Chapter II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE
Review of earlier studies on female labour in agriculture is presented in this chapter. This review explains conceptual issues related to the assessment of status of female labour in general and female labour in agriculture in particular. This will helps to resolve the problem encountered in the earlier studies and to concentrate on the aspects which need more systematic examination. So, an attempt is made to synthesize the conclusions of the earlier studies on female labour in agriculture.

According to United Nations population studies (1973)¹ both in the developed and the developing areas, the labour force participation rate of married women is much lower than those who are single, widowed, divorced or separated. This difference, however, between married and a single woman appears to be smaller in the agricultural societies than in the industrialized countries.

Gronau Reuben (1977)² attempted a model capable of accounting for the wife’s wage rate, husband’s wage rate and the presence of children as variables that determine the allocation of time as between leisure, home production and market work. The fundamental problem with this method is that a household is not prototype of an enterprise or firm and so cultural and social norms play an important role in shaping their preferences and tasks.

Leela Gulati (1978)³ examined working women in India and value of their labour. She found that the children of the agricultural labour too continuing the same occupation despite whatever education they had been
able to receive. She also found that hunger, disease and indebtedness are an integral part of the life of the women labour. There is little prospect of anyone in the family breaking out of viscous circle.

Sawant and Diwan (1979)⁴ in their study of 150 villages in two taluks of Maharashtra observed a fall in female work participation and decline in self employment opportunities in developed villages.

According to Krishna Ahooja Patel (1979)⁵ and Ela, Bhatt (1985)⁶, technological progress has the dual effect of widening women’s employment opportunities and at the same time pushing them into less skilled and less mechanized occupations.

Ashok Mitra (1980)⁷ opined that female who works in household, cultivation, household industry, livestock, fishery or in dairying etc, are subjected to wide fluctuations in registering female work participation in census survey. Thus, such fluctuations cannot be entirely due to the differences in concepts and definitions employed in census or surveys but must be due to substantial differences in perception of the respondent as to what constitutes economic contribution by way of female work participation in these subsistence sectors. He gives an economic explanation for the census undercounting of women’s contribution is seen as equal to or more than the subsistence requirements of the family, they are ‘seen’ as economically active.

The study of Ghodaka and Ryan (1981)⁸ discussed that availability of family female labour is inversely related to the farm size. Females may be
forced to work outside the family farm in cases where the family owns little or no land in order to supplement the meager income of adult male members. When farm size increases, women may withdraw from work or only confine to their own farm work.

Mencher and Saradamoni (1982) argued that the question of employment is considerably less in rice producing areas, compared to areas where rice is interspersed with other crops. Since the coverage of HYVs in paddy is complete in irrigated areas and mechanization is also high.

Saradamoni (1982) studied that changing agrarian relations and its impact on women in Palakkad district. He argues that despite the fact that socio-political changes which coincided with the agrarian struggles favored legislation for the underprivileged sections in the society and the advantages of justice did not reach all, especially women.

Sudarshan Reddy and Girija Rani (1982) tried to workout the workdays of female in different economic activities and domestic work according to different categories of household such as agricultural households, artisan households and agricultural labour households and also compared the workdays of females with males. Taking economic and domestic activities together, women work for more number of days in a year and longer hours in a day as compared to men. The study also reveals that the females work days are higher among cultivator families compared to artisan and agricultural labour families.
Anker (1983)\textsuperscript{12} pointed out there are number of reasons for under-reporting of female labour force participation. It includes ambiguous and ill understand definitions of labour force participation, quality, biases of interviewers, biases of male respondent, lack of knowledge on the part of proxy-respondent and poorly constructed questionnaire.

Agarwal (1984)\textsuperscript{13} pointed out that following introduction of new technologies in agriculture, casualisation of work is increased for both men and women, while it is more enhanced in the operations such as transplanting, weeding and harvesting where female labour is primarily employed.

Sisodia (1985)\textsuperscript{14} study the magnitude of the female labour participation rate in the specific field operations as well as in other preparatory or supportive activities to agricultural production process, the family female labour participate in the decision-making process and the association between the extent and nature of female participation in agriculture and economic-demographic characteristics of Bhind and Morena districts of Madhya Pradesh. The study revealed that the rate of female participation is very low. The pattern of division of labour between men and women varies from region to region according to social customs. In the Chambal region, the preparatory tillage operations are not performed by the farm women. On animal based tasks like cake making, ghee making, milking animals, removing of cow dung from the cattle shed and feeding of animals are mostly done by the farm women. There is no hired female
labour is employed for these animal-based tasks. Only a few per cent of total family labour in preparatory or supportive activities to agricultural production process and the rest is done by men. In the decision making process wives are consulted regarding the choice of crops to be grown, variety of seeds, fertilizer application, number of irrigation quantity of grains to be marketed and place of marketing. The degree of female participation about new ideas in agriculture is much more in the case of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and backward classes and declines with higher position in the social hierarchy. The employment of family female labour in field operations decreases with the increase in the size of holding. There are large variations in female participation in field operations by different castes.

