

CHANGING PATTERN OF FEMALE LABOURS IN GUJARAT AGRICULTURE

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ABSTRACT

Agricultural labour constitute the most marginalized section of our society and contributes immensely, not only to the development of agriculture, but also to the economy as a whole About 80% of the field work in agriculture, from sowing to harvesting, post harvest management and dairy management is done by women cultivator and agricultural labour. This study aims to examine the district wise temporal changes in agricultural labour supply during 2001 to 2011 by using district level workers' data. The results revealed that the share of women agricultural labourers decreased during 2011 as compared to 2001 in most of the districts in Gujarat. An average decrease of 9.77% was observed among women cultivators from 2001 to 2011 with highest decrease of 17.22% in Surat district followed by 14.83% in Valsad district. The results also revealed that there was an average decrease of 6.49% in women agricultural labour from 2001 to 2011 with highest decrease of 10.44% in Ahmadabad district but the exception was an increase of 20.32% in Patan district.

Keywords: knowledge, kitchen gardening, reliability, item analysis

INTRODUCTION

Both women and men play critical roles in agriculture throughout the world, producing, processing and providing the food we eat. Rural women in particular are responsible for half of the world's food. Yet, despite their contribution to global food security, women farmers are frequently underestimated and sidelined in development strategies. Rural women sow, weed, apply fertilizer and pesticides, harvest and thresh the crops. Their contribution to secondary crop production, such as legumes and vegetables, is even greater. In the livestock sector, women feed and milk animals, raise poultry and small animals such as sheep, goat, rabbits and guinea pigs. Also, once the harvest is over, rural women provide most of the labour for post-harvest activities, taking responsibility for storage, handling, stocking, processing and marketing.

Although rural women are assuming an increasingly prominent role in agriculture, they remain among the most disadvantaged of populations. Despite the fact that women are the world's principal food producers and providers, they remain 'invisible' partners in development. Lack of available gender disaggregated data indicate that women's contribution to agriculture in particular is poorly understood and their specific needs ignored in development planning.

In recent times empowerment of women has become a most important talked about subject and issues of concern, because they form a large component of human resources and they are potential contributors towards development of social, economic, cultural and political activities. Thus, there is a need to study the trend of female agricultural labour and cultivator. Accordingly, a study on "Changing Pattern of Female Labours in Gujarat Agriculture" was conducted.

OBJECTIVE

To know the changing pattern of female labours in Gujarat agriculture

METHODOLOGY

The study of the temporal changes in supply of agricultural labour at the district- level was collected and compiled by using the secondary data of population of agricultural labour and cultivator from Directorate of Census Operations, Gujarat (Ahmadabad). The obtained data was compared to calculate percentage share of female in total agricultural and cultivator population district wise in 2001 and 2011. The change in percentage share is calculated to evaluate the temporal shift of female contribution in Gujarat Agriculture.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: Percentage share of female agricultural labourers and cultivator district wise in Gujarat

Sr. No.	District	Agricultural Labourers			Cultivators		
		% share of female		Change in % share of female	% share of female		Change in % share of female
		2001	2011		2001	2011	
1	Kaccha	44.19	37.01	-7.18	27.21	14.64	-12.57
2	Banaskantha	51.84	45.42	-6.42	30.37	18.30	-12.07
3	Patan	53.13	73.45	20.32	27.24	15.06	-12.18
4	Mahesana	48.62	38.35	-10.26	17.42	11.44	-5.96
5	Sabarkantha	57.14	50.97	-6.17	21.71	17.72	-3.99
6	Gandhinagar	42.83	34.25	-8.58	12.10	9.87	-2.23
7	Ahmadabad	48.05	37.61	-10.44	18.48	13.61	-4.87
8	Surendranagar	53.12	47.02	-6.1	33.03	22.94	-10.54
9	Rajkot	49.60	41.91	-7.69	40.51	30.22	-10.29
10	Jamnagar	46.72	42.28	-4.49	38.01	27.85	-10.16
11	Porbandar	48.45	42.05	-6.4	36.35	28.12	-8.23
12	Junagadh	47.92	42.97	-4.95	38.51	31.28	-7.23
13	Amreli	52.15	45.34	-6.81	43.54	32.70	-10.84
14	Bhavnagar	56.22	48.80	-7.42	35.82	25.85	-9.97
15	Anand	39.59	32.08	-7.51	10.57	6.39	-4.18
16	Kheda	44.72	36.03	-8.69	15.26	5.07	-10.19
17	Panchmahal	64.72	60.02	-4.70	38.99	24.65	-14.39
18	Dohad	70.33	70.12	-0.21	44.09	24.93	-19.16
19	Vadodara	50.64	48.58	-2.06	28.12	15.79	-12.33
20	Narmada	62.47	49.87	-12.6	33.53	22.40	-11.13
21	Bharuch	46.35	38.71	-7.64	19.03	14.68	-4.35
22	Dang	60.25	61.49	1.24	45.80	42.95	-2.85
23	Navsari	50.68	46.52	-4.16	40.59	27.88	-12.71
24	Valsad	56.33	53.84	-2.49	44.65	29.82	-14.83
25	Surat	52.70	46.37	-6.33	34.73	17.51	-17.22

The results of Table 1 revealed that the share of women agricultural labourers decreased during 2011 as compared to 2001 in most of the districts in Gujarat. An average decrease of 9.77% was observed among women cultivators from 2001 to 2011 with highest decrease of 17.22% in Surat district followed by 14.83% in Valsad district. The results also revealed that there was an average decrease of 6.49% in women agricultural labour from 2001 to 2011 with highest decrease of 10.44% in Ahmadabad district but the exception was an increase of 20.32% in Patan district. The maximum female cultivators were in Surendranagar and maximum women agricultural labourers were in Dohad district in 2011.

CONCLUSION

From the foregoing discussion, it can be concluded that the share of female agricultural labourers and cultivars decreased during the year 2011 as compared to year 2001 in majority of the district of Gujarat state. Declining farm labour supply is inevitable in a fast developing economy. Therefore, the agricultural extension system of the district/ state/ country has to geared up to bring farm women out from the conventional methods of cultivation and educate them for adoption of available labour- saving implements. Owing to increase role of women folk in agriculture, due priority should be given to research and extension on farm equipments which are female labour friendly.

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