# PROFILE OF WOMEN AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS IN ANDHRA PRADESH – REGIONAL ANALYSIS

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**Abstract** - Women as all knows work hard in all over india and almost in all the fields they work. But it is very sad that they are not paid well due to which many problems occurs, as we know they nourish the family members so for them it is necessary to have good food and healthy lifestyle. Percentage of women workers is very high in all fields even it is agriculture, any industry, household works or any other, but they are paid less as compare to men. This paper will cover the work is done by women in agriculture and their level of income, their standard of living, health condition and so on.

**Keywords** - Agriculture, Women, Labourers

## I. INTRODUCTION

Agriculture the heart of Indian economy provides employment to nearly 52 per cent of the population. But it contributes only 16 per cent to India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Agricultural growth is given top priority by Indian Government as around 70 per cent of the population lives in rural India. Whose occupation is agriculture and allied activities.

Agriculture plays an important role in economic development in providing food to the nation, enlarging exports, transferring manpower to non-agricultural sectors. It aides capital formation and secures markets for industrialisation.

Indian agriculture is highly gender sensitive as 75.38 per cent women work force are engaged in agriculture, with 94 per cent women in crop cultivation.

Women form backbone of agricultural workforce and vital path of Indian Economy. The key role of women in agricultural development and their contribution in the field of agriculture, food security, horticulture, dairy, nutrition, sericulture, fisheries, and other allied sector is recognised all over the world. Women supply labour to produce physical output with quality and efficiency.

Although most women in India work and contribute to the economy in one form or another, much of their work is not documented or accounted for in official statistics. Women plough fields and harvest crops while working on farms; women weave and make handicrafts. while working in household industries; women cook food and gather wood while working in the informal sector. Additionally women are traditionally responsible for the daily household chores such as cooking, fetching water and looking after children.
Agriculture is the invention of women. They domesticated animals, took part in ploughing the land. They are active participants as labourers in cutting, thrushing and storing grain thus occupying special place in agricultural activities. But, they are not adequately remunerated. This gives rise to many problems for women.
It is proved that there is discrimination on all counts. Women in rural areas are paid less than what men are paid for the same work. In fact, in some occupations women work for more number of hours and receive lower remuneration. They eat less, work more, suffer severely to create comforts for their family members. The problem lies in economics of women labour, psychology of women as mothers and sociology of women employment and women empowerment.

To address the problems of women agricultural labourer International National initiatives are taken up. The discrimination women labourers suffer can be eliminated by welfare measures and social security measures, which provide justice and solace to the deprived labour class.

Agriculture is not an organised industry in India. There is abundance of unorganised man power which includes women and children to search field work. Despite these facts nearly 70 per cent of Indian population depends upon agriculture for their livelihood. Agriculture contributes 25 to 30 per cent to the gross national product in India. The science of agricultural economics studies allocation, distribution and utilisation of the resources used by and commodities produced by farming. Agriculture contributes for the export lead growth of an economy.

The employment trends of rural agricultural labourers reveals that women labourers were mostly in casual agricultural work like weeding, transplanting and harvesting. Modernisation of agriculture displaced women more than men from their traditional jobs. This displacement turned women into agricultural labourers. It has been pointed by D.R. Gadgil that the maximum number of working days in the year for male workers is about 186 days in lands with assured

water supply and only 112 days in the year in the dry zone. The maximum number of working days for women is 180 days in the wet zone and 85 days in the dry zone. Despite these developments agriculture still holds its importance in Indian economy by providing employment opportunities for labourers raw materials for industrialists and livelihood for many who in one way or other is dependent on agriculture.

Agriculture has been rightly named as the mother of all industries and the maintainer of human lives standing at the basis of all sciences and arts. It is indeed, at the head of civilisation and progress1. Agriculture can sustain without industry and it aids birth of industry, so agriculture is bedrock of economies like India.

To find out the profile of agricultural woman labourers in the state, we made the following the objectives.

