# Research Design and Methodology

## 1.1 Introduction:-

The agricultural labourers are playing an important role in the food grain production of the economy. However, the agricultural labourers have not received sufficient attention regarding their socio economic conditions and problems.

Out of the 350 million people below the poverty line in the country, around 300 million are in the rural areas. These consist largely of the landless labourers, small farmers, rural artisans and other workers. Agricultural labourers are socially and economically one of the poorest sections of the society. They are unskilled, unorganized and dispersed over a large area.

## 1.2 Origin of the Research Problem

Socio economic conditions and problems of agricultural labourers have not been studied by researchers so far. The present study aims at critically examining the socio economic conditions and problems of agricultural labourers in Miraj tehsil of Sangli district. Attempt is made to bring out gross root empirical findings of them.

## 1.3 Significance of the Study

We have observed that agricultural labourers are playing an important role in the food grain production of the economy. However, over the course of last five to six decades agricultural labourers have under gone little improvement by various socio economic measures such as land reforms, minimum wages to agricultural labourers etc. But it has not fully helped to solve their socio economic problems. Their poor living condition affects their working efficiency and productivity in agriculture and this in turn affects the economy as a whole. Agriculture had to bear this burden of excess labourers which has resulted in low productivity of labourers in agricultural sector. It is therefore; clear that the socio economic conditions of these agricultural labourers must be kept satisfactory to ensure their efficiency and to increase the productivity of Indian agriculture. It is on this background, we have decide to conduct a socio economic survey of agricultural labourers in Miraj tehsil of Sangli district to assess the situation and identify there problems.

## 1.4 Hypothesis of the study

Since the study is related with the problems and socio-economic conditions of agricultural labourers in area under study, it promotes to formulate and test validity of hypothesis on following lines.

1) There is acute poverty in agricultural labourers.
2) Agricultural labourers are still facing various problems in their living, working and economic conditions.
3) In nearest future, there is remarkable scope for the welfare of agricultural labourers in rural areas.
4) It logical to accept that position in respect of health, nutrition and education agricultural labourers and their family member will be very weak and poor.
5) Most of the agricultural labourers were from backward class.

## 1.5 Objectives of the Study

The study has following objectives.

A) To provide a brief review of studies on agricultural labourers.
B) Enumerating the socio economic conditions of agricultural labourers.
C) Identifying the socio economic problems of these agricultural labourers.
D) Identifying the problems of these agricultural labourers particularly in respect of their working conditions.
E) To suggest the remedial measures for the improvement of socio economic conditions of these agricultural labourers.

## 1.6 Scope of the Study

The study of the agricultural labourers is very vast. The scope of the study of agricultural labourers consist exploitation of agricultural labourers, agricultural productivity and agricultural labourers, wages and efficiency of agricultural labourers, benefits derived by the agricultural labourers from the various government schemes, examination of the effectiveness of various measures taken by the Government, growth in the number of agricultural labourers, disguised unemployment and agricultural labourers, under employment position of agricultural labourers etc. Theses are the thirst area of the study of agricultural labourers but the efficiency and productivity of agricultural

labourers affects the food grain production and the overall development of the economy. Our study aims at critically examining in a socio economic condition of agricultural labourers. For the sake of convenience and manageability, we have chosen Miraj tehsil of Sangli district as a unit of our study. The scope of this study consists of enquiries like socio economic conditions of the agricultural labourers and identifications of their problems and suggestions regarding remedial measures.

## 1.7 Methodology of the Study

The methodology of the study is analytical and descriptive. Both secondary data and filled survey method is adopted with a view to achieving specified objectives. The entire investigation was carried out in following manner.

A) Collection of information regarding sample agricultural labourers who are working 20 villages in the Miraj tehsil of Sangli district.

B) Personal discussion with respondents.

C) On the spot observation.

D) The analytical evaluation of collected data.

## 1.8 Sources of Secondary Data

The secondary data is collected from government officials, various social organizations, village Panchyat Leadership, Gram Sevek, Accountants in the villages etc. Some data is collected from published book, Journals and government official records. Reference of M.Phil and Ph.D. thesis regarding the study of agricultural labourers is also used for the study.

