

Socio-economic Analysis of Women Participation in Indian Agriculture

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Abstract:

India is a developing and predominately agrarian economy. The main occupation is agriculture, because 70 per cent of the population is involved in this occupation. Women play a significant and crucial role in agricultural development and allied fields. About 70 per cent of farm work is performed by women. **Women are not recognized as farmers in Indian policies thereby denying them of institutional supports of the bank, insurance, cooperatives, and government departments.** As per Census 2011, out of total female main workers, 55 per cent were agricultural labourers and 24 per cent were cultivators. However, only 12.8 per cent of the operational holdings were owned by women, which reflect the gender disparity in ownership of landholdings in agriculture. But a large number of women have remained as "invisible workers". The present paper shows that the contribution of women in agriculture is extremely significant using various indicators based on data from secondary sources. It also throws light on the obstacles faced by them in terms of less access to productive resources which do not recognized her work as active productive member.

Keywords: Women, Agriculture, Occupation, Production, Developing Country, Globalization Socio-economic, Employment.

Introduction:

Rural women are the major contributors in agriculture and its allied fields. Her work ranges from crop production, livestock production to cottage industry. From household and family maintenance activities, to transporting water, fuel and fodder. Despite such a huge involvement, her role and dignity has yet not been recognized. Women's status is low by all social, economic, and political indicators.

Agriculture has a vital role in India's socio-economic development. It contributes 15.62 % of GDP and according to World Bank collection of development indicators 42.74 % of employment (male 38.35% and female 56.36%). Women play a significant and crucial role in agriculture development and allied fields. The nature and extent of women's involvement in agriculture varies greatly from region to region. But regardless of these variations, women are actively involved in various agriculture activities. As per census 2011, out of total female workers, 55 per cent are agriculture laborers and 24 per cent are cultivators. However, only 12.8 per cent of the operational holdings are owned by women, which reflect the gender disparity in ownership of landholdings in agriculture. The dream of socio-economic empowerment of women will not be complete without empowering those who are living at India's last periphery. The ones whose day starts before sunrise and continues after sunset. However, gender based discrimination continues in multiple ways: women are not recognized as farmers in Indian policies thereby denying them of institutional supports of the bank, insurance, cooperatives, and government departments. These are the women farmers of India, whose voices often go unheard owing to their gender, and who struggles to establish their identity at a grassroots level due to patriarchal traditions and gender socialization. Women's work in agriculture is in addition to her role as a wife, a daughter-in-law and as a mother.

II. Review of Literature:

Jennifer A. Ball (2019) Very little investigation into women farmers in created nations has been delivered by market analysts, however a lot of what has been concentrated by researchers in different disciplines has monetary ramifications. This article audits such exploration delivered by researchers in all disciplines to investigate how much women farmers are turning out to be more equivalent to men farmers and to propose further commitments to the writing. As specific illustrations, subjects that has been broadly investigated in agricultural nations yet have gotten practically no consideration in created nations incorporate correlations of people farmers' efficiency and their admittance to and utilization of assets.

Singh and Vinay (2012) briefed in their working paper about the significance of female labour in agriculture and allied activities. They further stated that the role of women in agriculture as female labour is not highlighted in India. Despite of their presence in activities sowing, transplanting and post harvest operations they are considered as an invisible workers.