

Socio-Economic Factors Influencing Women's Participation in Agriculture

Dr. Gangadhar L

Faculty Economics, Department of Economics, KSAWU, PG study centre in Sindhanuru.

Abstract

The changing roles of women in farming have had a big effect on the structure and productivity of the sector around the world. This study looks at how women's roles in farming are changing, with a focus on how their responsibilities are growing in areas like making decisions, managing farms, and using sustainable practices. The study shows that having more women work in agriculture makes things better for everyone, including more food security, more production, and better health and well-being for families and communities. Even though these are good things, women still have problems such not being able to get land, credit, technology, or leadership possibilities. The results show that we need to make focused policies and interventions to solve these problems and make the most of women's potential in agriculture. To reach sustainable and inclusive rural development, it is important to promote gender equality and help women gain authority in the agricultural sector.

Interdiction:

People in India rely heavily on agriculture for their livelihood. In the past, women have taken a back seat in agriculture, but now they are standing up for what is right, breaking down barriers, and creating a more equitable and sustainable future. Farming provides income for 84% of persons living in rural regions. Women make up for 47% of the farming population. Their issues make it difficult for them to be productive farmers, regardless of how much effort they put in. Issues such as inadequate education and skills, property ownership, access to financial technology, and market possibilities are among them. Violence against women is another concern. The expansion of the economy and the attainment of long-term development goals are both dependent on the empowerment of farmers. Opportunities for women in agriculture are many, and they will only increase as the sector develops. Because of this, there is a greater need for female workers, particularly those who are migrant workers.

Despite being employees and owners of their own businesses, women in agriculture frequently face barriers to accessing necessary services and resources. It is more difficult to achieve comprehensive social and economic development objectives when men and women are not equally productive and skilled. We can develop a more efficient agricultural system that benefits all parties involved.

Farming women are entrepreneurs as well as labourers. Women have access to services and marketplaces that provide them with valuable resources. Their inability to contribute significantly to agriculture and the achievement of comprehensive social and economic development objectives is a direct result of the gender gap in productivity and skill sets. By increasing agricultural output, we can reduce the prevalence of malnutrition.

The agriculture sector employs 65% of working-age women, as reported in the 2011 census. In a population of 108.7 million, women constitute 30.3% of the agricultural workforce. Women make up

46.6% of the 144.3 million agricultural labourers. Roughly 21% of all farmhands were female in 2001. By 2011 that figure had risen to 23%. In 2022–23, women accounted for 84% of the agricultural work force. The agricultural industry is largely staffed by women. Whether it's a small family farm or a large communal farm, women play an essential role in producing food. Additionally, they are crucial in forestry, seed sowing, weed control, and livestock management.

Research Gap

There are still major gaps in the literature, even though more and more people are learning how vital women are to farming and more research is being done on their contributions. Most studies look at women's work in farming, but there isn't a lot of in-depth study on how women's shifting roles, notably in decision-making, technology adoption, sustainable practices, and agribusiness, affect overall agricultural productivity and rural development.

A lot of the studies out there also doesn't have data that is relevant to a single area or situation. This means that it doesn't take into consideration the diverse experiences of women from different cultures, farming systems, and socioeconomic backgrounds. We also need more real-world studies that look at how policy reforms aimed to give women more authority in farming affect them over time.

There isn't enough study on the challenges that women experience at the junction of age, education, ethnicity, and access to resources, either. This makes it challenging to figure out how these things affect how well women can lead and participate in the sector.

It is crucial to fill in these research gaps so that we can fully take advantage of women's evolving roles in farming and promote sustainable rural development.

Objectives:

One of the goals of this study is to see how women who work in farming feel about research. People work hard to obtain information and put together a certain study during the study. The main goal right now is to put together a well-organised study that uses both primary and secondary data.

