



SOCIO ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF WOMEN AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS OF KANDIYUR PANCHAYAT OF VALANGAIMAN TALUK OF THIRUVARUR DISTRICT

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Abstract

The importance of agriculture in economic development of any country, rich or poor is borne out by the fact that it is the primary sector of the economy, which provides the basic ingredients necessary for the existence of mankind and also provides most of the raw materials which when transformed into finished products serve as basic necessities of the human race. In India, agriculture is the largest sector of economic activity. Agricultural labourers who are mostly landless and form a significant section of rural society mainly depend on wage employment in agriculture. Finally, agricultural labourer is hardly ever covered by any rules and regulations. Law, if at all it exists is flouted more often than it is observed. In brief, it may be observed that the situation of an agricultural labourer differs substantially from that of an industrial labourer; he is an unorganized lot, his bargaining power is weak, and generally, the supply of agricultural labourer exceeds its demand. Our objectives to analyse the social characteristics of women agricultural labourers, analyse the living conditions of women agricultural labourers, study the trends in the number of employment days available to women agriculture labourers, find out the extent of wage differentiates between male and female agricultural labourers and study the differences of educational attainments of male and female agricultural labourers. The data on women agricultural labourers covers a period of one year from January 2022 to December 2022. so as to include both the busy as well as lean seasons in agriculture.

Key Words: Socio Economic Conditions of Women Agricultural Labourers.

Introduction

The importance of agriculture in economic development of any country, rich or poor is borne out by the fact that it is the primary sector of the economy, which provides the basic ingredients necessary for the existence of mankind and also provides most of the raw materials which when transformed into finished products serve as basic necessities of the human race. In

India, agriculture is the largest sector of economic activity. It provides not only food and raw materials but also employment to a very large proportion of the population. Being the dominant sector, the improvement or changes in national output depend on agriculture. Agriculture forms the back-bone of the Indian economy and despite concerted industrialization in the last six decades agriculture occupies a place of pride. Being the largest industry in the country, agriculture provides employment to around 65 per cent of the total work force in the country. The data provided by the census of India reveals that in 1981, about 69 per cent of the total workers were engaged in agriculture and allied activities; during 1991, the share of agriculture in total employment slightly declined to 68 per cent. In absolute terms, agriculture provided employment to 256 million persons in 1997, thus bringing percentage of economically active population in agriculture to 61 per cent. Further, of the total workforce engaged in the agriculture sector has increased dramatically. During 2000, the numbers of agriculture labourer were 27.3 million which rose to 106.8 million in 2011. It is really disturbing that the proportion of agricultural labourers has increased and the cultivators have indicated a decline.

Labour is the most important input in increasing production in traditional agriculture. In the early stage of development, since land was available in plenty, increase in labour supply led to the clearing of more land for bringing it under cultivation. At this stage of development, the increase in labour supply was a boon to the society. It made positive contribution and helped in increasing agricultural production. Modernizing agriculture involved introduction of new technology. The technological innovation required increased use of capital in agriculture. Even with the use of more capital and new technology a number of farm-operations required intensification of labour use irrigation and harvesting. Thus, labour is critical input in modern agricultural development. Agricultural labourers are socially and economically poorest section of the society. Agricultural labourer households constitute the historically deprived social groups, displaced handicraftsmen and dispossessed peasantry. They are the poorest of the poor in rural India. Their growth reflects the colonial legacy of under development and the inadequacies of planning intervention in the past. Overcrowding and growth of agricultural labourer continued unabated, given poor labour absorption in the non-agricultural sector and also inadequacies of reforms in the agrarian structure. The poverty syndrome among agricultural labourers needs to be read against such a background of prolonged rural under development, assetlessness, unemployment, low wages, under-nutrition, illiteracy and social backwardness constitute the poverty syndrome among agricultural labourers. These reinforce each other so as to constitute a vicious circle of poverty. There is little inter-generational upward mobility among agricultural labourer households.

Human factor is of supreme importance in any pattern of economic development. More so are the agricultural labourers of India, the country's largest unorganized section comprising the poorest workers, toiling on the sunny fields of India. Most of them hail from the socially disadvantaged sections of our society and a large number of them continue to live under the poverty condition.

Agriculture sector employed about 193 million or about 67.53 per cent of total work force of 286 million in India in 1991. But it contributed only about 24.5 per cent of GDP. It indicates the low level of the average per-capita productivity of the agricultural workers leading to very low rates of wages. The new economic policy and globalization introduced in India in 1991 seemed to have failed to lift this group from the depths of poverty. Agriculture, along with fisheries and forestry, is one of the largest contributors to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

As per estimates by the Central Statistics Office (CSO), the share of agriculture and allied sectors (including agriculture, livestock, forestry and fishery) was 15.35 per cent of the Gross Value Added (GVA) during 2015-16 at 2011-12 prices.

India is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of spices and spice products. India's fruit production has grown faster than vegetables! Making it the second largest fruit producer in the world. India's horticulture output, comprising fruits, vegetables and spices, has reached to a record high of 283.5 million tons in 2014-15. The latest trends of falling prices of the agricultural products and the extension of the period of unemployment have worsened their living conditions, though not beyond recovery or improvement. Most of these problems are common to India as a whole, though their nature and extent vary from state to state and from region to region depending mainly on the agrarian conditions of the region.

Workers in the agricultural sector are classified into three main categories namely, cultivators, agricultural labourer and workers engaged in forestry, fishing and livestock etc. We are primarily concerned with the second category of the above categories, viz., agricultural labourer. We shall study the growth of agricultural labourer, their problems and the measures of the assistance provided by the government.

In this chapter an attempt is made to present the meaning and types of agricultural labourer, their features and problems. Further, the various government measures adopted to improve the conditions of agricultural labourers are briefly outlined. At the end, the growth of agricultural labour over a period of time in India, and the study area is made in order to present the latest position of agricultural labourers.

MEANING OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS

Agricultural labourers who are mostly landless and form a significant section of rural society mainly depend on wage employment in agriculture. Majority of them belong to the category of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and are among the worst exploited section of the society. Their income has always been meagre, resulting in poor living and heavy indebtedness. Much worse are those who get casual agricultural work merely exist and do not live. Their morning holds no promise for the evening and they can never sleep without tensions for they have no stocks left for the morning. Struggling for their morning and evenings they pass their whole life.

DEFINITION OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS

In order to understand the problems of agricultural labour and to formulate an appropriate policy in this regard, it is necessary to identify these labourers. In order to identify it is necessary to define them.

Unlike industrial labour, it is rather difficult to give an exact definition of agricultural labour because in the absence of a capitalistic type of agriculture in our country, a separate class of workers depending wholly on wages does not exist. Since the line between agricultural labourers and other agricultural groups is subject to a marginal shift, one class overlaps the other; -therefore, we cannot compartmentalize the agrarian society into distinct classes. This overlapping creates difficulties in evolving an exact definition of agricultural labour. Another difficulty in defining agricultural labour arises from the fact that many small and marginal farmers work partly on the farms of others to supplement their income brought within the scope of the term, "Agricultural labour". A an agricultural labour household was defined to include only those households who derived 50 or more than 50per cent of its income as wages for work rendered in agriculture only. The definition of agricultural labour in the Rural Labour Enquiry was the same as that of the Second Labour Enquiry Committee.

According to the Census of India 2001 "A person who works on 100 days for another person's land for wages in cash or kind or share will be regarded as agricultural labour". She or he has no risk in the cultivation but merely works on another land for wages. An agricultural labourer has no right of lease or contract on land which she/he works.

From the above definitions it may be concluded that "All those persons who derive a major part of their income as payment for work performed on the farms of others can be designated as agricultural workers. For a major part of year, they should work on the land of other on wages.

STATUS OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE ALLIED ACTIVITIES

The seasonal nature of agriculture and low productivity reduce demand for female labour and as a result forced idleness is higher among women than men. Women's productivity in agriculture also suffers from uneconomic holdings and subsistence nature of agriculture in which the family consumes the produce. Tasks performed by women are labourer —intensive and mostly done by hand. This has evidently reduced the work efficiency of women. Regardless of these variations, there is hardly any activity in agricultural production.

