
Chapter-7

Summary, Conclusion and Policy Implications

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The status of women in a society by and large is intimately connected with its economic position, which depends on rights, role and opportunities for participation in economic activities. The economic status of women is now accepted as one of the indicators of a society's stage of development. This does not however, mean that all the development results in improving women's economic status. Patterns of women's activity are greatly affected by social attitudes and institutions, which stem from the social ideology concerning basic components of status in any given period. These may differ according to the status of economic development.

Historically, the sustained women labour has been the central point of the village economic system. Rural women share abundant responsibilities and perform a wide spectrum of duties in running the family, maintaining the household, attending to farm operations, tending domestic animals and engaging in rural artisan work and handicraft. But, female labour engaged in such activities is usually not measured in economic terms.

Introduction

Women constitute nearly half of the population in any country whether it is a developed or under developed country. They contribute innumerable ways to the

development process. Broadly, their contribution to socio-economic development has two folds i.e., (1) in the home (2) outside the home. In the home, women's role as a daughter, wife and mothers cannot be under estimated. Women, as a care taker of the members of the family attends to food requirements. She looks after the health of all family members. These two are very important in maintaining the productivity of work force.

In economic terms, women :

1. Quantitatively, supply labour force through her reproductive function.
2. Quantitatively, improve productivity of workers through her proper care, at home.
3. Supplement income of the family and thus helps in improving the standard of living and
4. Help by contributing to savings.

Women Work

Some theoretical formulations :

There is no unique theoretical model which can capture the diversity in the women's work situation. Several theoretical models have been formulated but the existing theories can be categorized into three :

1. Neo-classical theories
2. Segmentation models
3. Feminist or radical theories.

In the Indian context, it is difficult, rather impossible to analyse the women's work and different dimensions in a single theoretical model. There is enormous diversity in women's work situations in a country as big and heterogeneous as India. None of the above three main theoretical formulations is able to capture the reality and each one of them only partially captures the scenario.

Objectives

1. To examine the socio-economic conditions of agricultural women labourers in Karnataka in general and Shimoga district in particular with a view to assess the degree of feminization of agriculture in different social groups ;
2. to examine the employment situations of women agricultural labour in the study area and
3. to examine the trends in wages of agricultural women labourers in the study area with a view to examine the degree of wage differentials in relation to minimum agricultural wages.

Area of the Study and Methodology

In Karnataka state, diversity, coastal Karnataka exhibit geographical, socio-cultural, economic diversities. There are a few districts like coastal Karnataka which are already developed and there a few other districts like Chikmagaluru, Davangere and Shimoga districts which are witnessing rapid development on

account of improvement in irrigation etc. These developments are likely to have some effects on employment of agricultural women labour. Therefore, Karnataka is selected for the purpose of study particularly to analyze inters hobli variations. For the purpose of village level study, Shimgoa district which has been witnessing development of irrigation under B.R. Project in Lakkavalli and Tunga Project and it also has a dry tract which has been purposively selected. Malavagoppa, Bidare and Machenahalli in the dry tract of Nidige hobli and Aralikoppa, Gangur and Gondhi in the irrigated tract of Hiriyur hobli were selected.

Data Collection

Secondary data regarding female work participation rates and other variables at India, state, district, taluka and hobli level were collected from the census handbook profile of Shimoga district. Statistical abstract for the year 2001 to 2011 for primary data a complete enumeration of all the households was conducted in the six sample village. Firstly, the total household test was taken from the village panchayat office, then every fifth agricultural women labour was taken for study. Like this 50 sample respondents from each village have been taken randomly.

Method of Analysis

The country level census data are analyzed by making usual comparison of female work participation and according to rural–urban places then state level,

district level and lastly hobli level comparison. At the village level the methods of direct comparison of cross section data was followed. The employment level and wages were observed in relation to caste, age, education and economic conditions of the respondents and season-wise.

