

A Study Use of Agriculture Labour in Hilly Area of Satara District

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Article Info	ABSTRACT
Article History: Received: 15th Dec 2025 Accepted: 18th Dec 2025 Published: 20th Dec 2025	Agriculture in the hilly parts of Satara District works differently because of the uneven land, small farms, and limited use of machines. This study looks at how farmers use labour in these areas-when they need workers, how many are available, how much they are paid, and how migration affects labour supply. Information was collected from villages in the hilly talukas through interviews, field visits, and government records. The study found that the need for labour is highest during sowing, weeding, and harvesting because machines cannot work well on steep land. Many young people migrate for better jobs, so there is a shortage of local labour. As a result, farmers depend more on hired workers, and wages have increased. Women do a large share of the farm work, especially manual tasks, but they are still paid less than men. The study suggests that better small-scale technologies, more rural job opportunities, and supportive policies are needed to improve labour use and make farming sustainable in the hilly areas of Satara District.
Keywords: <i>Male-Female Labour, Outside Labour, Agricultural Activities, Wages</i>	
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❖ **Introduction-**

Agricultural labour refers to the people who work on farms and help with many kinds of farming tasks. These tasks include preparing the soil, planting seeds, watering the crops, removing weeds, harvesting grains, fruits, and vegetables, and taking care of animals like cows, goats, and poultry. Some workers also help in storing and processing the crops after they are harvested. All these activities are necessary to make sure that food is produced in enough quantity for everyone. Agricultural labourers play a very important role in the farming system. Farming cannot run smoothly without them, especially in countries where most people depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Unlike farmers who usually own or manage the land, agricultural labourers normally do not have their own land. They work on someone else's farm and get paid in cash, in the form of crops, or sometimes both. Their work supports the agricultural economy and helps villages and rural areas grow.

Even though their contribution is very important, agricultural labourers face many difficulties in their daily lives. Many of them receive very low wages, and they often do not have work throughout the whole year because farming is seasonal. They might not have access to modern machines and tools, so most of their work is done by hand, which makes it tough and tiring. They may also have to work in harsh weather, such as hot sun, rain, or cold. Because of these problems, it becomes important to understand their situation and find ways to improve their working conditions. By learning more about the challenges faced by agricultural labourers, the government and society can make better plans and policies. These can help increase their income, provide them with steady work, and make farming easier with modern technology. When the lives of agricultural labourers improve, it also helps increase agricultural productivity and supports the overall development of the country.

❖ **Objectives of the study:-**

The present research work conducted on the basis of the following objectives.

1. To study the family male and female labour for agricultural activities.
2. To study the outside male and female labour for agricultural activities.
3. To study the seasonable and non-seasonable male and female wage rates.
4. To study the yearly expenses on labour in agriculture sector.
5. To suggest appropriate policy measures.

❖ **Hypothesis of the Study:-**• **Hypothesis-1**

H₀-There is no significant difference between seasonable and non-seasonable male and female wage rates.

H₁-There is significant difference between seasonable and non-seasonable male and female wage rates.

• **Hypothesis-2**

H₀-There is no significant difference between outside male and female labour for agricultural activities.

H₁-There is significant difference between outside male and female labour for agricultural activities.

❖ **Research Methodology:-**• **Primary data:**

The primary data was collected through intensive fieldwork with the help of questioner,

interviews and personal discussion with the farmers, agricultural experts, other relevant persons and authorities.

- **Sampling Design:**

The present study was conducted using a sample survey methodology and we have used a random sampling method for selecting the samples. Total 300 respondents were selected from Mahabaleshwar, Patan and Jaoli Tehsils of the Satara district. Total 100 respondents were selected from each Tehsil for in-depth investigation.

In the present research work 30 villages are selected from three Tehsils in which the researcher has selected randomly 10 villages from three major Tahashils such as 10 villages from Mahabaleshwar Tehasil, 10 villages from Jaoli and 10 villages from Patan Tehsil. Beside this 10 farmers are selected randomly from each village based on the appropriate representation of the economic and social status of the farmers that are form marginal small, Medium and big categories of landholding. Hence, the study covered 300 farmers from 10 villages of Mahabaleshwar Tehsil, 100farmers from 10 villages of Jaoli Tehashil and 100farmers from 10 villages of Patan Tehashil Thus, total 300 sample farmers from these three Tehashils are selected.

