

**AN EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS THE ECONOMIC CONDITION OF FEMALE WORK
FORCE IN THE RURAL AREAS OF BIHAR**



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ABSTRACT

It is absolutely necessary to have a solid understanding of the nature of the changes that occur in rural landscapes as a result of the process of urbanization in order to establish rural management plans for sustainable development. These plans must take into account the effects that urbanization has on rural areas. Regrettably, there is a dearth of research on how changes occur in rural environments, and there is no evidence as to how these changes may be altered for the better. In addition, there is a lack of knowledge on how rural communities can adapt to these changes. There were 244.9 million households in India, 179.7 million of which were situated in rural areas, which accounted for 833 million of the country's total population. India's overall population was 1.25 billion (SECC Survey 2011). According to the findings of a study, 87.20 million rural households had at least one member who satisfied the criterion for deprivation, while 92 million rural households had at least one member who participated in agricultural or manual labour activities on an occasional basis. There is no debate about the significant role that women play in the agriculture sector. They are active in related businesses as well, such as cattle

management, dairying, beekeeping, goat rearing, mushroom cultivation, and poultry farming, amongst others, and contribute to every part of agricultural operations via their involvement. It was projected that 27.44% of women participated in the workforce in 2011, while 72.56% of men did so.

Keywords: Economic, Condition, Female

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture was the very first kind of culture that man learnt to practise as a method to provide for himself, and it was the first sort of culture that man learned to practise. It is the most important part of every economy, regardless of how long it has been operating or how developed it now is. In India, agriculture is often carried on as a family enterprise. At the same time, it is an essential driver of rural development and the reduction of rural poverty. It is regarded as the economic pillar that supports rural communities in India. Agriculture is the single most major source of employment in India, especially for rural women, and as a result, agriculture plays an incredibly important role in ensuring that India's economy will continue to be stable. Just around 17–18 percent of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) comes from the country's agricultural sector. Statistics from 2012 indicate that India's agriculture sector is now the fourth largest in the world. This puts India in the position of having the fourth largest economy in the world. It is estimated that the country has a total of 180 million hectares of farmland, of which there are now 140 million that are cultivated and planted with crops. Women are a crucial resource for the agricultural sector as well as an integral component of India's social fabric. Both of these roles are essential for India. They engage in a wide range of economic activities in order to earn a livelihood, and their contributions to the development of agriculture and the activities linked with home life are quite important. Raising agricultural commodities, providing care for family members and maintaining their homes, providing care for animals, working in rural companies, taking part in trade and marketing, and providing animal care are some examples of the jobs that fall under this category. In comparison, over 78% of all economically active women work in agriculture, but just 63% of all economically active males do so. Women have long held a variety of important jobs within the agricultural business, including those of farmers, co-farmers, wage labourers, and managers of farms. These positions include: farmers, co-farmers, wage labourers, and managers of farms. They have a long history of working the land as farmers and producers

