

Features of Women Agricultural laborers in Erode district of Tamil Nadu: A Sociological Analysis

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ABSTRACT

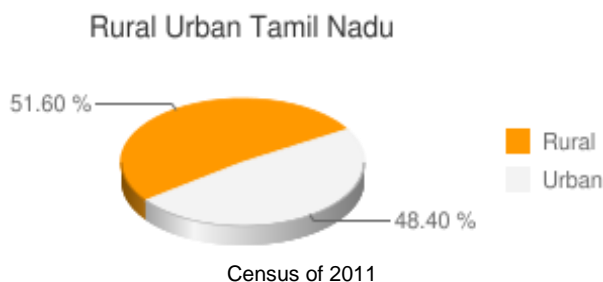
Formers, cultivators and the agricultural laborers are those who have cultivable land or not but they contribute their mite to the development of the cities in Erode district of Tamil Nadu. However, a study has been conducted to find out contributions of formers at small villages neared to Sathyamangalam taluk, identified the features of women agricultural laborers. The people are engaged in agriculture whenever season are there they become laborers, sometimes buyer as well as sellers when the harvest is over in this context the agriculture products are getting more and more appreciable contributions from the tiny villages supply of food grains, small marketing abilities, hardworking nature etc., are playing a vital roles in the study area. When compare to men women-folk find very fine time to help the agriculture growth by taking the assignments by involving themselves in the process of industrialization, the group dynamics, values are the agricultural work, commitment towards occupation and motivational skills are encouraging they were to find out helping the cities very significantly. In spite of low level of education, even within the family the women contribution is excellent and they make the industries very vibrant. The dicey mixture of rural culture as neat by urban centers and vice-versa is highly visible where ever we observe. The keen observation by the researchers across the villages particularly in remote villages they contribute their labor systematically. This district women not only famous for agricultural work, they are involving livestock management, giving care to children and needy in the family and also sometimes decision makers in the family. They are role is very important to the family members.

In this line of thinking, the present paper through its lights on features of women agricultural laborers in the Sathyamangalam taluk of Erode district of Tamil Nadu.

1. Introduction

Agriculture is the most important sector, not only Tamil Nadu, but plays a major role throughout the world. India is the world's second largest gross domestic product (17.4%) in 2017; China contributes to 8.6% at the first and is the third largest contributor to the developed country, the United States (1.12%). Each of the states in India has one exception: For example, the rice in West Bengal is high and in Kerala Tea, coffee and cardamom are the most productive. Tamil Nadu has a total population of over seven corers as per 2011 census. There are about 7, 423, 832 people of 0-6 years old male and

female children. Like these states, Tamil Nadu has also got a unique distinction of producing various agricultural products. Every district in the state of Tamil Nadu produces a variety of crops. The highest level of rice is produced in Tiruvarur district and the Nilgiris district, where tea and coffee are high. Erode is the most dense district in the state of Tamil Nadu. In this district, the turmeric, paddy, sugarcane, cotton, banana, corn and various kinds of seed crops are growing. In this district, agriculture is being cultivated in three ways: well-irrigation, river-irrigation and rain fed. The rural women are backbone of agriculture.



As explained above, Tamil Nadu has the highest number of villagers than the city. Most rural people depend on agriculture.

2. Women agriculture laborer

Sociology has at least four perspectives to deliberate about the human society and its structure and functions as well. One of the perspectives is functionalism which portrays its

attention on labour and its uses. Labour is a phenomenon which is imbedded in every human being. According to Caplow labour is perishable and is cannot be stored or saved. A social worker, environmental engineer and inventor, American Theodore Caplow, is a woman who has compiled a number of factors in female literature in his book "The Sociology of the Wire", 1954 of Women in which suggests that women can sometimes not match men in their profession. For that, they characterized some of the common philosophies:

1. The key role and social status of women, housewife and mother.
2. The second economic role of women is "family breadwinners / providers".
3. Employers who have earned more jobs in society are not necessarily an employment requirement.
4. The historical (cultural) domination of men's workplace.

Female workers work in different farming practices in the agricultural sector in the same way as men. For example, women are also engaged in watering, and spraying killers for crops. Not only this, however, rural female workers are doing well in livestock breeding, domestic works and taking care of children, taking care of aged and then going to work in agriculture.

3. The study area

The Erode district has a number of specialties. The Indian social activist and father of modern Tamil Nadu, the 'Thantahi Periyar', followed by mathematician genius Srinivasa Ramanujan, Tirupur Kumaran, present Kerala Governor P. Sathasivam and K. B. Sundarambalam all are born in Erode. There are various tourist sites in this district. Bhavani Sagar, Kodiveri and Perumpallam Dams. So many famous temples also located in this district such as the Pannaari Amman Temple, the Mukkudal Bhavani and so on. Yellow in this district is very much cultivated and harvested. So the district farmers called 'Yellow City'. Sugarcane, cotton, maize sorghum, paddy, ragi, sorghum, chilli, banana, various varieties of spinach and small Cereals varieties are highly grown. The Sathyamangalam Taluk is currently the Tiger Reserve in Erode District. The district is the largest in the forest area, not only in the development of leaders, agriculture & tourism and worship sites. The road in this forest area is strong enough to connect Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

Erode district has a total wide area of 9 taluks, 14 blocks and rural panchayats 343. In this district, nearly 3.09 lakh hectares of land are using for farming activities. Agriculture is a main economic activity in this district provided that employment to 59.68% of the work force. Total produce of Gingelly and Turmeric is highest in the state. Sugarcane yield stands 3rd place next to Salem and Namakkal districts.

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4. Methodology

The authors have interviewed 410 women respondents by using the tool interview schedule. After the several scientific processes, the researchers have adopted the Systematic Random Sampling technique to select the respondents from the Sathyamangalam Taluk. Since the article concentrates on the agricultural laborers the villages like Ukkaram, Shenbagabudur, Desipalayam, Kavilipalayam, Kakkarakuttai, Millmedu, Vandipalayam and Pungampalli. The researcher has interview method to collect the data in a face-to-face contact processes. The collected data has been processing editing, coding, classification and finally tables have been prepared.

5. The discussion

A majority of the respondents belong to Most Backward Community (70.70%) are involving the agriculture and allied activities compare to other communities. Only 0.20% of the respondents belong to Forward Community. Despite the various industries, the most backward class is engaged in agriculture for its own land or day wage. But the forward class is doing very little in the agricultural industry. More than three fourth proportions (77.10%) of the respondents are started their work at less than 14 years. In rural areas, most women have been engaged in agriculture from the very young age to raise their family's economy. This agricultural work is still in the vicinity of their place of residence and the desire of the profession to continue to work today. An overwhelming proportion (95.90%) of the respondents is maintaining the cordial relationship with the fellow workers. Although there are a wide variety of job sharing methods in agriculture, they have a very close relationship with them. Since this is a good relationship, there are times when they go to different places without having any problem. (57.30%) of the respondents are has to told skill is necessary for continue this job. The farmers who work in agriculture say that they need skill for transplanting, irrigation and other important jobs.

6. Conclusion

In this district, women are more than men in rural areas involved in agriculture and allied activities. The women agricultural laborers have so many responsibilities like look after the elderly and the children in the family, the care of the housework, to be concerned the livestock and then the agricultural wage work. At present, women are doing almost all the jobs equal to men. For example: storing, weeding, winnowing, harvesting, Plant protection, Fertilizer application, irrigation, sowing, and transplanting. Despite the fact that women are much less paid than men. Women are now looking for other jobs to change their family economy and social status. Rural women are a backbone of the agriculture and also the district & state of the economy will face the consequences.

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