

## **AN ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF WOMEN WORKING IN NON-FARM SECTOR IN TIRUPUR DISTRICT OF TAMILNADU**

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### **ABSTRACT**

India is dominant force in Asia's economic growth and home to the world's second largest workforce. Inclusive growth and gender equality are important for any country to reach its full potential and achieve faster economic growth. Agriculture sector is the backbone of the rural economy in India that provides an important source of livelihood to the rural people. However, the sector has been suffering from a number of limitations. Despite the continuous efforts by the government to raise its productivity, the sector has failed to show any improvement. Given the limited capacity of agricultural sector to absorb the burgeoning labour force combined with the inadequate success of land reform measures and trickle down effects of growth process, there has been increased realization that the stimulating policies should be supplemented with the rural development programmes that focus on diversification of employment in favour of nonfarm sectors in rural areas.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Agriculture which has remained traditionally the most important economic activity in our country is associated with uncertainty and its growth has stagnated over the years since this sector has a limited potential for absorbing increasing labour force. A majority of the rural households are directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture is an established fact. Growth of agriculture sector has been fluctuating: it increased from -0.2% in 2014-15 to 6.3% in 2016-17, and then declined to 2.8% in 2019-20. Gross fixed capital formation in agriculture decreased from 17.7% of Gross

Value Added (GVA) in 2013-14 to 15.2% of GVA in 2017-18. The contribution of agriculture to the GVA has decreased from 18.2% in 2014-15 to 16.5% in 2019-20. The decline was mainly due to a decrease in share of GVA of crops from 11.2% in 2014-15 to 10% in 2017-18. Since Green Revolution, agricultural sector has made significant progress and with it the rural economy has undergone tremendous changes. Shift from protectionist and self – reliance policies in the eighties to liberalization and globalization policies in the nineties has affected the rural areas not only in terms of economic activities but also its social and cultural fabric. Consequently, rural non – farm sector has assumed importance and in fact it forms the pivotal link between agricultural sector in rural areas and the non – agricultural sectors in the urban areas. The share has been declining on account of relatively higher growth performance of non-agricultural sectors.

Rural Non-farm Activities (RNFAs) play an important role in developing countries such as India. It includes all economic activities viz., household and non-household manufacturing, handicrafts, processing, repairs, construction, mining and quarrying, transport, trade, communication, community and personal services etc. in rural areas. The rural non-farm activities constitute an important category of income for the poor in developing countries which are characterized by problems such as mounting population pressure, diminishing land frontiers, small and fragmented landholdings due to declining land-man ratio and a high incidence of unemployment. The non-farm activities provide supplementary employment to the small and marginal rural households, especially during the slack season. Thus, in determining the total employment and income status of small and marginal households, non-farm activities have a place of great significance in a rural society. Rural-Non-Farm-Activities (RNFAs), thus, play an important role to provide supplementary employment to small and marginal farm households, reduce income inequalities and rural-urban migration. For the first time since Independence, the absolute increase in population is more in urban areas than in rural areas. The rural–urban distribution is 68.84% and 31.16% respectively. The level of urbanization increased from 27.81% in the 2001 Census to 31.16% in the 2011 Census, while the proportion of rural population declined from 72.19 % to 68.84 %. There is a greater and critical role for rural non – farm sector in the economic development for the following reasons.

1. Stagnation in agriculture sector together with its insignificant employment elasticity in recent years and continuing degradation of natural environment would not support a large population depending on agriculture for a long time.
2. The compulsions for cost reduction in agriculture would necessarily result in mechanization and other labour – saving cultivation practices in agriculture thus contributing for displacement of labour from agriculture.
3. However, the entire labour force released from agricultural sector could not be absorbed by urban industrial sectors for two important reasons; a) urban, large – scale industries would also adopt labour saving technologies thus limiting the scope for increase in employment and b) the inadequate urban social infrastructure and the continuous decline in urban environment would severely limit the scope for continuous growth of urbanized livelihoods for rural people. Therefore, growth of rural non – farm sector is the only solution for tackling the twin problems of agricultural stagnation and overcrowding of urban areas.