Women in agriculture make up substantial portion of the Indian rural population. Like men, they undertake various types of agricultural operations including the allied fields, such as live-stock, forestry, plantations, fisheries etc. Broadly, they are engaged in these operations in their ways depending on socio - economic status of their family and certain outer regional factors. They work as (I) Paid labourers, (II) cultivators -doing labour in their own and as unpaid workers or (iii) managers of certain aspects of agricultural production by way of labourers supervision, participating in post - harvesting processing etc.

Most of the work that women do, such as collecting fuel, fodder and water, Vegetables and keeping poultry for domestic consumption go unrecorded in the census. Many women and girls who work for family on land are not recorded as paid agricultural works.

Women produce between 60 -80 percent of the food in the most developing countries and responsible for half of the world's food production: therefore, women's role in food production ensures the survival of millions of people in all regions. Women's livelihood strategies, and their support and means of ensuring food security are diverted and complex, cultivating field crops to livestock rearing, home gardening, gathering etc. they make above contribution despite unequal access to land, inputs and information. A growing body of evidence indicates that if male and female access to input were less unequal substantial, gains in agriculture output would occur, benefiting, both women and men. Estimation from Food and Agricultural Organisation the of United Nations show that women account for more than half labour required to produce the food consumed in the developing world.

In addition to working in the fields, women not only ensure fuel, fodder, water and food but also have to look after for other work.

Women constitute 90 percent of the total marginal workers of the country. Rural women engaged in agriculture foam 78 percent of all women in regular work. They are third of all workers on the land. The traditional gender division of labour ensure that these women get on average 30 percent lower wages than men. The total employment of women in organized sector is only 4 percent. A recent study conducted by developed countries show that women provide 70 percent emotional needs of their families the children, elders and husband.

The nurturing, caring and reproductive responsibilities are the dimension that have never been computed economically but are essential and significant as facts of women's work load.

Women's role as food producers is related and also to their role as mothers and nurtures and in sustaining their families and communities. Their work is integral to quality of life of people.

Women have major constraints for participation in agriculture is as follows

1. Unequal land rights
2. Limited access to use of resources
3. Lack of equipment and appropriate technologies
4. Limited contact with agricultural extension
5. Lack of access to credit
6. Lower level of education

ROLE OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

If at all there are any enterprises, since the dawn of civilization, in which women played a significant role or participated in large number, it is nothing but agriculture. Women played an important role because agriculture is largely a household enterprise. Recent studies highlight that women in India are major producers of food in terms of value, volume and number of hours worked. Nearly 63 percent of all cost economically active men are engaged in agriculture as compared to 78 percent women. Almost 50 percent of rural female workers are classified as agricultural labour and 37 percent as cultivators. About 70 percent of farm work was performed by women. Thus it justifies "most farmers in India are women". A larger proportion of women continue to be in agriculture shows women's position in this sector. Casualization has been increasing which indicate uncertain, irregular work with no guaranteed minimum wage concern about casualization arises because agriculture itself is declining in terms of its contribution to our gross domestic product (GDP) and in terms of growth.

Of the total Indian population, 31 - 39 percent are main workers and 3.49 percent marginal workers. The percentage of female main workers and female marginal workers is 16.8 and 6.26 respectively. Of their female workers, 34.55 percent are cultivators, 43.56 percent are agricultural labourers, and 4.65 percent are engaged in livestock, forestry and fisheries. Of the female marginal workers 47.91 percent are cultivators 41.43 percent are agricultural labourers and 1.64 percent are engaged in livestock, fisheries and forestry remaining 17.62 percent female main workers and 9.02 percent female marginal workers are working in non - agricultural al areas as well.

There is no denying the fact that women do not have equal access to beneficial change and status in society is not identical to that of men. Several studies have showed that the women employee - whatever job she hold - is equal in efficiency and performance to the male employee in identical employment situation. Some studies even indicate that in certain aspect of the women employee is even more efficient. In the matter of reliability, promptness and punctuality she had been found to have an edge over her male counterpart.

TYPES OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS

Agricultural labourers can be broadly divided into family labourers, hired labourers and bonded labourers.

Family Labourer

This category belongs to small farmers who are not financially sound to hire labour. Small farmers are hire labour during peak seasons such as transplanting, weeding and harvesting. When labour is required in abundance and the operations have got be completed in a short period of

time.

Hired Labourer

Hired labour can further be divided into two groups; casual labour and attached labour. Attached workers who are more or less in continuous employment, are under some sort of contract with the employers during the period of employment, while casual workers are employed from time to time according to the exigencies of work. Casual labourers are employed on daily wages for specific operation which lasts only for a short period. While attached workers are often employed on contract, mostly oral contract, extending over a longer period that is quarterly, half yearly or yearly. The wages of attached labourers are generally lower than those of casual labourers who are employed on piece work basis. The terms and conditions of employment of attached workers vary from region to region, according to local tradition.

Bonded Labourer

There is also a special class of agricultural labour called the 'bonded labour' who are at the bottom of agricultural ladder in India. The prominent feature of this system is that a man pledges himself or sometimes a member of his family against a loan. Inability to pay back the loan results in the attachment of that person to the creditor till such time when the loan is finally paid. Agrarian serfdom thus lingers on in India- a relic of the Middle Ages which might well be regarded as one of the darkest blemishes in the economic life of the present day India.

CHARACTERISTICS OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS

The census of India defines an agricultural labourer as a person who works on another person's land for wages i.e., money, kind or share. There are certain peculiar characteristics of agricultural labour that help us to distinguish them from industrial labour.

Firstly, agricultural labour is unorganized unlike industrial workers; agricultural workers need not work in unison. A lack of contact between workers makes it impossible to develop any meaningful organization.

Secondly, agricultural workers are basically unskilled; they may not be skilled even in the art of cultivation. Consequently, their supply is perfectly elastic and therefore whatever they earn is in the nature of transfer earnings. The employer often uses this position to his personal gain by contracting to less than what the market forces would have warranted otherwise.

Thirdly, agricultural labour is migratory in character. It can be drawn from a distant place to the place of work during a busy season.

Fourthly, the employers of agricultural labour himself may not be a person of high means. This will be a situation when a small farmer employs to another small farmer who may not have sufficient work to do by him. A direct contact, therefore, between the employer and the worker is a distinct characteristic of agricultural labourer.

Finally, agricultural labourer is hardly ever covered by any rules and regulations. Law, if at all it exists is flouted more often than it is observed. In brief, it may be observed that the situation of an agricultural labourer differs substantially from that of an industrial labourer; he is an unorganized lot, his bargaining power is weak, and generally, the supply of agricultural labourer exceeds its demand.

MAGNITUDE OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS

Overall 350 million people below the poverty line live in the country and around 300 million are in the rural areas. These consist largely of the landless labourers, small and marginal farmers, rural artisans and other workers. Over the course of 65 years of planning the level of living of the bulk of the landless agricultural labourers and marginal farmers has undergone little improvement.

Various socio-economic measures such as land reform measure, minimum wages to agricultural labour etc., have not helped to solve the problems of rural poor. Even the spectacular increase in agricultural production in the regions of green revolution have not brought uniform and substantial improvement in the wages of agricultural labour. Thus, "neither the general economic development nor even reform measures through the instrumentality of state in India seem capable of reaching far enough to purvey hope and viability to the class of people who bear the burden of immiserating economic transition under the alien rule, while aliens had at least the alibi of being aliens, independent India has none in extenuation of her record".

Agricultural labourers are socially and economically one of the poorest sections of the society. They constituted 37.73 per cent of the total rural work force in 1981. They have no assets or assets with low productivity, no regular full time jobs or very low paid jobs. They are unskilled, unorganised and have dispersed over a large area. Their poor living conditions affect their working efficiency and productivity in agriculture and this in turn affects the economy as a whole.