## II. OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the present study are:

1. To find out the nature and extent of women labour in Agriculture in the selected villages in Six Districts belonging to three geographical regions of Andhra Pradesh.
2. To assess the socio-demographic and economic conditions of working women in Agriculture in the selected areas.
3. To examine the degree of discrimination if any based on gender.
4. To evaluate the working conditions of women labourers in Agriculture in the study areas.
5. To suggest measures to promote gender equality for the all round development of women.
6. To examine the welfare measures, if any, with regard to woman agricultural labourers in Andhra Pradesh.

## III.SUGGESTIONS

- The study suggests that women agricultural labourers' situation would improve on a greater scale if their excessive dependence on agricultural operations in and around their villages and attachment to hard core politically motivated labour contractors, slow process of removing unemployment and poverty are addressed.
- Steps need to taken to unchain the women labourers and allow them to work freely. They should be free enough to move as per their convenience to earn their livelihoods and organise themselves to improve their bargaining power in the hold of strong unionism. The suggestion is based on the studies finding that agricultural labour is mostly provided by economically and socially backward communities and vulnerable poor families.
- The study suggests that WAL may be assured of stable employment along with nutritional support and adequate food grains supply to make the right to food a realisable goal for all those involved in agricultural sector known for its distress due to vagaries of nature.
- As the study observed that some families of the respondents are involved in activities such as dairy development etc., their products need be sold for reasonable prices at suitable markets. Institutional finance must be provided for all the women agricultural labourers to buy Live-stock, Sheep, Pigs etc., at no interest or minimum interest.
- Marketing facilities may be enhanced to sell the products at profitable prices without mediator's looting of the due share of WAL in the agricultural sector.

## IV. CONCLUSION

The present study evidences the socio-demographic and economic conditions of the women labourers are low and poor and status of women in rural community has not been changed. Maximum number of female agricultural labour' household are living below the poverty line and they are not getting proper wage for their work. Very few women labour are receiving the benefits from the government schemes. The social conditions in which they live continue to be traditional, exploitative and anti-women in character and impeding the development of the agricultural labour in general and of the female agricultural labour in particular. It can be concluded that the number of rural male total workers is slowly decreasing, while the number of rural female total workers is steadily increasing at the national, state as well as at the districts level, Thus, though the chunk of women labour are increasing, there are only a few government developmental programmes, which are of women specific, in the country as well as in the State. It is found that only privileged sections are benefited from these developmental programmes. The weaker sections are benefited only to a limited extent. Lack of awareness about various developmental programmes is found. The present study reveals the low socio-economic status of these sections in spite of various developmental programmes of the government. Government must accord industry status to agriculture also. The benefits that are there for the organized sector labourers must be made applicable to the agricultural labourers with statutory safe guards. Life insurance cover must be provided to the agricultural women labourers by government paying the insurance premiums. More welfare schemes are to be created for the betterment of these unrecognized important people.

## REFERENCES

### Books/Articles:


[1] Agricultural Labour In India (A Compendium of Basic Facts). Labour Bureau, Dept. of Labour and Employment, Govt. of India, p.244 Constitution of India

[2] Articles 15(1) & 16(1)

[3] Articles 15(1) and 16(2)

[4] Articles 15(1), 16(2) and 325

[5] Articles 15(1), 16(2), 23(2), 29(2) and 325

[6] Article 15(2) prohibits discrimination by private individuals in regard to use of facilities and accommodations open to the public. Articles 28(3) and 29(2) forbid discrimination in private educational institutions.

[7] As an amended by the Constitution Forty – Forth Amendment Act, 1978, which has inserted clause (2) of the Article.

[8] Articles 16(2)

[9] Article 17

[10] Article 23: "Prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour – (1) Traffic in human beings and began and other similar forms of forced labour are prohibited and any contravention of the provision shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law. (2) Nothing in this Article shall prevent the State from imposing.

[11] Articles 29(2) and 30(2).


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