

Socio Economic Conditions of Agricultural Women Workers of Tribal Community – A Study

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This paper divided in to two sections. Section-I deals with the introduction, objectives and methodology. Section two examines the Socio-Economic conditions, major findings, suggestions and conclusion.

SECTION-I

INTRODUCTION

India is an agricultural country and nearly 60 percent of the Indians depend on agriculture and allied activities for their livelihood. Agricultural sector provides employment opportunities and food material to the teeming millions and also supply of raw materials to the needy industries. Nearly 80 percent of Indian agriculture depends on monsoons for the water supply. Happiness of farmers and Agriculturer Labourer depend on the regularity of the monsoons, but there are ups and downs takes place in the monsoons in our country. For the continuation of the lives of agricultural labour existence of agriculture is required. Cyclones, droughts, and lack of credit facilities are the problems in the agricultural sector in India, with these problems there are ups and downs takes place in Indian agriculture. Due to the conversion of small and marginal farmers into agricultural labourers the percentages of agricultural labourers increasing, even though non agricultural activities are expanding in our country.

Among the people who depend on agricultural sector, the percentage of women workers is more. The women workers play a crucial role in the development of agriculture sector. Women workers perform different types of activities in agricultural sector like weeding, threasing spreading the fertilizer; sowing, cutting the crop, etc with the same level of men workers, but the conditions of women workers are poor when compared with the men workers.

OBJECTIVES

1. To analyse the Socio-Economic conditions of the agricultural women workers.
2. To examine the problems of women workers at home and at work place.
3. To know the freedom in the economic decisions of women workers.

METHODOLOGY

The data is purely primarily. Ramulu Thanda, Surya Thanda and Manchukonda villages of Raghunadhapalem mandal in Khammam district have chosen for this study. 30 samples have taken from each village and total 90 sample. Data collected through interview with structured questionnaire from 90 agricultural women workers. All the respondents belong to Lambada caste. To analyse the data simple mathematical tools are used.

SECTION-II

Section two deals with the Socio-Economic conditions of women agri-cultural workers and their problems, Major findings, suggestions and conclusion.

Social Conditions:- Age particulars; Caste particulars; Marital status; Education particulars, Family status; Nature of house and Identity proofs etc analysed here.

Age particulars of the respondent women workers are analysed in table-1 here under.

Table-1: Age Wise Distribution Of The Respondents

Age	No.of Respondents
21-25	23 (25.56%)
26-30	13 (14.44%)
31-35	09 (10%)

36-40	21 (23.33%)
41-45	18 (20%)
45-50	06 (6.67%)
Total	90 (100%)

Source: Field Study

The data in the table-1 shows that nearly 73 percent of the women workers are in the age group of 21 to 40 years. This is very effective age of work force. Just 27 percent of the respondent women workers are in the age group of 41 to 50 years. It implies that more number of women workers having efficiency to do agricultural activities effectively, are in the sample.

Table-2 given here under explains the marital status of the respondent women workers in the study area.

Table-2: Marital Status Of The Respondents

Marital Status	No.of Respondents
Un Married	00 (00)
Married	82 (91.11%)
Divorced	08 (8.89%)
Total	90 (100%)

Source: Field Study

As per the data shows in the Table-2, 100 percent of the respondent women got married. It implies that that there is no un married women in the study. With different problems nearly 8.89 percent of the respondent women live separately from their spouses, with legal divorce. In the tribal areas due to early marriages, Liquor consumption; extra marital relations and customs and traditions made easy divorce

Age of marriage of the respondents in the study are examined in Table-3.

Table-3: Age At Marriage

Age at Marriage	No.of Respondents
13-15	13 (14.44%)
16-18	56 (62.22%)
19-21	21 (23.33%)
Total	90 (100%)

Source: Field Study

The data in the Table-3 depicts that 62.22 percent of women got married in between 16-18 years of age, nearly 23 percent in between 19-21 years of age and just 14 percent got married in between 13-15 years of age. It implies that early marriages in this study are very meager and it is a welcoming feature.

Table-4 analyses the education particulars of the respondent women workers.

Table-4: Education Particulars Of The Respondents

Education Level	No.of Respondents
Illiteracy	45 (50%)
Primary Education	22 (24.44%)
Secondary Education	09 (10%)
Inter	08 (8.89%)
Degree	06 (6.67%)
Total	90 (100%)

Source: Field Study

Nearly 50 percent of the respondent women are illiterates as per the data. While 50 percent are literates. Among the literates 24.44 percent studied upto primary education, 10 percent upto secondary education, 8.89 percent upto intermediate level and just 6.67 percent have completed degree level of education. It implies that in the tribal areas especially among the women increasing the awareness about the importance of education.

Table- 5 hereunder depicts the family status of the respondent women workers.

Table-5: Status Of The Family Of The Respondents

Family Status	No.of Respondents
Joint Family	29 (32.22%)
Nuclear Family	61 (67.78%)
Total	90 (100%)

Source: Field Study

The data reveals that 67.78 percent of the respondent families are following nuclear family system. While remaining 32.22 percent have been following joint family system. It implies that even in the rural areas the joint family system is disappearing.

Nature of the house of the respondents is analyzed in Table-6 given hereunder.

Table-6: Nature Of The House Of The Respondents

Nature of House	No. of Respondents
Pucca	73 (81.11%)
Thatched	07 (7.78%)
Iron or Asbestors sheets	06 (6.67%)
Hut like construction	04 (4.44%)
Total	90 (100%)

Source: Field Study

The data in the table reveals that nearly 81 percent of the respondents have Pucca houses. While remaining 19 percent have thatched houses (7.78%), Iron or asbestos sheets as roof (6.67%) and hut like constructions (4.44%). It implies that the majority of the respondents are benefitted with government pucca housing scheme.