### **SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

The Rural Non-Farm Sector (RNFS) has gained immense importance in the current discussions on rural development of many developing countries including India. And the obvious reasons for the rising interest on the RNFS are its increasing importance to rural livelihood, and its prospective ability to offer not only alternative opportunities of rural work force, but also in reducing rural poverty, raising income and living standard of rural people and thus bringing up the overall development of the rural areas. This study focuses on the women employed in the non - farm activities. The significance of this study is that it helps to understand the real causes of women's work, their deprivation in the work place, their role in their family etc. In this study an attempt is made to examine women's experience in the employment and its impact on their economic status at home as well as in society. This study also provides information about the living conditions of the women workers and their families. Status is a very important factor in understanding the social differentiation and stratification of human society. In every society, the status of differentiation and stratification, hierarchy of status are the significant features of every type of human society. It is a necessary component of each society. The social and economic status of women in a society is guided by the social, economic, cultural structure of a society.

## **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

Increasing number of women is now working outside home. For many women, work for income is necessary for the economic welfare of their families and themselves. When the position of women is improved the whole society gets benefited. But the tragedy is that though women contribute substantially to economic sources, very little attention is paid to involve them directly with developmental activities and to enable them to become more effective and productive. Efforts to increase the economic contribution of women should be viewed not only as a means to make fuller use of all human resources for the economic development, but also as a way of improving income distribution. Most of the women in developing countries, who attempt to earn a money income are either extremely poor and happen to be the heads of a household, often with many children or women married to men in the lowest income bracket who are unable to feed their families without the help of their counterparts. Women play a critical role in driving economic development throughout the world. The increase in female employment has been the main driving force of economic growth in the last few decades. Empowering women economically can lift entire families and communities out of poverty. Women in poor countries are more likely than men to spend their income on food, education and healthcare for their children – creating powerful, positive and measurable benefits to society. Despite the important role women play in driving development, women living in poor countries are likely to bear a disproportionate burden in an economic crisis. In many countries, the ability of women to work outside the home is limited. Males have a comparative advantage in RNFS activities because of their ability to travel away from home and to earn a higher wage rate, while women take household responsibilities relating to cooking, child care, etc. Therefore, it is important to examine magnitude and nature of non – farm work taken up by women in rural areas.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The main objectives of the study are

1. To examine the structural growth of non-farm employment in Tiruppur district vis-à-vis State of Tamil Nadu and India
2. To examine the socio economic status of the women workers engaged in non – farm employment in Tiruppur District.

3. To examine the income generated and variation in income of the women workers through non-farm employment in the study area.

## **METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY**

### **SAMPLING PROCEDURE**

It is a specific plan for the population to obtain a sample. It relates to the method or procedure for choosing objects for the sample that the investigator would adopt. The amount of items to be included in the sample may be specified. While sampling procedure is carried out, it should be noted that there is no systematic bias and sampling error and should result in a truly representative sample.

### **PRE TEST**

The survey was lead with 50 respondents to form whether the instrument has fulfilled the framed objectives. The based on the opinion received from the respondents with the experts' advice, using the e-banking services in view to obtain their valuable opinion about the services along with the level of satisfaction.

<b>Reliability Statistics</b>		
<b>Name of the Factors</b>	<b>Factors</b>	<b>Cronbach's Alpha</b>
Working in non-farm employment	4	0.795
Nature of physical disabilities	5	0.638
Problems and prospects,	6	0.715
Nature of health hazards	5	0.629
Causes of health problems	5	0.729
Challenges and opportunities	5	0.778

**LAND SOIL AND NATURAL RESOURCE ENDOWMENTS**

The soil is predominantly black, which is suitable for cotton cultivation, but it also has some red loamy soil. Tiruppur district is home to Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park. The Park and the Sanctuary is the core of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve and is under consideration by UNESCO as part of The Western Ghats. Nanjarayan Tank near Koolipalayam on Uthukuli Road is a wetland with water stored throughout the year spread across 440 acres. It is home to more than 40 Species of Native birds and attracts migratory birds to large extent. Nature Society of Tiruppur, wildlife conservation NGO has recorded more than 130 species of birds for past 5 years. The wetland is conserved by local people with support of NGOs and it has been proposed to be declared as Bird Sanctuary with all required qualifications.