Joshi and Alshi (1985) have attempted the impact of HYVs on female labour employment by size-groups of holdings and the employment effect of HYVs separately for family and hired female labour in Akola district of Maharashtra state. The study revealed that per hectare female labour use on HYV cotton and jowar farms is more as compared to the local variety farm. In cotton, HYV cotton farms used about 157 per cent more female labour per hectare over local variety, while in jowar crop, the HYV used 26 per cent more female labour over local variety. The adoption of HYV of cotton and jowar increased the requirement of casually hired female labour to a large extent, implying thereby an increase in the employment opportunities for female labour seeking agricultural wage employment.
Marothia and Sharma (1985)\(^6\) have examined the relative share of female labour in paddy production and subsidiary activities to account for their economic contribution at the farm level in Dharsiwa block of Raipur district of Chhattisgarh plains region. The study shows that in spite of high proportion of irrigated areas on medium and large farms, the intensity of cropping has inverse relationship with the size of holdings. The lower intensity of cropping on medium and large farms may be attributed to the management factor and protective nature of canal irrigation available on the sample farms. The rate of female labour participation was higher than that of male labour on all farm size-groups but the rate was slightly less than double for female labour on the large farms. The higher participation rates for female labour reflect their greater need to earn income from the employment of their labour. Female labour contributed a higher proportion of total labour input in paddy production activities on all farm size-groups. The share of female labour in total wage earnings was higher than male wage earnings on all farm size-groups. The relative share of female labour in total paddy output was slightly higher on small farms but it was significantly higher on medium and large farms. The women labour played a significant role in paddy production and subsidiary activities on the sample farms both in terms of working days and wage earnings.

Suryawanshi and Kapase (1985)\(^7\) have studied the changes in their size of family and the effective labour force, the changes in female labour employment after the introduction of irrigation and the per farm and per hectare labour utilization and participation of female labour in Ghod
Irrigation project area of Maharashtra over a period of time. Main findings of their study are both male and female members got higher employment in agriculture due to irrigation available by Ghod project, family female labour utilization was more than that of hired female labour, this is clearly indicated that due to irrigation facilities there was an increase in female employment in the family. The introduction of irrigation project, high labour intensity crops were introduced in the area, which accelerated the labour employment in general and the employment of female labour in particular.

Ray, Rangarao and Attari (1985)\textsuperscript{18} have attempted the impact of technological changes on female labour employment; compare the wage rates of male and female labour and the impact of differential wage rates on female labour employment and the relative impact of different factors on family female labour employment in the states of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala. The study revealed that the employment of female labour is relatively lower than that of the male labour in two out of the three states. The use of family female labour is found to be negatively related with the size of holding under both the local and high-yielding varieties of wheat and paddy in all the states and the adoption of new production technology, the use of female labour increased enormously on all size-groups of farms. The wage rate of female labour is comparatively lower than that of the male labour in all the states.

Ramesh Chand, Sidhu and Kaul (1985)\textsuperscript{19} examined the impact of new agricultural technology on the employment and wages of different categories
of workers and the impact of new agricultural technology on the employment of casual, attached and family labour in both men and women workers categories and to isolate the effect of various individual factors on the employment pattern of male and female workers in Punjab. The study showed that modernization of agriculture in Punjab has resulted in increased employment per hectare of cultivated area for all kinds of female labour. In the case of male labour there was a small decline in the employment per hectare in 1980-81 compared with that in 1971-72 and wider application of new agricultural strategy has resulted in reducing the differences in the wage rates of men and women.

Anuva Saikia (1985)\textsuperscript{20} studied work participation rate of females depended on cropping pattern, crop intensity and economic compulsion to engage in farm activities of Jorhat and Sibsagar districts, Assam. Females worked as casual labour on the farms during specific farm operations. The average female work participation rate was higher on marginal farms. The female work participation rate and volume of employment were higher in paddy. Transplanting and harvesting of paddy were done exclusively by female workers per hectare use of labour decreased and per farm use of labour increased with the increase of farm size.

