

ROLE OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE IN NORTH INDIAN VILLAGES



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Abstract

Agriculture, which is the primary activity of the poor in many countries, has been identified as a key driver of economic expansion and poverty reduction by the community of people working in international development. 3 The agricultural and rural economies of all emerging nations are significantly bolstered by the contributions that women make. Their functions are very variable both across and within areas, and they are undergoing fast evolution in many parts of the world where economic and social pressures are causing the agricultural industry to undergo fundamental change. Women in rural areas frequently take on the responsibility of managing complicated homes and pursuing several sources of income. Producing agricultural crops, tending to animals, processing and preparing food, working for wages in agricultural or other rural enterprises, collecting fuel and water, engaging in trade and marketing, caring for family members and maintaining their homes are typical examples of the activities that they engage in. In national accounts, many of these activities do not meet the criteria for being considered "economically active employment," despite the fact that they are critical to the prosperity of rural

households. This study makes a contribution to the ongoing discussion on gender issues in agriculture by evaluating the empirical data in three areas that have garnered a lot of interest in the existing research:

INTRODUCTION

The contribution of women to the agricultural labour force can be measured using two different types of data: statistics on the share of women in the economically active population working in agriculture, and time use surveys, which document the amount of time spent by men and women on various activities. Both of these types of data can be found in agricultural labour force statistics.

ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION IN AGRICULTURE

There are data on the economically active people in agriculture accessible for many different nations, and these data give the most thorough measurement of the engagement of women in agriculture. According to this metric, an individual is considered to be participating in the agricultural labour force if that individual says that agriculture is his or her primary source of income. However, these data may underestimate the participation of women in agriculture for the reasons that will be discussed below. Furthermore, caution is advised when interpreting changes over time because advancements in data collection may be responsible for some of the changes that have been observed. In Figure 1, weighted averages for the percentage of women in the agricultural labour force (or economically active in agriculture) in five of the world's most important regions are presented. According to these statistics, women make up slightly more than 40 percent of the agricultural labour force in developing countries. This percentage represents a minor increase since 1980 and spans from around 20 percent in the Americas to over 50 percent in Africa. Even if we assume these statistics to be the absolute minimum for the involvement of women in the agricultural labour force, we still find that, with the exception of a few countries, they do not support figures higher than 60 percent.

STATUS OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE AND ALLIED ACTIVITIES

The majority of the work that women undertake, including the collection of firewood, fodder, and water, the cultivation of vegetables, and the raising of chickens for home consumption, is not documented in the country's census. A significant number of the women and girls who help out on family farms are not counted as employees. Ninety percent of the country's economically marginalised workforce is made up of women. 78% of all working women are employed in agriculture, and the majority of these women live in rural areas. They constitute one third of all people employed on the land. Because of the conventional gender division of labour, these women get salaries that are, on average, thirty percent lower than those received by males. There are just four percent of jobs in the organised sector that are held by women. A recent study that was carried out by the Women and Population Division of FAO revealed that in developing countries, women are responsible for providing 70 percent of the labour in agriculture, 60–80 percent of the labour for the production of food in households, 100 percent of the labour for the processing of basic food stuffs, and 80 percent of the labour for the transportation of food from the farm to the village. 90 percent of it goes toward the gathering of water and fuel wood for homes.

- 1) Unequal Land Rights
- 2) Limited Access to Use of Resources
- 3) Lack of Equipment and Appropriate Technology
- 4) Limited Contact with Agricultural Extension
- 5) Lack of Access to Credit
- 6) Lower Level of Education

ROLE OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

Since the beginning of civilization, agriculture has been the only industry in which women have played a significant role or engaged in huge numbers. If there is any other industry in which women have played a role, it is agriculture. Due to the fact that agriculture is predominantly a home industry, women played a major role. Recent research has shown that women in India make up a significant portion of the labour force in terms of value, volume, and number of hours spent to

produce food. Agriculture is the primary source of income for around 63 percent of all economically active males but only 78 percent of all economically active women. A little under half of all rural women employees are considered to be agricultural labourers, whereas only 37 percent are considered to be cultivators. Women were responsible for around 70 percent of the work done on farms. This adequately validates the claim that the majority of farmers in India are women. Due to the fact that there are still more women working in agriculture than there are males, we are concerned about the role that women play in this industry.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

He was known as Krishna Reddy Chittedi (2018) The obligations of running a household, caring for children, and working outside the home place many demands on women's limited amounts of free time. They require proper support services such as creches and child care facilities so that they may labour in the fields and woods for the entirety of the day. It is crucial to establish a Gram panchayat mahila fund to provide SHGs and other women's organisations with the resources necessary to participate in community activities that contribute to the fulfilment of critical gender-specific requirements. The feminization of agriculture, which is caused by male out migration, requires special attention, specifically in regard to gender sensitive farm and financial policies. It is imperative that all agricultural research, development, and extension programmes, in addition to all services, be fostered.

