



Cover Page



A STUDY ON PROBLEMS OF LABOURS IN ANANTAPUR DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

Labors are a way to move from one place to another in order to live and work in the name of migration. Movement of people from their home to another city, state or country for a job, shelter or some other reasons is called migration. Nowadays, many people decide to migrate to have a better life by searching employment opportunities as daily wage labours or contract labours. Except this, lack of opportunities, better education, construction of dams, globalization, natural disaster (flood and drought) and sometimes crop failure forced villagers converted as daily labours for their livelihoods. The study selected 365 labours from Anantapur town of Anantapur District of Andhra Pradesh by using structured questionnaire. More than one third of the respondents (37.50 percent) were in the age group of 31-40 years and followed by more than two fifths (43.0 percent) of the respondents were Illiterates, as against less one fifth (26.30 percent) studied up to Primary level. More than half (57.50 percent) of the respondents were habituated to alcohol and around one third (32.32 percent) of the respondents are inadequate income.

INTRODUCTION

Land is an indispensable but a passive factor production in economics. No production is possible without the use of labour. Labour is one of the main factors which constitute the material foundation of society. In an economy, where agriculture is the primary occupation and most of the national income is contributed from agriculture, problems related to labour are there but not in a complex form. Labour problems may be considered as social problems which result among different groups where there is absence of cooperative endeavor for the realization of common goal.

With the accelerated growth of population in the last few years, the pressure of population on the available land has increased tremendously in the absence of growing industries at the same pace of absorb the new labour force. The labour ratio being higher, agricultural holdings have become very small and uneconomic. All these factors have brought a radical change in the agrarian Indian society. Consequently various problems are arising out of the new situation e.g. the problem of unemployment; social security and industrial relations etc. are the outcomes of the process of industrialization (Sunitha, C).

Labour sector addresses multi-dimensional socio-economic aspects affecting labour welfare, productivity, living standards of labour force and social security. To raise living standards of the work force and achieve higher productivity, skill upgradation through suitable training is of utmost importance. Manpower development to provide adequate labour force of appropriate skills and quality to different sectors is essential for rapid socioeconomic development (T.M. Suresh, 2014). Employment generation in all the productive sectors is one of the basic objectives. In this context, efforts are being made for providing the environment for self-employment both in urban and rural areas. During the Ninth Plan period, elimination of undesirable practices such as child labour, bonded labour, and aspects such as ensuring workers' safety and social security, looking after labour welfare and providing of the necessary support measures for sorting out problems relating to employment of both men and women workers in different sectors has received priority attention (Ghosh M. & Ghosh A. (2014).

The improvement of labour welfare and increasing productivity with reasonable level of social security is one of the prime objectives concerning social and economic policy of the Government. The resources have been directed through the Plan programmes towards skill formation and development, monitoring of working conditions, creation of industrial harmony through infrastructure for health, industrial relations and insurance against disease, accident and unemployment for the workers and then families. The situation of surplus labour and workers in the organised segment of the economy give rise to unhealthy social practices such as bonded labour, child labour and adverse working conditions.

METHODOLOGY

The primary objective of this research is to study the problems of labours consists of 365 labours in different sectors were selected purposefully from Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh by adopting structured questionnaire framing with their problems as labours.



Cover Page



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RESULTS & DISCUSSION

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE

More than one third of the respondents (37.50 percent) were in the age group of 31-40 years, as against more than a quarter (27.90) between 21-30 years, followed by one fifth (20.00 percent) between 41-50 years. Only minor proportions (11.80 percent) were above 51 years of age. Religion wise data shows that, more than half of the respondents (53.70 percent) were Hindus as against one fourths (25.50 percent) Muslims and one fifth (20.80 percent) were Christians. With slight difference, more or less similar proportion (34.2 percent) of the respondents were BCs and FCs (33.4) followed by less than one fifth (20.00 percent) belongs to ST community and more than one tenth (12.30 percent) of them were belongs to SCs. With regards to the marital status shows that, majority (75.10 percent) of the respondents were married as against a one tenth (14.00 percent) of them were widow. A very minor proportions (6.60 percent) were unmarried and separated/divorced (4.40 percent).

Table. 1 Socio-Demographic Profile of the Respondents

Socio-demographic factors	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Age		
Less than 20 yrs	10	2.73
21-30	102	27.90
31-40	137	37.50
41-50	73	20.00
51 & above	43	11.80
Religion		
Hindu	196	53.7
Christian	76	20.8
Muslim	93	25.5
Caste		
FC/OC	122	33.4
BC	125	34.2
SC	45	12.3
ST	73	20.0
Marital status		
unmarried	24	6.6
seperated/divorced	16	4.4
Widow	51	14.0
Married	274	75.1
Education		
illiterate	157	43.0
primary	96	26.3
secondary	43	11.8
Intermediate	48	13.2
Degree and above	21	5.8
Occupation		
unemployed	168	46.0
unskilled	113	31.0
Skilled	69	18.9
semi profession	15	4.1
Family Income		
Rs. 1933-5772/-	137	37.5
Rs. 5773-9633/-	189	51.8
Rs. 9634-14462/-	25	6.8
Rs.14463-19290/-	14	3.8



