



# Socio-Economic Status of Agricultural Women Workers: A Case Study in Visakhapatnam District of Andhra Pradesh

**Dr. D. Pulla Rao**

*<sup>1</sup>Senior Professor, Dept. of Economics Andhra University Visakhapatnam-530 003 Andhra Pradesh India  
pullaraod\_2003@yahoo.co.in*

## ABSTRACT

**Key Words: Agricultural Women Workers**

In the lower socio-economic level of the society, women do more hazardous manual labour than men. Women do more than half of the agricultural works in India. Still, men are considered to be the breadwinners. This sense of women being inferior is passed on from one generation through psychological conditioning. The most widespread and dehumanizing discriminations and assaults against women are on the psychological level. The female psyche is being crushed at the very childhood. The female psyche is brutalized long before bodily violence is inflicted on her. They are conditioned to accept inferior positions in society. Women from childhood undergo a slow unconscious process of destruction or denial of their self-worth. The community creates in girls at home and school-specific thinking patterns through conditioning, ascribed to the female sex an inferior status.

## 1. Introduction

In the lower socio-economic level of the society, women do more hazardous manual labour than men. Women do more than half of the agricultural works in India. Still, men are considered to be the breadwinners. This sense of women being inferior is passed on from one generation through psychological conditioning. The most widespread and dehumanizing discriminations and assaults against women are on the psychological level. The female psyche is being crushed at the very childhood. The female psyche is brutalized long before bodily violence is inflicted on her. They are conditioned to accept inferior positions in society. Women from childhood undergo a slow unconscious process of destruction or denial of their self-worth. The community creates in girls at home and school-specific thinking patterns through conditioning, ascribed to the female sex an inferior status.

Besides, society gradually trains them to make this value system their own. Usually, baby girls are given bangles, anklets, etc., thus communicating a sense of fragility. Another result of the social conditioning is

that man, either as a father, brother or husband considers women as a socio-economic gift of his household. A woman's value is judged, not so much in terms of her worth as a person with rights and dignity regarding her utility to man. Expression of this mentality is found in different languages and societies. For example, in the national language Hindi, the girl is called 'paraya dhan' and the boy 'apana dhan.' Any assessment of the status of women has to start from the social framework, social structures, cultural norms, and value systems that influence social expectations regarding both men's and women's behavior determine women's roles and their position in society.

The condition of women is more miserable in rural India concerning various socio-economic aspects.

Rural poverty is one of India's essential characteristics, and nearly 45 percent of rural people are below the poverty line. Most of them are just surviving with day-to-day earnings. If we take the International poverty line (1994) into consideration in India, 47 percent of the population is below \$ 1 a

day category, and 87.5 percent below \$ 2 at a day category. Under such circumstances, the worst sufferers are women and girls within the family. For this category of women, neither credit nor skill training is accessible. Better health care and higher educational opportunities are far-reaching dreams for their children, and there is no need to say about girls' status in such families. She (girl child) is treated as a "silent lamb" born to suffer all evils in the male-dominated society. So far, much has not been done for this vulnerable sub-culture of society.

Indian society has been bound by culture and tradition since ancient times. The patriarchal system and the gender stereotypes in the family and community have always shown a male child's preference. Sons were regarded as a means of social security, and women remained under male domination. Due to her subordinated position, she has suffered years of discrimination, exploitation, and subjugation. She became the victim of several evils like child marriage, sati, polygamy, the Purdah system, female infanticide, forced pregnancy, rape, etc. Surprisingly, in such incidents/recorded cases, the mother-in-law is also taking an active part (forgetting that they are also women and some time back they also played daughter-in-law role).

