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# Problems of Agricultural Labour in India

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## Abstract

*In Indian economy primary sector make important role in GDP and employment. Agricultural is one of the main factor of this sector. Agricultural provided food grain to the population which was necessary to alive. Agricultural is different from Industrial sector for its special feature. On the agricultural production was large Impact to the nature. All agricultural activity depends upon the natural condition. So it was not in the hand of the owner. Thatsway there was increasing and decreasing production rate was very high. After production it was impact to the price. When there was increasing production the price was decreasing and loss to the farmer and its impact to worker who working in the farm. In the country people who working in Agricultural was facing numbers of problems. That was working hours, irregular work, heavily debt and no unity ext. In this research paper high lights the concept of Agricultural labour. it was also studded the position, current situation and main problems facing by the workers in the Agricultural. It was to analysis the socio economic indicators. That are caste, religion, society, income, wage ext. Social factors were very important to workers. It was suggested the proper suggestion to remove this problems and make self-development of Agricultural labour.*

**Keywords:** Agricultural labour, Indian economy, sector, agricultural production, agricultural activity, price, worker.

## Introduction:

The agricultural sector is key factor of Indian economy. In agriculture sector along with sub sector like fisheries, animal husbandry and forestry contribute around one-third of the nation's GDP and it was one of the largest contributed sector. Agricultural sector exports around 50 percent of the country's total exports. But this sector is different from the other sector for its some special characteristic that was depending upon Manson. The Indian manson was not regular. It means there was no proper or sufficient Manson. So its depending agricultural sector was not properly developed. The farmer and labour of agricultural was a heavy debt to the village money lenders. They have the small and scattered holding of land. They had lack of resources and knowledge to use the proper equipment or the planning of crops. So the agricultural sector was backward to the other sector. The condition of people who depend upon the agricultural for direct and indirect was not good.

One of the most distinguishing features of the Indian economy is rural economy. In India around 65 percentage total population living in the rural area and out of that 80 Percentage population engaged in agricultural sector. So to developing Indian Economy it is very important to special attention to the rural economy. The rural economy was developed throw the agricultural development. There was to increasing the productivity of the agricultural sector as well as increasing the employment in a rural area. So it was necessary to increasing the level of income to the different aspects which depended upon the agricultural sector.

Agricultural labourer was one of the very important aspects which was engaged in crop production. Agricultural labour was most neglected class in Indian rural structure. Their low income and irregular employment they facing number of problems. The main attribute of agricultural labour was the "A major portion of the income of the agricultural labour in the form of wage is obtained as a result of working on the land." They not have any skill or training so they not having alternative employment opportunities. 'the Agricultural labour is one who was basically unskilled and unorganized and has little for his livelihood other than Industrial labour. There was also mentioned to the small landholders or marginal formers who also work most of the time as agricultural labour. Agricultural labour was working different agricultural activities, Such as planting, cultivating, harvesting, and maintaining crops, as well as caring for livestock. Agricultural labors were categorized in two Categories:

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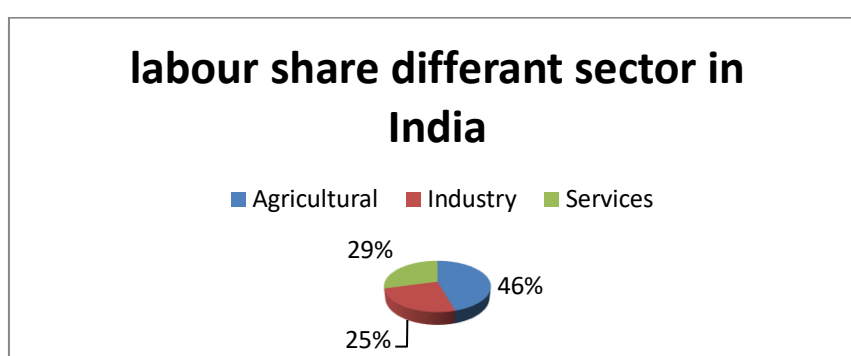
Manual Labor in This Category involves physically demanding work such as planting seeds, weeding, harvesting crops, and handling livestock. It is often performed by farm workers or seasonal laborers. **Technical Labor** This Category Involves the use of machines and equipment for tasks such as plowing, planting, irrigation, and harvesting. This labor is typically more capital-intensive so increase productivity. Generally, highest number of agricultural labourers belong to scheduled castes and tribes. Therefore, they are considered a suppressed class in society. They were not organized. So they could not fight for their rights. For these reasons, their socio-economic conditions did not improve even after six decades of independence.

