

Trends In Literacy And Agriculture Across Females In Karnataka: A District Level Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Agriculture is the backbone of every developing country. It can be said that it is a significant engine for growth and development. The following study has analysed the trends in literacy and agriculture of family across districts of Karnataka. It purely based on secondary data and statistical method. It tried to examine how dose literacy effects on agriculture women to empower them. The findings reveal that the increased percentage of female literacy in urban areas is low compare to rural areas. Higher proportions of female agriculturist are concentrated in rural areas and only marginal share is seen in urban areas. In 2011, the percentage of female agriculture labour has increased in exact proportion to decline in the percentage of female agriculture cultivators i.e., by 4.21%. The literacy programme of government like national female literacy programme should focus on the backward districts where the female literacy is less than 50%. Awareness programmes should be undertaken at grass toot level to educate the masses about the importance of attaining higher education among female.

Keywords: Female Literacy Rate. Female Agriculture Workers. Women Empowerment.

1. INTRODUCTION

Agriculture has always been the backbone of every developing country. It's very close relative to growth and development of developing countries. Agriculture still pride occupies 60% work force of population. Nowadays women's contribution to agricultural development is gaining lot of significance. Involvement women in agricultural production are becoming higher. In this context, we can remember the words of the well-known scientist of agriculture namely Swami Nathan who describes that it was women first domesticated crop plants and thereby initiated the art and science forming. On other hand low level of literacy among women compared to males is dominated today. Low level of literacy among women leads to loss of economic independence, lack power and status in the family. There dire need to educate the female masses. It is only through literacy, women can effectively utilize better economic opportunities, thereby leading to women empowerment. It also helps them to shift from the traditional agricultural labour in to various occupation in the modern sector. Further literacy not only increase economic opportunities but also helps in increasing their skills and confidence. Providing education to women will place them on an equal footing with men in decision-making position in economic and political fields. If women are placed in top decision-making positions, this will help women to progress in all fields of activities. It increase the full potentiality of women.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The following section helps to presents a review of some articles pertaining to the study **Ahamed and Honakeri** (2012) has analysed the district wise progress of literacy rates in

Karnataka using growth rate variation over two census period 2001 and 2011 across regions and gender. The analysis revealed that comparatively there was high positive gain in female literacy than the male literacy rates, but still female literacy rate stood lowest than the male literacy rate. **Suresh and Mylarappa** (2012) have focused the literacy status and educational systems in Karnataka across elementary and secondary stages of education. It has analysed the educational indicators such as literacy rates, sex ratio, dropout rates at elementary level. Gross enrolment ratio at elementary and secondary level across male, female, SC/ST and districts of the state it is found that retention and quality of learning are becoming more complex and challenging goals and hence qualitative strategies are needed to tackle these issues.

Roshanlal and ahshok khurana (2011) have focused on the role of women in agriculture sector. The study found that agriculture creates many jobs for women in agriculture sector that brings many households resources under women control which leads to greater earnings in the family. **Chayal K** (2010) in their paper “analysed of roll performed by women in agriculture “ found that farm women participated in agriculture was significantly affected by socio-economics variables like age, family income and land holding.

3. OBJECTIVES

The following are the two objectives of this study.

- To examine the educational status of women in term of literacy.
- To analyse the district wise trends with regard to women in agriculture.

4. METHODOLOGY

The present study is purely based on secondary data collected from census documents for the period of two specific year (2011 & 2011). For analysis simple analytical and statistical tools like percentage.

5. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

TRENDS IN FEMALE LITERACY

Table I depicts the female literacy rate across districts of Karnataka. In Karnataka the rate of female literacy has been increased from 56.87% to 68.13% in 2011. Increased rate of percentage is 11.26 over the year 2001. Comparing rural and urban, there has been drastically increase by 11.59% in rural areas I.e., from 48.01% to 59.60%. Even in urban area it has been increased by 7.59% I.e., from 74.12% to 81.71%. The increased percentage of female literacy in urban areas is low compared to rural areas.

By looking at overall district, it is found that Bangalore stands first in female literacy by 84.80%, followed by dakshin Kannada with 84.04% and udupi with 81.41%. Coming to the lowest rate of female literacy, yadgir is at the first place with 41.31% followed by raichur (49.56%) and chamarajnagar (54.32%). Similarly, if we look at the percentage increase in female literacy across the districts in the year 2011 over 2001, district namely kodagu, dakshin kannada, uttar kannada, shimoga, udupi and chikkamangalur have seen increase less than 10%, but the literacy rate has been more than 70%. The remaining district have recorded more than 10% increase. This is noteworthy achievement.

