Do socio-demographic features of agricultural labourers affect their economic wellbeing? Evidence from rural Haryana, India

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Abstract
The formative evaluation of the various dimensions of the agricultural sector has multidimensional importance. In this context, the evaluation of the agricultural labourers has a significant role for the rural, inclusive and sustainable development targets. This article examines the nexus of the socio-demographic features and economic wellbeing of agricultural labourers. For that motive, the survey was done in the rural Haryana, and a total of 400 respondents were studied. The disproportionate and snowball sampling methods were used. Information was collected using the well-structured interview schedule. Data were analysed using the percentage and binary logistic regression method. From the study, it was found that the socio-demographic features have a significant role in the determination of the economic wellbeing of the agricultural labourers. Study highpoints that for the low economic status of the agricultural labourers' socio-demographic variables play a critical role. This article provides a perspective that the poor economic wellbeing of the agricultural labourers should also be lanced from the social angle alongside the economic. The findings of the research would be a substantial endorsement to the practitioners and policymakers.

Keywords: Socio-demographic Features, Economic Wellbeing, Agricultural Labourers, Rural, India

Introduction

In the Indian local labour market, agricultural labourers confront heterogeneous kind of complications. Agricultural labourers seem to be the most disempowered category among labourers (Padhi, 2007; Prasad, 2007). They challenged seasonal unemployment and underemployment, work instability, life below subsistence, servitude, and failure to obtain minimum wages, lack of social security, health problems, and so forth. As per the census (2011), the total agricultural labourers in the distribution of workers by category of workers the share was 26.5%. At all India level, the share of the agricultural labourers in Haryana was 15.3%. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, 2019, at all India level, 4324 agricultural labourers committed suicides, compared to 4586 in 2018 (NCRB, 2019). As per the NSSO (2010) reports,' the indebtedness was much-severed situation among agricultural labourers. Most of the agricultural labourers hailed from the underprivileged castes. To the necessary physical and human entitlements, they are deprived. In terms of capabilities, they are disabled (AMS, n. d.). In general, agricultural labourers constitute a poor and exploitative labour identity in the rural economy.

A central focus of every government remains the pursuit of economic justice. In this regard, all the emphasis is on alleviating poverty and reducing income inequality (CSWE, 2017). To propagate economic

justice, the government uses various kinds of methods and schemes. The study of the economic wellbeing of the agricultural labourers is also crucial in this context. So, for the economic justice, sustainable development targets and inclusive development of the society, the study of agricultural labourers, is a sine qua non. The notion of economic wellbeing was described by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE, 2017) as "…economic wellbeing is defined as having present and future financial security. Present financial security includes the ability of individuals, families, and communities to consistently meet their basic needs (including food, housing, utilities, health care, transportation, education, child care, clothing, and pay taxes), and have control over their day-to-day finances. It also includes the ability to make economic choices and feel a sense of security, satisfaction, and socio-demographic fulfilment with one's finances and employment pursuits. Future financial security includes the ability to absorb financial shocks, meets financial goals, build financial assets, and maintain adequate income throughout the life-span." So to obtain the inclusive development of the society, the study of the economic wellbeing is necessary.

