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## **PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF AGRICULTURAL LABORERS: A CASE STUDY OF NALGONDA DISTRICT.**

Dr.E.Purushotham  
Associate professor,  
Department Of Economics  
Osmania University, Hyderabad.  
Email: [dr.etikaala@gmail.com](mailto:dr.etikaala@gmail.com)

**ABSTRACT:**India agriculture is the biggest sector of economic activity. It supplies not only food and raw materials but also employment to a very large proportion of the population. Being the leading sector the progress or changes in national output depend on agriculture. In order to guarantee sustainable agricultural development in the new millennium, agricultural labour and their families should have access to sufficient working and living conditions, health and welfare. However, for the development of agriculture in irrigated and Non-Irrigated areas needed a broad allotment in public investment. To develop agriculture and its related infrastructure particularly in irrigation, land development, water conservation, research development and road connectivity etc. Therefore, present study examine the working days & problems and prospects of agricultural labourers in the study area.

**Keywords:** Agriculture, irrigated, Non-Irrigated areas, sustainable and water conservation.

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Indian Agricultural labourers constitute the single largest section of working population. The labourers play a vital role in agricultural production. Their contribution is significantly considerable to the development of national economy. Still they are the worst exploited section among workers. They suffer from seasonal unemployment and under employment, insecurity of jobs, below subsistence living, indebtedness, bondage, migration, inability to get minimum wages and lack of social security. They live in poorly built-up houses, undernourished and malnourished. Most of them go to bed daily without even a single meal. They are very little educated. Their health, sanitary condition and personal hygiene are also very poor. Agricultural labourers are the unorganized class. They do not have a security of employment. There is no law to regulate the working conditions of



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agricultural labourers. The benefits of medical facilities and social security are totally denied to them. Women workers have no maternity benefits. Lack of trade unionism causes no bargaining power. In the absence of a protective law, the rights of agricultural labourers are ignored and they are thrown at the mercy of the landlords and other rural vested interests. There have been innumerable numbers of incidents of atrocities committed on them because of their organized move to demand payment of minimum wages and to assert their rights as workers. As agricultural development is very vital to the growth of national economy, there is a need to bestow the attention. Unless the living and working condition of agricultural labourers are improved, there cannot be any real progress in agriculture. The upgrading of the skill of agricultural labourers and improving their productivity are important aspects of development in agriculture. According to the National Commission on Labour, this kind of labour is one which has basically unskilled and unorganized, people who have little for their livelihood other than their personal labour. Thus persons whose main source of income is wages fall in this category. This paper examines the working days, nature of employment of agricultural labourers of Nalgonda District.

#### **PROBLEMS OF THE STUDY:**

Agriculture sector played important role in Indian Economy, because majority of population are engaged in agriculture.

1. What are the problems being faced by agricultural labourer in irrigated and non-irrigated areas in Nalgonda district.
2. Which measures are taken by Government for Agricultural labourers.

#### **OBJECTIVE OF THIS STUDY:**

The basic objective of this study as under

1. To examine the Working days of Agricultural labourers in irrigated and non irrigated area
2. To study the Experience in agricultural sector in irrigated and non irrigated area
3. To study the Owner of the land provides necessary tools to perform the job well
4. To analyse the Problems of Agricultural Labourers.



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## **RESEARCH AND METHODOLOGY:**

The present study aims to assess the problems be faced by the agricultural labourers in irrigated and non-irrigated areas in Nalonda district and measures taken by Government for the following methodology adopted for the present study.

**SAMPLING TECHNIQUE:**For this study,convenient sampling technique was used to collect the information from Agricultural labourers of irrigated and Non-irrigated areas of the Nalgonda District.

**SAMPLE SIZE:** A sample of 200 from irrigated and 200 from Non-irrigated of the areas of the Nalgonda District, thus, it constitutes a total 400 respondents are taken for the research study.

### **SAMPLE DESIGN:**

For the present study, convenient sampling technique is used. The study carried out in Nalgonda District. At the first stage two revenue divisions named asNalgonda and Devarakondawere taken, from these revenue divisions irrigated non-irrigated areas selected.

### **STATISTICAL TOOLS**

The primary data was collected from the respondents and analyzed by using Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS) to obtain the results concerning the objectives of the study. Percentages used for analyses the responses.

### **DATA AND ANALYSIS:**

Working days of Agricultural labourers are presented in the table 1, it revels the employment availability of selected studyarea .



**Table .1Working days of Agricultural labourers:**

Area of cultivation/Option		Frequency	Percent
Irrigated	Annual	90	45
	Monthly	40	20
	Weekly	30	15
	Daily	40	20
	Total	200	100
Non-Irrigated	Annual	80	40
	Monthly	50	25
	Weekly	20	10
	Daily	50	25
	Total	200	100
Total	Annual	170	42.5
	Monthly	90	22.5
	Weekly	50	12.5
	Daily	90	22.5
	Total	400	100

*Source: Compiled from primary data*

by studying the table it known that in irrigated areas majority of the agriculture labour working on annual basis i.e., 45 per cent labourer are annual basis next to that 20 per cent of agriculture labour working on monthly basis and daily basis labourer are also 20 per cent where as in Non-Irrigated areas., 40 per cent labourer are annual basis next to that 22.5 per cent of agriculture labour working on monthly basis and daily basis labourer are also 22.5 per cent, out of 400 sample 42.5 per cent respondents are working on annual basis and remaining labourers are working on monthly, weekly and daily basis.



