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Research Article

THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF AGRICULTURAL LABOUR: A CASE STUDY OF TEHSIL ELLENABAD

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ABSTRACT

India is basically an agricultural nation, as nearly seventy percent of the populace live in villages. The majority of the Indian rural workers is dependent on agriculture, and among the workers the number of agricultural labourers is quite high. Agricultural labourers contribute extremely towards the rural economy and also to the country's economy. Traditionally, they were the working class and the principal cause for the growth and expansion of the society and economy. This paper examines the socio-economic picture of the agricultural labourers from the different aspects. This study is a survey based. The different tools which are used in this study are schedule, interview, direct observation and informal conversation. In the study, primary as well as secondary data used to achieve the objective of the study. The primary data was collected through the survey in tehsil Ellenabad with the help of a well structured questionnaire. For the purpose of the study ten villages are selected from the tehsil. Considering various aspects of the study, we have decided to survey of 600 agricultural labourers from each sample village.

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INTRODUCTION

It is one of the principal objective of the Five Year Plan to make certain the complete opportunities for work and better living to all the segments of the rural community and, in particular, to help and support agricultural labourers to come to the level of the rest. The living conditions and the standard of living of agricultural labourers would largely depend upon the income earned by them. It also depends upon the number of employment days available in a year. Moreover, it is influenced by their level of consumption and the degree of their loan. Therefore, in order to judge the socio-economic picture of agricultural labourers, it is absolutely essential to find out their total income, spending, loan. Socio-economic condition of agricultural labourers depends upon a number of factors, e.g., source of income, expenses, asset holding position, land holding position, availability of farm and non-farm employment, size of family etc., are the obvious crucial quantitative factors which determine their socio-economic condition. This is one of the objectives of the present study. Our study will make an effort to construct such a picture of the material and socio-economic conditions of agricultural labourers, in the present time in the selected villages by focusing on different aspects related to their income, spending, loan and assets.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is to get the first hand knowledge of the socio-economic picture of the agricultural labour in tehsil Ellenabad.

Objectives of the study

The major objective of the present study is to analyse the levels of socio-economic conditions of the agricultural labourers. The aim is to study the age, qualification, size of family, size of house, etc. of the agricultural labourers. In addition, an attempt has been made to study the assets and liabilities of agricultural labourers.

Significance of the Study

This study entitled 'The Socio-Economic Conditions of Agricultural Labour: A Case Study of Tehsil Ellenabad' is of great significance for the tehsil, district as well as in the state of Haryana. This study is likely to be useful to all Governments and Non-Government officials dealing with the problem of farm assets, Socio-economic conditions of agricultural labourers.

Demographic profile of the respondents

The following section explains the demographic profile of the respondents.

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Table 1 Age wise Response of Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percent
25-30	8	1.3
31-35	44	7.3
36-40	130	21.7
Above 40	418	69.7
Total	600	100.0

Source: Survey

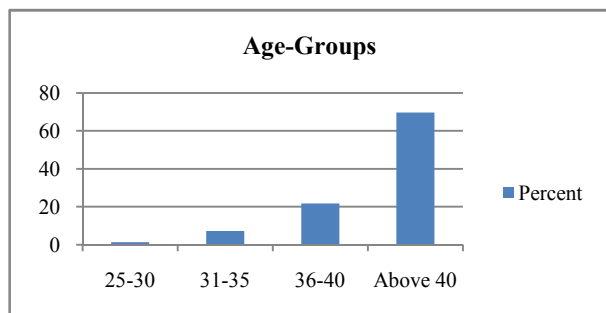

Figure 1 Age Groups

Table 1 shows the age groups of the respondents in years and found that most of respondent i.e. 418(69.7 percent) out of 600 are belongs to the age group of Above 40 years followed by 130(21.7 percent) belongs to 36-40 years age group, 44(7.3 percent) belongs to 31-35 years age group and remaining few respondents 8(2.1 percent) are belongs to above 25-30 years age group in the study.

