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## Research Paper

# A STUDY ON ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF WOMEN AGRICULTURE LABOUR WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO KOPPAL DISTRICT

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**ABSTRACT**


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**A**griculture Labours are very important category in agricultural products. Most of people are not having any sort of land among them, working at others lands are the only source of payment for them. Some others may have tiny cultivations. The source from the same is not sufficient for their livelihood, so to have source for livelihood, they are constrained to work in other lands for whole year. Social and economic condition of agriculture labours is very poor. Problems of male agriculture labours and female agriculture labours may be of same nature, some time depending upon gender female agriculture labours problems may be different and more than the problems of male agriculture labours. India is an agriculture based country, more than 56 percent population of the nation are depending upon the agriculture, 48 per cent women are depending upon agriculture in India. In Karnataka 26.14 per cent of women are depending upon agriculture laboring among those the Koppal District has 4.52 per cent of women agriculture labours. Among all districts of Karnataka Koppal District are having highest women agricultural labours.

**KEYWORDS:** Agriculture, women, tiny cultivations, lands, economic condition

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is very ancient and important occupation in human activities. It has become way of life of almost all people in the world. Agriculture is the main source of livelihood for rural people. Therefore, the agricultural labours are playing major role in rural economic activities. The labours who are working in others lands are called as Agricultural Labours. Agriculture Labours economic condition is very poor, they have been neglected in rural economic activities. Agriculture Labours are very important category in agricultural products. Most of people are not having any sort of land among them, working at others lands are the only source of payment for them. Some others may have tiny cultivations. The source from the same is

not sufficient for their livelihood, so to have source for livelihood, they are constrained to work in other lands for whole year. Social and economic condition of agriculture labours is very poor. Problems of male agriculture labours and female agriculture labours may be of same nature, some time depending upon gender female agriculture labours problems may be different and more than the problems of male agriculture labours. India is an agriculture based country, more than 56 percent population of the nation are depending upon the agriculture, 48 per cent women are depending upon agriculture in India. In Karnataka 26.14 per cent of women are depending upon agriculture laboring among those the Koppal District has 4.52 per cent of women



agriculture labours. Among all districts of Karnataka Koppal District are having highest women agricultural labours.

## 2. NEED OF THE STUDY

In the present developed modern society also, the women is being exploited in agriculture on the basis of gender differentiation. The correct payment for her work is not providing, though she is working equally with man. Therefore, the economic condition of women is not improving. How they are facing problems daily in their life? and how is their social and economic condition? To find out the same the present study is very important and significant. Present study is necessary for understanding the Socio-economic conditions, problems faced by female agriculture labours and to suggest suitable remedial measures to improve the conditions of the agriculture labours in the study area.

## 3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The specific objectives of the present study are as follows;

1. To understand socio-economic condition of women agriculture labours.
2. To examine the wage differentiation between male and female agriculture labours in the study area.
3. To identify the problems of women agriculture labours.
4. To suggest suitable measures to solve the problems of women agriculture labours.

## 4. HYPOTHESIS

1. There is wage discrimination between male and female agriculture labours.
2. Poverty is common amongst women agriculture labours.

## 5. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

For present study all the Four Talukas of Koppal District were considered. From each taluka, two villages were considered in which a total of 50 Women Agricultural Labours were selected. From

Gangavati taluka, two villages namely Karatagi (having highest population N = 24,410) and Mallapur (having lowest population N = 5,902) considered. But, from each village 50 respondents were taken for study. From Koppal taluka, two villages namely Koppal Rural (having highest population N = 12,584) and Yetnatti (having lowest population N = 6,337) considered. But, from each village 50 respondents were taken for study. From Kushtagi taluka, two villages namely Hanamasagar (having highest population N = 12,919) and Benakanal (having lowest population N = 5,424) considered. But, from each village 50 respondents were taken for study. From Yalaburga taluka, two villages namely Kukanur (having highest population N = 15,718) and Talakal (having lowest population N = 6,286) considered. But, from each village 50 respondents were taken for study. The village Talakal is the native of the present Hon'ble Minister of Higher Education Government of Karnataka.

Thus the sample of the present study constitutes a total number of 400 Women Agriculture Labours.

## 6. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The socio-economic background of the households has deep influence on the living standards of the people. The indicators related to literacy and education, occupational pattern and housing conditions influence the social status of the households. Better Education, housing and jobs increase the social status of the households and facilitate their integration in the society. Absence of these leads to marginalization and social Exclusion. In this context, this chapter examines the socio economic status of the sample households. A comparative analysis across the four taluks of Koppal district is made to assess the nature of similarities and differences across the households of women agricultural laborers. This may help to identify the gaps and shape the programmes and policies to promote inclusive growth.