**Table 1****District Basic Demographic Indicator**

<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2011</b>
1	Population	1503868	2497914
2	Decennial Growth (%)	25.34	29.11
3	Density of population per sq. km.	367	478
4	Urban population (%)	NA	61.36
5	Sex ratio	975	998
6	Percentage of 0-14 year old	NA	16.66 (416090)

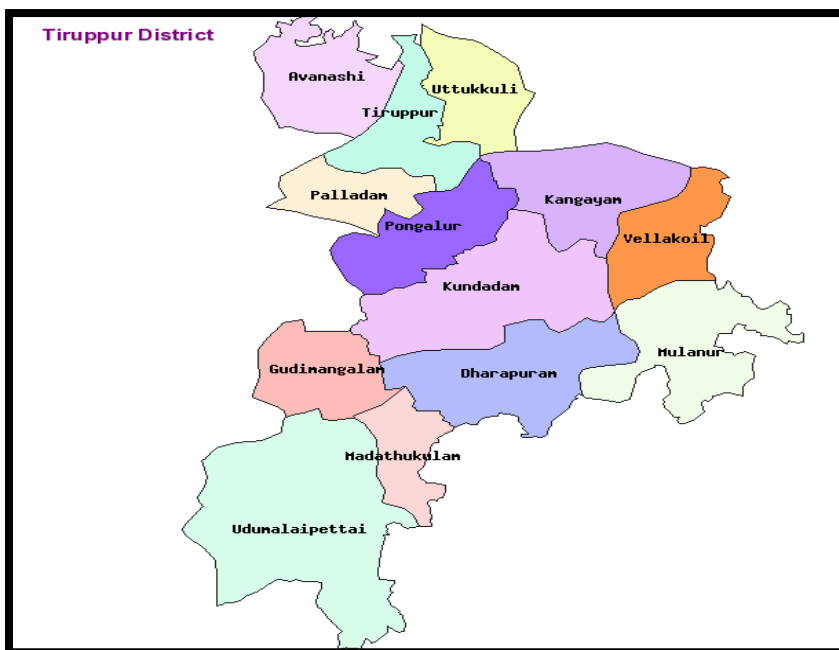
Source:-Census documents 2001 and 2011

**AGRICULTURE**

Tiruppur district though an industrial district plays important role in Agriculture also. The food production requires to be enhanced to provide food and nutritional security to the growing district population. In Tiruppur more than 80% of the farmers belong to small and marginal category and they play a key role in overall development in agriculture. Total

barren land in the district occupies to 2542.36 hectares in the year 2011. Considering the land usage for non-agricultural purpose it adds up to 67617.63 hectares. Cultivable waste accounts to 4003.24 hectares. Permanent pasture and grazing land occupies 125.09 hectares. Total geographical area in the district occupies 519557.61 hectares; in which gross area sown is 211070.5 hectares and net area sown is 201334.34 hectares. 23281.77 hectares are the area which is sown more than once.

## DISTRICT MAP



**Table 2****Sectorial distribution of gross domestic product at constant (2008-12) prices**

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl · N o	Year	Distri ct			Stat e		
		Primar y	Seconda ry	Tertiar y	Primary	Seconda ry	Tertiar y
1	200 8	87810	500893	695011	3150807	9151736	1821313 8
2	200 9	88782	515802	749598	3079411	8962975	2013695 0
3	201 0	94335	671902	812781	3279727	1085742 9	2152596 6
4	201 1	129855	775653	921984	3516987	1254230 2	2428228 4
5	201 2	175033	762068	100823 0	3872767	1303924 8	2641178 8

Source: D. D. Statistics, Tiruppur

The District GDP at constant 2004-05 price has increased marginally from the year 2008 to 2012 in proportion with state GDP growth. The secondary sector contribution to GDP was decreased at 1.75% from the year 2011 to 2012 due to textile industry problems.



**Table 3****Percentage of employees in organized sector and unorganized Sector 2013-****14**

Year	Total Number of workers	No. of workers		% of employees	
		In organised sector	In unorganised sector	In organized sector	In unorganised sector
2013-14	265005	246096	18909	92.86	7.14

Source: Inspector of Labour, Tiruppur

Table 3.4 indicates the size of workers in Organised and Unorganised sectors in 2013-14. One of the important structural indicators of employment is the extent of organized sector employment. The total organised sector workers in 2013-14 are 92.86% in Tiruppur. This clearly indicates that the organised sector has a major influence on working population in Tiruppur. The overall scenario suggests that organised sector plays a key role in providing the employable opportunities in Tiruppur while unorganised sector accounts for only a tiny percentage of total employment. The major livelihood of Tiruppur district comes from the organised sector.

