

**A STUDY ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF WOMEN
WORKERS IN NON-FARM SECTOR**

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ABSTRACT

The non-farm sectors include all economic activities in rural areas except agriculture, livestock, fishing and hunting. Typically the rural and urban employment is based on the place of residence of workers.

Work participation rate is found to be higher among rural women (27%) than the urban women (10%). Most of the women are found to be employed in agricultural activities and in the unorganised sector.

Non farm activities in rural areas play an important role in generating employment for people. It may also prevent the migration of rural people from rural areas to the urban due to the shortage of job opportunities. The rural non-farm activities receive limited resources and engage a larger section of workers.

Keywords : Women, informal sector, rural, urban, migration, domestic labour.

INTRODUCTION :

Women are almost one half of the world's population having enormous potential but being underutilized (or) unutilized for the economic development of the nation.

Majority of women do not undertake entrepreneurial ventures. Due to rapid growth of population is one of the reasons for unemployment. To meet their requirement women are searching job. In rural areas women become agriculturalist (or) agricultural labour. Agricultural work is a seasonal in nature, Women workers are switchover to other sectors. Eg. Construction, MGNREP, SHG work etc.

If these workers migrated to urban, they will undertake small business like vendors. Sometimes that work as a servant in the houses.

The status of women in India has been subject to many great changes over the past few millennia from a concept of welfare in the 21st century.

Women work mainly for economic necessity, as some women are qualified enough to work, for a sense of achievement and to provide service to the society most Indian women by and large undertake productive work under economic compulsion. This is the reason for high female participation rates work participation rate is formed to the higher among rural women (27%) than the urban women (10%). Average wage earnings received per day by casual labourers of Age 15 -19. (works 2011 – 2012)

Table No. 1
Work Participation Rate in Tamilnadu – 2011 - 12

Works other than public works		Rural works other than MGNREGA		MGNREGA public work		Urban works other than public works	
Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
110.41	196.65	94.34	96.21	94.27	87.59	227.66	126.53

Source : NSSCO 68th Round July 2011 – 2012.

In 2018, there were 75,978,000 women aged 16 and over in the labour force, representing 46.9% of the total labour forces 57.1% of women participate in the labor force, compared to 69.1% of men (June 5,2019) (<https://www.catalyst.org>) research.

Contribution of informal sector to GDP accounts for between 25% and 40% of annual output in developing countries in Asia and Africa (Jan 16,2019 business economics.in> informal sec)

The informal sector plays a controversial and important role. It provides jobs, reduces unemployment and under employment and probably helps combat mal nutrition in many parts of the world. How it is typically low paid and job security is not existent. (<https://www.quora.com>>)

The latest periodic labour force survey [PLFS] of 2017 – 18 released in May 2019, gives glimpse of it. It says, even among the regular wage / salaried workers in the non agricultural sectors (of the informal sect) ; 71% no written job contract, 54.2% were not eligible for paid leave and 49.6% were not eligible for any social security benefit (<https://www.businessToday> labour reforms no one knows the size of India's informed work force, not even govt. by Prasanna Mohanty July 15, 2019).

Objectives :

- (1) To study the socio economic conditions of workers in non-farm sector.

(2) To analyse the working conditions of the labourers in non-farm sector.

Methodology :

Nearly 50 samples are selected on the simple random method. 10 from vegetable vendor, 10 from domestic workers, 10 from flower vendors, 10 from fruit vendors, 10 from road side Tiffin / hotel workers. A well structured questionnaire was prepared and data collected from the respondents.

Area of the study :

The study was conducted in around places of Chatram bus stand in Trichirappalli District. Chatram Bus Stand is the busy and heart of the city. So many shops and Tiffin centre are located in this bus stand. Vegetable market and fruit markets are also available in this place. This is residential place also. Nearby places flats and individual houses are located. Domestic labourers are working in this place.

Due to failure in farm activity these respondents are migrated to urban. Poverty, lack of education, family pressure are forced the respondent to undertake these work.

Limitations :

- ❖ The present study is limited to a particular area, so it cannot be generalised.
- ❖ The investigator has taken only 50 respondents as samples so the result will not be applicable to the entire population.
- ❖ Some sensitive questions such as value of their land assets the amount spent by their husband on liquor have not been answered properly by the respondents.

Nature of work :

Out of 50 samples 10 are vegetable vendor 10 fruit vendor, 10 flowers vendor 10 working in the Tiffin stall and 10 domestic labourer.

