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## SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDY OF AGRICULTURAL LABOUR : A CASE STUDY OF MALSHIRAS TALUKA OF SOLAPUR DISTRICT



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### ABSTRACT:

Agricultural labour is treated as non skilled labour. Mostly they are belonging to marginal farmers families and back word communities ( SCs and STs ) or below poverty groups. In Maharashtra, about 25.2 % of population are living in BPL. Agricultural labour is a person who work in another person's land only as labour for wage in cash or kinds or share of produce, without exercising any supervision or direction in cultivation' In the Solapur district about 3,77,394 workers are working as agricultural labour and in Malshiras taluka about 51,413 workers are working as agricultural labour. Malshiras taluka is the one of semi-irrigated Taluka in Solpaur district of Maharashtra. In Malshira taluka, Jowar, Bajara, Maze, wheat, Sugarcane, Pulses and Horticulture are the main crops cultivated

by the farmers. But oil seeds, pulses and horticultural crops are very less cultivated by the farmers. Total population of Malshiras taluka is 4,85,645, of which 73,760 are cultivators and 51,413 are agricultural labours. In Malshiras taluka, 60.37% of male and 41.01% females are working as agricultural labour. In Malshiras taluka higher education level is very low among agricultural labour. About 89 % families of agricultural labours are main business is as agricultural labour. And 40 % families are working as agricultural labour and



rearing animals for dairying purpose. According to survey data, about 46 % families of agricultural labour is living in BPL. In all seasons average six days work is available for male and female. and average male labour are getting Rs.239 and female labor getting Rs 107 wages for per day. Total monthly consumption expenditure on education, health, cloth, Mobile, wheat, jowar, Rice, Edibal Oil, Dal, Suger, Tea, Milk, ,Vegetables and grocery items is Rs 6746.15. Agricultural labours families received monthly total income from animal rearing, and income from labour wages is Rs. 12,626.16. Monthly Consumption Expenditure on of Wheat, jower, Rice, edible oil, Dail, Sugar, Tea, Milk, Vegetables and

grocery items is (Rs) 6,746.15. Monthly net balance of agricultural labour families is. Rs. 5,880.01. The economical position of agricultural families is well and sound.

**KEY WORDS :** *Agricultural labour , families, consumption expenditure , wage, income,*

### INTRODUCTION

Agricultural labour is playing an important role in the agricultural sector. Agricultural labour is treated as non skilled labour. Mostly they are belonging to marginal farmers families and backward communities ( SCs and STs ) or below poverty groups. In Maharashtra, about 25.2 % of population are living in BPL. Agricultural labour is a person who work in another person's land only as labour for wage in cash or kinds or share of produce, without exercising any supervision or direction in cultivation'

According to Agricultural labour enquiry committee, adult male agricultural labour was employed on wage for 189 days and 29 days in non agricultural work and women agricultural labour workers having work in the field was 134 days in the year.. in Solapur district, 1.68 lakh families are living in BPL. Per capita income of district is Rs. 19,253. In the district about 3,77,394 workers are working as agricultural labour and in Malshiras taluka about 51,413 workers are working as agricultural labour.

After green revolution the opportunities of works in the agricultural sector is increasing. And other hand number of agricultural labour is increasing due to growth of population and declining of village industries. In Maharashtra average size of land holding is 1.46 hectares. In the state has 224.5 lakh hectares of land under cultivation. The gross state domestic products as per the advanced estimates is expected at 10.5 % during the year 2010-11. Agricultural and allied sector grow by 12.5 % in 2010-11. Total production of food grain was 125.85 lakh M.T in 2009-10.

Statement of the Research Problem : " Socio-economic Study of Agricultural labour : A Case Study of Malshiras Taluka of Solapur District"

#### • Objective of the Study

1. To study the socio-economic condition of the agricultural labour.
2. To study the income and expenditure pattern of agricultural labour household

#### • Research designing and primary data collection :

Mostly west part of Malshiras taluka is un-irrigated and East side of Malshiras Taluka is irrigated. In the present study, 10 villages are selected among 112 villages of Malshiras taluka. Among 10 villages each village 10 agricultural labour farmers will be selected and interviewed at random through schedule. Total 100 questionnaires filled up through direct interview method.