Table 2 Qualification wise Response of Respondents

Qualification	Frequency	Percent
Illiterate	130	21.7
upto 5th class	92	15.3
6th-10th class	211	35.2
above 10th class	167	27.8
Total	600	100.0

Source: Survey

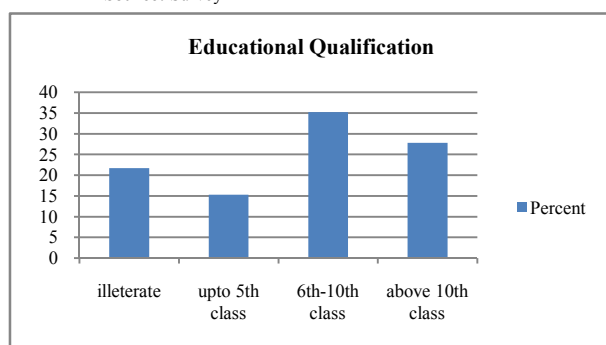

Figure 2 Educational Qualification

Table 2 shows the Qualification wise response of the respondents and found that most of respondent i.e. 211(35.2 percent) out of 600 are belongs to the 6th-10th class followed by 167(27.8 percent) belongs to above 10th class, 130(21.7 percent) are illiterate and remaining respondents 92(15.3 percent) are belongs to upto 5th class in the study.

Table 3 shows the response of respondents about Size of Family and found that most of respondent i.e. 309(51.5 percent) out of 600 are having above 5 member in family followed by 210(35 percent) having 4 member in family,

46(7.7 percent) are having 3 member in family and remaining respondents 35(5.8 percent) are having 5 member in family.

Table 3 Response According to Size of Family

Size of Family	Frequency	Percent
3 member in family	46	7.7
4 member in family	210	35.0
5 member in family	35	5.8
above 5 member in family	309	51.5
Total	600	100.0

Source: Survey

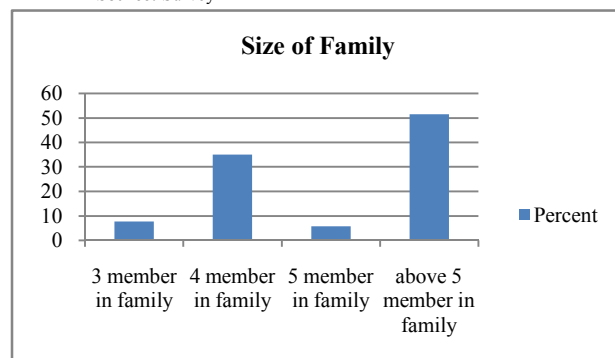

Figure 3 Size of Family

Table 4 Respondents Response According to Size of House

Size of House	Frequency	Percent
100-200 sward Yard	46	7.7
300-400 sward Yard	210	35.0
500-600 sward Yard	35	5.8
Total	600	100.0

Source: Survey

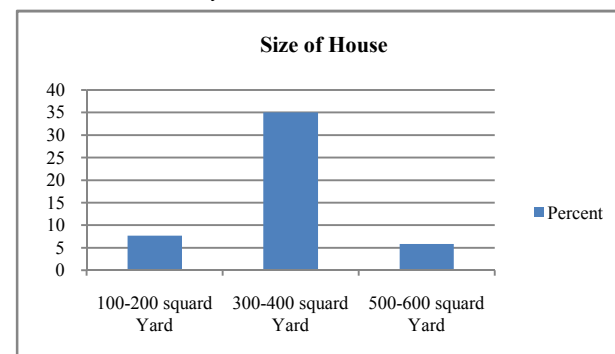

Figure 4 Size of House

Table 4 shows the response of respondents about Size of House and found that most of respondent i.e. 210(35.0 percent) out of 600 are belongs to the 300-400 sward Yard followed by 46(7.7 percent) belongs to 100-200 sward Yard and remaining respondents 35(5.8 percent) are belongs to 500-600 sward Yard in the study.