Vegetable vendor :

These vendors are purchasing in a bulk level at low price from the market, bringing the vegetables either by using bus, rickshaw, auto (or) bullock cart.

After cleaning the vegetables they will take in their head, by walk and sell in the street by charging minimum of profit and fixing the higher price.

They will get profit either higher (or) low depends on the demand and supply.

Flower vendor :

These vendors buy the flowers from the market in bulk and garland the flowers, string flowers (tie the flowers with thread). Sometimes they stand on the road side and sell the flowers. During festival and functions and sometimes they will sell the flowers in the door steps of the people in the street. These sellers according to demand and supply sell it at higher prices and earn profit.

Table No. 2
Nature of work

Nature of work	No. of Respondent	Percentage
Street vendor	16	32
Road side vendor	4	8
Washing of cloths	8	16
Vessel washing	20	40
Mobing the floor	20	40
Cooking	8	16
Supplier and Table cleaner	8	16
Preparing snacks and tea	10	20

Source : Primary data

The above table no. 2 shows that 32 percent of the workers are street vendor. 8 percent of the workers are road side vendor. 40 percent of the labourers are doing vessel washing and mobbing the floor.

Fruit vendor :

They too like vegetable and flower vendors, they buy the fruits in bulk from the market at wholesale rate and sell it at retail rate. They find some profit from the fruits.

The above vendor's activity depends on time, because vegetable, flowers, fruits are perishable in nature some time they find loss also. Therefore they are always selling it at higher price and try to reduce loss.

Workers at Tiffin stall :

The workers in the Tiffin stall getting ₹ 300/- to ₹ 350/- per day depend on the work. Their working hours start by morning 5 am to 12 pm ; 12 pm to 6 am ; 6 to 11 pm etc. (Three shifts). They will engage in any one of the shift. Shift is based on the rotation.

The women workers are cutting the vegetables, cleaning the table, washing the vessel, sweeping and mobbing the flower etc.

The experienced women earn nearly ₹ 400/- as wage per day.

There are two reasons for migration of respondent's from farm sector to non farm sector.

There are two factors :

(1) Push and pull factors

(2) Push factors are those that cause people to leave in area.

- Pull factors are those that encourage people to move to an area.
- Push factors are complete the person migrate to urban (or) other places due to different reasons.

Push factors :

- (1) Job opportunity (2) improve economic status (3) Higher education
(4) medical facilities (5) safe and secure for family (6) Better climate
(7) better wages (8) Basic amenities.

Pull factors :

- (1)Transport facilities (2) social factors (3) better working condition
(4) Job opportunity round the clock (5) communication (6) relation and friends.

Table No. 3

Distribution of Respondents by Religion

S.No.	Religion	Respondents	Percentage
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1.	Hindu	25	50
2.	Christian	20	40
3.	Muslim	5	10
	Total	50	100

Source : Primary data

The above table no. 3 shows that 50 percent of the respondent belongs to Hindu religions, 40 percent of the respondent belongs to Christians where as 10 percent of the respondent belongs to Muslim religion.