- **Secondary data:**

The secondary data was collected from the District and State Census Reports and Statistical Abstracts, Epitome of Agriculture in Maharashtra Part-II, Season and Crop Report, Economic Survey of Maharashtra District Gazetteers and some unpublished records. Some data were collected from Zila Parishad, Panchayat Samiti, and Village Revenue Officer and from different government office like irrigation, Agriculture Animal Husbandry, Public Work, Regional Transport Office, District Dy. Registrar Office of Co-operative Societies and Soil Conservation Department etc.

- **The Study Area:**

The proposed study covers a hilly area of Satara district particularly Mahabaleshwar, Jaoli and Patan Tehsils

❖ **Use of Labour for Agricultural Activities:**

Table No. 1
Family Male Labour

		Tehasil			Total
		Patan	Jawali	Mahabaleshwar	
Family Male Labour	1	22	51	38	111
	2	67	43	32	142
	3	10	5	20	35
	4	0	0	5	5
	5	1	0	5	6
	13	0	1	0	1
Total		100	100	100	300

Table no 1 indicates the details about the family members working as agricultural labour in the study area. We noticed that in case of 111 respondents only 01 members is employed in agriculture and in case of 142 respondents 2 members and in case of 35 respondents 3 members are working as agriculture labour in the study region. We also observed that in the remaining

cases there are using 4-5 members employed.

Table No. 2
Family Female Labour

		Tehasil			Total
		Patan	Jawali	Mahabaleshwar	
Family Female Labour	0	0	4	4	8
	1	26	66	38	130
	2	54	28	37	119
	3	15	2	17	34
	4	2	0	3	5
	5	3	0	1	4
Total		100	100	100	300

Table No.2 Indicates the details about the family female labour used as agricultural labour in the study area. We observed that total 130 respondents mentioned that there is only 1 family female labour and total 119 respondent using 2 female members and total 34 responders are having 3 members in the study region.

Table No. 3
Outside Male Labour

Numbers	Patan	Jawali	Mahabaleshwar	Total
0	2	17	3	22
1	22	20	12	54
2	36	23	30	89
3	13	8	9	30
4	9	5	10	24
5	12	9	11	32
6	1	3	0	4
7	1	2	1	4
8	1	1	3	5
10	2	7	6	15
12	1	0	9	10
15	0	3	0	3
20	0	1	3	4
30	0	0	2	2
50	0	1	1	2
Total	100	100	100	300

Table No.3 shows the details about outside male labour used as agriculture in stud the region. We observed that 22 respondents are not using outside male labour. We also observed that 54 respondents using only 1 outside labour. The 30 respondents use 3 and 32 respondent's use 5 outside male labour. Very few respondents use above 5 outside male labour for agriculture. Very few respondents are using more than 15 outside male labours in their agriculture.

Table No. 4

Outside Female Labour

Numbers	Patan	Jawali	Mahabaleshwar	Total
0	2	17	3	22
1	32	26	35	93
2	28	21	24	73
3	12	11	2	25
4	10	3	4	17
5	9	12	10	31
6	3	1	0	4
7	1	1	0	2
8	3	0	4	7
10	0	7	6	13
12	0	0	9	9
16	0	0	2	2
20	0	1	1	2
Total	100	100	100	300

Table No.4 indicates that the details about outside female labour used at agriculture in the study area. We noticed that most of respondents used 1 female outside labour for agriculture. Most of the respondents are using 4 to 8 female outside labours for the purpose of agriculture. Overall data shows that there are very few respondents are using more than 8 outside female labours in their agriculture.

Table No. 5
Female (In Session) - Wage Rate

	Tehasil			Total
	Patan	Jawali	Mahabaleshwar	
80	0	0	2	2
90	0	1	0	1
100	1	15	33	49
120	1	4	19	24
125	6	3	6	15
140	3	16	5	24
150	87	59	33	179
180	1	0	2	3
200	1	2	0	3
Total	100	100	100	300

Table No.5 indicates the details about wage rate given by respondent farmers to female labour in Peak Harvest session. It shows total 52 respondent give wage rate about Rs. 80-100 for female labour and 53 respondents give the wage rate between Rs 120-140. The 179 respondent give Rs. 150 wage rate to female labour in Peak Harvest session. So reaming is responding give 180-200 Rs. wage rate. So data shows most of respondent give wage rate to female labour is 150 Rs.

Table No. 6
Female (After Session) - Wage Rate

	Tehasil			Total
	Patan	Jawali	Mahabaleshwar	
50	0	1	7	8
60	0	2	4	6
70	0	5	0	5
80	3	4	18	25
90	0	4	7	11
100	22	68	61	151
110	1	0	0	1
120	1	8	2	11
125	67	0	1	68
130	1	2	0	3
150	4	4	0	8
199	1	0	0	1
200	0	2	0	2
Total	100	100	100	300

Table No. 6 indicates the details about wage rate given by respondents to female labour after Peak Harvest session. It shows that 151 respondents give Rs 100 wage rate to female labour after Peak Harvest session and 68 respondents give Rs. 125 wage rate. Very few respondents give the wage rate above Rs. 125. Most of the respondents give the wage rate Rs. 100 to female labour in the study region.