The problem of rural labour unemployment is aggravated by the growth of population and labour force in recent decades. Excess labour could not be shifted to the manufacturing sector due to the slower rate of growth of that sector. Agriculture had to bear this burden of excess labour which has resulted in low productivity in agricultural sector. Thus, casual nature of employment, ignorance, small size of the establishments with low capital formation per person employed, and superior strength of the employer, scattered nature of the establishments, as result of all these agricultural labourers have not been able to organise themselves in per suit of a common objective.

It is a matter of some controversy whether a separate class of agricultural labourers existed in the pre-British rural India. There is, however, enough evidence to show that there were large scale extensive additions to the ranks of agricultural labour during the British rule in India. The policy of free trade by British Government was to help manufacturers in Britain, which ruined the handicrafts industry in India. Village and Cottage Industries could not withstand the competition from the manufactured goods of Britain. The village industries received a setback. Village artisans lost their jobs and joined the ranks of agricultural labourers. Thus, new land tenure, monetisation of transactions and decline of village industries are responsible for the growth in the number of agricultural labour in India.

The growth of agricultural labourer was a product of a process of disintegration and immiserisation, and not of a developmental process in the Indian economy. The growth of population has added to the number of agricultural labourers. The ranks of agricultural labourer have swelled from 7.5 million in 1881 to 144.3 million in 1981. In one hundred thirty years the number of agricultural labourers has increased by 136.8 million.

The problems of agricultural labourer have not arisen due to the specific weaknesses of this class. The basic cause is the lack of sufficiently fast growth which appropriated with structural and technological changes. Hence, the principal instrument for tackling these problems is the totality of planned effort for development. Growth by any means to be followed by removal of poverty is not a viable strategy for cohesive development of Indian society. "No rate of growth that can be realistically envisaged could make major impact on the problem within the foreseeable future if inequality remains as acute as at present, nor could any feasible egalitarian policies after the position significantly in the absence of an accelerated rate of growth. Growth and reduction in inequality are both indispensable to a successful attack on mass poverty". The growth strategy must seek not only a higher rate of growth but also reduce inequality in the distribution of income. The composition of the growth must be such as which would favour the rural and urban poor.

SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

In India, agricultural labourers are the worst sufferers of the vagaries of agriculture. Recently, thousands of farmers and agricultural labourers committed suicide owing to the problems of agriculture in part of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and other states. Differences exist between male and female agricultural labourers in the payment of wages and other working conditions. In this connection, the present study examines the gender differences, in the of working and living conditions of agricultural labourers. More specifically, the present study bears the following objectives.

OBJECTIVES

- i. To analyse the social characteristics of women agricultural labourers,
- ii. To analyse the living conditions of women agricultural labourers,
- iii. To study the trends in the number of employment days available to women agriculture labourers,
- iv. To find out the extent of wage differentiates between male and female agricultural labourers,
- v. To study the differences of educational attainments of male and female agricultural labourers.

REFERENCE PERIOD

The data on women agricultural labourers covers a period of one year from January 2022 to December 2022. so as to include both the busy as well as lean seasons in agriculture.

UNIVERSE AND SAMPLE

A revenue village, Kandiyur in Kumbakonam taluk of Thanjavur District has been selected to study the earning and working conditions of women agricultural labourers. There are around two hundred females agricultural labourers in Kandiyur village, of these 15 percent, that is 70 agricultural labourers have been randomly selected.

DATA COLLECTION

The required data have been collected by interview method with the help of a pre - tested schedule. The investigation has been conducted during the months of January to March 2023. Collected data covers detailed information on the social status, household composition, wages received, expenditure, extent of indebtedness, awareness of public utilities and participation in women agency like self - help groups and other related factors.

METHODOLOGY

The living and working conditions of women agricultural labourers have been analysed by means of statistical tools like average, standard deviation and coefficient of variation.

CONSTRAINTS AND LIMITATIONS

There are around two hundred and fifty households that have at least one agricultural labourers. A sample of 50 workers is considered adequate enough to assess the living and working conditions of agricultural labourers. The time factor is a major constraint. Illiteracy and recall bias on the part of some respondents posed a problem. Difficulties were experienced in collecting information about their income, expenditure and saving pattern. As usual, respondents gave the information about their income and expenditure, in such a way that their income and expenditure never tally. In spite of these constraints, no effort has been spared to present the steady objectivity.

CHAPTERISATION

The dissertation has been organised into five chapters.

- i) The first chapter deals with the introduction of the selected topic and the research producers adopted in the study.
- ii) The Second chapter profiles the study area.
- iii) The Third chapter analyses, interprets and discusses the collected
- iv) data.
- v) The last chapter summarizes the findings and provides policy suggestions.

A PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA

Location and Demographic Profile

Thiruvarur is a town and municipality of Thiruvarur District in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. It is the administrative headquarters of Tiruvarur District. The town was one of the five traditional capitals of the Chola Empire, with one of the emperors of the dynasty, Kulothunga Chola I having it as his capital. The town is believed to be of significant antiquity and has been ruled, at different times, by the Medieval Cholas, Later Cholas, Later Pandyas, Vijayanager Empire, Marathas and the British. The town is known for the Thyagaraja temple, and the annual chariot festival held in the month of April. The temple chariot of the Thyagaraj temple, weighting 300 tonnes (660,000 lb) and measuring 90 feet (27 m) tall is the largest temple chariot in Tamil Nadu. Thiruvarur is the birthplace of Tyagaraja, Muthuswami Dikshitar and Syama Sastri, popularly known as the Trinity of Carnatic music of the 18th century CE.

Thiruvarur was a part of Thanjavur district till 1991 and Nagapattinam district until 1977; it became the headquarters of Thiruvarur district when it was carved out of Nagapattinam district in 1997. The Odambokki river passes through the centre of the town. Thiruvarur covers an area of 10.472 (4.04 sq mi) and has a population of 56,341 as of 2001. It is administered by a first grade municipality. The town is a part of the Cauvery delta region and agriculture is the major occupation. Roadways are the major means of transportation with a total of 94.06 km (58.45 mi) of district road including three national highways passing through the town.

Etymology

The historic name of the town was Aaroor (arur) and it finds mention in the 7th century saiva canonical work, Tevaram. The term Thiru is added to all temple cities that are mostly revered by the verses of Tevaram, which is the caste of Arur becoming Thiruvarur. Another name of Thiruvarur is Kamalaysetra, meaning the "hold place that is an abode of lotuses"; the town is also referred so due to the presence of the Kamalayayam tank and the temple deity, Kamalambigai. During the British Raj, the town was termed thiruvalur, Thiruvaloor and Thiruvalur. As per the district and municipality websites, the district has the spelling "Thiruvarur", while the town has it as "Thiruvarur".

History

Thyagaraja Temple - an important landmark of the town and one of the largest temples in Tamil Nadu as per folk legend, Thiruvarur is mentioned as the capital town of the legendary Chola King, Menu Needhi Cholan, who killed his own son to provide justice to a cow. His name is commonly used as a metaphor for fairness and justice in Tamil literature and Tamil culture. Thiruvarur was one of the five traditional capitals of the Chola Empire and the history of town revolves around the Thygarajaswamy temple. Thiruvarur is mentioned in the Saiva canonical work, Tevaram by Thirugnana Sembanthar, Thiruvarukkarasar and Sundarar, the foremost Saivite saints of 7th - 8th century CE and classified as Pada petra Stalam. Thirunavukkarasar mentions several

traditions of the temple like Margzhahi Aathirai Vizha, Panguni Uttirai Perunaal and Veedhivitakanin Veedhi Panni. The granite structure of the temple was first constructed by Aditya Chola I (871-907 CE) in 9th century CE and revamped during the reign of Rajaraja Chola I (985—1014 CE). The temple was upgraded and rebuilt with stone by Rajendra Chola I (1012-44 CE). The temple has inscriptions from both the emperors, later Cholas and Pandyas. The temple is believed to be a 21 inspiration for Rajaraja Chola to build the Brihadeeswara Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Inscriptions from the temple indicate, Thiruvavur as the capital of: Kulothunga Chola I (1070-1120 CE), during which the town emerged a centre of saivism. After the fall of Cholas during the reign of Rajendra Chola II in the 13th century CE, the town was caught under a power struggle between Pandyas and Hoysalas. The royal patronage continued and the town flourished as a cultural centre during the rule of the Nayaks, Vijayanagar kings and Marathas. During the period of Marathas, the town became a temporary home to the Nataraja of Chidambaram temple. The town was briefly captured by French troops led by Lally (1702-66 CE) in 1759 CE. The Thyagarajar temple was ransacked in a failed attempt to discover hidden treasure. During the attempt, six Brahmins of the temple, suspected to be spies of the British, were killed in an encounter. The province and Tanjore were annexed by British after the failed attempt of the French to attack the Kingdom of Tanjore. After independence, Thiruvavur continued to be a part of the Thiruvavur district and Nagapattinam district till 1991 and 1997 respectively. Thiruvavur was made the headquarters of Thiruvavur district when it was carved out of Nagapattinam District in 1997.

