

# Participation of Female Labour Force in Agriculture Sector (A Study with Reference to Chhattisgarh, India)

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**Abstract:** Agriculture is the main occupation of the people as around 70% of the people are depending on agriculture and allied activities in rural areas in India<sup>1</sup>. In India, female work participation rate has been changing over time in general and the rural female work participation rate has increased in particular. As per national sample survey (68<sup>th</sup> Round), the worker-population ratio for female folk in rural sector was 24.8 in 2011-12, while that for male-folk it was 54.3; and in urban sector, it was 14.7 for females and 54.6 for males<sup>2</sup>. In Chhattisgarh, the rural area, total female workers are increasing compared to the total male workers, indicating an increase in women work force participation rate in agricultural activities.

**Keywords:** Agriculture, women labour, participation, productive resources, National Sample Survey, unemployment rate, work force.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The International Development Community has recognized that “agriculture is an engine of growth and poverty reduction in countries where it is the main occupation of the poor”<sup>3</sup>. However, the agriculture sector in many developing countries is under performing, in part because women, who represent crucial resources in agriculture and the rural economy through their roles as farmers, labourers and entrepreneurs, almost everywhere face more severe constraints than men in access to productive resources. The women labour constitutes an important segment of the labour force in India and their participation in the labour force is gradually increasing in the labour market. Wage work in India, as elsewhere, in a number of fields is sharply differentiated along sexual lines. There are only a few occupations, which are exclusively preserved for either men or women, even when men and women work in the same industry.

## II. REVIEW OF LITRATURE

Mridul Eapen (1992), “Fertility and Female Labour Force Participation in kerala” – ‘The functioning of the female labour market may have induced a certain response affecting fertility behavior, decline in work participation rates of married women’.

Tariq Masood and Mohd. Izhar Ahmad (2009), ‘An econometric analysis of inter-state variation in women’s labour force participation in India’ – Education and wages have no significant effect on rural women’s labour force participation, Muslim population has negative effect while scheduled tribes and scheduled cast population has positive effect on rural women’s labour force participation.

Terni Raney and included Gustavo Anriquez, corppssted, Stefano Gerosa, Sarah Lowder, Ira Matuscke and Jakob Skact, (2011) ‘The role of women in agriculture’ - :

“Women comprise about 43 percent of the global agriculture labour force and of that in developing countries, but this figure marks considerable variation across region and within countries according age and social class, women comprise half or more of the agricultural labour force in many African and Asian countries, but share is much less in some.”“Women’s participation in rural labour market show much heterogeneity at the regional level, but women is over represented in unpaid, seasonal and part-time work and the available evidence suggests that women are often paid less than men, for the same work.”

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<sup>1</sup> Census of India – 2011

<sup>2</sup> National sample survey (68th Round)

<sup>3</sup> The 2008 world development report presented compelling imperial evidence from a wide range of countries that supports this finding (World Bank, 2007).

Surjit S. Bhalla and Ravinder Kaur (2011), '*Labour force participation of women in India: some facts, some queries*'. "India has one of the lowest labour force participation rates for women in the world, more accurately, one of the lowest rate for urban women."

"Female education has a positive effect on labour force participation rate."

Munir Khan, Muhammad Sajjad, Benish Hameed, Muhammad Nimatullah Khan and abbas Ulla Jan.; (2012), '*Participation women in agriculture activities in district Peshawar*' – "The main reason observed for the low participation of women is social one."

"Women are feeding, watering, milking, yogurt preparation, churning, cleaning sheds, dung collection, making dung cakes, cleaning animal, building sheds, chick feeding, collection of eggs, cutting green fodder, bringing fodder is main livestock activities performed."

Rahul Lahoti and Hema Swaminathan. (2013), '*Economic growth and female labour force participation in India*', - "The decline in female labour force participation in India is not part of the "Normal" development process which will reverse itself with more growth, as has been experienced by some other countries."

"Agriculture and manufacturing sectors are typically labour intensive but have not led the overall economic growth in India."