**Table 4****Workers in agriculture and non-agriculture sector**

Sl. No.	Block	Total workers		Cultivators		Agri. Labourers		HH Industries		Other Workers	
		2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011
1	Avinashi	80,761	1,05,656	14,180	11,455	15,575	18,771	3603	3771	40211	65805
2	Dharapuram	81,55	78,21	14,5	12,7	21091	20,91	1822	164	29717	3272

		2	9	15	00		0		7		7
3	Gudimangalam	43,898	44,630	10,791	8,022	19,583	20,360	958	1077	8979	11598
4	Kangayam	51,617	61,991	12,901	12,645	11,084	13,166	3510	2866	19754	26336
5	Kundadam	50,749	44,475	21,889	15,924	16,871	15,095	1341	1207	6508	6866
6	Madathukulam	26,685	54,069	5,089	7,760	11,826	21,526	775	1682	6319	18459
7	Mulanur	42,607	39,494	15,688	13,258	14,641	14,621	784	871	9173	8206
8	Palladam	48,668	98,398	6,354	5,428	8,174	9,821	3622	3641	25506	72720
9	Pongalur	44,251	50,131	11,210	10,548	16,518	16,227	1019	1231	11399	18205
10	Tiruppur	1,79,592	2,58,232	5,477	5,267	7,234	8,451	5724	7152	15233	220735
11	Udumalpet	1,11,064	1,14,367	14,888	11,111	33,992	33,370	2742	3122	15183	57552
12	Uthukuli	48,182	55,037	7,295	5,751	8,640	7150	3816	2105	26416	32237
13	Vellakovil	58,273	61,002	11,168	9,091	14,889	16,001	3129	2598	27272	29077
14	Tiruppur M.Corp.	-	2,07,358	-	490	-	721	-	3492	-	191882
	District	8,67,899	12,73,059	1,51,445	1,29,450	2,00,118	2,16,190	32,845	36,464	5,15,418	7,92,405

Source: District Census Handbook 2001 &amp; 2011

Out of the total workforce, Tiruppur district has 10.17% (129450/1273059) of workforce as Cultivators in 2011. The share of Cultivators to Total workforce has come down rigorously from 17.45% (151445/867899) in 2001 to 10.17% in 2011. Agriculture labourers contribution to total workers in 2011 is 17% (216190/1273059) compared to 23.06% (200118/867899) in 2001. Agricultural labour and Cultivators are the major working force in almost all the blocks. However, it is also observed that there is a steep decline in Cultivators from 2001 to 2011 in all the blocks other than Madathukulam. In general, despite an increase in population and workers, the number of cultivators has reduced in most of the blocks. This is an alarming situation as the food grains and vegetables production may go down drastically in coming years too which may shoot up already mounting food inflation further. The reason for drastic decrease in cultivators is due to lack of adequate profitability i.e. average income earned by cultivators is less than the average income earned by other sector workers. The other reasons are poor monsoon in the recent past and drastic increase in cultivation cost. Adding to this, the present younger generation are not showing interest in cultivating their lands as their focus is either towards an industrial employment or to start a business. Tiruppur is known to be a Garments city and the most of younger generation wants to be an entrepreneur by starting own Garments business as the income from this business is much higher than agriculture. The better industrial growth and other employment opportunities are spreading widely in Tiruppur which has the potential to create a further decline in both Cultivators and Agricultural labour force in the coming years. The government's immediate intervention in ensuring profitability in cultivation will certainly help the agricultural sector continue to provide larger employment in rural areas.