The population for 2011 census information shows that Visakhapatnam District had a population of 42.8 lakhs. The sex ratio (Females for 1000 males) was 1003 in 2011 against 990 in 1981 and 1010 in 1971. The population density is very high in Visakhapatnam district is 384 and Andhra Pradesh whereas it is low compared to 1971, 1981, 1991, and 2001 census respectively. The literacy rate in Visakhapatnam district has increased from 18.58 percent in 1971 to 60.0 percent in 1991. In the state, literacy had risen from 24.57 percent in 1971 to 60.47 percent in 2011. The decennial growth rate of population during 1991 – 01 in Visakhapatnam district is 15.36 percent against 27.50 percent during 1981-91 and 11.89 percent during 2001-11. As a whole, Andhra Pradesh, the decennial growth rate

is 11.10 percent during 1991 – 01.

The literacy levels in the selected Visakhapatnam district is very nearer to the state average. This is due to the number of different educational institutions that are more available in the Visakhapatnam district. Even the indicators explaining the extent of health facilities are known more in the Visakhapatnam district.

The main focus of the study is laid on analyzing the different issues relating to the socio-economic status of the agriculture women workers and to examine the inter-area variations in the selected agriculture women worker households in the relatively advanced Pendurthi Mandal and somewhat interior Devarapalli Mandal's in the Visakhapatnam district in Andhra Pradesh.

The Visakhapatnam district is selected for the study because it has a higher proportion of the rural population. The relatively advanced Pendurthi Mandal and somewhat interior Devarapalli Mandal's are chosen from the Visakhapatnam district purposively to examine the inter manual variations. These two mandals are also selected for the study because they are the rural mandals with a high proportion of the rural population.

Four villages are randomly selected from each selected mandal depending upon the higher concentration of rural population, and a total of eight villages are selected for the study. From the relatively interior Devarapalli mandal, the villages Raiwada, Nagayyapeta, Thenugupudi, and Kasipuram are chosen from the internal parts of the mandal. Similarly, from the Pendurthi mandal, another four villages Rampuram, Pinagadi, Pedagadi, and Saripalli, are selected from the semi-urban areas of the mandal. From each village, several 50 agricultural women households are chosen on a random basis. From each mandal, 200 households and from the selected eight villages from the two chosen mandals as a whole, several 400 sample agriculture women workers are selected for

in-depth study. The total of 400 selected agriculture women worker households from the eight selected mandals is equally proportioned in the selected mandals. To examine the inter-area variations in women's socio-economic conditions, households are selected from the villages based on the random sampling procedure.

Data collection and techniques used in the analysis are concerned. Information relating to the selected agricultural women households' socio-economic status is collected while canvassing a pre-designed and structured household schedule in the selected villages from December 2016 to October 2017 in other visits. The secondary data has been obtained from the district authorities' Annual Reports, District handbook of statistics of different years published by the Chief Planning Officer, Visakhapatnam, Thasfromnd M.P.D.O offices Pendurthi and

Devarapalli Mandals. Census data are used to collect population data. Various statistical techniques are used at appropriate places in analyzing the data apart from tabular analysis with averages and percentages. Tabular analysis with averages and percentages are used to explain the general profile and their different economic patterns.

## 2. Social Indicators relating to the Selected Sample:

One important characteristic that binds people together is age. Women's generation is expected to have a bearing on understanding social issues like the size of the family, disability and health-related problems, and economic poverty-related issues. Hence, the analysis of the age-wise distribution of agriculture women workers are presented in Table - 1.

**Table -1**

**Distribution of Selected Agriculture Women Workers by Age Composition**

Sl. No.	Mandal	Age Composition					Total
		Below 25	25-35	35-45	45-55	Above 55	
1	Pendurthi	13 (6.50)	74 (37.00)	81 (40.50)	28 (14.00)	4 (2.00)	200 (100)
2	Devarapalli	18 (9.00)	79 (39.50)	76 (38.00)	25 (12.50)	2 (1.00)	200 (100)
	Total	31 (7.75)	153 (38.25)	157 (39.25)	53 (13.25)	6 (1.50)	400 (100)

Source: Field Survey

Figures in brackets are percentages of the total.