Makkina Suneeta (2014), '*Female labour participation in agriculture : A case of AP*' – "The rural area female total workers are increasing than the male total workers, indicating and increase in women work force participation rate in agricultural activities."

The persistent decline in female labour force participation rate (LFPR) in India in the face of consistent economic growth is a puzzling phenomenon. It was brought sharply in to focus with the results of latest employment and unemployment survey which declined from 33.3% to 26.5% in rural areas and from 17.3% to 14.6% in urban areas (NSSO 2011)<sup>4</sup> in the period 2004-05 to 2009-10.

According to the Reports of International Labour Organization Global Employment Trends 2013, India is placed at 120<sup>th</sup> among 131 countries in women's labour force participation<sup>5</sup>.

According to the 66<sup>th</sup> round of the National Sample Survey (June 2009- June 2010)<sup>6</sup>, the worker's population ratio (W.P.R.) for women, according to the usual status (Considering both principal activity and subsidiary activity), in rural and urban areas was 26.1% and 13.8% respectively<sup>7</sup>. Female labour force participation depends on availability of male workers, cropping pattern, productivity of male workers, productivity of land, size of the holdings and the population depending on agriculture.

In addition to these variables, fertility and female literacy also have direct impact on the female labour force participation. However, in agriculture sector there is a negative relationship between literacy-enhancement aspirations for better jobs and a shift from agriculture to non-farm employment. The economic and socio cultural factors also influence the rural female work participation rate. The factors like sex ratio, child-women ratio, per-capita agricultural productivity and percentage of male agricultural workers, female literacy percentage, size of operational holdings, and mechanization will have direct impact on female rural work participation rate.

### III. OBJECTIVE

1. To find out female labour participation in agriculture in India and Chhattisgarh.
2. To identify various problems faced by women in performing agricultural activities.
3. To analyze the factors influencing women's participation in agriculture activities.

Through this paper the authors intend to focus on the facts, reasons and issues as to why there is relatively less participation of the female workers in the agriculture sector as well as in other sectors in general. This paper's objective is to highlight the positive and negative aspects of the Indian rural agriculture scenario. This paper also gives a kind of guideline and suggestive measures to the readers to increase the female labour participation in the overall development of Indian economy.

#### Hypothesis

There are two hypotheses on the basis of the above objectives;

H1: Female labour participation is not increasing in agriculture activities since last decade.

H2: Female labour is earning equal wages to male labour in agriculture activities.

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<sup>4</sup> National sample survey organization (2011).

<sup>5</sup> International labour organization (ILO) Global Employment trends 2013 Report

<sup>6</sup> National Sample Survey (66th Round) June 2009- June 2010.

<sup>7</sup> National Sample Survey (66th Round).

### Female Labour Participation in Economy

As per census 2011, the work force participation rate for female at the national level stands at 25.52% compared to 53.26% for males.

In the rural sector, it was 15.44% for female workers and 53.76% for male workers. As per census 2011, 41.1% of female main and marginal workers are agricultural labourers, 24.4% are cultivators, 5.7% are house hold industry workers and 29.2% are engaged in other works<sup>8</sup>. As per National Sample Survey (68<sup>th</sup> round), the worker-population ratio for females in rural sector was 24.8 in 2011-12 while for males it was 54.3. In urban sector, it was 14.7 for females and 54.6 for males<sup>9</sup>. Among the states, worker- population ratio for females in the rural sector was the highest in Himachal Pradesh at 52.4% and in the urban sector; the highest was in Sikkim at 27.3%. In the rural sector, 59.3% females were self-employed, 5.6% females had regular wage/salaried employment and 35.1% females were casual labours compared to 54.5%, 10% and 35.5% males in the same categories respectively in 2011-12. A total of 20.5% women were employed in the organization sector in 2011 with 18.1% working in the public sector and 24.3% in the private<sup>10</sup>.

