



ISSN (E): 2277-7695
ISSN (P): 2349-8242
NAAS Rating: 5.23
TPI 2023; 12(3): 2401-2404
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www.thepharmajournal.com

Received: 06-12-2022

Accepted: 12-01-2023

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Socio-economic status of rural women workers in agro-based industry

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Abstract

The research entitled "Socio-economic status of Rural Women Workers in Agro-Based Industry" was conducted at Bor Tehsil of Pune district and Khandala Tehsils from Satara District. The result showed that 55.34% rural women workers were from the middle age group, 35.34% rural women workers had a middle school level of education, 79.34.00% rural women workers had married, 74.67% of rural women workers had medium level of job satisfaction, 80.67% rural women workers had 4-6 members in family size, 80.67% rural women workers had nuclear family, 74.00% rural women workers had a medium level of annual income, 86.67% rural women workers had contract basis nature of employment and 45.34% rural women workers had medium level of work experience.

Keywords: Rural women workers, agro-based industry

Introduction

"When women move forward, families move." These are the words of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru are often repeated because it is an accepted truth that anything can happen only if women are at the forefront of economic and social development. Work is a shield for women to eliminate all social evils because employment gives economic status to women. Economic status leads to social status. Both jobs are extended the economic status and social status of women. These two are basically female to success and live in a dynamic society. (Gurumoorthy, 1998) [18].

Work is a crucial aspect of human life because it raises living standards and brings us pleasure and satisfaction. It is crucial for a person's or a woman's physical, mental, economic, and moral development. A well-educated woman seeks to advance her skills and establish her worth through her productivity outside the home. Women are making a difference in the workforce in the current environment, whether it be in the primary, secondary, or service sectors. Currently, they work from nine to five in the service sector and from dawn until dusk in other industries. They possess the necessary capacity to maintain a balance between their personal and professional lives. Women possess adaptability, composure, faith, sincerity, and nobility. By entering the workforce, they can quickly demonstrate their abilities to others. The main professions where women are overrepresented are teaching, nursing, and banking. They are economically independent and self-sufficient thanks to their contributions. They can display their inner potential and skill to the world by finding employment or entering any profession. Their income-generating job helps their family and kids prosper. Women's development of the three S's—Self-confidence, Self-dependence, and Self-respect - cannot be stopped. They can develop their respect and self-confidence by working outside the home. A woman can easily achieve these three S's by receiving equal opportunities, equal employment, equal wages, and equal promotion. (Manpreet Kaur and Nishtha Kaushiki, 2018) [19].

In India, women make up a significant portion of the workforce. According to data from the office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, 149.8 million women were employed in India as of the 2011 Census, with urban and rural employment totalling 121.8 and 28.0 million women, respectively. A total of 149.8 million women work, of which 61.5 million are agricultural labourers and 35.9 million are cultivators. The remaining female workforce is made up of 43.7 million other workers and 8.5 million workers in the household sector. According to Census 2011, the rate of women participating in the labour force is 25.51 percent, down from 25.63 percent in 2001. Despite a slight decline in 2011, the work participation rate for women is still higher than it was in 1981 (19.67%) and 1991 (22.27%).

Women are more likely to participate in the workforce in rural areas (30.02%) than in urban areas (15.44%). (Source: State of Food and Agriculture 2010-2011).

In terms of the organised sector, women workers made up 20.5 percent of all employed people in the nation in March 2011, an increase of 0.1 percent over the same month the year before. According to the Directorate General of Employment & Training's (DGE & T) most recent Employment Review, on March 31, 2011, there were approximately 59.54 lakh women working in the organised sector (Public and Private Sector). Out of this, 32.14 lakh or so women worked in the sector of social, personal, and community services. (Source: <https://labour.gov.in/women-workers/about-women-workers> Government of India, Ministry of Labor and Employment.).

Objective

To study the personal, socio-economic, and psychological characteristics of rural women workers in agro-based industry.

Methodology

The study was conducted in Pune and Satara district of Maharashtra from this Pune district Bhore tehsil and Satara district Khandala tehsil were selected purposively. One agro based industry from Bhore tehsil and two agro based industry from Khandala tehsil were selected for collecting the research information. From each agro-based industry fifty rural women workers were selected which resulted 150 rural women workers got included in this research study.

Appropriate statistical tools were used to interpret the data. The independent variables measured by using suitable scale and procedures adopted by various researcher in past with due modification. The dependent variable was measured on two-point scale Yes and No.