## 1.9 Primary Data

Besides, the secondary data, filed survey were undertaken to collect data based on primary information from sample agricultural labourers. The primary data were collected through a pre tested partially questionnaire and approaching the agricultural labourers personally for interviews. The survey covers all the aspects related to the socio economic conditions of the agricultural labourers in 20 villages of Miraj Tehsil. For the collection of necessary information, detailed fine part questionnaire was prepared particularly keeping in mind the literacy level of the respondents. Collect the information from agricultural labourers mainly with reference to aspects like family background,

occupational information, working hours, wages, trade unions, loans, income structure, expenditure pattern, saving tendency, indebtedness as well as social status of the agricultural labourers.

The questionnaire for agricultural labourers was prepared in Marathi. The framing of questionnaire were done in such a way that respondents could easily understood and their response could be quicker and easily recordable.

### 1.10 Sample Size

As regards the sample size, we choose 100 agricultural labourers in the 2o villages in the Miraj tehsil of Sangli district. There are total 65 villages in Miraj tehsil. We have selected landholder, landless, bonded and hired agricultural labourers for the interview purpose

Thus, the overall sample size is 3 percent of the total agricultural labourers population in the selected 2o villages in Miraj tehsil.

### 1.11 Investigation Procedure

We have selected 100 sample respondents in the 20 villages in the Miraj tehsil of Sangli district. The actual total size of sample connects 100 household including 386 populations. The sample is the outcome of simple random sampling and purposive sampling.

First of all, we prepared alphabetical list of 65 villages in Miraj tehsil of Sangli district. The 20 villages were selected on sequential random basis to select the study area. The agricultural labourers in these selected villages were undertaken to collect primary information from them.

### 1.12 Period of Study

Interviews of agricultural labourers were started on May 2010 and continued till July 2010. The respondent were interviewed both during the working and non working time. The actually time taken for each interview varied from 60 to 90 minutes.

## 1.14 Tabulation and Interpretation

After the filed work was over, the data were processed and tabulated manually in accordance with the requirements of the various aspects of the study. Simple statistical methods like percentage, averages, and ratios were used in appropriate places for data analysis.

Bar diagrams and pie diagrams are also used for data analysis.

## 1.14 Spot Observations

It is necessary to collect observational data regarding the day to day life of the agricultural labourers. A few days spent in some villages among agricultural labourers. The researcher spent some days to observe the social practices, housing, living and working conditions, hours, working process, payment methods, and working environment etc.

## 1.15 Chapter Scheme of the Report.

The entire study has been divided in to following seven chapters.

**Chapter I** : **Research design and methodology**

**Chapter II** : **Review of Literature on agricultural labourers**

**Chapter III** : **A Profile of Sangli District**

**Chapter IV** : **A Profile of Miraj Tehsil**

**Chapter V** ; **Social Profile of the Agricultural Labourers**

**Chapter VI** : **Economic Profile of the Agricultural Labourers**

**Chapter VII** : **Summary, Conclusions and suggestions**

## 1.16 Limitations of the Study

During the course of the study, we have faced many problems which in effects constitute the limitations. It was a time consuming process tc collect information from agricultural labourers therefore, we choose micro level study of agricultural labourers in Miraj Tehsil of Sangli District.

Respondent are illiterate so they never keeps any accounts of their income and expenditure. By considering the above facts, the study is limited for the specific period. These are the limitations of our study.

# SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

## INTRODUCTION

The farmers and agricultural labourers constitute a very important segment of rural society in Maharashtra. Agricultural labourers who are mostly landless and form a significant section of rural society mainly depend upon wage employment in agriculture. According to draft census 2011, reported that about 72 percent of population is living in rural area. The agricultural labourers are one of the poorest sections of the community facing many problems, like underemployment, low wage rates, low income, unfavorable working conditions, low savings, indebtedness, bad housing condition, low standard of living, low education etc. Therefore an attempt has been made to study the present economic conditions and problems of agricultural labourers in the Miraj tehsil of Sangli district.

