

A STUDY ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS IN JAMBAL VILLAGE, BHAVANI TALUK

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AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN INDIA

The wonder of wonder is men and women and there is no doubt that men and women is the most dynamic animal. His conduct and behaviour may also be unpredictable. Agriculture is the backbone of our country; nearly more than 65 percent of our people are engaged in agriculture. It contributes 32 percent of the total GDP. Many economists are of the opinion that human resources play an important role in economic development i.e., the agriculture labours functioning in the agriculture provides its significant share in the national income¹

The participation of agriculture labour allied activities is in no way in significant. The policies of the planners have aimed at improving more agriculture practices have aimed at improving more agricultural practices under high yielding variety programmed and green revolution and very little attention has been paid to the problems of agriculture labour in this sector often it is found that labourers have not been given there due share and status even in the field of agriculture where their contribution is considerable high².

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

On the basis of national sample survey (NSS 38th round) the world Bank Report calculated the incidence of poverty among different categories of rural households. It was revealed that persons in wage – dependent families (including those working in non-

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¹ M.N. Rudhapasavaraj, Dynamic Personal administrations, Bombay, Himalaya Publishing House.

² Iswar C. Dhangra, "Indian Economics", 2003, P.No:311

agricultural jobs) comprise 46per cent of the poor in rural areas. For agricultural labour households, 64per cent were below the poverty line in 1983. Self – employed households constituted the other large block of the rural poor. Nearly the self-employed households accounted for 38per cent of total poor. The main factors for high incidence of poverty among rural labour households are (i) high degree of unemployment and under employment. (ii) The low asset base of the agricultural labour. Therefore, an attempt has been made in this study to asses Livelihood Pattern of Agricultural labourers in Jambai Village, Erode District, TamilNadu.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To analyse the social characteristics of agricultural labourers in the study area
2. To analyse the wage levels and asset positions of the sample households.
3. To study the levels of consumption pattern of agricultural labourers.

Methodology of the study is discussed under following headings.

A. SELECTION OF THE STUDY AREA

Erode district is agriculturally progressive district in Tamilnadu. Most of the farmers cultivate paddy, sugarcane, turmeric and banana etc., in Erode district. Jambai village is agriculturally progressive village in Bhavani. The demand for agricultural labour is high in this village. Therefore the investigator has chosen this area as a sample area for investigating the problem of livelihood conditions.

B. SAMPLING SIZE

For the purpose of the study, a sample of 100 agricultural labourers have been randomly selected. The investigator has selected male 81 labourers and female 19 labourers among the sample of 30 labourers. The agricultural labourers are mainly used for cultivation of Turmeric and sugarcane crop in Jambai Village.

C. DATA COLLECTION

The researcher has used an extensive questionnaire covering all aspects of the problem. This was pre tested at the field level and the necessary changes were made in the questionnaire. Both primary data and secondary data were used in the study. The investigator went to the field and collected the particulars by directly contacting the labourers, through direct interview method. However it was very difficult to contact the labourers in the farms as they were engaged in the different operations. Hence there was difficulty in collecting data. Whenever the labourers are free, the researcher attempted to gather necessary data. Hence, with much difficulty the data was collected.

Secondary sources of information were obtained from Library, Gobi Arts and Science College, Gobi, Library, Tamilnadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore and Panchayat union office in Jambai village. Further the researcher also referred some other research works carried out by different agencies, both government and non-government agencies.

Period of the study covers from June-Dec 2017.

Subramanian³, has made a study on “Agricultural wages and employment”. He suggested to generate employment in agriculture, to diversify agriculture with high value crops and enterprise, agro – based industries should be located at the place of production, comparative studies should be undertaken on unionization of agricultural labour in situation with high wage and union, high wage and non – union to see the effect of unionization.

Sureshkumar, C. Ramasamy⁴ did a study on, “An empirical Analysis of agricultural labour market by production Environment”, The study concludes that there is a urge of greater intervention by the state as well as central governments or rural labour market particularly in agriculturally less developed regions.

³ **Subramanian.S.R.** – “Agricultural wages and employment”, - Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics, Vol:49, No:1, Jan-March:1994, P.39-40.