#### • Secondary Data Collection :

Secondary data is collected from district statistical abstract, Gokhale Institute of Political and Economics, Pune, Shivaji University library, some related books and journals/ periodicals, various report of Government and various Web sites related to agriculture. The secondary data is processed with various statistical tools and techniques like percentage, growth rate, maps, graphs and tables etc.

#### • Profile and Economy of Maharashtra :

Total Geographical area of the country is 328.7 million hectares, of which the net sown area is

140 million hectares. The cropped area is 1992.2 million hectares. As per Actual Estimates of national income of agricultural and allied sector contribution 13.7 % of India's GDP. Therefore, Indian agricultural is called as a backbone of the economy. The growth of agricultural and allied sector in the total GDP was 9.3 % in 2007-08, it is declined to 8.6 % in 2009-10 and 5 % in 2012-13. Rain fed agricultural participated in 60 % of cultivation area in India. It is depend on climate. India has about 108 million hectare of rain fed area, which contributes about 75 % of the total 143 million hectares of arable land. In such area crop production become very difficult because it's depend upon intensity and frequency of rain fall. These areas get an annual rain fall between 400 mm to 1000 mm. The dry land produces 75 % of pulses and about 90 % of groundnut and pulses from arid and semi-arid region. Cropping pattern is defined as sequence of growing crops in a particular field at a particular period. Total food grains production was 259.2 million tonnes in 2011-12. Indian agricultural export amounted to 34 US \$ billion with share of 2.1 % of world trade in agricultural and import amounted to 23 US \$ billion with share of 1.3 of the total world trade in agricultural.

Maharashtra is one of the leading state in country. Maharashtra occupies the western and central part of India. Maharashtra having nearly 720 Km coastline along the Arabian Sea. The state of Maharashtra is second largest in terms of population and area. The state having 3.08 lakh Sq K.M of geographical area and 11.24 crore of population. About 54.8 % of population is living in the rural area and 45.2 % of population living in the urban area. State having 35 districts which are divided in to six revenue division such as Kokan, Pune, Nashik, Aurangabad, Ameravati and Nagpur. The state have 226.1 lakh hectares of land under cultivation.

As per 68 Th round of NSS, about 59.6 % of persons in rural area and 50.3 % of persons in urban area in the age group of 15-59 were in work force. According to census 2011, the percentage of main workers to total workers declined from 91.4 % to 84.3 %. The proportion of main workers in agricultural and allied activities declined from 55.9 % to 45.1 % and proportion of main workers in other than agricultural sector increased from 35.5 % to 39.2 %.

#### Malshiras Taluka:

Malshiras taluka is the one of semi-irrigated Taluka in Solapur district of Maharashtra. Total area of the Taluka is 1522 Sq Km. Malshiras Taluka covers 112 villages and 109 village Panchayates. Geographical area of Malshiras taluka is 1,60,801 hectares of which 88,630 hectare is cultivable land and 344 hectares are forest land. Actual 16,265 hectares are in cultivating various crops, such as Jowar, wheat, pluses, bajra, and sugarcane. Total irrigated area is 34,792 (41.91 %) hectares and about 58.09 % of area is un-irrigated in the Malshiras taluka. In district total irrigated area is only 29.55 %. In Malshira taluka, Jowar, Bajara, Maze, wheat, Sugarcane, Pulses and Horticulture are the main crops cultivated by the farmers. But oil seeds, pulses and horticultural crops are very less cultivated by the farmers.

According to 2011 Census, total population of Solapur district is 43.15 lakh, of which 68.60 % of rural population and 32.40 % of urban population. As per 2001 census, total work force of population is 5,25,775 (30.16 %) of farmers and 3,77,394 (21.65 %) of agricultural labours. Total population of Malshiras taluka is 485645, of which 73,760 are cultivators and 51,413 are agricultural labours.

In India there are various categories of agricultural workers such as landless labourers, attached to the landlord, land leas labour working for any one. Small farmers and marginal farmers having very small land holding. They suffer from under employment or disguised unemployment. "Agricultural Labour is a person who works in another person's land only as labourers for wages in cash or kind or share of produce. Without exercising any supervision or direction in cultivation" Agricultural labour is one of the most important factors of production. It's use full to the agricultural production and also

other fields of production.