Chart No. 1

Distribution of Respondents by Religion

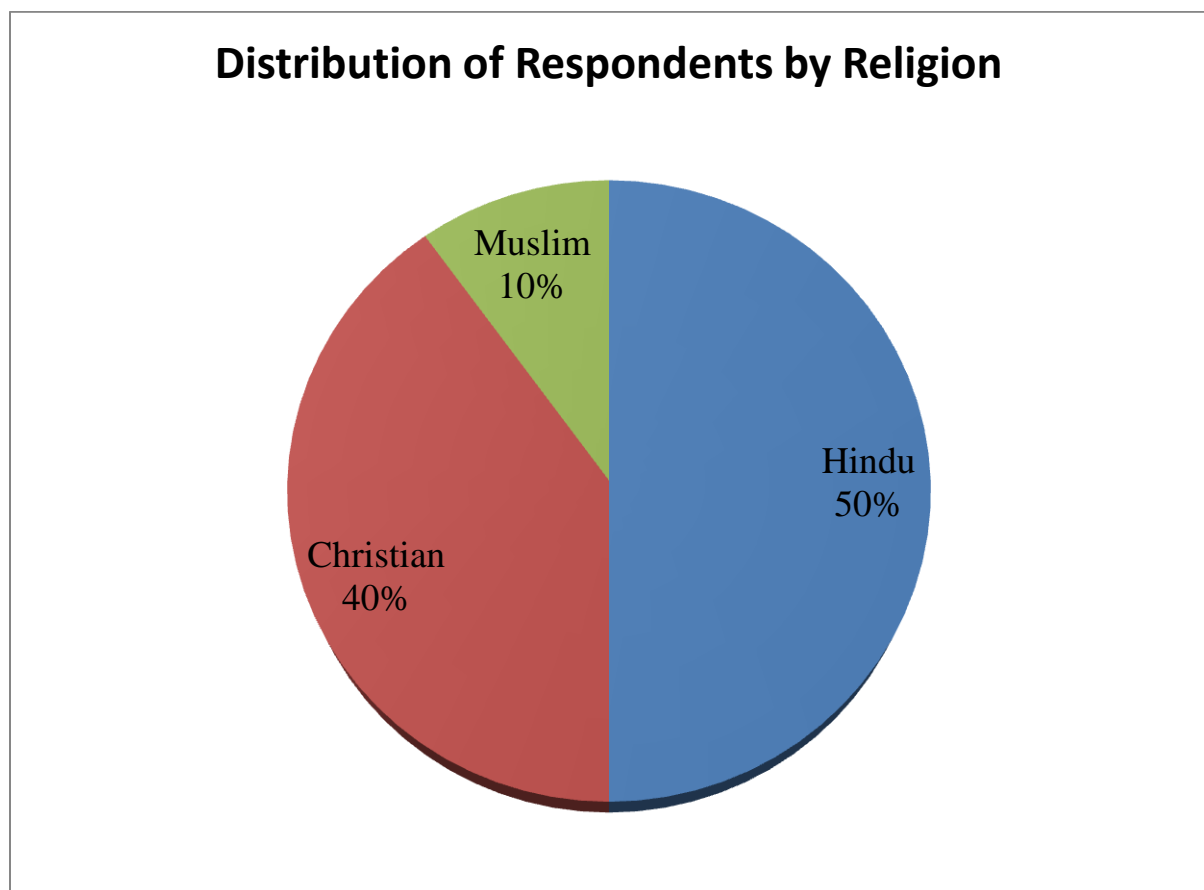


Table No. 4

Distribution of Respondents by Community

S.No.	Community	Respondents	Percentage
1.	BC	20	40
2.	MBC	6	12
3.	SC	22	44
4.	ST	2	4
	Total	50	100

Source : Primary data

The above table no. 4 shows that 44 percent of the respondent belongs to SC Community, 40 percent of the respondent belongs to BC Community.