The labour force participation rate for women across all age-groups (25.3 in rural sector and 15.5 in urban sector) compared with 55.3 and 56.3 for men in the rural and urban sector respectively 2011-12 (NSS 68<sup>th</sup> Round). The unemployment rate for women of all ages was at par with men at 1.7 in the rural areas in 2011-12. It was 5.2 for women and 3.0 for men in urban sector during the same period<sup>11</sup>.

**Table – 1 Work Force Participation Rate in India (1972-73 to 2011-12)**

Year	Rural		Urban	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
1972-73	33.18	54.5	13.4	50.1
1977-78	33.1	55.2	15.6	50.8
1983	34	54.7	15.1	51.2
1987-88	32.3	53.9	15.2	50.6
1993-94	32.8	55.3	15.5	52.1
1994-95	31.7	56	13.6	51.9
1995-96	29.5	55.1	12.4	52.5
1996-97	29.1	55	13.1	52.1
1998	26.3	53.9	11.4	50.9
1999-2000	29.9	53.1	13.9	51.8
2000-01	28.7	54.4	14	53.1
2001-02	31.4	54.6	13.9	55.3
2002	28.1	54.6	14	53.4
2004-05	32.7	54.6	16.6	54.9
2005-06	31	54.9	14.3	54
2007-08	28.9	54.8	13.8	55.4
2009-10	26.1	54.7	13.8	54.3
2011-12	24.8	54.3	14.7	54.6

Note – Figures for all the year are based on usual status approved and includes principal status and subsidiary status workers of all ages.

Source:- National sample survey office, Government of India.

### Work Force Participation Rate

Work force participation rate in India from 1972-73 to 2011-12 is presented in table-1. It is observed from the table that there is a slight variation from year to year in the female work force participation rate both in rural India and urban India as well. The female work force participation rate, which is 31.8% in rural India during 1972-73, has declined to 24.8% by 2011-12. In urban India, it is found that female work force participation rate during 1972-73 was 13.4%, where it was 14.7% by 2011-12. In 2012-13, the share of women Swarojgaris in the total Swarojgaris assisted under the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgaar Yojna (SGSY) stood 81.4%. The share of women in

<sup>8</sup> Census of India (2011)

<sup>9</sup> National Sample Survey (68th Round)

<sup>10</sup> National Sample Survey (68th Round)

<sup>11</sup> National Sample Survey (68th Round)

the person day's employment through MGNREGA was 51.0% in 2012-13 (all districts with rural areas). It shows a positive step towards the work participation from the women end.

**Table 2: Rural Female work participation rate in 15 states and India (1961-2001)**

State	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001
India	31.39	13.36	23.18	26.67	31.00
Andhra Pradesh	46.00	27.37	40.03	42.48	43.30
Assam	32.41	5.58	N/a	21.61	22.10
Bihar	28.49	9.31	14.65	16.26	20.20
Chhattisgarh	N/a	N/a	N/a	41.0	40.00
Gujarat	34.15	12.07	26.85	35.60	39.00
Haryana	N/a	229	12.29	12.62	34.00
Karnataka	36.79	15.77	30.66	36.60	40.00
Kerala	20.88	14.08	17.72	16.86	16.00
Madhya Pradesh	48.60	20.75	35.78	39.26	41.00
Orissa	27.38	6.83	21.09	22.62	27.10
Maharashtra	46.74	24.39	40.85	46.05	43.60
Punjab	16.50	0.72	6.90	4.37	23.40
Rajasthan	40.82	9.27	24.99	33.25	41.00
Tamil Nadu	37.11	17.63	33.55	38.50	41.70
Uttar Pradesh	19.90	7.27	9.04	14.16	19.80

**Source:** - Census of India (1961-2001).

Table-2 shows that rural female work participation rates in 15 states and India from 1961 to 2001, in India. It is clear that the rural female work participation rate was 31.39% in 1961 and 13.36% in 1971, indicating a drastic decline in the rural female work participation rate. However it is heartening to see that in the year 2001 it has suddenly changed and the rural female work participation rate has increased to 31%.