Results of the Study

Female Work Participation Rates in India

The Work Participation Rate (WPR) which is defined as the percentage of total workers to the total population is 39.3 per cent as per the 2001 census. The WPR in 1991 census was 37.5 per cent. While the WPR for males marginally increased from 51.9 per cent during 1991-2001, for females it improved significantly from 22.7 to 25.7 during the corresponding period. Interestingly, this increase is mainly due to increase in proportion of marginal workers which registered significant increase from 3.4 per cent to 8.74 per cent. The most significant improvement is seen in case of rural migration workers which improved from 0.7 per cent in 1991 of males and from 8.1 per cent to 14.2 per cent in case of females during corresponding period. In fact, there is the perceptible decline in the proportion of main workers between 1991 and 2001 from 34.1 per cent in 1991 to 30.5 per cent in 2001. The sharp fall in percentage of main workers comes from rural areas especially rural males.

As per Usual Principal and Subsidiary Status (UPSS) approach, 104.5 million women in rural areas and 22.8 million in urban areas were in the work force in 2009-10. This implied decline in women work force vis-à-vis 2004-05 when 124 million rural and 24.6 million urban women were working. The NSS 66th round has indicated that an estimated 84.79 million women in rural areas were neither working nor available for work as they attended educational institutions (as per the UPSS approach) in 2009-10. Similarly, in urban areas, 33.88 million women were neither working nor available for work as they attended educational institutions.

In the rural areas, women are mainly involved as cultivators and agricultural labourers. In the urban areas, almost 80 per cent of the women are working in the unorganized sectors such as household industries, petty trades and services, buildings and construction. The Khadi and village industries are one of the largest employers of women workers.

Casual labour among women workers is rising. During the period 2004-05 to 2009-10, the proportion of casual workers among rural females increased from 32.6% to 39.9% and among urban females from 16.7% to 19.6%. The corresponding figures are 32.9% and 38% for rural males and 14.6% and 17% for urban males for the year 2004-05 to 2009-10 respectively.

State Level

At the state level shows the overall participation rate are quite less. Male participation rate is more in categories of cultivators and other workers but their participation is less in the category of workers in household industry and agricultural labourers. On the contrary to this, female participation rate is more for the category of agricultural labourers, household industries but the rate is less in case of cultivators and other workers.

District Level

At the district level, male workers are more in categories of cultivators and other workers but less male workers are in the categorizers of agricultural labourers and household industry. On the contrary to this, female workers are more in the category of agricultural labourers and fewer workers are there is cultivators and other workers categories. There are marginal differences in the female participation rate for the category of household industry.

Inter Hobli Variations

The inter hobli comparison shows that there is a variation in the overall participation rate. Male cultivators and total main workers are more in Nidige hobli but agricultural workers are less. In case of Hiriyur hobli, a male agricultural labourers and other workers are more as compared to agricultural labourers, on contrary to this, female agricultural labourers and total main workers are more in

Nidige hobli as compared to Hiriyur hobli. In Hiriyur hobli, female agricultural labourers are more as compared to cultivators.

In Karnataka, SC population is larger than ST population. In the case of social group in the area of Karnataka, there are more SC male agricultural labourers as compared to other categories of workers. On the other hand, ST male cultivators are more compared to other categories of workers.

On the contrary to this, female SC and ST agricultural labourers are more as compared to cultivators.

Wage Discrimination

Wage discrimination is an important aspect to rural female employment. Wages paid to the agricultural labour are less because the nature of work hardly requires the any skill in accomplishing the job work, resulting in low wage rate. Even in the case of women labourers there are significant variations in the wages paid. Though, they participate in same agricultural practice such as plantation, weeding, manuring, harvesting, cow herding, irrigation work etc. This is further supported by the dominance of men due to their physical fitness and coupled with biological weakness of women and children.

The most important reasons for the low rate of wages particularly for women labour in agriculture are the unorganized nature of farm labour, the seasonal nature of the demand for labour and the traditional classification of some jobs as the monopoly of women.

Results of the Secondary Data at District Level

Age of the Respondents

It is found that there are more per cent of female agricultural labourers in the age group of 20-24 years as compared to other age groups.

Secondly, the per cent of male agricultures are more in the age group of 60 years or above 60 years.

Population and Occupational Distribution

As the population distribution is concerned, there is more male population as compared to female population. Secondly, female workers as agricultural labourers are more and less in the case of cultivators on the other hand, male workers as agricultural labourers are less and more in the case of cultivators.

