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An Analysis of the Role and Perspectives of Female Landless Agricultural Labourers in the Guttal Block of the Haveri District

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ABSTRACT:

This study describes the problems faced by landless women agriculture labourers, their occupational interests, and occupational diversity. In the study area, illiterate women workers are more and those with primary school education are more likely to be employed in agricultural work. There is a difference in earning agricultural wages (female and male) and this difference is based on hardship generally women workers earn an average wage of Rs 200 to 300.

Landless women agricultural labourers are working at different distances from their place of residence, workplaces do not have fixed distances, currently more chemicals are used in farming activities, and there is information that some have side effects. In contrast, others have no side effects, and some women workers are subject to occupational limitations.

Keywords: Female Landless agriculture labourers, Salary, Habitat, Chemical use, Chi-Square test, Fisher's test.

INTRODUCTION:

The agricultural labour force is one of the most significant groups in Karnataka and throughout rural India. They make up approximately 14% of the workforce overall in terms of number. Their numbers have been increasing more quickly than the population expansion in rural areas. They make a huge economic contribution to rural areas (Albert 2022).

Therefore, in many parts of the world, agriculture remains a vital sector of the economy, providing livelihoods for a significant portion of the population within this sector, and female landless agricultural labourers constitute a particularly vulnerable group. Their Socioeconomic condition is often characterised by a myriad of challenges, ranging from limited access to resources and services to entrenched gender disparities in wages and opportunities.

Those who labour on farms and other people's land and mostly rely on salaries as their source of income are considered agricultural labourers, indicating that one type of agrarian labourer is landless. The tasks performed by agricultural labourers include tending to cattle, bees, cows, and goats, tilling the soil, and cultivating and harvesting any type of crop or horticultural product. The labourers in agriculture help the underprivileged and other

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disadvantaged groups of people rise to the status of others who work in agriculture and need to work to support themselves. They have experienced the same kinds of widespread issues, such as underdevelopment. They can also increase the output of goods and communities. while also promoting conventional agricultural wages. The land was available in large quantities in the past. As a result, some who were unable to find employment have chosen to engage in agriculture to support themselves. (Solanki, 2023).

Female landless agricultural labourers are those women who work on farms but do not own land; they rely on wage labour for their livelihoods, typically performing various tasks such as planting, weeding, harvesting, and processing crops. Despite their indispensable role in agricultural production, these women often face numerous obstacles that hinder socioeconomic advancement and perpetuate the cycle of poverty.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To study the livelihood pattern of female landless agriculture labourers
2. To identify the health, Social, and Economic status of female landless agricultural labourers
3. To know about the Employment conditions of the landless female agricultural labourers in the Guttal block

METHODOLOGY:

The current study aims to understand the working conditions of Guttal Block's female landless agricultural labourers. Both primary and secondary data are used in this study Major data were gathered through scheduled interviews and on-site observations using the purposive sample technique, a **sample of 60 female agricultural labourers** from Guttal Block was chosen as study participants. The study was conducted using **SPSS** software general statistical tools. Furthermore, the cross-tabulation and the chi-square statistical method illustrate some of the issues.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM:

To identify the Association between a) Literacy and the Nature of work, b) Nature of work and Distance of work, c) Type of salary and the average salary, d) The reason for salary inequality and average salary, and e) The habitats and health status of chemical use to crops, f) Years of working and Reason for the difficulty as an employee, related to the study area.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

1. Working conditions of female agricultural labourers: A case study – Dr. Pratima Pavar.–

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This study focuses on the number of hours worked, the number of days of employment available in the month, the wages received, and the impact of these factors on the health challenges faced by the rural population in India, including contagious, infectious, waterborne, and non-communicable diseases.

2. The article titled "Unorganised Labour- An Analytical Study with Special Context to Problems of Landless Agricultural Labourers" by Ms Anjanaben Jayantilal Solanki expresses the challenges faced by landless agricultural labourers in India's unorganised sector. It discusses the reliance of these labourers on seasonal work, unstable incomes, lack of alternative occupations, low bargaining power, and exploitation of female workers. The paper also highlights government welfare measures such as the Minimum Wages Act and, the abolition of bonded labourers aimed at improving the conditions of landless agricultural labourers.,

Research drawback: One potential drawback of the research study is the limited focus on the perspectives of the agricultural labourers themselves, while the paper provides valuable insights into the problems and government interventions, and a more in-depth analysis of the lived experiences and aspirations of landless agricultural labourers could enhance the comprehensiveness of the study. Additionally, this article could benefit from incorporating empirical data or case studies to strengthen the arguments and recommendations presented.