Dangat and Yadav (1985)\textsuperscript{21} have discussed the role of women in crop production in Ahmedanagar district in Maharashtra. They observed that the proportion of hired female labour used on the farm to the total hired human labour was higher as compared to that of family female human labour. This
may be due to the lower wage rates for the females than for the males and their relatively more use on larger farms. The use of female labour for various farm operations, the operations like stubble collection and weeding were exclusively carried out by the females. The participation of female labour was also large in the operations like harvesting, threshing and winnowing; equally important operations in crop production were performed by the female labour which accounted for one-third of the total human labour used in crop production on the farm.

Dhongada, Patil S.D. and Patil S.J. (1985)\textsuperscript{22} have attempted the nature of participation of family women labour for the three crop regions, namely, Jowar region, cotton region and sugarcane region in Maharashtra. The participation of women in the farm work in different size classes of holdings showed that in jowar and cotton regions, the participation in the work done on own farm for crop production increased with the increase in the size of holdings. In sugarcane region the participation of women for ‘work’ in others farm showed a declining trend with the increase in size-group of holdings. The participation of family women labour in farm activities is related to the economic development of the area and the farmers. The participation was relatively low in the developed sugarcane area and also on the larger holdings which are financially better.

Gadre and Mahalle (1985)\textsuperscript{23} discussed that to work out and compare the levels of female labour utilization in crop production under traditional technology and modern technology, the extent of farm and non-farm
employment available to female workers in the farm family and the seasonal fluctuations in employment of female workers in the farm family in Akola and Amaravati district of Maharashtra. Female farm worker was observed to be more dependent on the farm for employment as compared to male farm worker. High variability in month to month employment was observed in the case of female farm worker when viewed from overall employment angle. Month wise employment of female farm worker ranged from 2.61 days in the month of March to 21.52 days in the month of July. Female farm workers were underemployed.

Reddy (1985) study of female labour employment in dry land areas was carried out at Nagaur. It is observed that the number of employed days declined with the increase in the size of land holdings at most of the centers. The employment opportunities increased with the increase of moisture index of region. The employment situation in the case of female workers differed from one location to another due to variation in the cropping pattern, rainfall distribution, soil type, availability of irrigational facilities and non-agricultural works available in the locality. The employment days in crop production increased with the increase of land holding but declined with the increase of land holding in the case of hiring out female labour for wages and also miscellaneous works such as earth works and road repairs etc., at all centers. The unemployment in the case of females was very severe at all locations.
Singh and Bhatt (1985)\textsuperscript{25} examined the role of women in the agricultural economy of Himachal Pradesh. The study revealed that among the farm workers the proportion of females was higher than males. The level of illiteracy was higher among females as compared to males. Two-thirds of their time was utilized for tending of cattle and one-third for crop production activities. Changes in crop production technologies of the work load of women in all size farms have increased.

Guleria Amar and Brij Agrnihotri (1985)\textsuperscript{26} discussed the female labour participation in various farm operations and their contribution towards the total farm and household incomes. They observed that the share of female workers in the overall income of the sample households was higher than the male workers. But the farm income over a unit of land attributed to the female workers was found less as compared to male workers. The money contribution of females in the farm income is found to be smaller than that of male labour.

Jaiswal and Singh (1985)\textsuperscript{27} investigated the pattern and level of employment of women labour, wage structure and the income of women labour. The study observed that the economic conditions of women labour were very pitiable. Their socio-economic status in the rural community is the lowest. The hours of work were not fixed. Even during maternity period, women labour were compelled to work. The wage rates paid were also low as compared to the male workers for the same job.
Dutta and Sharma (1985) attempted the contribution of female labour is larger in the peasant household farms as compared to other hired labour-based farms, participation of female labour largely depends on the customary division of work between men and women and the percentage of female labour spent in agricultural process is significantly higher among STs and Koiry farmers as compared to other communities. The study showed that the percentage of female labour input is significantly higher on peasant farms, most of which belonged to the small and medium size classes. The organizational character of peasant households induces more female labour participation in agriculture. The women workers are generally allocated lighter works such as transplanting of paddy, weeding and harvesting. In the case of ST and Koiry farms where in the female workers have participated even in pursuits like land preparation, irrigation and marketing. ST female labour have greater willingness to participate in agriculture as compared to other high caste farmers.