Geography

Thiruvavur is located at the town is bounded by Sukumar river in the north. Valaiyar River in the south while the Odambokki River flows through the centre. The town has an average elevation of 3 metres (9.8 ft) from the sea level. The municipality covers an area of 10.47 km² (4.04 sq mi). Thiruvavur is situated at a distance of 300 km from Chennai, 24 km (15 mi) from Nagapattinam, 40 km (25 mi) from Karaikal, 40 km (25 mi). The town experience tropical climate during summer; from March to May. The proximity to sea results in high humidity throughout the year and peaks 70% from August to May. The town has a plain terrain of alluvial soil consisting of sand, silt and clay. Vennar and Vettar, the tributaries of river Cauvery are the major water bodies around the town. Surface water canals contribute 89% to irrigation, while the rest 11% is accounted by dug wells and tube wells. Paddy is the major crop while the others being black gram, green gram, ground nut and gingerly.

Economy

Thiruvavur lies in the Kaveri River Basin the main occupation of the inhabitants of the town and surrounding regions is agriculture. More than 70% of the workforce is involved in agriculture; 14% being cultivators and rest are agriculture labourers. Paddy is cultivating is three season namely Kuruvai (June-August), Samba (August - January) and Thaladi (January - March). The daily wages of the agricultural labourers is more than the rates fixed by the Tamil Nadu government, but due to the decline in number of days of work, the income levels are lower. As of 1998, the male labourers were employed 150 days a year, while the female labourers for 120 days. A government report in 2009 put these numbers at 120 and 100 days respectively. Due to the discontinuity in the working days, the labourers migrate to other states like Gujarat and Kerala. They also shift to the professions like construction industry in the urban centres and textile industry in the district. There are no industrial estates in the town and the district — as of 2012, a government proposal is formulated to develop one at Vaippur village. Modern agriculture tools like hullers have replaced

labourers and reduce the profit margin of small traders and labourers. There are no co-operative societies who acquire the farm products and the District Purchasing Centre, operated by the government of Tamil Nadu is the major procurer.

Being an agriculture town, the predominant industries are agriculture based like modern rice milling, palm oil refinery, poultry, livestock and coir based. Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation operating a modern rice mills and Sough India Edible oil involved in refining oil are the large scale industries in the town. There are small service enterprises involved in automobile servicing, hostels, boat repairing and nylon fishnet repairing. There is a weekly market at Thanjai Salai and a daily market maintained by the municipality, where vegetables and fish are sold.

All major nationalized banks such as State Bank of India, Indian Bank, Central Bank of India. Punjab National Bank, Indian Overseas Bank and private bank like ICICI Bank, City Union Bank have their branches in Thiruvarur, Kumbakonam Co-operative Bank. Thiruvarur Co-operative Bank and Primary Agriculture Bank are the cooperative banks that have their branches in the town. All these banks have their automated teller machines located in various parts of the town.

Transport

Thiruvarur municipality accommodates 94.06 km of roads 54.9 km of c Bt roads, 10.90 km of metal roads, 9.48 km of cement roads and 18.75 km of highways. Thiruvarur is connected by three national highways, NH 45A Vilipuram, NH 67 to Coimbatore. Thiruvarur is connected with Chennai, Coimbatore, Thiruchirapalli, Karaikkal and other major towns of Tamil Nadu through the state highways SH 23 from Mayiladuthurai to Thiruthuraipoondi, SH 67 from Thiruvarur to Kodikkarai, SH 65 from Thiruvarur to Kumbakonam, SH 66 from Kumbakonam to Adiramapattinam, SH 67 from Nagore to Nachiyarkovil, SR 146 from Mannargudi to Sethubavachatram, SR 147 Kumbakonam to Karaikkal, SR 151 Kilvelur to Kachanam. The Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation operates close to 115 daily services connecting various cities to Thiruvarur. Most of the buses, via Thiruvarur are operated by the corporation ply between Trichy and Velankanni. The corporation operates a computerised reservation centre in the municipal bus stands of the town.

It also operates 25 town buses satisfying the local transport needs of Thiruvarur and the neighbouring villages. The state express transport corporation operates long distance buses connecting the town to Bangalore, Thiruvananthapuram and Marthandam. Thiruvarur railway junction is a four-way junction connecting Thanjavur in the west, Mayiladuthurai in the north, Nagapattinam in the east and Thiruthuraipoondi in the south. Gauge conversion between Mayiladuthurai and Thiruvarur was completed in August 2012 and the inaugural train ran from Bangalore to Nagore via Thiruvarur. There are passenger trains to Trichy, Thanjavur, Mayiladuthurai, Karaikkal, Mannargudi and Thiruthuraipoondi. Gauge conversion between Thiruvarur and Karaikkal is in progress and there is only partial connectivity in the segment connecting Pattukottai, Thiruthuraipoondi and Karaikkal. There is a daily express train to Chennai via Mayiladuthurai and Ernakulam. There are two trains from Mannargudi to Thirupathi and Velankanni to Goa, operated three times a week that pass through Thiruvarur. The nearest airport to Thiruvarur is Thiruchirapalli Airport located 110 km (68mi) from the town.

Education and utility services as of 2001, Thiruvarur has a lower literacy rate compared to other parts of the state. There are three government high schools out of a total of 15 schools in the town. The Central University of Tamil Nadu, established by an act of parliament in 2009, provides collegiate education in the fields of arts and science. There are five other arts and science colleges, one teacher training institute, three polytechnic colleges and two industrial training

institutes ITT) in the town Electricity supply to Thiruvarur is regulated and distributed by the Thiruvarur circle of Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB) Water supply is provided by the Thiruvarur Municipality from Odambokki river; the distribution through water tanks located at Madapuram, Tendral Nagar, Kidarakondam, Kattapomman street, Mettupalayam, IP Kovil street, Maruthapattinam and Weekly Shandy having a total capacity of 4,260 H (1,130,000 US gal). About 18t (40,000 ib) of solid waste is collected from the town every day; 56% domestic wastes and 40% commercial wastes. Thiruvarur municipality is implementing underground drainage and the current sewerage system for disposal of sullage is through septic tanks and public conveniences. Roadside drains carry untreated sewage out of the town to let out raw into the sea or accumulates in low lying area.

