



# UNORGANISED LABOUR: AN ANALYTICAL STUDY WITH SPECIAL CONTEXT TO PROBLEMS OF LANDLESS AGRICULTURAL LABOURS

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## 1.ABSTRACT:

*In India landless agricultural labours has occupy a greater part of the labour force in the unorganised sector. The present research study has undertaken to know about the various problems faced by landless agricultural labours and also studied about what kind of welfare measures taken by the government to improve the condition of those labours in the unorganised sector? The paper mainly focused on landless agricultural labours of the society. The paper has also addressed the basic concept of landless agricultural labours. At last paper conclude with some supportive suggestions related to it.*

**KEY WORDS:** *Unorganised Labour, Landless Agricultural labours, Welfare measures*

## 2.INTRODUCTION:

Agriculture, being the biggest unorganised sector of the Indian economy. It plays a key role in the country's economic growing through providing food and raw material and employ to a large proportion of population, capital for its own growth and surplus for national growth. In Indian rural structure largest part of landless agricultural labours has to be considered as neglected class. Agricultural labours of rural households have no land at all. They have been constituted some of the poorest sections of rural population. In the Indian economy the number of agricultural landless labours has been rise day by day. Because of lack of education and lack of skill or proper training they do not get proper employment or work opportunities in today's era. Majority of landless agricultural labours has belonging to poverty background and their income has low and unsatisfactory. In fact, they cannot fulfill their basic needs in day-to-day life. Agricultural labours who have generally landless and form an important sector of rural society mostly depend on wage employment in agriculture. They have neither well organized nor well paid and mostly exploited section of society. That means in India landless Agricultural labours has highly unorganised and their nature of employment or work has highly seasonal and the wages has very low. They do not have any security of employment/work. Their social, economic and educational position has too low when we compare to the main stream of the society. They also don't have negotiable power and capacity to raise their rights. They work on another's land, does not participate in agriculture management and its conservation, and gates money or a portion of the reaping in considerations for his service. They neither have any rights concerning the land nor does they have to bear any risk about agriculture. In short, landless agriculture labours have those who earn their livelihood by working on agricultural farms. They have considerably poor & illiterate. In the agricultural sector landless agricultural labours plays a significant role and they have also to be considered

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as a basic resource for the agricultural development of the country. So, landless agricultural labour's life has very stressed with struggling and they can never sleep without tension.<sup>2</sup>

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

(Anand, 2022),<sup>3</sup> in this research paper author Dr. Manas Anand has stated about the 'Socio-Economic Condition of Agriculture Labour in India'. In this study he has also covered various points such as unorganised sector, classification of agricultural labourers, causes of the poor economic condition of agriculture labour, government policies to improve the condition of agricultural labours etc. Furthermore, in this study author has mainly focused on the various problems faced by landless agricultural labours and he has also stated status of agricultural labour with various context to low wages, excessive burden work, irregular employment, most neglected class people, unemployment, poverty and illiteracy, social backwardness, low bargaining power, they cannot fight for their rights and gender and social inequality. In last author has concluded that the status of agricultural labour has not so good in many parts of India, their living standard and income has very low. So, the government should take appropriate steps for various aspect of agriculture labour.

(Das, 2020),<sup>4</sup> author has discussed about the various problems faced by the agricultural labour in India. In this research paper author has studied various points like causes for the growth of agricultural labour, classification of agricultural labour, problems of agricultural labour, high incidence of child labour, steps taken by the government to improve the conditions of agricultural labour etc. At last, he concluded that agriculture has the largest sector of economic activity and nowadays there has a need of proper sustainable agricultural development in India.

(M., 2019),<sup>5</sup> author has stated about the problems of agricultural labours in India. He has also mentioned that agricultural labourers have socially and economically poorest section of the society and they have faced many problems. Author's study mainly covers objectives in the forms of problems and types of agricultural labours, solution and suggestions to tackle the problems of agricultural labours. Lastly, he has concluded that the status of agricultural labours not so good in India and their living standard and income has very low. So, the government should take appropriate steps for the welfare of agricultural labours.