- To identify the key socio-economic factors that affect women's participation in agricultural activities.
- To provide recommendations for enhancing women's participation in agriculture by addressing socio-economic barriers

How to Pick a Research Sample:

There are two approaches to learn about the research topic "Socio-economic Factors Influencing Women's Participation in Agriculture" primary and secondary. Raitha Nagar Camp, Thimmareddy Camp, Konganatti, and Tayamma Camp are four rural areas in Sindhanur Taluk that have been picked for now. There are 50 homes in this study that reside in rural areas and have women who work in farming. We obtained material for this study from both primary and secondary sources. We generally used the experimental approach to get primary data and the procedures below to compose the thesis.

1. Main Method:

Questionnaire Method: For this study, a long questionnaire was prepared and used in the field work. We acquired our information from sources we could trust. We got information from fifty women who live in villages where a lot of women work in farming. For scientific investigation, audio, video, and

photos have been taken. As part of a systematic study, the information that was collected has been looked at in chapters.

We used the interview method to pick four rural areas in Sindhanur taluk: Raitha Nagar Camp, Thimmareddy Camp, Konganatti, and Tayamma Camp. We learnt things by chatting honestly with the educated women who live and work in agriculture here and with those who know the community.

Group Discussion: The elders and teens of this village gathered together to talk about it since many were scared of and unsure about women in agriculture. This study looked at all the information that women who work in farming gave.

How we did the analysis: We utilised math and statistics to look at the data we collected. The investigation was done in a scientific fashion by using percentages, tables, and tools. This thesis has both statistics and fieldwork in it. The similar issue with this study is that it is based on more than one thing.

The observation approach: This strategy entails getting information by carefully viewing something and then talking about it in front of the individuals who gave it to you. The thesis focuses at the information that was collected using this method.

2. Other Ways:

The essay was based on looking at and comparing other essays, magazines, published books, government reports, censuses, and other sources of material that are related to the topic of “Impact of the Women Work Evolution on Agriculture” with published secondary literature from all around the world.

Data analysis for field research on how women's changing roles in agriculture affect the industry:

The study of women in agriculture has become more important since it closely looks at agricultural interests and the roles women play in key positions. These studies look at the roles women play in agriculture in terms of work, service, and making money. When developing agriculture, it's important to know about the traits, problems, and efforts that women face. This will let them use the latest technologies and farming methods without worrying about threats, pressure, or cultural differences. This area of study focuses on giving women more control over their Economy and improving their social standing. Women in agriculture might find new ways to empower themselves via their own stories and clever strategies. Looking at women in agriculture is important for creating equality in society and thinking about women's income and empowerment.

Annul Income:

SI No	Annul Income	Frequency	present
01	150000-20000	12	24
02	20000-25000	15	30
03	25000-30000	09	18
04	30000 Above	14	28
Total		50	100

(Field :2025).

The annual salary of female farm laborer's is shown in the table above. Of the women who participated, 24 % reported an annual income of 10,000 to 15,000 rupees. A third of those who took the survey reported an annual income of between Rs 15,000 and Rs 20,000. 18% of those who took the survey reported an annual income of 25,000 to 30,000 rupees. A quarter of those who took the survey reported

an annual income of 20,000 to 25,000 rupees or higher. It would appear that agricultural women do not earn very much.

Annul Family Expenditure:

SI No	Annul Family Expenditure	Frequency	present
01	8500-9000	15	30
02	9000-12000	18	36
03	12000-25000	08	16
04	25000 Above	09	18
Total		50	100

(Field :2025).

The table above shows how much women who work in agriculture spend. Out of the 50 ladies, 30% said they spent between Rs 8500 and Rs 9000. 36% of the people who answered said they spent between Rs 9,000 and Rs 12,000. 16% of the people who answered spent between Rs 12,000 and Rs 25,000. 18% of the people who answered spent Rs 25,000 or more. It looks like women who work in agriculture don't make much money.

Annul family saving:

SI No	Annul family Saving	Frequency	Present
01	10000-15000	25	50
02	15000-20000	15	30
03	20000-25000	06	12
04	25000 Above	04	08
Total		50	100

(Field :2025).

The table above illustrates how much money women who worked on farms were able to save. The spies saved 50 presentations from the 50 women, which were valued between 10,000 and 15,000. 30 informants saved between 15,000 and 20,000. Twelve of the current informants were saving between 20,000 and 25,000. 8% of the people who told us about it rescued more than 25,000. It doesn't look like women who work on farms save a lot of money.

