

A study on income and expenditure pattern of agricultural labourers in Tirupattur taluk of Sivagangai district during agricultural season and non-agricultural season

R.Swarnalatha^{1,2*} and S.Karthikeyan³

¹Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Queen Marys College, Chennai, Tamil Nadu

²PhD, Research Scholar Department of Economics, Centre for Research in Economics, The Madura College (Autonomous), Madurai, Tamil Nadu

³Associate Professor & Research Supervisor, Department of Economics and Centre for Research in Economics, The Madura College (Autonomous), Madurai, Tamil Nadu

*Corresponding Author Email: senthilmtdhc@gmail.com

Abstract

Agriculture is the predominant occupation of Indian rural community for ages. Since Independence agricultural production and cultivation pattern has taken various changes. Agricultural research in India has brought out many changes in the cultivation pattern, it brought out new seed varieties, improved technology etc. There is tremendous increase in productivity of all commodities. There is increase in the total sown area and India has witnessed various revolution like green revolution, blue revolution, pink revolution, yellow revolution, white revolution etc. therefore India has under-went a rainbow of revolution in agricultural sector. The people who totally depend on wage income from agricultural cultivation are considered to be agricultural labourers. They are the prey of seasonal unemployment, poor working condition and they are inherited with debts. The agricultural labourers in India are employed during the agricultural season and, during the non-agricultural season some the male labourers temporarily move to the near-by town seeking employment in other sectors while the remain male and female agricultural labourers fall prey of seasonal unemployment. The aim of the study is to analyse the income and expenditure pattern of the agricultural labourers during agricultural season and non-agricultural season in Thirupattur taluk of Sivagangai district. The data for the study is purely primary. The primary data is collected from 50 agricultural labourers both men and women of Thirupattur taluk of Sivagangai district. The period of the study is from December 2024 to November 2025. One year data was taken for the study. To understand the relationship between various variables tools like percentage and chi-square was use. The Chi-square study reveals that both

of the chi-square values are not significant, the calculated value is greater than that of the table value in both season's income of the agricultural labourers. The present study highlights that these people suppress their expenditure in many occasions due to insufficiency of income. It is suggested that, Government should ensure their improvement in life by creating more work opportunities for them during the non-agricultural season and uplift their income status.

Keywords: Agricultural labourers, Agricultural Season income, Non-Agricultural Season income and Income and expenditure pattern

Introduction

Agriculture is the predominant occupation of Indian rural community for ages. Since Independence agricultural production and cultivation pattern has taken various changes. Agricultural research in India has brought out many changes in the cultivation pattern, it brought out new seed varieties and improved technology. There was tremendous increase in productivity of all commodities. There is increase in the total sown area and India has witnessed various revolution like green revolution, blue revolution, pink revolution, yellow revolution, white revolution etc. therefore India has under-went a rainbow of revolution in agricultural sector.

In spite of all the developments in India Agriculture the condition of agricultural labourers still remains the same as unaddressed. The income earning capacity of these labourers did not show any upward trend for ages. They are deprived from the modern world. They are symbol of poverty and exploited classes. Nearly about half of India's population are engaged in Agricultural sector. But still the sector completely depends on monsoon for their cultivation. Not always monsoon helps in cultivation. In some occasion there is flood and, in some occasion there is drought.

Agricultural Labourers

The people who totally depend on wage income from agricultural cultivation are considered to be agricultural labourers. They are the people who work in others agricultural land for the majority period of the year and receive wages in money or in kind for their work. These agricultural labourers are mainly landless people who are scattered all over the rural villages of India. they are mainly unskilled workers who are illiterate. These people are considered low in status and they do not have any bargaining power too. These agricultural labourers face discrimination of wages based on gender. They are the prey of seasonal

unemployment, poor working condition and inherited with debts. The agricultural labourers in India are employed during the agricultural season and during the non-agricultural some the male labourers temporarily move to the near-by town seeking employment in other sectors while the remain male and female agricultural labourers fall prey of seasonal unemployment. During the non-agricultural season the Government welfare schemes like MGNREGA and PDS are the only tool to reduce their poverty and hunger during the non-agricultural season.

Objective of The Study

To analyse the income and expenditure pattern of the agricultural labourers during agricultural season and non-agricultural season in Thirupattur taluk of Sivagangai district.

