



## ROLE OF WOMEN LABOURERS IN AGRICULTURE IN THANJAVUR

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### ABSTRACT

**W**omen take up different works to meet out their livelihood and the majority of the rural women depend on agriculture, which is the major un organized sector in India. Many of these labourers are landless, homeless and belong to the socially depressed classes of the society. Despite the seasonal nature of employment in the field of agriculture enormous growth is witnessed in the size of the agricultural labourers since the beginning of the century.

**KEYWORDS:** *Economy, Employment, Agriculture, Poverty Reduction, Agricultural Sector*

### INTRODUCTION

If any economy, women play a prominent role and they are the back bone of the rural India. Women take up different works to meetout their livelihood and the majority of the rural women depend on agriculture,which is the major un organized sector in India. Many of these labourers are landless, homeless and belong to the socially depressed classes of the society. Despite the seasonal nature of employment in the field of agriculture enormous growth is witnessed in the size of the agricultural labourers since the beginning of the century.

#### **Importance of Agriculture in India:-**

Agriculture can be an important engine of growth and poverty reduction. But the sector is underperforming in many countries in part because women, who are often a crucial resource in agriculture and the rural economy, face constraints that reduce their productivity.. She does the most tedious and back-breaking tasks in agriculture, animal husbandry and homes but worldwide her hard work has mostly been unpaid.

The international development community has recognized that agriculture is an engine of growth and poverty reduction in countries where it is the main occupation of the poor. But the agricultural sector in many developing countries is underperforming, in part because women, who represent a crucial resource in agriculture and the rural economy through their roles as farmers, labourers and entrepreneurs, almost everywhere, face more severe constraints than men in access to productive resources. Efforts by national governments and the international community to achieve their goals for agricultural development, economic growth and food security will be strengthened and accelerated if they build on the contributions that women make and take steps to alleviate these constraints.

There is no denying the fact that women do not have equal access to beneficial change and status in society is not identical to that of men. This is especially true in villages. Several studies have shown that the woman employee - whatever job she holds - is equal in efficiency

and performance to the male employee in identical employment situations. Some of the studies even indicate that in certain aspects of the woman employee is even more efficient. In the matter of reliability, promptness and punctuality she had been found to have an edge over her male counterpart.

Agriculture is the most important sector of the economy. It contributes nearly half of the national income. Transport system depends upon the agricultural sector. Exports sector depends on agriculture. Agriculture dominates the economy to such an extent that 72 percentage of working population depends on agriculture.

**Women in Agriculture:-**

Sustainable improvements in women’s contribution to agricultural production would major policy and institutional revisions of the status. Institutional attention is needed to correct the neglect of women farmers by program planners and implements. Extension services should reach women farmers directly. It is particularly beneficial for extension workers to reach women farmer’s organization regularly for the purposes transmitting form information and technology training. Women farmer should be encouraged to join form based organization membership of such organization enhance the ability of the women to articulate their

aspiration and needs related to farming. Individual member the organization benefit greatly from the inter-group flow of farm organization.

**OBJECTIVES**

1. To study about the income and expenditure pattern of agricultural women labourers.
2. To find out the savings pattern of agricultural women labourers.
3. To know about the role of agricultural women labourers in economic development.