Cover Page



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The data reveals that More than two fifths (43.0 percent) of the respondents were Illiterates, as against less one fifth (26.30 percent) studied up to Primary level, followed by more than one tenth each (13.2 percent) with Intermediate and Secondary (11.80 percent) level of education. Only a minor proportion (5.8 percent) studied up to Degree and above level of education. Regarding occupation of the respondents, the data revealed that around half (46.00 percent) of them were unemployed, followed by one third (31.00 percent) were unskilled and skilled (18.90 percent). A very few of them were in semi profession (4.10 percent). The observation of the data reveals that half (51.80 percent) of the respondents' family income was in between Rs. 5773-9633 per month, as against one third (37.50 percent) were with an income between Rs. 1933-5772. Very minor proportions (6.80 percent) were having a family income of Rs. 9634-14462 and Rs. 14463-19290/- (3.80 percent).

HABITS

In the present study more than half (57.50 percent) of the respondents were habituated to alcohol, followed by more than two fifths (42.50 percent) were not habituated to alcoholics. Among those are alcoholics revealed that more than three fifths (61.90 percent) preferred Brandy, as against (26.67 percent) Kallu/Arrack and more than one tenth (11.42 percent) preferred whisky as their preferred choice.

Table. 2 Percentage distributions of Habits by the Respondents

Alcohol	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	210	57.5
No	155	42.5
Total	365	100.00
Type of drink		
Whisky	24	11.42
Brandy	130	61.90
Kallu/Arrack	56	26.67
	210	100.00

Out of the total alcoholics, around half (47.09 percent) of the respondents were moderately consuming alcohol per week, followed by one third (33.54 percent) were lower and one fifths (19.35 percent) were consuming high alcohol per week.

REASON FOR BEING LABOUR

Reason for being a labour of the respondents stated that around two fifths (37.26 percent) poverty as the significant reason for being as labours, followed by more than a quarter (24.75 percent) Drought and indebtedness (19.45 percent). The other reasons involved seasonal works (16.17 percent) are the pushing factors for being a labour among the respondents. There are two important reasons for rural labour migration: (1) migration for survival and (2) migration for subsistence. The rest indicates the severe social and economic hardships faced by rural laborers, a situation where migration becomes necessary to stay alive. The second reason for migration is also rooted in subsistence and arises because of the need to supplement income in order to ll the gaps of seasonal employment. Such communities often migrate for shorter periods and do not ordinarily travel very far from their homes (C.Annie Jane, 2016).



Cover Page



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Table. 3 Percentage distribution of Reason of labour

Reason for being labours	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Poverty	136	37.26
Drought area	99	27.12
Seasonal works	59	16.17
Indebtedness	71	19.45
Total	365	100.00

PROBLEMS OF LABOURERS

It can be observed that around one third (32.32 percent) (Table-5.3) of the respondents are inadequate income, followed by around more than one fifth (21.09 percent) of the respondents difficulty to access PDS like ration, pension and access to SHGs and ill health (19.17 percent). The problems involved among the labours noticed that housing (increased rental tariffs) (16.43 percent) and other problems (10.95 percent) like; not having regular work, low wages, children education and etc. In the absence of banking system in the rural areas and trial process of sanction by the commercial banks, farmers prefers to take loans from un institutional sources like Sahukars (moneylenders), landlords at the very high rate (in some cases at 40% to 50%) . This exorbitant rate traps in the vicious circle of debt.

Table. 4 Percentage distribution of labour problems by the Respondents.

Problems	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Difficulty to access PDS	77	21.09
Housing (increased rent tariffs)	60	16.43
Inadequate income	118	32.32
Ill health	70	19.17
Others (not having regular work, low wages, children education & etc)	40	10.95
Total	365	100.00

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The successful implementation of the labour welfare programmes depends on the approach which has been taken into account of their welfare. Labour welfare policies should be guided by idealistic morale and human values. Every effort should be made to give workers/employees some voice in the choice of welfare activities so long as it does not amount dictation from workers. Labour welfare must aim at helping workers to help themselves in the long run will help them to become more responsible and more efficient.

Governments must ensure coherence between national policies for health, employment and labour. Further, inter country collaboration is required to assess and subsequently tackle occupational risks and their health consequences before, during and after labours' period of work, both in their country of origin or return and destination.

Initiating or reinforcing labour-friendly public health services and health care delivery methods for labours with special needs; strengthening health promotion and disease prevention initiatives to reach out to migrants in the community. Minimum standards of health care for all vulnerable labour groups (particularly women, children, undocumented or irregular migrants, asylum seekers, refugees and victims of human trafficking); and publicizing existing services.

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