Hypothesis:

H₀: There is no significant difference between the agricultural seasonal income and expenditure

H₀: There is no significant difference between the non-agricultural income and expenditure.

Methodology

Research Design: The main aim of the study is to compare the expenditure pattern of the agricultural labourers therefore the study completely relies upon primary data. The qualitative approached is used with the support of quantitative data for this study.

Period of Study: The period of the study is from December 2024 to November 2025. One year data was taken for the study.

Sampling and Data Collection: The primary data is collected from 50 agricultural labourers both men and women of Thirupattur taluk of Sivagangai district. Data was collected through questionnaire. The details like employment, income, expenditure, livelihood and health issues were collected from the samples.

Tools Used: To understand the relationship between various variables tools like percentage, chi-square were use.

Analysis and Interpretation

The analysis and interpretation of data related to the employment, income and expenditure of the respondents are as follows:

Table 1: Age and Sex details of the Respondents

| Age | Particulars | No. of Respondents | | | Percentage | | |
|-----|-------------|--------------------|--------|-------|------------|--------|-------|
| | | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| Age | 20-30 | 03 | 07 | 10 | 12 | 27 | 20 |
| | 31-40 | 10 | 04 | 14 | 42 | 16 | 28 |
| | 41-50 | 07 | 10 | 17 | 29 | 38 | 34 |
| | Above 50 | 04 | 05 | 09 | 17 | 19 | 18 |
| | Total | 24 | 26 | 50 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Source: Primary Data

Table 2: Types of Agricultural Labourers

| Type of Workers | Particulars | No. of Respondents | | Percentage | |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| | | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| | Casual Labourers | | 15 | | 30 |
| | Small Cultivators | | 07 | | 14 |
| | Landless Labourers | | 28 | | 56 |
| | Total | | 50 | | 100 |

Source: Primary Data

Table 3: Income Details of the Labourers:Table 3 A. Agricultural Season income of the labourers

| Monthly Income | Income | Percentage |
|----------------|-----------|------------|
| Less than 5000 | 3 | 6 |
| 5000-10000 | 14 | 28 |
| 10000-15000 | 21 | 42 |
| 15000-20000 | 07 | 14 |
| Above 20000 | 05 | 10 |
| Total | 50 | 100 |

Table 3 B. Non-Agricultural Income of the Labourers

| Monthly Income | Income | Percentage |
|----------------|-----------|------------|
| Less than 2000 | 17 | 34 |
| 2000-6000 | 11 | 22 |
| 6000-10000 | 10 | 20 |
| 10000- 14000 | 10 | 20 |
| Above 14000 | 2 | 4 |
| Total | 50 | 100 |

Source: Primary Data

Table 4: Monthly income and expenditure of the respondents during Agricultural Season

| Expenditure | Less than 5000 | 5000-10000 | 10000-15000 | 15000-20000 | Above 20000 | Total |
|--------------|----------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| Income | | | | | | |
| Below 5000 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 5000-10000 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 14 |
| 10000- 15000 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 0 | 21 |
| 15000- 20000 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 7 |
| Above 20000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Total | 07 | 14 | 12 | 15 | 02 | 50 |

Source: Primary Data

Table 5: Monthly income and expenditure of the respondents during Non- Agricultural Season

| Expenditure Income | Less than 2000 | 2000-4000 | 4000-6000 | 6000-8000 | 8000 above | Total |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| Less than 2000 | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 |
| 2000-4000 | 4 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 |
| 4000-6000 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| 6000-8000 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 10 |
| 8000 above | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 02 |
| Total | 21 | 16 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 50 |

Source: Primary Data

The data for the analysis and interpretation was collected from 50 agricultural labourers both men and women on random sampling bases from the Thirupattur taluk of Sivagangai district.