The above table-1 presents the distribution of agriculture women workers basing on age in both mandals. On the whole, women in the 25 to 45 years age group are in the majority in both the mandals. The distribution pattern is revealed in all villages belonging to both the selected mandals in the Visakhapatnam district. In fact, in the age group of 25 to 45 years, the individual capabilities are in full vigor, and their performance is efficient. Agriculture women workers households in the age group of 35 to

45 are also in large numbers. The percentage of the agriculture women worker households above 55 years of age is minimal, while those below 25 years of age are negligible. The large concentration of agriculture women workers in the age group of 25 to 45 years helps them to have a clear understanding of different social, economic, family welfare issues concerning all the agriculture women workers. The details about the selected agriculture women workers' households' family members are presented

in the following Table -2.

**Table-2**

**Distribution of the Total Family members of the agriculture women worker households by Age Composition**

Mandal	Age composition						Total	Family Size
	0-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	Above 55		
Pendurthi	258 (27.81)	129 (13.95)	145 (15.64)	233 (25.16)	115 (12.37)	46 (5.07)	926 (100)	4.63
Devarapalli	306 (29.21)	142 (13.56)	174 (16.63)	241 (22.98)	138 (13.16)	47 (4.45)	1048 (100)	5.24
Total	564 (28.53)	271 (13.75)	319 (16.16)	474 (24.03)	253 (12.78)	93 (4.75)	1974 (100)	4.93

Source: Field Survey

Figures in brackets are percentages to the total

The above Table indicates that 58.44 percent of the agriculture women workers' family members are below the age group of 35 years. The classification also shows that more family members in the age group of 35-45 years. On the total, we can say that 52.97 percent of heads of the agriculture women workers are in the practical age- group 25-55. The average household family size is highly recorded in the selected agriculture women workers from the Devarapalli mandal (5.24). The family size of the agriculture women workers chosen from the Pendurthi mandal is 4.63. The average family size of

all agriculture women workers is 4.93. In the case of agriculture, women workers of Pendurthi, around 40 percent of the households' family members are in the practical workforce. Totally among the family members, children and dependents are 38.67 percent, workers in the age of 15 to 55 constitute 61.33 percent. In this context, the information relating to the sex-wise distribution of family members of the households is relevant. The sex-wise distribution of family members of the households among the sample agriculture women workers is presented in Table -3.

**Table-3**

**Sex-wise distribution of Family members of the selected agriculture women workers**

Mandals	Male			Female			Grand Total
	Adult	Children	Total	Adult	Children	Total	
Pendurthi	263 (34.67)	122 (17.12)	51.80	240 (31.50)	85 (16.70)	456 (48.20)	926 (100)
Devarapalli	309 (34.55)	153 (19.11)	53.66	267 (31.98)	72 (14.36)	468 (46.34)	1048 (100)
Total	677 (34.61)	355 (18.15)	52.76	621 (31.75)	303 (15.49)	924 (47.24)	1974 (100)

Source: Field Survey

Figures in brackets are percentages to the total

The above Table shows that family members above the age group of 15 years are classified as adults. The women between the age group of 25 to 45 are treated as a sufficient workforce. It can be observed from the above Table that in all the selected family members of the households, the proportion of male adults are higher than when compared to female

adults. Out of the total family members, children constitute around 33.64 percent. Along with the sex ratio, the family's size will also influence the productivity of the family.

The following table-4 presents the mandal wise distribution of the agriculture women workers by family size.