3. Findings regarding poverty among landless agricultural labourers in Eral Taluk, Thoothukudi District: Written by Baby Albert

- The standard of living for landless agricultural labourers in the study area is deficient, and they struggle to afford essential goods.
- Majority of the households of landless labourers belong to BC (76%) and MBC (18%) categories
- The majority of the people in the study area have primary-level education (42%) followed by secondary-level (14%) and higher studies (22%)
- The study area lacks agricultural labourer Organisation indicating a lack of collective representation and support for these labourers
- Poverty in India is a deep-rooted problem that leads to various consequences such as death, malnutrition, and disease. The war against poverty continues but persists.

4. The Socio-economic conditions of landless agricultural female labourers in Tanjavur by M Subadevi and Dr C Sumita revealed several key findings

- Women play a significant role in agricultural operations, contributing about three-fourths of the labourers required.

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- Despite their essential contributions, many women in agriculture face challenges such as seasonal employment, low wages, and social issues such as illiteracy and family conflict.
- The study highlighted that 25% of agricultural women respondents can save 20, 000–40, 000 Rs annually, while 55% borrow up to 40,000 for various reasons, such as festivals, education, and housing.
- The annual income of agricultural women labourers varies with 15% below the poverty line and only 20% earning above Rs 24,000
- They emphasised the importance of addressing the problems faced by agricultural women labourers such as drunkard husbands, overspending and family conflicts to improve their standard of living

After perusing all the above research papers, some points have been supplemented in this paper, additional points have been added, and **the Guttala block of the Haveri district** has been subjected to a research study.

STUDY AREA:

As to the data from the 2011 census, the village code or location code for Guttal village is 604269.In the Haveri district of Karnataka, India. Guttal village is situated in Haveri Taluka. It is 20 kilometres from Haveri, which serves as Guttal village's district and Sub-district headquarters.

The village occupies a total of 2844.32 hectares of land.15.094 people live in Guttal, with 7,742 men and 7,352 women living there. The percentage of literate people in Guttal village is 63.48%;68.50% of men and 58.14% of women are literate. In Guttal village, there are roughly 3,079 homes. The Guttal village locality's pin code is 581108.

Period of study: This study was taken from 2022 to 2023.

DISCUSSION AND RESULT:

Table 1: Literacy Level and Nature of Work

Literacy level * Nature of work Crosstabulation								
			Nature of work					Total
			Fieldwork	Horticulture	Floriculture	animal husbandry	All of above	
Literacy level	Illiterate	Count	26	0	0	0	0	26
		Expected Count	20.4	2.2	.9	.9	1.7	26.0
	Primary (1-7)	Count	7	2	1	2	0	12
		Expected Count	9.4	1.0	.4	.4	.8	12.0

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Literacy level * Nature of work Crosstabulation								
			Nature of work					Total
			Fieldwork	Horticulture	Floriculture	animal husbandry	All of above	
	Secondary (8-10)	Count	14	3	1	0	3	21
		Expected Count	16.5	1.8	.7	.7	1.4	21.0
	Pre-University (11-12)	Count	0	0	0	0	1	1
		Expected Count	.8	.1	.0	.0	.1	1.0
Total		Count	47	5	2	2	4	60
		Expected Count	47.0	5.0	2.0	2.0	4.0	60.0

Source: Primary data

There are 26 illiterates in fieldwork, and None of them is engaged in horticulture, floriculture or animal husbandry; Among the 12 respondents with primary education, 7 are involved in fieldwork,2 in horticulture,1 in floriculture and 2 in animal husbandry; Out of the 21 respondents with secondary education, 14 are in fieldwork,3 in floriculture and 3 in animal husbandry; Only 1 respondent with pre-university education is part of the all of the above category.

