ROLE OF WOMEN FARMERS AND AGRICULTURAL LABOURS IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN VIJAYAPURA DISTRICT: A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY

SUHASINI B. ANAND [1] & DR. M.P. BALIGAR [2]

[1]Research Scholar, [2]Chairman
Department of Studies and Research in Sociology, Karnataka State Akkamahadevi
Women's University, Vijayapura, Karnataka

Abstract:

Karnataka's economy is associate farming economy and intrinsically the general development of the state is principally counting on the expansion and development of agriculture and allied sectors. There has been important increase in productivity and quality within the food production within the State over the last decade. There has additionally been amendment within the cropping pattern from standard food crops thereto of high worth crops like fruits, vegetables, flowers and plantation crops. Although this has raised the financial gain levels, employment chance and therefore the scope for agro based mostly industry; there's still a substantial gap within the sort of infrastructure and technology resulting in glut, scarcity, fluctuation in costs, wastage and poor remunerative costs.

INTRODUCTION

The State Government views the substantial expansion of agriculture and related sectors as a key driver for accelerating the state's gross domestic product (GDP) growth, aiming to enhance farmers' financial returns and ensure food security. The state has established diversity across 10 agro-climatic zones, promoting various forms of agriculture and cultivating crops, while also fostering an extensive framework supporting the fisheries sector. The strategic emphasis on "Agribusiness and Food Processing" represents the primary focus area to swiftly elevate the state's GDP.

Economic Profile of Vijayapura District

Vijayapura District in Karnataka, nestled amid the fertile plains of the Deccan Plateau, is a tapestry woven with

historical grandeur and agricultural abundance. Renowned for its architectural marvels from bygone eras, this district stands as a living testament to the legacy of various dynasties that have left an indelible mark on its cultural heritage. The monumental Gol Gumbaz, an architectural masterpiece with one of the largest domes globally, graces the skyline, drawing visitors enchanted by its magnificence. Amidst the historical richness, agriculture reigns supreme, cultivating bountiful crops like jowar, cotton, wheat, and maize, anchoring the district's economy. Yet, alongside this agrarian foundation, small-scale industries, especially in textiles, leather, and agro-processing, add to the economic tapestry. Vijayapura District not only boasts architectural wonders like Gol Gumbaz and Ibrahim Rauza but also stands as an agricultural powerhouse, weaving together the threads of history, culture, and economic vitality in the heart of Karnataka.

The below table (1) illustrates the economic breakdown of a district in India in terms of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the contributions from various sectors measured in Indian Rupees (INR) in Crore, along with their respective contribution percentages. Total District GDP (Gross Domestic Product): The overall GDP of the district amounts to 5608 Crore INR, constituting 1.8% of the total GDP. Agriculture and Allied Sectors (Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Forestry, Fishing) contributes 1543 Crore INR, making up 3.6% of the total district

GDP. It encompasses activities related to agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry, and fishing, and the industrial sector, inclusive of manufacturing, construction, and mining, contributes 1355 Crore INR, accounting for 1.6% of the total district GDP, Services (Real Estate, Hotels, Restaurants, Banking, and Legal Services): The services sector, which includes real estate, hospitality, banking, and legal services, contributes 2710 Crore INR, representing 1.5% of the total district GDP. These figures highlight the proportional contributions of each sector to the district's economic output, showcasing the significance of agriculture and allied sectors as well as services in the district's overall economic landscape, despite their varying contribution percentages.

Table 1: Contribution of Vijayapura District to GSDP of Karnataka

Description	INR (in Crore*)	Contribution %
Total District GDP	5608	1.8
Agriculture and Allied (Agriculture, Animal husbandry, Forestry, Fishing)	1543	3.6
Industry (Manufacturing, Construction, Mining)	1355	1.6
Services (Real estate, hotels, restaurants, banking and legal services)	2710	1.5

(Source: State and District Domestic Product of Karnataka-2014-15.)