**Table -4**

**Distribution of the agriculture women workers by Family Size**

Sl. No.	Mandals	Family size				
		Less than 5	5-7	7&above	Total	FS
1	Pendurthi	69 (46.00)	64 (42.50)	17 (11.50)	200 (100)	4.63
2	Devarapalli	52 (35.00)	69 (46.00)	29 (19.00)	200 (100)	5.24
	Total	121 (40.50)	133 (44.25)	46 (15.25)	400 (100)	4.93

Source: Field Survey

Figures in brackets are percentages to the total

It can be noticed from the above table-4 that nearly 59.50 percent of the families have more than five members. The size of the family is relatively smaller in the case of selected households of Pendurthi mandal. The families with seven persons and more are recorded in cases of women chosen of Devarapalli.

The field data pertaining to the pattern of consumption expenditure of selected agriculture women workers revealed that they spend a higher proportion of their incomes on food items than nonfood items. It is observed that the agriculture women workers of Pendurthi mandal spend a proportionately less amount of money on food items. In contrast, the agriculture women workers of Devarapalli mandals spend relatively more income on food items. Further, more than half of the lower-sized agriculture women workers' food expenditure is on the consumption of cereals while it is on non-cereals items in the case of a higher-sized group of

agriculture women workers. Among the food items, the expenditure on cereals decreases while the spending on other food items like edible oils, vegetables, etc., is increasing with an increase in income.

The following table-5 presents the Per capita Calorie Intake of food of selected agriculture women workers.

The below table-5 shows that the calorie intake of food is recorded as very high among the selected women of Pendurthi mandal. On the other hand, the calorie intake of selected women of Devarapalli mandal recorded a relatively lower calorie intake. The information relating to the per capita calorie intake of different food items consumed by foreign agriculture women workers households reveals that the agriculture women workers of Pendurthi receiving higher calories from the consumption of sufficient extent of edible oil, vegetables, ragi, and other food grains, thereby generating more calories.



The Table also reveals that the agriculture women workers from Devarapalli mandal receive more calories only through rice, ragi, and meat. They cannot acquire high calories from the consumption of pulses, vegetables, and edible oils. An attempt is made to examine the extent of deficiency in the diet or malnutrition in the food. Certain food items like cereals, pulses, fats, sugar and Jaggery, mutton, and chicken are chosen to compare these items' actual intake with that of the approved normal adult male,

balanced diet per day.

### 3. Indicators relating to Economic Status of the selected Agriculture women workers:

#### A. Land Particulars of the Sample Agriculture women workers:

The land particulars of the selected sample agriculture women workers are presented in the following Table-6.

**Table-6**

#### Land Particulars of the Selected Sample

Sl. No.	Acres	No. of the Respondents		Grand Total
		Pendurthi	Devarapalli	
1	<1	13 (8.67)	26 (17.33)	39 (13.00)
2	1-3	44 (29.33)	52 (34.67)	96 (32.00)
3	3-5	61 (40.67)	44 (29.33)	105 (35.00)
4	5-8	21 (14.00)	19 (12.67)	40 (13.33)
5	8 above	11 (7.33)	09 (6.00)	20 (6.67)
	Total	200 (100.00)	200 (100.00)	400 (100.00)

Source: Filed survey

The above table-6 shows that the particulars of land owned by different categories of selected agriculture women workers. The data given in Table reveals that in the case of agriculture women workers assigned from Pendurthi mandal show that, 8.67 percent of respondents have less than 1 acre.

29.33 percent have 1 to 3 acres of land. Similarly, 40.67 percent have 3 to The above table-6 shows that the particulars of land owned by different categories of selected agriculture women workers. The data given in Table reveals that in the case of agriculture women workers assigned from Pendurthi mandal show that, 8.67 percent of respondents have less than 1 acre.

29.33 percent have 1 to 3 acres of land. Similarly,

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29.33 percent of them have 3 to 5 acres of land. Similarly, 12.67 percent of them have 5 to 8 acres of land, and 6.00 percent have above 8 acres of land. In the present study, most of the respondents are small and marginal farmers. 13 percent have less than one acre of land.

32.00 percent of them have 1 to 3 acres of land. 35.00 percent of them have 3 to 5 acres of land. Similarly, 13.33 percent of them have 5 to 8 acres of land, and 6.67 percent have above 8 acres of land.