Agriculture

The district is predominantly agriculture oriented. The principal crops cultivated in the district are paddy, jowar, rice, sugar cane, pulses, vegetables, ground nut, ginger etc. The practice of mixed cropping system in the area is limited to dry crops only.

Irrigation

The chief source of irrigation in the district is the B.R. Project dam and Tungabhadra dam. There are also a large number of tanks and wells in the district.

Results of the Secondary Data at Hobli Level

Nidige Hobli

Nidige hobli is predominantly an agricultural hobli with the total area of village is 248.56 hectares. It consists of 26 inhabited and 2 uninhabited villages with the total population of 51,120 persons. In the hobli, the total main workers are 19,110 persons and agricultural labourers are 7,123 persons. The main source of irrigation in this hobli is government canal and tanks.

Distribution of Workers

Among agricultural labourers, female agricultural labourers are in greater proportion than male agricultural labourers. On the contrary to this, among cultivators, female cultivators are more or less compared to male cultivators.

Hiriyur Hobli

Hiriyur hobli is predominantly a rural area with the total area of villages is 105.20 hectares. It consists of inhabited villages with the total population of 59,380 persons. In the hobli, the total main workers are 20,525 persons and agricultural labourers are 10,465 persons. The main source of irrigation in this hobli is government canal, tanks and wells.

Distribution of Workers

Among agricultural labourers, female agricultural labourers are in greater proportion than male agricultural labourers. On contrary to this, among cultivators, female cultivators are less than male cultivators.

Results of the Secondary Data at Village Level

Malavagoppa Village

The total area of village is 628.65 hectares. The village is divided into three hamlets i.e., Hothikatta, Marikarvar and Dumahalli Thanda. In the village, 6 to 10 per cent of population belonging to Scheduled Caste and more than 50 per cent of the population belongs to Scheduled Tribes.

In the village in the total population ratio, there is more male population as compared to female population.

Distribution of Workers

Among agricultural labourers, female agricultural labourers are in greater proportion than male agricultural labourers. In case of cultivators, female cultivators are less than male cultivators.

Bidare Village of Nidige Hobli

The total area of village is 1800.26 hectares. The village is divided into three hamlets i.e., Navale, Hosanagar and Shanthinagar.

In this village, 11 to 15 per cent of population belonging to Scheduled Caste and more than 50 per cent of the population belongs to Scheduled Tribes.

In the village, there is more male population as compared to female population.

Distribution of Workers

Among agricultural labourers, female agricultural labourers are in greater population than male agricultural labourers. On the contrary to this, female cultivators are less than the male cultivators.

Machenahalli Village of Nidige Hobli

The total area of village is 1000.45 hectares. The village is divided into four hamlets i.e., Basavapura, Bilkiand and Joddikatte. In this village, 10 to 16 per cent of population belongs to Scheduled Caste and more than 50 per cent of the population belongs to Scheduled Tribes. In this village, there is more male population as compared to female population.

Distribution of Workers

Among agricultural labourers, female agricultural labourers are in greater proportion than male agricultural labourers. In case of cultivators, female cultivators are less than the male cultivators.

Aralikoppa Village of Hiriyur Hobli

The total area of village is 4012.18 hectares and the village has five hamlets i.e., Koppa, Hiriyur and Lakshmisagar Thanda.

In this village, 10 to 15 per cent of population belonging to Scheduled Caste and only few persons are belonging to Scheduled Tribes.

Distribution of Workers

In this village, female agricultural labourers and cultivators are less as compared to male agricultural labourers and cultivators.

Gangur Village of Hiriyur Hobli

The total area of village is 690.29 hectares and the village has two hamlets i.e., Bala Maraganahalli and Gangur. In this village, 10 to 15 per cent of population belongs to Scheduled Caste and there is very thin Scheduled Tribes population.

Distribution of Workers

Among agricultural labourers, there is very less differences in case of male agricultural labourers and female agricultural labourers. But there are more male cultivators as compared to female cultivators.

Gondhi Village of Hiriyur Hobli

The total area of village is 1817.82 hectares and the village has only two hamlets i.e., Talikatte and Sulthan Matti. In this village, 20 to 30 per cent of

population belongs to Scheduled Caste and only few persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes population.