Panghal and Mange Ram (1985) examined the employment pattern of women labour on farms in different agro-climatic zones of Haryana. The study revealed that as the size of farm increased the participation of women labour also increased. The increasing trend of women labour participation with the increase in the size of farm is due to the fact that the larger is the size of the farm more is the amount of hired women labour. The employment of women labour was the highest in cotton followed by paddy and wheat.
Shashi Munjal, Punia and Veena Sagwan (1985) have attempted the actual time spent in performing different activities in home, farm and dairy sectors. Their economic contribution in the household by performing different activities and the impact of agricultural season and farm size on their work participation are examined. The findings of the study as the farm size increased work participation of farm women decreased in the farm sector and increased in the home and dairy sector. On small and marginal farms farm women had to perform the farm operations in peak season besides the home and dairy activities which are their traditional roles.

Yadav C.P. and Yadav R.N. (1985) attempted the effect of changes in the cropping pattern on female work participation using inter-temporal approach. The female farm labour participation are increased. Their participation was maximum on small farms. They also participated in a variety of farm operations such as land preparations excluding (ploughing), transplanting, harvesting, mechanical threshing, winnowing and primary processing of agricultural commodities. Seasonal variation of agricultural labour has declined.

Azad, Prasad, Yadav and Bhartiya (1985) have discussed the participation of female workers in agriculture and allied enterprises, the utilization of women labour in various farm operations and the contribution of female wage earners to the farm income. It is concluded that illiteracy and financial hardships of Scheduled Caste (SC) families are responsible for their worst conditions, placing them at the lowest ladder in the rural society. The
women from the lowest strata of the society showed an inclination to take up wage-paid employment in agro-based industries, if they are educated. The participation of women in agriculture and allied enterprises as wage earners, is confined to only the female workers of SCs. Besides working as wage earners, the female workers are also engaged in the maintenance of their milch cattle and in the procurement of fodder and grains for them.

Vinod Kumar, Singh, Yadav and Singh (1985)\(^{33}\) studied to work out the level of employment of women workers, their wage structure and the level of income and Measures for the improvement of the conditions of women workers. In agriculture, female employment was the highest in harvesting, threshing and winnowing followed by intercultural, maintenance of cattle, application of manure and fertilizers, sowing and preparation of land. The wage rate for all the operations was equal except for harvesting, threshing and winnowing. In non-agriculture, the female employment pattern was the highest in spinning and weaving followed by house construction, repairing and maintenance and sewing and other work. Women worker received employment mostly on casual basis. None of the women was employed as permanent labour. Women agriculture labour got almost full employment.

Balaraman (1985)\(^{34}\) discussed the types of sex discrimination practiced in farm wages with particular reference to Tamil Nadu. The study revealed that on an average, the wage paid to a female worker was roughly 60 to 80 per cent of the wages paid to a male worker. The discrimination
against women has been prevailing in all its form. In the agricultural sector this discrimination is largely operated through open wage discrimination.

Grewal (1985) examined the pattern of employment in agriculture for SC women month wise and operation wise, the level and method of payment of wages for SC women operation wise and to highlight the difference in the pattern of employment and wage structure for SC men and women month wise and operation wise in sangrur district of Punjab. It was observed that contract money wages have taken roots in Punjab agriculture particularly in paddy transplantation and paddy-wheat harvesting. All the respondents showed preference for contract money wages as all members of the family irrespective of age and sex are engaged in farm operations leading to higher wage per worker. Farm workers also preferred to work on kind wages in Paddy-wheat harvesting. Thus the technological break through in agriculture has increased the working days per year of agricultural workers resulting in more earnings for this class.

Mallik, Chowdary and Giri (1985) have examined the extent of variations in female labour used by region, by crop, by operation etc., the self employed and wage-employed female labour and their socio-economic conditions, to compare the wage and work output of female labour and wage and work output of female labour and male labour, the effect of introduction of mechanical thresher on female labour absorption and the impact of increase in production on labour absorption. The study revealed that labour absorption was higher in the IADP district as compared to the non-IADP
district. Female labour absorption was much greater in boro paddy than in aman paddy. Among the various operations, female labour was engaged mostly in seed-bed preparation, transplantation and threshing. In the IADP district, the extent of wage-employed female labour was greater than the self-employed female labour. The wage employed labour mostly belonged to the landless labour families and SCs and STs. Wages paid to female those paid to male labour for similar work output. Introduction of mechanical thresher the engagement of female labour has declined to a greater extent as compared to the use of male labour. Paddy production and labour absorption indicated that every tone increase in production of paddy will absorb more female labour than the male labour both in the IADP and non-IADP districts.

