A Study on Livelihoods of Agricultural Workers of RishivandhiyamVillage Panchayat in Villupuram District, Tamil Nadu

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Abstract - **Agriculture is considered to be the key sector in India as a result of quite 70.0 % of the population is relying upon agriculture. As a result, a lot of stress has been created for development for agriculture through the setup amount. Such stress is absolutely even on the cluster that agriculture is allotted the key role, trying into the magnitude of the world in terms of employment and financial gain and also the importance of the agriculture merchandise during a developed country like India. Though there has been tremendous progress in India since independence this sector isn't developed up to expect and is meriting of terribly special thought. so as to utilize their fullest capability for max production they must be supplied with a minimum of blank minimum needs i.e., enough food, shelter, cloth, medical facilities education etc., as a result, the agricultural productivity can increase. The steps taken to higher the condition of the staff through varied schemes and plans has not been denied however all those don't seem to be enough of the quantum of efforts created and time concerned are put together taken in to thought whereas creating a "cost benefit" analysis of all rural economic development programs. The agriculture sector plays a vital and important role in development of the rural and national economy, agriculture labourer is socially and economically poorest section of the society they are landless people, unemployment,low wages and social backwardness constitute the poverty syndrome among agricultural labourers. In this study was conducted on the economic status of agricultural labours in Rishivandhiyam village panchayat in Villupuram district, further the study to analyse socio economic status, wage structure, nature of work and problem. Finally, the study was found that major findings on the basis empirical evidence and give to suitable recommendations for upward mobility of socio-economic condition of agriculture labours.**
Keywords: **Agriculture Labourers, Earning and Employment Status**

I. INTRODUCTION

India is a country of villages and its development is synonymous with the development of the community living in rural areas. India is a vast and second most populated country of the world. But big part of this population has been leading an uncertain economic life due to non-synchronization of employment opportunities in agricultural sector because of the fast-increasing population. Agriculture occupies a strategic within the financial set-up. it's basic trade and conjointly a kind of social heritage and some way of life to the Indian farmers. Agriculture being the backbone of the Indian economy, leading industries like cotton, sugar, jute, tobacco and plantation directly rely upon agriculture. Agriculture flip depends on industrial merchandise like tractor and alternative machinery for his or her development. The economic conditions of Indian agricultural labours were deplorable throughout the pre-independence amount. They pay the day between slush and dirt with a starving abdomen and with appeased craving. They possessed no comfy lodging and had no rest. 833.5 million Folks or sixty-eight.8% of India's population lives in its half-dozen.4 animal product villages as per the country's 2011 Census. For the overwhelming majority in India, 54.6% of total staff or 263 million folks, agriculture continues to be the most important supply of bread and butter. Agricultural labourers are those who are employed for carrying out agricultural operations on a temporary or permanent basis. Sharma classified agricultural labour on two bases; one, the mode of work and payment and two, the sex. On the basis of the mode of work and payment, he classified agricultural labour into: 1) Family labour, 2) Permanent labour, 3) Casual labour or daily wage labour and 4) contract labour. On the basis of sex, he divided agricultural workers into male workers and female workers. Family labour was related to the labour extracted in the farm fi-omit he family and for farm and whose labour was available round the year, (ii) those who devote only a limited time in the farm and doing part time job off the farm and (iii) heads of families doing just organisational works in the farms with their main occupation being in non-agricultural sectors Sushanta Mahapatra (2007).

According to the National Commission on Labour, agricultural' labour consisted of two categories. They were (i) landless agricultural labourers and (ii) very small cultivators whose main source of earnings was through wage employment. As such, landless labour yielded itself into two broad categories: (a) permanent labour attached to a cultivating household and (b) casual labour. Casual labour is again sub-divided into three groups namely (i) cultivators, (ii) share croppers and (iii) lease holders. Cultivators were those who possess very little land and devote most of their time working on the lands of others as labourers. Share croppers were those who share the produce of the land for their work and also work as labourers. Lease holders were those who not only work on leased-in land but also work as labourers. At the global level, about 70% in the 20–54 age group are members of the paid workforce. In developing

countries as a group, the figure is lower at 60%. (United Nations, 1999). These figures do not capture women's participation in rural and urban informal sectors in developing countries which is usually less visible and therefore undercounted. However, this low wage informal sector continues to be an important employer of poor women in developing and transition countries (Mehra and Gammaye, 1999) The trend in the feminization of labor has been accompanied by a shift in employment from manufacturing to services in developed countries, and from agriculture to manufacturing and services in developing countries. With the exception of Africa, women's employment has grown substantially faster than men's since 1980. With a stagnating (or slightly decreasing) male labour force participation rate, the difference between male and female participation rates have shrunk considerably in many regions (Rangi, 2000).