Irrigation plays a vital role in agriculture. Irrigation is said to be the oldest applied science in the world. In the ordinary sense, irrigation means the artificial

application of water to soil to assist in plants' growth. Thus it means making up deficiencies in the moisture content of the earth. If there is no definite and permanent irrigation source, the farmers face many problems and more loss. The farmers should have a proper and suitable plan for their crops. Because certain crops like paddy and cotton require more water and some crops like maize, groundnut requires less water, so the farmers have to select their crops

based on soil and irrigation facilities. A farmer can not depend on rainwater. Generally, the permanent sources of irrigation are canals, tanks, wells, etc.

### B. Occupational Patterns:

The information relating to the selected sample agriculture women workers' occupational patterns is presented in Table-7.

**Table-7**

#### Occupation Pattern of the Sample Households

Sl. No	Occupation	No. of Respondents		Grand Total
		Pendurthi	Devarapalli	
1	Agriculture labour	127 (84.67)	119 (79.33)	246 (82.00)
2	Allied Activities	23 (15.33)	32 (21.33)	55 (18.00)
	Total	200 (100.00)	200 (100.00)	400 (100.00)

Source: Field Study

The above table-7 reveals the occupational particulars of respondents. In the case of Pendurthi mandal women, the majority of respondent's main occupation is agriculture works. 84.67 percent stated that their main domain is agriculture works, and only 15.33 percent are allied activities. In the same manner, in the case of Devarapalli mandal women

workers, 79.33 percent of the main occupation is agriculture works, and 21.33 percent are in allied activities. We can say that 82.00 percent of the respondent's primary employment is agriculture works, and other respondents, 18.00 percent belong to allied activities.

**Table-8**

#### Subsidiary Occupations of the Sample Households

Sl. No	Occupation	No. of Respondents		Grand Total
		Pendurthi	Devarapalli	
1	Non- Agricultural Labourers	21 (30.43)	23 (40.35)	44 (34.92)
2	Traders	13 (18.84)	09 (15.79)	22 (17.46)
3	Artisans	15 (21.74)	11 (19.30)	26 (20.63)
4	Services	13 (18.84)	11 (19.30)	24 (19.05)
5	Other	07 (10.14)	03 (5.26)	10 (7.94)
	Total	69 (100.00)	57 (100.00)	126 (100.00)

Source: Field Study

The employment in agriculture is mainly seasonal. Therefore, the majority of the households stated that they also depend on subsidiary occupations. As per the above Table-8, in Pendurthi mandal women, 69 members work as non-agricultural laborers, shop owners, artisans, and other services. In Devarapalli mandal women, 57 members respondents having subsidiary occupations like artisans, shop owner,

non-agricultural laborers, and other services. It is clear from the data that compared to Pendurthi mandal women workers, most households depend on subsidiary occupations in the case of the Devarapalli mandal women workers.

The statistical information relating to the working days of the sample agriculture women workers is presented in Table-9.

**Table-9****Working Days Particulars of the Sample agriculture women workers**

Selected mandals	Weekly in days			Monthly in days			Yearly in days		
	1-3	4-7	Total	1-15	16-30	Total	1-100	100-200	Total
Pendurthi	55 (36.67)	95 (63.33)	150 (100)	55 (36.67)	95 (63.33)	150 (100)	115 (76.67)	35 (23.33)	200 (100)
Devarapalli	101 (67.33)	49 (32.67)	150 (100)	115 (76.67)	35 (23.33)	150 (100)	142 (94.67)	08 (5.33)	200 (100)
Total	156 (52.00)	144 (48.00)	300 (100)	170 (56.67)	130 (43.33)	300 (100)	257 (85.67)	43 (14.33)	400 (100)

