

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

A STUDY ON WAGE DIFFERENTIALS AMONG AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS IN THONDAIMANPATTI VILLAGE

OBJECTIVES

- To study the socio – economic background of the agricultural workers.
- To find out the wage level of women agricultural workers.
- To measure the wage differences among agricultural workers.

METHODOLOGY

- Survey method was adopted. It was mainly based on the primary data. Primary data was collected with the help of the schedule. The respondents were agricultural labourers at Thondaimanpatti in Madurai district.
- Stratified proportionate sampling technique was used to select the sample out of 2500 population, 10 percent of sample respondents were selected out of 1500men and 1000 women. 250 samples were collected among the villages in which 150 from men and 100 from women.
- The secondary data for this study had been collected from published sources namely Economic and Political Weekly, Southern Economist, Journal of Agricultural Economics, Relevant books, unpublished sources like world report and records 2010-2011.
- The tools used to fulfill the objectives of the study were the statistical analysis based on appropriate diagram, percentage analysis and ordinal ranking techniques.

FINDING

There is a sex discriminatory wage structure prevalent in Thodaimanpatti Village which is detrimental to the women agricultural labourers.

Socio – Economic Profile

- Dominating age group (20 to 40 yrs) - 48.4%
- Female agricultural labourers - 40%

- Hindu Religion - 98%
- Backward Classes and SC/STs - 83.5%
- Illiterates - 48%
- Married women - 80%
- Nuclear family - 85.6%
- Owned houses - 70.8%

Wage Per Month (in Rupees)

- ✓ Female < Rs. 2000
- ✓ Male Rs. 4 000 to Rs. 6000
- ✓ Agricultural labourers Facing wage problem in working place - 76.8%
- ✓ Supply of Labour > Demand for Labour

Wage discrimination

Nature of Work	Wages per day for Men (in Rs.)	Wages per day for Women (in Rs.)
Bunding	150.00	100.00
Ploughing	270.00	--
Sapling	170.00	100.00
Transplanting	--	100.00
Weeding	--	150.00
Harvesting	250.00	150.00
Irrigation	100.00	080.00
Manuring	150.00	080.00

Problems Faced by Agricultural Labourers

- ❖ Child Care Problem - 51.2 %
- ❖ Health Problem - 48.8 %
- ❖ Existence of gender inequality – Wage discrimination.
- ❖ Exploitation of Labour.
- ❖ Agricultural labourers are still remaining a marginalised group.

Recommendations:

- ❖ Effective implementation of Minimum Wage.
- ❖ Training Programmes during off Season
 - Farm Management
 - Entrepreneurial Skill
 - Adult Education
- ❖ Mobility of Labour
- ❖ Implementation of PURA (Providing Urban Amenities to Rural Area)

OUTCOME

- The rate of wage difference between male and female agricultural workers was calculated and the issue was being taken to the notice of the President of the Village.
- A forum for agricultural workers will be formed and issues related to the workers will be discussed and necessary steps will be taken to reduce the wage discrimination.