**Table 3: State-Wise Work-force Participation Rate in India 2011**

State/Union Territory	Female	Rural Male	Total	Female	Urban Male	Total	Combined		Total
							Female	Male	
Andhra Pradesh	44.65	58.41	51.55	19.14	54.14	36.75	36.16	56.98	46.61
Arunachal Pradesh	39.50	48.50	44.10	21.31	50.91	36.97	35.44	49.06	42.47
Assam	23.69	53.06	38.68	14.86	56.79	36.41	22.46	53.59	38.36
Bihar	20.16	46.67	33.96	10.44	44.90	28.62	19.07	46.47	33.36
Chhattisgarh	46.29	56.36	51.32	17.42	53.09	35.66	39.70	55.59	47.68
Goa	22.64	55.54	39.07	21.48	57.48	39.89	21.92	56.76	39.58
Gujarat	31.95	57.15	44.88	11.35	57.18	35.73	23.38	57.16	40.98
Haryana	20.83	50.06	36.36	12.11	51.15	32.95	17.79	50.44	35.17
Himachal Pradesh	47.40	59.04	53.26	19.88	55.72	39.22	44.82	58.69	51.85
Jammu & Kashmir	20.79	46.33	34.18	14.46	52.68	35.23	19.11	48.11	34.47
Jharkhand	34.96	50.75	43.01	10.07	46.72	29.26	29.10	49.76	39.71
Karnataka	38.79	59.76	49.38	20.81	57.81	39.66	31.87	59.00	45.62
Kerala	20.24	53.61	36.30	16.03	51.76	33.12	18.23	52.73	34.78
Madhya Pradesh	30.25	54.30	47.03	15.14	51.66	34.18	32.64	53.56	43.47
Maharashtra	42.52	56.71	49.79	16.78	55.16	36.95	31.06	56.00	43.99
Manipur	41.21	52.38	46.86	33.17	49.87	41.41	38.56	51.58	45.09
Meghalaya	34.97	47.04	41.05	23.59	47.68	35.63	32.67	47.17	39.96
Mizoram	41.86	53.91	48.03	31.05	50.89	40.96	36.16	52.35	44.36
Nagaland	52.26	55.68	54.02	25.87	47.95	37.44	44.74	53.42	49.24
Odisha	29.69	56.53	43.19	14.12	54.08	34.81	27.16	56.11	41.79
Punjab	14.34	54.94	35.63	13.18	55.51	35.75	13.91	55.15	35.67
Rajasthan	42.68	51.71	47.35	12.03	50.75	32.27	35.12	51.47	43.60
Sikkim	44.63	61.03	53.34	24.80	57.52	41.90	39.57	60.16	50.47
Tamil Nadu	41.22	60.04	50.66	21.78	58.54	40.16	31.80	59.31	45.58

Tripura	26.28	55.35	41.15	16.00	56.97	36.76	23.57	55.77	40.00
Uttar Pradesh	18.30	47.35	33.45	11.28	48.94	31.16	16.75	47.71	32.94
Uttarakhand	32.94	49.07	41.01	11.29	50.98	32.36	26.68	49.67	38.39
West Bengal	19.35	57.19	38.73	15.35	56.84	36.69	18.08	57.07	38.08
A & N Islands	17.87	59.13	39.84	17.71	60.35	40.47	17.81	59.59	40.08
Chandigarh	14.24	62.18	42.60	16.05	56.34	38.17	16.00	56.51	38.29
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	33.39	56.77	45.94	14.66	66.51	45.48	25.25	61.57	45.73
Daman & Diu	15.86	58.23	38.58	14.47	75.12	53.58	14.89	71.48	46.86
Delhi	9.72	49.27	31.08	10.60	53.08	33.34	10.58	52.99	33.28
Lakshadweep	12.55	52.28	32.90	10.51	44.56	28.01	10.96	46.25	29.09
Pondicherry	21.05	54.23	37.42	16.06	54.41	34.84	17.63	54.36	35.66
India	32.02	53.03	41.83	15.44	53.76	35.31	25.51	53.26	39.79