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Alex Saint George (1998) analysed that there's very little uniformity in relevancy agricultural wages and strategies of payment. Wage differentials are because of personal factors like demand for labour, urgency, efficiency, length of amount of employment etc. totally different wages ar bought connected staff, seasonal staff, casual staff etc.

Biplab Das Gupta (2001) finds that within the areas, the weakening of the talks position of the agricultural labours reduced their wages and earning level any. Therefore, they're still terribly poor, under fed, uneducated, economically addicted to the made and suffer greatly from the uncertainties of climate. However, they're fast paced towards what that subversive represented as a "class for itself" this can be no mean action. However, because the pauperization of the tiny social class world implies an even bigger labour force competitive for jobs and conveyance down the wages.

Med Cavin (2001) has criticized the national sample survey (N.S.S found the actual fact that landlessness in India is steady increasing. it had been because of obligation and natural calamities.

Rao (2006) assessed on the women in India are major producers of food in term of value, volume and number of hours worked. Nearly 63% of all economically active men are engaged in agriculture as compared to 78% of women. Almost of rural female workers are classified as agricultural labourers and 37% as cultivators. About 70% of from work was performed by women. It is observed that the play a significant and crucial role in agricultural development and allied fields including. In the main crop production, livestock production, horticulture, post- harvesting operations, agro and social forestry, fishing etc., is a fact long taken for granted but also long ignored.

Damisaet.al (2007) highlights in their study that despite of various social, economic and various constraints women has high level participation in agriculture and they are very committed in their agricultural activities. Overall the level of involvement of women in form decision making was found very medium. The extent of involvement and decision-making activities like intercultural operations is 48.00 percent in harvesting of crops 45.33 percent, storage of form produce is 42.67 percent: 42 percent in the sale of form produce and subsidiary occupation like allied work of animal husbandry business. (Unati *et al,* 2011).

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To examine the working status of agricultural labours in Rishivandhiyam village panchayat.
2. Assessment to the contribution of agricultural labours to the agriculture development.

IV. METHODOLOGY

This present study is based on both primary and secondary data. The success of a research depends mostly on the methodology on which it is carried out. The appropriate methodology will improve validity and accuracy of the research study, by which a scientific generalization can be made to the whole population based on studied sample. The research is based on both quantitative data and qualitative; the quantitative data are collected by adopting non-probability sampling technique with the help of self-administered interview schedule that contains of questions related to different areas and background.

The interview schedule which contained different segment of socio-economic and physical aspects related questions, distributed to the sample units i.e. selected individuals of population in study area. The filled up interview schedules are collected and proceed ahead for coding, editing, and entries of data into SPSS software package. In analysing, statistical description, tabulation, simple percentage average and testing hypothesis were made by using this SPSS software computer programme.

A. Sources of Data

Primary data is the main source of information in this study. The present study based mainly on primary data which is collected with the help of structured interview schedules in the Rishivandhiyam village panjayath. The total numbers of Households in the study area is the universe of this study and out of those 120 Households was selected using Area and Simple Random Sampling technique procedure is the sample of this study.

From each 120 Households an individual aged between (20-60) years is requested to tap or fill up the interview schedule therefore each Household is the sampling unit of the study. The information obtained from this study sample is the primary source of information. Based on this primary source of data all the tables were formulated and analysis is being made and conclusions, findings and summary are drawn.

B. Secondary Source of Data

Secondary source of data is also collected for this study. The study also carried on depending secondary source of data, which are collected from the government offices in Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu, as well as from the Village Panchayat, of the study area. Some Governmental, Non-governmental sectors and international publications and reports related to study area, are also included, as the source of secondary data.

