

SOCIO – ECONOMIC AND HEALTH SECURITY OF LANDLESS AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS IN THOTTIYAM TALUK OF TIRUCHIRAPPALLI DISTRICT

R. DHIVYA PRAKASH, Ph.D. Research Scholar (Full Time), PG & Research Department of Economics, Jamal Mohamed College, Tiruchirappalli – 620 020.

Dr. D. KUMAR, Associate Professor & Research Advisor, PG & Research Department of Economics, Jamal Mohamed College, Tiruchirappalli – 620 020.

Abstract

Agriculture in India is a major source of rural employment and food grains production. Agriculture provides sources of input to industry. It absorbs 50 percent of the rural folk for their livelihood. Due to the agricultural monsoon conditions most of the agricultural operations are hardly affected and it reflected on labour employment. In this landless agricultural labourers are distributed and very much affected their socio – economic and health securities. In this paper an attempt has been made by the authors to elucidate the real picture of landless labourers in three domains such as Socio-Economic and Health Securities.

Key words: Health Security, Landless Labourers, Social Security, Economics Security.

Background of the Problem

Agricultural landless labourers are the most neglected section of the rural economy in India. Income and employment are fluctuating very frequently due to the climate variations. At present farm sector is reeling under severe water crises. Water is the major component for any agricultural operation. Without it the farmers especially agricultural landless labourers are most vulnerable section. Landless labourers livelihood directly depends upon the farm operations, hence it is mandatory to focus attention on this gray area to strengthen the people who are associated with this sector both male and female labour force. World community will not prosper without contribution of farming community. Present paper explores the possibilities of opportunity and challenges of rural labour force.

Landless labourers are the most under privileged section of the society which is due to their occupational nature and in the present paper, the authors wish to bring out the realistic picture of landless labourers and their socio-economic and health securities in Thottiyam Taluk of Tiruchirappalli District of Tamil Nadu. Under this study a field level survey was conducted by the authors with the help of a well-structured interview schedule. In this paper a clear attempt is made by the authors focus on three areas i.e.,

- ❖ Social aspects and its security to the landless labourers.
- ❖ Economic security in terms of monetary terms.
- ❖ Health security of the landless labourers.

Objective

To evaluate the Socio-Economic and Health Securities of Landless Agricultural Labourers in Thottiyam Taluk.

Hypothesis

There is insignificant association between Socio-Economic and Health Securities of Landless Agricultural Labourers.

Methodology

Socio – Economic and Health Securities of Landless Agricultural Labourers in Thottiyam Taluk of Tiruchirappalli District. The present research problem significantly relates to a sensitive issue faced by the landless agricultural labourers. Therefore the researchers have adopted both primary and secondary data. To collect primary data the researchers have used interview schedule in which detailed information was furnished. The researcher adopted simple random sampling method to collect necessary data. After conducting pilot study Thottiyam taluk is purposively selected in which ten potential villages were

identified based on the basis labourers population. In each of these 10 villages 20 respondents were selected, of which a total of 200 samples were selected.

Results and Discussion

1. General Aspects of Sample Respondents

Table 1.1: Sex Ratio

S. No	Gender	Total	Percentage
01	Male	116	58%
02	Female	84	42%
Total Respondents		200	100%

(Source: Primary Data)

Collected data has been divided in to two groups namely Male and Female. There is no transgender. Table 1.1 shows that out of 200 respondents 116 (58%) of the male respondents & 84 (42%) are of female respondents. Male respondents dominate than the Female respondents. Since Male labourers are engaging multi pronounced agricultural operations, therefore in this study area Male gender occupying dominant position and also participating major agricultural operations.

Table 1.2: Age of the sample respondents

S. No	Age of Respondents	Total	Percentage
01	Below 30 Years	43	21.5%
02	31 Years – 40 Years	68	34%
03	41 Years – 50 Years	57	28.5%
04	51 Years & Above	32	16%
Total Respondents		200	100 %

(Source: Primary Data)

Age is a vital factor decides the labour efficiency and skill. In this study area Table 1.2 shows the age difference between the respondents, age group of 31 years – 40 years constitutes the majority in the study area total of 68 (34%) respondents, second major age group falls between 41 years – 50 years with a total of 57 (28.5%) respondents and the age group with last position is 51 years & above with a total of 32 (16%) respondents. Among the different classifications age group between 31 to 40 years large share of labour participants in the field.