**Table 01 Age-wise Classification of Respondents**

Taluks	20-30	%	31-40	%	41 & above	%	Total
Gangavathi	22	22.00	60	60.00	18	18.00	100
Koppal	20	20.00	70	70.00	10	10.00	100
Kustagi	20	20.00	67	67.00	13	13.00	100
Yelaburga	17	17.00	65	65.00	18	18.00	100
Total	79	19.75	262	65.50	59	14.75	400
Chi-square=4.6242, p=0.4071							

Source : Field Survey

From the results of the above table it can be seen that out of total 400 women agriculture labours of different talukas fall into majority 65.50% respondents belong to the middle aged 40 years. 19.75% and 14.75% respondents belong to young and old age respectively. In general, the farmers of young and middle aged group were enthusiastic and have more work efficiency.

Moreover the middle aged people have more family responsibility and sensibility. They work with commitment and involvement. These might be the probable reasons for more number of the respondents to be found in the middle aged group followed by young and old age. The difference is found to statistically significant (chi-square=4.6242, p=0.4071).

**Table 02 Qualification of the respondents**

Taluks	Primary Education	%	High School Education	%	None	%	Total
Gangavathi	20	22.99	5	5.75	62	71.26	87
Koppal	25	25.00	30	30.00	45	45.00	100
Kustagi	15	15.00	5	5.00	80	80.00	100
Yelaburga	15	15.00	5	5.00	80	80.00	100
Total	75	19.38	45	11.63	267	68.99	387
Chi-square=55.2865, p=0.0001*							

Source : Field Survey.

\*p<0.05

It is observed that among the 400 women agriculture labors 19.38% of the respondents had Primary School education followed by High School education about 11.63% illiterates were noticed to the extent of 68.99%. There are many reasons for respondents to belong low level of education or remain as illiterates; it might be due lack of finance, lack of access to education

and further, the utilization of family members as labour after Primary School education for farming purpose. However more number of respondents were found illiterates and have chosen farming for their livelihood. The difference is found to statistically significant (Chi-square=55.2865, p=0.0001).

**Table 03 Property Category of the Respondent's**

Taluks	Housing Property	%	Ancestral Property	%	Own Property	%	Ancestral and Own Property	%	Government Property	%	Total
Gangavathi	20	21.3	20	21.3	18	19.1	36	38.3	0	0.0	94
Koppal	20	28.6	30	42.9	0	0.0	20	28.6	0	0.0	70
Kustagi	20	25.6	30	38.5	28	35.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	78
Yelaburga	20	22.2	5	5.6	5	5.6	20	22.2	40	44.4	90
Total	80	24.1	85	25.6	51	15.4	76	22.9	40	12.0	332
Chi-square=203.9323 p=0.0001*											

Source : Field Survey.

\*p<0.05

The above table presents the different types of properties distributed among 400 women agriculture labourers in four different talukas of the respondents. It can be seen that out of a total 332 women agriculture labours property in which 80 (24.1%) respondents have housing property, 85 (25.6%) respondents possess ancestral property, 5(15.4%) respondents comprise own

property, 76 (2.9%) respondents holds both ancestral and own property and about 40 (12%) respondents possess government properties. It means that, the respondents belong to different taluka places have at least one kind of property and the difference is found to statistically significant (Chi-square=203.9323 p=0.0001).

**Table 04 Distribution of Women Agriculture Labourers according to the Size of the Women members involved in Agriculture**

Taluks	1		2	%	3	%	4+	%	Total
Gangavathi	40	40.00	30	30.00	20	20.00	10	10.00	100
Koppal	50	50.00	20	20.00	20	20.00	10	10.00	100
Kustagi	15	15.00	40	40.00	30	30.00	15	15.00	100
Yelaburga	45	45.00	20	20.00	15	15.00	20	20.00	100
Total	150	37.50	110	27.50	85	21.25	55	13.75	400

Chi-square=39.9216, p=0.0001\*

Source : Field Survey.

\*p&lt;0.05

The table presents the distribution of women agriculture labours according to the number of women working in agriculture among 400 sample respondents. It is observed that out of 400 women agriculture labours 150 (37.5%) of respondents at least 01 women member, followed by 110 (27.5%) of respondents 02 members, 85 (21.25%) of respondents 03 women members, 55 (13.75%)

of respondents 04 and more women members are engaged in agriculture. However majority 20% of respondents from Yelaburga more than 04 women are participating in agriculture and in counterpart at least 01 women about 50% of respondents from Koppal are engaged in agriculture. The difference is found to statistically significant (Chi-square=39.9216, p=0.0001).