Varma (1992) found that during the harvesting season, the usage of women's labour is at its peak. One of the most labor-intensive tasks, which involves bringing bundles of harvested produce to a halt where threshing will take place, is typically carried out by women. Women, most of whom are barefoot, carry each bundle over their heads as they make their way across the harvested fields, which are covered with thorny plants. Rarely did any men partake in this activity. Gadgil (1938) was the first person to notice a decline in the number of working women in 1924, but effective attention on this subject wasn't demonstrated until after the country gained its independence.

Bina 1985) In India, the decennial census, which is one of the main official sources of macro data on female work participation, is severely hindered by biases and inadequacies on a number of

counts, which leads to an undercounting of females both as workers and as those available for work. This undercounting of females has the effect of reducing the amount of data that can be derived from the census. Therefore, it is essential to take into account the prejudices that are affecting the percentage of women who are actively participating in the labour force.

Theresa Doss Cheryl (2018) Agriculture has the potential to be a significant driver of economic growth and the alleviation of poverty. However, the sector is failing in many countries in part because women, who are frequently an essential resource in agriculture and the rural economy, suffer restraints that reduce their output. This is one of the reasons why the industry is underperforming. In this study, we make use of the empirical material that is currently available to investigate the extent to which women are involved in agriculture, as well as the regions in which they are involved. According to the data that has been compiled, women make up around 43 percent of the agricultural labour force worldwide and in developing nations. However, this number conceals significant heterogeneity that exists not just between locations but also within countries according to age and social status. Time usage surveys, which are often not nationally representative but are more extensive, give more insight into the enormous variation that exists both between nations and within countries in terms of the contributions that women make to agriculture. They demonstrate that the utilisation of women's time in agricultural production differs not just by crop but also by production cycle, age, and ethnic group. A handful of the time-use studies contain data broken down by activity, and these surveys suggest that, in general, weeding and harvesting are activities that are predominately performed by women. The amount of work that rural women are expected to do is far more than that expected of rural males. This includes a greater share of unpaid household tasks connected to the preparation of meals and the collection of fuel and water. It is hard to verify empirically the proportion produced by women in agricultural and food production, despite the fact that the contribution of women to agricultural and food production is large.

Smt. Gurvinder Kaur is a farmer who works a little plot of land that is three acres in size. She has an impressive education, having completed her Master's degree and earning a Bachelor of Education. Up until 2014, she held the position of teacher at a private school. She made the decision to go out on her own with the hope of one day being a prosperous agribusiness owner. Wheat, maize, rice, moong, and mash in poplar are among the crops that she raises on her farm's

three acres of agricultural land. Additionally, she is responsible for the care of three Sahiwal cows. She wants to raise the greatest possible crop for her family, and she also wants to provide her clients the best possible product so that they may lead healthy lives.

METHODOLOGY

DEMOGRAPHIC FEATURES

It demonstrates that the total and rural urban population of Bulandshahr district had a population of 34.98 lakh in 2011, while in 2001 had a population of 29.31 lakh with a decadal growth rate during 2001-2011 was 16.23 percent per annum in Bulandshahr district. Table 3.1 also demonstrates that the population of Bulandshahr district increased by 16.23 percent per year. During the decade beginning in 2001 and ending in 2011, the annual growth rate at the state level was 20.09 percent. As a result, the growth of Bulandshahr during the past decade has been far larger than what has been seen at the level of the state.

Educational profile of the sample households is presented in Table 4.9

Table 4. 1 : %Distribution of Household Population by Education

Educational Level	Ghansurpur			Saray			Total		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Illiterate	20	5	12.5	21	5	13	20.5	5	12.75
Literate	12	2	7	6	2	4	9	2	5.5
Primary	24	11	17.5	22	13	17.5	23	12	17.5
Upper Primary	20	18	19	14	15	14.5	17	16.5	16.75
Higher secondary	13	41	27	22	38	30	17.5	39.5	28.5
Graduate	6	15	10.5	8	15	11.5	7	15	11

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Post Graduate	4	5	4.5	6	9	7.5	5	7	6
Technical education	1	3	2	1	3	2	1	3	2
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