Table 1.3: Marital Status of Sample Respondents

S. No	Marital Status	Total	Percentage
01	Married	136	68%
02	Unmarried	37	18.5%
03	Divorced	5	2.5%
04	Widow/Widower	22	11%
Total Respondents		200	100%

(Source: Primary Data)

Table 1.3 shows the marital status of respondents in Thottiyam taluk. 68% (136) of the respondents are married, 18.5% (37) respondents are unmarried, 11% (22) of the respondents are widows/widowers and 2.5% (5) are divorced. In this case majority of the agricultural labourers are married. Regarding marital status of the respondents there were special case of widow/widower 11%, it shows the helplessness of the single person in this study area. Youth category occupies prominent position

Table 1.4: Religion of the Sample Respondents

S. No	Religion	Total	Percentage
01	Hindu	157	78.5%
02	Muslim	31	15.5%
03	Christian	12	6%
04	Others	0	0%
Total Respondents		200	100%

(Source: Primary Data)

Table 1.4 shows the religion of the sample respondents, 157 (78.5%) respondents belong to Hindu community and are the majority, 31 (15.5%) respondents belong to Muslim community & 12 (6%) respondents belong to Christian community with least value for religion. Majority of the sample respondents are dominant position are Hindus, Muslims and Christians are placed in second and third positions in the sample respondents.

Table 1.5: Community of the Respondents

S. No	Community	Total	Percentage
01	SC	102	51%
02	ST	0	0%
03	OBC	95	47.5%
04	General	3	1.5%
Total Respondents		200	100%

(Source: Primary Data)

Table 1.5 gives a clear view of the respondents' Community. Majority of respondents belong to the SC category with 51% (102), second is OBC with 47.5% (95), third position is General category with 1.5% (3), and finally zero respondents were found in the ST Category. Therefore SC and BC communities are highly contributed in sample respondents. There is a few percent of the difference in SC and BC community in the study area.

2. Social Aspects of Sample Respondents

Table 2.1: No of Days Employed

S. No	No of Days Employed	Total	Percentage
01	Below 10 Days	68	34%
02	11 Days – 20 Days	91	45.5%
03	21 Days and above	41	20.5%
Total Respondents		200	100%

(Source: Primary Data)

Table 2.1 explains the employment opportunity of the sample respondents, 45.5% (91) of the respondents are getting opportunity to work for 11 to 20 days per month, 34% (69) of the respondents are employed below 10 days per month, and 20.5% of the respondents are employed for more than 21 days in a month. Therefore only 20.5% of the respondents are employed as agricultural labourers in every day. 79.5% of the labourers are under- employed or seasonally employed.

Table 2.2: Educational Status

S. No	Educational Status	Total	Percentage
01	Illiterate	101	50.5%
02	Primary	48	24%
03	Secondary	24	12%
04	Higher Secondary	18	9%
05	Above	9	4.5%
Total Respondents		200	100%

(Source: Primary Data)

Table 2.2 shows the educational status of sample respondents in this study area where, 50.5% (101) of respondents are illiterate, 24% (48) of respondents belong to primary level education, 12% (24%) of respondents belong to secondary level education, 9% (18) respondents belong to higher secondary level education and finally 4.5% (9) of respondents belong to above higher secondary level of education. From this table the majority of the agricultural labourers were found to be illiterate.

3. Economic Conditions of Sample Respondents

Table 3.1: Annual Income of Sample Respondents (Per Month)

S. No	Income Group	Total	Percentage
01	Below Rs.10,000	61	30.5%
02	Rs.10,001 – 20,000	109	54.5%
03	Rs.20,001 & Above	30	15%
Total Respondents		200	100%

(Source: Primary Data)

Table 3.1 shows the annual income of sample respondents in this study area. Majority of the income group is between Rs.10,001 – Rs.20,000 with 54.5% (109), low level of income group is between Rs.20,001 and above with 15% (30) of respondents, and below Rs.10,000 group has an average level of 30.5% (61) of sample respondents. Therefore nearly 70% of the sample respondents are earned above Rs.10000 per month, there is 30 % of the peoples are belongs to low income group.

Table 3.2: Expenditure Pattern of Sample Respondents (Per Month)

Food Items			
S. No	Amount	Total	Percentage
01	Below Rs.5,000	76	38%
02	Rs.5,001 – 10,000	73	36.5%
03	Rs.10,001 & Above	51	25.5%
Total Respondents		200	100%
Non – Food Items			
04	Below Rs.5,000	81	40.5%
05	Rs.5,001 – 10,000	86	43%
06	Rs.10,001 & Above	33	16.5%
Total Respondents		200	100%
Health Care			
07	Below Rs.5,000	94	47%
08	Rs.5,001 – 10,000	82	41%
09	Rs.10,001 & Above	24	12%
Total Respondents		200	100%

(Source: Primary Data)

Expenditure is a major component to all economic activities, every person are spending their money for satisfied their need and wants, This Table 3.2 shows three important expenses incurred by the sample respondents, first for food – majority of the respondents belong to major category 38% (76), where amount spent is below Rs.5,000, next one Rs.5,001 – 10,000 is 36.5% (73) and finally Rs.10,001 and above is 25.5% (51). Therefore 74 % of the sample respondents are spend below Rs.10000, and only 36% are spending Rs.10000 above for their food and nutrition.

