



## DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE IN SOLAPUR DISTRICT : A GEOGRAPHICAL STUDY

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### Abstract :

Agriculture is the backbone of Indian economy. Agriculture is the source of livelihood for 65 to 70 percent of people in the country. Not only men are involved in Indian agriculture, but women in rural areas are also heavily involved in agriculture. Indian women are playing an important role in the development of agriculture. They are doing agriculture and many other work related to agriculture. They do all kinds of agricultural work, tilling, ploughing, weeding, spraying, watering crops, sowing, selling goods. Also, they have a large share in small and household businesses like other agriculture-based industries like poultry farming, goat rearing, horticulture, dairying, etc. According to the 2011 census, 55% of the total working women are agricultural workers while 24% are women farmers. In India, 85 percent of rural women work in agriculture. 13% of them own farm. In this paper, an attempt has been made to study the contribution of women in agriculture in Solapur district and thus the development in rural areas.

**Key Words:** Women, Agriculture, Employment, Labor Force.

### Introduction:

Agriculture is the main occupation of poor people in rural areas. It is a means of poverty alleviation and rural development. In the era of industrialization, youths from rural areas began to migrate to urban areas in large numbers, so the entire responsibility of agriculture fell on women in rural areas. Due to this, changes have also been seen in the country's economy. Rural women fulfill the needs of the people in their family by taking full responsibility of the household and doing various agricultural activities (production of agricultural products, animal husbandry, food processing, food preparation, daily/wage farm work, fuel collection, water management).

Today, the feminization of agriculture is seen everywhere in India. Feminization of agriculture refers to "increasing participation of women in the agricultural sector." Feminization of agriculture has started to happen mainly in developed countries. But today you get a picture in rural areas where women are given less employment than men. From this, on the one hand, although they are recognized as an asset for the development of rural areas, on the other hand, their skills and physical abilities are being underestimated. This research paper highlights the increasing participation of women in agriculture in Solapur district.

### Literature Review

- 1) Jagdish Maheshwari and Geeta Mangatani in their research paper have explained the role of women in Indian agriculture sector in which they have discussed the difficulties faced by women while doing agriculture. It has also been shown that women in rural areas have very limited business opportunities.
- 2) Jagdeep Singh :- This paper examines the ways in which greater integration through agriculture impacts women and men differently and ensures implication for growth. In addition, women have an important role to play in the process of liberalization and globalization as women make up half of the total population and also try to state that there are many business opportunities for women in the agricultural sector.

### Objectives

The objectives of this research are as follows.

- 1) To study the role of women in agriculture and other related activities.
- 2) To study the challenges faced by women farmers working in agriculture sector of Solapur district.
- 3) To study the diversity between men and women working in the agricultural sector of Solapur district.

### Methodology

Secondary data has been used for this research paper. It has been obtained through different Research journals, books, Government Report, Internet.

### \* Proportion of population dependent on agriculture in total population:-

Solapur district is an agricultural district. Nearly 50 percent of the people in Solapur district are dependent on agriculture. There are total 11 talukas in the district. Almost all the taluks are heavily cultivated. All kinds of crops (grains, pulses, fruits, vegetables etc.) are grown here. The district is considered as a barn of sorghum. Also, production of cash crops like sugarcane, banana, grape, pomegranate has also increased due to Ujani Dam. So in Solapur district you can see diversity in agricultural crops. Here, all the people of the family are involved in agriculture from small to big. Along with men, women are equally active in agriculture. Therefore, it would not be wrong to say that the development of agriculture has started. From the following statistics you will realize the proportion of farmers in the total population of Solapur district.

**Table No.1**  
**Population of Solapur District in 2001**

Name Of Tehsil	Total Population	Total Number Of Worker	Cultivators	Agriculture Labour
Karmala	233316	125256	64961	37819
Madha	292611	153957	71600	45352
Barshi	340831	149663	48566	50398
North Solapur	960803	345766	17306	24380
Mohol	252526	124687	50129	48612
Pandharpur	402707	177493	72975	47505
Malshiras	422600	211548	86009	69090
Sangola	272077	129048	64731	38748
Mangalveda	171261	87879	43774	28847
South Solapur	210774	108915	37804	49532
Akkalkot	290037	128829	37590	60694
Solapur District	3449543	1743041	595439	500977

**Table No.2**  
**Population of Solapur District in 2011**

Name Of Tehsil	Total Population	Total Number of Worker	Cultivator	Agriculture Labour
Karmala	231290	117810	61308	36051
Madha	301564	151139	77940	42793
Barshi	253989	128187	50474	50713
North Solapur	105794	46788	12766	17941
Mohol	276920	133740	57944	48843
Pandharpur	343445	162848	79623	49483
Malshiras	485645	217466	89730	66368
Sangola	288524	137114	62330	42795
Mangalveda	184108	88069	36335	34323
South Solapur	260897	121210	33396	47497
Akkalkot	25090	113528	34729	52574
Solapur District	4317756	1898395	607657	508141