*GSDP – Gross State Domestic Product

Women's Participation in Agriculture

In Vijayapura District, women form the backbone of agricultural activities, contributing their labor, expertise, and resilience to the farming sector. Engaged in a spectrum of tasks from sowing to harvest across various crops, their role extends beyond the fields to include livestock management, contributing significantly to the district's agricultural output. However, challenges persist, including limited access to resources, technology, and decision-making power due to cultural norms and socio-economic constraints. Despite these hurdles, initiatives by both governmental and non-governmental entities strive to empower women in agriculture through training, support programs, and collective forums like Self-Help Groups. Their participation not only bolsters household income and food security but also fosters community development. Bridging gaps in education, awareness, and technological access stands as pivotal steps toward further elevating their indispensable role in shaping the agricultural landscape and contributing to the socio-economic fabric of Vijayapura District.

Concept of Women Farmers and Labourers

The concept of women as farmers and laborers encompasses their pivotal roles in agricultural endeavors. Defined by their involvement in agricultural enterprises, women often balance multiple responsibilities within farm and household activities. Their labor, whether manual or mental, contributes substantially to the agricultural output. Women's engagements range from managing livestock to participating in varied agricultural practices and forestry, often contributing significantly to household income through farm and nonfarm activities. However, the nature and extent of their participation vary based on agro-manufacture systems and household land-owning statuses, with disparities observed in their roles as agricultural managers or landless laborers.

Agricultural labor holds distinct characteristics that differentiate it from industrial labor. Unlike in industry, agriculture often lacks a clear employer-employee relationship, especially in subsistence farming. The classification of agricultural labor into skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled categories is rare, with two main types: those engaged in casual work and those involved in regular, ongoing farm tasks. Seasonality is a prominent feature in agricultural employment, varying in intensity across regions and crop patterns, followed by periods of reduced activity where workers seek alternative employment. Migration is common among agricultural laborers, moving from regions with abundant labor to those where it's scarce. Wage payment in agriculture exhibits diversity, including payment in kind or a mix of cash and kind, influenced by tradition and customs.

Additionally, agriculture's role in economic development spans various aspects, contributing to national income,

food supply, raw material sourcing, labor redistribution, infrastructure development, and rural welfare improvement. Farmers in India are categorized based on their landholdings, ranging from marginal farmers with less than one hectare to large farmers owning 10 hectares and above. These classifications reflect the diverse spectrum of agricultural contributors striving to sustainably provide food and resources for the nation.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. Investigating the socio-economic characteristics of women in Vijayapura District.
2. Assessing the extent of women's involvement in agricultural pursuits.
3. Identifying the challenges encountered by women in Vijayapura District while engaging in agricultural operations.
4. Gathering recommendations to improve and empower the participation of women in Vijayapura District in agricultural endeavors.

HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

1. There is no significant difference between mean scores of agricultural work wage of literate and illiterate agriculture labours
2. There is no significant difference between mean scores of health status of literate and illiterate agriculture labours
3. There is no significant difference between mean scores of health status of literate and illiterate women farmers
4. There is no significant difference between mean scores of agricultural work wage of married and unmarried agriculture labours
5. There is no significant difference between mean scores of health status of married and unmarried agriculture labours
6. There is no significant difference between mean scores of health status of married and unmarried women farmers

METHODOLOGY

In any research endeavor, the methodology section serves as the cornerstone, delineating the strategies and approaches employed to gather information effectively. Central to this is the division of data collection into two fundamental methods: primary and secondary. The former and women laborers involve the direct acquisition of information from original sources through techniques like surveys, interviews, or observations, tailoring the collection process to specific research goals. Conversely, secondary methods entail analyzing existing data from scholarly articles, reports, or prior studies, leveraging and synthesizing pre-existing information. Successful research hinges on a harmonious integration of both approaches, each offering distinct advantages in sourcing credible data.

