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ROLE OF WOMEN WORKERS IN AGRICULTURE: CHALLENGES



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## ABSTRACT:

Now a day's women are playing a vital responsibility in economic growth. They donate major proportion in Gross Domestic Product through dynamically participating in agricultural activities. Women workers is that they large contribution in achieving work opportunities in comparison to men workers as well as major challenges of women workers in agriculture. This examined in female work participation in agriculture and non-agriculture sector. Northern states are much minor than in the states of southern in India. Agriculture is the major resource to women workers. 63% of the total male workforce and 78 percent of rural women are employment in agriculture. Basically in the rural Maharashtra, the work contribution rate of women is 46.5 percent out of which 89 percent in the agrarian sector and more women than men work as farm workers for wage—1,311 per every 1,000 males—and 789 women for every 1,000 males are cultivators in agriculture.

**KEY WORDS:** Women in agriculture, state wise participants Role and challenges in agriculture.

### 1. INTRODUCTION:

Agriculture is backbone of the Indian economy. It's provided that employment to about 65 per cent of the operational population of India. Approximately one-quarter of India's national income originates from the agriculture region. But share of agriculture in GDP has been decline from last many years. In developing countries like India, agriculture sector is the play major role of employer in rural area. Women have continuous are playing an important role in Indian agriculture development. Women workers are that they still lag behind in achieving job opportunities in comparison to men. Agricultural production together works and as farm managers has been increasing in last two decades because more men move to non- farm work mainly important to an increased female worker in agriculture. Practically 63 per cent of all efficiently dynamic men are busy in agriculture as compared 78 per cent of women. Approximately 50 per cent of rural feminine workers are classified as agriculture labourers and 37 per cent as cultivators. About 70 per cent of farm is performed by women. These women are frequently organization and allied field including, main crop production, live-stock production and provided that survival to their family. Therefore role of women in Indian agriculture productivity is most important in the capability of women to occupations successfully as farmers. Gender refers to the social roles and relations between women and men. This includes the different responsibilities of women and men in a given culture of location which is biologically determined. This paper examined the basic role of women labour for work participation and challenges of women workers in agriculture.

### 2. Objectives Of The Study:

- 1) To study the present trends and role of women participants in agriculture in India
- 2) To understand the challenges of women's in Indian agriculture

#### 2.1 Research Methodology

For this paper data for the study have collected from the secondary source which from Books, Journal, Reports, Magazines and extensive use of internet. Analysis has been done for Participation female workers in agriculture sector in rural area.

### 3. Distribution Of Women With Economic Sector:

Women workers have distinguished with different aspects and sector but most of the women workers contribute to them work in the agriculture sector in different countries. Tanzania Uganda and Kenya has large number of women participate in agriculture then India's number forth in participants of women in agriculture sector.

**Table no. 1 Distribution of the active female population by Economic sector in selected countries**

Percentage distribution of the active total female population by economic sector			Labour force of each economic sector			
Country	Agriculture	Industry	Services	Agriculture	Industry	Services
South Africa	30.9	10.6	58.8	32.9	11.8	48.6
Shri Lanka	65.6	12.9	21.5	28.2	21.4	16.8
Swaziland	86.0	2.5	10.5	49.1	16.6	40.0
Uganda	91.1	1.4	6.5	35.8	10.2	26.6
Tanzania	92.3	1.6	6.1	39.3	11.5	24.6
Zimbabwe	68.6	6.3	25.0	32.1	13.9	32.6
India	80.6	10.8	8.5	36.9	26.1	16.2
Kenya	90.8	2.1	6.1	36.2	9.9	22.2
Malaysia	68.1	9.4	22.5	38.5	21.6	23.0

Source: World Economic outlook Report-2011.



In above table and figure show that the active female have increased at much faster rate in India than other countries. About 80.6 % of agricultural activities are handled by women workers. The women laborers got highest employment in agriculture during kharif and rabi season. They get maximum employment days in the month of June and September in kharif season and in the months of October and January in Rabi season. South Africa has low rate of female active in economic sector as compared to other countries.

#### 4. State-wise Trend Of Women Participation In Agriculture And Non- Agriculture Activities:

The situation of female workers across Indian state and also visualizes the percentage of women workers occupied in agriculture as major work-related and the rest show that percentage that generates their revenue from non-agriculture activities like household industry, services etc.