TABLE 1
FEMALE LITRECY ACROSS DISTRICTS OF KARNATAKA

Districts	Total		Rural		Urban		Percent of improvement in 2011 over 2001		
	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011	Total	Rural	Urban
Belgaum	52.32	64.74	45.80	59.26	72.53	80.40	12.42	13.46	7.87
Bagalkot	43.56	58.55	36.33	52.69	60.87	70.84	14.99	16.36	9.97
Bijapur	43.47	56.54	37.32	50.86	64.89	74.80	13.07	13.54	9.91
Bidar	48.81	61.66	43.64	56.74	66.47	76.62	12.85	13.10	10.15
Raichur	35.93	49.56	28.86	43.30	56.54	67.77	13.63	14.44	11.23
Koppal	39.61	56.22	35.81	53.23	58.34	70.69	16.61	17.42	12.35
Gadag	52.52	65.29	46.28	60.38	63.88	73.92	12.77	14.10	10.04
Darwad	61.92	73.57	47.70	62.59	73.28	81.60	11.65	14.89	8.32
Uttara kannada	68.47	78.21	63.52	74.62	80.59	86.91	9.74	11.10	6.32
Haveri	57.37	70.65	54.52	67.49	68.17	81.49	13.28	12.97	13.32
Bellary	45.28	58.28	36.82	51.63	60.69	69.69	13.00	14.81	9.00
Chitradurga	53.78	66.05	49.12	62.08	74.74	81.81	12.27	12.96	
Davanagere	58.04	69.39	52.02	64.31	71.89	79.97	11.35	12.29	7.07
Shimoga	66.88	74.89	60.66	69.63	78.50	84.38	8.01	8.97	8.08
Udupi	75.19	81.41	72.97	78.42	85.31	89.20	6.22	5.45	5.88
Chikkamagalur	64.01	72.88	60.70	69.89	77.78	84.10	8.87	9.19	3.89
Tumkur	56.94	66.45	52.29	61.90	76.35	82.23	9.51	9.61	6.32
Bangalore	77.48	84.80	60.78	71.46	79.80	86.08	7.32	10.68	5.88
Mandya	51.53	62.10	47.65	58.72	72.26	78.50	10.57	11.07	6.38
Hassan	59.00	68.30	54.72	64.11	79.35	84.01	9.30	9.39	6.24
Dakshina kannada	77.21	84.04	72.69	79.73	84.47	88.76	6.83	7.04	4.66
Kodagu	72.26	77.91	70.10	76.07	86.11	88.71	5.65	5.97	4.29
Mysore	55.81	66.59	42.31	55.49	78.12	81.99	10.78	13.18	2.60
Chamarajanagara	42.48	54.32	38.59	50.33	63.86	73.52	11.84	11.74	3.87
Gulbarga	42.06	58.87	32.70	47.54	62.31	73.04	13.81	14.84	9.66
Yadgir	28.32	41.31	23.20	35.86	52.80	64.36	12.99	12.66	10.73
Kolar	55.46	66.56	46.51	59.67	76.95	81.49	11.10	13.16	11.56
Chikkaballapur	48.33	61.55	43.39	57.06	69.28	77.28	13.22	13.67	4.54
Bangalore rural	59.67	70.73	56.35	66.83	71.17	81.23	11.06	10.48	8.00
Ramanagara	51.22	61.30	46.70	56.07	69.89	77.61	10.08	9.37	10.06
KARNATAKA	56.87	68.13	48.01	59.60	74.12	81.71	11.26	11.59	8.72

Koppal district as recorded highest increase (16.61%) but it is literacy rate stood at 56.22% and still 44% of women are illiterate. The same trend is observed in rural area also with 17.42% of increases in Koppal district and the literacy rate is lesser at 53.23%. Similarly across yadgir district where the female literacy rate is lower (41.31%), the percentage of increases is more than 10%. across rural areas, the situation of female literacy is quit worse. It stood at 35.86%. In Raichur district also the female literacy rate is quite low. Hence these district need special care and attention by the government.