C. Tools of the Study

The Present study has conducted with help of well-structured interview schedule for data collection. The interview schedules were distributed to Households and collected data are coded, edited, tabulated, and analysed with SPSS computer package, suitable necessary 120 statistical tools, simple percentage, averages, chi square one-way ANOVA and Multiple Regression was used to analyse the infrastructural development and impacts various aspects of economic, social, and impacts on the livelihood status of the sample respondents in the Study area.

V. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The table I show that the Gender-wise distribution of the sample respondents. Majority of the female respondents are 60 percent and 40 percent of them are male category. Therefore, it is observed that most of the 60 percent of respondents are female gender category. Category1.B. Age indicated that the age group of the respondents Majority 42.5 percent of the agricultural labourer are in the age group of 21-40, 39.2 percent of them in between the age group of 41-60, then 11.7 percent of the respondents age group was above sixty, finally the least population of 6.7 percent of the respondent age group was below 20.Therefore, it is interval that in this since most of the 42.5 percent of the respondents are age group between 21 to 40 in the working field. Category 1.C highlighted to the Respondents marital status. Majority of the 80.8 percent of them are married, then 12.5 percent of them widows, another one category of unmarried is 6.7 percent of them not married/unmarried. Therefore, it is interval that in this since most of the 80 percent of respondents are their get married in the working field.

Table I D explores the different categories of Educational status like illiteracy, primary education, secondary education and higher secondary level. The majority of the 39.2 percent of the respondents are studied in primary level only. Then 36.7 percent of the respondents are illiteracy/uneducated. 20.0 percent of them have studied secondary level education. The last one is 4.2 percent of the few respondents only complete their higher secondary level schooling. Therefore, since most of the agricultural labours are studied in primary level education only they have finally studied in the schooldays. Category 1.E indicated to the respondent's religious background. The

majority of the 70.8 percent of them following Hindu religious principals and culture. Another one is 29.2 percent of the respondents is following Christian religious morels.

TABLE I DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENT'S SOCIO ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

S. No.	Particulars	No. of Respondents	Percentage
A	Gender		
1	Male	48	40
2	Female	72	60
B	Age Group		
1	Below 20	8	6.7
2	21 to 40	51	42.5
3	41 to 60	47	39.2
4	More than 60	14	11.7
	Total	120	100.0
C	Marital status		
1	Unmarried	8	6.7
2	Married	97	80.8
3	Widow	15	12.5
	Total	120	100.0
D	Educational Status		
1	Illiteracy	44	36.7
2	Primary education	47	39.2
3	Secondary education	24	20.0
4	Higher secondary	5	4.2
	Total	120	100.0
E	Religion		
1	Hindu	85	70.8
2	Christian	35	29.2
	Total	120	100.0
F	Community		
1	OBC	31	25.8
2	MBC	50	41.7
3	SC/ST	39	32.5
	Total	120	100.0
G	Type of Family		
1	Nuclear family	76	63.3
2	Joint family	40	33.3
3	Living to Separate	4	03.3
	Total	120	100
H	Pattern of House		
1	Own House	117	98.0
2	Rented House	3	2.0
	Total	120	100.0

Source: Computed

Therefore, it is observed that most of the respondents are in the religion of Hindu it is depended on geographical areas. Category 1.F depicts on the respondent's community status. The MBC households were 41.7 percent and SC/ST was 32.5 percent. Other OBC was 25.8 percent. The majority group of households were belonging to MBC category. Therefore, it is observed that most of the respondents are in the Most Backward Caste (MBC) category. Category 1.G explains about the respondent's family type. The majority 63.3 percent of the agricultural worker was living in nuclear family. Then 33.3 percent of the respondent's family was joint family.03.3 percent only living in separately. Therefore, most of the respondents are nowadays following nuclear family system method. Category 1.H shows that house pattern of the respondents. Maximum number of 98.0 Percent of them have owns house. Only few of them like 2.0 percent of the respondents living in rented house. Therefore, most of the 98 percent of respondents are living in their own houses.

