

Problems faced by cultivating and landless labourers in agra district

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Abstract

The present study was conducted in Two Blocks of Agra District. It covered 20 villages (Ten villages in each block). 150 cases were studied (75 cases in each block). The major problems reported by the cases were Lower Income, Lack of Subsidiary Occupation, Seasonal Employment Opportunity, Low Wages and More Hours of Work.

Key words: Blocks, Income, Occupation, Wages

Introduction

The class of agricultural labourers is the most exploited and oppressed class in rural hierarchy. Before independence, their position was nothing better than that of serfs. They were required to perform all sort of beggar on the master's land and house works. as domestic servants from dawn to dusk and do anything and everything that the Zamindars demanded of them. They were victims of social discrimination and economics exploitation. If they failed to tow the lines of master, they were beaten up and tortured. By advancing small loan to them, The Zamendars and landlords often succeeded in trapping these poor people in their net and converted the8m into virtual slaves. This slavery continued from generation to generation and forces the agriculture workers to lead a wretched existence of deprivation and oppression the situation has improved in the 60 years of Independence. Though even now the class of agricultural workers is the present and resource less class in rural areas, it is no longer a victim of extreme forms of oppression. But economic exploitation continues. Even now their consumption standards are very low. In the absence of alternative sources of employment, they are forced to depend on landlords who consequently dictate terms. The simple low of demand and supply operates. Since there supply excessive in relation to the demand for them, they have to settle for extremely low wages. The alternative is worse – unemployment

Methodology

The study of the problems of agricultural labourers will help to overcome the problems. The efforts to be made to overcome these problems that they may increase in income of labourers which may help in improvement of level of living of this class of

labourer.

Results and Discussion

Problem of cultivating labourers

In all 10 problems were identified on the basis of response given by 75 cultivating agricultural labourers. Each cultivating labour was asked to report only the most important problems. The problems reported by the 75 cultivating agricultural labourers are given in the following Table -1.

Table 1: Problems faced by cultivating agricultural laborers under study

S. No.	Problems	Number	% to total	Rank
1	Seasonal employment	10	13.33	III
2	Low wages	8	10.67	IV
3	Low income	15	20.00	I
4	Lack of subsidiary occupation	13	17.33	II
5	Low crop yield	7	9.33	IV
6	Inadequate finance	5	6.67	VI
7	Delay in disbursal of loan	2	2.67	VIII
8	Rigid terms of repayment	4	9.33	V
9	More hours of work	7	9.33	V
10	Delay in wage payment	4	5.33	VII
	Total	75	100.00	

The above table 1 shows that low income the most important problems faced as reported by 20 per cent of the total cultivating agricultural labourers and Second Problem as reported by labourers was lack of subsidiary occupation and third problem was seasonal employment opportunity. its agriculture as reported by 13.33 percent labourer. another problem reported by labourers was low were found in villages as reported by 10.67 percent labourers. The next problem as

reported by 9.33 percent labourers was low crop yield and more hours of work increasing. The other problem were rigid term of repayment of loan delay in wages payment and inadequate Finance. The other ninth problem was delay in fiancé to the cultivating labourers. Thus, effort to be made to remove problems which may help in increasing the income and employment of labourers.

Problems landless laborers

Each landless labour was asked report most important problem faced by him as mentioned in table 2. Table 2: Problems faced by landless agricultural labourers under study

S. No.	Problems	Number	% to total	Rank
1	Seasonal employment	10	13.33	III
2	Low wages	9	12.00	VI
3	Low income	18	24.00	I
4	Lack of subsidiary occupation	13	17.33	II
5	Inadequate finance	6	8.00	VI
6	Delay in disbursal of loan	3	4.00	IX
7	Rigid terms of repayment	4	5.33	VIII
8	More hour of work	5	6.67	VII
9	Delay in wage payment	7	9.33	V
	Total	75	100.00	

Table 2 show that low – income was the most important problems as reported by 24 percent landless labors. Lack of subsidiary occupation was second important problems as reported by over 17% landless agricultural laborers. Seasonal employment was the third most important problem as reported by 13 per cent landless agricultural laborers. Low wages is the next fourth import problem as reported by 12% agricultural laborers. Delay in wage payment is the fifth important problem as reported by 9% landless laborers. Inadequate finance is the next important problems reported by 8% landless agricultural labourers. Other problems as reported in order of importance were more hours of work (reported by 6.67%), rigid terms of repayment (reported by 5.33 percent) and delay in disbursal of loan reported by 4 per cent laborers.

Problems faced by ALL Agricultural laborers (both cultivating and landless laborers as a whole)

In all 10 problems were identified on the basis of response given by 150 agricultural labourers. Each agricultural labourer was asked to report most important problems out of 10 problems. The following table – 3 shows the problems faced by agricultural labourers under study.

Table 3: Problem faced by all agricultural laborers under study

S. No.	Problems	Number	% to total	Rank
1	Seasonal employment	20	13.33	III
2	Low wages	17	11.33	IV
3	Low income	33	22.00	I
4	Lack of subsidiary occupation	26	17.33	II
5	Low crop yield	7	4.67	VIII
6	Inadequate finance	11	7.33	VI
7	Delay in disbursal of loan	5	3.33	Ix
8	Rigid terms of repayment	8	5.33	VII
9	More hours of work	12	8.00	V
10	Delay in wage payment	11	7.33	VI
	Total	150	100.00	

The table 3 shows that 22% of the agricultural laborers mentioned 'low income' as their main problem. 17 per cent of the agricultural laborers mentioned 'lack of subsidiary occupation' as their main problems about 13 per cent of the agricultural laborers reported that 'seasonal employment' due to seasonal nature of agricultural industry. About 11 per cent of agricultural laborers reported that 'low wages' is the fourth problem of these families. Eight per cent of agricultural labourers mentioned that 'more hours of work' is the next problems faced by them. Eleven agricultural labourers (7.33 percent) reported that 'inadequate finance' was the important problem. An equal proportion of agricultural labourers reported that 'delay in wage payment' was the most important problem other problems reported by agricultural labourers in order of importance were rigid terms of repayment (5.33 per cent), low crop yield (4.67%) and delay disbursal of loan by banks (3.33%). Thus efforts should be made to overcome these problems to raise the employment and income of labour.

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