TRENDS IN AGRICULTURE

Agriculture has always been a major occupation of the rural Indian economy. Out of the total workers population of 48.17 corer in the country, nearly 55% of them are engaged in agriculture as cultivators and labourers. Out of this 55% I. e., around 26.30 corer 96% of them belong to rural areas. Similarly in Karnataka state, Out of the total workers population of 2.8 corer nearly 49% of them are agricultural workers i.e., (1.4 corer). Out of these 1.4 corer almost 95% of the agricultural workers are form rural areas. This is evident form census of India 2011. Therefore huge chunk of rural population is engaged in agriculture Table 2 depicts female agricultural workers in Karnataka and their share across regions. The number of female agriculture workers in the state has slightly increased form 5657031 in 2001 to that of 5699625 in the year 2011. It also reveals that high proportion of female Agriculturist Are concentrated in rural areas and only marginal share is seen in urban areas the percentage share in rural areas has slightly decreased from 96.5% to 95.9% and in urban Areas ,it has increased from 3.5% to 4.1% .

Table no 2 depicts district wise trends with regard to percentage of female Agricultural workers to the total female workers in Karnataka. The percentage share declared from 68.16% in 2001 to that of is 50.36% in 2011. Across rural, it has declined by 3.41 percent points and urban area, by 4.19 %a compression across the district revels that Haveri stands at the top by 79.29% with reduction of 5.575 points over 2001, followed by Raichur and Gadag with 78.89% and 78.32% respectively. In the same ay Bangalore district recorded the lowest place. The female agriculture workers have marginally increased across chikkamangalore and Dakshina Kannada by 2 to 3%.

**TABLE 2
PERCENTAGE OF FEMALE AGRICULTURES WORKERS TO THE FEMALE WORKERS IN KARNATAKA**

Districts	Total		Rural		Urban		Percent of improvement in 2011 over 2001		
	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011	Total	Rural	Urban
Belagum	84.08	77.24	89.75	85.37	31.65	21.89	6.84	4.38	9.76
Bagalkot	78.98	72.31	87.05	85.22	30.03	21.82	6.67	1.83	8.21
Bijapur	83.93	76.19	88.97	83.80	29.51	19.40	7.74	5.17	10.11
Gulbarga	80.77	73.50	86.99	83.22	25.65	17.55	7.28	3.77	8.10
Bidar	78.93	73.40	84.23	81.43	20.38	18.39	5.54	2.80	1.98
Raichur	80.03	78.89	91.07	87.19	31.38	22.02	6.14	3.96	9.36
Koppal	84.23	77.16	87.19	82.19	40.34	24.45	7.07	5.08	15.89
Gadag	84.65	78.32	92.24	88.58	55.27	44.33	6.34	3.66	10.94
Darwad	74.41	65.04	91.09	89.33	28.54	20.00	9.38	1.76	8.55
Uttarakannada	51.67	48.17	57.80	56.04	13.79	9.61	3.50	1.76	4.18
Haveri	84.86	79.29	90.99	87.60	28.29	21.44	5.57	3.39	6.85
Bellary	81.12	74.33	90.25	86.29	36.47	26.46	6.79	3.96	10.02
Chitradurga	82.40	74.74	86.90	81.28	10.03	8.06	7.66	5.62	1.98
Davanagere	76.13	66.89	87.64	80.76	12.41	10.25	9.24	6.88	2.16
Shivamoga	76.39	67.65	87.08	80.74	21.28	12.24	8.74	6.34	9.04
Udupi	47.24	32.06	51.54	38.90	15.58	9.14	15.18	12.64	6.43
Chikamagalur	51.16	53.96	54.61	59.05	16.91	12.50	-2.79	-4.44	4.42
Tumkur	78.27	69.78	84.57	78.30	12.56	7.17	8.49	6.27	5.38

Kolar	75.16	63.38	81.86	73.76	10.95	8.82	11.78	8.10	2.13
Bangalore	9.24	5.63	47.32	29.59	1.17	2.95	3.61	17.73	-1.77
Bangalore Rural	70.40	66.38	78.19	75.88	11.15	9.87	4.02	2.32	1.28
Mandya	79.36	73.56	84.23	80.39	19.79	14.77	5.81	3.84	5.02
Hassan	78.42	73.54	82.65	80.13	8.27	7.83	4.88	2.48	0.44
Dakshina kannada	7.22	4.35	8.95	5.83	2.71	1.97	2.87	3.13	0.74
Kodagu	11.71	13.94	12.42	15.05	1.88	1.89	-2.23	-2.63	-0.01
Mysore	71.52	59.01	87.70	80.35	6.86	6.02	12.51	7.35	0.85
Chamarajanagara	75.49	72.48	81.17	78.92	18.56	17.22	3.01	2.25	1.34
State	68.16	59.36	79.42	76.00	13.91	9.71	8.81	3.41	4.19