Chi-Square Tests						
	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)	Point Probability
Pearson Chi-Square	34.819[a]	12	.001	.047		
Likelihood Ratio	29.035	12	.004	.000		
Fisher's Exact Test	27.476			.000		
Linear-by-Linear Association	10.355[b]	1	.001	.001	.001	.000
N of Valid Cases	60					
a. 17 cells (85.0%) have an expected count of less than 5. The minimum expected count is .03.						
b. The standardised statistic is 3.218.						

Here, the null hypothesis is rejected, and the alternative hypothesis is accepted (17 cells (85.0%) have an expected count of less than 5. The minimum expected count is 0.03) because Pearson's chi-square value is 34.819; the Degrees of freedom is 12; the Asymptotic (2-sided) significance is 0.001; exact (2-sided) Significance0.047; This test assesses the association between categorical variables. The low p-value suggests that there is a significant relationship between the variables. Likelihood Ratio value 29.039; Degrees of freedom (df) 12; Asymptotic significance (2-sided) 0. 004—exact significance (2- 2-sided) 0.000.

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Fisher's Exact Test value is 27.476; Fisher's exact test is used when the sample size is small or when expected cell counts are less than 5. The extremely low P-vale suggests a strong association, Linear-by-linear association value 10.355; Degrees of freedom(df) 1; Asymptotic significance(2-sided) 0.001; Exact significance (2-sided) 0.001; point probability 0.000; The test examines the trend in proportions across ordered categories; The P-value indicate a significant linear association.

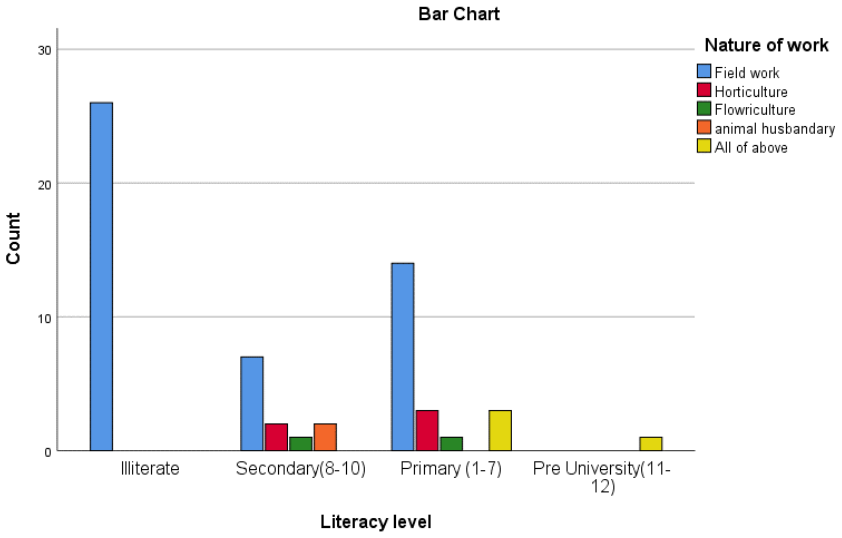

Table 2: Average Salaries and Reason for the Salary Inequality

Reason for salary inequality * Average salary of respondents Crosstabulation						
			The average salary of respondents			Total
			<100	200 to 300	> 300	
Reason of salary inequality	Norm	Count	3	16	3	22
		Expected Count	2.6	16.5	2.9	22.0
	Based on difficulty	Count	2	19	3	24
		Expected Count	2.8	18.0	3.2	24.0
	Based on hours	Count	1	9	1	11
		Expected Count	1.3	8.3	1.5	11.0
	No Information	Count	1	1	1	3
		Expected Count	.4	2.3	.4	3.0
Total		Count	7	45	8	60
		Expected Count	7.0	45.0	8.0	60.0