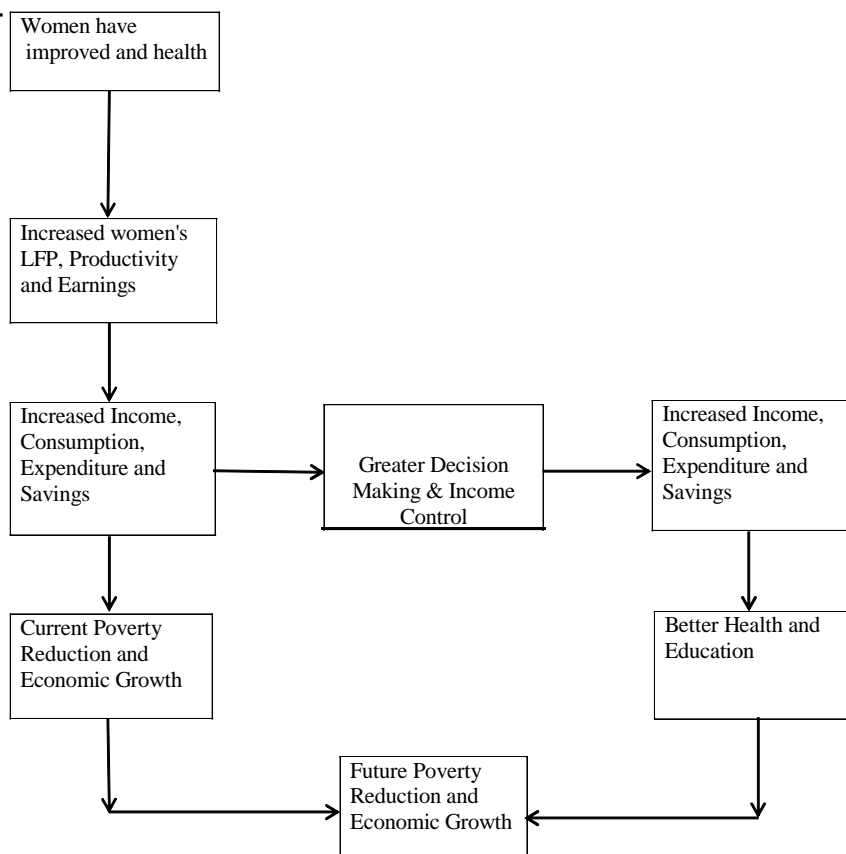
**METHODOLOGY**

This study is based on the primary data which is collected from the Thanjavur district. The 100 samples selected through the random sampling method on November 2015. Tables, percentage are the tools used for the present study.

**LIMITATIONS**

Primary data cannot be considered as cent percentage accurate because of the respondent’s inability to remember certain facts, their unwillingness to part with certain personal and sensitive information. The main limitations are lack of accounts for actual man – days of employment and income. Some people were hesitating to give answers to the questions. Illiterate people cannot understand these questions, so more time will spent in get in the data from the respondents

**Relationship between Women Labour Force Participation (LFP), Poverty, and Economic Growth:-**



### Classification of sample household according to Size of the Family

SI No	Size of the Sample	No of Agricultural women Labourers
1	1-3	12
2	3-6	68
3	Above 6	20
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: computed from primary data.

This table explain the Size of the family. The total sample 100, which from of 12 includes the 1-3 members, and the 20 includes the number of person above 6. Majority of the respondents say 68 belongs to the 3-6 members family size.

### Annual Income Distribution of Agricultural Women Labourers

SI No	Annual Income ( in Rupees )	No of Agricultural Women Labourers
1	Below 18000	10
2	18000 - 36000	30
3	36000 - 54000	45
4	Above 54000	15
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Computed from primary data

This table explain that only 10 agricultural women labourer's belong to the annual income below 18000. 45% of the agricultural women labourers have an annual income in between 36000 – 48000.

### Annual Expenditure of Women Agricultural Labourers

SI No	Annual Expenditure ( in Rupees )	No of Agricultural Women Labourers
1	Below 18000	8
2	18000 - 36000	38
3	36000 - 54000	44
4	Above 54000	10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Computed from primary data

This table explain that annual expenditure of women agricultural labourers. 44% of agricultural women labourers incurred annually 36000 – 54000 as their expenditure only 10% of the agricultural women labourers spend above 54000 annually.

### No of agricultural women labourers employed in different operation of agriculture in kuruvai season

SI No	Kuruvai Season Agricultural operation	No of Agricultural Women Labourers
1	Transplanting	100
2	Weeding	100
3	Winnowing	70
4	Others	30

Source: Computed from primary data

During kuruvai season all the sample agricultural women labourers are employed in transplanting and weeding. Only 70% of them employed in winnowing and 30% of them are doing other works in the households of their landlords.

### No of Agricultural Women Labourers Employed During Samba Season Different Agricultural Operations:-

SI No	Kuruvai Season Agricultural operation	No of Agricultural Women Labourers
1	Transplanting	100
2	Weeding	100
3	Winnowing	100
4	Others	80

Source: Computed from primary data

In this table shows that all the sample agricultural women labourers are employed in transplanting, reading and winnowing. 80% of women labourers are engaged in other works

#### CONCLUSION

Women have been playing a crucial role in the development process since the early stages of civilized life. Historians believe that it was women who first started cultivation of crop plants and initiated the art science of farming. It is said that it was women who not only discovered fire, but also the use of fire for basic cooking techniques like boiling, roasting, baking, steaming etc., it is also said that women was the first potter and weaver. Now a day the role of women increased to a great extent in all works

of life viz, agriculture, industry and other services. But the number of women engaged in agriculture at a high rate. Thus the agricultural women labourers constitute higher percentage of the total women labour.

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