Distribution of Workers

Among agricultural labourers, female agricultural labourers are higher than the male agricultural labourers. In case of cultivators, female cultivators are less than the male cultivators.

Results of the Field Survey at Village Level

Results of Socio-Economic Characteristics at Village Level

Malavagoppa Village of Nidige Hobli

- In this village, backward community (BC) female respondents are more and in the age group of 25-30 years, more sample respondents are working as agricultural labourers.
- In the case of literacy rate, here situation is little bit better because of 10 sample respondents are educated.
- BC agricultural women labour is more educated as compared to other social group.
- In case of earners of the family, 2 earners are more in the villages.
- Here also, all the respondents are having dry and only few are having wet land.

- To meet their household expenditure, all the respondents have taken loan from money lenders and the money lenders are charging Rs. 2.50% as an interest.
- Here also, more than half of the respondents are staying in huts only.

Bidare village of Nidige Hobli

- In this village, ST female respondents are more and in the age group of 25-30 years, more sample respondents are working as agricultural labourers.
- Literacy rate is very less, only few women are educated.
- Backward community agricultural women are more educated as compared to other social group.
- In case of farmers as usual earners are more.
- Almost all the respondents are having land and that to dry land, only few respondents are having wet land also.
- To meet their household expenditure, almost all the respondents have taken loan from money lenders and the money lenders are charging Rs. 2.50% as an interest.
- The condition of labours is bad only because half of the respondents are staying in huts and they have to pay more outstanding balance amount.

Machenahalli Village of Nidige Hobli

- In this village, ST female respondents are more and in the age group of 25-30 years, more sample respondents are working as agricultural labourers.
- Illiterate sample respondents are more only few agricultural women labour are educated.
- Backward community agricultural women are more educated as compared to other social group.
- In case of earners of the family, a usual 2 earners are more in the village.
- Almost all the respondents are having land and that to dry land only and few are having wet land also.
- To meet their household expenditure, all the respondents have taken loan from money lenders and the money lenders are charging Rs. 2% as an interest rate.
- In this village also, half of the respondents are staying in huts only.

Aralikoppa village of Hiriyur Hobli

- In this village, backward community (BC) and other community (OC) female respondents are more and in the age group of 25-30 years and 30-40 years, more female respondents are working as agricultural labourers.
- Here also, illiterate women are more and only few women are educated.

- Other community agricultural women are more educated as compared to other social groups.
- In case of earners of the family, 2 earners are more in the village.
- In this village, almost all the respondents are having land and that to be wet land only.
- Here also, all the respondents have taken loan from money lenders to purchase agricultural materials and the money lenders are charging Rs. 2 per cent as an interest.
- In this village, more sample respondents are staying in cemented house, huts and tiny houses.

Gangur village of the Hiriyur Hobli

- Backward community female respondents are more or in the age group of 30-40 years, more female sample respondents are working as agricultural labourers.
- In this village, educational status is little better because two women are educated upto SSLC level.
- Backward community agricultural women labours are more educated as compared to other social groups.
- In case of earners of the family, 2 earners are more in the village.
- In this village, almost all the respondents are having land that too wet land only. They are getting water from Bhadra Dam project.

- All the respondents have taken loan from money lenders to purchase agricultural materials and the money lenders are charging Rs. 2% as an interest.
- In this village, more sample respondents are staying in hut and cement houses.

Gondhi village of the Hiriyur Hobli

- In this village, backward community female respondents are more and in the age groups of 25-35 years, more female sample respondents are working as agricultural labourers.
- In this village, illiteracy is more, only few women agricultural labourers are educated.
- Other community agricultural women labours are more educated as compared to other social groups.
- In case of earners of the family, 2 earners are more in the village.
- In this village almost all the respondents are having land and that too wet land only. It is due to Bhadra Reservoir Project, they are getting water.
- All the respondents have taken loan from money lenders to purchase agricultural materials and the money lenders are charging Rs. 2 per cent as an interest.
- In this village, most of the respondents are staying in tiny houses and huts.

Results of the Field Survey Regarding Employment of Agricultural Women Labour

Employment of Agricultural Women Labour in Nidige Hobli during Kharif Season

This study is divided into three seasons i.e., kharif, rabi and lean seasons. In the villages of Nidige hobli, agricultural women labours are doing only few activities. These activities are seeds sowing/planting work, weeding, harvesting and threshing.

