



Seasonwise employment and income of female labourers in Amravati district

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ABSTRACT

Investigation was undertaken to estimate the socio-economic status, seasonality of employment and contribution of female labourers in the total family income considering soybean, cotton, pigeonpea in *Kharif* season and chickpea and wheat in *Rabi* season. For these, total 120 samples were studied considering large, medium, small, marginal farmers and landless labourers. The employment days were observed more in landless labourers. Income earned by the female landless labourers was highest as compared to most of the females of farmers families group.

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INTRODUCTION

Woman are a vital part of Indian economy. Over the years, there is a gradual realization of the key role of women in agricultural development and their vital contribution in the field of agriculture and women have been putting in labour not only in terms of physical output but also in terms of quality and efficiency. Women play a significant and crucial role in agricultural operations, including different crop production activities, post-harvest activities etc. They are devoting many hours in the field but their work is not given due credit. The multiple role of women in agricultural operation are generally under estimated and under-valued.

METHODOLOGY

The study on socio-economic status of female agricultural labourers in Amravati district was carried out for the present study Amravati and Bhatkuli Tahsils of Amravati district were selected. From these Tahsils, six villages were randomly selected on basis of land holding of farmers. From each village four farmer families and landless family were selected. Twenty four farmers from each group and sixty families from each Tahsil were taken. The families were categorized as large farmers

(above five hectare), medium farmers (2.01 to 5 hectare), small farmers (1.01 to 2 hectare), marginal farmers (upto 1 hectare) and landless labourers families.

The primary data pertaining to the year 2009-10 from these selected farmers were collected by personal interview in a pre-tested questionnaire. The data pertaining to family information, land use pattern, cropping pattern, capital assets etc. farm days on farm work and non-farm days on farm work, wage rates per day, income source were also collected. Collected data were analyzed by using appropriate statistical tools like averages, percentage etc. in order to accomplish the objective of the present study.

OBSERVATION AND ANALYSIS

The findings of the study as well as relevant discussion have been summarized as under :

The employment days were observed more in landless group with 63.87 days and decreased as land holding increased. The lowest employment days were observed in large group of families where the employment days were only 25.92 days spent in the farm work. The unemployment days

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Table 1: Seasonwise employment and income of female labourers			Kharif season (Days/Family)					
Sr. No.	Group	Activity	Male		Female		Total	
			Days	Income	Days	Income	Days	Income
A.	Large	Employment days	70.67	8985.54	25.92	2510.87	96.59	11496.41
		(As labour)	(56.54)	(78.16)	(20.74)	(21.84)	(38.64)	(100)
		Unemployment days	54.33	-	99.08	-	153.41	-
			(43.46)		(79.26)		(61.36)	
		Total	125	8985.54	125	2510.87	250	11496.41
		(100)	(78.16)	(100)	(21.84)	(100)	(100)	
B.	Medium	Employment days	74.54	10104.74	30.21	2580.83	104.75	12685.57
		(As labour)	(59.63)	(79.66)	(24.17)	(20.34)	(41.9)	(100)
		Unemployment days	50.46	-	94.79	-	145.25	-
			(40.37)		(75.83)		(58.1)	
		Total	125	10104.74	125	2580.83	250	12685.57
		(100)	(79.66)	(100)	(20.34)	(100)	(100)	
C.	Small	Employment days	76.67	9454.32	33.17	2512.66	109.84	11966.98
		(As labour)	(61.34)	(79.00)	(26.54)	(21.00)	(43.94)	(100)
		Unemployment days	48.33	-	91.83	-	140.16	-
			(38.66)		(73.46)		(56.06)	
		Total	125	9454.32	125	2512.66	250	11966.98
		(100)	(79.00)	(100)	(21.00)	(100)	(100)	
D.	Marginal	Employment days	86.87	8378.96	46.25	3639.24	133.12	12018.2
		(As labour)	(69.50)	(69.72)	(37.00)	(30.28)	(53.25)	(100)
		Unemployment days	38.13	-	78.75	-	116.88	-
			(30.50)		(63.00)		(46.75)	
		Total	125	8378.96	125	3639.24	250	12018.2
		(100)	(69.72)	(100)	(30.28)	(100)	(100)	
E.	Landless	Employment days	92.71	9956.73	63.87	5367.09	156.58	15323.82
		(As labour)	(74.17)	(64.98)	(51.10)	(35.02)	(62.64)	(100)
		Unemployment days	32.29	-	61.13	-	93.42	-
			(25.83)		(48.90)		(37.36)	
		Total	125	9956.73	125	5367.09	250	15323.82
		(100)	(64.98)	(100)	(35.02)	(100)	(100)	

(Note : Figures in parenthesis indicate per cent to total)

decreased with the decreased in land holding. Highest unemployment days were observed in large group of families with 99.08 days and lowest unemployment days were observed in landless group with 61.13 days in *Kharif* season (Table 1).

In *Rabi* season highest unemployment days were observed in large group *i.e.* 84.3 per cent and lowest unemployment days were observed in landless group *i.e.* 45.69 per cent (Table 2).

In summer season the unemployment days in case of large group were 94.1 per cent and in case of landless group, the unemployment days were 50.11 per cent

which was lowest (Table 3).

The total employment days were more in case of landless labourers and less employment was observed in females of large group of families.

The employment days increased with decrease in land holding and unemployment days decreased with the decrease in land holding.

