

CHAPTER I

*Introduction and
Research Methodology*

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Chapter I

INTRODUCTION AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

1.1 Introduction

Today in India out of total population nearly 33.34 per cent of population is engaged as agricultural labour, it means who work more than 180 days in year as labours. Out of these 26.27 per cent were female. This indicates that 45 million women were main agriculture labourers. Regarding total women population 14per cent workers were actual owner farmer and 46.2 per cent were agricultural labourers. According to Census Report (2001) total workers in Maharashtra were 42.02 million out of them 26.85 per cent were agricultural labourers. In that about 18.31 per cent are male agriculture labourers.

One of the most serious and depressing problems of India is rural economy with agricultural worker. They are large in number and they are growing and living under the poverty line. They happen to be the most backward, the most exploited and most neglected class of the rural economy.

Woman labour is an important segment of the total workforce in India. More than 90 per cent of the working women in our country were engaged as wage labourers in the unorganised sector even after five decades of the development planning, very little change has been seen in status of the women in our country.

It indicates an increasing poverty, exploitation, indebtedness and seasonal employment, dependence for a large number of countries population particularly for the agricultural labourers that are unorganized and vulnerable. An attempt has been made in the present study to know the socio-economic condition of the females agricultural labourers in the study area. Most of the women are in poverty and they are landless, homeless, under employed and destitute. Women have a lot of domestic work load and they are ill paid and unrecognized.

Hence an attempt has been made in the part of the present study to know the socio-economic condition of female agricultural labourers in the study area along with their pattern of employment. It was necessary to study the wages of female agricultural labourers and to identify factors influencing the agricultural wages, income and expenditure pattern, indebtedness and poverty situation in Malshiras Taluka of Solapur District. The researcher was also interested to know that they are

most illiterate. For all these reason they need to be paid attention by the Government urgently and very seriously.

1.2 Methodology

There are very limited sources of published data and information in respect of female agricultural labourers in our country.

A) Sampling Technique

Researcher has selected an universe of the Malshiras taluka in selected villages of Solapur district in Maharashtra State.

We have selected 11 sample villages from Malshiras Taluka of Solapur District. These villages were selected by using Purposive sampling technique. 10 female agricultural labourers were purposively selected from each of these villages. Hence, total 110 female agricultural labourer's socio-economic condition was observed for the study.

Researcher had visited each sample village personally and got the list of female agricultural labour from *Talathi* and Grampanchayat office. Selected sample villages are given below.

Table No.1.1

Selected villages and total number of agricultural labours in Malshiras Taluka

Sr. No.	Name of sample village	Total Number of Female Agricultural labour	Sample
1	Sangam	174	10
2	Babhulgaon	168	10
3	Ganeshgaon	121	10
4	Nevare	237	10
5	Mahalung	502	10
6	Chakore	373	10
7	Khudus	152	10
8	Maloli	720	10
9	Kanher	324	10
10	Tarangfal	259	10
11	Garwad	343	10
	Total	3373	110

Purposive sampling technique was used to select the sample villages. Villages are selected where there is high population of female agricultural labours. For the sampling

purpose we were selected about 110 (3.26 per cent) female agricultural labour from the Malshiras taluka.

B) Data Collection

All required data was collected from both primary and secondary sources.

1) Primary Data

Researcher has collected primary data by using personal interviews with female agricultural labourers in the study area and the schedules were filled in the view of objectives of the study.

2) Secondary Data

The secondary data was collected from various Government reports, Census reports, Journals, Internet and different Institutions, Grampanchayat, Panchayat Samiti Office of sample taluka and also from Bar. Balasaheb Khardekar Library, Shivaji University, Kolhapur and Library of Chh. Shahu Centre Institute of Business Education and Research (SIBER), Kolhapur.

1.3 Use of Quantitative Techniques

In view of the objective of the study, some appropriate simple statistical techniques such as percentage, arithmetic mean, frequency distribution and cross tabulation along with diagrammatic representation were employed wherever it was essential.

1.4 Period of the study

The period of the study for field work was selected from 2007 to 2008. The one year data collection was made but secondary data were collected from considerable period.

1.5 Objective of the study

The present study is the undertaken with following objective in mind.

1. To study the extent of agricultural labour in India
2. To study socio-economic condition of female agricultural labourers in Malshiras Taluka

3. To study the sources of income and expenditure of female agricultural labours in the study area
4. To examine the problems of the female agriculture labourer and to provide remedial measures on the problems.

1.6 Hypotheses

The hypotheses of the present study are as follows.

1. Most of the female agricultural labourers are illiterate, therefore they are not economically sound to meet even their day to day expenditure, so they remain in indebt.
2. Female agricultural labourers are paid less wages than male labourers for the same work.

1.7 Scope of the Study

The dependence of labours on agriculture is increasing day by day. Agricultural labourers come from the most unorganised and neglected section of the society who are the victims of the low wage, seasonal employment, low income, poverty and indebtedness. It is experienced that their conditions have not improved even after independence.

The female labour force constitutes the major rural worker in India. Women worker faces several problems and constraints related to their work such as lack of continuity, insecurity, wage discrimination, unhealthy job relationship, etc. The exploitation of female labourers in rural regions happens both horizontally and vertically.

1.8 Significance of the Study

The present study is significant to understand the socio-economic problems of female agricultural labourers in depth. The present studies have been conducted to identify various problems and conditions of female agricultural labours. The present study is significant as it is pertaining to the villages viz. Sangam, Babhulgaon, Ganeshgaon, Nevare, Mahalung, Chakore, Khudus, Maloli, Kanher, Tarangfal and Garwad in Malshiras Taluka.