⁴ **Sureshkumar, C.Ramasamy** – “An Empirical Analysis of agricultural labour market by production Environment” – Agricultural situation in India, P.161-166 June 1994.

Inder Sain and A.J. Singh⁵ made an attempt to study the “Labour productivity and use Efficiency on the Punjab farms; An inter size analysis” The study concluded that technical and economic efficiency clearly show that there is still a lot of scope of absorption of human labour, particularly hired labour even in crop production.

Parthasarathy⁶ attempted to study about “Wages and employment agricultural labour”. He suggested that the relevance of irrigation infrastructure for influencing wage rate, sustaining increase in employment is possible only with high rate of growth of agricultural, labour absorption in agriculture is very low.

Suresh Prasad R.K.P.Singh, and A.K. Choudhary⁷ made an attempt to study “Employment and income pattern of agricultural labour households of Bihar”. The study concludes that their living condition is more deplorable and do not have sufficient covered / uncovered living space. Farming is the main occupation of agriculture labour. They could get annual employment of 185 days, indicating the extent of underemployment.

With regard to classification of agricultural labour the casual and hired labour are mostly used in agricultural works in Jambai village.

It is clear from the analysis that male workers dominate more in all categories of agricultural labourers in Jambai village as compared to female workers. It is understood from the analysis that the agricultural labourers mostly belong to the age group of 40-50 followed by 50 to above. Regarding the community identification of agricultural labourers. It is clear from the study that schedule caste community constituted more in number. The study reveals that 67 per cent of the farm workers accepted the nuclear type of family. The study reveals 80 per cent of the farm workers are illiterate in the study area.

⁵ **Inder Sain and A.J. Singh** – “Labour productivity and Efficiency on the Punjab farms; An inter size analysis” – Economic Affairs, P.158-167, September 1994.

⁶ **Parthasarathy.G.**, - “Recent trends in wages and employment of agricultural labour”, - Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics, Vol:51, No:1&2, Jan – June:1996, P.165.

⁷ **Suresh Prasad R.K.P.Singh, and A.K. Choudhary** – “Employment and income pattern of agricultural labour households of Bihar” Economic affairs, Vol.45, Qr.3, Sep 2000.

The analysis of wage level shows that for different operations of turmeric crop the average wage level of permanent labourers are low as compared to casual and hired labourers. The analysis shows that for different operations of sugarcane crop the permanent labourers average wage is low as compared to casual and hired labour. Among different operations wise it is found from the study that ploughing cost is higher. Therefore the labourers going for ploughing obtain more wages.

It may be concluded from the study that the casual and hired labourers are getting more wages for the operations watering and ploughing in respect of turmeric crop. The study explains the sample labourers income is very poor. Therefore the standard of living is low. With regard to consumption pattern of sample labourers it is evident from the analysis that they spend more on food grain consumption, and social purposes. The analysis shows that the per capita savings is less as compared to industrial workers. Since their income is less, they are not able to save more, further savings in the banks is not practiced by them.

CONCLUSION

The above study has come out the following suggestions for the improvement of agricultural labourers in Pandiam Palayam village. The study shows that the socio-economic conditions of the agricultural labour. Hence the researcher has made the following suggestions which may be useful for farming national agricultural labour policy.

- The wage level must be increased.
- The intensive agricultural technology must be practiced in order to increase the man-days of employment.
- Agricultural labour insurance schedule must be extended in Pandiampalayam village.
- The drought condition is one of the reasons for unemployment and under employment among the agricultural labourers. Hence, the government must come forward to provide adequate irrigation facilities throughout the year, through water shed management programmes.

- The exploitation by the farmers in the payment of wages must be checked through proper agency. Hosing facilities may be improved to the labourers.
- The children of agricultural labourers must be given proper education in the government schools.
- Non-government agencies may also take part in eradicating the poor conditions of agricultural labour.
- The banks may also come to give liberal credit to the agricultural labourers to meet their consumption and other expenditures.

Therefore, it may be concluded that the improvement of standard of living of agricultural labourers would enhance agricultural productivity and there it contributes for the economic development of the country.

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