Almost all the sample of respondents are engaged in these activities but for on an average of few days of the year such as for seeds sowing/planting, it is 16 days, weeding for 9, 10 days work for harvesting and 7 days for threshing work.

Employment of Agricultural Women Labour in Hiriyur Hobli during Kharif Season

In three villages of Hiriyur hobli, agricultural women labours are also engaged in few activities. These activities are seeds sowing/planting work, organic manuring, weeding, harvesting and threshing work.

In Hiriyur hobli, there is full of irrigation facilities due to Bhadra Reservoir Project work, but soil of the hobli is not fertile. Due to less fertile of soil, agricultural women labourers are also doing manuring work.

All the sample of respondents is engaged in these activities for few days of the year. Such as for seeds sowing/planting, it is 29 days, weeding work 15 days work for harvesting and 25 days for threshing work and 20 days for organic manuring work (on an average days of work).

Employment of Agricultural Women Labour in Nidige Hobli during Rabi Season

In Nidige hobli has three villages, agricultural women labour are also engaged in inter cultivation work.

Here also, women labours are doing only few activities. These activities are seeds sowing/planting work, weeding, harvesting and threshing work and inter cultivation work. In this hobli employment opportunities are less during rabi season secondly, for weeding only few women are getting work.

Sample of respondents are engaged in these activities for only few days of the year, such as for seeds sowing/planting work. It is on an average 17 days, weeding work 5 days, harvesting for 6 for threshing and 11 days for inter cultivation work.

Employment of Agricultural Women Labour in Hiriyur Hobli during Rabi Season

In this hobli, there are three villages, agricultural labour are just engaged in seeds sowing/planting work, weeding, harvesting and threshing work.

Almost all the sample of respondents are engaged in these activities but for few days of the work such as for seeds sowing/planting work, it is 26 days 10 days engaged in weeding work, harvesting activity for 21 days and for threshing work 14 days respectively.

Activities of Agricultural Women Labour during Lean Season during Nidige Hobli

Out of three villages of Nidige hobli, in two villages, agricultural labour are engaged in tailoring work, bricks making, construction and market work but in Malavagoppa village, agricultural labour are engaged in oil, dairy, tailoring, bricks making, construction and cobbler work etc.

In the lean season, for tailoring work, women are getting more number of working days.

Activities of Agricultural Women Labour in Hiriyur Hobli during Lean Season

In Hiriyur hobli, women are just doing tailoring work, bricks making, construction work, tractor and mill work, only for few days of work. Such as on an average for tailoring work, it is 60 days, bricks making it are 63 days, 57 days tractor work and mill work they are doing only for 60 days.

Results of the Field Survey Regarding Wages of Agricultural Women Labour

Wages of Agricultural Women Labour in Nidige Hobli during Kharif Season

In this season women labour are doing only few activities but they are getting wages in cash and in kind. The kind wages to be in kilograms and the rate of one kilogram of rice is Rs. 5. Women labour are getting wages in cash for seeds sowing/planting work, weeding work, but weeding and threshing work they are getting in kind, kind to be 5 kilograms of rice for harvesting work and 8 kilograms for threshing work.

Wages of Agricultural Women Labour in Hiriyur Hobli in Kharif Season

Here also, women labours are getting wages in cash and in kind for few activities. The kind wages they are getting in pots and the rate per pot is Rs. 200 only. They are getting wages in cash for organic manuring and weeding works but for seeds sowing/planting work, harvesting and threshing work, they are getting wages in kind only i.e., 1/2 pot of rice per day. They are getting kind wages.

Wages of Agricultural Women Labour in Nidige Hobli during Rabi Season

Here also, agricultural women labours are doing only few activities. For these activities, they are getting different wages of each activity. But in rabi season agricultural women labour are getting wages in cash only.

In this hobli, for seeds sowing/planting work wage is higher than the weeding work wage.

Wages of Agricultural Women Labour in Hiriyur Hobli during Rabi Season

Here also, agricultural women labours are doing only few activities. For these few activities, they are getting wages in both the ways i.e., in cash and in kind. The kind they are getting in pots and the rate of one pot is Rs. 200.

