Journal of Social Sciences

and

Management Research

IMPACT OF COVID19 PANDEMIC ON WOMEN AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS IN PANRUTI TALUK OF CUDDALORE DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU

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Abstract

Covid19 pandemic is a global phenomenon which affected the lives, livelihoods and well-being of the entire ,population the pandemic world result in increased unemployment, has resulted decreased income from daily labour daily labour increased ford insecurity, depletion of saving and relief measures and disrupted the marketing system among others .The present study has investigated the effect of covid19 on the livelihood activities of Agricultural workers in Panruti Taluk of Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu .seasonal migration undertaken to improve the economic position of the household is also being noted by resent research in India.125 sample respondents selected on the basis of disproportionate random sampling method was used to collect data. The primary data for the study collected from Dec 2020 to February 2021 .the findings of the study that most of the agriculture labour income was very low therefore people migrate from Agriculture to after sectors. The study concluded that better improving bargaining position improvement of their working condition public work programme and social securing will lead to improve the condition of the migrant workers.

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INTRODCUTION

Agriculture remains the single most important source of household income in most regions of India. In fact, over half of household income is from agriculture irrigated area, accentuating the importance of the activity in the state. Agriculture labour is almost negligible because incidence of landlessness. However in most cases of landholding size of households inquire meagre, so that agriculture in India mainly subsistence oriental and does not generate much surplus (or) employment livelihood activity pursued by household and their outcomes as related to asset base. The activities they pursue are the result of their livelihood which vulnerabilities push household to seek and pursue coping strategies.

Natural, human, physical, financial and social capitals are the five dimensional assets base of household. Land, education, housing partner, investment of credit facilities and participation in organizational activities are taken as proxies for them. The monthly per capital consumption expenditure (MPCE) of households assumed to quantity livelihood out comes migration for survival is well documented in Tamil Nadu (Ramanamurthy, 2002). Nearly all of the strategies identified the main drivers of migration as the worsening situation of dry land agriculture created due to drought, crop failure and poor terms of trade and also COVID 19 Pandemic heavily affecting the lives, livelihood and well-being of the entire population.

Seasonal migration that is undertaken to improve the economic position of the household is also being noted by recent research in India. Several families are poor in rural areas. Land less and marginal farmers who can't find work and grow anything on their land have such alternative employment from industry and service sector. Non-farm in work is often better paid, but their condition is poor. The work is hard and is often taken up in the ward summer when agriculture labour markets are slack. Therefore this paper focuses on the effect of COVID 19 on the livelihood activities of agriculture workers in the study area.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the livelihood strategies of Agricultural labourer in Panruti block, Cuddalore district after COVID 19 Pandemic?

2. Is the income of Agricultural labour households is sufficient for their livelihood?

3. What are the present conditions of Agricultural labour livelihood?

4. Can the local resources help to overcome their problems?

5. What can the government do better the livelihood conditions of Agricultural labour?

RESEARCH DESIGN

The present study is undertaken with the following hypotheses and methodology of the study.

OBJECTIVES

1. The Socio- Economic conditions of agricultural labourers among the sample villages in Panruti Block.

2. To study the occupational structure, employment, income and savings of Agricultural labour in Panruti Block.

3. To find out the access to credit for survival of Agricultural labour households in the study area and

4. To explore the alternative employment opportunities of the agricultural labour in the study area,

Hypotheses

1. Caste influences the choice of participation of the Agricultural labour work

2. There is a significant contribution of earning of alternative employment income to total household income.

Methodology

Based on the framed objectives of the study it is necessary to collect information from both primary and secondary data with respect to involved agricultural labour activities and other aspects such as Alternative employment opportunities and determination of participating labour activities in the study area.

The researcher selected Panruti Block as a study area. Among the Panruti Blocks. Two panchayats i.e. Alagappasamuthiram and vallam panchayats selected on the basis of higher availability of labour force and scores of alternative employment opportunities. In the second stage, 125 sample respondents are selected on the basis of disproportionate stratified random sample method. Thus the sample size for the study consists of 125 labour forces spreader over two selected panchayat villages comprising 75 from scheduled caste, 18 from scheduled tribes, 21 from most backward communities, and 11from backward communities in the study area.

Sources of Data

The research work is the result of combination of two methods. i.e., desk study and field work. Desk study consists of supporting and relevant literature such as text books, research activities, government policies, programs and strategies regarding, agricultural labour activities. More over secondary data collected from the district specified office VAO, records in Panruti Block. Primary data collected through well-structured questionnaire designed in the light of the objective of the study.

Period of the study

The duration of the study for secondary data collected for the past 10 years i.e. 2010-2011 and the primary deskwork for the study collected for 2020-2021. Collected data analysed through the use of various statistical techniques like averages, percentages, CGR, Chi-square test and Z test.