**Source:** Census 2011, Office of the Registrar General, India.

Table 3, It is evident from the table that rural female work force participation rate in India in the year 2011 was 32.02%, and 15.44% in the urban area. It has been observed that the Rural female work force participation rate was the highest in Nagaland state (52.26%), followed by Himachal Pradesh (47.40%), Chhattisgarh (46.29%), Andhra Pradesh (44.65%), and Sikkim (44.65%) in the year

On the contrary, Delhi (9.72%), has experienced the lowest work participation by women folk, followed by Lakshadweep (12.55%), Chandigarh (14.24%), Punjab (14.24%), and Daman & Diu (15.86%) according to 2011 census. On the other hand, urban work force participation rate in 2011 census, Manipur shared the highest participation (33.17%), followed by Mizoram (31.05%), Nagaland (25.87%), Sikkim (24.80%), Meghalaya (23.59%), Tamil Nadu (21.78%), Goa (21.48%), and Arunachal Pradesh (21.31%), while Delhi (10.60%), experienced the lowest, followed by Lakshadweep (10.51%), Bihar (10.0%), Jharkhand (10.07%).

**Table 4: Labour Force Participation Rates by Age-Group & Sex in Rural India (1977-78 – 2011-12)**

Year	15-29		30-44		45-59		60 & above		Total	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
1977-78	39.7	86.1	49.2	99	41.6	95.9	16	64.6	30.5	63.7
1983	37.2	82.8	46	98.6	40.8	95.2	15.6	64.2	29.1	62.6
1987-88	36.9	79.7	47.6	98.7	42.2	95.7	16.3	64.9	29.2	61.4
1993-94	32.2	77.7	42.7	98.8	40.1	96.4	17.3	68.3	27.2	63
1994-95	31.2	77	43.3	98.5	39.6	96.6	19.6	72.1	23.8	55.3
July 95- June 96	32.2	78.1	43.5	98.7	40	97.1	17.8	69.9	23.6	55
Jan – Dec.- 97	30	77	4.4	98.8	38.5	97.2	18	67.3	22.4	55
Jan- June 98	28.4	74.9	38.4	98.3	37.5	96.2	17.5	70.7	21.2	54.3
July 1999- June-2000	31.6	75.9	44.5	98.4	40.7	95.4	17.4	62.4	23.5	53.3
July-2000- June-2001	28.51	75.25	43.31	98.72	42.44	96.4	15.3	68.2	22.25	54.08
July-2001- June-2002	32.56	76.33	46.4	98.74	40.38	96.19	15.8	69.6	24.6	53.8
July- Dec.- 2002	25.69	74.87	42.71	98.43	38.71	96.51	17.3	66.9	21.6	54.7
Jan- Dec.- 2003	28.7	75.7	45.4	98.6	43.9	95.3	19.9	67.3	23.7	54.6
January-June- 2004	29.4	75.2	44.9	98.4	41.6	94.7	17.7	61.6	23.3	54
July-2004- June-2005	30.9	75.1	46.6	98.7	44.7	96	19.9	63.1	24.9	54.6
July-2005- June-2006	38.5	75.7	58.5	98.8	54.6	97.1	24.6	65	31.4	56.1

July-2007- June-2008	25	72.3	41.3	99	40.2	96.5	17.8	64.5	22	55.1
July-2009- June-2010	23.3	66.2	36.5	99.2	38.3	96.3	19.1	63.6	20.8	54.8
July-2011- June-2012	18.3	63.1	33.4	98.9	34	96.6	-	-	18.1	54.7

Notes: 1. The figures are percentage of labour force in the population. **Source:** National sample survey office.  
2. The figures relate to the usual principal status.