## CHAPTER – I

## RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

Chapter I deal with introduction, origin of research problem, significance, hypothesis, objectives, scope and methodology of the study. In the methodology of the study. The methodology of the study is analytical and descriptive. Both secondary data and filled survey method is adopted with a view to achieving specified objectives. The secondary data is collected from government officials, various social organizations, village Panchyat Leadership, Gram Sevek, Accountants in the villages etc. Some data is collected from published book, Journals and government official records. Besides, the secondary data, filed survey were undertaken to collect data based on primary information from sample agricultural labourers. The primary data were collected through a pre tested partially questionnaire and approaching the agricultural labourers personally for interviews. The survey covers all the aspects related to the socio economic conditions of the agricultural labourers in 20 villages of Miraj Tehsil. We choose 100 agricultural labourers in the 2o villages in the Miraj tehsil of Sangli districtfor sample size. There are total 65 villages in Miraj tehsil. We have selected landholder, landless, bonded and hired agricultural labourers for the interview purpose. First of all, we prepared alphabetical list

of 65 villages in Miraj tehsil of Sangli district. The 20 villages were selected on sequential random basis to select the study area. Interviews of agricultural labourers were started on May 2010 and continued till July 2010. After the filed work was over, the data were processed and tabulated manually in accordance with the requirements of the various aspects of the study. Simple statistical methods like percentage, averages, and ratios were used in appropriate places for data analysis. Bar diagrams and pie diagrams are also used for data analysis.

## CHAPTER – II

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE ON AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS

Chapter II deals with theoretical aspects of the problem under study. The village Is an important social and economic unit in Indian society. The percentage of agricultural labourer population is 60 percent of total population. Majority of the agricultural labourers belongs to scheduled caste and scheduled tribes and they are among the most exploited section of the society. According to the census of 1991 "A person who works on another persons land for wages in money, kind or share is reared as an agricultural labour. He or she has no risk in cultivation but he or she merely works on another persons land for wages and agricultural labourer has no right leases on contract on land on which he or she works."

Agricultural labourer classified as a family labourer, permanent labourer, casual labourers, attached labourers, contract labourers, child labourer, rural labourer, Bonded labourer and landless labourer. According to the census 2001, the number of agricultural labourers is 78.03 million. The important cause for the rapid growth of agricultural labourers is the rapid growth of population, indebtedness, lack of employment opportunities, Uneconomic holdings, and capitalistic nature of agriculture..

The state and central Government has introduced various programmes to improve their economic conditions and social status of agricultural labourers. It includes Passing of Minimum Wage Act 1948, Abolition of Bonded agricultural labourers act 1972, 20 point economic programme 1975, Crash Scheme for Rural Employment (CSRE), Food for Workers Programme, National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP),

Rehabilitation of Landless Agricultural Rural Labourers (RLARL), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Rural Landless Employment Programme (RLEP) and 100 Days Employment Guarantee Programe 2005, providing land to landless labourers, provision of housing societies for houseless labourers, etc. These are the main programmes implemented by the Government in last 60 years.

## CHAPTER – III

### A Profile of Sangli Discrit

The Sangli district is located at the extreme south of the state and bordering between the states of Maharashtra and Karanatak. The district is geographically divided in to three zones namely western zone, central zone and eastern zone. The district lies in the southern part of Maharashtra state.

There are 724 villages, 705 grampanchtats, 10 tehsil and panchayat samitis, 7 urban centers and 1 corporation and four municipal corporations in the Sangli district.

The grographical are of Sangli district is 8572 sq. kilometers and net cultivated are is 637707 hectares. The soil is black, red and brown. In some places one class of soil blends with another in varying proporations and is in turn modified by sand gravel lime, salt and other ingredients. Krishna is the main river warana and yerala are tributaries. There are Man, Bor and Agrani River also flow in eastern area. The climate of Sangli district is generally hot and dry. The maximum temperature is $42^0$c and minimum 10.30c.