• **Size of Labour Force in Maharashtra;**

The size of labour force is determined by the number of people's in the age group of 15-59 years. Agricultural labours, mostly belongs to the poorest, economically backwards and backward communities. They are basically unskilled and un-organized. In India about 6.38 lakh villages and agricultural labours are scattered in this villages. They are dispersed, unorganized and they have poor bargaining power. Due to seasonal work they are doing always migration. The demand of agricultural labours is highly in the season periods and uneven in the off season. Due to the seasonal nature of agricultural operations. There is a pack demand for labour in the harvesting seasons and next to that in time of transplanting and weddings. The duration of employment in a year various from five to seven month in dry area and nine to ten month in irrigated areas. Numbers of labours demand depend upon the size of holding and the nature of cultivation. So agricultural is not provided full time job for agricultural labour. In 1951 total agricultural labour was 27.3 million. It was increased to 55.5 million in 1981. In 1991, it was 74.6 million it was increased to 106.8 Million in 2001.

According to census 2011, total 49.4 million workers in Maharashtra. Of which 30.6 % workers are in rural area and 18.8 % workers are in urban area. Total non workers are 62.9 million in 2011. Among them 30.9 million non workers in rural area and 32.0 million are in urban area. The work participation rate by sex in Maharashtra. In case of persons work participation rate was 42.5 % in 2001, it is increased to 44 % i.e. (1.5 %) in 2011. Male workers participations rate was 53.3 % in 2001; it is increased to 56 % i.e (2.7 %) in 2011. If compare to male workers participations rate to female workers participation rate it is not increased. Female workers participations rate was 38.8 % in 2001; it is increased to 31.1 % i.e. (0.3 %) in 2011.

**Table No. 01. Population and Agricultural workers in Maharashtra ( in Millions)**

Years	Total Population	Rural Population	Agricultural workers		
			Cultivators	Agri.Labours	Total
1951	361.1	298.6	69.9 (71.9)	27.3 (28.1)	97.2 (100)
1961	439.2	360.3	99.6 (76.0)	31.5 (24.0)	131.1 (100)
1971	548.2	439.0	78.2 (62.2)	47.5 (37.8)	125.7 (100)
1981	689.3	523.9	92.5 (62.5)	55.5 (37.5)	148.0 (100)
1991	846.4	628.9	110.7 (59.7)	74.6 (40.3)	185.3 (100)
2001	1028.7	742.6	127.3 (54.4)	106.8 (45.6)	234.1 (100)
2011	1210.2	833.1 (68.8)	NA	NA	NA

Source ; Register General of India, New Delhi, Agricultural statistics August 2005 p.6

Note : figures in brackets indicates percentage to total agricultural workers

According fifth economic survey, about 1.13 crores peoples were working in the state. Among them 39.1 % were working in rural area and 60.9 % working in the urban area. An employment establishment was 9.3 % in agricultural and 90.7 % in non agricultural sector. According to Census 2011, the percentage of main workers to total workers declined from 91.4 % to 84.3 %. Because of declining in work force in agricultural and allied activities. The proportion of main workers in agricultural and allied activities declined from 55.9 % to 45.1 % and proportion of main workers in other then agricultural



sector increased from 35.5 % to 39.2 %.

Above table No 01, shows the Population and Agricultural workers in Maharashtra. Agricultural labours constituted 28.1 % of the total agricultural workers in 1951. In 1961, it was declined to 24.0 %. In 1971 it was increased to 37.8 % the trend of agricultural labour was increasing in 1981 it was 37.5 %, in 1991 it was 40.3 % and in 2001 it was 45.6 %. In rural area there were common problem being faced such as fragmentation of land. Therefore, land becoming uneconomic. According to the agricultural census, during 1990-91 average size of operational holding was 1.57 hectares. It was declining to 1.42 hectares in 1995-96.

• **Socio-economic Status of Agricultural Labour in Malshiras Taluka of Solapur District : Key Observations**

According to field work survey of MRP (2013-14) data of Malshiras taluka of Solapur District. in the Malshiras taluka, 60.37 % of male and 41.01 % females are working as agricultural labour. Mostly male and females are working as agricultural labour. In the taluka, the working age group population is higher compare to other age groups. In the age group of 15 to 59 total 76.26 population and above 60 age group is 5.06 % population among the agricultural labour. In Malshiras taluka education states of agricultural labour is , 46.28 % literacy in the group of 0-4 class. In the group of 5-10 class literacy is 39.60 % and secondary and higher secondary level literacy is 14.35 %. The literacy among the UG and PG and other degree level is only 8.41 %.