Table 5 Respondents Response According to type of house

Type of House	Frequency	Percent
Muddy Type	128	21.3
Cemented Type	96	16.0
Partially	376	62.7
Total	600	100.0

Source: Survey

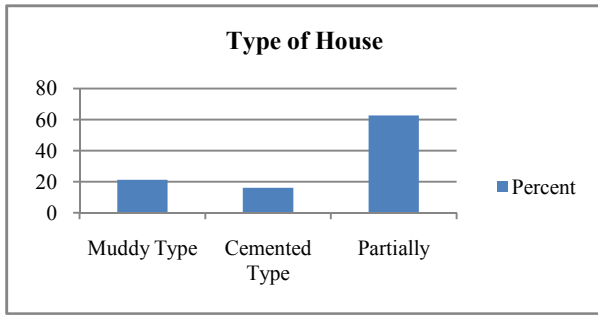


Figure 5 Type of house

Table 5 shows the response of respondents according to type of House and found that most of respondent i.e. 376(62.7 percent) out of 600 are belongs to Partially followed by 128(21.3 percent) belongs to Muddy Type and remaining respondents 96(16 percent) are belongs to Cemented Type of house in the study.

Table 6 Respondents Response According To Size of land

Size of land	Frequency	Percent
Landless	306	51.0
upto 2.5 Acres	94	15.7
2.5 to 5 Acres	118	19.7
Above 5 Acres	82	13.7
Total	600	100.0

Source: Survey

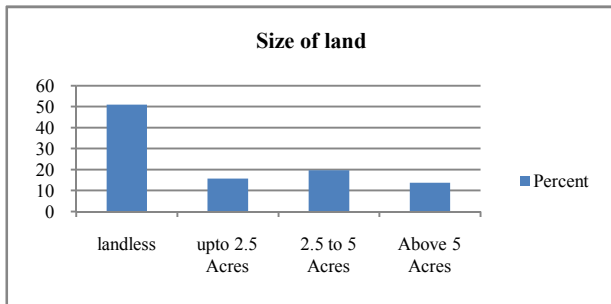


Figure 6 Size of land

Table 6 shows the response of respondents according to size of land and found that most of respondent i.e. 306(51 percent) out of 600 are landless followed by 118(19.7 percent) are having 2.5 to 5 Acres, 94(15.7 percent) are having upto 2.5 Acres and remaining respondents 82(13.7 percent) are having Above 5 Acres in the study.

Table 7 Respondents Response According to sale of output

Sale of output	Frequency	Percent
Farm/House	400	66.7
Village shop	21	3.5
Town Market	108	18.0
Regulated Outlet	65	10.8
Unregulated Outlet	6	1.0
Total	600	100.0

Source: Survey

Table 7 shows the response of respondents according to sale of output and found that most of respondent i.e. 400(66.7 percent) out of 600 are belongs to Farm/House followed by 108(18 percent) are belongs to Town Market, 65(10.8 percent) are belongs to Regulated Outlet, 21(3.5 percent) are belongs to

Village shop and remaining respondents 6(1.0 percent) are belongs to Unregulated Outlet in the study.

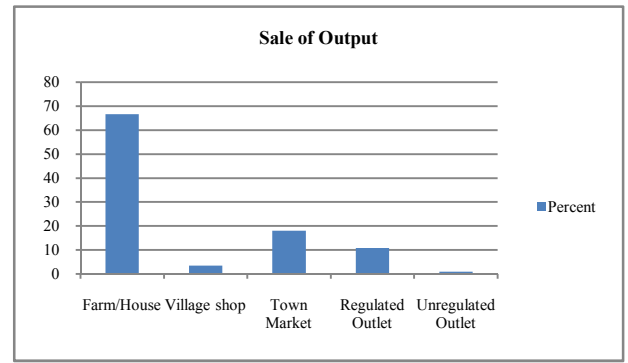


Figure 7 Sale of Output

Table 8 Respondents Response According to mode of payment

Mode of payment	Frequency	Percent
Cash By Hand	562	93.7
Installment	22	3.7
Against Loan	16	2.7
Total	600	100.0