Result and Discussion

The personal, socio-economic, psychological and communicational characteristics of rural women workers in agro-based industry are Age, Education, Marital status, Job satisfaction, Family size, Family type, Annual income, Nature of employment, Work experience.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to their socio-economic profile

(N = 150)

Sr. No.	Category	Respondent		
		Frequency	Percentage	
1.	Age			
	Young (Up to 30 years)	41	27.33	
	Middle (31 to 45 years)	83	55.34	
	Old (46 and above)	26	17.33	
2.	Education			
	Illiterate	13	08.66	
	Primary Education (I to VII standard)	19	12.66	
	Middle education (VIII to X standard)	53	35.34	
	Higher secondary education (XI to XII standard)	41	27.34	
	Graduation and above	24	16.00	
3.	Marital Status			
	Married	119	79.34	
	Unmarried	26	17.33	
4.	Job Satisfaction			
	Low (Up to 20)	16	10.66	
	Medium (21 to 30)	112	74.67	
	High (31 and above)	22	14.67	
5.	Family Size			
	4 to 6 members	121	80.67	
	7 to 9 members	18	12.00	
6.	Family Type			
	Nuclear Family	121	80.67	
	Joint Family	29	19.33	
7.	Annual Income			
	Low (Up to Rs. 96,915)	09	06.00	
	Medium (Rs. 96,916 to Rs. 2,52,111)	111	74.00	
8.	Nature of Employment			
	Contract basis	130	86.67	
	Permanent / Regular basis	20	13.33	
9.	Work Experience			
	Low (Up to 4 years)	62	41.33	
	Medium (5 to 8 years)	68	45.34	
	High (9 years and above)	20	13.33	

It was evident from table 1 that a more than half (55.34 per cent) of the rural women workers in agro based industry were from middle age group of 31 to 45 years, followed by young age group (27.33 per cent), and only (17.33 per cent) of the respondent belong to old age group i.e. 46 and above years. And out of total rural women workers in agro based industry, more than one third (35.34 per cent) of rural women workers in agro based industry had middle school education followed by higher secondary education (27.34 per cent), primary education (12.66 per cent), graduation and above (16.00 per cent), illiterate (08.66 per cent). The average education of the rural women workers in agro based industry is 10th standard. It is observed from table that, more than three fourth (79.34 per cent) of rural women workers in agro based industry had married, followed by (17.33 per cent) of rural women workers in agro based industry had unmarried and very negligible (03.33 per cent) of rural women workers in agro based industry had widowed. Also from table 1 it is clearly seen that out of total rural women workers in agro based industry, Near about three fourth of the respondents (74.67 per cent) had medium job satisfaction, followed by (14.67 per cent) respondents had high job satisfaction and (10.66 per cent) respondents had low job satisfaction, respectively. According to table 1 it can be revealed that large majority of the (80.67 per cent) of the rural women workers in agro based industry had 4 to 6 members in their family, followed by (12.00 per cent) of the rural women workers in agro based industry had 7 to 9 members in their family and (7.33 per cent) of the rural women workers in agro based industry had more than 10 members in their family. From table 1 seen that large majority of the (80.67 per cent) respondents had nuclear family and (19.33 per cent) respondents had joint family. According to above table near about three fourth of the (74.00 per cent) rural women workers in agro based industry had medium annual income between Rs. 96916 to Rs. 2,52,111 /-. Whereas, (20.00 percent) rural women workers in agro-based industry had high annual income Rs. 2,52,112 and above and (06.00 percent) of rural women workers in agro-based industry had a low level of annual income of up to Rs. 96,915 i.e. The average income of the rural women workers in the agro-based industry is Rs. 1,74,513 /-. It is clear from the above table that, a large majority of the (86.67 percent) of the rural women workers in agro-based industry had a contract basis, and (13.33 percent) of the rural women workers in agro-based industry had permanent/regular basis nature of employment. From table 1 it is seen that near to half of the (45.34 percent) rural women workers had medium level 5 to 8 years of working experience in the agro-based industry, followed by (41.33 percent) rural women workers had low levels up to 4 years of working experience and only (13.33 percent) rural women workers had high level i.e. 9 years and above working experience in the agro-based industry. The average rural women workers in agro-based industry working experience are 6 years.

Conclusion

It was concluded that majority of the rural women workers in agro based industry belonged to the middle age group, most of them had received middle school education, most of them had married, having medium job satisfaction, most of them had four to six family members, most of them had nuclear family, having medium annual income, most of them had

contract in nature of employment and having medium work experience in agro based industry.

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