**Table 05 Classification of Women Agriculture Labours according to type of work carried out in Agriculture**

Taluks	Weeder		Winnowing	%	Water feeding	%	Paddy Sowing	%	Other Works	%	Total
Gangavathi	30	30.0	20	20.0	20	20.0	30	30.0	0	0.0	100
Koppal	50	50.0	30	30.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	20	20.0	100
Kustagi	50	50.0	30	30.0	5	5.0	0	0.0	15	15.0	100
Yelaburga	60	60.0	20	20.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	20	20.0	100
Total	190	47.5	100	25.0	25	6.3	30	7.5	55	13.8	400

Chi-square=166.5455, p=0.0001\*

Source : Field Survey.

\*p&lt;0.05

The above table presents the distribution of women agriculture labours according to different types of work carried out in agriculture among 400 sample respondents. It is observed that out of 400 women agriculture labours 190 (47.5%) of respondents are working as Weeders, 100 (25%) of respondents do Winnowing, 25 (6.3%) of respondents do Water feeding work, 30 (7.5%) of respondents work in Paddy Sowing,

55 (13.8%) of respondents do some other works in agriculture. However, majority 60% of Gangavathi taluka respondents works as Weeders, about 30% each of respondents from Koppal and Kustagi work as Winnowing, and 30% of respondents of Gangavathi do work as Paddy Sowing. The association between talukas and the type of work carried out by women in agriculture is found to be statistically significant (Chi-square=166.5455, p=0.0001).

**Table 06 Classification of Women Agriculture Labourers according to Mode/State of the employment of Respondent's**

Taluks	Permanent	%	Temporary	%	Total
Gangavathi	72	72.00	28	28.00	100
Koppal	20	20.00	80	80.00	100
Kustagi	10	10.00	90	90.00	100
Yelaburga	15	15.00	85	85.00	100
Total	117	29.25	283	70.75	400

Chi-square=120.1663 P = 0.0001\*

Source : Field Survey.

\*p&lt;0.05

The above table presents the classification of Women agriculture labourers according mode/state of the employment of respondents. It reveals that among 400 sample respondents 117 (29.25%) respondents said that their employment in agriculture is Stable and on counterpart 283 (70.75%) respondents stated that their employment is volatile and insecure in agriculture.

However, 72% of respondents of Gangavathi felt that their employment in agriculture is Stable and secure and in contrast majority about 90% respondents of Kustagi felt that their employment in agriculture is Unstable and insecure. The difference is found to statistically significant (Chi-square=120.1663 P=0.0001).

**Table 07 Distribution of Women agriculture labourers according to reasons approximate income per month of the respondents**

Taluks	Rs.1000 - 1500	%	Rs.1500 - 2000	%	Rs.2000 - 3000	%	Rs.3000 - 4000	%	Rs.4000 - 5000	%	Rs.5000 and above	%	Total
Gangavathi	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	40	40.0	20	20.0	40	40.0	100
Koppal	0	0.0	0	0.0	60	60.0	40	40.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	100
Kustagi	0	0.0	10	10.0	88	88.0	2	2.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	100
Yelaburga	5	5.0	75	75.0	20	20.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	100
Total	5	1.3	85	21.3	168	42.0	82	20.5	20	5.0	40	10.0	400

Source : Field Survey.

The above table presents the distribution of women agriculture labourers according to approximate income per month of the 400 sample respondents. Among 400 sample respondent's majority 168 (42%) respondents approximate income per month is about Rs. 2000 to Rs. 3000. Further 85 (21.3%) respondents stated that their wage is rs. 1500 to Rs. 2000 per month, followed by 82 (20.5%) respondents stated that they are getting wages around Rs. 3000 to Rs.4000 per month,

40 (10%) respondents are being paid maximum amount of wage about Rs.5000 and more compared to other taluk respondents. On the other hand 20 (5%) respondents wage ranges in between Rs.4000 to Rs. 5000 per month and 5 (1.3%) respondents wage is Rs. 1000 to Rs. 1500 per month. From these results it is evident that the wage pattern is unevenly distributed amongst different taluk respondents.

**Table 08 Distribution of Women agriculture labourers according to economic condition of the respondents**

Taluks	Improved	%	Not Improved	%	Total
Gangavathi	70	70.00	30	30.00	100
Koppal	20	20.00	80	80.00	100
Kustagi	16	16.00	84	84.00	100
Yelaburga	15	15.00	85	85.00	100
Total	121	30.25	279	69.75	400
Chi-square= 100.5123 P = 0.0001*					

Source : Field Survey.