Second for non – food items of the respondents, the majority of the respondents are in Rs.5,001 – 10,000 with 43% (86), next comes the group of respondents spending below Rs.5,000 is 40.5% (81), and finally spending amount below Rs.10,001 and above is 16.5% (33). Overall 84% of the sample respondents are spending below Rs.10000, and 16% of the respondents are spending Above Rs.10000 for non-food items.

Third is health care of the respondents. The majority of the respondents spend an amount below Rs.5,000 is 47% (94), next amount between Rs.5,001 – 10,000 is 41% (82), and finally amount greater than Rs.10,001 is 12% (24). Nearly 53% of the respondents are spend their money Above Rs.5000 per month to health care services.

Table 3.3: Expenditure Pattern with high influence

	Below Rs.5,000 (in percentage)	Rs.5,001 – 10,000 (in percentage)	Rs.10,001 and above (in percentage)
Food Items	38% (76)	36.5% (73)	25.5% (51)
Non – Food Item	40.5% (81)	43% (86)	16.5% (33)
Health Care	47% (94)	41% (82)	12% (24)

(Source: Primary Data)

Table 3.3 shows the importance of expenditure pattern of the sample respondents. For Food items 38% (76) of the respondents spend below Rs.5,000, for Non-food items 43% (86) of the respondents spend Rs.5,001 – 10,000, and for Health care 47% (94) of the respondents spend below, Rs.5 000 even when their income level is low. In this study all the respondents are given important to non-food items. Peoples are willing to spend their money for non-food items.

4. Health Aspect of Sample Respondents

Table 4.1: Health Status

S. No	Health Status	Total	Percentage
01	No Health Problem	39	19.5%
02	One Disease	58	29%
03	Two Disease	61	30.5%
04	More than Two	42	21%
Total Respondents		200	100%

(Source: Primary Data)

Table 4.1 shows that the health security of landless agricultural labourers in the study area. 30.5% (61) of the respondents affected by two diseases, 29% (58) of the respondents are affected with one decease and 21% (41) of the respondents are affected with more than two disease. Only 19.5% (39) of the

sample respondents are there with no health problem in the given study area. In this table helps to understand the health security of landless labourers, 81% of the respondents are affected by disease.

Table 4.2: Health Problems for Past one Year

S. No	Name of Disease	Frequency	Percentage
01	Joint Pain	122	61%
02	Skin Disease	134	67%
03	Fever	115	57.5%
04	Stomach Ache	64	32%
05	Asthma	59	29.5%
06	Acidity	125	62.5%
07	Malaria	35	17.5%
08	Typhoid	12	6%
09	Cough	155	77.5%
10	Diabetes	109	54.5%
11	Cancer	9	4.5%

(Source: Primary Data)

Table 4.2 shows respondents who were affected by health issues for the past one year, where, 77.5% of the respondents were affected by Cough, 67% of the respondents were affected by Skin Disease, 62.5% of the respondents were affected by Acidity Problem, 61% of the respondents were affected by Joint Pain, 57.5% of the respondents were affected by Fever, and 54.5% (109) of the respondents were affected by Diabetes. Some people were affected by major disease like Asthma 29.5% (59), Malaria 17.5% (35), Typhoid 6% (12), and Cancer 4.5% (9). From the empirical findings of table 3.2 we can infer that the health problems are common to all without any exceptions. There were eleven major diseases found out in the study area, in which respondents with joint pain, skin disease, cough and acidity made up a higher percentage than others. This has happened due to the nature of occupation.

Table 4.3: Health Care Service

S. No	Health Institution	Total	Percentage
01	Government	129	64.5%
02	Private	71	35.5%
Total Respondents		200	100%
03	Allopathic	108	54%
04	Siddha	92	46%
05	Homeopathy	0	0
06	Arvada	0	0
07	Others	0	0
Total Respondents		200	100%

(Source: Primary Data)

Table 4.3 shows the Health Care Services available to the sample respondents. Majority of the respondents preferred Government hospitals - 64.5% (129), and respondents who preferred allopathic medicine were 54% (108). This variation obviously is due to the absence of health care fees in the Government hospitals. Only for specific health reasons 35.5% of peoples approached private health care. 64.5% of the respondents are lives in choosing Government Hospital and 54% of the respondents are taking allopathic medicine treatment.

Conclusion

Landless agricultural labourers in Thottiyam Taluk of Tiruchirappalli District need significant attention towards the socio – economic and health securities. Present study conducted by the researcher adopted the scientific method of investigation in the field level. The study results revealed that male agricultural labourers are dominant over female agricultural labourers of which most of them are married, under privileged and illiterate. Regarding the economic conditions, the number of days employed per worker significantly varies across the agricultural operations. Besides, income of the respondents are not encouraging in contrast to expenditure pattern on food, non – food and healthcare because these expenditures are higher than the income.