(Rajni Pandya, 2012),<sup>6</sup> in this book author has stated about the labour issues from various perspective. Out of these all papers, one paper has related with agricultural labour. And this paper has also covered various points like social background, economic background, educational background and working hours. They all have mainly focused on working hours, availability of work, yearly income and other issues. In last authors were concluded that the agriculture labour has solely dependent on their wages. They do not get continuous employment and already have a subsistence problem.

## STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

In India majority of population has engaged in the agricultural sector. Agriculture sector has played significant role in the Indian economy. The study's statement of the problem mainly related with various problems faced by landless agricultural labours in India. It has also mainly dealt with the various steps taken by the government to improve the position of a landless agricultural labours.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

To examine the various problems faced by agricultural labours with special context to landless agricultural labours. To study about the various steps taken by the governments for improve the conditions of landless agricultural labours.

## METHODOLOGY:

The research study has purely based on doctrinal method of study and also will be relying on secondary sourced data. The secondary sources of data include books, articles, research papers, websites etc.

<sup>2</sup>. Dr. Yogesh N Vansiya, Agroculture labour and their wages: A Study of Tapi District of Gujarat State, Sarth Publication (2012), page no. 231-254.

<sup>3</sup>. Dr. Manas Anand, Socio-economic condition of agriculture labour In India, IJAR (2022) page no. 108-112.

<sup>4</sup>. Dr. Govind Kumar Das, Problems of Agricultural Labour in India, IJRSET (2020) page no. 6206-6212.

<sup>5</sup>. Dr. Sharath A. M., Agriculture Labour Problem in India, Southern Economist (2019) Vol. 57, page no. 18-24.

<sup>6</sup>. Rajni Pandya, Viral Vyas and Himanshu Dave, Agricultural Labour, Sarth Publication (2012), 225-230.

### 3. RESEARCH FOCUS:

#### 3.1 Unorganised labour:

In India, a foremost part of labour force has worked in the unorganised sector and the agricultural labourers have one of them. “The word ‘unorganised labour’ has been defined as those employees who have not been able to organized themselves in detection of their common happiness owing to assured constraints like informal temperament of employment, lack of knowledge and illiteracy, small and scattered size of establishments, etc.”<sup>7</sup>

#### 3.2 Agricultural labours:

Agricultural labours include those people who has working in farms and lands of other persons and derived their source of income mainly through wages. It means landless agricultural labours is one of the forms of agricultural labours. The agricultural labour’s work includes management of livestock, bees, cows, goats, cultivating the soil, growing or harvesting, any agricultural crop or horticulture commodity etc. The agricultural labour assists the backward and other low classes of people to come to the level of other persons. The people who have belongs to agricultural labours has work for their living and basic need. They have faced such kind of common problems in the forms of underemployment and underdevelopment. They can rise the production of goods and commodities and encourages the traditional wage of agriculture. In the early times, the lands were obtainable in abundant. Therefore, those people who were not capable of getting a job/work, then they have decided to earn their living through agricultural labour.

#### 3.3 Problems faced by landless agricultural labours:

The problems faced by landless agricultural labours has been given as under.

##### 3.3.1 Unorganised status:

The labourers who have belongs to the agricultural sector has totally unorganised as they are unaware, uneducated and broadly scattered. Thus, they have no capacity to bargain for securing a reasonable wage level.

##### 3.3.2 Social and Economic level problems:

They have also faced social as well economic problems in the forms of low position and shortage of employment opportunities.

##### 3.3.3 Low Social Status:

They have generally belonged to depressed classes and therefore they have lacked the courage to assert their basic rights.

##### 3.3.4 Reorganization of the agricultural labour:

In India landless agricultural labours has unorganised, scattered, ignorant and illiterate. Because of that they have no capability to bargain and fight for their daily need.

##### 3.3.5 Issue of Indebtedness:

Because of low income the indebtedness of agricultural labours has rising day by day. A very large part of rural population has in the grip of non-institutional source of credit specially money- lenders that charge huge interest on the agricultural labours. In order to pay these debts, poor farmers have to sell their land and look for the work as a labour on other’s farm.