Source: Field Survey

Figures in brackets are percentages to the total

From the above table-9, it can be noticed that out of 400 sample agriculture women workers, 85.67 percent can get the work about 100 man days in a year and 14.33 percent from 100-200 man days. Let's look into the monthly availability of working days. The selected agriculture women workers from Pendurthi mandal women are still at the forefront in getting more working days in a month. 43.33 percent of them can get 16-30 days working day, and 56.67 percent of their income is confined with working days of 15 days only. Further, it is classified that the working days are every week. 48.00 percent of selected agriculture women workers are getting work assignments between 4-7 man days, and 52.00 percent are in the range of 1-3 working days. The working days which are available on a weekly, month and annual basis are not sufficient. The majority of the agricultural women workers from the Devarapalli mandal women cannot get a maximum number of working days. Still, poverty exists in the interior hill tract villages despite implementing

several welfares and developmental programs by state and central Governments.

**C. Income Levels of the Selected Households:**

The income particulars earned by the selected sample from different sources are presented in the following Table-10.

The below table-10 explains the particulars of the respondents' income. In Pendurthi mandal women, out of 150 respondents, most of the respondents, i.e. (29.33 percent), are earning Rs 5,000 to 10,000 from agriculture. Only 3.33 percent are earning less than Rs 5000 from agriculture. 11.33 percent are earning above Rs 40,000 from agriculture. In Pendurthi mandal, out of 150 respondents, only 69 respondents are earning non-agriculture income also. In this mandal majority of the respondents, i.e., 30.43 percent are earning below Rs 5000. Significantly less percentage of respondents only 8.70 percent are earning Rs 20,000 to 30,000. In



**Table -10****Income Particulars of the agriculture women workers Households**

Income Level	No. of Respondents				Grand Total	
	Pendurthi mandal		Devarapalli mandal		Agri. Income	Non-Agri Income
	Agri. Income	Non-Agri Income	Agri. Income	Non-Agri Income		
5000	05 (3.33)	21 (30.43)	08 (5.33)	23 (40.35)	13 (4.33)	44 (34.92)
5000-10000	44 (29.33)	31 (44.93)	42 (28.00)	24 (42.11)	86 (28.67)	55 (43.65)
10000-20000	43 (28.67)	11 (15.94)	59 (39.33)	07 (12.28)	102 (34.00)	18 (14.29)
20000-30000	25 (16.67)	06 (8.70)	21 (14.00)	03 (5.26)	46 (15.33)	09 (7.14)
30000-40000	16 (10.67)	--	11 (7.33)	--	27 (9.00)	--
40000 above	17 (11.33)	--	09 (6.00)	--	26 (8.67)	--
Total	150 (100.00)	69 (100.00)	150 (100.00)	57 (100.00)	300 (100.00)	126 (100.00)

Source: Field Survey.

Devarapalli mandal women, most of the respondents, 39.33 percent, earn between Rs 10,000 and 20,000. A significantly fewer number of respondents (only 5.33 percent) are earning below Rs 5,000. 6.00 percent are earning Rs 40,000 from agriculture. In this mandal, out of 150 respondents, nearly 57 respondents are earning non-agriculture income also. The majority of the respondents, 42.11 percent, are earning between Rs 5,000 to 10,000. Very few respondents, 5.26 percent, are getting Rs 20,000 to 30,000 from non-agriculture income. Of

the total respondents, most of the respondents, 34.00 percent earn between Rs 10,000 to 20,000. Significantly fewer respondents, only 4.33 percent, are making below Rs 5,000 from agriculture. The majority of the respondents, 43.65 percent, are getting below Rs 5,000 – 10,000 from non-agriculture. Very few respondents, 7.14 percent, are earning above Rs 20,000-30,000.

The particulars relating to the improvements in the sample agriculture women workers' saving levels are presented in the following Table-11.