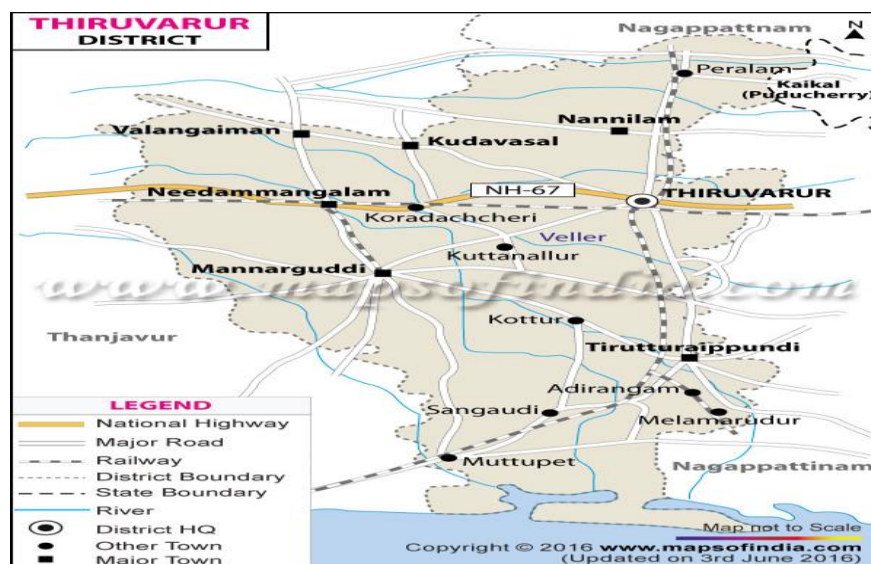


Figure 1-THIRUVARUR DISTRICT MAP

Kandiyur village

Kandiyur village is situated in Teshil Valangaiman, District Thiruvarur and in State of Tamil Nadu India. Village has population of 1320 as per census data of 2011, in which male population is 671 and female population is 649. Total geographical area of Kandiyur village is 388.68 Hectares. Population density of Kandiyur is 3 persons per Hectares. Total number of house hold in village is 329.

Census Data of Village Kandiyur, Teshil Valangaiman, District Thiruvarur, India --Census 2011

Population	Area (Ha)	Density (P/Ha)	Sex Ratio	Literacy
1320	388.68	3	967	72.1%

Gram Panchayat name of the Kandiyur village is Kandiyur. CD Block name is Valangaiman and Teshil/Taluk or sub-district is Valangaiman. Data Reference year is 2009 of Census 2011. Sub District HQ Name is VALANGAIMAN and Sub District HQ Distance is 10 Km from the village. District Head Quarter name is THIRUVARUR and its distance from the village is 27KM. Nearest

Town of the Kandiyur village is KODAVASAL and nearest town distance is 6 km. Pincode of Kandiyur village is 612804. As per census 2011 village code of village Kandiyur is 637884.

Demographics Population of Village Kandiyur, Teshil Valangaiman, District Thiruvavarur

Total Population	Male Population	Female Population
1320	671	649

Sex Ratio of Kandiyur Village -Census 2011

As per the Census Data 2011 there are 967 Femals per 1000 males out of 1320 total population of village. There are 750 girls per 1000 boys under 6 years of age in the village.

Literacy of Kandiyur Village

Out of total poplation total 871 people in Kandiyur Village are literate, among them 468 are male and 403 are female in the village. Total literacy rate of of Kandiyur is 72.1%, for male literacy is 77.1% and for female literacy rate is 67.05%.

According to Census 2011 information the location code or village code of Kandiyur village is 637884. Kandiyur village is located in Valangaiman taluka of Thiruvavarur district in Tamil Nadu, India. It is situated 10km away from sub-district headquarter Valangaiman (tehsildar office) and 27 km away from district headquarter Thiruvavarur. As per 2009 stats, Kandiyur village is also a gram panchayat.



Figure 1- KANDIYUR VILLAGE MAP

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETION

RELIGION

The Indian society is a religiously divisioned. Religion is a social group classified on the basis of by caste and community members. In the sample village of Kandiyur, only a handful of Religions are present. This particular social aspect of agricultural labourers in Kandiyur village could be well brought out from the following table.

Table 1-Distribution of sample Respondents by Religion

Religion	Female	Percentage
Hindu	32	64
Christianity	18	36
Total	50	100

Source: Compiled from the collected data.

One of the 50 sample Respondent 32 (64%) of belonged to the religion of Hinduism and 18 (36%) of them belonged to the religion of Christianity. In the present study, the majority of the sample respondent belonged to the religion of Hindusim with a representation of 32 (64%) members.

COMMUNITY

The Indian society is a caste divisioned society. Caste is a social group classified based on the profession of community members. People who are taking out works such as agriculture, carpentry, weaving, fishing and other manual works which are not requiring higher educational skills have been at the end of the social spectrum. Usually, certain communities alone are doing very specific works. But, thanks to the spread of planned development and globalization process, this rigid separation and classification are slowly but steadily declining. In the sample village of Kandiyur only a handful of castes are present and even among these scheduled caste community and most backward community are dominating. This particular social aspect of agricultural labourers in Kandiyur village could be well brought out from the following table.

Table 2-Distribution of sample Respondents by Community

Community	Female	Percentage
BC	26	52
MBC	20	40
SC	4	8
Total	50	100

Source: Compiled from the collected data

Of the 50 sample respondent 26 (6%) of them belonged to the Backward class community. 20 (40%) of them belonged to most backword community and 4 (8%) of them belonged to scheduled caste community.

Among the sample represents, the backward community is the dominating community with a representation 26 (76%) members.

In the present study. the backward community is the dominating one with a representation of 26 (76%) members.

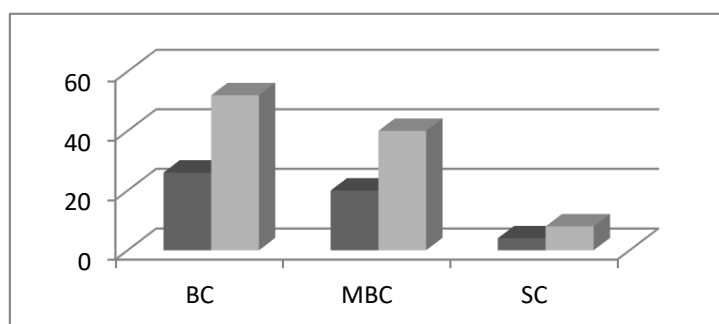


Chart 1-Distribution of sample Respondents by Community

CASTE

Caste is the important social factor in India. In the sample village of Kandiyur, people from more than seven castes are living.

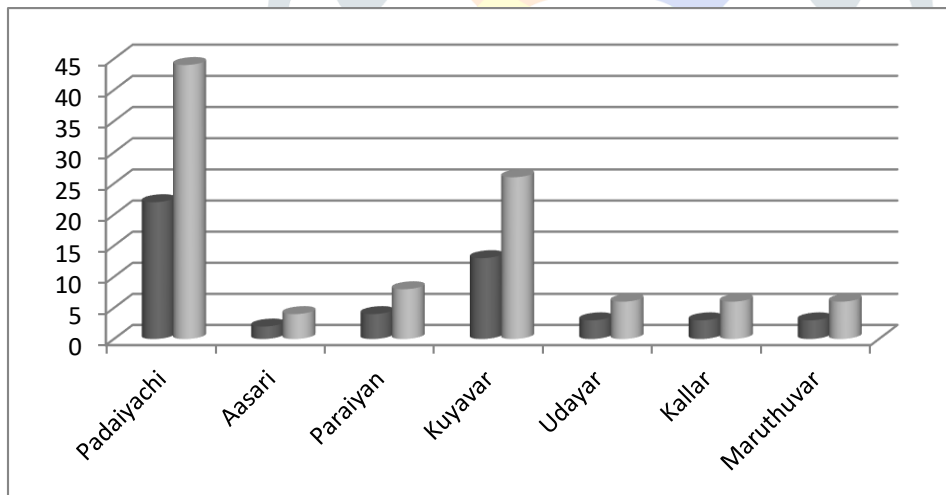
Table 3-Distribution of sample Respondents by caste

Caste	Female	Percentage
Padaiyachi	22	44
Aasari	2	4
Paraiyan	4	8
Kuyavar	13	26
Udayar	3	6
Kallar	3	6
Maruthuvar	3	6
Total	50	100

Source: Compiled from the collected data

Of the 50 sample female agricultural labourers. 22(44%) of them belonged to the caste of padaiyachi, 2 (4%) of them belonged to the caste of Aasari, 4(8%) of them belonged to the caste of paraiyan, 13 (26%) of them belonged to the caste of Kuyavar, 3(6%) of them belonged to the caste of Udayar, 3(6%) of them belonged to the caste of Kallar, 3 (6%) of them belonged to the caste of Maruthuvar.