Source: Primary data

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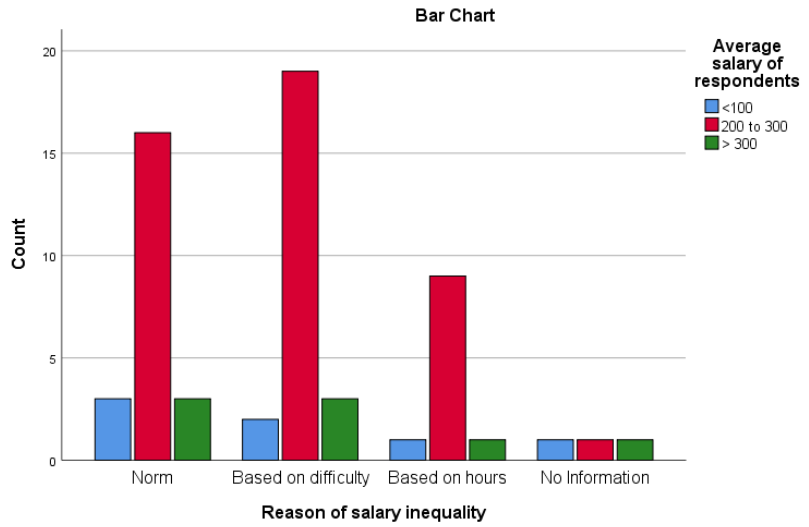
The reason for salary inequality based on 'Norm' is less than 100 were 3 respondents, 200 to 300 were 16 respondents, more than 300 were 3 respondents and the Total of this category was 22 respondents. Based on difficulty less than 100 were 2 respondents, 200 to 300 were 19, more than 300 were 3 and the total of this category was 24. Based on hours less than 100 was 1 respondent,200 to 300 were 9, more than 300 was 1 respondent only and the Total of this category were 11. Remaining, no information less than 100 was 1 respondent, 200 to 300 was 1, more than 300 was 1 and the total of this category was 3 only.

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)	Point Probability
Pearson Chi-Square	3.467[a]	6	.748	.791		
Likelihood Ratio	3.019	6	.806	.876		
Fisher's Exact Test	4.396			.609		
Linear-by-Linear Association	.001[b]	1	.980	1.000	.549	.117
N of Valid Cases	60					

a. 9 cells (75.0%) have an expected count of less than 5. The minimum expected count is .35.

b. The standardised statistic is .025.



Pearson chi-square test value 3.467, degrees of freedom(df) 6, P-value 0.791, exact significance(2-sided) value is 0.791; the Likelihood ratio was 3.019, degrees of freedom(df) 6, Asymptotic significance(2-sided) value 0.806 and P value 0.876; Fisher's exact test value 4.396, P value 0.609; Linear by linear association value is 0.001, degrees of freedom(df) 1, asymptotic significance (2- sided) 0.980, and P value 1.000.

Here, the null hypothesis was accepted and the alternative hypothesis was rejected because there is no association between the Reason for the salary inequality and average salary (17

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cells (85.0%) having an expected count of less than 5. The minimum expected count is 0.003).

Table 3: habitat and health status of chemical use to crops

Habitat of respondents * Health status of chemical use to crops Crosstabulation								
			Health status of chemical use to crops					Total
			Skin problem	stomach problems	Eye, nose and Ear effects	'Breathing Problem'	'No problem'	
Habitat of respondents	Rural	Count	10	19	2	17	1	49
		Expected Count	8.2	15.5	5.7	18.8	.8	49.0
	Urban	Count	0	0	4	6	0	10
		Expected Count	1.7	3.2	1.2	3.8	.2	10.0
	Sub-district	Count	0	0	1	0	0	1
		Expected Count	.2	.3	.1	.4	.0	1.0
Total		Count	10	19	7	23	1	60
		Expected Count	10.0	19.0	7.0	23.0	1.0	60.0

Source: Primary data

This table contains respondents the relationship between 'the health status of chemical use to crops' and 'the habitat' of respondents (whether rural, urban or sub-district). In the 'Rural' habitat, there are 10 respondents with skin problems,19 with stomach problems, 2 with eye, nose and ear effects,1 with breathing problems and 17 with 'no problems. In the 'Urban' habitat, there are 4 respondents with eye, nose and ear effects, none with skin or stomach problems and 6 with 'no problem'. In the 'Sub-district', there is 1 respondent with eye, nose, and ear effects and 'none' with other health issues.

Chi-Square Tests						
	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)	Point Probability
Pearson Chi-Square	24.497[a]	8	.002	.017		
Likelihood Ratio	24.089	8	.002	.000		
Fisher's Exact Test	22.747			.000		
Linear-by-Linear Association	4.761[b]	1	.029	.032	.018	.009
N of Valid Cases	60					
a. 11 cells (73.3%) have an expected count of less than 5. The minimum expected count is .02.						
b. The standardised statistic is 2.182.						