In Malshiras taluka higher education level is very low among agricultural labour. The status of houses is 30 % of kachha houses and 50 % of semi-pacca houses. Only 20 % of pacca houses of agricultural labour families. Agricultural labour families having 80 % of own houses. About 4 % of agricultural labour families are taken rental houses. Land lord provided 16 % houses for agricultural labour families. About 89 % families of agricultural labours are main business is as a agricultural labour. And 40 % families are working as agricultural labour and rearing animals for dairing purpose. Agricultural labour families having 67 % cycles, 51 % of motor cycles, 81 % T.V sets and 89 % having Mobiles. About 73 % of agricultural labour families are using wood and crop wastage for cooking and heating purpose and 27 % agricultural labour families use Gas and kerosen. Mostly agricultural labour families are used agricultural crop wastage for cooking. In Malshiras taluka total 32.22% families are in BPL. According to survey data, about 46 % families of agricultural labour is living in BPL. The number of BPL families is higher.

In all seasons in Malshiras taluka average six days work is available for male and female agricultural labour. In all season average male labour are getting Rs.239 and female labor getting Rs 107 wages for per day per persons. Male agricultural labour earn Rs. 633.35 in a week. Female agricultural labour earn Rs. 604.44 in a week. Family income from agricultural is Rs.1237.79 in a week. Response of agricultural labour for EGS/MNREGS. Only 27 % of agricultural labour says the works of EGS/MNREGS is available in Taluka and 73 % despondences says there are no work available in the taluka.

In the Malshiras taluka average per BPL families are getting per month food grain from PDS is only 21 Kg of wheat, 14 Kg of rice , 2.5 Kg of sugar and 3 liters of kerosene. Agricultural labour is doing secondary business of dairying. Average Deshi cow rearing by agricultural labours is 1.41 i.e two cows, 1.51 cross bread cow i.e two cross bread cow, 1.33 buffaloes i.e. one buffaloes and 3.87 sheep or goat i.e four rearing by agricultural labours. Agricultural labour pre day 7.48 liters of milk sold to cooperative dairy or a private consumers. They received rate for per liter is Rs.25.92. Per day income from milk is Rs 193.88 and per month income from milk is Rs. 5816.44. Average income from dung is Rs.4002 per year. So agricultural labour doing dairy business as a secondary business.

Per year average income from selling animals is Rs. 47,909. Dong selling is the other income source for agricultural labours. Average per year they are getting income from dung is Rs 4002. So other than milk income agricultural labours families are revied Rs.51,092 from animal selling and dung selling. Agricultural labours are parches feed from the private shops and also cooperative dairy societies. Monthly expenditure on feed and fodder is Rs 2,468. Weekly consumption expenditure of agricultural labours families is on wheat Rs. 218.5, Jowere is Rs.165.75, Rice is Rs. 81, Dail is Rs.151.2, Sugar is 62.35, Tea is Rs. 30, Milk is Rs. 120.40 and Vegetables is Rs. 345.60. Total weekly expenditure on wheat, Jowere, Rice, Dail, Sugar, Tea, Milk and Vegetables is Rs 1,351.2.

Monthly consumption expenditure of education, health, cloth, mobile/ phone, petrol, tobacco etc. Other than the daily consumption expenditure agricultural labour are spent monthly on education, health, cloth, Mobail/ phone, petrol, tabaco. In case of education, agricultural labour sent Rs. 240.5, health 177.4, cloth Rs. 192.2, Mobil/ phone Rs. 84.9, petrol Rs. 103, tobacco Rs.63.7. Total monthly expenditure on education, health, cloth, mobile/ phone, petrol, tobacco is Re. 861.9. Agricultural labour families are taken loan for various purpose such as personal, marriages of son or daughter, education, purchasing of cross bred cow and buffaloes and also sheep and goats. Average 40 % of agricultural labour families are taken loan. Average loan amount is Rs. 5151 and rate of interest is Rs. 9.65 %. Average repay of loan is Rs. 2235.