Sharma, Sharma and Sharma (1985)\(^{37}\) have emphasized the pattern of labour contribution to the total labour supply by female farm workers as associated with modernization of agriculture and the extent and analyze the pattern of contribution to the total labour supply to the farm sector made by female workers by performing supportive activity of cattle upkeep under various conditions due to agricultural modernization. The results of the study indicated that high and low technologies were compared then it was noted that high technology reduced female labour absorption on the farm of the total labour supply.

Volmiheni (1986)\(^{38}\) examines socio-economic status and level of women participation in family affairs, assesses quality of work and identifies
jobs available for women in agriculture covering four villages in Warangal and Nizamabad districts. She identified that female agricultural labour like other working women were demanding equal opportunities and equal wages on per with male labour.

Nayyar (1987)\textsuperscript{39} examined that using descriptive Cross-state Indian data on female participation rates and agricultural wages for the period 1964-65 to 1974-75, complained about the continuing practice of wage discrimination in Indian agriculture and the limited access of women to agricultural employment, women’s employment, being generally restricted to busy seasons and to certain kinds of farm work.

Erra Gattu Swamy, Venkata Narayana and Linga Murthy (1989)\textsuperscript{40} in their study discussed that working women are engaged as wage labour especially women belonging to socially backward and economically disadvantaged groups like scheduled caste, Scheduled tribes and Backward classes. Wages for women depending upon their work and caste stratification, wages are low for women compared to men though they do the same type of work with men. Hence there is discrimination between men and women working in agriculture and allied activities.

Rao (1989)\textsuperscript{41} suggested that the observed declining male-female wage differentials across states are possibly due to the introduction of new technology that may have improved the bargaining power of female labour.

Nata Duvvury (1989)\textsuperscript{42} pointed out that India in the recent past has witnessed an upsurge in research on various aspects of women’s existence,
with the early focus on the social facets of their status giving way to analyses of women’s location within the sphere of economic production, a shift that was prompted by the alarming decline in female participation.

The study of Asokan and Pradipta Choudary (1989)\textsuperscript{43} tries to relate female work participation rates at district level in Andhra Pradesh with several factors such as cropping intensity, female literacy, scheduled caste population, male participation rates, sex ratios, gini ratio and sex index, with the help of rank correlation and regression analysis. They came to the conclusions that poverty is the root cause for the female work participation rate in rural areas and they feel that this result should be proved with more disaggregated data.

Chaudhari and Ganorkar (1992)\textsuperscript{44} pointed out the farm women who faced some of the difficulties in agricultural activities. Majority of the farm women participated in the activities like storage of produce, uprooting of seedlings, transplanting weeding, hoeing, harvesting, picking, threshing, winnowing and cleaning. Besides this farm women played active role in decision-making regarding areas of crops to be sown. Major difficulties of farm women are low compensation, insufficient loans, and insufficient well irrigation; do not get the skilled labour. They came to the conclusion that the majority of the farm women faced difficulties even though their contribution to agriculture is high.

Autkar, et. al. (1992)\textsuperscript{45} examined the impact of the technological factors on the intensity of labour use and its intensities in the farm. The
study showed that technological factors like intensity of cropping, proportion of area under hybrid varieties of crops and allocation of area under crops requiring higher male to female labour ratio exhibited a great influence on the intensity of female labour use and two-thirds of human labour work hours in agriculture is done by the female labour.

Bhole and Alka Patki (1992)\(^4\) studies the role of expectation and role performance and identify the areas where training is required by farm women labour in agriculture. The study revealed that the farm women labour were involved in all types of farm activities but their maximum contribution was in pre-sowing, sowing, manuring, harvesting, and grain storage and marketing operations and the role performance was found to be minimum in respect of land preparation and plant protection. The role of performance of farm women labour coming from poor and background castes with no formal education was found to be higher than that of others. The training needs were also found to be higher. So as to involve farm women labour in skilled jobs in farming like plant protection, threshing, and grain storage and marketing, and the skill training needs to be imparted to them.

Sen (1993)\(^4\) studied the role of women in agriculture and they act as transition model. Majority of them are involved in many agricultural related activities and they are wage earners, some of the constraints faced by them in farm activities. To out of these constraints, policy interventions made by
the government particularly to women to reduce the drudgery and give importance to them.

Arene and Kalu (1993)\(^{48}\) in their paper discussed about the agricultural productivity of rural women farmers, and their socio economic characteristics like using trade technology in farm activities and they are relatively old and less literate and their productivity to agriculture is more and they are mainly rural wage labour in Nigeria.