## **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

This study is briefly discusses about five objectives and which are stated in the objectives of the study. An economics analysis of women working in nonfarm sectors in Tiruppur district is the study of how humans understand and act on information to build informed credit decisions. This study most attractive and motivating fields of research throwing light on the motives of beneficiary awareness of women working in nonfarm sectors. The emergence of nonfarm sectors

by women working has existed a new dominion for analyzing the ways in which farmers make decisions that includes emotional factors, as well as provided that new grounds of modeling behavior. This study of economics analysis of women working in nonfarm sectors has involved researchers with a selection of backgrounds. In this chapter the various literatures more than 30 years has been reviewed and presented. Review of literature is necessary to understand the role of non-farm sector in the different aspects of economic development. Such an attempt is also useful to identify the existing research gap. The present exercise is not exhaustive in its coverage, but provides an insight into the remarkable studies on the area concerned.

### PERCENTAGE ANALYSIS

Percentage is one of the basic statistical tools which is widely used in analysis and interpretation of primary data. It deals with the number of respondents response to a particular aspect related the question. Percentage is arrived from the total population selected for the study.

### AGE WISE ANALYSIS

Age is an important factor of every respondent which determines everything in his life. One can master in the ventures only when carried out in suitable age. The age-wise analysis of the respondents in the study area is presented in table 5.

**Table 5**  
**Age Wise Analysis**

	Construction	Transport	Business	Food Processing	Total
Less than 25 Years	3	6	12	23	44
	6.8%	13.6%	27.3%	52.3%	100.0%
26 to 35 Years	5	12	26	31	74
	6.8%	16.2%	35.1%	41.9%	100.0%
36 to 45 Years	18	23	62	96	199
	9.0%	11.6%	31.2%	48.2%	100.0%
46 to 55 Years	25	40	50	106	221
	11.3%	18.1%	22.6%	48.0%	100.0%

More than 55 Years	4	8	22	28	62
	6.5%	12.9%	35.5%	45.2%	100.0%
	55	89	172	284	600
	9.2%	14.8%	28.7%	47.3%	100.0%

**Source:** Field Survey

**Note:** Figures in Parentheses Represent to Percentage

It reveals that among the 55 respondents who use Construction in the study area, 3 (6.8 percent) are less than 25 years, 5 (6.8 percent) are 26 to 35 years, 18 (9.0 percent) are 36 to 45 years, 25 (11.3 percent) are 46 to 55 years , 4 (6.5 percent) are more than 55 years.

It reveals that among the 89 respondents who use Transport in the study area, 6 (13.6 percent) are less than 25 years, 12 (16.2 percent) are 26 to 35 years, 23 (11.6 percent) are 36 to 45 years, 40 (18.1 percent) are 46 to 55 years , 8 (12.9 percent) are more than 55 years.

It reveals that among the 172 respondents who use Business in the study area, 12 (27.3 percent) are less than 25 years, 26 (35.1 percent) are 26 to 35 years, 62 (31.2 percent) are 36 to 45 years, 50 (22.6 percent) are 46 to 55 years , 22 (35.5 percent) are more than 55 years.

It reveals that among the 284 respondents who use Construction in the study area, 23 (52.3 percent) are less than 25 years, 31 (41.9 percent) are 26 to 35 years, 96 (48.2 percent) are 36 to 45 years, 106 (48.0 percent) are 46 to 55 years , 28 (45.2 percent) are more than 55 years.

## COMMUNITY WISE ANALYSIS

Community is another important factor which plays a vital role in the determination of the work non-farm workers. There is a relationship between the caste and the type of work of non-farm works. It is presented in table 5.4.

**CONCLUSION**

The non-farm activities provide supplementary employment to the small and marginal rural households, especially during the slack season. Thus, in determining the total employment and income status of small and marginal households, non-farm activities have a place of great significance in a rural society. Rural-Non-Farm-Activities (RNFAs), thus, play an important role to provide supplementary employment to small and marginal farm households, reduce income inequalities and rural-urban migration. For the first time since Independence, the absolute increase in population is more in urban areas than in rural areas. The rural–urban distribution is 68.84% and 31.16% respectively. The decline was mainly due to a decrease in share of GVA of crops from 11.2% in 2014-15 to 10% in 2017-18. Since Green Revolution, agricultural sector has made significant progress and with it the rural economy has undergone tremendous changes. Shift from protectionist and self – reliance policies in the eighties to liberalization and globalization policies in the nineties has affected the rural areas not only in terms of economic activities but also its social and cultural fabric.

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