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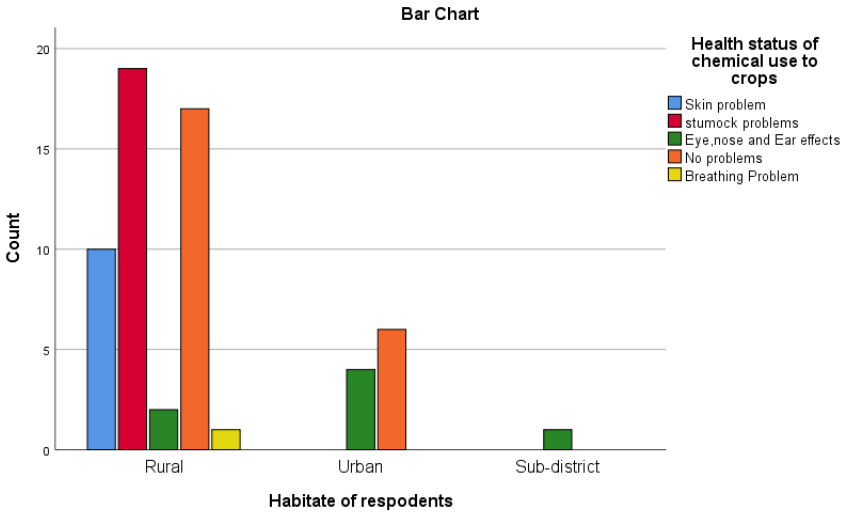

The table contains Pearson's chi-square test value of 24.497, degrees of freedom (df) of 8, asymptotic significance (2 --sided) of 0.002, exact significance (2- sided) value of 0.017; Likelihood ratio is 24.089, degrees of freedom (df) of 8, asymptotic significance(2-sided) value is 0.002, exact significance value is 0.000; Fisher's exact test value is 22.747, exact significance (2-sided) value is 0.000; Linear by linear value is 4.761, degrees of freedom (df) of is 1, asymptotic significance value is 0.029, exact significance (2- sided)value is 0.032.

Overall, the null hypothesis was rejected and the alternative hypothesis was accepted (11 cells (73.3%) have an expected count of less than 5. The minimum expected count is 0.02) because the habitat' and the 'Health' status of chemical use to crops variables are associated.

Table 4: Reason for difficulty in being employed and Working Years

What makes it difficult for you to be employed? * Working years Crosstabulation								
			Working years					Total
			> 10	> 20	>30	>40	>50	
What makes it difficult for you to be employed?	Pressure to have a baby early	Count	12	1	2	1	1	17
		Expected Count	4.5	2.8	3.4	3.4	2.8	17.0
	Obstacle of Tradition	Count	2	4	3	5	2	16
		Expected Count	4.3	2.7	3.2	3.2	2.7	16.0
	No problem	Count	2	5	7	6	7	27
		Expected Count	7.2	4.5	5.4	5.4	4.5	27.0
Total		Count	16	10	12	12	10	60
		Expected Count	16.0	10.0	12.0	12.0	10.0	60.0

Source: Primary data

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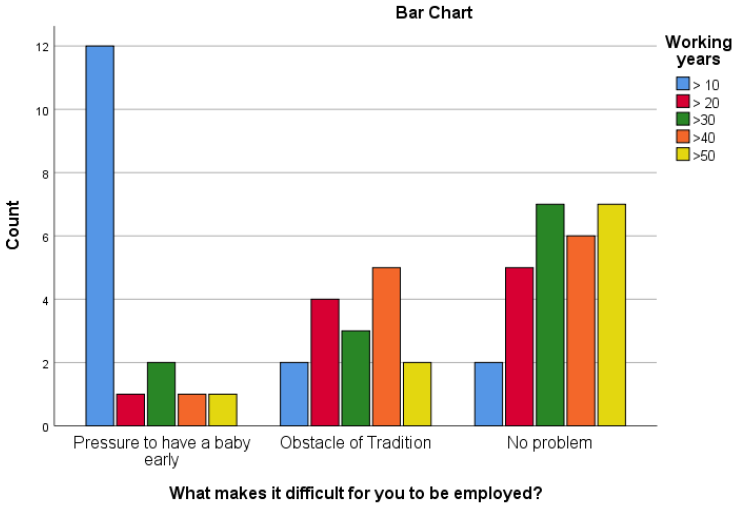
This table contains 'What makes it difficult for you to be employed? 'Years of working', According to respondents 'Pressure to have a baby early' more than 10 years working are 12 respondents, more than 20 years is 1, more than 30 years is 2, more than 40 years is 1, and more than 50 years is only one respondent, totally of this category 17 people; 'Obstacle of tradition 'more than 10 years are 2 respondents, more than 20 years are 4, more than 30 years are 3, more than 40 years 5, and more than 50 years 2, totally of this category 16 respondents; To be said 'No problem' more than 10 years working are 2, more than 20 years 6 and more than 50 years 7 people, totally of this category 27 respondents.