### Objective of the Research:

1. To study the position of agricultural labour in India.
2. To understand the conceptual background of agricultural labour in India.
3. To study the problems of agricultural labour in India.

### Agricultural Labour in India

In Indian economy after independence there was increase the labour force in agricultural sector. In the developing process it necessary to shift the labour in other sector. That was services and industry sector. But in India, government unable to shift labour from agricultural to other sector. There not increase employment in other sector. The share of agricultural sector labour force was 44.1 percentage in 2017-18 which was increased 46.1 percentage in 2023-24.



**Source: Ministry of Statistical Gov. India**

Above chart show that the total percentage share of labour force in India in the year 2023-24. In the chart show that highest percentage of labour working in agricultural sector that is around 46 percentage. 29 percentage in service sector and 25 percentage working in Industry sector. It mince around 50 percentage labour working in agricultural sector.

### Problems of Agricultural labour :

**Working Time excess:** agricultural labours working time was not fixed and not only continue work but also excess time working. They have to work early in the morning to evening. Some time in holnight they working. His working time change with crop production, season and nature of work. But wages was not change.

**Irregular Employment:** Farm labour does not get work regularly for the whole year. In the view of second agricultural labour Investigation Society, agricultural labour gets an average around 197 days of work in one year. Similarly, women labour get 141 days of employment in a year. When they not work in the village they migrate from one village to another village for work. There was not any other opportunity to working excluding agricultural sector. Thus, their average annual income is very lower.

**Indebtedness:** Agricultural labour was heavily indebted to the landlord. Due to lower income, the indebtedness of agricultural labour is increasing. The Income of the family was very low that was not sufficient for livelihood. So they were giving the debt from landlord so Increasing Indebtedness of

agricultural labour. The landlord was providing lone for high rate of interest. Maximum time the landlord was recovering that lone from his wages. There was not allowed to work other land when the lone was not recovered. Naturally, they are forced to accept lower wages.

**No Unity:** Agricultural labourers were spread in large number of village all over in India. Generally they are illiterate, ignorant and scattered from a remote area. The level of education was very low Thatwhy they are unable to negotiate their wage with the land owners. They cannot easily be organized in labour unions like Industrial labour. They were not organized that's way there was no labour organisation or union of agricultural labour. The landlord was exploits to the agricultural labour.

### Exploitation of Women labour:

Women labour is one of the important aspect to the rural economy in India. In the rural area, there were around more than 70 percentage women was working in the agricultural sector as agricultural labour. The women agricultural labour was more compare to male agricultural labour. In some cases when head of the family addicted to the drinking the women labour having the whole responsibility of the household. Women labour have facing gender based discrimination. She was facing many problems such as low wages, Exploitation, Sexual harassment, irregular work etc. that was a very ignorant part of the Indian society.

**Low Social Status:** Majority labourers were not having their own land and they belonging depressed

classes. Due to their lower socio-economic status the upper caste people or landlord was discriminating them to the regular behavior in village interaction. Big land owners make them work as slaves. The scheduled caste agricultural labours caste factor was very important. Their social status was depending upon the caste to which they belonging. This type of Agricultural labour was belonging to the back word or depressed caste to the Indian caste system. Most farm labours belong to the backward classes, which have been neglected to main stream. The backward caste and depressed classes have been make them socially handicapped. So the social status of agricultural labour was very low.

#### **Conclusion:**

In India Large number of the population depend upon the agricultural sector that is agricultural labour. In the country around fifty percentage labour force working as an agricultural labour. Agricultural labor was very important aspects of Indian Economy. But the employment and wage was not increasing like the non-agricultural sector. The non-agricultural sector was fast increasing compare to the agricultural sector. The main problems of agricultural labours were high light that was the working hours of agricultural laborer was excess. They not get work regularly for the whole year, heavily indebted to the landlord, They were not organized. Other problems facing that were low productivity, landless labour force, lack of industrialization, low standard of living etc. So finally conclude that in the agricultural sector labour standerd was much has been achieved but more remains to achievement.

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