Table 3 depicts the percentage of female agriculture cultivators and female agricultural labourers to the total female agriculture workers in Karnataka. It seems that the proportion of female agriculture labourers is quite large when compared to female Agriculture cultivators. Coming to the state, the percentage of female cultivators is decreased to 32.05% in 2011 from 36.26% in 2001, while percentage of female agricultural labourers has been increased from 63.74% to 67.95% during the same period. We can observe that percentage of female cultivators is highest in Bangalore and kodagu with 59.21% and 18.48% respectively. In the same way percentage of female agricultural labourers is highest in kodagu 81.52% and lowest is in Bangalore with 40.79%.

TABLE 3
PERCENTAGE OF FEMALE AGRICULTURAL CULTIVATORS AND FEMALE AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS TO THE TOTAL FEMALE AGRICULTURAL WORKERS IN KARNATAKA

Districts	Cultivators		Agricultural Labourers	
	2001	2011	2001	2011
Belgaum	39.87	35.81	60.13	64.19
Bagalkot	22.23	21.08	77.77	78.92
Bijapur	22.09	25.24	77.91	74.76
Gulbarga	19.93	21.92	80.07	78.08
Bidar	24.84	22.98	75.16	77.02
Raichur	16.90	20.89	83.10	79.11
Koppal	22.44	22.55	77.56	77.45
Gadag	27.16	28.53	72.84	71.47
Darwad	33.49	35.80	66.51	64.20
Uttara kannada	51.27	20.37	48.73	79.63
Haveri	21.29	25.16	78.71	74.84
Bellary	25.45	34.01	74.55	65.99
Chitradurga	36.68	23.42	63.32	76.58
Davanagere	26.28	28.08	73.72	71.92
Shimoga	31.83	43.26	68.17	56.74
Udupi	46.65	39.94	53.35	60.06
Chikkamagalur	34.58	41.74	65.42	58.26
Tumkur	52.39	44.52	47.61	55.48
Kolar	46.34	47.25	53.66	52.75
Bangalore	41.46	59.21	58.54	40.79

Bangalore rural	53.95	51.88	46.05	78.12
Mandya	51.63	49.54	48.37	50.46
Hassan	69.26	37.55	30.74	62.45
Dakshina kannada	49.75	19.72	50.25	80.28
Kodagu	53.11	18.48	46.89	81.52
Mysore	47.32	20.17	52.68	79.83
Chamarajanagra	20.92	37.26	79.08	62.74
State	36.26	32.05	63.74	67.95

Source: Computed using Primary Census Abstract,2001 and 2011.Census Documents,GOI

6. MAJOR FINDINGS

The following constitutes the important findings of the study .

- In Karnataka the rate of female literacy has been increased from 56.87%to 68.13% in 2011. Increased the rate of percentage is 11.26 over the year 2001. The increased percentage of female literacy in urban areas is low compared to rural area.
- Across districts, Rayachur and Yadgirshould be given due care in enhancing the female literacy because the female literacy rates of these districts are lower than 50%.
- Higher proportions of female agriculturists are concentrated in rural area and only marginal share is seen in urban area. Across districts also, more than 905 of the female population across rural areas in engaged in agriculture.
- The percentage share has decreased from 68.16% in 2001 to that of is 50.36% in 2011. Across in rural, it has declined by 3.41% and in urban areas by 4.19%.
- The properties of female agricultures labours is quite large when compared to female agriculture labours has increased in exact proportion to the decline in the percentage of female agriculture cultivators ie.,by 4.21%.

7. CONCLUDING REMARKS

The following study has made in attempt to analyse the districts wise trends in female literacy and across agriculture sector in Karnataka state. Women in plays important and critical role in agricultural development, meanwhile they are the major contributors in agricultures. Women involvement in agriculture varies within a region. Even literacy rate has also increased. The literacy programme of government like national literacy programme should focus on the backward districts where the female literacy is less than 50% .It should create revenues through which female can effectively participate in job process. Awareness programmes should be undertaken at grassroots levelto educate the masses about the importance of attaining higher education among female. This can help them to effectively utilize better economic opportunities, and take part in decision making bodies, leading to socio-economic empowerment.

8. REFERENCES

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