Rural Female Labour Force Participation in Andhra Pradesh: Insights from Field Survey

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• Decline in women’s participation in both rural and urban in India
• Women’s participation in AP is high but showing declining trend over time
• In combined AP RFLFPR at peak in 1993-94, fallen at two points 1999-00 and 2009-10
• Present state of AP RFLFPR was 46 % in 1999-00 and 43 % in 2011-12
Issues from literature

• Increased demand for higher education
• Slowdown of employment in agriculture, decline in self employment; stagnant rural economy
• Supply of female labour: distress driven added worker effect, discouraged worker effect linked to changes in HH income
• Segmented labour market- women in the lower end
• U shaped curve in labour participation- Human capital approach
Objectives and Methodology

• To understand the entangled factors resulting in decline in the labour force participation rate of women in general and its behavior among diverse socio-economic and cultural groups and across regions in particular.
Detailed objectives

• To analyse the trend and structure of women labour force participation (overall and regional dimension) in rural areas including rural labour working in urban area.
• To analyse and understand the factors contributing to the increase/decline in women’s labour participation rates in general and among different socio-economic groups in particular.
• To identify the aspects/channels (i.e. institutions, markets, infrastructure etc.,) which influence the individual/household forming the labour use pattern/strategies especially the female labour participation.
• To understand the time disposition of women in their daily activities.
• To analyse and understand the impact of rise in family income on the labour force participation of women.
• To study the impact of changes in labour use in rural activities (agriculture and allied) and the impact of welfare programmes.
• To study the constraints that women across social groups encounter while participating in labour force.
Andhra Pradesh Study

Methodology

• Three districts in the three NSSO zones
• Selection of districts, mandals and villages based on participation rates – 3 districts, 9 mandals and 9 villages
• Households selected according to social category- 50 from each village -450 HH
Trends in FLFPR in combined state

- RFLFPR in 1983 was 47%; peaked at 52% in 1993-94 fell to 48% in 1999-00 and to 44% in 2009-10
- Married women’s participation declined
- Decline in number of women in labour force between 2004-05 and 2011-12
- Growth rate of women’s labour negative in both rural and urban
- Self employment has fallen but not much increase in regular salaried and casual work
- Increase in labour force participation among women completed degree and above in the rural in 2011-12
- Percentage in domestic activity has fallen showing higher participation rates (1987-88, 1993-94 and 1999-00) but rising in recent time
Employment trends in present state of AP

- Coastal northern region has lowest FLFPR while inland south has highest FLFPR
- Women work predominantly as casual labour followed by self employment
- Increasing trend towards self employment in coastal north and inland south
- In coastal north self employment in services has picked up; coastal south remains predominantly agriculture, women work as casual labour; inland south self employment in agriculture is high
- Labour force participation is high for all social categories in inland south while low for upper castes in coastal north and coastal south
FLPR: Insights from primary survey

- FLFPR at the aggregate is 54.9%; principal status it is 50.7% and weekly status is 52.5%.
- Kurnool has highest FLFPR followed by Guntur and east Godavari has the least participation rates.
- Agriculture is predominant sector 86% working in agr sector 11% in service sector.
- FLFPR in agriculture in East Godavari is lowest and highest in service sector.
- Women work in status of casual labour in agriculture in Guntur; self employment is high in both agriculture as well as non-agr sectors in East Godavari.
• In self-employed women work as own account workers; in regular salaried they work as permanent employees
• 16% women are in hh activities, and this is highest in east Godavari at 25% and least in Kurnool at 3%
• Percentage of students at the aggregate is 23 for Guntur it is 20 and for Kurnool it is highest at 26
• FLFPR is highest among the not literate women and falls with number of years of education
• Participation rate among educated (degree & above) is highest for Guntur district – dynamic labour market for the educated
• Differences in participation across social category exist in east Godavari and Guntur districts
• Participation rates across social category are high in Kurnool
• FLFPR is highest in general for the age group of 30-45 followed by 45-60 years

• Labour participation according to age group shows highest participation in the youngest age group 15-29 in Kurnool

• Married women form the bulk of female labour force

• 79 percent of married women participate in labour market in the usual status, 59 percent of widows and other single women and around 18 percent of unmarried women are in labour force.

• Married women’s LFPR is highest at 94 percent and participation rate for the not married is least in case of Kurnool district
Conclusions

- Intra state variations in FLFPR in AP
- Kurnool represents high labour force participation rates, predominantly in agriculture, in the status of casual work; low participation in domestic activity, high percentage of students, high participation in 15-29 age group, low participation in not married category and highest participation in the married category, and high participation among all social categories.
- East Godavari characterizes low participation rates, more in self employment in non-agriculture; low participation in the age group of 15-29, low participation among the married women, lowest participation among the upper caste, highest participation in domestic activity.
- Guntur characterizes medium participation in the usual status, highest participation rates among women completed degree and above, low participation among not literate; medium participation among the married women, high participation in domestic activity; lowest percentage of students in the distribution of women by their activity status.
Thank You