<sup>7</sup>. Issues of Labour in India (Dr. Bhavesh Desai, Sarth publication, Anand, 1<sup>st</sup> published 2012/13); The Types of Unorganised Labours and Social Security Schemes for them, (By Dr. Hareesh Mehta, Associate Professor, (Economics) Mahila Arts & Commerce College, Palitana.)

**3.3.6 Low wages/Income:**

In India the wages/income of landless agricultural labours has very low. The money wage rates have started rising, but the wages of the labourers did not rise. Per day they have getting simply very low wages and this sum has not sufficient to support the living of a family.

**3.3.7 Problems related with hours of work:**

They have a problem related with the hours of work. That means working hours of landless agricultural labours has not regular but higher and deprived of any overtime paid.

**3.3.8 Low wages issue:**

With compare to organized labour the labours who has belongs to the agricultural sector get very lower wages.

**3.3.9 Yearly Income issue:**

Income of the agricultural labour has limited, not regular and it's entirely depending upon getting of work. In fact, they all have reliant on seasonal base work and income has not stable.

**3.3.10 More work availability:**

There have too much availability of work in the agricultural sector and that's because the labourers to do work on low wages.

**3.3.11 Seasonal basis unemployment:**

In the Agricultural sector the agricultural operations or work has been on seasonal base, therefore they have often faced the problem related with seasonal unemployment.

**3.3.12 Lack of alternate occupations:**

There has lack of alternative works because of seasonal unemployment in the rural areas.

**3.3.13 Less Bargaining Power:**

Due to all the above stated factors, the negotiating power and status of landless agricultural labourers has very weak. In short, we can say that In India, the agricultural labourers have the highly exploited group of people.

**3.3.14 Exploitation of Women Labourers:**

Because of low income, the women as a landless agricultural labourer have forced to work for their livelihood or basic needs. In the field of agriculture sector, the exploitation of women labours has a foremost problem.

**3.3.15 Other related problems:**

Other problems like housing problem, agricultural slavery, poverty and illiteracy, unemployment, lack of education etc. has been facing thru the landless agricultural labourers.

**3.4 WELFARE MEASURES:****Steps taken by the government to improve the conditions of landless agricultural labours:**

The various steps has been adopted by the government for improving the economic situations of landless agricultural labours in the forms of passing of Minimum Wages Act, Abolition of Bonded Labourers, Special Schemes for Providing Employment, National Rural Employment Programme, Rural Landless Employment Programme, E-Shram Card, Drought Prone Area Programme, Jawahar Rojgar Yojana, Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas and Integrated Rural Development Programme, Provision for Housing Sites, Special Agencies and 20 points programme etc.

**3.5 MAJOR FINDINGS:**

In this research paper the researcher had found that in today's era the landless agricultural labourers have faced social as well economic problems on various basis. They have mostly unorganised and because of that, those labours needed a serious consideration as well as focused.

#### 4. CONCLUSIVE SUGGESTIONS:

The above research study has mainly dealt with the problems faced by landless agricultural labours and the various steps has been taken by the government to improve their situation. As per the above study it has been clearly found that still the situation of landless agricultural labours remained problematic despite the introduction of different steps taken by the government.

*Under such situation, following suggestions had given by the researcher for improving the conditions of landless agricultural labours.*

- There is a need to implement and to revise the minimum wages act periodically for the landless agricultural labours.
- The bargaining power of landless agricultural labours should be enhanced.
- There should be need of government support for the formation of unions.
- To eradicate serfdom among landless agricultural labours entirely.
- There should be need of to generate alternative sources of employment/work for landless agricultural labours.
- There should be improve the working condition, working hours as well wage rate of landless agricultural labours including for women also.
- To organizing special programme for betterment in the standard of living of landless agricultural labours.
- There should be need of government's social security measures with proper implementation for the welfare of landless agricultural labours.
- There should be need of reducing various risks in the agriculture sector especially for landless agricultural labours.
- There should be a need of improving the basic amenities of landless agricultural labours in the forms of food, resident, drinking water, hygiene, drainage, schooling of child and health centers etc. It means need of improving living and working conditions of landless agricultural labours.
- There should be improve the agricultural conditions through multiple crops, increasing labour productivity and intensive methods for the landless agricultural labours.
- There should be a need of a specific legislation for the welfare and protection of landless agricultural labours.

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