



Human Resource Management

Elixir Hum. Res. Mgmt. 35 (2011) 2983-2985

Elixir
ISSN: 2229-712X

A study on labour absorption in paddy crop: with special reference to Salem district, Tamilnadu

K.M. Senthilkumar

Department of Economics, Salem Sowdeswari Collage, Salem – 636010, Tamilnadu, India.

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received: 17 April 2011;

Received in revised form:

22 May 2011;

Accepted: 31 May 2011;

Keywords

Primary sector,
Labour absorption in paddy
production,
Agricultural Employment.

ABSTRACT

The Present Study discusses women labour absorption in paddy crop with special Reference to Salem District Tamilnadu. Most of the developing countries through the emphasis on industrialization, the agriculture continues to be the main source of employment of the people in these countries. The absorption of women in agriculture and allied activities is in no way insignificant in these countries.

© 2011 Elixir All rights reserved.

Introduction

The Present Study discusses women labour Absorption in paddy crop with special Reference to Salem District Tamilnadu. Most of the developing countries through the emphasis on industrialization, the agriculture continues to be the main source of employment of the people in these countries. The absorption of women in agriculture and allied activities is in no way insignificant in these countries.

In India the number of person employed in industry relative to agriculture is small consequently large portion of the labour force will continue to obtain their sustenance from farm and farm related occupations of the rural economy. At least during the next two or three decades, the agricultural sector in India must provide employment opportunities for a higher proportion of the hunger number of persons who will enter the potential labour force during that period. The rate of growth in non-agricultural returns being disappointingly low occupied with a narrow base; agricultural section seems to be a stable resort for an ever increasing segment of the rural population.

The availability of female labour absorption in economic activities is dependent on several socio economic and cultural factors. Such factors determine broadly the nature of economic factors and non-economic role of women in the society. Female absorption in economic activities is highly correlated with in the level of technology. Demographic feature of population like age composition, age at marriage rural urban composition of population and nature of migration, health and caste determine the potential labour force which can be utilized for production purpose. Social status and prestige customs and attitudes, religious beliefs also affect the volume of female labour supply in the society.

In India women contribute substantially to the economy, farming a quarter of the productive work force. It is observed that on women is at work for every three man and one out of three adult women is a productive work. The absorption ratio of women in agricultural activities is found to be higher in areas where peasant communities dominate self cultivation is

practiced among the landless. Since more number of women are taking part in farm work and allied activities, it is of a greater importance to study the absorption of these women in work activity In this context the study deals with women labour absorption in paddy production.

Statement of the problem

Agriculture plays a dominant role in the economic development of the developing country like India. In employment agriculture is the main stay of a large part of population in India. It is understood that the agricultural labour group is highly unskilled, illiterate, unorganized and is drawn from lower social group, and therefore is highly exploited by the powerful landowner hence job security is totally absent in agriculture. In this context the study, discuss the female labour absorption in paddy crop.

Objectives

The following objectives are framed for the purpose of the study

- (1) To study the male and female labour employment
- (2) To compare pre-harvest and post harvest labour absorption in the study area.

Concepts

The following concepts are operationally defined for the purpose of the study

Labour absorption

Labour absorption is defined as the actual utilization of family labour and hired labour, in particular farm enterprise at the existing level of technology

Human Labour

Human Labour is calculated in man-days of work standardized at a 8 hours a day done by family and hired labour. A person work 8 hours for shows one man days (M.D).

Methodology

Tamilnadu, among several other states in India, is considered as one of the progressive agricultural areas where we find a considerable number of women participating in agricultural activities. The present study is confined to the

participating of women in the only one village viz., Pullikurich in Idappadi block, Salem district of Tamilnadu which are predominately agriculture in nature. The total holdings of the study village were arranged according to the size of holding marginal farmer (0 to 2.50 acres), Small farmer (2.51 to 5 acres), medium farmer (5.1 to 10 acres) and large farmer (above 10 acres) In all 80 farmers were randomly selected from different farm size-groups in proportion to the number of holding in each size group.

The selection was made randomly 20 marginal farmer, 20 small farmer, 20 medium farmer and 20 large farmer in each farm size group respectively. Survey method by personal interview was used for collecting the required information of Male and female labour employment of operational activities viz., pre-harvest activities and post-harvest activities in the year of 2010. The pooled data have been analyzed with the help of percentage analysis and T-test.

Table 6.1 explains the male and female laborers absorption in Paddy production in the study area. In the study area pre-harvesting activities are higher in female labour 63.04 percent compare to male labour 59.29 percent and post-harvesting activities are higher in the male labour 40.70 percent compares to female labour 36.95 percent.

