RFWPR AND CO-EFFICIENT OF EQUALITY FOR RURAL FEMALES : MADANAPALLE DIVISION – 1991

Sl.No.	Name of the Mandal	RFWPR	Co-efficient of Equality for Rural Females
1.	Madanapalle	39.98	82.31
2.	Nimmanapalle	43.13	88.04
3.	B. Kothakota	40.59	83.45
4.	Kurabalakota	44.61	90.47
5.	Thamballapalle	43.08	87.49
6.	Peddmandyam	41.69	85.26
7.	Molakalacheruvu	40.33	82.59
8.	Peddathippasamudram	40.82	83.48
9.	Vayalpad	41.87	85.15
10.	Gurramkonda	40.57	82.16
11.	Kalikiri	42.13	85.91
12.	Kalakada	43.07	88.04
13.	K.V. Palle	35.17	72.71
14.	Piler	39.66	81.14
15.	Rompicharla	36.39	74.10
16.	C.G. Gallu	34.92	71.50
17.	Yerravaripalem	36.45	73.67
18.	Punganur	43.32	87.52
19.	Ramasamudram	42.67	86.48
20.	Chowdepalle	41.04	83.62
21.	Peddapanjani	38.62	77.91
22.	Somala	34.89	69.84
23.	Sodam	39.45	80.05
24.	Palamaner	36.38	73.55
25.	Gangavaram	37.55	75.54
26.	Baireddipalle	39.91	82.75
27.	V. Kota	38.95	66.41
28.	Ramakuppam	39.26	80.11
29.	Santhipuram	39.03	79.06
30.	Kuppam	33.04	67.06
31.	Gudupalle	44.95	89.67
	<b>Madanapalle Division</b>	<b>39.79</b>	<b>80.55</b>
	<b>C.V.</b>	<b>7.53</b>	<b>8.20</b>
	<b>Chittoor District</b>	<b>37.71</b>	<b>76.44</b>
	<b>C.V.</b>	<b>9.43</b>	<b>9.59</b>

Table-3 Shows the RFWPR and co-efficient of equality for rural females in Madanapalle division. The RFWPR in Madanapalle division is 39.79 percent and ranges from 33.04 percent for Kuppam mandal to 44.95 percent for Gudupalle mandal. Three mandals out of 31 mandals have RFWPR below 35 percent in Madanapalle division, 13 mandals have RFWPR between 35 and 40 percent. RFWPR is above 40 percent but below 45 percent in remaining 15 mandals. The co-efficient of variation is 7.53, which shows less inter-mandal differences in RFWPR. The co-efficient of equality for rural females in Madanapalle division is 80.55 and ranges from 66.41 for V.Kota Mandal to 90.47 for Kurabalakota mandal. In 3 mandals out of 31 mandals the co-efficient of equality is below 70, whereas in 8 mandals it ranges between 70 and 80, in 19 mandals it ranges between 80 and 90 and in the remaining one mandal it is 90.47. It leads to the conclusion that in majority mandals in Madanapalle division, the real agricultural employment status of the rural females is at high level. The co-efficient of variation is 8.20.

The RFWPR in Chittoor district is 37.71 percent and it ranges from 30.02 percent for S.R. Puram to 44.95 percent for Gudupalle mandal. Eighteen out of 66 mandals in the district have the RFWPR below 35 percent, in 30 mandals it is between 35 and 40 percent and in remaining 18 mandals the RFWPR is above 40 percent but below 45 percent. The co-efficient of variation is less order 9.43. The co-efficient of equality for rural females in Chittoor district is 76.44 [Table-1, 2 and 3]. It varies widely from 61.32 for S.R. Puram to 90.47 for Kurabalakota mandal. It is apparent from the tables [1, 2 and 3] that, there are less variations in the real agricultural employment status of the rural females. In 15 mandals out of 66 mandals, the co-efficient of equality is below 70 but above 60, 26 mandals have the co-efficient of equality between 70 and 80, in 24 mandals it is between 80 and 90 and in the remaining one mandal it is 90.47. The value of co-efficient of variation is 9.59, confirming that majority of the mandals have the high level of the real agricultural employment status of rural females.

TABLE-4: RFWPR AND CO-EFFICIENT OF EQUALITY FOR RURAL FEMALES

Sl.No.	Particulars	RFWPR				Co-efficient of equality			
		Average	Lowest	Highest	C.V.	Average	Lowest	Highest	C.V.
1.	Chittoor Division	34.85	30.02	37.57	5.54	70.68	61.32	76.41	5.44
2.	Tirupati Division	37.23	30.86	42.82	9.3	75.63	62.84	86.02	9.06
3.	Madanapalle Division	39.79	33.04	44.95	7.53	80.55	66.41	90.47	8.20
4.	Chittoor District	37.71	30.02	44.95	9.43	76.44	61.32	90.47	9.59

Source: Tables-1, 2 and 3

Table-4 shows the RFWPR and the co-efficient of equality for rural female agricultural workers in the three revenue divisions of Chittoor district and for the entire district. Among the three revenue divisions, Tirupati division recorded highest variation in RFWPR followed by Madanapalle and chittoor divisions. It is noticed that entire district as a whole, recorded highest variation than these three divisions. Among the three revenue divisions, Tirupati division recorded highest variation in co-efficient of equality followed by Madanapalle and Chittoor divisions. Further entire district as a whole, recorded 9.59 percent of variation in co-efficient of equality. Chittoor division shows less variation in RFWPR. The co-efficient of variation is 5.54, whereas the variation in co-efficient of equality for rural female agricultural employment is less in Chittoor division [Table-4]. The co-efficient of variation for real agricultural employment status of rural females is 5.44.

## CONCLUSIONS

Pertaining to the co-efficient of variation, the highest variation in Rural Female Work Participation Rate (RFWPR) is recorded in Tirupati division (9.3) followed by Madanapalle (7.53) and Chittoor (5.54) divisions. The variation in the entire Chittoor district is recorded as 9.43. It reveals that the real agricultural employment status of rural female is less in Chittoor division and more in Tirupati division. Regarding the co-efficient of equality, the highest variation in RFWPR is recorded in Tirupati division (9.06) followed by Madanapalle (8.2) and Chittoor (5.44) divisions. The district as a whole recorded 9.59 percent of variation.

The highest average RFWPR is recorded in Madanapalle division (39.79) followed by Tirupati (37.23) and Chittoor (34.85) divisions. In the case of district as a whole, 37.71 percent of average variation in RFWPR is recorded. The average of co-efficient of equality for rural females is maximum in Madanapalle division (80.55) followed by Tirupati (75.63) and Chittoor (70.68) divisions. The average co-efficient of equality for rural females in the district is 76.44 percent. The results obtained reveal that less variation is noticed in real employment status of rural female agricultural workers in Chittoor division followed by Madanapalle and Tirupati divisions.

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