of food at every level, from growing the crops to preparing the meals. Women get paid less than males for the same amount of work due of prejudice based on their gender, despite the fact that women produce more food with the same amount of effort. There are several positions that women may perform, and each of these roles gives them the opportunity to make a significant real-world contribution to the productive system. But, it is unfortunate that her role in the society that is controlled by men is not completely recognised, nor is her contribution correctly characterised. This is a source of sadness. It is unfortunate that her service is not recognised to the extent that it deserves. They have not been afforded an adequate amount of representation throughout the process of development. Despite the fact that women make up a sizeable portion of India's labour force, they continue to be at a significant disadvantage in terms of wages, land rights, and participation in local farmer's groups. This is the case despite the fact that India is home to one of the world's largest female populations. In addition to this, women confront a variety of challenges as a result of limited access to productive resources in agricultural production, which stops them from growing their productivity and restricts their capacity to engage fully in the agricultural sector (Slathia, 2015). Despite the fact that the landscape of agriculture has completely changed over the course of time, women have been considered as crucial labour in the agricultural sector for centuries. This is despite the fact that women make up just a small percentage of the total labour force. But, one thing has not changed throughout time: people's perceptions of women in leadership positions. The agricultural sector as a whole has seen remarkable expansion and change as a direct result of the use of science and technology. In developing countries like India, agriculture continues to absorb and employ two thirds of the female workforce, yet agriculture does not offer women with acknowledgement of their paid labour. This presents a challenge. In developing nations, where women make up the bulk of the labour force, the oppressive position of being largely responsible for the care of the family and house is still prominent. In addition to this, their contribution as agricultural labour is minimised owing to the fact that they are classed as family labour, which implies that in addition to their regular obligations at home, they work on the farm. This means that their contribution as agricultural labour is minimised.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Rashmi Tiwari (2017) Women constitute a significant portion of India's labour force, accounting for close to one-third of active workers. In 2011, there were 481.7 million persons actively participating in the labour force around the globe. Women made up 149.9 million of that total, which is 31 percent of the population. The present study on working women is predicated on an analysis of data obtained from the Census. It describes the disparities that may be seen across states and regions in terms of the percentage of men and women who are actively participating in the labour force, as well as the distribution of workers throughout the most major occupational categories. An exhaustive study of the occupational structure of female employment participation finds that the primary sector continues to employ a disproportionately high number of women workers in India. This is the case despite the fact that there are less women working in the primary sector than there are males. Comparatively, just fifty percent of working men work in agriculture, while over sixty-five percent of employed women do so. This gap may be largely explained by the fact that women are more likely to seek employment in the agriculture industry than males are. With the use of a multiple linear regression model, it is feasible to identify the factors that play a role in determining the extent to which women participate in different types of economic activity. The female labour participation rate, the sex ratio, the per capita income, and the literacy rate of females are some of the criteria that go into this calculation. In addition, a correlation matrix is produced in order to assess the link between female WPR and female literacy rate, per capita income, and the sex ratio. This matrix is used to determine whether or not there is a correlation between these three factors. According to the data, there is a link between sex ratio and female WPR, which is positive; nevertheless, there is a correlation between per capita income and female literacy rate, which is negative. It's probable that the majority of women only go out into the job during times of emergency or difficulty, and that they return home as soon as their family's financial condition improves. It's possible that this is the cause. It is imperative that the traditional value system, which is founded on the notion that men and women are inherently unequal and that women should occupy a submissive position, be abandoned. This is because the conventional value system has been around for a very long time and has a very deep-rooted history.

Surbhi Ghai (2018) N This makes use of a large cross-section of data sets such as the ILOSTAT, the NSSO Quinquennial Employment and Unemployment Survey, the Labour Bureau Annual Employment and Unemployment Survey, the National Family Health Survey, and the CMIE Consumer Pyramid Household Survey in order to comment on the declining female labour force participation rates in India. These surveys were conducted between 2005 and 2010. It has come to light that not only have there been drops in the female labour force participation rates, but it has also been determined that the size of the whole female labour force has declined over the course of the last few years. [Citation needed] This article's purpose is to examine the trend in particular relation to education and to give commentary on both the trend itself as well as the education connection. In addition to providing a number of demand and supply side elements that might potentially explain this trend, this article will also examine the trend in specific relation to education. It has been hypothesised that patriarchal cultural norms, which are still widespread in today's society and make it harder for women to engage in the workforce, make it more difficult for women to attain higher levels of education. On the basis of state-level cross-sectional data, bivariate and multivariate analyses are carried out, and the findings indicate that patriarchy is suggestive of the large number of women who do not participate in the labour market despite having high levels of education. This is the case even though patriarchy has been shown to have a negative impact on economic outcomes. It has been decided that education in its current form may not be enough on its own to drive growth in female labour force participation rates in India. This conclusion was reached after it was found that education in its current form may have been inadequate. This is the conclusion that was arrived at. Together with policies that simultaneously address some of the other obstacles on both the demand and supply sides, this will go a long way towards increasing the participation of women in the economy. The policies of the government should be directed at the fundamental cultural and socioeconomic causes that generate patriarchy.