Of the 50 sample agricultural labours, the majority of them 22(44%) to the caste of Padiyachi.



Charts 2-Distribution of sample Respondents by caste

AGE

The age at which a person enters an occupation and his continuance in the same, will have a telling effect on his level of skill, productivity, earning capacity, and also his capacity to run a family in the socio - economic environment obtaining in most of the developing nations, and it is particularly so in this part of sub- continent. In occupations requiring less education and practically no institutional training, age is considered as one of the important factors in determining the socio-

economic condition of any social group. An attempt, thus, has been made in the present study to enquire about the age stmetcure of the agricultural labourers.

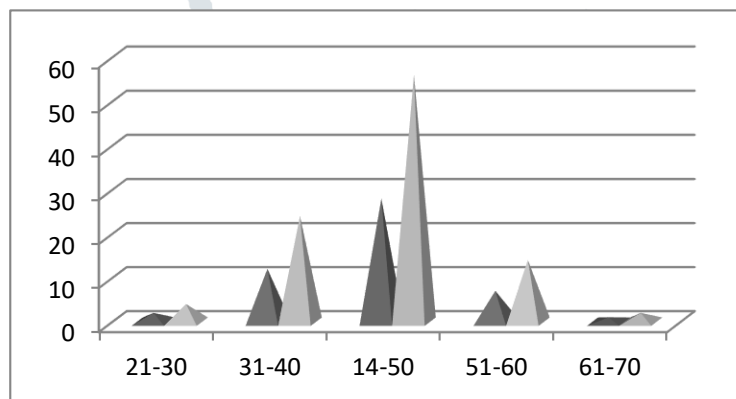
Table 4-Distribution of sample Respondent by Age group

Age (year)	Female	Percentage
21-30	2	4
31-40	12	24
14-50	28	56
51-60	7	14
61-70	1	2
Total	50	100

Source: Compiled from the collected data.

Of the 50 sample agricultural labourers. 2 (4%) of them belonged to the age group of 21-30 and 12(24%) of them belonged to the age group o f31-40, 28 (56%) of them belonged to the age group of 41-50 and 7 (14%) of them belonged to the age group o f51-60 and 1(2%) of them belonged to the age group of 61-70 members.

In the present study, the age group of 41 -50 is the domine age group with a representation o f28 (56%) members.



Charts 3 -Distribution of sample Respondent by Age group

MARITAL STATUS

The following table shows the marital status of the sample agricultural labourers.

Table 5-Distribution of Sample Respondents by Marital Status

Marital Status	Female	Percentage
Married	40	80
Unmarried	1	2
Widow	9	18
Total	50	100

Source: Compiled from the collected data.

Of the 50 sample female sample in agricultural labourers 40(80%) of them were Married, 1(2%) of them unmarried and 9 (18%) of them were to widows.

In the present study the majority of the sample representation are married with a representation of to (80%) members.

EDUCATION

Agricultural labourers are generally illiterates and ignorant. They live in scattered villages. Accordingly, it is difficult for agricultural / labourers to bargain with the land owners and secure good wages.

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL

Education is perhaps the most important factor in determining the occupation pattern in any society. It is particularly so in determining certain occupations, such as agriculture, demanding no higher level of education. The acquiring of certain level of education decides the success or otherwise of one's earning capacity. Hence an enquiry has been made to find out the educational status of the sample of agricultural labourers.

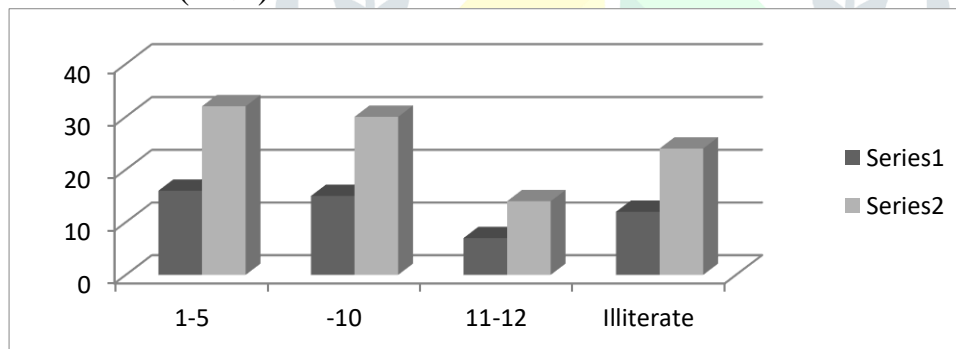
Table 6-Distribution of sample agricultural labourers by the level of education

Educational Level	Female	Percentage
1-5	16	32
6-10	15	30
11-12	7	14
Illiterate	12	24
Total	50	100

Source: Compiled from the collected data.

Of the 50 female sample respondents, 16 (32%) of them have had 1-5 years of schooling while 15 (30%) of them have had 6-10 years of schooling, 7 (14%) of them have had 11-12 years of schooling and 12(24%) of them are illiterates.

In the present study the majority of the respondents have had 1-5 years of schooling with a representation of 16(32%) members.



Charts 4 -Distribution of sample agricultural labourers by the level of education

OCCUPATIONAL - EXPERIENCE

The experience at which a person enters an occupation and his continuance in the same in occupations requiring less education and practically no institutional training experience is considered an important factor in determining the socio-economic condition of any social group. An attempt, thus, has been made in the present enquiring to evaluate the experience gained by the sample agricultural labourers.

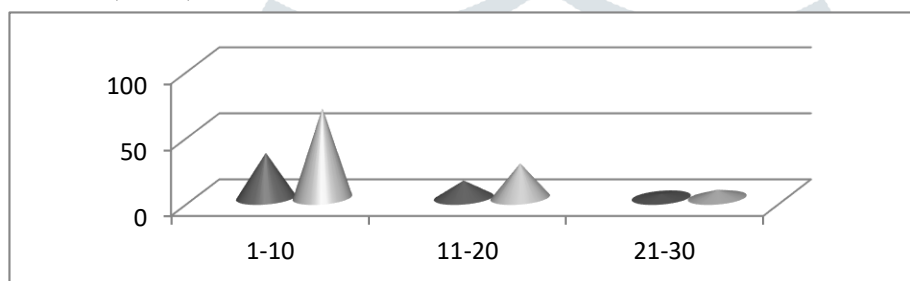
Table 7-Distribution of sample male and female agricultural labourers by experience in years.

Experience years	Female	Percentage
1-10	34	68
11-20	13	26
21-30	3	6
Total	50	100

Source: Compile from the collected data.

Of the 50 sample women agricultural labours 34(68%) of them had 1-10 years experience while 13 (26%) of them had 11-20 years of experience and 3 (6%) of them have had 21-30 years experience.

In the present study the majority of them have had 1-10 years of experience with a representation of 34 (68%) members.

**Charts 5-Distribution of sample male and female agricultural labourers by experience in years.**

HOUSE - OWNERSHIP

The following table shows the ownership of houses of the sample agricultural labourers.

Table 8-Distribution of sample male and female agricultural labourers households by the ownership of houses.

House	Female	Percentage
Own House	43	86
Rental House	7	14
Total	50	100

Source: Compiled from the collected data.

Of the 50 sample women agricultural labours 43(86%) of them have been living in own houses and 7 (14%) of them have been living in Rental houses.

In the present study the majority 43(86%) of the sample respondents have been living in own houses.

CEILING

The type and nature of house which a household occupies is considered a symbolic representation of the economic condition. A study about the economic condition of agricultural labourers at Kandiyur village cannot be an exception to it. With this objective, the present study looks at the housing condition of agricultural labourers.