A little more than one in every eight members of the household lacked the ability to read or write. On the other hand, the percentage of illiterate women was thirty times greater than the percentage of illiterate men (5.0 percent). Up to the elementary level, 23 percent of girls and 12 percent of males have some degree of education. The disparity in educational performance between men and women widens as students advance through their academic careers. Only 22 percent of the overall sample's females had completed their upper secondary education, in contrast to the 60 percent of males who had done so. There are 7.0 percent of women who have completed their education above the undergraduate level, making about 5.0 percent of the total. The corresponding percentages for men were 14 percent vs 7 percent correspondingly. The educational profile of sample homes was roughly comparable between the two villages in terms of both males and females' levels of completion of higher education. Occupational Status

Now, let's have a look at the activity levels of the family members of those who filled out the survey, as outlined in Table 4.10. Children made up around 6% of the membership, while students made up approximately 31% of the total. Approximately one third of the members were working members. Twenty-two percent of those surveyed said that they were jobless, while the remaining percentage worked in households. The remaining 6% were either elderly people or retired people who were ill. A bit less than half of the female members were involved in the labour of maintaining the home. Whereas more than half of the male members were employed, just ten percent of the female members self-reported having a working status. In comparison to Ghansurpur, the percentage of female members who contributed to the workforce in Saray was a little bit higher at 12.0 percent (8.0 percent).

% Distributions of Household Members by Activity Status

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	Ghansurpur			Saray			Total		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Child	3	5	4	7	8	7.5	5	6.5	5.75
Student	30	33	31.5	29	31	30	29.5	32	30.75
Worker	8	51	29.5	12	50	31	10	50.5	30.25
Household work	53	1	27	45	0	22.5	49	0.5	24.75
Unemploye d	0	4	2	1	3	2	0.5	3.5	2
Handicappe d/aged/ill	6	5	5.5	6	6	6	6	5.5	5.75
Retired	0	1	0.5	0	2	1	0	1.5	0.75
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

The breakdown of working female members into their various occupations, as presented in Table 4.11, uncovered the fact that the vast majority of them, around sixty percent, were working on their own family farms. About two percent of the population was involved in animal husbandry. A relatively high percentage of people, 33.33 percent, were working in the service industry in some capacity, providing jobs such as aganwadi worker, Shiksa Mitra, teacher, etc. In comparison to Saray, the village of Ghansurpur has a larger percentage of working women in the service sector (37 percent) (31 percent). Ghansurpur had a proportion of female agricultural labourers that was

somewhat lower than the national average, and no female residents were recorded to be engaged in animal husbandry in this hamlet.

Main Occupation of Women Workers in Sample Households (%)

Main Occupation	Ghansurpur	Saray	Total
Work on own farm	58	62	60
Animal Husbandry	5	6	5.5
Service	37	31	34
Other Activities	0	1	0.5
Total	100	100	100

Table 4.12 demonstrates the secondary employment held by employees who are female. Animal husbandry was a secondary profession for fifty percent of the female employees, whereas owning and operating their own farms was a secondary occupation for just five percent of the female workers. The remaining 33 percent of female employees who were surveyed either worked in the family or did not have a secondary occupation. In the second village, a greater share of the population supported themselves through animal husbandry as a secondary activity.

Secondary Occupation of Female Workers

Occupation	Ghansurpur	Saray	Total
Work on own farm	0	10	5
Animal Husbandry	46	54	50
Household Work	42	24	33

No secondary occupation	12	12	12
Total Female Workers	100	100	100

FARMECONOMY

In this part, we have covered the various patterns of land ownership and agricultural economies among the sample households. The distribution of households according to the size category of land holdings is shown in Table 4.13. Approximately 29 percent of the total 200 farm households that were chosen for the study were considered to be marginal farmers. 36 percent of the farmers were considered small farmers, 21 percent were considered medium farmers, and 14 percent were considered major farmers. When compared to that of Saray, the percentage of marginal labourers in the hamlet of Ghansurpur was lower, while the percentage of large farmers was larger.

Distribution of Households by Land Holding Category

Land holding Category	Ghansurpur	Saray	Total
Marginal	26	32	29
Small	37	35	36
Medium	21	21	21
Large	16	12	14
Total	100	100	100

Table 4.14 displays the specifics of the land holdings of the sample households. In Ghansurpur, the operational holdings of sample homes were 2.26 hectares, while in Saray, they were 1.93 hectares. In the two villages, the total amount of land owned by residents was 2.10 and 1.89 hectares, respectively. The majority of homes also served as their own farms. The percentage of

land that is leased in is just 8.04 percent, while the percentage of land that is leased out is only 3.26 percent. Irrigation was provided to over 95% of the land area. Only 46.58 percent of the area of the land that is farmed is seeded more than once.