**Table-11****Particulars of Savings of the Sample Agriculture women workers**

Sl. No.	Selected Mandals	Yes	No	Total
1	Pendurthi	70 (46.67)	80 (53.33)	200 (100)
2	Devarapalli	43 (28.67)	107 (71.33)	200 (100)
	Total	113 (37.67)	187 (62.33)	400 (100)

Source: Field Survey.

Figures in brackets are percentages of the total.

The above table-11 depicts the particulars of improvement in savings levels of the sample agriculture women workers. Whatever the additional income that is gained may be spent on consumption and the remaining amount will be saved for the family members' further needs. Out of 400 sample agriculture women workers, 37.67 percent opined that there is an improvement in protection level due to the government programs, 62.33 percent of the sample agriculture women workers opined that there is no improvement in their saving despite gaining additional employment

through government programs in recent times.

#### D. Assets structure of the Agriculture women workers:

The details about profits, buying assets, and durable goods by the selected agriculture women workers from the two chosen mandals are presented in the following Table-12. Out of the total sample of agriculture women workers, the proportion of women selected from Pendurthi mandal who bought assets and durable goods is much higher than the women selected from the Devarapalli mandal.

**Table-12**  
Distribution of sample Agriculture women workers who owned assets

Sl. No.	Items	Pendurthi			Devarapalli			Total		
		Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total
1	Bought assets	64 (42.67)	86 (57.33)	150 (100)	51 (34.00)	99 (66.00)	150 (100)	115 (38.33)	185 (61.67)	440 (100)
2	Durable goods	96 (64.00)	54 (36.00)	150 (100)	85 (56.67)	65 (43.33)	150 (100)	181 (60.33)	119 (39.67)	440 (100)
3	Not Applicable	-	-	200 (100)	-	-	200 (100)	-	-	400 (100)

Source: Field Survey.

Figures in brackets are percentages of the total

From the above Table-12, it can be noticed that among women selected from Pendurthi mandal, 42.67 percent of sample agriculture women workers are reported that they have assets. In the case of Devarapalli mandal, 34.00 percent of sample agriculture women workers bought small asset like field or ground for various purposes, and 64.00

percent bought durable goods; it is essential to note that during the same period, the women selected from the Devarapalli mandal also have purchased the small asset and durable goods. The particulars relating to the distribution of agriculture chosen women workers in terms of the value of assets possessed is given in table-13.

**Table-13**  
Distribution of agriculture women workers in terms of the value of assets possessed

Sl. No.	Economic activity	Sample	Average value
1	Land	014	30,000
2	Live stock	134	5,000
3	Home	012	25,000
4	Other assets	140	8,329
	Total	300	38,359.00

Source: Field Survey (analysis and Table is not matching)

From the above table-13, it can be observed that as high as 93.33 percent of women selected from Pendurthi mandal are reported to own assets such as furniture, TV, fan, etc. Around 89 percent of women selected from Devarapalli mandal said to own livestock. The asset in the form of land is possessed by just 2 percent, and houses are maintained by 7.33 percent. In terms of the value of investments, land topped the Rs. 30,000, followed by houses Rs. 25,000, in the distribution of agriculture women workers in terms of valuable assets, possessed.

#### 4. Summary of the Analysis:

The prevailing conditions relating to the selected agriculture women worker households' socio-economic status and their family members are deplorable. The following are some of the significant conclusions relating to the prevailing socio-economic indicators of the selected agriculture women worker households. On the front of a demographic analysis of selected agriculture women worker households, the findings of the composition of the chosen agriculture women worker households shows that nearly 90 percent of the households are in the age groups of 15 to 55. The analysis about the age composition of the selected agriculture women worker households' family members indicates that 60 percent of the family members are within the operating range of 15 to 55. Children are at the extent of 35 percent, and old agers constitute only 5 percent of the total family members.