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)	Point Probability
Pearson Chi-Square	25.744[a]	8	.001	.001		
Likelihood Ratio	24.778	8	.002	.004		
Fisher's Exact Test	22.262			.002		
Linear-by-Linear Association	13.471[b]	1	.000	.000	.000	.000
N of Valid Cases	60					

a. 12 cells (80.0%) have an expected count of less than 5. The minimum expected count is 2.67.

b. The standardized statistic is 3.670.



Here null hypothesis was rejected and an alternative hypothesis was accepted, associated between the 'Reason for difficulty in being employed and Working Years' (12 cells (80.0%) have an expected count of less than 5. The minimum expected count is 0.67) because Pearson's chi-square test value is 25.744, the degree of freedom (df) is 8, asymptotic significance (2 sided) 0.001, exact significance(2 sided) value is 0.001; Likelihood ratio

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values is 24.778, degrees of freedom(df) 8, asymptotic (2 sided) value is 0.002; exact significance (2 sided0 value is 0.004; Fisher's exact test value is 22.262, exact significance(2 sided) value is 0.002; Linear by linear association value is 13.471, degrees of freedom(df) is 1, asymptotic significance (2 sided) 0.000, exact significance value is (2 sided) 0.000 and Note that 'the standardized statistics is 3.670.

IMPORTANT FINDINGS:

1. In the study area almost, illiterate labourers were interested in doing fieldwork only and those were not interested in floriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, etc. Those who got primary level education were interested in fieldwork, little interested in floriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry and others. In the statistical test, the variables literacy level and nature of work were associated because the nature of work depended on the literacy level in the study area.

2. Related to the reason for salary inequality (Men vs Women) was not determined by the average salary because most of the labourer's average salary just does not depend on 'Norm', 'Based on difficulty' and 'Based on the hours but almost average salary inequality determined by the 'Difficulty of the work'. Yet most of the labourers got a Rs '200 to 300 average salary. In statistical test variables, the reason for the salary inequality (Men vs Women) and average salary just not determined by all issues but most of the time salary depended on only 'Difficulty of work' (Only one issue).

3. In the cross table 'Health' status of chemical use to crops and the 'habitat' most of the rural labourers have a stomach problem, skin problems and other issues were affected a little bit. also, urban & sub-district labourers had stomach and eye, ear and nose problems. However, most of the observed problems were non-fatal, rather a non-fatal treatable problem was found. In statistical tests, habitat and health status of chemical use crops variables are associated.

4. Some barriers are happening in the study area; female landless agriculture labourers were majorly facing some difficulties like the pressure to have a baby early and the Obstacle of tradition (Imposition of limit as an externally employed)

CONCLUSION:

The women landless agricultural workers are usually village dwellers, engaged in occupations such as tillage, horticulture, floriculture, and animal husbandry, mostly unskilled and with primary education, and it is estimated that they have been working for approximately 30 to 40 years.

Women landless agricultural labourers work at a distance of more than 2-3 km from their place of residence and are "propertyless"; earn about Rs 200 to Rs 300 and most are daily wage labourers; there is a difference in wages between women and men, which is due to "the rigour and routine of work". "Depends on Chemical spraying of crops and use of chemical

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fertilisers have resulted in some people suffering from "stomach ache problems" while others have had "no side effects at all".

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