References

1. Gyaneshwar Singh (2016), "Problems and Challenges of the Farmer – Agricultural Workers in Uttar Pradesh, India", *World Journal of Agricultural Sciences*, Vol: 12, No: 3, PP: 210 – 219.
2. M. Raja and D. Elango (August 2015), "Impact of Government Programmes on Agricultural Labourers in Rural India", *Journal of Academia and Industrial Research (JAIR)*, Vol: 4, Issue: 3, PP: 100 – 103.
3. M.Subadevi and Dr.C.Sunitha (2015), "A Study on Socio Economic Conditions of Landless Labourers in Thanjavur", *EPRS International Journal of Economic and Business Review*, Vol: 3, Issue: 12, PP: 209 – 212.
4. Dr. Bharat S Thakare and Prof. Shankar Das (2015), "Utilisation of Health Care Services among Rural Landless Agricultural Labourers in Buldana District of Maharashtra, India", *INTERNATIONAL Journal of Scientific Research*, Vol: 4, Issue: 4, PP: 475 – 478.
5. Sunithadevi and others (December 2015), "A Study on Socio Economic Conditions of Landless Agricultural Female Labourers in Thanjavur" *EPRA International Journal of Economic and Business Review*, Vol: 3, Issue: 12, PP: 209 – 212.
6. A.Palanisamy and R.Mhesh (2014), "A Socio Economic Analysis of Agricultural Landless Labourers in Kunnathur Block, Tirupur District", *International Research Journal of Agricultural and Rural Development*, Vol: 3, No: 1, PP: 162 - 173.
7. Muhammed K A, Umesh K N, Nasir S M, & Suleiman I K (2013), "Understanding the Barriers to the Utilisation of Primary Health Care in Low-Income Setting: Implications for Health Policy and Planning" *Journal of Public Health in Africa*, PP: 64 – 67.
8. Sunilkumar Gouda, et al (May 2013), "Analysis of Constraints and Suggestions of Marginal Farmers and Landless Labourers towards Livelihood Security in Rainfed Areas" *Agricultural Update*, Vol: 8, Issue: 1 & 2, PP: 216 – 216.
9. Kavita and Sandeep Kumar (March 2013), "The Socioeconomic Conditions of Agricultural Women Labourers in Uttar Pradesh: A Case – Study of Muzaffarnagar and Baghpat District", *International Journal of Social and Economic Research*, Vol: 3, Issue: 1, PP: 30 – 48.
10. Kulkarni R R, Shrivastava M S & Mallapur M D (2013), "Health – Seeking Behaviour of Rural Agricultural Workers: A Community Based Cross Sectional Study", *International Journal of Medicine and Public Health*, Vol: III, PP: 33 – 37.
11. V. Vetrivel and R. Manigandan (December 2013), "An Empirical Study of Agricultural Labour in India", *Journal of Exclusive Management Science*, Vol: 2, Issue: 12, PP: 1 – 5.
12. Rathindra Nath Pramanik (2013), "Vulnerability of Agricultural Labourers Needed Social Production in West Bengal", *Journal of Economic and Social Development*, Vol: 9, No: 1, PP – 93 – 104.
13. Makbul Hussain Khan (March 2013), "An Article of Agricultural Labour Problems in Barpeta of Assam", *IOSR Journal of Pharmacy*, Vol: 3, Issue: 2, PP: 11 – 13.
14. Dr. K. N. Doddamani (May 2012), "A Study on Migration of Agriculture Labourers from Hyderabad Karnataka Area to Maharashtra," *IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science (IOSR – JHSS)*, Vol: 19, Issue: 5, PP: 68 – 71.
15. Mukherjee, S & Levesque J (2010), "Changing Inequalities in Utilisation of Inpatient Care in Rural India: Evidence from the NSS", *Economic & Political Weekly*, PP: 84 – 91.
16. Dr. Sabita Mishra (2008), "Life of Women Agricultural Labourers in Orissa", *Orissa Review*, November – 2008, PP: 54 – 57.
17. Brunos O. (2006), "Status of Occupational Health, Working Environment and Safety in Norway", *Nordic Meeting on Agricultural Occupational Healths Kuopio*, <http://www.ttl.fi/Internet/English/Thematic+pages/Agriculture+and+health/>
18. H.R.SHARMA (2005), "Economic Conditions of Agricultural Labour Households in 1990s: A State Level Analysis of Wage Earning and Indebtedness", *The Indian Journal of Economics*, Vol: 48, No: 2, PP: 425 – 436.