**Table .2 Experience in agricultural sector:**

Area of cultivation/Option		Frequency	Percent
Irrigated	1-2 years	0	0
	3-5 years	20	10
	6-10 years	70	35
	11-20 years	70	35
	Above 20 years	40	20
	<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>
Non-Irrigated	1-2 years	10	5
	3-5 years	30	15
	6-10 years	59	29.5
	11-20 years	29	14.5
	Above 20 years	72	36
	<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>
Total	1-2 years	10	2.5
	3-5 years	50	12.5
	6-10 years	129	32.5
	11-20 years	99	24.8
	Above 20 years	112	28
	<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Compiled from primary data*

The table 2 points out the Number of years of experience of agricultural labour in this field in the selected study area , from 200 Irrigated area respondents and 200 Non-Irrigated respondents, 35 per cent respondents have 11-20 years of experience similarly 35 per cent of the respondents have 6-10 years of experience and 20 per cent of respondents have above 20 years of experience whereas in Non-Irrigated areas 36 respondents have above 20 years experience next to this 29.5 per cent respondents have 6-10 years of experience. Out of the 400 sample respondents that majority of the respondents' 32.5 per cent have 6-10 years experience.



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**Owner of the land provides necessary tools to perform the job well:**

**Table .3Owner of the land provides necessary tools to perform the job well**

Area	Opinion	Frequency	%
Irrigated	Strongly Disagree	5	2.5
	Disagree	15	7.5
	Undecided	00	00
	Agree	60	30
	Strongly Agree	120	60
	Total	200	100
Non Irrigated	Strongly Disagree	10	5
	Disagree	15	7.5
	Undecided	00	00
	Agree	45	22.5
	Strongly Agree	130	65
	Total	200	100
Total	Strongly Disagree	15	3.75
	Disagree	30	7.5
	Undecided	00	00
	Agree	105	26.25
	Strongly Agree	250	62.5
	Total	400	100

Source: Compiled from Primary data

The table.3 shows the weather owner of the land provides necessary tools and equipments to perform the job well or not ,from 200 irrigated respondents and 200 Non-Irrigated respondents, 2.5 per cent of irrigated and 5 per cent Non-Irrigated and 3.75 per cent of Total Respondents are Strongly Disagree with the statement and 60 per cent of Irrigated, 65 per cent of Non-Irrigated respondents and 62.5 per cent of Overall respondents are Strongly Agree with the statement, from the data it is concluded that majority of respondents replied that Owner of the land provides necessary tools and equipments to perform the job well.



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## **PROBLEMS OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS:**

### **1. Overload operational Hours**

The working hours of these laborers are not only irregular but also excessive. They have to work since morning to late night. His working hours change with harvest, season and work.

### **2. Cyclic Employment**

The agricultural labor does not get work for the whole year. According to the Second Agricultural Labor Investigation Society, a Seasonal labor gets an average of 197 days of work in a year. Similarly, child labor gets 204 days and women get 141 days of employment. Thus, their average annual income is very lower.

### **3. Near to the ground Wages**

The wage level of agricultural labors is very low as compared to that of industrial labor. It has two reasons increase in landless laborers lack of non-agricultural areas of work in rural areas.

### **4. Agricultural Slavery**

Majority of agricultural laborers are landless and of backward classes. Due to their lower social status they are treated as animals. Big land owners make them work as slaves. They are used as laborers and in return given minimum wages.

**5. Indebtedness:** Due to lower income, the indebtedness of agricultural farmers is increasing. They hesitate in negotiating their wages with the land owners in the fear that their services would be terminated. The laborers remain indebted even after working with the land owners for their whole life.

### **6. Not United**

Since the agricultural laborers are spread in millions of village all over the country they lack unity. Thus, they are unable to negotiate their wages etc. with the land owners by uniting themselves.

### **7. utilization of Child and Women Laborers**

Due to lower income the children and women of agricultural laborers are also forced to work for their livelihood. The child and women laborers are made to work more for livelihood. Thus, exploitation of child labor and woman labor is a major problem in the field of agriculture.



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## **8. inferior Social Status**

Most of the agricultural laborers are of backward classes who have been exploited since centuries. Due to this reason also their social status is lower.

## **9. Scarcity of Other Jobs**

There is shortage of other jobs in villages. Thus, if the crop is destroyed by floods, famines etc., it becomes difficult for the agricultural labor to survive.

## **10. Accommodation Problem**

The landless laborers have no private house. They live in cottages, made on the useless land of the landowners with their permission and in its return they have to work without payment, for the landowners. When a number of people live under the same roof, the physical, social, moral and religious problem arises.

**Measures taken by the Government to improve the Conditions:** The Government has shown awareness of the problems of agricultural workers and all plan documents have suggested ways and means to ameliorate the lot of these people. Measures adopted by the Government for ameliorating the economic conditions of Agricultural labourers are Passing of minimum wage Act. Abolition of Bonded Labourers Providing land to landless labourers Provision of Housing cities to houseless

**CONCLUSION:** We should encourage labour intensive techniques in these activities and should not go for higher mechanization in the above activities, especially in non irrigated areas. Minimum and equal wages should be fixed by state Government for agricultural labour and the rates should be reviewed periodically. Conscious efforts are needed for training of work force in the rural areas in alternative skills.

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