Chart No. 2

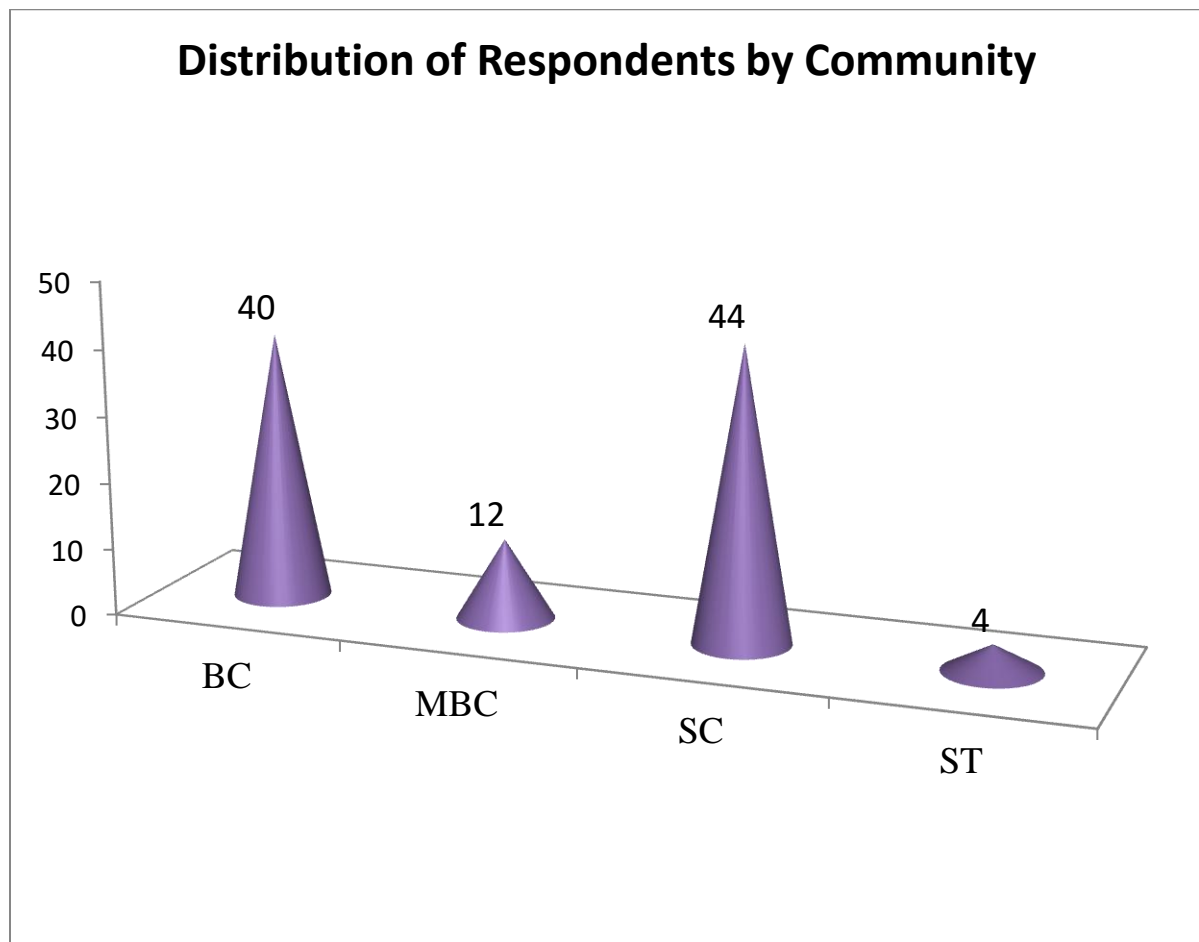


Table No. 5

Distribution of Respondents by Age

S.No.	Age	Respondents	Percentage
1.	25-30	5	10
2.	30-35	10	20
3.	35-40	12	24
4.	40-45	14	28
5.	45 and above	9	18
	Total	50	100

Source : Primary data

The above table no. 5 shows that 20 percent of the respondent belongs to the age of 30-35, 24 percent of the respondent belongs to the age group of 35-40.

Table No. 6

Distribution of Marital status of the Respondents

S.No.	Age	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Married	25	50
2.	Unmarried	2	4
3.	Widow	10	20
4.	Divorce	13	26
	Total	50	100

Source : Primary data

The above table no. 6 reveals that 50 percent of the respondents are married and 26 percent are divorce.

Table No. 7

Level of Education

S.No.	Education	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Illiterate	40	80
2.	Primary	5	10
3.	Secondary	3	6
4.	Higher Secondary	1	2
5.	Graduate	1	2
	Total	50	100

Source : Primary data

The above table no. 7 shows that 80 percent of the respondents are illiterate, 10 percent of the respondents are at higher secondary and only 2 percent is at graduate level.

Table No. 8
Type of House

S.No.	House	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Thatched	18	36
2.	Brick	10	20
3.	Concrete	22	44
	Total	50	100

Source : Primary data

The above table no. 8 shows that 30 percent of the respondents are living in Thatched house, 44 percent of the respondents are living in Concrete house.

Table No. 9
Level of Income

S.No.	Monthly Income	Respondents	Percentage
1.	2000 – 4000	4	8
2.	4000 – 6000	6	12
3.	6000 – 8000	20	40
4.	8000 and above	20	40
	Total	50	100

Source : Primary data

The above table no. 9 shows that 40 percent of the respondents earn income to the level of ₹6000 – 8000, 8000 and above respectively. Only 8 percent of the respondents earn ₹2000 – 4000.

Table No. 10
Reason for migration

S.No.	Reason	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Poverty	50	100
2.	Unemployment	44	88

3.	Education	36	72
4.	Fall in agricultural activities	45	90
5.	Family pressure	32	64

Source : Primary data

The above table no. 10 shows that all the respondents migrated due to poverty. 88 percent of the respondent reveals that unemployment is the reason for migration. 90 percent of the respondents migrated to urban area due to fall in agricultural activities. 64 percent of the respondent migrated towards urban area due to their family pressure.

Table No. 11

Pull factor for migration

Pull factors	No. of respondents	Percentage
Demand	40	80
Availability of work for all the years	45	90
Attraction to city life	30	60
Communication facility	13	26
Good working atmosphere	44	88
Medical facility	40	80
Changing better job at any time	43	86
Payment in terms of cash and also in kind	41	82
Borrowing facility	42	84
Transport facility personal care of the employer	35	70
Good rappo with the employer	38	76

Source : Primary data

The above table no. 11 shows that 80 percent of workers migrated due to demand in urban sector. 86 percent of the workers found that there is a possibility in changing their jobs according to their wishes and need.