In farm size wise female labour pre-harvesting activities are higher in the small farmer 66.15 percent followed by large farmer 65.83 percent, marginal farmer 59.22 percent and medium farmer 58.05 percent and in male labour pre-harvesting activities are higher in large farmer 64.84 percent followed by small farmer 64.73 percent, medium farmer 56.69 percent and marginal farmer 49.72 percent. In compare to male and female labour absorption in pre-harvesting activities, the female labours are higher absorption in transplanting and weeding activities.

In post – harvesting activities male labour are higher utilization to compare to female labour. In farm size wise marginal farmer are higher utilization of male labour 50.27 percent followed by medium 43.30 percent, small 35.26 percent and large farmer 35.15 percent. Female labour absorption in post-harvesting activities are higher in medium farmer 41.94 percent followed by marginal 40.77, large 34.16 percent and small farmer 33.84 percent respectively. In compare to male and female labour absorption, the post harvesting activities male labour are high absorption in transporting activities.

Marginal farmer

The above table 6.2 explains marginal farmer absorption hours in paddy cultivation. The average hours of labour absorption per acre for male 72.7 hours, where as the average hours of labour absorption was found to be 85.5 hours in female labours T –test was applied to be find whether there was any significant difference between male and female labour in the average hours of labour absorption.

The calculated T -value was found to be 11.6 significant at 1 percent level. This indicates that there is significant difference between male and female labour absorption per acre paddy production.

Small farmer

The above table 6.2 explains small farmer absorption hours in paddy cultivation. The average hours of labour absorption per acre for male 77.5 hours, where as the average hours of labour absorption was found to be 175.65 hours in female labours T –test was applied to be find whether there was any significant difference between male and female labour in the average hours of labour absorption. The calculated T -value was found to be

106.24 significant at 1 percent level. This indicates that there is significant difference between male and female labour absorption per acre paddy production.

Medium farmer

The above table 6.2 explains medium farmer absorption hours in paddy cultivation. The average hours of labour absorption per acre for male 118.45 hours, where as the average hours of labour absorption was found to be 290 hours in female labours T –test was applied to be find whether there was any significant difference between male and female labour in the average hours of labour absorption. The calculated T -value was found to be 140.25 significant at 1 percent level. This indicates that there is significant difference between male and female labour absorption per acre paddy production.

Large farmer

The above table 6.2 explains large farmer absorption hours in paddy cultivation. The average hours of labour absorption per acre for male 105.25 hours, where as the average hours of labour absorption was found to be 439.1 hours in female labours T –test was applied to be find whether there was any significant difference between male and female labour in the average hours of labour absorption. The calculated T -value was found to be 312.62 significant at 1 percent level. This indicates that there is significant difference between male and female labour absorption per acre paddy production.

Conclusion

The study point out that in all the farmer groups, large farmers are get more employment followed by medium, small and large farmers respectively in the study area.

In compare to both farmers female labourers absorption rate is high to large farmers (439.1 hours) followed by medium (290 hours), small (175.65 hours) and marginal farmers (85.5 hours) in study region. In overall view the female labour absorption rate is high compare to male labour absorption in the study region, reason is majority of the operational activities viz., Land preparation, transplanting, irrigation, manuring, fertilizer application, weeding, harvesting and threshing activities are done in female labour in the study region and also female labour wage rate is low for compare then male labour in paddy cultivation.

Reference

1. Dhongade, Patil, Patil, (1985), "Absorption of women labour in Agriculture in Maharashtra" *Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics*. Vol. XL No 3pp 265-266.
2. Marothia and Sharma, (1985), "Female labour absorption in Rice farming system of Chhattisgarh Region". *Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics* Vol. XL No3pp 235-244.
3. Subramanian, (1991), "Female Labour Absorption in Andhra Pradesh Agriculture". *Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics*. vol 54 No3pp 272
4. Sarthi Acharya, (1992) "Labour use in Indian Agriculture: Analysis at Macro level for the Eighties". *Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics*, vol 47 No2pp 169-182.
5. Sheila Bhalla, (1993), "The Dynamics of wage Determination and Employment Generation of Indian Agriculture". *Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics* vol 48 No3pp 448-468.
6. Acharya S. "Labour use in Indian Agriculture: Analysis at macro level for the eighties". *Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics* 47:2 (1992):169-182.
7. Venkatanaidu, (2004) "Women Absorption in Agricultural Sector". *Southern Economics* vol. No. 42 17pp11-13.