Table 9-Distribution of sample respondents by Ceiling

Ceiling	Female	43(86%)
Thatched House	13	26
Tiled	15	30
Terraced	22	44
Total	50	100

Source: Compiled from the collected data.

Of the 35 male sample respondent agricultural labourers, 13(26%) of them have been living in Thatched houses 15(30%) of them have been living in Tiled houses and 22(44%) of them have been living in Terraced houses.

In the present study, the majority of labourers have been living in Terraced houses with a representation of 22(44%) members.

FLOORING

The following table shows another aspect of their housing — that of flooring of their houses.

Table10-Distribution of sample respondent households by the flooring of their houses

Status	Female	Percentage
Mud flooring	10	20
Cement flooring	40	80
Total	50	100

Source: Compiled from the collected data.

Of the 50 sample agricultural labourers 4 (80%) of them have been living in cement flooring houses while rest of them that is 10 (20%) of them have been living in mud floored houses.

In the present study, the majority of them have been living in cement floored houses with a representation of 40 (80%) members.

ELECTRIFICATION

The following table shows the electrification of the sample agricultural labourer's households.

Table 11-Distribution of sample Respondent households by Electrification facility.

Electrification	Female	Total
Electrified	50	100
Non – Electrified	--	--
Total	50	100

Source: Compiled from the collected data.

All the 50 sample respondent households have had electrification facility.

SIZE OF THE FAMILY

The number of earning members and the number of dependents determine the economic conditions of any household in general and particularly so among the agricultural labourers. The low level of educational status of the agricultural labourers has a long way in exposing a higher

dependency ratio. An attempt has been made to examine the household composition and other related dimensions.

Table 12-Distribution of sample respondents by the Size of the Family

Size of the family	Female	Percentage
2-3	17	34
4-5	33	66
Total	50	100

Source: Compiled from the collected data.

Of the 50 sample respondents households 17 (34%) of them had a family size of 2-3 while 33 (66%) of them had a family size of 4-5.

In the present study the family size of 4-5 is the domination family size with a representation of 33 (66%) members.

TOTAL MONTHLY INCOME

Income is the most important variable that determines the economic conditions of people in general and landless agricultural labourers in particular. As agriculture depends on the monsoon, so is the economic conditions of agricultural labourers. If the monsoon is erratic, employment opportunities to the agricultural labourers will dwindle. The household income is the total of contribution from all the earning members of the family. The income of agricultural households is tabulated as follows.

Table 13-Distribution of sample respondent households by total monthly income

Income (in Rs.)	Female	Percentage
20000-40000	13	26
41000-60000	13	26
61000-80000	9	18
81000-100000	7	14
101000-150000	5	10
151000-170000	3	6
Total	50	100

Source: Compiled from the collected data.

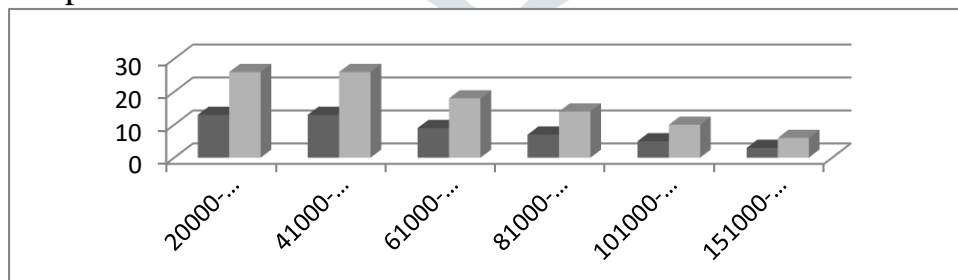


Chart 6 - Distribution of sample respondent households by total monthly income

Of the 50 sample agricultural labourers. 13 (26%) of them have had a monthly income ranging from Rs.20,000- 40000, 13 (26%) of them have had a monthly income ranging from Rs.41,000 - 60000, 9(18%) of them have had a monthly income ranging from Rs.61000 - 80000, 7(14%) of them have had a monthly income ranging from Rs.81,000 - 1,00,000 5 (10%)

of them have had a monthly income ranging from Rs.1,01,000 - 1,50,000; 3(6%) of them have had a monthly income ranging from Rs.1,51,000 - 1,70,000.

In the present study the majority of them 13(26%) have been earning a monthly income ranging between Rs.20,000 - 40,000.

AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS SHARE IN THE TOTAL CK MONTHLY

It is a common feature that the condition of women in the field of economic activities, are usually under reported. In the present study, an effort has been made to ascertain the share of women agricultural labourers income to the household income. The contribution of women labourers income to the household income is reported in the following table.

Table14-Distribution of Sample respondents by their share of income to female total income

Percentage share	No of Agriclutre labour Female
0 .25%	16
26 — 50%	926
51 —75%	56
76 — 100%	2
Total	50

Source: Compiled from the collected data.

Of the 50 households female agriculture labourers 16 of them have been contributing 0 to 25 to total income; 26 of them have been contributing to 26-50% to the total income; 2 of them have been contributing to 76-100 percent to the total income.

In the present study, the majority of the sample agricultural labour have been contributing 26-50 percent of their total income.

METTERS RELATED TO WORK

The nature and no of working days available to women agricultural labourer has been revealed in the following table.

Table 15-Matters related to works

Nature of work	Female No of days available Per season
Sowing	5
Transplanting	30
Weeding	25
Harvesting	--
Post harvesting	30

Source: Compiled from the collected data.

DISTANCE TRAVELLED FOR WORKS

A combination of structural, agro - climatic and demographic factors reduce a large number of agricultural labourers; only the magnitude varying with the conditions of the season. In the village, labour move out of their homes and village to seek work outside for survival for prolonged periods in a year. It is due to extreme economic, social hardship faced by India and is undertaken mostly by landless or poor, unskilled and illiterate labourers.

Table 16-Distribution of sample respondents by distance Travelled for work

Distance travelled	Female	Percentage
Less than 2kms	38	76
3to5	12	24
Total	50	100

Source: Compiled from the collected data.

Of the 50 sample respondents. 38(76%) of them travelled to a distance of 1-2 kms for their works, 12 (24%) of them travelled to a distance in between 3-5 kms. The majority of them 38 (76%) travelling to 1-2 kms for their works.

OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE

It is in general practice that agricultural labourers eat last and least and they are not getting proper nutritional diet and safe drinking water are important factors determining the living environment of the labourers. The consumption of polluted water leads to various diseases. The disease pattern shows a high incidence of dysentery, parasite skin infection, diarrhea and diseases of teeth and bone related which are presented in the following table.

Table 17-Distribution of sample respondents by Occupational Disease

Diseases	Female	Percentage
Joint pain	23	46
Body pain	15	30
Ulcer	12	24
Total	50	100

Source: Compiled from collected data.

Of the 50 sample agricultural labourers. 23 (46%) of them suffer from the disease of Joint pain, 15 (30%) of them suffer from the disease of body pain, 12 (24%) of them suffer from the disease of ulcer.

In the present study the majority of them that is 23(46%) suffer from the disease of Joint pain.

ASSETS

The possession of land by the sample agricultural labourers is presented in the following table:-

Table 18-Distribution of sample respondents by Assets

Land acres	Female	percentage
1-5	23	46
6-10	3	6
11-12	1	2
No land	23	46
Total	50	100

Source: Compiled from the collected data.

Of the 50 sample respondent agricultural labourers, 23 (46%) of them possessed 1to 5 acres of land; 3(6%) of them possessed 6 to 10 acres of land 1(2%) of them possessed 11to 15 acres of land 23 (46%) of them have no of land.

In the present study the majority of them possessed 1-5 acres of land with a representation of 23 (46%) members.

MONTHLY EXPENDITURE

It is needless to state that income is earned to meet expenditure and hence consumption plays a decisive role in determining the standard of living people. The monthly expenditure of the agricultural labour households will be the one among the many indicators to assess to levels of living. The monthly expenditure incurred by the agricultural labour households may be tabulated as follows.