Table-7 examined the Latrine facility; Bathroom facility and Electricity facility.

Table-7: Latrine, Bathroom And Electricity Facility

Facility	No.of Respondents
1) Latrine Facility	
Yes	48 (53.33%)
No	42 (46.77%)
Total	90 (100%)
2) Bathroom facility	
Yes	59 (65.56%)
No	31 (34.44%)
Total	90 (100%)
3) Electricity facility	
Yes	81(90%)
No	09 (10%)
Total	90 (100%)

Source: Field Study

The data in the table reveals that 53.33 percent of the respondent women works have Latrine facility, while 46.77 percent of the respondent households do not have any Latrine facility. It implies that awareness among the tribal women must be created about the Latrine facilities. 65.56 percent of the women worker households in the study have bathroom facility. It implies that 34.44 percent are not having the same. 90 percent of the respondent women worker houses have electricity facility, just 10 percent are no electricity facility. It shows, that the government policy of electricity for each and every house has been utilized by the majority of the respondents in the study.

Photo identity proofs of the respondent women in the study area are analysed in Table-8 given here under.

Table-8: Photo Identity Cards

Facility	No. of Respondents
1) Ration card	
Yes	90(100%)
No	0
Total	90 (100%)
2) Aadhar Card	
Yes	90 (100%)
No	0
Total	90 (100%)
3) Aarogyasree card	
Yes	84 (93.33%)
No	06 (6.67%)
Total	90 (100%)
4) Voter ID	
Yes	60 (100%)
No	0
Total	90 (100%)

Source: Field Study

The data given in the table shows that 100 percent respondent women have Ration cards, Aadhaar Cards and Voter ID cards. Ration card is use full to purchase food items through ration shops. For the sake of benefits of public services Aadhaar card is very use full ID and to cast the vote Voter ID is required. In the case of availability of Aarogyasree card, 93.33 percent of the respondents give response as Yes, while just 5 percent as No. It is also very use full to get free medical treatment at the time of illness. It implies that almost all the respondents have awareness about the Photo IDs.

ECONOMIC CONDITION

How many days work in a year, Daily wage, Land particulars, work under MGNREGA and freedom in economic decisions are discussed here under.

Days of work as agricultural labourer in a year, analyses in Table-9

Table-9: Days Of Work As Agricultural Labour In A Year

Work Days	No. of Respondents
51-100	30 (33.33%)
101-150	23 (25.56%)
151-200	21 (23.33%)
201-250	16 (17.78%)
Total	90 (100%)

Source: Field Study

The data shows in the table reveals that 33.33 percent of the respondent women have work from 51 to 100 days in a year. 25.56 percent from 101 – 150 days; 23.33 present from 151 – 200 days and 17.78 percent from 201-250 days works as agricultural labourer in a year. It implies that nearly 59 percent of the women workers are working less than 150 days in a year as agricultural labour while 41 percent working above 150 days. Working days varies from season to season because of the agriculture sector depends on monsoons.

How much amount as daily wage received by the each and every women worker on an average is here under in Table-10.

Table-10: Number Of Days Of Work.

Dailywage in Rs	No. of Respondents
0-100	37 (41.11%)
101-150	41 (45.56%)

2. All most all the women in the study are married, but nearly 9 percent are live without spouses for different reasons.
3. Majority of the women (62.22) opined that 16-18 years of age at their marriage. Nearly 23 percent states that they have 19-21 years at the time of their marriages. 14.44 percent of the women stated that they have below 15 years of age at their marriages.
4. 50 percent of the sample respondents are illiterates. It is noted that remaining 50 percent have education at different levels.
5. Nuclear family system followed by 67.78 percent of the sample respondent women workers. Joint family system is disappearing in the rural areas also.
6. 81.11 percent of the sample respondents have Pucca houses. Government free and pucca housing scheme have been utilized by the more respondents.
7. 53.33 percent have Latrine facility; 65.56 percent bath room facility and 90 percent are have Electricity facility.
8. 100 percent sample respondents opine that Ration card, Voter ID cards are available and 93.33 percent states that Aarogyasree cards are available. Awareness about ID proofs is very much among the sample women.
9. 56 percent of the women workers are working below 150 working days in a year, while 44 percent opined that 151-250 days.
10. Upto Rs.100 as daily wage is stated by 41.11 percent; Rs. 101-150 by 45.56 percent and just 13.33 percent are receiving Rs. 151-200 as daily wage.
11. There is harassments by the owners opined by the 25.56 percent of the sample respondents and 28.89 percent opined harassments by their husbands.
12. 48.89 percent respondent women workers, have own lands, 65.56 percent respondent women works under MGNREGA and 73.33 percent respondent women workers involve in economic decision making.

SUGGESTIONS

1. Steps to eradicate illiteracy among the tribal women though the arrangement of formal and informal sessions.
2. Under 'Swachh Bharath' programme latrine facility must be provide to each and every household. It is very usefull for the aspect of women empowerment.
3. To increase Rural incomes the limitation of 100 days of work under MGNREGA must be enhance.
4. As per the day to day price index, minimum wages must be adjust.
5. To create more employment opportunities during the slack seasons, self employment training programs to be initiated in the rural areas.

CONCLUSION

The Government Rural Development Programmes have created progressive changes in the villages of rural India during the plan period. However, there is an absolute need to promote Agro-Allied activities like dairy, poultry, piggery, horticulture to augment the rural incomes. By developing infrastructure facilities like roads, transport and communication rural-urban connectivities are to be enhanced. Then only our political independence becomes Economic independence.

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