

wages for sheer subsistence. There have been very few movements to resist the injustice. Researcher gave more importance to 'Disha', a voluntary organization active in Saharanpur district of Uttar Pradesh, has played a notable role in the mobilization of women farm workers and asserting their equal rights.

Sobha and Reddy (2003)

argued that women's work is increased in agriculture and allied activities in Andhra Pradesh and the data was collected from two villages on sample basis. The main content in their paper was women belonged to different landholdings (Landless, Marginal, Small, Large) categories and occupational groups, their work force participation rate was very high as compared to men. But there is discrimination of women in terms of employment and wages as compared to men. Women in agriculture must be given equal importance with men even though they are engaged in household activity.

Bimla, et. al. (2003)

examined women's participation in agricultural activities in Kaithal district of Haryana. They observed that involvement of rural women in agricultural activities was to the extent of 73 per cent and also drudgery was involved in the activities like transplanting, crushing etc. Women, particularly rural women who participate equally with men should be trained in the modern techniques of agriculture.

Satyasundaram (2003)

in his paper titled "India's Economy and Rural Women Workers", discussed about the policies introduced by Government of India towards the women in agriculture and allied activities. Even though policies introduced towards women, they are lagging behind in employment

Saraswathi Raju Iyer (2004)

Studied that women in rural areas are depending on agriculture which is the major unorganized sector in India. Rural women in India are classified into four categories namely landless women, near landless women, small peasant women, and rich peasant women. Women are mostly the agricultural labour 50 per cent of agricultural operations and allied activities are done by women. Women face a lot of problems in agriculture like women labour displaced by technology, physical strenuous labour, illiteracy etc. Women are the major contributors in agriculture. So, the government of India introduced some schemes towards women to reduce drudgery of the women in agriculture and allied activities. opportunities because of lack of education, training and skills but when compared to men, women work load is heavy and they earn low income and there is discrimination towards women particularly in wages.

Jaivir Singh and Meenakshi (2004)

pointed out that changing the nature of women's work in casual labour markets works as daily wage and piece wage rates in agriculture, leads to increase in working hours of both adult and child females, gender-based wage differences are there inspite of same work done by women along with men, males received high wage rates, it also deals with increased presence of women in the agricultural labour force.

Sucharita Sinha (2005)

Examined rural female work participation rates in four districts of West Bengal. The study showed that in the West Bengal female labour force participation is relatively higher in non- agricultural activities. Occupational classification of female workers within West Bengal showed an almost clear dichotomy between

districts having high employment of women workers in agricultural and non-agricultural activities, suggested that the absence of opportunities for non-agricultural employment could be a possible cause for low rural female work participation rate in the districts of West Bengal and Institutional biases and a tradition of non-participation in agriculture might thus be reasons contributing to a low rural female work participation rate in the state.

Swarna Vepa (2005)

Argued about the declining economic stake of women in agriculture in spite of their contribution. Women are mainly wage labour they are also as main workers, marginal workers in agriculture, marginalization of the workforce is done by women in rural areas because the males are migrated from low paid agricultural areas because the males are migrated from low paid agricultural areas to high paid agricultural prosperous areas. Due to mechanization also women are replaced and the work done by the women is more than the men. Another reason for women is that they don't migrate to other areas because of family responsibilities and so they are forced to work in agriculture with low paid jobs. In the Southern States especially in rice cultivation, females are agricultural labour than in the Northern states.

Thelma Paris, et. al. (2005)

discussed about the labour out migration of rice farming households and the impact on women's work burden. Migration of males increased women's decision making capacity and their contribution to agriculture is high particularly rice farming and also the wages are low who work in another farms but at the same time they are left behind to face several problems in rice farming because their lack of access to modern seed technology impedes their work.

A PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA

Research methods

Within the above mentioned scope of the study, the methodology has been designed to carry out the research work in a scientific way so that a comprehensive analysis of the research problem may be obtained. In this regard, the methodology applied in the study besides the methods of sampling and way of determining the sample size is discussed in the following paragraphs along with methods and techniques employed in the data collection.

Research design

The theoretical framework of the study combines economic as well as social aspects with the distress among women labour agricultural households. It deals with the relationship between poverty and social hierarchy. To study the distress among women agricultural labour both qualitative and quantitative methods are applied in the study through the collection of data by household survey and in-depth interviews.

The economy of any nation depends entirely upon the socio-economic characteristic features of its people, which are the consequent outcome of the geographical and demographical factors of that nation. Geographical features of an area generate various aspects in relation to the life style and living conditions of the people. Besides, demographical features do demonstrate the socio-economic conditions of the people which ultimately reflect their impact on the national economy. Hence, in this chapter, the agro-economic features like cropping pattern, land use pattern, farm size, production, productivity of crops are presented besides, geographic, demographic and physical characteristics. This Chapter is devoted to present the profile of the study area. This Chapter is divided into three parts. First part presents the profile of the Andhra Pradesh. Profile of the selected districts, namely, Guntur and Selection of these study area

Warangal are presented in Part II.

SAMPLE DESIGN

Selection of the study area

District	Mandal	Village	No. of respondents
krishna	Nagaya lanka mandal	Bhavadevarapalli	30
		Marripalem	30
		Vakkapatalavaripalem	30
		Nangegadda	30
		Peddapalem	30

A multi- stage random sample is used for the study. The districts are divided into two categories, namely, agriculturally developed and agriculturally less developed districts. From each category, one district is selected at random. Thus Krishna district is selected from agriculturally developed region. In the second stage, five mandals are selected from each district. In the third stage, one village is selected from each selected mandal. Thus a sample of 5 villages is selected for the purpose of the study. In the final stage, list of landless female agricultural labour is prepared in each of the selected villages. A sample of 30 respondents was selected randomly from each village. Thus a sample of 150 female labour household were selected for the study.

Techniques of analysis

The analytical techniques used in this study are descriptive statistics and simple and

logit regression analysis. Descriptive statistics form the basis of virtually quantitative analysis of data. Descriptive statistics are used to describe the basic features of the data in the study. To analyze the data, simple tabular analysis is used. The simple regression technique is used to verify the relationship between variables. The logit regression analysis is used to analyze the factors influencing poverty among women labour households. The detailed descriptions of the techniques are presented in respective chapters.

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A Profile of Andhra Pradesh

Location and EXTENT

The state of Andhra Pradesh is situated in a tropical region between the latitudes 13⁰ to 20⁰ North and the longitudes 77⁰ to 85⁰ East and is bounded by the Bay of Bengal in East with a coastal line of 960 k.m. The other boundaries to the State are Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra in North, Karnataka in West and Tamil Nadu in South.