Source: Survey

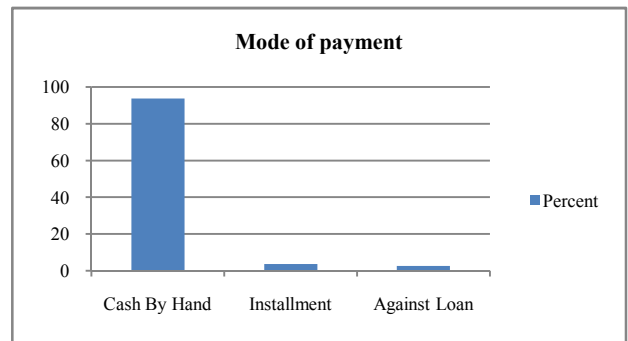


Figure 8 Mode of Payment

Table 8 shows the response of respondents according to mode of payment and found that most of respondent i.e. 562(93.7 percent) out of 600 are pay Cash By Hand followed by 22(3.7 percent) are pay through Installment and remaining respondents 16(2.7 percent) are pay Against Loan.

Table 9 Respondents Response According to receive loan

Receive loan	Frequency	Percent
Yes	300	50.0
No	300	50.0
Total	600	100.0

Source: Survey

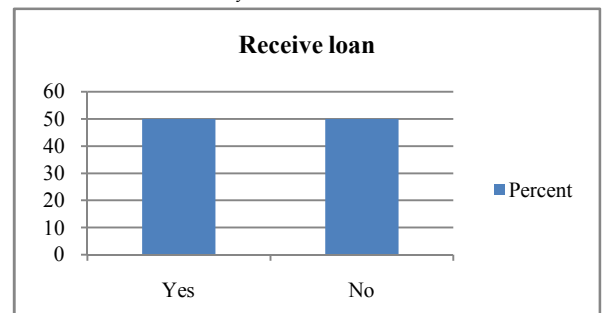


Figure 9 Receive Loan

Table 9 shows the response of respondents according to receive loan and found that 300 (50 percent) respondent out of 600 received loan and same 300 (50 percent) respondents have not taken loan.

Findings

The above section explains the profile of the respondents.

- As far as age groups of the respondents in years concern highest respondent are belong to the age group of Above 40 years followed by belongs to 36-40 years age group, belongs to 31-35 years age group and remaining few respondents are belong to above 25-30 years age group in the study.
- Qualification wise response of the respondents and found that most of respondent are belongs to the 6th-10th class followed by belongs to above 10th class, belongs to illiterate and remaining respondents are belongs to upto 5th class in the study.
- The response of respondents about Size of Family concern, most of respondent are having above 5 members in family followed by having 4 members in family, having 3 members in family and remaining respondents are having 5 members in family.
- About Size of House, found that most of respondent have 300-400 square Yard followed by belongs to 100-200 square Yard and remaining respondents are belong to 500-600 square Yard in the study.
- The response of respondents according to type of House and found that most of respondent having partially followed by belongs to Muddy Type and remaining respondents are belongs to Cemented Type of house in the study.
- Response of respondents according to size of land and found that most of respondent are landless followed by having 2.5 to 5 Acres, having up to 2.5 Acres and remaining respondents are having Above 5 Acres in the study.
- According to sale of output, found that most of respondent are belongs to Farm/House followed are belongs to Town Market, belongs to Regulated Outlet, belongs to Village shop and remaining respondents are belongs to Unregulated Outlet in the study.
- The response of respondents according to mode of payment and found that most of respondent are pay Cash By Hand followed by pay through Installment and remaining respondents are pay Against Loan.
- The response of respondents according to receive loan and found that 50 % are receiving loan and same 50 % respondent are not taking loan.

CONCLUSION

In this study, ten villages have chosen to find out the socio-economic conditions of rural agricultural labourers.

The objective of the study is to get the first hand knowledge of their age groups, educational qualification, size and type of houses, land holding, the sale of their output, product marketing trends, Mode of payment and loan for evaluating and assessing the living conditions of agricultural labour. After conducting the study we come to the conclusion that there is an urgent need for the development of rural areas and rural agricultural labours. Government must take more effective steps for their upliftment and betterment.

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