Sri Sankari and Uma (1995)\(^{49}\) argued on the position and problems of women in agricultural activities. Women in agriculture spend time even seven to eight hours a day in the fields in some of the agricultural activities they share the work with men. In some aspects women are not employed in any remunerative work. Women are more efficient than men in some aspects of employment. But most women lack confidence and lack of skills, their husbands are not interested in sending their wives to venture in such new occupations.

Diwan (1995)\(^{50}\) and Parmar (1987)\(^{51}\), in their study clearly established that women employed as wage labour of domestic servants were generally paid lower wages the male labour.

Jeemol Unni (1997)\(^{52}\) discussed the trends in the employment and wage-earnings status of women and men in rural labour households. It was observed that both male and female was increasing in the rural labour market. The nature of the employment undertaken by the women and men in these households was also undergoing a change. The proportion of wage
earners in these household was declining. In the labour households the total number of days of employment in the year per worker increased over time, the percentage of wage employed days declined. The percentage of wage employed days of women increased, and that of man declined. The stagnating real wages in the agricultural sector are relatively unfavorable to the condition of women workers in agriculture and increase in the proportion of women workers in the primary sector, reversing the earlier trend, indicates that the option of diversification to non-agricultural employment is increasingly limited for women.

Haque (1998)\textsuperscript{53} analyzed the regional trends, patterns and determination of wages of agricultural labour in India and the relationship between wage rates and rural poverty in various NSS regions. It was observed that in the wake of economic liberalization, there is a declining trend in real wages in many states. In every state, there are some districts where the wage rates are much lower than the state average wage rates and these districts include high productivity as well as low productivity areas. An improvement in real wage rate is a necessary if not a sufficient condition for enabling the agricultural labour households to cross poverty lines. Wage discrimination against women labour exists in many places even for similar type of work being performed by men and women. The adult-child wage ratio is very high in most parts of the country.

Prudhvikar Reddy and Sree Rama Raju (1998)\textsuperscript{54} analyzed trends in farm employment and wages across agro-climatic zones during the post and
The paper showed that liberalization does not have any impact either on labour absorption or on wages and adoption of technology and increase in real wages tend to reduce employment.

Nirmala, Ramesh, Jude Anpazhagan and Subodh (1998) discussed about differences in wages between men and women in agriculture and there is discrimination against women regarding wages. Other causes of low wages between men and women are ill health, education etc. Mainly the females are getting low wages than men even though the same work is done by them. Females are discriminated on the basis of gender both by their employers and Government despite the passage of Minimum Wages Acts and Equal Remuneration Act.

Nirmala, et. al. (1998) in their study revealed the existence of wage differentials on the basis of both the statutory minimum and gender. The estimation of wage functions for the male, female and total respondents revealed that health and sex dummies contributed significantly to higher wage rates, a rise in the annual days worked significantly reduced it.

Subhramanyam (1999) in his study found that state has highest female work participation rate while male work participation rate declined due to mechanization introduced along with HYVs. Godavari Krishna zone has the highest intensity of cropping with high concentration of paddy and there is employment for females. The share of female labour in rice cultivation increased from 30 per cent to 47 percent.
Bhagirathi Das (2000)\textsuperscript{58} studied women are the major contribution in agriculture production and they played an important role in agriculture such as livestock, rearing, beekeeping, sericulture, decision-making on farm activities and they are the mostly agricultural labour than cultivators, modern technology in agriculture displaced the women in traditional activities and reduce the demand for female employment in agriculture.

Rajula Devi (2000)\textsuperscript{59} studied the relation of production and household reproduction in two different regions i.e wet and dry areas of Tamil Nadu. Caste appears to be major influence on landless women’s participation in rice agriculture due to wet and dry areas, decreasing real wages for agricultural labour which in turn results poverty and it leads to landless households in rice agriculture.

Usha Tuteja (2000)\textsuperscript{60} examined the contribution of female workers to family income in the farm households of rural Haryana. The study revealed that Female agricultural workers contribute significantly in household income on all farm sizes and their earnings are found most crucial for the landless and small farm households. The proportionate contribution of females declined with increasing farm size. The status of female agricultural workers in decision-making is found to be poor. Female workers belonging to big farm households had a better say as compared to others. Ownership rights in land are almost non-existent for female workers. The assessment of the level of control of female workers over their earnings revealed that women belonging to land owning classes enjoyed the financial power of their
earned money to some extent but female workers from small and landless households usually surrendered their earned income to the family pool and they had no freedom to spend their earned money. The female agricultural workers do not enjoy the status commensurate to their involvement in the households as a worker. Female agricultural workers have lacked education, health and other support services and frequently do not have access to economic resources. They are not integrated into the mainstream development process in the rural areas despite being the backbone of the village economy.