Sampling method and sampling size

The present study has used snowball sampling technique. The researcher begins with few respondents who are known and available to him/her. Frequently these respondents give other name who meets for research criteria. This process is continued until getting adequate number of respondents. With the help of snowball sampling technique the study has involved 480 samples in Vijayapura District.

SL. No	Name of the Taluk	Form ers	Labo urs
1	Basavana Bagewadi	20	20
2	Indi	20	20
3	Muddebihal	20	20
4	Sindagi	20	20
5	Tikota	20	20
6	Bableshwar	20	20
7	Nidgundi	20	20
8	Devarahippargi	20	20
9	Talikot	20	20
10	Chadachan	20	20
11	Almel	20	20
12	Kolhar	20	20
	Total	**240**	**240**

Data processing and analysis

Data processing involved the collection of primary data through various scientific methods, followed by analysis utilizing standardized statistical tools. The researcher employed both inferential and descriptive statistical techniques to analyze the data. Specifically, for inferential analysis, the researcher conducted an independent sample t-test to assess the null hypothesis. Meanwhile, for a granular examination of data concerning individual questions, percentage analysis was employed as part of the descriptive statistical technique.

In the realm of statistical techniques, data analysis stands as a pivotal phase in the research process. It commences with the selection of an appropriate and credible data collection tool, ensuring meticulous organization and arrangement of the acquired data by researchers. Subsequently, employing suitable statistical methods aids in the analysis and interpretation of this data. the researcher applied inferential and descriptive statistical techniques, utilizing an independent sample t-test to scrutinize the null hypothesis. Additionally, employing percentage analysis within the descriptive statistical technique facilitated a comprehensive examination of data on a question-by-question basis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Hypothesis-1: There is no significant difference between mean scores of agricultural work wage of literate and illiterate agriculture labours

Table-2 Literacy wise comparison of mean scores of agricultural work wage of agriculture labours

Literacy	N	Mean	SD	t-value	p-value	S/NS
Literate	64	18.1563	.85855	5.286	.000	S P < .05
Illiterate	176	17.2614	1.73696			

The above table (2) it is observed that, the obtained t value is 5.286 and p value .000 for difference between mean scores of agricultural work wage of literate and illiterate agriculture labours. Here, obtained p-values is less than .05 level of significance. Hence, null hypothesis is rejected and alternative hypothesis is accepted. It means, there is a significant different between mean scores of agricultural work wage of literate and illiterate agriculture labours at .05 level of significance, 't' (238) = 5.286, p < .05.

The mean comparison indicates that, the mean scores of literate agriculture labours is higher than the illiterate agriculture labours. Therefore, it is observed that, literate agriculture labours have higher opinion about work wage compare to illiterate agriculture labours. The following graph presents the results as well.

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant difference between mean scores of health status of literate and illiterate agriculture labours

Table 3: Literacy wise comparison of mean scores of health status of agriculture labours

Literacy	N	Mean	SD	t-value	p-value	S/NS
Literate	64	10.7031	1.65884	2.840	.003	S P < .05
Illiterate	176	10.0455	1.36829			

The above table it is observed that the obtained 't' value is 2.840 and 'p' value

.003 for difference between mean scores of health status of literate and illiterate agriculture labours. Here, obtained p values are less than .05 level of significance. Hence, null hypothesis is rejected and alternative hypothesis is accepted. It means, there is a significant different between mean scores of health status of literate and illiterate agriculture labours at .05 level of significance, (238) = 2.840, p < .05.

The mean comparison indicates that, the mean scores of literate agriculture labours is higher than the illiterate agriculture labours. Therefore, it is observed that, literate agriculture labours have higher opinion about health status compare to illiterate agriculture labours. The following graph presents the results as well.