RESEARCH METHALOGY

It is essential to have information on the socio-economic profile of the women who work in the unorganised sector as well as their families in order to be able to evaluate their quality of life and define their living standards. In light of this, the current research gathered data on a number of

socioeconomic variables, including personal information, family history, religion and caste background, educational levels, and the economic position of women employees, as well as other pertinent information. The socio-economic characteristics of women who work in the unorganised Sector is the topic that will be discussed in depth throughout this chapter. It's possible that doing some research on the socioeconomic backgrounds of the unorganised women employees may lead to some intriguing findings.

CASTE OF THE WOMEN WORKERS

In terms of the distribution of castes among working women, around 38.88% are classified as belonging to an OBC, followed by 29.78% from the General category, 21.72 % from the SC caste, and almost 10% from the ST caste (Table 3.4). It has been discovered that the proportion of SCs in the North and South is greater than in the other four areas, coming in at 24.20 and 28.30 percent respectively. This is a significant difference from the other four regions. As was to be predicted, the percentage of people who identify as STs is greatest in the North-East area (15.20%), followed by the East (12.10%) and then the West (11.60%).

HOUSEHOLDS WITH BATH ROOM AND KITCHEN FACILITY

The availability of a kitchen and bathroom is quite important for women who are living in the family. In the absence of these two amenities, it is very difficult for women to manage the many responsibilities that fall on their shoulders, such as preparing meals, taking baths, washing clothing, and attending to their basic needs. In terms of the total number of households, around 42 percent have restrooms on their premises, whereas the remaining 60 percent do not have this service (Table 3.13). The percentage of houses that have a bathroom is greatest in the South (68.6 percent), followed by the North (61.4 percent), and then the West (52.5 percent). In the other three areas, the percentage ranges any where from 17.3 to 28.2 percent.

DATA ANALYSIS

In the unorganised sector, women may be found working in almost every industry imaginable, including agriculture, forestry, fishing, plantation management, construction, retail, bead making, bangle making, ceramics, embroidery, and stitching, to name just a few. The majority of the

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women either work as day labourers in agriculture, construction, brick manufacturing, or coir production; or they work as independent contractors in handloom weaving, basket weaving, and selling fish or vegetables. Some of the more recent economic endeavours include floriculture, the raising of poultry and animals, the production of garments, the processing of food and fish, etc. In fisheries, both marine and inland, women predominate in the activity of handling and processing fish, accounting for around 70 percent of the workforce. In the brassware business, women make up 50 percent of the overall labour. There are around 50 lakhs scrap collectors in the nation, according to the most recent estimates. People who are unable to read or write, have no skills, and come from the lowest of the poor are forced into this vocation. Beedi rolling is a significant source of income for many women; nonetheless, the work is low-paying and precarious, and it may have negative effects on one's health. It is estimated that there are 4.5 million women employed in the beedi industry in India, which accounts for 80% of the total workforce. In many primary food processing locations, a significant amount of the work is done by women using traditional methods. This accounts for a major share of the food processing that occurs in the unorganised sector. In addition, the informal or unorganised service sector is growing, which is leading to a significant increase in the number of options available to women. The fields of domestic service, education (including in-home tutoring), childcare, and health services have all seen significant increases in job prospects.

AGRICULTURE, DAIRY FARMING AND FORESTRY

There was once a period when agriculture was the principal source of work for both men and women. This was true in both the United States and other countries. However, over the course of time, the proportion of male workers has decreased because men have left agriculture in search of better opportunities and wages, leaving behind women who have no choice but to work in agriculture if and when they are able to find work. This has left women in a position where they are more likely to be exploited by their employers. The fact that a woman only works for an average of three and a half months out of the calendar year is indicative of the extreme under-employment that exists in the agricultural industry. Due to a lack of access to these technologies as well as the associated skills, women have been badly affected by the advent of capital-intensive technologies. These technological innovations have intensified the discriminatory

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division of labour in agriculture, in which men take on the mechanical functions such as operating the tractor and spraying insecticides, etc., and women are wholly or partially confined to the more strenuous physical tasks such as weeding, harvesting, and threshing, etc. Generally speaking, men perform the mechanical functions in agriculture, and women perform the more strenuous physical tasks. Specifically, men operate the tractor and spray insecticides.