Table 19-Distribution of sample respondents by Monthly Expenditure

Monthly expenditure in Rupees	Female	Percentage
1000-20000	23	46
21000-40000	26	52
41000-60000	1	2
Total	50	100

Source: Compiled from the collected data.

Of the 50 sample agricultural labourers 23 (46%) of them incurred an expenditure of Rs. 1000-20000; 26 (52%) of them incurred an expenditure of Rs.21,000-40,000 1(2%) of them incurred an expenditure of Rs.41,000 - 60000.

The majority of them incurred a monthly expenditure of Rs.21000-40000

MONTHLY SAVINGS

In the present study, it has been found that the majority of them have saving habits.

Table 20-Distribution of sample respondents by Monthly Saving

Saving	Female	Percentage
100-500	15	30
501-1000	3	6
1001-1500	--	--
1501-2000	1	2
No saving	31	62
Total	50	100

Source: Compiled from the collected data.

Of the 50 sample agricultural labourers 15 (30%) them have been saving Rs.100-500 per month; 3(6%) of them have been savings Rs.501-1000 per month, 1 (2%) of them have been savings Rs.1501-2000 per month and 31(62%) of members are not saving and money.

In the present study the majority of them have been saving Rs.100-500 per month with a representation of 15 (30%) members.

ACCESS TO FINANCE INSTITUTION

Saving is the amount of current income which is not spent on consumption. There are many motives for saving. The village agricultural labourers saving habits have been presented in the following table.

Table 21-Distribution of sample respondents by access to Finance Institution

Saving institutions	Female	Percentage
Bank	4	8
Post office	15	30
No Institution	31	62
Total	50	100

Source: Compiled from collected data.

Of the 50 sample respondents 15(30%) of them save their money in post office while 4(8%) of them save their money in Bank; 31(62%) of them have not access to any no savings institution.

In the present study the majority of them save their money in post offices with a representation of 15 (30%) members.

DEBT

Debt is one the most disquieting features of the landless agricultural labourers. It is well known saying that, the Indian labour is born in debt, lives in debt, and dies in debt. Factors such as disparity between income and expenditure and irregular employment opportunities inevitably lead to debt of the agricultural labourers families.

They borrow money mostly from money lenders for the purposes of household expenses, marriages and other ceremonies. The amount of money borrowed by landless agricultural households had been brought out in the following table

Table 22-Distribution of sample respondents by Debt

Amount	Female	Percentage
10000-50000	4	8
51000-100000	15	30
110000-150000	2	4
150000-200000	7	14
No dept	22	44
Total	50	100

Source: Compiled from the collected data.

Of the 50 sample agricultural labourers, 4(8%) of them had a debt of Rs.10,000-50,000, 15 (30%) of them had a debt of 51,000- 1,00,000 2(4%) of them had a debt of Rs,1,10,000 - 1,50,000, 7(14%) of them had a debt of Rs.1,51,000 - 2,00,000 and 22(44%) members have not incurred any debt.

In the present study, the majority of the sample respondents have not incurred any debt with a representation of 22(44%) members.

Table 23-Distribution of sample respondents by access to Public Facilities

Facilities	Female
Health	50
Education	50
PDS	50

Source: Compiled from the collected data.

Of the 50 sample respondents all of them use government hospital, schools and public distribution system.

AWARNENESS AND PARTICIPATION

In order to improve the efficiency of agricultural labourers, it is essential to increase their participation in various association. In India, agricultural is considered to be the informal sector. Because of lack of awareness and education, 'group - formation' and promotion of 'agency' in particular is the neglected aspect of agricultural labourers in most party of the world.

Table 24-Distribution of sample respondents by Awareness and Participation

Awareness & participation	Female	Total
Union /trade	--	--
Political party	8	16
Self- help group /NGOS	38	76
NON	4	8
Total	50	100

Source: Compiled from the collected data.

Of the 50 samples labours 8(16%) of them have been members of political party, 38(76%) of them have been members of self help group /NGO.

In the present study, the majority of them have been member of self help group

OPINIONS ABOUT EMPOWERMENT

The agricultural laboures do not have continuous work. On an average an agricultural labourers finds employment for about two hundred days in a year and for the rest of the year he is idle. Agricultural labourers opinions about empowerment is presented in the following table.

Table25-Distribution of sample respondents by Opinions About Empowerment

Opinions	Female	Percentage
Empowered fully	--	--
Empowered partially	40	80
Powerless	10	20
Total	50	100

Source: Compiled from the collected data.

of the 50 sample respondents 40 (80%) of them have opined that they empowered partially, 10(20%) of them have opined that they have less power,.

In the present study the majority of them have opined that they empowered particaly with a representation of 40(80%) members.

PROBLEMS

The following table shows the problems faced by the sample agricultural labourers.

Table 26-Distribution of sample respondents by their opinions on the problem of faced by them

Problems	Female	Percentage
Seasonal employment	20	40
Less employment Male labourers	7	14
Low wage	8	16
Health standard Is weak	15	30
Total	50	100

Source: Compiled from the collected data.

Of the 50 sample agricultural labourers 20(40%) of them have expressed seasonal employment is their main problem; 7(14%) of them have expressed less employment then mare labourers is their main problem; 8(16%) of them have expressed low wage as their main problem and 15(30%) of them have expressed weak health is their main problem.

The majority of them have expressed seasonal employment is their main problem with a respresentation of 20(40%) members.

CONCLUSION

The present study revealed that women agricultural labourers are fully engaged in agricultural activities in order to contribute their family economy. Yet they are not empowered economically. Low educational status and other social factors lead them to follow their parental occupation despite their earnings from agriculture is very low. In order to improve their living conditions, Government, non- Governmental organizations and local agencies must take innovate steps that target specifically the women agricultural labourers: Awareness about public agencies and self — Help group will pave the way for success in the shorter term.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In the present study, the majority of the sample respondent belonged to the religion of Hindusim with a representation of 32 (64%) members. In the present study. the backward community is the dominating one with a representation of 26 (76%) members.

Of the 50 sample agricultural labours, the majority of them 22(44%) to the caste of Padiyachi. In the present study, the age group of 41 -50 is the domine age group with a representation of 28 (56%) members. In the present study, the majority of the sample representation are married with a representation of 40 (80%) members.

In the present study, the majority of the respondents have had 1-5 years of schooling with a respresentation of 16(32%) members. In the present study, the majority of them have had 1-10 years of experience with a representation of 34 (68%) members. In the present study, the majority 43(86%) of the sample respondents have been living in own houses. In the present study, the majority of labourers have been living in Terrached houses with a representation of 22(44%) members.

In the present study, the majority of them have been living in cement floored houses with a representation of 40 (80%) members.

All the 50 sample respondent households have had electrification facility. In the present study, the family size of 4-5 is the domination family size with a representation of 33 (66%) members. In the present study, the majority of them 13(26%) have been earning a monthly income ranging between Rs.20,000 - 40,000. In the present study, the majority of the sample agricultural labour have been contributing 26-50 percent of their total income.

The majority of them 38 (76%) travelling to 1-2 kms for their works. In the present study, the majority of them that is 23(46%) suffer from the disease of Joint pain. In the present study, the majority of them possessed 1-5 acres of land with a representation of 23 (46%) members. The majority of them incurred a monthly expenditure of Rs.21000-40000. In the present study, the majority of them have been saving Rs.100-500 per month with a representation of 15 (30%) members. In the present study, the majority of them save their money in post offices with a representation of 15 (30%) members.

In the present study, the majority of the sample respondents have not incurred any debt with a representation of 22(44%) members. Of the 50 sample respondents all of them use government hospital, schools and public distribution system. In the present study, the majority of them have been member of self help group. In the present study, the majority of them have opined that they empowered partially with a representation of 40(80%) members.

The majority of them have expressed seasonal employment is their main problem with a representation of 20(40%) members.

SUGGESTIONS

As most of the sample respondents felt that agriculture sector provides only a seasonal employment and the wages are quite low, they want either self employment or permant job with reasonable salary. So, the government agencies must provide them credit and training facilities so as to provide self - employment.

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