Hypothesis 3 : There is no significant difference between mean scores of health status of literate and illiterate women farmers

Table-4 Literacy wise comparison of scores of health status of women farmers

Literacy	N	Mean	SD	t-value	p-value	S/NS
Literate	143	11.8462	1.29085	11.026	.015	S P < .05
Illiterate	97	9.6082	1.69286			

The above table it is observed that the obtained t value is 11.026 and p value .015 for difference between mean scores of health status of literate and illiterate women farmers. Here, obtained p values is

less than .05 level of significance. Hence, null hypothesis is rejected and alternative hypothesis is accepted. It means, there is a significant different between mean scores of health status of literate and illiterate women farmers at .05 level of significance, t (238) = 11.026, p < .05.

The mean comparison indicates that, the mean scores of literate women farmers is higher than the illiterate women farmers. Therefore, it is observed that, literate women farmers have higher opinion about health status compare to illiterate women farmers. The following graph presents the results as well.

Hypothesis 4: There is no significant difference between mean scores of agricultural work wage of married and unmarried agriculture labours

Table 5: Marital Status wise comparison of mean scores of agricultural work wage of agriculture labours

Marital Status	N	Mean	SD	t-value	p-value	S/NS
Married	130	18.3154	.94856	9.860	.000	S P < .05
Unmarried	110	16.5364	1.67922			

The above table it is observed that the obtained t value is 9.860 and p value .000 for difference between mean scores of agricultural work wage of married and unmarried agriculture labours Here, obtained p values is less than .05 level of significance. Hence, null hypothesis is rejected and alternative hypothesis is accepted. It means, there is a significant

different between mean scores of agricultural work wage of married and unmarried agriculture labours at .05 level of significance, t (238) = 9.860, p < .05.

The mean comparison indicates that, the mean scores of married women labours is higher than the unmarried women labours. Therefore, it is observed that, married women labours have higher opinion about agricultural work wage compare to unmarried women labours. The following graph presents the results as well.

Hypothesis 5: There is no significant difference between mean scores of health status of married and unmarried agriculture labours

Table 6: Marital Status wise comparison of mean scores of health status of agriculture labours

Marital Status	N	Mean	SD	t-value	p-value	S/NS
Married	130	10.5308	1.01300	3.466	.001	S P <
Unmarried	110	9.8545	1.82156			

The above table it is observed that the obtained t value is 3.466 and p value .001 for difference between mean scores of health status of married and unmarried agriculture labours Here, obtained p values is less than .05 level of significance. Hence, null hypothesis is rejected and alternative hypothesis is accepted. It means, there is a significant different between mean scores of health status of married and unmarried

agriculture labours, .05 level of significance, t (238) = 3.466, p < .05.

The mean comparison indicates that, the mean scores of married women labours is higher than the unmarried women labours. Therefore, it is observed that, married women labours have higher opinion about health status compare to unmarried women labours. The following graph presents the results as well.

Hypothesis 6: There is no significant difference between mean scores of health status of married and unmarried women farmers

Table 7: Marital Status wise comparison of mean scores of health status of women farmers

Marital Status	N	Mean	SD	t-value	p-value	S/NS
Married	208	11.3558	1.53175	10.923	.000	S
Unmarried	32	8.2500	1.24434			P < .05

The above table it is observed that the obtained t value is 10.923 and p value .000 for difference between mean scores of health status of married and unmarried women farmers. Here, obtained p values is less than .05 level of significance. Hence, null hypothesis is rejected and alternative hypothesis is accepted. It means, there is a significant different between mean scores of health status of married and unmarried women farmers at .05 level of significance, t (238) = 10.923, p < .05.

The mean comparison indicates that, the mean scores of married women farmers is higher than the unmarried women farmers. Therefore, it is observed that, married women farmers have higher opinion about health status compare to unmarried women farmers. The following graph presents the results as well.