A study conducted by Rajuldevi (2001) an evaluation of the levels of living of landless agricultural labourer households in Tamilnadu. She identifies that food intake and level of nutrition was deficient. They were deprived; their shelter condition was also poor. Deshpande, Jyotish and Naranamurthy (2001) found that the scheduled castes agricultural labourers were stranded into the debt trap across all states of India. The primary source of the loan was non-intuitional sources, and the majority of the loan was taken for unproductive purposes. It was also found that the scheduled castes agricultural labourers were challenging wage discrimination in the locale labour market. In rural Orissa, Mahapatra (2007) found the bleak situation of the rural landless agricultural workers' households. He examined that there was a continuous decrease in the average annual number of days of wage-paid jobs for farmworkers. He also inferred that the level of income and consumption was low, and the issue of indebtedness was extreme among them. Mohankumar (2008) pointed towards the exclusion of agricultural workers from both the state and central government compensation arrangements. He pointed out that most of the farmworkers were from the scheduled castes, tribes and other disadvantaged castes, so they got adversely severely. Singh (2009) pointed towards the different dimensions of agricultural workers' survival. In Mansa, Bathinda and Sangrur from Punjab, the researcher pointed to the worse situation of the Scheduled Castes/Dalit agricultural labourers. The economic situation of farmworkers was also affected by the collective decision of the farmers to decide the lower wages for agricultural wages. Amid the agrarian crisis, Bharti (2011) examined the indebtedness and suicides of agricultural workers. She noted that farmers are adversely affected by agricultural crises, but landless workers often suffer most in an underestimated crisis. The situation is getting even worse for farmworkers because of the unavailability of work and higher prices of consumer goods. Jakimow (2012) studied the livelihoods of agricultural workers using the model of 'serious games' in Andhra Pradesh. She chronicled that, due to the lack of knowledge and lack of intelligence, mobility between the generations cannot be accomplished at the expected position and still they are poor, claimed by the most agricultural workers. Most of the agricultural workers were hopeful for their children that they would be in government and private jobs, not in this toil and hard work. In his article, Singh and Singh (2015) addressed the deplorable situation of farm labourers in rural Punjab. They found that illiteracy, indebtedness and poor housing condition were common among the agricultural labourers and debt was taken through the non-institutional sources. The extent of indebtedness among farm households of the Eastern State, Bihar, is examined by Pandey (2016). The results showed that marginal and vulnerable farmers were far from being able to obtain credit from formal financial sources quickly. They were taken the loan from the moneylender or other non-institutional sources at higher rates. They have been negatively affected as a result, and their socio-economic wellbeing and their lives remain tough. The emphasis of Singh et al. (2017) was on the extent, distribution, sources and purposes of debt among rural Punjab farmers and agricultural workers. The results show that more than four-fifths of the households in the rural and agricultural workforce were indebted. Uppal, Kaur and Singh (2018) found that agricultural labourers' households spent more on consumption expenses than their average income, and they fall into the pit of borrowing from others because of their low income. They found that half of the households of agricultural labourers live below the poverty

line. The study also found that non-institutional sources were the most critical factor in deciding the level of indebtedness in rural Punjab.

The above empirical researches specify about the poor condition of the agricultural labourers. This study is imperative to understand the role of the socio-demographic features in determining the economic wellbeing of agricultural labourers. The evaluation of the role of socio-demographic characteristics in determining the economic wellbeing of agricultural labourers is also necessary for balanced, inclusive, rural and human development. The evaluation will enlighten about the factors that are responsible for their deprivation, exclusion and poverty. Hence the chief objectives of the present study were, to understand the socio-demographic features of agricultural labourers, to comprehend the economic wellbeing status of agricultural labourers and to evaluate the influence of the socio-demographic features on the economic wellbeing of the agricultural labourers. The single main hypothesis steers this study that in the economic wellbeing of the agricultural labourers, socio-demographic features has no role. The main hypothesis is further divided into six sub-hypotheses. The sub-hypotheses were; the type of ration card, to get the working days, to satisfy from the workplace environment, cash left over toward the month's end, can handle the unexpected expense and have the necessary things of life is not influenced by the socio-demographic features of agricultural labourers respectively. So to obtain the objectives and to test the hypothesis, the study is articulated in the five sections. The first introduces and studied the previous empirical studies, second, elaborates about the methodology, third presents the results of the study, fourth discusses the findings and last section deals with the conclusion of the study.

Methodology

Haryana is a north-western state in India. Haryana is divided into the four agro-climatic zones; northern (NAZ), southern (SAZ), western (WAZ) and central agro-climatic zone (CAZ). As per the census 2011, from the total population share of the agricultural labourers in the state, 92% of them were rural. The total sample size for the study was 400. Each zone considered as strata and using the disproportionate stratified sampling methods each zone was studied. From each of the zone, the total sample was 100. From each of the zone, one district was randomly chosen, and from the selected district, one tehsil was randomly chosen, and from the selected tehsil four villages selected randomly. Hence the twelve villages surveyed. The information was collected from the 25 agricultural labourers in each village. The information was collected from the agricultural labourers' lei 18 to 65 age year and using the snowball sampling method. In this study, agricultural labourer's definition was "A person who works on another person's land for wages in money or kind or share is regarded as an agricultural labourer. She or he has no risk in the cultivation but merely works on another person's land for wages. An agricultural labourer has no right of lease or contract on land on which she/he works" (Census, 2011). The economic wellbeing of the agricultural labourers was measured by using the six indicators. The first indicator was the respondent has APL (Above Poverty Line) ration card, second was he/she gets the adequate working days in a month, third was, is he/she satisfied with the workplace environment, fourth was, is he/she have the cash leftover towards the month's end, fifth was, is he/she can handle the unexpected expense. Final was, is he/she have the feeling of the satisfaction of the necessary things of life. All indicators were asked to answer in the yes and no form. The yes was coded as 1 and 0 for otherwise. The information was collected using the well-structured interview schedule in August-September 2019. Data were analysed with using percentage and binary logistic regression method.

