

To measure the season wise employment of woman labourer in agriculture in Latur district

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ARTICLE INFO:

Received : 27.06.2013
Revised : 00.00.2013
Accepted : 00.00.2013

KEY WORDS:

Season wise employment, Woman labourer, Multistage sampling

HOW TO CITE THIS ARTICLE :

Mohite, J.P. and Shelke, R.D. (2013). To measure the season wise employment of woman labourer in agriculture in Latur district, *Adv. Res. J. Soc. Sci.*, 4(2) : 183-184.

ABSTRACT

Multistage sampling design was adopted for selection of district, tehsils, villages and households. In first stage, Latur district was selected purposively from Marathwada region of Maharashtra state. In the second stage, Ausa and Renapur tehsil from Latur district was selected purposively. In third stage from each tehsil five villages were selected purposively. In fourth stage from each tehsil five villages were selected purposively. In fourth stage six women labourers were selected from those ten villages randomly. Thus, a total of 60 women agricultural labourers from ten villages were selected for collecting the required data for the present study. The technique of tabular analysis method with averages and percentages was employed for calculating the number of days employed in agriculture. Woman labourer got maximum employment in agriculture during *Kharif* (84.72 days) and *Rabi* season (81.95 days). The women labourers got 209.38 days of employment in agriculture in a year.

INTRODUCTION

Women labour has a special significance in agriculture. Women are a vital agent in Indian economy. Women today play a pivotal role in agriculture – as female agricultural labour, as farmers, co-farmers, female family labour and as managers of farms and farm entrepreneurs. Three fourths of the women workers are in agriculture. Among the rural women workers, 87 per cent are employed in agriculture as labourers and cultivators.

Despite women's significant and crucial role in agricultural development and allied fields, they have virtually no access to agricultural information, services or production assets and have very limited control over their earnings.

METHODS

Multistage sampling design was adopted for selection of district, tehsils, villages and women labourers. In first stage Latur district was selected purposively from Marathwada

region of Maharashtra state. In the second stage, Ausa and Renapur tehsils from Latur district were selected purposively. In third stage from each tehsil five villages were selected purposively. In fourth stage six women labourers were selected from the ten villages randomly. Thus, a total of 60 women agricultural labourers from ten villages were selected for collecting the required data for the present study.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The season wise employment of women labourers is presented in Table 1.

Kharif season generally extends from June to September. The women labourers got 84.72 days of employment in agriculture during this season. They got maximum employment in the month of September (23.45 days) and June (22.20 days) which accounted for 11.20 per cent, and 10.60 per cent, respectively of the total employment in a year in agriculture. In the study area, September is the month of harvesting of *Kharif* crops, so more days employed in this month. In July and August

they got employment for 20.70 days and 18.37 days which accounted for 9.89 per cent and 8.78 per cent, respectively of the total employment in a year. In this season the women labourers got 40.46 per cent of the total employment in a year.

Rabi season in Maharashtra extends from October to January. In this season, the labourers got employment for 81.95 days in agriculture which accounted for 39.14 per cent of the total employment in agriculture in a year. They got maximum employment in the month of October (23.62 days) and November (21.18 days) which accounted for 11.28 per cent and 10.33 per cent, respectively of the total employment in a year in agriculture. In the study area cotton is cultivated in *Kharif* season but harvesting is done at the starting of *Rabi* season that is in October and November months. In study area it was observed that more days are employed in cotton picking operation, thus more days are employed in these months. Employment days of November also contribute for sowing of *Rabi* crops like wheat, chickpea, *Rabi* jowar. They got 19.08

days (9.11%) of employment in January and 18.07 days (8.63%) of employment in December month.

The employment days for the labourers in above two seasons showed variation. In *Kharif* 84.72 days of employment and in *Rabi* season 81.95 days of employment. The labourers were susceptible to health problem due to their strenuous work under the scorching sun. They also had to cater to family responsibilities along with their outside work. There may not be enough work available, due to reduced cultivation area, crop loss etc. All these might have been the reasons for variation in the number of employment days.

The summer season extends from February to May in the study region. The women labourers got only 42.7 days of employment in agriculture in this season as this is the offseason. In summer season most of the labourers were involved in harvesting, threshing and winnowing operations.

The women labourers got employment for 218.37 days in agriculture in a year, which accounts to about seven months in a year. This is due to the highly seasonal nature of agriculture and also due to mechanization of the farm. They were employed for only 59.83 per cent of the total days in a year. The rest of the days they had to seek other employment sources or rather they were without work (Sajjad, 1998).

Dahiya *et al.* (1999) and Badane (2000) have also contributed some information regarding participation of farm women in farming activities and Nisha (2008) made an economic analysis women labour in agriculture.

Table 1 : Season wise and month wise woman labourer's employment in agriculture		
Months	Employment days	
	Days	Per cent
<i>Kharif</i>		
1. June	22.20	10.60
2. July	20.70	9.89
3. August	18.37	8.78
4. September	23.45	11.20
5. Sub total	84.72	40.46
<i>Rabi</i>		
6. October	23.62	11.28
7. November	21.18	10.33
8. December	18.07	8.63
9. January	19.08	9.11
10. Sub total	81.95	39.14
Summer		
11. February	18.68	8.92
12. March	13.97	6.67
13. April	9.03	4.31
14. May	1.02	0.49
Sub total	42.70	20.40
Grand Total	209.37	100.00

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