

## **CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF MARITAL CONFLICTS ON THE FEMALE AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS**

MAMTA A. PATIL AND R.V. DEBESSETTY

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See end of article for authors' affiliations  
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Correspondence to :  
**MAMTA A. PATIL**  
Department of Home Science,  
College of Home Science,  
M.A.U., PARBHANI (M.S.)  
INDIA

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### **ABSTRACT**

Random samples of one hundred and two agricultural labourers from seven identified farms of Marathwada Agriculture University of Maharashtra were selected. The most common causes stated by one hundred and two randomly selected female agricultural labourers' for their conflicts were irresponsible husbands, their bad habits like alcohol and gambling, sexual harassment, even harassment by mother-in-laws, vagabond nature of children and infertility also another contributed factor. Marital conflicts made all women to perceive their life in miserable condition. Besides it, majority of them perceived themselves as short tempered, aggressive and experienced health problems. But at the same time marital conflicts taught to female spouses and their children to be more concerned about their duties and are bold and efficient in dealing day to day activities.

**Key words :** Agricultural labourers, Marital, Conflicts, Harassment, Spouse.

**C**onflict is a state of being in apposition and is usually a thought as a signal of danger and disaster. Conflicts arise among the couples over innumerable reasons such as whenever division of work load in house, occupational pattern, illness, money spending, children care, relation with relatives of spouses and other persons, extramarital affairs, not having support in playing roles and the amount of time spent together etc. Conflict can lead to any stage of violence, which disturbs the individual especially female spouses. Family violence generally refers to any rough and illegitimate use of physical force or aggression or of verbal abuse by one family member towards another. In family this sort of violence, which typically occurs when a man beats his female partner, which is the most prevalent of gender based violence and "battering" but also sexual abuse and marital rape as well many research studies proved that marital conflicts are more dangerous to spouses. According to Martin *et al.* (1987) many battered women exhibited more psychological problems and have psychiatric defects like psychoses, neurosis or psychopathic problems and even suffered from emotional illness. Sometimes marital conflicts may be the best alternative solution for many couples especially to female spouses instead of leading intolerable stressful life. In light of above it is felt necessary to take up a study on common causes and effects of marital conflicts on the female agricultural labourers

### **METHODOLOGY**

A random sample of one hundred and two female agricultural labourers having marital conflicts was selected. Out of the hundred and two female agricultural labourers fifty of them were in the age group of 30-35 yrs included in group 1 while the rest of the fifty two of them in the age group between 35 and 40 yrs were included in group 2. All the sample female agricultural laborers were personally interviewed based on structural open ended interview schedules to elicit the information, pertaining to the study. The collected data were pooled, tabulated and analyzed by using 't' test.

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Common causes of the marital conflicts of the female agricultural labourers are depicted in Table 1. It is obvious from Table that the main causes for majority of group 1 and group 2 female agricultural labourers to have conflicts with their husbands were husbands nature of sharking roles and responsibilities towards family (96% and 78%, respectively) and their bad habits such as addiction to alcohol and gambling (50% and 69%, respectively). A small percentage of female agricultural labourers from both the groups informed to the investigator that the events like harassment by their husbands (9% and 26%, respectively) and their husbands extramarital affairs with other women (13% and 20%, respectively) vagabond nature of children (13% and 20%, respectively) etc, made these women for having fights with their husbands. A meager percentage of group 1 and group 2 women (8%