Results

Analysis of Socio-Demographic variables
Table 1. *Socio-Demographic variables (N = 400)*

Demographic variable		Responses	Per cent (%)
Religion	Hinduism	361	90.3
	Sikhism	17	4.3
	Islam	22	5.5
Caste	SC	293	73.3
	OBC	96	24.0
	General	11	2.8
Gender	Male	309	76.5
	Female	94	23.5
Marital Status	Married	352	88.0
	Unmarried	14	3.5
	Divorced	4	1.0
	Widow	30	7.5
Age	18-25	9	2.2
	26-35	61	15.2
	36-45	186	46.5
	46-55	98	24.5
	56-65	46	11.5
Family Size	Up to 2	27	6.75
	Up to 4	91	22.7
	Up to 6	188	47.0
	Up to 8	74	18.5
	Nine and above	20	5.0
Occupation	Attached Agri. Labourer	89	22.3
	Casual Agri. Labourer	311	77.8
Education	Illiterate	176	44.0

	Up to Primary	114	28.5
	Up to Secondary	101	25.2
	Up to Se. Secondary	7	1.75
	Graduation and Above	2	0.5
Health Status	Excellent	14	3.5
	Good	92	23.0
	Average	170	42.5
	Bad	111	27.8
	Worse	13	3.3

The table 1 shows that in this study, 90.3% were Hindu, 4.3% Sikh and 5.5% respondents were Muslim, respectively. In this study, 73.3% of participants were the scheduled castes, 24% from the other backward castes, and 2.8% of them were from the general castes. The male participants were 76.5%, and 23.5% were female. The majority of the respondents were married (88%), followed by widow participants (7.5%). The maximum agricultural labourers were 36 to 45 age year group (46.5%) followed by 46 to 55 (24.5%). Majority of the agricultural labourers' family size was up to the six members (47%). Total 22.3% of respondents were attached, and 77.8% were casual agricultural labourer. Majority of the respondents were illiterate and up to the primary level educated. The maximum respondent chronicled that their household members' health status was average (42.5%), followed by the lousy status (28%) respectively. The overall socio-demographic features depict the lower status of the respondents.

Economic Wellbeing Status of Agricultural Labourers

Table 2. *Economic Wellbeing Status of Agricultural Labourers (N = 400)*

Statement	Responses (Yes)	Per cent %	Responses (No)	Per cent %
You have APL Ration Card	218	54.4	182	45.5
You are getting adequate days to do work.	258	64.5	142	35.5
You are satisfied with the workplace environment.	263	65.8	137	34.3
You have cash leftover towards the month's end.	117	29.3	283	70.8
You can handle a significant unexpected expense.	45	11.3	355	88.8
You have all the necessary things in your life.	67	16.8	333	83.3

The table 2 shows that 54.4% of the respondent had the APL (Above Poverty Line) ration card, and 45.5% were BPL (Below Poverty Line) respondents'. Among the total respondents, 64.5% chronicled that they were getting adequate days to do work in a month. 65.8% of the respondents noted that they were satisfied with the workplace environment. Only 29.3% noted that cash leftover towards the month's end. Only 11% of the respondents recorded that they can handle the unexpected expense. Seldom of the respondents (16.8%) noted that they have a good feeling of the necessary things of life.