For weeding work, they are getting wages in cash but for seeds sowing/planting work, harvesting and threshing works they are getting wages in pots only.

Wages of Agricultural Women Labour in Nidige Hobli during Lean Season

Agricultural women labour are getting more wages for tailoring work and bricks making but in Malavagoppa villages, women are engaged in other activities and more money they are getting in cobbler, dairy an oil works. Here for all the activities they are getting wages in cash only.

Wages of Agricultural Women Labour in Hiriyur Hobli during Lean Season

In this hobli, agricultural women labours are doing only few activities and for these few activities they are getting wages in cash only.

For bricks making, tractor and mill works they are getting more wages and less wages for tailoring and construction works.

Conclusion

The women participation in labour force has decreased after 1994 and disparity between male and female has been widened after an improvement in 2004-05. The number of actual women workers is high in rural India, in comparison to urban India. The reason behind the above contradictory findings is low evolvement of rural women in attending Schooling, high demand of female labour in agriculture sector. The study suggests that high woman participation has been seen in low caste category especially in Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe. The women belonging to advanced family and associated with upper classes involve themselves in domestic work and un-paid work. On the other hand, it has been observed that upper class women engaged in high professional works, business and other services sector. One of the interesting facts is that the women from rural India, mostly work in informal sector, dominated by male workers and they also get fewer wages in comparison to male labour. Available statistics do not capture the entire problem that female workers face in rural area.

To conclude, the study clearly brings out that female work participation rate has declined. It is due to the change of ‘worker’ definition only.

Season-wise and irrigation facilities are the main factors that determined the employment and wages of the agricultural women labour.

In Karnataka, female participation rate is less in case of agricultural work and hobli-wise female agricultural labourers are more in Hiriyur hobli as compared to Nidige hobli.

There is a lot of discrimination in case of wages because for same activity women are getting fewer wages than men.

There are more women agricultural labourers in the age group of 20-25 years in both the hoblies. Literate women respondents are less as compared to illiterate.

In case of earners of the family, 2 earners are more in both the hoblies. In both the hoblies, agricultural women labourers having land but due to conditions of land, in Nidige hobli all are having dry land and due to irrigation facilities in Hiriyur hobli, all the respondents are having wet land only.

In Nidige hobli, all respondents have taken loan to meet their household expenditure and in Hiriyur hobli, all the respondents have taken loan to purchase agricultural materials. But they have taken money from lenders only and money lenders are charging different rate of interest to all the respondents.

In kharif season and in both the hoblies, women agricultural labour are doing only few activities such as seeds sowing/planting work, weeding, harvesting, organic manuring work and that too for a few days only.

Same thing is happening in case of rabi seasons also. Women are just engaged in few activities and that too for a few days only.

In the lean season also, women are engaged in few activities but employment opportunities are better in case of Hiriyur hobli.

In both the seasons and in both the hoblies, agricultural women labours are getting wages both in cash and in kind. But in Nidige hobli, they are getting kind in kilograms and the rate of one kilograms of rice is Rs. 5 per day. On the other hand, in Hiriyur hobli, they are getting kind wages in pots and the rate of one pot of rice is Rs. 200. They are getting wages in cash in both the hoblies during lean season activities and there is more wages for bricks and tailoring works.

Suggestions for Policy Recommendations

Since the majority of agricultural women labour is engaged in seeds sowing /planting work, weeding, harvesting work in these hoblies, further employment opportunities can be provided by certain policy measures such as

1. Government should not go for least mechanization in the above activities.
2. Encouraging labour intensive techniques in these activities.
3. Surplus human resources can be absorbed by encouraging such other activities in agriculture and by promoting allied agricultural activities like poultry farming, goat rearing, dairying, pig rearing, pisciculture etc.

4. By keeping severe drought conditions in mind only the above such activities will provide not only the employment opportunities in all three seasons but also handful wages, which substantiate their income to the family income.
5. Non-crop activities like poultry, dairying, fisheries, horticulture, floriculture, animal husbandry have scope for generating more employment.
6. The draft National Economic Policy (NEP) has suggested that in agriculture existing policy packages need to strengthen and new ones evolved to facilitate diversification of agricultural products and shift from on-farm to off-farm activities.