Table: 6.1 Male and female labour absorption in paddy crop cultivation in numbers of hours (per acre)

Operational activities	Male Labour					Female Labour				
	Marginal farmer	Small farmer	Medium Farmer	Large farmer	Total	Marginal farmer	Small farmer	Medium farmer	Large farmer	Total
Land preparation	130 (8.94)	142 (9.15)	106 (4.47)	146 (6.93)	524 (7.00)	139 (8.14)	221 (6.29)	379 (6.53)	421 (4.79)	1160 (5.85)
Ploughing	24 (1.65)	120 (7.73)	142 (5.99)	176 (8.36)	462 (6.17)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Sowing	19 (1.30)	16 (1.03)	20 (0.84)	24 (1.14)	79 (1.05)	82 (4.80)	31 (0.88)	46 (0.79)	80 (0.91)	239 (1.20)
Transplanting	40 (2.75)	90 (5.80)	44 (1.85)	56 (2.66)	230 (3.07)	108 (6.31)	268 (7.62)	470 (8.10)	559 (6.36)	1405 (7.08)
Irrigating	0 (0)	130 (8.38)	169 (7.13)	256 (12.16)	555 (7.42)	50 (2.92)	290 (8.25)	262 (4.51)	440 (5.01)	1042 (5.26)
Manuring	146 (10.04)	122 (7.86)	242 (10.21)	136 (6.46)	646 (8.63)	171 (10.01)	222 (6.31)	503 (8.67)	760 (8.65)	1656 (8.36)
Fertilizer Application	152 (10.45)	112 (7.22)	120 (5.06)	190 (9.02)	574 (7.67)	137 (7.67)	220 (6.26)	192 (3.31)	910 (10.36)	1453 (7.33)
Weeding	72 (4.95)	42 (2.70)	30 (1.26)	0 (0)	144 (1.92)	191 (11.18)	290 (8.25)	616 (10.62)	1211 (13.70)	2308 (11.65)
Spraying	140 (9.62)	230 (14.82)	470 (19.83)	381 (18.09)	1221 (16.32)	139 (8.14)	782 (22.26)	899 (15.50)	1401 (15.95)	3221 (16.26)
Pre – harvesting Total	723 (49.72)	1004 (64.73)	1343 (56.69)	1365 (64.84)	4435 (59.29)	1017 (59.57)	23.24 (66.15)	3367 (58.05)	5782 (65.83)	12484 (63.04)
Harvesting	400 (27.51)	211 (13.60)	501 (21.14)	376 (17.86)	1488 (19.89)	277 (16.22)	739 (21.03)	1752 (30.20)	1579 (17.79)	4347 (21.95)
Threshing	192 (13.20)	171 (11.02)	162 (6.83)	132 (6.27)	657 (8.78)	255 (14.93)	199 (5.66)	310 (5.34)	999 (11.37)	1763 (8.90)
Winnowing	48 (3.30)	64 (4.12)	151 (6.37)	100 (4.75)	363 (8.78)	64 (3.74)	112 (3.18)	172 (2.96)	212 (2.41)	560 (2.82)
Transporting	91 (6.25)	101 (6.51)	212 (8.94)	132 (6.27)	536 (7.16)	100 (5.85)	139 (3.95)	199 (3.43)	210 (2.39)	648 (3.27)
Post –harvesting Total	731 (50.27)	547 (35.26)	1026 (43.30)	740 (35.15)	3044 (40.70)	696 (40.77)	1189 (33.84)	2433 (41.94)	3000 (34.16)	7318 (36.95)
Grand Total	1454 (100.00)	1551 (100.00)	2369 (100.00)	2105 (100.00)	7479 (100.00)	1707 (100.00)	3513 (100.00)	5800 (100.00)	8762 (100.00)	19082 (100.00)

Source : Computed

Note : Figures in the parentheses denote percentages

Table: 6.2 T- Test

Categories	Sex	Mean	SD	T-test	significant
Marginal Farmer	M	72.7	12.92	11.6	**
	F	85.5	11.42		
Small Farmer	M	77.55	9.69	106.24	**
	F	175.65	7.44		
Medium Farmer	M	118.45	8.44	140.25	**
	F	290	21.5		
Large Farmer	M	105.25	5.56	312.62	**
	F	439.1	17.25		

Source: Computed

Ho : M1 = M2 There is no significant difference between male and female labour absorption hours in paddy cultivation

VS

H1 : M1 < M2 the average hours of Absorption female labour is more than male labour in paddy cultivation

M1 : Average hours of male labour

M2 : Average hours of Female labour