**Table 5: Labour Force Participation Rates by Age-Group and Sex in Urban India (1977-78 – 2011-12)**

Year	15-29		30-44		45-59		60 & above		Total	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
1977-78	21.9	73.6	27.2	98.9	24.1	93.6	10.5	50.5	17.1	60.1
1983	17.2	72.9	23.9	98.6	23	92.8	11.6	48.8	14.8	60.3
1987-88	17.2	69.7	23.9	98.7	22.4	93.1	9.3	46.6	14.6	59.6
1993-94	16.5	67.4	23.6	98.4	23.2	93.4	9.2	43	14.8	60.1
1994-95	14.7	64.4	20.8	98.4	19.6	92.9	6.8	43.7	11.7	53.4
July 95- June 96	13.6	67.3	19.8	98.6	19.5	92.3	7.4	40.4	11.1	54.4
Jan – Dec.- 97	14.3	66.4	21.4	97.1	19.3	92.5	7.7	41.5	11.7	53.7
Jan- June 98	12.4	64	19.9	97.8	19.2	92	6.4	41.7	10.8	53.4
July 1999-June-2000	14.9	65.9	22.9	98.1	22	92.3	8.2	38.6	12.6	53.9
July-2000-June-2001	13.7	64.88	22.68	98.28	21.32	92.65	7.5	39.1	12.05	54.8
July-2001-June-2002	12.97	69.12	21.08	98.53	19.26	92.95	8	39	11.5	57.1
July- Dec.-2002	15.05	68.74	21.99	98.23	21.62	92.51	8.4	36.5	12.6	55.6
Jan- Dec.-2003	14.2	67.1	22.6	98.5	19.8	91.8	8.6	36.5	12.5	55.9
January-June-2004	15.9	67.7	24.3	98.4	20.8	91.5	6.7	34.7	13.3	55.7
July-2004-June-2005	17.8	67.3	26.6	98.4	21.9	92.7	8.6	35.6	14.8	56.6
July-2005-June-2006	19.1	66.9	25.9	98.5	22.3	92.2	7.7	37.3	15.2	56.6
July-2007-June-2008	15.2	66.7	21.4	98.8	19.3	92.7	6	38.4	12.6	57.3
July-2009-June-2010	15	60.4	22.1	98.7	20.1	93.9	6.1	33.6	12.8	55.6
July-2011-June-2012	15.9	59.9	23.3	98.8	19.2	94.1	-	-	13.4	56

**Source:** National Sample Survey Office

Age classification of female labour participation rates (From 1977-78 to 2011-12) in rural India are presented in table-4, while table-5 portrays situation in urban India. It is evident from these tables that women are actively working in the age groups ranging from 15 to 59. There is a sharp decline in 60 and above years. Most of the women are participating in the labour force during the productive age i.e. 30-44.

**Table- 6: Distribution of workers in India (1981-2001)**

Category of Workers	1981		1991		2001	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
(Main + Marginal)						
Cultivators	43.70	33.20	40.01	34.55	31.06	32.93
Agricultural Labour	19.56	46.18	20.90	43.56	20.85	38.87
Workers in House-Hold Industry	3.18	4.59	3.33	4.63	3.18	6.46
Other Workers	33.56	16.03	35.56	17.26	44.90	21.70

**Source:** - Census of India – 1981-2001

Table-6 shows that between the periods 1981 to 2001, the percentage of female cultivator slightly increased to 34.55% in 1991 and then again it decreased in 2001 i.e. to 32.93%. On the other hand, the percentage of female agriculturists decreased from 43.56% in 1991 to 38.87% in 2001.



**Table 7: Proportion of Total Female Workers, Female Main Workers, Female marginal Workers in Chhattisgarh (2001 & 2011)**

Total Rural Urban	Total Workers		Main Workers		Marginal Workers	
	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011
Total	40.04	39.7	22.31	52.40	17.73	47.60
Rural	46.56	46.30	25.26	49.6	21.28	50.40
Urban	13.19	17.4	10.16	77.70	3.03	22.3

**Source;** - Census of India (2001-2011)

#### Work Force Participation in Agriculture

In Chhattisgarh according to 2001 census, the population of the state was 208.34 Lakhs and it is increased to 255.45 Lakhs in 2011. It has been observed that more than 76.8% population living in rural areas depend on agriculture and allied activities.<sup>12</sup> Female agricultural workers constitute a majority of the women workforce in Chhattisgarh.