Details of Land Holdings of Sample Household (in Hectare)

Item	Ghansurpur		Saray		Total	
	Area in Ha.	% to Cultivated Land	Area in Ha.	% to Cultivated Land	Area in Ha.	% to Cultivated Land
Total own land	2.10	93.29	1.89	97.83	2.00	95.39
Land lease out	0.06	2.57	0.08	4.07	0.07	3.26
Land lease in	0.21	9.34	0.13	6.52	0.17	8.04
Fallow land	0.01	0.24	0.03	1.38	0.02	0.76
Orchards Land	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.03
Area Sown More Than One	0.98	43.65	0.97	50.00	0.98	46.58
Net Irrigated Land	2.09	93.06	1.86	96.45	1.98	94.62

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Total	2.26	100.00	1.93	100.00	2.09	100.00
Cult Land						

Table 4.15 displays the pattern of cropping that occurred on the sample farms. Sugarcane and wheat are the most important agricultural products in the region. Sugarcane occupies more than half of the cultivated land in this region. Wheat comprised around 28 percent of the total area that was cultivated. About ten percent of the land is used for the cultivation of jowar. The majority of the harvest is utilised for feeding livestock and other domesticated animals. Rice, lentils, and mustard are planted on a relatively limited area, and the most of it is harvested for the farmer's own consumption. Both of these settlements follow an essentially identical pattern of cropping.

Area sunder Different Crops on Sample Farms (In Hectare)

Crop	Ghansurpur		Saray		total	
	Area	%ofGSA	Area	%ofGSA	Area	%ofGSA
Rice	0.09	2.63	0.01	0.41	0.05	1.57
Jowar	0.33	10.21	0.33	11.11	0.33	10.64
Wheat	0.91	27.87	0.80	27.05	0.86	27.48
Barley	0.04	1.37	0.07	2.50	0.06	1.91
Mustard	0.01	0.25	0.03	0.97	0.02	0.59
Pulses	0.07	2.08	0.13	4.28	0.10	3.13
Barseem	0.04	1.16	0.04	1.26	0.04	1.21
Sugarcane	1.77	54.32	1.55	52.42	1.66	53.42

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TotalArea	3.26	100.00	2.96	100.00	3.11	100.00
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The farming community in this area places a significant emphasis on animal husbandry as an essential auxiliary activity. The majority of the households tend to have milk and draught animals. The typical number of animals kept by each of the study households was 5.5. The sample homes had an average of roughly two milch animals, the majority of which were female buffaloes.(Table4.16).

Two to three lac rupees is the estimated yearly household income of the people who participated in the survey. In comparison to Ghansurpur, the average income for a household in Saray was lower. In Ghansurpur, agriculture is responsible for 64% of family income, whereas in Saray, agriculture is responsible for 54% of household income. In each of the two communities, animal husbandry was responsible for around 11 percent of household income. In Ghansurpur and Saray village, respectively, around 22 and 25 percent of a household's income was supplied by services. Services are a significant source of revenue. The average annual income of the sample households is higher than the average annual income of the state as a whole. In a nutshell, the economic situation of the sample households was quite favourable, as shown by measures such as the ownership of assets and the levels of income. On the other hand, there is clear evidence of substantial diversity among the agricultural households. The scenario is not even close to being suitable in regards to a few of the social metrics like female literacy and sex ratio.

CONCLUSION

Agriculture is still the primary means of subsistence for the majority of people in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, as well as the primary sector in which they are employed. It is estimated that women made up 38% of the labour force in agricultural industries in emerging nations. In 19 of the nations that make up South and South East Asia, the percentage of working women in agricultural occupations is significantly greater, standing at 45.3%. However, the many responsibilities that women perform and the productive inputs that women make in terms of work hours contributed or comparable revenue earned in the family are neither recognised nor documented. This is the case despite the fact that women play these roles and make these productive inputs. Women make up the majority of the labour force in agriculture, yet in most

parts of the world, their hard effort is not compensated. She is responsible for the most laborious and arduous duties in agricultural, animal husbandry, and domestic settings. In the case of India, the agricultural sector is responsible for employing 80% of all economically active women in the country, although only 63.0% of males hold jobs in this area. It is believed that there are 75 million women working in the dairy industry, compared to 15 million men, and that there are 20 million women working in other animal operations, compared to just 1.5 million males. According to the findings of the Census, women account for around 33 percent of the overall workforce in rural areas of India. Women make up around 16% of all workers in agriculture, 39% of all agricultural labourers, 32% of all household industrial employees, and 15% of all other rural workers. Cultivators make up approximately 20%, agricultural labourers make up 39%, and household industrial workers make up 32%. The percentage of economically active males who work in agriculture is just 63 percent, whereas 78 percent of all working women are employed in this industry. A little under half of all rural women employees are considered to be agricultural labourers, while the remaining 37 percent are considered to be cultivators. Male employees make up 24 percent of the labour force, while female workers make up 55 percent.

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