According to the draft report of Sangli district 2011, the total population is 2820575 out of this 1435792 male and 1384603 female population. The literacy ratio is 82.5 percent out of this 90.40 percent male and 74.66 percent female population literacy. The density of population is 301 and sex ratio is 964. Hindus, Muslims, Bouddhas, Jains, Christans are the main religions in the district.

There are five major, six medium and 83 minor irrigations projects. The principal crops are jowar, bajara, rice, wheat, tur, gram, groundnut, turmeric, cotton, tobacco, chilies, sugarcane, grape banana etc. There are 424 bank branches in the Sangli district. There are round about Rs.12 thousand corers deposit in the national banks, sched. Commercial banks, urban banks and sangli district central co-operatives bank. There are

5943 co-operatives institutions in the district. In the sangli district there are 2288 education institutions and 628 health centers.

Sangli is the district head quarter. Ganesh temple in the Sangli city is famous all over Maharashtra there is also famous Datta temple in Auodumbar and Ganesh temple in Tasgaon. Sangli is the trade centre of turmeric, Jiggery and chilies. Miraj fort, Sangli fort, sent Mirasheb darga, Ramling temple, Museum, all India radio centre and Marathi drama centre these are the famous centers in the Sangli district.

## CHAPTER – IV

## A Profile of Miraj Tehsil

After independence, Miraj city was the important city of the then Southern Satara district of Maharashtra State. The separate Miraj tehsil of Sangli district exist in the year 1965.

Geographically the tehsil is divided into two zones namely Western Zone and Eastern Zone. Western is fully irrigated and Western Zone is partly irrigated and partly depends upon monsoon. The climate in Miraj Tehsil of Sangli district is hot and dry. In the west region the climate is cool due to irrigated area.

As per census 2001, the population of the Miraj tehsil is highest in the Sangli district It is 756048 out of it 389149 male and 366899 female population. There are 2589 scheduled casts population under the below poverty line in Miraj tehsil. It includes 2556 farmers, 22 agricultural labourers and 11 other peoples. The literacy rate is 82 percent in the Miraj Tehsil. Literacy rate among male is 90 percent and females 73.7 percent.

The density of population in Miraj tehsil was 547 in 1971 and 816 is in especially the year 2001. The density population is very high in the urban areas. According to the census 2001, the number of households is 150941. Out of these 70212 is rural households and 80729 is urban households.

The sex ratio is also not satisfactory in competition to the sex ratio of National level. The total cultivated land is 91833 hectare and the land holders are about 1 lakh. Round about 11 thousand hectare is not available for the use of cultivation. Out of the cultivationable area land, the irrigated land is 25146 heaters.

Krishna is the main river in the Miraj tehsil. Warna and Yerala are tributaries. Warna river flows from west to east of the tehsil and joins the krishan river at Haripur near Sangli.

The co-operatives movements started in the beginning of the 20th centaury. In recent years, there is a large increase in the number of co-operative societies serving various purposes such as supply of credit, marketing of agriculture produce, processing of raw materials etc. The audit class clearly shows that the co-operative societies in Miraj tehsil are suffering from several weaknesses.

There are two industrial estates in Miraj tehsil. One is developed by Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (M.I.D.C.) in Kupwad and another is Vasantdada Co-operative Industrial Estate situated in north Sangli

The growth of Trade and Commerce in the Miraj tehsil depends upon transport services and banking facilities. These facilities are remarkable in the tehsil. The existing transport system in the Miraj tehsil is satisfactory. The roads consist of state highways, major district roads and other non planned villages roads

The educational system in the Miraj Tehsil including training facilities is adequate in terms of quantity. The literacy is very high. According to the census 2001, the literacy ratio is 84 percent. Sangli is the district head quarter. Miraj fort, Sant Mirasaheb Dargaha, satar a musical instrument produced at Miraj is famous in the State as well as National level.

## CHAPTER – V

## Social Profile of the Agricultural Labourers

One of the most disquieting features of rural economy of India has been the growth in the number of agricultural labourers engaged in crop production. Agricultural labourers are mostly depending on wage employment in agriculture. According to 2001 census, the total number of agricultural labourers in Sangli district was 10 percent of the total population. Therefore an attempt had been made in present study to know about living conditions and problems of agricultural labourers in Miraj tehsil with following conclusions.