The main agricultural operations performed by women are harvesting, weeding, threshing and sowing. Almost all the agricultural work is carried out by women labour except ploughing. There is also an increase in total agricultural labour from 2001 to 2011 census year. It was 31.94% (Percentage to total workers) in 2001 which increased to 41.8% (Percentage to total workers) person in 2011 primary census abstract.<sup>13</sup>

Table -7 shows the distribution of female workers in to female main workers, female marginal workers and female total workers in Chhattisgarh.

In Chhattisgarh female total workers was 40.04% in 2001 and 39.70% in 2011 which shows that the female total workers are slowly decreasing in the rural area female total workers in 2001 was 46.56% and it decreased to 46.30% in 2011 in the urban area female total workers in 2001 was 13.19% and it increased to 17.40% in 2011. The female total marginal workers were 17.73% in 2001 and it increased to 47.60% in 2011. In the rural area female marginal workers in 2001 was 21.28% and it increased to 50.40% in 2011.

In urban area female marginal workers in 2001 was 3.03% and it increased to 22.30% in 2011. It shows that female total marginal workers are in an increasing way. In India and Chhattisgarh the percentage of female marginal workers is higher when compared to 2001 to 2011. The marginal workers increased more than the main workers.

**Table 8: Distribution of Workers in Chhattisgarh (2001-2011)**

Category of Workers (Main + Marginal)	2001		2011	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Cultivators	44.59	44.47	34.00	31.30
Agriculture labours	22.80	44.09	32.90	54.40
Workers in House Hold Industry	2.09	2.00	1.60	1.50
Other Workers	30.05	9.44	31.60	12.80

**Source :** Office of the Registrar General, India.

#### Distribution of Workers

Table 8 shows that cultivators in 2001 were 44.59% and this decreasing to 34.005 in 2011. Whereas the percentage of female cultivators in 2001 was 44.47% and it was 31.30% as per to census 2011. It reveals that all the census years' male and female cultivators are decreasing. In 2001 female agriculture labours which were 44.09% increased to 54.40% in 2011.

In 2001 male agriculture labour are 22.80% and it is increased to 32.90% in 2011. In all female agricultural labours are not very behind in number than the male labour force as the facts and figures speak. According to 2011 census of India, rural female workforce participation rate is 46.29%, while the corresponding figure for the males is 56.36% in the Chhattisgarh and in the case of urban areas, female workforce participation rate is merely 17.42%, while male participation rate is 53.09%.

#### Suggestions

1. Discrimination against female labour should be stopped.
2. Female labour should be given equal wages as male labourers.

<sup>12</sup> Census of India (2001-2011)

<sup>13</sup> Census of India (2001-2011)

#### IV. CONCLUSION

India should not make mistake in underestimation of the women power in any of the fields. Women power is now being coming up in the spheres of education, industries, factories, banking, corporate entrepreneurs, and agriculture and so on so forth. It has been surveyed and proved that the women folk of India as well as Chhattisgarh have a vital role to play in the development of the agriculture sector. The work participation rate has increased from 1961 to 2011 enormously. As per the census of 2011, the workforce participation rate for females at the national level stands at 25.51% compared with 53.26% for males.

In the rural sector, females have a workforce participation rate of 30.02% compared with 53.03% for males. In the urban sector, it is 15.44% for females and 53.76% for males. As per National Sample Survey (68<sup>th</sup> Round), the worker population ratio for female in rural sector was 24.80% in 2011-12, while that for males it was 54.30%. In urban sector, it was 14.70% for females and 54.60% for males. In Chhattisgarh, women work force participation rate in agricultural activities in the rural area has increased indicating the contribution of the empowered women in the development of Chhattisgarh.

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