Table No. 12

Problems faced by the respondents

S.No.	Problem	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Water borne diseases	40	80

2.	Skin disease	48	96
3.	Head ache and pain	47	94
4.	Other problem	46	92

Source : Primary data

The above table no. 12 shows that 80 percent of the respondents found Water borne diseases. 96 percent of the respondent found Skin disease.

Findings

Following are the findings of the study

- ✚ Out of the total respondent 50 percent of the respondent belongs to Hindu religion, 40 percent of the respondent belongs to Christians only 10 percent belongs to Muslim religion.
- ✚ 44 percent of the respondent belongs to SC, 40 percent belongs to BC, 12 percent belongs to MBC and 4 percent belongs to ST community.
- ✚ 24 percent of the respondent belongs to the age group of 35-40. 28 percent of the respondent belongs to the age group of 40-45. 18 percent of the respondent belongs to the age group of 45 and above. 10 percent of the respondent belongs to the age of 25-30. It shows that there is job opportunity in other sector for the age group of 25 – 30. Therefore the percentage is low.
- ✚ Regarding marital status 50 percent of the respondents are married, 26 percent of the respondents are Divorce, 20 percent are widow and only 4% are unmarried it means the family responsibility is more for others than unmarried workers.
- ✚ 80 percent of the respondents education level is illiterate, 6 percent are at secondary level 2 percent are at higher secondary and graduate level respectively. It shows that the nature of the job does not require any educational qualification.
- ✚ Regarding the housing condition, 36 percent of the respondents are living in a Thatched house, 44 percent of the respondents are living in Concrete house where as only 20 percent of the respondents are living in Brick house.
- ✚ 40 percent of the respondents earn income to the level of 6000 – 8000, 8000 and above as their income. 12 percent of the respondents income in the range of 4000 – 8000, where as

8 percent of the respondents income to the level of Rs. 2000 – 4000. It shows that lower income is due to in experience and may be new to this field.

- ✚ The expenditure of the workers depends on their wages. 40 percent of the respondent spent to the tune of ₹3000-40000, 60 percent of the respondent spent on an average of ₹ 4000 – 5000.
- ✚ 43 percent of the respondent have goat. 57 percent have poultry.
- ✚ Casual leaves are not permitted by the owners of the domestic labour and the labour working in the Hotel only in rare cases. Domestic labourers are allowed to take leave. Eg. Deepavali, Pongal and family function.
- ✚ To meet out expenditure and emergency, the workers are borrowing money from the owners and neighbours. 60 percent of the workers having debt to the tune of ₹ 3000 – 4000, 28 respondents having ₹ 4000 – 5000 where as 12 respondents having debt to the tune of ₹ 5000 – 6000.
- ✚ 57 percent of the respondents save their money in chits run by the group, by the neighbour (or) relative. 43 percent of the workers save money in the Nationalised Bank.
- ✚ All the labourers are know very well that their job is not a secured job.
- ✚ 100 percent of the respondents migrated to urban because of the poverty. 88 percent of the respondent migrated due to unemployment. 72 percent of the respondents migrated due to higher education of their children.
- ✚ Some of the pull factors are responsible for migration of respondents 90 percent of the respondents are satisfied with the availability of job round the clock, 60 percent of the respondent prefer urban because of the attraction on city life. 80 percent of the respondents satisfied with the medical facilities. 82 percent of the domestic worker and worker in Tiffin stall satisfy because of the provision of food available to them. 84 percent of the respondents found that borrowing facilities are easy to accessible by than in the urban area.
- ✚ Women working in Tiffin stall and in houses as servant, find water borne diseases, cough and cold in winter, leg pain, head ache etc. Vendors are going to the market early morning for buying the commodity; time spent for sleeping is affected. Workers in the age of above 45 find menopause problem.

Suggestion

- (1) To control the migration (or) urbanisation, government should provide all the infrastructure facility to the rural side.
- (2) Government should make step regarding the employment opportunity at all the time.
- (3) Implementation of MNREGA with its full potential with help in pulling out a large number of migrated farm workers and land less labour who have been in distress condition for long.
- (4) Government should support in fixing the prices of agricultural commodity so farmers can get fair price & profit.

Conclusion

To improve the working conditions & prevent them proper Manning facilities should be given to improve their skill, training should be given to handicrafts work, providing job security and extending the much needed legal protection to them would certainly stop, the exodus of the women farm workers and thereby avoid any further shortage of women labour.

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