Agricultural labour families are taken benefit of various schemes of Government. Only 23 % of families are taken benefit from the government schemes. It means the real needy families are not gating benefit of govt. schemes. 87 % of women are working as agricultural labour and rest 23 % women are working as housekeeping. 87 % women are working doubled duty as house wife and agricultural labour. Due to double duty she is in trace and physical tired.

About 90 % women say that the house holders are given money for any kind of expenditures. Agricultural labour women facing troubles in working place, 8 % of women says she is facing some time psychologically harassments. Human nature is always helpful to others but in male dominant family cultrate husband is not help to wife in house work. 56 % of males are helping to house work. Opinion of agricultural labour as a parents, 24 % of parents are says that the our children's working in the agricultural field. And 66 % parents say our Children's are not working as a agricultural labour. They will become big government servants or a business man. Agricultural labours are happy in working as a agricultural labour. About 64 % agricultural labour says we are happy in working as agricultural labour.

In Malshiras taluka cast structure of agricultural labour is,. 31 % of agricultural labours families are belong in SC category and 12 % of NT, 05 % of OBC category. Total 48 % of families are reserve category and 52 % families are open families. In Malshiras taluka monthly consumption expenditure (Rs) of agricultural labour is, education of children's total monthly expenditure is Rs.608.20. Education expenditure is higher compare to other items of consumption. In case of health expenditure, it is Rs 362 and cloths expenditure is Rs 495.5.

Monthly expenditure of mobile phone is Rs 210.5 and petrol expenditure is Rs. 185. Tobacco expenditure is Rs. 123.75. Monthly expenditure of Wheat, jower, Rice, edible oil, Dail, Suger, Tea, Milk and Vegetables and grocery items is Rs.4797.2. Total monthly expenditure of agricultural labour is Rs 6746.15. Agricultural labours families received monthly total income from animal rearing, income from agricultural labour wages is Rs. 12,626.16. Monthly Consumption Expenditure on of Wheat, jower, Rice, edible oil, Dail, Sugar, Tea, Milk, Vegetables and grocery items is (Rs) 6,746.15. Monthly net balance of agricultural laboure families is. Rs. 5,880.01. The economical position of agricultural families is well and sound.



#### CONCLUSION :

After independence the condition of rural peoples are not much satisfactory, they are facing many problems. The agricultural labour, who are a third of the rural population. They are depend primarily employment. Now in rural area employment in primary sector is declined from 60 % to 57 %. Agricultural labours work is come down from 122 days in 1980s. Today it is declined to 72 days. Among the agricultural labour, youth population (age 15-59) in the taluka is higher i.e 76.26 %. But literacy rate is very low so, it is need to increase literacy rate among the agricultural labour. It is necessary to skilled education for agricultural labour. About 30 % houses of agricultural labour is Kaccha and 50 % is Semi Pacca, it is necessary to provide house for agricultural labour under IAY. About 70% families are using agricultural waste and wood for cooking. It is need to provide GAS for cooking for saving forest and environmental balance. According to field work data in Malshiras taluka, 46 % of agricultural labour families are in BPL. So it is need to provide various schemes for economic development of these BPL families. In the taluka average wage is very low it is only Rs. 107 for women and Rs239 for male labour. But market price of various grosser items is also increasing day by day. It is need to increase wage rates of agricultural labours in the taluk. About 73 % agricultural labour are saying EGS/MNRGS works are not available in the taluka, So it is need to implement proper work of EGS/MNRGS to provide jobs for agricultural labours and also rural people. Due to food security scheme agricultural labours received food grain from PDS in very low prices. The negative impact the productivity of labour is declined. The agricultural labours are not working in full day, week and also months. therefore, the labour shortage problems are in rural area.

Agricultural labours doing dairy as secondary business, but the average rate of milk is very low so it is need to increase the milk rate for better income for rural people. About 40 % families are doing dairy business as a secondary business. But today dairying is not much gainful. So government provides more rate for milk and also provide subsidy for cattle feed. In Malshiras taluka, total monthly expenditure of agricultural labour is Rs 6746.15 and they received monthly total income from animal rearing, income from agricultural labour wages is Rs. 12,626.16. Monthly Consumption Expenditure on of Wheat, jower, Rice, edible oil, Dail, Sugar, Tea, Milk, Vegetables and grocery items is (Rs) 6,746.15. Monthly net balance of agricultural labour families is. Rs. 5,880.01. The economical position of agricultural families is well and sound.

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