Shaik Haffis and Reddy (2000)\textsuperscript{61} focused on the dry land districts in the state of Andhra Pradesh. It was suggested that technologies meant for dry land areas have made a significant impact on productivity and output, their impact on labour demand and wages is not insignificant. Women account for a bulk of the labour used in the crops cultivated in the study area. Many crop operations continue to be characterized by gender-based specialization, in turn has translated into lower wages for women. There are no male-female differences of working hours but women are paid less than men. Kisan melas and other extension effects played a role in narrowing gender differentials in wages, both directly, as well as indirectly, by influencing the demand and contractual arrangements for labour.

Padmanabhan (2001)\textsuperscript{62} argued that women are engaged in agriculture and allied activities and their role are managers to landless labour. Migration of male labour leaving women in rural areas and they are the
income earners in agriculture in rural areas. To empower rural women in agriculture through effective training and extension services and welfare schemes to improve the working conditions of agricultural women.

Sobha (2001)\(^6\) pointed out that mainly rural women depending on agriculture, women are belonged to backward classes and their economic position is not good. Caste plays a dominant role to provide employment of women as agricultural labour belonged to lower caste and the upper caste women supervise the work in own farming to other women engaged as wage labour. Socio-economic conditions play a dominant role on women.

Muguntha Raj and Bharathi (2001)\(^6\) have examined the factors which determine the active participation of small farm women in agriculture and allied activities in one of the Taluk of Chintamani, Kolar District Karnataka. The study has revealed that women were fully engaged in some task or the other which directly or indirectly contributed to the family economy. Mechanisation of agriculture, rural development programs and market oriented economy has accelerated the active participation of rural women at home and also in agricultural and allied activities. But her status has not changed either in the family or in the community since she is not economically empowered. The small farmers are not in a position to avail loans from the bank. The greatest tragedy is that none of the rural development programs, except few have so far identified the’ farm women’ as beneficiaries. The various finance institutions also do not advance loans to them, this trend forces the small farmers to run to the local money lenders
for their day-to-day urgent requirements, and this adversely affects the women in the household, since the principles and the interests of loans advanced is collected by the village money lenders from the women in an unethical manner. Most of the times they are made to work for a longtime in the money lenders household for less payment or no payment, they are also physically assaulted and sexually abused, forcibly raped, the public and the police also keep silent over the issue. Only in a rare situation it is reported to the press.

Dogra (2002)\textsuperscript{65} in his article discussed about women a farm worker which is basically in unorganized sector. He pointed out that women farm workers are generally the double victims of class based exploitation and gender based discrimination. Due to their economically precarious condition they generally agree to work at very low wages for sheer subsistence. There have been very few movements to resist the injustice. Researcher gave more importance to ‘Disha’, a voluntary organization active in Saharanpur district of Uttar Pradesh, has played a notable role in the mobilization of women farm workers and asserting their equal rights.

Sobha and Reddy (2003)\textsuperscript{66} argued that women’s work is increased in agriculture and allied activities in Andhra Pradesh and the data was collected from two villages on sample basis. The main content in their paper was women belonged to different landholdings (Landless, Marginal, Small, Large) categories and occupational groups, their work force participation rate was very high as compared to men. But there is discrimination of
women in terms of employment and wages as compared to men. Women in agriculture must be given equal importance with men even though they are engaged in household activities.

Bimla, et. al. (2003)\textsuperscript{67} examined women’s participation in agricultural activities in Kaithal district of Haryana. They observed that involvement of rural women in agricultural activities was to the extent of 73 per cent and also drudgery was involved in the activities like transplanting, crushing etc. Women, particularly rural women who participate equally with men should be trained in the modern techniques of agriculture.

Satyasundaram (2003)\textsuperscript{68} in his paper titled “India’s Economy and Rural Women Workers”, discussed about the policies introduced by Government of India towards the women in agriculture and allied activities. Even though policies introduced towards women, they are lagging behind in employment opportunities because of lack of education, training and skills but when compared to men, women work load is heavy and they earn low income and there is discrimination towards women particularly in wages.

Saraswathi Raju Iyer (2004)\textsuperscript{69} studied that women in rural areas are depending on agriculture which is the major unorganized sector in India. Rural women in India are classified into four categories namely landless women, near landless women, small peasant women, and rich peasant women. Women are mostly the agricultural labour 50 per cent of agricultural operations and allied activities are done by women. Women face a lot of problems in agriculture like women labour displaced by technology,
physical strenuous labour, illiteracy etc. Women are the major contributors in agriculture. So, the government of India introduced some schemes towards women to reduce drudgery of the women in agriculture and allied activities.