Income earned by the female labourers was high in the *Kharif* season followed by *Rabi* and summer season.

Higher was the socio-economic status, less participation in farm and non-farm activities by the

SEASONWISE EMPLOYMENT & INCOME OF FEMALE LABOURERS

Table 2: Seasonwise employment and income of female labourers			Rabi season (Days/Family)					
Sr. No.	Group	Activity	Male		Female		Total	
			Days	Income	Days	Income	Days	Income
A.	Large	Employment days	50.83	4831.29	18.83	1376.85	69.66	6208.14
		(As labour)	(42.36)	(77.82)	(15.7)	(22.18)	(29.03)	(100)
		Unemployment days	69.17	-	101.17	-	170.34	-
			(57.64)		(84.3)		(70.97)	
		Total	120	4831.29	120	1376.85	240	6208.14
		(100)	(77.82)	(100)	(22.18)	(100)	(100)	
B.	Medium	Employment days	34.79	2307.36	19.12	778.21	53.91	3085.57
		(As labour)	(29.00)	(74.78)	(15.93)	(25.22)	(22.47)	(100)
		Unemployment days	85.21	-	100.88	-	186.08	-
			(71.00)		(84.07)		(77.53)	
		Total	120	2307.36	120	778.21	240	3085.57
		(100)	(74.78)	(100)	(25.22)	(100)	(100)	
C.	Small	Employment days	40.21	2245.45	24.17	863.34	64.38	3108.79
		(As labour)	(33.51)	(72.23)	(20.14)	(27.77)	(26.83)	(100)
		Unemployment days	79.79	-	95.83	-	175.62	-
			(66.49)		(79.86)		(73.17)	
		Total	120	2245.45	120	863.34	240	3108.79
		(100)	(72.23)	(100)	(27.77)	(100)	(100)	
D.	Marginal	Employment days	55.96	5110.34	39.46	2652.44	95.42	7762.78
		(As labour)	(46.63)	(65.83)	(32.88)	(34.17)	(39.75)	(100)
		Unemployment days	64.04	-	80.54	-	144.58	-
			(53.37)		(67.12)		(60.25)	
		Total	120	5110.34	120	2652.44	240	7762.78
		(100)	(65.83)	(100)	(34.17)	(100)	(100)	
E.	Landless	Employment days	74.79	8247.4	65.17	5119.35	139.96	13366.75
		(As labour)	(62.32)	(61.70)	(54.31)	(38.30)	(58.32)	(100)
		Unemployment days	45.21	-	54.83	-	100.04	-
			(37.68)		(45.69)		(41.68)	
		Total	120	8247.4	120	5119.35	240	13366.75
		(100)	(61.70)	(100)	(38.30)	(100)	(100)	

(Note : Figures in parenthesis indicate per cent to total)

Table 3: Seasonwise employment and income of female labourers			Summer season (Days/Family)					
Sr. No.	Group	Activity	Male		Female		Total	
			Days	Income	Days	Income	Days	Income
A.	Large	Employment days	29.79	1479.57	7.04	252.24	36.83	1731.81
		(As labour)	(24.82)	(85.43)	(5.9)	(14.57)	(15.36)	(100)
		Unemployment days	90.21	-	112.96	-	203.17	-
			(75.18)		(94.1)		(84.64)	
	Total	120	1479.57	120	252.24	240	1731.81	
		(100)	(85.43)	(100)	(14.57)	(100)	(100)	
B.	Medium	Employment days	27.29	989.85	16.04	622.65	43.33	1612.5
		(As labour)	(22.74)	(61.39)	(13.4)	(38.61)	(18.07)	(100)
		Unemployment days	92.71	-	103.96	-	196.67	-
			(77.26)		(86.6)		(81.93)	
	Total	120	989.85	120	622.65	240	1612.5	
		(100)	(61.39)	(100)	(38.61)	(100)	(100)	
C.	Small	Employment days	21.67	815.35	20.42	1005.71	42.09	1821.06
		(As labour)	(18.06)	(44.77)	(17.02)	(55.23)	(17.54)	(100)
		Unemployment days	98.33	-	99.58	-	197.91	-
			(81.94)		(82.98)		(82.46)	
	Total	120	815.35	120	1005.71	240	1821.06	
		(100)	(44.77)	(100)	(55.23)	(100)	(100)	
D.	Marginal	Employment days	54.04	7646.7	44.46	5319.23	98.5	12965.93
		(As labour)	(45.03)	(58.98)	(37.05)	(41.02)	(41.04)	(100)
		Unemployment days	65.96	-	75.54	-	141.5	-
			(54.97)		(62.95)		(58.96)	
	Total	120	7646.7	120	5319.23	240	12965.93	
		(100)	(58.98)	(100)	(41.02)	(100)	(100)	
E.	Landless	Employment days	71.25	10403.48	59.87	6536.02	131.12	16939.5
		(As labour)	(59.37)	(61.42)	(49.89)	(38.58)	(54.63)	(100)
		Unemployment days	48.75	-	60.13	-	108.88	-
			(40.63)		(50.11)		(45.37)	
	Total	120	10403.48	120	6536.02	240	16939.5	
		(100)	(61.42)	(100)	(38.58)	(100)	(100)	

(Note : Figures in parenthesis indicate per cent to total)

female labourers. Cherian (2000) and Pamela and Singh (2002) have worked on profile of rural women and role of women in agriculture, respectively.

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