TABLE II EARNINGS AND EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF THE RESPONDENTS

Variable	Sub-variable	No. of Respondents	Percentage	t- test	Significant t value
Present occupation	Agriculture daily wages	89	74.2	56.282	.000
	Small businesses	31	25.8		
	Total	120	100.0		
Pattern of earnings	Per day income	66	55.0	27.175	.000
	Weekly income	47	39.2		
	Monthly income	7	5.8		
	Total	120	100.0		
Monthly Earning (in Rs)	Below 3000	82	68.3	30.877	.000
	Between Rs 4000 to 6000	38	31.7		
	Total	120	100.0		
Work Nature	Sugarcane cutting	47	39.2	35.034	.000
	Form work	7	5.8		
	Plantation/weed work/ cultivation/ Transplanting /fertilizer application/others	66	55.0		
	Total	120	100.0		
How many days you get employment at last year?	Below 90 days	48	40.0	32.913	.000
	180-240 days	16	13.3		
	90-180 Days	43	35.8		
	Above 240 days	13	10.8		
	Total	120	100.0		

Source: Computed

The above table exhibits that respondent's occupations and Earnings status. Out of the 100% the majority of 74.2 percent of the household members are working in agriculture daily wages.55.0 percent of them agreed with per day income, the agriculture labours monthly earning in the majority of 68.3 percent of the respondents are agreed with below 3000 rupees/per month.

In this village most, 55.0 percent of the agricultural workers are going to work for like Plantation/ weed work/ cultivation/ Transplanting/ fertilizer application. 40.0 percent of the agricultural labours got employment in the last year below 90 days only. The calculated t-test value is significant t=.000 so the alternative hypothesis that there is accepted.

This table exhibits that work pattern of the respondents. The majority of 60.8 percent of the respondents are involved in the crop activities.58.3 percent of the household are not agreed with allied activity of livestock maintenance work. Most of the agricultural worker 50.8 percent of them not agreed with work in industries activities during the off season. Maximum number of 60.8percent of them agreed with work in non-form activities. The calculated t-test value is significant t=.000 so the alternative hypothesis that there is accepted.

TABLE III WORK PATTERN OF THE RESPONDENTS

Variable	Sub-variable	No. of Respondents	Percentage	t- test	Significant t Value
Respondents work in crop activity	Yes	73	60.8	31.101	.000
	No	47	39.2		
	Total	120	100.0		
Respondents work in Allied activity	Yes	50	41.7	35.034	.000
	No	70	58.3		
	Total	120	100.0		
Respondents work in Industries activities during the off season.	Yes	59	49.2	32.913	.000
	No	61	50.8		
	Total	120	100.0		
Do you work in Non-form Activity	Yes	73	60.8	31.101	.000
	No	47	39.2		
	Total	120	100.0		

Source: Computed

VI. CONCLUSION

Over all studying and understanding the difficulties of agriculture labours we can say that a woman has lot of problem and does not know how to face the problem. According my point of view government has taken interest in solving their problems, the government should not only implement a development programs even monitoring that scheme was going to successfully or not, it was reach to rural poor. Not only government the land lords also take initiates to some kind of wage increment provide to them. By the agriculture labours will come out from their problems and they can lead a better life. It is observed that most of the 60 percent of respondents are female gender category. Majority 42.5 percent of the agricultural laboured in the age group of 21-40, Majority of the 80.8 percent of them are married in the survey. The majority of the 39.2 percent of the respondents are studied in primary level only. The majority of the 70.8 percent of them follow Hindu religious principals and culture. The majority group of households were belonging to MBC category. The majority 63.3 percent of the agricultural worker was living in nuclear family. Maximum number of 98.0 Percent of them have owns house. Respondent's occupations and Earnings status. Out of the 100% he majority of 74.2 percent of the household members are working in agriculture daily wages.55.0 percent of them agreed with per day income, the agriculture labours monthly earning in the majority of 68.3 percent of the respondents are agreed with below 3000 rupees/per month. In this village most, 55.0 percent of the agricultural workers are going to work for like Plantation/weed work/cultivation/Transplanting/fertilizer application. 40.0 percent of the agricultural labours got employment in the last year below 90 days only. Work pattern of the respondents the majority of 60.8 percent of the respondents are involved in the crop activities. 58.3 percent of the household are not agreed with allied activity of livestock maintenance work. Most of the agricultural worker 50.8 percent of them not agreed with work in industries activities during the off season. Maximum number of 60.8percent of them agreed with work in non-form activities.

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