Jaivir Singh and Meenakshi (2004)\textsuperscript{70} pointed out that changing the nature of women’s work in casual labour markets works as daily wage and piece wage rates in agriculture, leads to increase in working hours of both adult and child females, gender-based wage differences are there inspite of same work done by women along with men, males received high wage rates, it also deals with increased presence of women in the agricultural labour force.

Amaresh Dubey, Veronica Pala and Eugene D. Thomas (2004)\textsuperscript{71} emphasized that role of education and participation of women in the labour force. The paper showed that as the economic status improves the female labour force participation rate declines. Women work participation rates with increase in education level especially at the primary and secondary levels.

Sucharita Sinha (2005)\textsuperscript{72} examined rural female work participation rates in four districts of West Bengal. The study showed that in the West Bengal female labour force participation is relatively higher in non-agricultural activities. Occupational classification of female workers within West Bengal showed an almost clear dichotomy between districts having high employment of women workers in agricultural and non agricultural
activities, suggested that the absence of opportunities for non agricultural employment could be a possible cause for low rural female work participation rate in the districts of West Bengal and Institutional biases and a tradition of non-participation in agriculture might thus be reasons contributing to a low rural female work participation rate in the state.

Singh, Anil Kumar and Singh (2005)\textsuperscript{73} discussed to work out differences in labour wages paid to male and female agricultural labour at their work place in the rural society from different part of the country. The study revealed that the drudgery of women in overall activities as well as household works was higher than men in all the selected states. It was lower in agriculture as compared to the males. Wages disparity was found to be higher among men and women in agriculture where men enjoyed with higher wages than women while in case of on farm activities.

Swarna Vepa (2005)\textsuperscript{74} argued about the declining economic stake of women in agriculture in spite of their contribution. Women are mainly wage labour they are also as main workers, marginal workers in agriculture, marginalization of the workforce is done by women in rural areas because the males are migrated from low paid agricultural areas because the males are migrated from low paid agricultural areas to high paid agricultural prosperous areas. Due to mechanization also women are replaced and the work done by the women is more than the men. Another reason for women is that they don’t migrate to other areas because of family responsibilities and so they are forced to work in agriculture with low paid jobs. In the
Southern States especially in rice cultivation, females are agricultural labour than in the Northern states.

Thangamani and Uma Rani (2005)\textsuperscript{75} pointed out that women are facing so many problems in agriculture like mechanization has affected women by reducing the demand for employment in peak season. Poor access to financial services, lack of mobility and time, lack of education and lack of incentives, low status and rigid traditional and social norms and heavy work load is carried by women in agriculture. Hence, they are facing so many problems when compared to men.

Jyoti Kachroo (2005)\textsuperscript{76} studied on rural farm women’s contributing to family income in Jammu district, argues that despite they are agricultural workers, who contribution significantly in cultivation and dairy income little in wage but over all contribution of females towards family income is very high which always remains unaccountable and therefore, it is suggested that the employment policies for the rural women may be framed.

Thelma Paris, et. al. (2005)\textsuperscript{77} discussed about the labour out migration of rice farming households and the impact on women’s work burden. Migration of males increased women’s decision making capacity and their contribution to agriculture is high particularly rice farming and also the wages are low who work in another farms but at the same time they are left behind to face several problems in rice farming because their lack of access to modern seed technology impedes their work.
Purnamita Dasgupta and Bishwanath Goldar (2006) studied that an inverse relationship between supply of labour and wage rate at low level of wage, especially for women in rural areas. The results showed that supply of female labour from below poverty line households in rural areas is inversely related to wage rate and the number of earning members in the family.

To sum up, various studies discussed in this chapter carried out by a number of scholars and research institutions have proved that the economic policies of developing countries had limited effects on socio-economic development of female labour in agricultural sector. The studies find that development policies failed to address the basic needs of female labour. Since the female labour belongs poorer section of the society are not organized and do not have political influence, the adverse effects of economic policies fall disproportionately on them. They are playing vital role in agricultural sector. In spite of large number of studies on female agricultural labour, they are confirmed to one or other region. There is no comprehensive study covering all the regions. The development strategies had their impact differently in different regions. So far there is no comprehensive study on the socio-economic conditions of female agricultural labour in Andhra Pradesh. In this context, the present study is important to assess the impact of development strategies on female agricultural labour in Andhra Pradesh. The present study is taken up to bridge the gap.

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