Male respondents constitute for about 24 and the remaining 26 respondents were female as shown in the table 1. When classifying the respondents based on age nearly 34 percentage of the respondent fall under the age group of 41-50, while age group between 31-40 constitute 28 percentage. Thirdly 20 percentage belong to the age group of 20-30 and the remaining 18 percentage fall under the age group of above 50 years of age. This shows that the older age group are occupied less in the agricultural sector where as the middle age group people tend to be involved in agricultural sector more. With regard to Table 2. which is related to the type of agricultural employment 56 percent of them are landless labourers' 30 percent of them are casual labourers and 14 percent of them are small cultivators. In account of the income of the respondents, the income is classified into two seasons namely income during agricultural season and income during non-agricultural season. In the table 3.A, About 42 percent of the respondents earn Rs.10,000– 15,000 during agricultural season, 28 percent of them earn Rs. 5,000- 10,000 while 14 percent of them earn more than Rs.15,000- 20,000 and 6 percentage of them earn less than Rs. 5,000. Table 3 B reveals the income of the respondents during non-agricultural season. During the non-agricultural season the labourers suffer due to insufficiency of income. Nearly 34 percentage of the respondents earn only less than 2000 only with this limited income they fulfil their household expenditure. About 22 percent of the respondent receive Rs.2000 to 6000 as their monthly income during this season.10 percent of them earn Rs 6000- 10000 and another 20 percent of them earn about Rs.10000- 14000 during non-agricultural season. Table 4 explains the monthly income of the respondents and their monthly income and expenditure pattern during agricultural season. During this agricultural season in which the labourers would be able to earn maximum, 21 respondents nearly 42 percent earn Rs. 10,000– 15,000 which was the highest number of earnings among all the respondents. In analysing their expenditure only 1 respondent spend less than Rs. 5000, about 7 respondents spend Rs. 5,000- 10,000. 8 of them spend their whole income that is Rs. 10,000- 15,000 and 5 of them spend more than their income which is Rs. 15,000-20,000 as their family expenditure. When looking into their income 14 respondents nearly 28 percent earn Rs.5,000– 10,000. Among the 14 respondents, 4 of them spend less than Rs.5000 for their monthly family expenditure, 6 of them spend Rs.5,000- 10,000, 2 of them spend Rs.10,000- 15,000 and the remaining 2 of them spend Rs. 15,000- 20,000 which is more than their income level. 7 respondents about 14 percent said that they earn about Rs. 15,000- 20,000 where 5 of them spend all of their income that is Rs. 15,000- 20,000 and two of the respondents spend Rs. 10,000- 15,000 for their family expenses. Table 5 reveals the month income and expenditure

pattern of the respondents during non- agricultural season where the respondent's income level is minimum. Nearly 17 respondents 34 percent of the respondents earn only less than 2,000 per month among them 15 respondents spending shows that their monthly expenditure is compressed within Rs. 2,000 and 2 of them spend Rs. 2,000- 4,000. When analysing the income pattern nearly 11 respondents that is 22 percent said that they earn about Rs.2,000-4,000 where 7 of them spend Rs. 2,000-4,000 and 4 of them spend within Rs.2,000. The number of respondents who earn Rs. 4,000-6,000 account for about 10 which is 20 percentage. Out them 5 respondents spend between Rs.4,000- 6,000, 3 of the respondents spend about Rs. 2,000- 4,000 and 2 of them spend less than Rs. 2,000. Another 10 respondents about 20 percent said that they earn about Rs. 6,000- 8,000 where 6 of them spend Rs. 4,000- 6,000. 3 of the respondents spend Rs. 2,000- 4,000 for their family expenses and 1 respondent spend his entire income for his family expenditure

Table 6: Chi-Square Test for Income And Expenditure Pattern in the Study Area

| Description | Chi-Square Value | Degrees of Freedom | Table Value | Result |
|---|------------------|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Agricultural Season Income Vs. Expenditure | 32.023 | 16 | 26.296 | Not Significant |
| Non- Agricultural Season Income Vs. Expenditure | 14.458 | 16 | 26.296 | Not Significant |

The Chi-square study reveals that both the chi-square value are not significant, the calculated value is greater than that of the table value in both season's income of the agricultural labourers. This denotes the poor income condition of the agricultural labourers in both the season. The study also shows that with all the development projects and the labourers uplifting schemes still the condition of the labourers has not improved. The Chi-square study proves that the income of the labourers influence their expenditure. When ever there was an increase in the income their expenditure also seems to increase in many cases.

Conclusion

The present study highlights the pathetic income condition of the agricultural labourers in the Thirupattur taluk. These people suppress their expenditure in many occasions due to insufficiency of income. The MGNREGA does not provide sufficient number of working days for their day to day living. These people lack other sources of employment like employment in industrial sector, service sector etc. Government should ensure their improvement in life by creating more work opportunities for them during the non-agricultural season and uplift their income status.

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