Table number one and two shows the total population of Solapur district in 2001 and 2011, total working population, total farmers and agricultural laborers in it. According to the above data, in almost all the taluks, the proportion of farmers and agricultural laborers in the total working population is high. That is, the proportion of people engaged in secondary and tertiary occupations is less. Also according to the above statistics, the proportion of farmers is more than agricultural labourers. Except Barshi, North Solapur, South Solapur and Akkalkot taluks, the number of farmers is high in all other taluks. So the number of agricultural laborers is high in these taluks. Overall, according to the 2001 and 2011 censuses, the total population of Solapur district increased, but the number of agricultural laborers did not increase comparatively. This means that during ten years the number of farmers and farm laborers in Solapur district has decreased and the number of people working in other occupations has increased.

**Table No.3**  
**Population of Solapur District in 2001(Percentage)**

Name Of Tehsil	Workers In Percentage		Cultivators		Agriculture Labours	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Karmala	57.8	49.3	55.8	44.15	41.73	58.26
Madha	51.2	47.7	54.63	45.36	42.36	57.5
Barshi	52	35.2	60.81	39.18	42.45	57.54
North Solapur	48.7	22.7	63.52	36.47	47.69	52.36
Mohol	54.2	44.1	49.43	40.56	43.85	56.14
Pandharpur	52.7	34.7	61.56	62.44	46.52	53.47
Malshiras	56.1	43.5	57.62	42.3	45.83	54.16
Sangola	52.4	42.1	57.86	42.13	42.26	57.73
Mangalveda	56	46.3	57.48	42.51	43.49	56.5
South Solapur	56.7	46.3	60.78	39.21	42.82	57.17
Akkalkot	52.3	36.1	72.76	27.23	41.81	58.18
Solapur District	53.1	36.9	59.3	40.69	43.65	56.34

Table No.4

Population of Solapur District in 2011 (Percentage)						
Name Of Tehsil	Workers In Percentage		Cultivators		Agriculture Labour	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Karmala	57.86	52.03	62.12	37.87	48.53	51.46
Madha	58.71	41.28	61.63	38.36	47.75	52.24
Barshi	58.43	41.56	63.84	36.15	48.69	51.3
North Solapur	64.94	35.05	73.35	26.64	54.27	45.72
Mohol	60.17	39.82	63.1	36.89	49.66	50.33
Pandharpur	61.02	38.97	64.78	35.21	52.55	47.44
Malshiras	63.59	36.4	65.22	34.77	54.03	45.96
Sangola	58.57	41.42	64.39	35.4	51.68	48.31
Mangalveda	58.95	41.04	69.73	30.26	47.16	52.83
South Solapur	61.94	38.05	72.69	28.48	52.95	47.04
Akkalkot	62.53	37.46	77.84	22.15	52.39	47.6
Solapur District	63.57	36.42	65.94	34.05	51.37	48.62

Table number three and four shows the separate percentage of women and men working as farm laborers and farmers in the agricultural sector as per the 2001 and 2011 census of Solapur district. According to 2001 data, the proportion of female agricultural laborers is higher than that of males. According to the data of 2011, except North Solapur, Malshiras, Pandharpur, South Solapur, Akkalkot taluks, the percentage of women agricultural laborers is high. This shows that the participation of women in agriculture is increasing in the rural areas of Solapur district. According to the statistics of 2001, except for Pandharpur taluka (62.44), the proportion of women engaged in agriculture is less compared to men.

#### \* Challenges faced by women farmers in agriculture sector:-

##### Women working in agriculture are facing the following problems.

- 1) Unequal share of women in agriculture
- 2) Constraints on them to cultivate according to their judgment or opinion
- 3) They are restricted in using modern machinery used in agriculture.
- 4) They are paid less than men even for working at par.
- 5) Women farmers in the agricultural sector are less educated, so they have little knowledge of the law.
- 6) Women farmers have limited access to production resources.
- 7) Women farmers are bound to take production decisions in agriculture.
- 1) Women have to face many such challenges while farming.

#### Conclusion

From all the above information it appears that fifty percent of women in Solapur district are working in agriculture along with men. They do many different types of work in agriculture. The number of women working as agricultural laborers is more than that of farming. They are restricted in taking any decisions while farming. They cannot use modern tools. Women are equally involved in the overall development of agriculture.

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