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. There was a significant different between mean scores of agricultural work wage of literate and illiterate agriculture labours at .05 level of significance, t (238) = 5.286, p < .05.
2. There was a significant different between mean scores of health status of literate and illiterate agriculture labours at .05 level of significance, t (238) = 2.840, p < .05.
3. There was a significant different between mean scores of health status of literate and illiterate women farmers at .05 level of significance, t (238) = 11.026, p < .05.
4. There was a significant different between mean scores of agricultural work wage of married and unmarried agriculture labours at .05 level of significance, t (238) = 9.860, p < .05.
5. There was a significant different between mean scores of health status of married and unmarried agriculture labours, .05 level of significance, t (238) = 3.466, p < .05.
6. There was a significant different between mean scores of health status of married and unmarried women farmers at .05 level of significance, t (238) = 10.923, p < .05.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE STUDY

According to the survey, women farmers have greater opinions than agricultural labours related to all factors. It suggests that, more economic, social, educational, health, and political awareness programs are needed for women who work in agriculture. Agriculture department, health department, Social Welfare department and education department should work jointly crating more and more awareness related various programmes and benefits for development of women agriculture workers.

The study also found that, illiterate women agriculture labours as well as women farmers have comparatively less opinion than literate women agriculture labours as well as women farmers. This clearly recommend that, additional educationally connected awareness campaigns are needed for illiterate women who work in agriculture, as well as for women farmers and other women involved in the sector. Precisely, the departments of education and agriculture's extension section need to work continually to improve their standing and strengthen their roles in contributing.

SUGGESTION FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

1. The study considered only taluks of Vijayapur district. The study can be extended with more samples from more than other taluks to explore the role of women farmers and women agriculture labours.

2. The study treated literacy and marital status as demographic variable. Concern to this further research can be conducted with more demographic variables such as income level, acres of land owned, community background and family type. It helps to explore more about effect of demographic factors.

CONCLUSION

Overall, according to the study, female farmers have more opinions than women agriculture labourers on every topic. It implies that more programs for women employed in agriculture are required in the areas of economic, social, educational, health, and political awareness to encourage their contribution towards the Economic Development of Vijayapura District. The departments of agriculture, health, social welfare, and education should collaborate to raise awareness of the various programs and benefits for the advancement of women working in the agricultural sector and focus should more on illiterate and unmarried.

REFERENCES

- Agarwal, A.N. (2005). *Indian Economy Problems of Development and Planning.* Vishwa Prakashan.
- Ahuja, H.L. (2008). *Modern Micro Economics.* S. Chand and Sultan.
- Balasubramaniam. (2008). *Indian Economy: Agricultural Labour.* Vikas Publications.
- Bhalla, S. (1993). The Dynamics of Wage Determination and Employment

Generation in India Agriculture. *Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics*. 48(3).

- Celladurai, M, (2002). *Socio-Economic Conditions of Landless Agricultural Labourers.* U.D.C, Research Department of Economics.
- Chandrama Goswami. (2002). Female Agricultural Workers in Assam" A Case Study of Darrang District. *International Journal of Scientific and Research Publication.* 3 (2). 1-5.
- Gandham Sri Rama Krishna. (2015). Socio Economic Conditions of Agricultural Women Workers in Andhra Pradesh. *Indian Economic Panorama*, 24
- Laxminarayana, (1977). Changing Conditions of Agricultural Labourers. *Economic and Political Weekly*, ll (43).

- Narenthrakumar, Illuru., and Venkatesh, Waralu. (2012). *Socio-Economic Condition of Agricultural Labour.* X Lab Lambest Publishing.
- Roshan Khurana, Ashok. (2011). Gender Issues the Role of in Agricultural Sector. *Zenith International Journal of Business Economics and Management Research*, 1(1), 25-26
- Vinod Kumar, Singh, T.R., Yadav, S.R. and Singh, R.P. (1985). Employment and Income Pattern of Women Labour in Modern Agriculture in District Meerut (U.P.). *Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics*. 40 (3).
- Yadav, Beena and verma Dean, T. (1992). Problems of Paddy Women Labourers in Haryana State. *Rural India.* 55 (8).