\*p<0.05

The above table presents the distribution of women agriculture labourers according to economic condition of the respondents. Among 400 sample respondents 121 (30.25%) respondents expressed that their economic condition is improved and in contrast majority 279 (69.75%) respondents exclaimed that their economic condition has not improved. It is notable that majority 85% respondents of Yelaburga taluk were frustrated towards their economic condition compared to other taluk respondents and in contrast 70% respondents of Gangavathi taluk presumed that their economic condition has improved compared to other

taluk women agriculture labourers. The difference is found to statistically significant (Chi-square= 100.5123 P=0.0001).

## FINDINGS

1. It can be seen that among sampled women agriculture labourers of different taluk's majority overall 65.50 % respondents belong to 31-40 age group, followed by 19.75% respondents were in 20-30 age group and 14.75% respondents were 41 and above age group.

2. It is observed that majority overall 68.99 % of respondents were illiterate, in which 80 % each respondents of Kustagi and Yelaburga taluk, 71.26 % of Gangavati and 45% of Koppal taluk respondents found illiterates. Further, overall 19.38% respondents have completed Primary education and 11% respondents have completed High School education. Since majority of respondents were illiterates and has chosen farming for their livelihood.
3. Majority cent per cent of the respondents of Gangavati, Koppal, Kustagi, and Yelaburga taluk has chosen and performing the agriculture work for their livelihood. It is noticed that among these respondents nobody is performing parallel works such as Wage, Private Job, Government Job, and other similar works, since there is no adequate industries nearby these taluk's and also agriculture is the chief work and there is no irrigation facility available in Kustagi and Yelaburga taluk except Gangavati and Koppal taluk.
4. Significantly, majority 83% of the respondents possess Property, in which 94% of Gangavati, 70% of Koppal, 78% of Kustagi and 90% of Yelaburga taluk respondents possess property. However, overall 17% of different taluk respondents do not possess any kind of property.
5. The analysis of different type of work carried out in agriculture vary across the taluk's in the district indicates majority 47.5% respondents work as weeders in which, 60% of Yelaburga, 50% each of Koppal and Kustagi, and 30% respondents of Gangavati perform this kind of work. However, in aggregate 25% respondents do winnowing work, 6.3% respondents perform water feeding work 7.5% respondents execute Paddy sowing work and 13.8% respondents perform other kind of work in the agricultural activities.
6. The occupational structure of the respondents is predominance in agriculture but the livelihood of the people dependent on agriculture is uncertain. Majority 70.75% respondents employment in agriculture is temporary, in which 90% respondents of Kustagi, 85% respondents of Yelaburga, 80% respondents of Koppal and 28% Gangavathi taluk respondents work in agriculture is

uncertain, because large part of the land is under dry land cultivation. However, only 29.25% respondent's work in agriculture is Permanent wherein majority 72% Gangavati taluk respondents work is stable as their large part of the land is irrigated from Tungabhadra reservoir compared to other taluk respondents.

7. Majority 68.50% respondents stated that their income is inadequate and hopeless to lead the family livelihood, in which 80% each respondents of Koppal and Yelaburga, 84% Kustagi respondents and 30% Gangavati taluk respondents stated this kind of opinion. However, in contrast overall 31.50% respondents exclaimed that they were getting sufficient income for livelihood.
8. There are various problems facing by respondents to work in agriculture. Majority overall 61.3% respondents felt that their work in agriculture is seasonal, followed by 23.8% respondents felt that their wage is low and significant wage difference compared to men agriculture labourers, 30% respondents of Gangavati felt that they were being exploited by co-workers and land owners in agriculture. Further, 3.8% respondents exclaimed that they need to work more work hours in agriculture, and 3.8% respondents stated that their work is Hazardous in agriculture.

## SUGGESTIONS

1. In case the women labours are poor they have to get their basic needs like housing, electricity, hospital and college.
2. Government has to provide availability of new schemes for giving loans to women labours.
3. Equality is also to be given in the wages for women labours like men labours.
4. Training is to be given to women labours regarding use of modern equipments in agriculture.
5. It is necessary to create legal awareness amongst women labours and also creating awareness to stop child marriages.

## CONCLUSION

Koppal is one of the District in the State which is wholly depending upon the income of agricultural activities having most backward villages and the women working in agricultural activities by participating more actively than men. But, since inception the women is facing more problems and difficulties in agriculture

labouring than males. There are so many geographical, social, cultural and economic reasons for the same and also major reason for the same is that, highest human power is depending upon the earnings from agricultural labouring in the District and they do not know other occupations other than agriculture. Therefore, majority of population in the District is only depending upon the agriculture.

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