
INDIAN AGRICULTURAL LABOUR: PROBLEMS AND SUGGESTIONS

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Abstract

An agricultural labour in India faces various problems. Agricultural labours means who works on the land of others on wages. Objective: To know the social status of the agricultural labourers. To study the condition of their works. To studies the magnitude of agricultural labours. Methodology of the study- the study includes only secondary methods of data collection and empirically study only. The paper includes problems of agricultural labours, government policy measures and suggestion for improvement of the agricultural labour conclusion- The study conclude that agricultural labourers condition is not good in India and government should take some proper Action to improve the conditions of agricultural labour

Keywords: Labour, Agriculture, GDP, Wages, Census etc.

Introduction:

As we know that almost 53% population of India is engaged in agricultural activities. But agriculture in India is still depending on mercy of monsoon. Condition of farmer and laborer's is depends on the monsoon. If monsoon is good then crop is good and vice versa. Agriculture labour is counted in category of unorganized sector so their income is not fixed. Hence they are living in insecure and underprivileged life and earning just Rs.150/day along with full uncertainty. The increase the number of agricultural labour has causes as increasing size of unorganized sector population; evictions of small farmers, uneconomic holdings, growing indebtedness, deforestation are the main causes of agricultural labour problems of India.

Scope Or Importance:

The study on agricultural labour problem of India is very important. The total population of the India is 121cr in 2011. Where 53% population is depend on agricultural activities. Increasing population creates land problems. Where 61

percent labouris landlessagricultural labour, landless. Governmentemployment policy has no better work in the India, labour of India are unorganized, nowage policy, most farmer holding in less than one hectares so agricultural labour problems arises inthe India.

Objective Of The Study:

1. To know the social status of the agricultural labour of the India.
2. To study the condition of their works.
3. To know the magnitude of agricultural labours of India
4. To draw the finding and suggestions.

Methodology:

The study of agricultural labour problem of India is based on secondary method of data collection from various books, Newspapers, government publication report etc.

Magnitude Of Agricultural Labour:

According to 1981 census, the agricultural workers constitute 22.7 percent of the total labourforce which is increased to 26.1 percent in 1991. Further, of the total workforce engaged in the agriculture sector has increased dramatically. (Table1)..The increase in the number of agricultural labour has resulted from increase in the size of population decline of cottage and village industries eviction of small farmers, uneconomic holding growing indebtedness and growth of capitalist farming

Table 1: Population and Agricultural Workers (In Millions).

Year	Cultivators	Agricultural Laborers.	Total
1951	69.9 (71.9)	27.3 (28.1)	97.2 (100.0)
1961	99.6 (76.0)	31.5 (24.0)	131.1 (100.0)
1971	78.2 (62.2)	47.5 (37.8)	125.7 (100.0)
1981	92.5 (62.5)	55.5 (37.5)	148.0 (100.0)
1991	110.7 (59.7)	74.6 (40.3)	185.3 (100.0)
2001	127.3	106.8	234.1

	(54.4)	(45.6)	(100.0)
2011	135.2 (61.4)	111.5 (38.6)	234.1 (100.0)

(Source: Registrar General of India, New Delhi.)

Problems Of Agriculture Labour:

Marginalisation of Agricultural Workers:- The workforce in agriculture (cultivator's plus agricultural labourers) was 97.2 million in 1951 and this rose to 185.2 million in 1991. As against this, the number of agricultural labourers rose from 27.3 million in 1951 to 74.6 million in 1991. This implies that (i) the number of agricultural labourers increased by almost three times over the period from 1951 to 1991; Agricultural labourers increased from 28 per cent in 1951 to 40 percent in 1991. These facts indicate the fast pace of casualization of workforce in agriculture in India. Moreover, the share of agriculture and allied activities in GDP at factor cost has consistently declined over the years - from 55.3 per cent in 1950-51 to 37.9 per cent in 1980-81 (at 1999-2000 prices) and further to 14.0 per cent in 2011-12 (at 2004-05 prices).

Employment and Working Conditions: -The agricultural labourers have to face the problems of unemployment and underemployment. For a substantial part of the year, they have to remain unemployed because there is no work on the farms and alternative sources of employment do not exist.

Wages and Income: - Agricultural wages and family incomes of agricultural workers are very low in India. With the advent of the Green Revolution, money wage rates started increasing. However, as prices also increased considerably, the real wage rates did not increase accordingly. Currently labours are getting around Rs. 150/day under the MGNREGA in rural areas.

Indebtedness:- In the absence of banking system in the rural areas and trial process of sanction by the commercial banks, farmers prefer to take loans from un institutional sources like Sahukars (moneylenders), landlords at the very high rate (in some cases at 40% to 50%) . This exorbitant rate traps in the vicious circle of debt.

Finding: Finding is that the India increasing agricultural labour problem due to high birth rate and decreasing agricultural land. Government policy does not

work better in the India. The land concentrated few big farmers and landless agricultural labours are unorganized illiteracy poverty absence of alternative occupation and seasonal unemployment is found in the India. So there creates agricultural labour problems in the India.

Suggestions:

Better Implementation of minimum wage act: - To implement the minimum wage act seriously and to revise the minimum wages periodically considering the changing price level of the country.

Creating Alternative Sources of employment: - to create alternative sources of employment by developing small scale and cottage industries in rural areas.

Distribution of Surplus Land: - To rehabilitate the agricultural labourers on the acquired land declared surplus under ceiling laws and also on the new reclaimed land.

Improvement the Bargaining Power: - the agricultural labourers may be organized so that they can effectively bargain for better working conditions and enable enforcement of legislation.

Cooperative Farming:- The cooperative farming provide better incentive to improve the productivity of farm as these farmers will continue to be owner of their land and share the fruit of their efforts.

Fixing working hours: - to improve the working conditions of agricultural labour by enforcing fixed hours of work banning child labour etc.

Modern Method: - To improve the working conditions of agriculture by adopting improve intensive methods and multiple cropping for raising the productivity of agricultural labourers and promote co-operative farming in rural areas.

Economic Measures: - To make agriculture more remunerative active economic measures must be introduced. Subsidiary agro based industries must set up in rural areas. So that surplus labour in agriculture sector can be utilized in these industries. Proper steps must be taken to break the vicious circle of poverty.

Improvement of Human Development: - For the improvement of agricultural productivity in the India the quality of farmer must be improved through education, both general and technical. To save the agricultural labour from epidemics and other diseases, adequate public health measures must be undertaken.

Conclusion:

In the conclusion we can conclude that the condition of agricultural workers is not so good in, their living standard and income is very low. To improve the labour working condition, to improve the rural development like better irrigation facilities, water housing etc. For the improve the conditions government should take proper steps for various aspect for agricultural labors, like wage reforms, new methods for agriculture, hours of works, improve the living conditions and overcoming the natural factors like flood, draughts and erosion etc.

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