**Table no.2 State-wise trend of women participation in agriculture**

State	Percent of female workers in agriculture	Percent of female workers in non-agriculture
Himachal Pradesh	82.47	17.53
Manipur	55.59	44.41
Nagaland	82.66	17.34
Andhra Pradesh	73.44	26.56
Rajasthan	81.07	18.93
Madhya Pradesh	79.45	20.55
Karnataka	61.11	38.89
Tamil Nadu	59.30	40.70
Maharashtra	74.53	25.47
Gujarat	57.12	42.88
Orissa	60.47	39.53
Tripura	52.78	47.22
Assam	42.47	57.53
Punjab	24.51	75.49
Bihar	83.56	16.44
West Bengal	32.62	67.38
Uttar Pradesh	65.87	34.13
Kerala	21.27	78.13

Source: [www.losrjournals.org](http://www.losrjournals.org)

It can be clearly indicated that across all the states considered for our study women majority generates their income through agriculture activities. Exceptions were their like Punjab Kerala and West Bengal where women were comparatively involved in non agriculture activities.

#### 5. Multi-dimensional Role Of Women In Agriculture:

**I) Agriculture:** The most important aspects of women's employment in agriculture their share in the agricultural workforce, occupational status and real wages also Sowing, transplanting, weeding, irrigation, fertilizer application, plant protection, Harvesting, winnowing, storing etc.

**(ii) Domestic:** Women workers are honestly attached with summer, rainy and winter period agriculture

system. There is no same all over irrigation facility for summer and winter cultivation. Women are too expected to accumulate wood from fields. This wood is being used as a main fuel source for food preparation. Collection of wood, collecting water from isolated areas is also the responsibility of rural women.

**(iii) Allied Activities:** Rural women are dependable for farm behaviour. Keeping of livestock and its other associated activities like milking, milk processing and preparation of ghee are also carried out by the women. Mainly rural women are engaged in agricultural activities in three different ways depending on the socio-economic status of their family and regional factors. They are work as: Paid Labourers, Cultivator doing labour on their own land and, Managers of certain aspects of agricultural production by way of labour supervision and the participation in post harvest operations.

**iv) Livestock related activities:** Livestock is the primary subsistent movement used to assemble household food needs as well as addition farm incomes. The majority of farms own a number of livestock. It is obvious that the women are on stage a leading role in the livestock production and organization activities. Poultry farming is one of the major sources of rural economy. The rate of women in poultry farming at house level is the central in poultry industry.

#### **6. Challenges For Gender Mainstreaming In Agriculture:**

The challenges of gender mainstreaming in agriculture have their roots in everyday family life.

1. The change of people's mind gender not only taking women to change mind champion gender. Socio-cultural prejudices and stereotyping are still man constraints to women's participation in the spheres of political and economic empowerment. Most husbands do not allow their wives to directly and indirectly encourage gender inequality.
2. Despite increase awareness and the availability of information on existing gender disparities in agriculture, the current extension women in particular have limited access to extension services due to a number of factors.
3. Studies have shown that female continue to have limited access to training opportunities because gender insensitive training programs. Similarly the planning and implementation of such program building adequate confidence among female to embrace initiatives towards general equality so that they can participate in activities of gender integration. The role-played by women in agriculture very few of them own control productive resources. Such resources are land, credit, technical services, market, outlet, information etc. This coupled with their long-term low socioeconomic status, renders them generally; unable to take key.
4. This study also distinguished that mainstream of the rural women are uneducated, unskilled and tradition bounded, consequently their productive power are also low and counted as untrained labour. Rural women have very excited life. Her work starts from sunrise and ends at night. The daily routine works begins from house maintenance, compilation of drinking water, dish washing, laundry, preparing food for farming, care of children. She manages these activities very sincerely.

#### **7. CONCLUSION OF THE STUDY:**

Rural women are the main donations in agriculture and 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. Therefore in order to enhance agricultural development there is need to take into consideration the gender roles of women and men in different

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communities to ensure that persistent gender disparities are not perpetuated. The prospects for gender mainstreaming in agriculture have been shown to be good. However it has been also indicated there are challenges that still need to be overcome in order to effectively mainstream gender in agriculture.

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