In Miraj tehsils there are 65 villages, 3 urban area and the total area of under cultivation is 91833 hectares. As regards the sample size, we choose 100 agricultural labourers in the 20 villages in Miraj tehsil for the interview purpose to bring out gross root empirical findings.

1) The heads of families of agricultural labourers were belongs to the age group between 31 to 50 years, they have to go for work more than one km and less than 3 kms.
2) The literacy among them is more but they were having only secondary education. About 80 percent of their children taking education.
3) About 77 percent agricultural labourers are Hindus.45 percent of agricultural labourers are backward class and 55 percent are from open category. Most of the agricultural labourers are local. Majority of the labourers mother tongue is Marathi.
4) About 60 percent agricultural labourers are from joint family system and average size of family is 3.86 persons, and the sex ratio is 934.
5) The agricultural labourers approach towards family planning is negative. They have not adopted family planning surgery. The major causes given by them are all daughters, more sons wanted, or fear about medical risk.
6) Agricultural labourers refuse to inter caste marriage. They prefer the marriage of their children in internal blood relation.
7) Agricultural labourers could not get medical facilities at their village because the available medical facilities are not fair.
8) Most of the agricultural labourers were either chewing tobacco, gutkha or smoking tobacco and also drinking of alcohol.
9) Most of the agricultural labourers are landless and the experience of work is above 20 years. They have chosen this work because of no other skill. 80 percent of agricultural labourers work 6 to 8 hours daily.
10) The substitute work of agricultural labourers is animal husbandry.
11) The agricultural labourers seek employment for 9 to 10 months in a year and in an irrigated are they work above 10 month in a year.

12) Behavior of landowner to the agricultural labourers is fair they provides many facilities and also give them advances without interest.

13) Agricultural labourers have to face risky jobs at the work site. They have to walk 1 to 3 kilometers with their children to the work site. Employer gives the wages as per their will and convenience.

14) There is no existence of agricultural labourers trade union and most of the agricultural labourers told that they do not need union because they solve their problems by method of discussion with landowners.

15) The agricultural labourers are not acquainted with the social security schemes of the Government.

16) Only landholder agricultural labourers are member of the various co-operatives institutions.

## CHAPTER – VI

## Economic Profile of Agricultural Labourers

Economic conditions and problems of agricultural labourers has equal importance in the life of agricultural labourers. Economic conditions decide the living standards of agricultural labourers. We asked about all the economic aspects, their problems and the conclusions are as follows.

1) Most of the agricultural labourer's monthly income is in the range of Rs. 3001 to Rs. 4000. About 70 percent agricultural labourers annual income is in the range of Rs. 20,001 to Rs. 30,000. Average annual income is Rs. 22,360.

2) 62 percent of agricultural labourers family members are working with the heads of their family members and family members supports to seeks their livelihood.

3) Landless agricultural labourers are about 74 percent and only 26 percent of agricultural labourers own agricultural land up to one acre. The ratio of agricultural labourers having irrigated land is very negligible. The average annual income of landholder agricultural labourers is Rs. 5076.

4) Agricultural labourers does not get sufficient income from their land holding so they are keeping buffaloes, goats and poultry birds to meet their family

needs. The average annual income from animal husbandry is Rs. 3964 .Their animal has no secured shelter.

5) 93 percent agricultural labourers annual income from all sources is less than Rs. 30,000. The average annual income of agricultural labourers is Rs. 26324.

6) Most of the agricultural labourers have their own husbandry migrated agricultural labourers are living in rental house about 90 percent agricultural labourers have bicycle, electricity in their home they are enjoying T.V. programmes, using cell phones. All these commodities shows that the class of agricultural labourers is changing slowly with modern area.

7) Only 28 percent agricultural labourers found indebted. Those who have a land, they have taken loan for the cultivation of land. The average amount of debt is Rs. 21300. The agricultural labourers get loans from banks, credit co-operatives societies, landlords, Bhishi Madals, self help groups, milkman and gold smith.