Table No.7
Male (In Session) - Wage Rate

	Tehasil			Total
	Patan	Jawali	Mahabaleshwar	
50	0	0	2	2
80	0	0	1	1
100	0	1	0	1
120	0	2	2	4
150	10	21	22	53
200	88	26	10	124
225	1	0	0	1
250	0	14	3	17
300	1	35	36	72
350	0	1	23	24
400	0	0	1	1
Total	100	100	100	300

Table No.7 indicates the details about wage rate given by respondents to male in Peak Harvest session. We observed that 124 respondents give Rs 200 wage rate 72 respondents give Rs 300 wage to male labour very few respondents give the wage rate above 300 Rs and 50 to Rs 120. We observed most of respondent give Rs 200 wage rate to male labour in Peak Harvest session.

Table No. 8
Male (After Session) - Wage Rate

	Tehasil			Total
	Patan	Jawali	Mahabaleshwar	
50	0	0	3	3
100	2	15	17	34
120	0	2	7	9
125	6	4	6	16
140	1	1	2	4
150	85	29	10	124
160	0	1	0	1
170	1	3	0	4
180	1	0	0	1
200	0	24	12	36
230	0	1	0	1
250	4	12	27	43
300	0	6	15	21
350	0	2	1	3
Total	100	100	100	300

Table No. 8 Indicates the details about wage rate given by respondent to male after Peak Harvest session in the study area. We observed that 124 respondents given wage rate to 150 Rs, 36 respondents give Rs 200 wage rate. Other respondents give wage rate to male labour. We also observed that 66 respondent give wage rate between Rs. 50-140. The most of the respondents give the wage rate to 150 rs for male labour after Peak Harvest session.

Table No. 9
Yearly Expenses on Labour

		Tehasil			Total
		Patan	Jawali	Mahabaleshwar	
Yearly Expenses on Labour	<Rs 20000	49	66	81	196
	Rs 20000 to Rs 50000	43	15	9	67
	Rs 50000 to 1 Lakh	4	2	7	13
Total		96	83	97	276

Table No. 9 shows the yearly expenses on labour for farm activities. It shows 196 respondents out of 300 are spending Rs. up 20,000 on labour yearly, 67 respondents Rs. 20,000 to 50,000 only 13 respondents Rs. 50,000 to 1 lakh most of the respondents up to Rs, 20,000 up labour for farming activities yearly.

❖ **Major Findings:-**

1. We found that in case of 111 respondents only 01 members is employed in agriculture and in case of 142 respondents 2 members and in case of 35 respondents 3 members are working as agriculture labour in the study region. We also observed that in the remaining cases there are using 4-5 members employed.
2. We observed that total 130 respondents mentioned that there is only 1 family female labour and total 119 respondent using 2 female members and total 34 respondents are having 3 members in the study region.

3. We observed that 22 respondents are not using outside male labour. We also observed that 54 respondents using only 1 outside labour. The 30 respondents use 3 and 32 respondents' use 5 outside male labour. Very few respondents use above 5 outside male labour for agriculture. Very few respondents are using more than 15 outside male labours in their agriculture.
4. We found that most of respondents used 1 female outside labour for agriculture. Most of the respondents are using 4 to 8 female outside labours for the purpose of agriculture. We also observed that Overall data shows that there are very few respondents are using more than 8 outside female labours in their agriculture.
5. Most of the respondents give the wage rate Rs.100 to female labour in the study region.
6. We observed must of respondent give Rs 200 wage rate to male labour in Peak Harvest session.
7. The most of the respondents give the wage rate to 150 Rs. for male labour after Peak Harvest session.
8. We observed that 196 respondents out of 300 are spending Rs. up 20,000 on labour yearly, 67 respondents Rs. 20,000 to 50,000 only 13 respondents Rs. 13 respondent Rs. 50,000 to 1 lakh most of the respondents up to Rs, 20,000 up labour for farming activities yearly.

❖ **Suggestions:-**

The labour availability is most important issues in the agriculture sector; there is greater problem of labour availability in the peak session of the farming. Hence, for the solving this problem we can develop the labour information system for the hilly area. This system will support the farmers for providing accurate information about the labour availability and it wage rates.

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