House status:

SI No	Details House	Frequency	Present
01	Concrete house	30	60
02	House for gathering	05	10
03	Rent house	15	30
Total		50	100

(Field: 2025).

The table above shows where women who work in agriculture live. There were 50 women in total, and 60 of them lived in huts. Ten of the people who gave information lived in rental homes. They were saving. The 30% who were there lived in dwellings made of concrete. Most women who work in farming live in the country.

Health status:

SI No	Health status	Frequency	Present
01	Fever	08	16
02	TV Disease	02	04
03	Sugar and BP	08	16
04	Malnutrition	32	64
Total		50	100

(Field :2025).

The table above shows how healthy female farm labourers are. 16 of the 50 women said they had problems with fever. Four of the people who gave information said they had problems with TV illness. They were saving. 16% said they had problems with sugar and blood pressure. 64% have said they have concerns with malnutrition. Malnutrition is a significant problem for women who work in agriculture.

Educational Status:

SL.No	Educational Status	Frequency	Present
01	Illiteracy	04	08
02	Primary Education	08	16
03	Secondary Education	20	40
04	Higher Education	15	30
05	Pre-Degree	02	04
06	Degree	01	02
07	Above Degree	00	00
Total		50	100

(Field :2025).

The level of education of women employed in agriculture is displayed in the above table. Out of the 50 women who responded to the survey, 8% lack literacy. Just 16% of those who provided information had completed merely primary school. 40% have finished high school. 30% hold college or university degrees. 4% currently hold post-graduate degrees. There is still a lack of education among agricultural women.

Results:

- Women often have restricted access to land, credit, modern technology, and agricultural inputs compared to men. This disadvantage limits their productivity and ability to expand their agricultural activities.
- Lower levels of education among women in rural areas can constrain their agricultural knowledge, limit awareness of innovative practices, and reduce their opportunities for leadership and decision-making roles.
- Traditional beliefs and gender norms frequently assign women to unpaid or less valued agricultural tasks, further marginalizing their contributions and limiting their participation in higher-value segments of the agricultural sector.

- Women's heavy domestic and caregiving responsibilities often reduce the time and energy they can devote to agricultural work, affecting their overall participation and productivity.
- Women are less likely to receive agricultural extension services or participate in training programs, inhibiting their ability to adopt modern farming techniques and improve yields.
- Legal and customary barriers often prevent women from owning or inheriting land, which is a critical asset for accessing credit, government support, and making long-term investments in agriculture.
- Where supportive policies, cooperatives, or women's groups exist, women's participation in agriculture tends to increase, leading to better socio-economic outcomes.
- Targeted policies and programs that address gender disparities such as improving access to financial services, legal reforms, and capacity-building initiatives have shown positive impacts on women's agricultural participation.

Ideas:

Find out what the government wants to do for women who work in farming. - Support equitable compensation for women who work in agriculture.

- Make sure your safety at all times when farming and arrange regular medical checkups to stay healthy. When using petroleum products or industrial chemicals, always sure to stay safe.
- Get in touch with women's agricultural groups or farmers' groups in your area. You can obtain help with exchanging information and both old and new problems.
- Schooling and training. Keep learning about new ways to farm, new technologies, and new ways to market your products. Take part in lectures and training sessions.
- Make a budget and learn about the financial options for running a farm, such as agricultural loans and capital.
- Learning and training. Find out about new ways and technology that are being used in farming. It can assist to take part in training programs given by the local farm department.
- Safety and health. When you work in agriculture, be sure to follow safety rules. Get enough insurance and medical help to protect yourself.
- Use short marketing campaigns to get things on the market right away. Use social media and local markets to get the word out about your items.
- Get in touch with farmers and groups for women farmers. Joining groups for help and support might open up new doors and give you new ideas.
- Use your skills and talents to look into other job paths outside farming. These tips might help you do well in many areas of farming.

Reference:

1. www.pennmedicine.org
2. www.agrifrontier.com
3. www.collaborising.org
4. www.ifpri.org
5. www.entrepreneur.com
6. www.aeaweb.org