8) Debts taken from landlords, milkman, friends and relativities are need not any type of mortgage. These loans are interest free. But Bhishi Mandal, Goldsmith and money lenders takes mortgage and the rate of interest is very high and also it remains calculated on monthly basis.

9) About 50 percent agricultural labourers are saving monthly for marriage of their daughters, children's education and purchase of consumer durable goods. The average monthly saving is Rs. 383.

10) Agricultural labourers spend money for various purposes i.e. 21 percent for food grains, milk education, pan, bidi and tobacco etc.

## SUGGESTIONS

After analysis of secondary data and empirical evidences of various Government schemes for upliftment of agricultural labourers, the following suggestions will be quite fruitful.

1) Efforts should be made to evaluate the implementation of various Government schemes for agricultural labourers. Necessary modifications should be made in these schemes.

2) Efforts should be made to build the district wise effective organizations of agricultural labourers.

3) It seems that non irrigated areas have great potential of employment so Government should try to develop irrigation facilities and measures should be taken to develop dry land farming, watershed development, soil conservation, adoption of new agricultural technology in the east area of Miraj tehsil.

4) It was observed that, both in irrigated and non irrigated area, wage rates of female agricultural labourers are lower than male agricultural labourers. Therefore parity in wages should be maintained by the Government.

5) Automatic Revision in wage rates according to the inflation rate in economy is necessary so Government should try to provide necessary mechanism in this regard.

6) Efforts should be made to the successful implementation of minimum wages Act. The Act should be subject to revision with increase in the cost of living. It will help to strengthen the bargaining power of agricultural labourers with the employer.

7) Majority of the agricultural labourers are living bellows poverty line, They are unable to get minimum recommended levels of nutrition required to work efficiently. So Government should try to increase their purchasing power as they can purchase essential food items to maintain the calories and other nutrients.

8) The construction of house should be taken on top priority basis. The Government should try to provide the minimum construction material on subsidized rates to the agricultural labourers as well as for their pet animal shatters.

9) Most of the agricultural labourers in Miraj tehsil are landless. Government should try to distribute surplus land to these labourers.

10) To reduce, the number of agricultural labourers in Miraj tehsil, the Government and district administration should try to generate new employment opportunities in the industrial sector. It will also help to reduce the problem of disguised unemployment in the tehsil.

11) Government should try to provide group training programme to unskilled labourers in Miraj tehsil.

12) The appropriate measures should be adopted for the generation of employments during the slack season in agriculture.

13) The social organizations should try to establish co-operative credit society for agricultural labourers in Miraj tehsil to provide loans at reasonable rates of interest.

14) Efforts should be made to provide irrigation facilities at concessional rates to land holder agricultural labourer. It will help to increase productivity, production and ultimately the income from agricultural to the agricultural labourers.

15) The state Government should introduce family pension scheme for the agricultural labourers who are below poverty line and who are more than the age of 60 with the partial finance support of central Government. Appropriate plan should be made to avoid the misuse of the scheme.

16) Social organizations particularly non Government organizations should try to provide adequate institutional loans to the agricultural labourers at reasonable rates of interest.

17) The government should try to provide life insurance, fire insurance, livestock insurance, and medical insurance to the agricultural labourers on minimum monthly installments.

18) The Government should try to provide provident fund scheme to the agricultural labourers who pays the monthly contribution to the Government regularly. The accumulated amounts of provident fund with interest should be given after the completion of the age 60 of the related agricultural labour.

19) The social organizations should try to establish consumer's co-operative society to fulfill their needs of food grains and other domestic consumer goods at reasonable rate. These societies should try to provide agricultural inputs on reasonable rates to the agricultural labourers.

20) The Government should establish study groups to evaluate and successful implementation of schemes and programmes at regular intervals. The

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recommendations of the study groups should be effectively implemented for the benefit of agricultural labourers.

21) The social organizations should try to create awareness about the socio economic conditions and problems of agricultural labourers in the landlords and induce them to change their unfavorable approach towards agricultural labourers. Their approach will make socio economic revolution in the life of agricultural labourers