This kind of strenuous physical labour causes persistent skeletal and muscular difficulties, which are a large part of the health-related concerns that need to be treated as soon as possible. In addition to the insufficient number of available working days, there are a number of other factors that contribute to the inability of women to maintain a consistent work schedule. These factors include "ill health," "lack of support for child care," "health problems of kids and members of the family," "care of elders," "household duties," and "child birth." (2004) According to Thesis Women who have small children sometimes find it challenging to juggle their professional responsibilities with those of caring for their children, which in turn reduces the number of chances they have to earn money and the number of days they can spend working.

Table 1 Distribution Of Unorganized Woman Workers By Occupation And Region (Per Cent)

		Agriculture	Non Agriculture				
	Overall	Working a sown Account worker/ causal labour	Employer	Working as own account worker	Working as help er in H H enterprises	Working as regular salaried/wage employee	Working as Casual labour

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North	22.1	18.7	23.6	19.3	12.6	36.4	8.6
Central	12.3	12.9	4.2	13.8	15.6	7.4	21.4
East	16.2	21.4	30.4	15.4	14.9	12.1	16.5
West	21.6	19.8	18.3	22.4	24.5	20.8	9.5
South	18.8	16.2	12.5	21.5	26.2	12.0	30.8
North East	9.1	10.9	10.9	7.6	6.1	11.2	13.2
Total	100.0	22.0	1.7	37.1	15.1	23.0	1.0

According to the available data, about 22.0 percent of the women working in the unorganised sector are employed in agricultural labour. The remaining 78% of them are engaged in labour that is not related to agriculture. Within the realm of non-agricultural work, approximately 37.1 percent of women are employed as workers on their own account, followed by 23.0 percent of women who are employed as regular salaried employees, 15.1 percent of women who are employed as helpers in domestic enterprises (without salary or wages), and only 1.7 of them are employed as employers.

Table 2 Distribution Of Unorganized Woman Workers By Occupation And Monthly Income Group (Per Cent)

Monthly Income Group	Overall	Agriculture	Non Agriculture				
		Working as own Accout worker/ casual labour	Employer	Working as own account worker	Working as helper in H H enterprises	Working as regular salaried/wage employee	Working as Casual labour

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Upto 2000	29.1	27.2	24.0	29.2	28.1	32.2	25.4
2001 to 3000	28.7	28.0	31.2	28.8	27.6	29.9	28.6
3001 to 5000	22.2	23.6	22.7	22.4	23.1	19.8	23.5
5001 to 7000	11.3	12.2	11.6	10.9	11.8	10.7	13.8
7001 to 10000	6.2	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.7	5.4	6.5
10001 to 15000	1.8	1.9	3.2	1.7	1.9	1.4	1.9
15001 to 20000.	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.3
20001 & above .	0.3	0.2	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

CONCLUSION

There are a multitude of challenges that women who work in the unorganised sector have to contend with. Women in the workforce confront a number of significant challenges and limitations linked to their jobs, including a lack of continuity, instability, pay discrimination, bad working relationships, and an absence of medical and accident care, amongst other issues. It is common practise to abuse female labourers in both rural and urban settings, and this exploitation may take either a horizontal or vertical form. It is time to confront the problems and have a conversation about the kind of policy reforms and institutional changes that are necessary for the

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liberation and empowerment of rural women who work in the labour force. The working conditions and living conditions of women who are employed in the unorganised sector are interdependent and cannot be separated. Poor working conditions are the consequence of inadequate infrastructure and a lack of fundamental services. It is very necessary to make changes and improvements to the working conditions of the women who are employed in the unorganised sector. This may be accomplished by improving the infrastructure available to unorganised employees and providing better basic services to all workers, but notably women. Because the majority of working women are not eligible to get benefits from laws passed in the previous three decades, these laws are out of reach for them. As a result of this, there is a requirement for an integrated approach on the part of all of the agencies and joint functionaries, which include the government, departments of concern, management, labour unions, local bodies, voluntary organisations, and women's organisations, in order to ensure the correct implementation of those policies and the overall development of women who work in the unorganised sector.

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