Delimitation

The study covered only economic impact of agricultural labourers livelihood in Panruti Block, only two panchayats and it will not cover the other aspects and other panchayats in Panruti Block, Cuddalore District.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION – TESTING OF HYPOTHESES

i. Testing of First Hypothesis

Caste influences the choice of participation of Agricultural labour work.

Objective

The main objective is to compare agricultural labour among SC, ST, MBC and BC communities.

Framework of Analysis

In order to achieve the objective and derive a suitable result on the basis of it, the following t- test for difference between two sample mean values model is used.

$H_0 = \mu_1 \leq \mu_2$ agricultural labour to all communities is not greater than that for

SC, ST, MBC and BC completing communities.

$H_1 = \mu_1 > \mu_2$ agricultural labour to all communities is greater than that for SC, ST, MBC and BC completing communities.

Here,

$t_n 1 + _n 2 - 2$ Degrees of freedom = n1 + n2 – 1 with

$\overline{\overline{X}}_1$ = mean score of agricultural labour of communities

$\overline{X}_2$ = mean score of agricultural labour of SC, ST, MBC and BC

n_1 = number in the respondents in agricultural labour

n_1 = number in the respondents in SC, ST, MBC and BC

S = combined standard Deviation.

T Test for Average Score of Agricultural Labour

Category	Value
Agricultural labour $\overline{X}_1$	1.744
SC, ST, MBC and BC $\overline{X}_2$	2.743
Absolute difference $|\overline{X}_1 - \overline{X}_2|$	0.999
Standard Error	0.092
t – Statistic	18.912

Source: Computed

Results and Discussion

The above table calculated values of t is greater than that the table value, H_o is not accepted. It implies that significant agricultural labour to SC community is greater than that for ST, MBC, BC completing communities. The mean value of score of agricultural labour is greater in SC than that of ST, MBC and BC.

ii. Testing of second Hypothesis

There is a significant contribution of earning of alternative employment income to total household income.

Objective

As discussed in review and design of the study respondents household income and contribution of respondent's alternative employment income are found to influence respondent's alternative work. The effect of these variables differs from respondent's alternative work for different types of employment (i.e. Industry, Services, Construction faced and self-employment). Hence the present study includes the second hypothesis.

Framework of Analysis

"In order to verify this hypothesis linear regression model of the form $Y=b_o+b_1 X_1 + U$ is estimated.

It is fitted by the method of least squares using SPSS-13.0. In this model X is Alternative income which is a proxy for alternative work and Y is respondent's income/Y is Share of respondent income.

Estimated Linear Income Function

Predictor	Y as Respondents Income			
	B	Std. Error	t – Statistic	P Level Significance
Constant	4982.108	732.193	6.140	0.000
Alternative Income (X)	184.151	64.215	2.314	0.000
Adjusted $R^2 = 0.124$				
Predictor	Y as Respondents Income			
	B	Std. Error	t – Statistic	P Level Significance

Constant	61.520	12.031	3.364	0.000
Alternative Income **(X)**	3.145	2.104	1.915	0.005
Adjusted R^2 = 0.034				

Source: Computed

Results and discussion

The results of the estimated linear regression model are presented in the table -5.2. It shall be informed from the value of R^2, the coefficient of multiple determinations that 12.4% of changes in respondents income and 3.4 percent of change in respondents contribution income are respectively due to the linear influence of respondents' alternative work. Thus their earnings from alternative work are rising, which also contribute to higher share of the income in family.

FINDINGS, SUGGESTION AND CONCLUSION

I. FINDINGS

Out of 125, sample a respondent, 97 respondents (77.6%) belongs to male and 28 respondents (22.4%) belongs to female. All the communities are from male respondent which is higher than female respondents.

The categories of SC (both Hindu and Christian) were higher for engaged agriculture work than other communities.

Agriculture labours income was low, it is difficult to meet out their family needs, they are able to save only little bit amount for the purpose of meeting out their urgent needs in future.

Among the total 105 (84.0%), the majority of the sample respondents have worked in service sector (50), followed by 25 respondents are in construction faced, and 15 respondents are choosing industry and self-employment are the alternative employment. It is inference to note that, 20 respondents are recorded, no alternative employment and this respondent household's income from only agricultural source.

II. SUGGESTION The following suggestions can be made for improving the position of agricultural workers.

➢ Better implementation of Legislative Measures
➢ Improving the Bargaining Position
➢ Resettlement of Agricultural Workers
➢ Creating Alternative Source of Employment
➢ Improving the Working Conditions
➢ Public Course Programmer
➢ Raising the Standard of Living

III. CONCLUSION

These measures can solve most of the problems of agricultural workers. As stated earlier, the basic task is to divide surplus land amongst agricultural workers and provide additional employment opportunities in villages through the development of small and cottage industries. General improvement in the working conditions, enforcement of legislative measures, provision of social security etc.

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