The main objectives of the present study are to make an intensive study of the female agricultural labourers in the selected villages. The inferences drawn therefore

are likely to equally applicable to study villages in the Malshiras taluka as well as the present study will be more helpful to planners and the other social scientist to solve the problems of female agricultural labourers.

1.9 Review of the Literature

Review of literature is important part of the scientific research. It enables the researcher to understand different aspect of the study or the problems to be investigated. The selected literatures available on the subject have been reviewed.

Dugappa M. C. (2008),¹ has highlighted that the women have made tremendous achievement for their social, economical and political progress and women's problems regarding their health, employment, social equality, gender-based discrimination, violence, sexual abuse and atrocities spills over from one generation to another.

Kumari Sujata and Kaushik Vandana (2007),² write in their articles the problems of woman. It can be concluded that probably availability of finance is not as difficult as repayment of it is. The problems are law education, poor skill, lack of mobility prejudiced attitude towards women and cost to which they belongs poor infrastructural support. It means if the women are successful entrepreneur, they should be educated and should give training and trained sufficiently so that they can handle entrepreneurial problems.

Pathak A.V. (2008),³ writes in her paper that there are many gender based discrimination and other problems faced by working women. The economic independence can not achieve equality. The female employment has added to standard of living of the family and society is still secondary.

Kadukar P.M. (2006),⁴ in his study had made associated with different farming system. It shows that arable farming generated employment that was to not only low but varied from season to season. During the period covered depending on the field operation, required for different crops. By and large maximum labour required during the month of October, April and May for specific operation.

Sale B.M. (1999),⁵ indicates that agricultural labourer should be benefited by the government scheme. There was 50 per cent illiteracy in female labour and about 75 per cent of them were undergone the family planning operation and agricultural

employment for 3 months. The total amount sanctioned for pension, for landless old agricultural labour in Sangli district was 50 lakh.

Joshi J.R. (1995),⁶ her study highlighted about the role of women in co-operative sector. It can be looked at in a narrow aspect as well as broad one. The narrow aspects are the question of opportunities, difficulties, facilities and adequacy of training in its broad aspect, the problem is that of working women. It is the question of the out look of society for the appropriate role of the women and the consequent self-estimation by women themselves.

Agrawal A.N. and Kundanlal (1996),⁷ had stated that the condition of labourers in respect of work and income is very poor. In most of the cases it is much worse than the tiny farmers. Their number is quite large at 73.8 million (1991), accounting for about 40 per cent of that total workers in agricultural and 26.4 per cent of the entire labour force in the country.

Doijad M. S (1990),⁸ explained that the actual participation of women in employment is very low. It is almost 38 per cent because of illiteracy and dominance of male upon female. The Government should take firm decision about employment of additional family labour throughout help women to grant the opportunities, so women participation in co-operative movement would increase "equal opportunities to all". This is only a slogan, if it should be brought into practice, the only women can create impressive work in the co-operative movement.

According to the study of Nayak P.B (1991),⁹ discrimination in the payment of wages between male and female in both the areas of the urban and rural. The participation of female is observed that it should be increased in both areas. Total workforce (main workers plus marginal workers) of female indicate that is increased to 19.76 per cent in 1981 from 14.15 per cent in 1971.

Kurulkar R.P. (1989),¹⁰ had stated that the most of the children of school going age of these landless families, were not attending school. This is really the most disturbing fact which had to be probed in future. Enquiries made with the heads of the families have revealed that although, education is free for the economically weak families; their children have to do petty economic activities to support the family income.

Patil S.A. (2006),¹¹ critically evaluated economic condition and problems of female workers in tobacco industry of Jayshingpur city. In which he has studied about the nature of work, age structure, weight material status, transport facilities, bonus,

etc. He found that about 28.57 per cent female workers save in private weekly Bhishi or chit fund 37.14 per cent female workers were indebted. The women who were in debt are 99.05 per cent they were earning per month between Rs.50 and Rs.1500. The female workers annual income from all sources was between Rs.10,001 to 30,000 and 18.09 per cent female worker reported that their annual income by sources is 30,001 to 50,000.

Devakar Vandana (2002),¹² feels that male dominate society has given secondary status to the women. It is supposed that she is inferior to the men and because of the traditions and superstitious belief of inferiorities in the society. She is blamed for own sorrow and suffering. The status of woman is intimately connected with their economic position. The economic status of women is now accepted an indicator of a society's optimum stage of development. Hence, an attempt has been made to examine employment opportunities to female in agriculture and allied activities.

1.10 Statement of the Problems

The statement of the problems of the present study is "A Study of Agricultural Female Labour in Selected Villages of Malshiras Taluka". The aim of the study is to analyze the socio-economic conditions, wages, income, saving, expenditure, poverty and indebtedness of the female agricultural labourers in Malshiras taluka in Solapur district of Maharashtra.

The economic condition in particular and living condition in general of female agricultural labourers in the sample villages is very poor.

1.11 Limitation of the Study

The scope of the research is limited to female agriculture labour. It confines to only one taluka (i.e.Malshiras) and has its own limitation and can be made applicable with caution. The samples have been collected at macro level for a wider generalization but due to financial and time constraint, it has been confined to a limited area. However, environment and problems are bound to be different from place to place. At the time of research survey some of the sample respondents have inadequate information. Almost all the household do not maintain their accounts, this

has led to marginal statistical error. However, due care has been taken to keep the degree of error within limits.

1.12 Chapter Scheme

The chapter scheme of the present study is as under:

1. Introduction and Research Methodology
2. Agricultural Labour in India
3. Profile of Malshiras Taluka and Selected Villages
4. Social Status of Female Agricultural Labour in Sample Villages
5. Economic Condition of Female Agricultural Labour in Sample Villages
6. Conclusions and Suggestions

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