The sex-wise distribution of total family members of the selected agriculture women worker households reveals that female members are relatively lower than male members. The household average family size is 4.93, and the family size is somewhat larger among the households selected from the Devarapalli mandal than the sample households selected from the Pendurthi mandal. The homes with more than seven agriculture women workers households are around 20 percent in total households, and they are more among the selected agriculture women worker households of Devarapalli mandal. The analysis

relating to the family size also shows that nearly 60 percent of the families have more than five members. The families with seven persons and more are recorded in selected agriculture women worker households from the Devarapalli mandal.

The analysis relating to the economic status and living standards of the selected agriculture women workers from the study area reveals that spouses of respective agriculture women workers' occupation status is ascertained and analyzed. The pattern of distribution, by and large, resembles the general practice is noticed in rural India. Agriculture and allied activities (animal rearing) are providing livelihood to women workers' spouses. In the case of both the selected mandals majority of respondent's main occupation is agriculture works. The employment in agriculture is mainly seasonal. Therefore, most of the agriculture women worker households stated that they are also dependent on subsidiary occupations like artisans, shop owners, non-agricultural laborers, and other services. It is clear from the data that compared to Pendurthi mandal women, the Devarapalli mandal majority of the households depend on subsidiary occupations.

The analysis relating to working days shows that out of 400 sample women, 85.67 percent can work about 100 man-days in a year and 14.33 percent from 100-200 man days. If we look into the monthly availability of working days, the selected agriculture women worker from Pendurthi mandal still at the forefront of getting more working days in a month. 43.33 percent of them can get 16-30 days working day, and 56.67 percent of their income is confined with working days of 15 days only. The working days which are available on a weekly, month and annual basis are not sufficient. The majority of the sample from the Devarapalli mandal cannot get the maximum number of working days. Still, poverty exists in the interior villages selected from Devarapalli mandal despite implementing several welfares and developmental programs by state and central Governments.

The selected agriculture women worker households' income patterns reveal that in Pendurthi mandal agriculture women workers out of 200 respondents, majority of the respondents, nearly 30 percent earning Rs 5,000 to 10,000 from agriculture. 3.33 percent are earning less than Rs 5000 from agriculture. 11.33 percent are earning above Rs 40,000 from agriculture. In Pendurthi mandal, out of 200 respondents, only 69 respondents are earning non-agriculture income also. In this mandal majority of the respondents, percent are earning below Rs 5000. A significantly less percentage of respondents are earning Rs 20,000 to 30,000. In Devarapalli mandal women, most of the respondents are earning between Rs 10,000 to 20,000. Substantially less number of respondents are earning below Rs 5,000. 6.00 percent are earning Rs 40,000 from agriculture.

The information relating to details about buying assets and durable goods by the selected agriculture women workers from the two chosen mandals reveals that out of the total sample of agriculture women workers, the proportion of women selected from Pendurthi mandal who bought assets and durable goods is much higher than the women selected from the Devarapalli mandal. 42.67 percent of sample agriculture women worker bought small asset like field or ground for various purposes. Nearly 64.00 percent bought durable goods; it is essential to note that the agriculture women workers selected from the Devarapalli mandal also purchased small assets and durable goods during the same period.

The particulars of the sample agriculture women worker's savings levels reveal that whatever the income which is gained may be spent on consumption and the remaining amount will be saved for further needs of the family members. Out of 400 sample agriculture women workers, nearly 30 percent opined an improvement in keeping level due to the government programs. Almost 60 percent of the sample agriculture women worker opined that

there is no improvement in their savings despite gaining additional employment through government programs in recent times.

The households' asset pattern reveals that as high as 90 percent of agriculture women workers selected from Pendurthi mandal are reported to own furniture, TV, fan, etc. Around 80 percent of agriculture women workers assigned from Devarapalli mandal said holding live- stoke. Investment in the form of land are possessed by just 2 percent and houses maintained by 7 percent. In terms of the value of investments, land topped the Rs. 30,000, followed by houses Rs. 25,000, in the distribution of agriculture women worker in terms of valuable assets, possessed.

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