Influence of Socio-economic Features on Economic Wellbeing

The hypothesis that socio-demographic features do not influence the economic wellbeing was analysed using the binary logistic regression method. As already mentioned, the economic wellbeing of the agricultural labourers was measured using the six indicators. Hence, to test all sub-hypotheses of the study, the six binary logistic regression models were developed. The nomenclatures for the models are as follows:

EWB= (TORC, ADDW, SWWE, CLEM, CHUE, FNTL)

Where EWB= Economic Well-being

TORC = type of ration card

ADDW = adequate days to do work in a month

SWWE = satisfaction with the workplace environment

CLEM = have cash leftover towards the month's end

CHUE = can handle the unexpected expense

FNTL = have a feeling of all the necessary things of life

Model 1, Impact of socio-demographic features on the ration card

$$TORC= \alpha + \beta_1 Zone + \beta_2 Religion + \beta_3 Caste + \beta_4 Gender + \beta_5 Marital\ Status + \beta_6 Age + \beta_7 Family\ Size + \beta_8 Occupation + \beta_9 Education\ Level + \beta_{10} Health\ Status + \mu_i$$

Table 3. *Impact of socio-demographic features on the ration card (APL)*

Variables in the Equation

		B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1[a]	Zone	.193	.116	2.777	1	.096**	1.213
	Religion	.211	.328	.415	1	.519	1.235
	Caste	1.696	.333	25.881	1	.000*	5.453
	Gender	.431	.305	1.996	1	.158	1.538
	Marital Status	-.301	.156	3.694	1	.055**	.740
	Age	.014	.014	.990	1	.320	1.014
	Family Size	-.023	.069	.110	1	.740	.977
	Occupation	-.481	.277	3.017	1	.082**	.618
	EduLevel	.051	.035	2.085	1	.149	1.052
	Health Status	-.283	.158	3.214	1	.073**	.753
	Constant	-2.131	1.086	3.853	1	.050	.119

*at 5% Level of Significance

**at 10% Level of Significance

The first model of binary regression gives Chi-Square = 86.117 df =10, p < .000, showing that the explanatory variables significantly predicted the outcome variable. The model overall classified the 66.5% cases. The Cox and Snell and Negelkerke R Squared estimates specify that between 19.4% to 25.9% variance can be predicted from the independent variables. The Hosmer and Lemeshow test of the model was not statistically significant (0.061), which indicate that the fitted model is good.

Estimates of Table 3 show the impact of explanatory variables on the probability of having an APL (Above Poverty Line) ration card. The result shows that the zone, caste, marital status, occupation and

health status of the household member's has a significant influence on having the APL ration card. The zone variable of the model shows that if the respondent is from the SAZ the probability to have the APL type of Ration Card is 1.213 times more than the WAZ, holding the other explanatory variables of the model constant. The caste variable shows if a respondent is from the general caste, the probability of having an APL ration card increases by 5.453 times. This implies that a person belonging to the general castes is more likely to have an APL Card than the person belonging to the scheduled castes. The marital status variable shows that if the respondent is widow, the probability of having APL is decreased than the married respondent by .740 times, holding the other variables constant. The occupation variable depicts that if the respondent is casual labour, the probability is less likely to have an APL card than the attached agricultural labourers by .618 times. Health status of the household member's signifies that if the household health status is worse, the probability of having APL Card is less by .753 times than the excellent household members' health status. Other explanatory variables (Religion, gender, age, family size and educational level) tend to have an insignificant impact on the dependent variable.

Model 2, Impact of socio-demographic features on getting the adequate days to do work

$$ADDW = \alpha + \beta_1 \text{Zone} + \beta_2 \text{Religion} + \beta_3 \text{Caste} + \beta_4 \text{Gender} + \beta_5 \text{Marital Status} + \beta_6 \text{Age} + \beta_7 \text{Family Size} + \beta_8 \text{Occupation (Casual Agricultural Labourer)} + \beta_9 \text{Education Level} + \beta_{10} \text{Health Status} + \mu_i$$

Table 4. *Impact of socio-demographic features on getting the adequate days to do work*

Variables in the Equation

		B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1ª	Zone	.806	.156	26.607	1	.000*	2.240
	Religion	-.104	.341	.094	1	.759	.901
	Caste	1.153	.344	11.247	1	.001*	3.169
	Gender	.059	.393	.022	1	.881	1.061
	Marital Status	.256	.195	1.727	1	.189	1.292
	Age	-.007	.017	.169	1	.681	.993
	Family Size	-.247	.091	7.296	1	.007*	.781
	Occupation	-5.252	.781	45.221	1	.000*	.005
	EduLevel	.108	.041	6.897	1	.009*	1.114
	Health Status	-.543	.205	7.033	1	.008*	.581
	Constant	4.735	1.534	9.526	1	.002	113.852

*at 5% Level of Significance

The results of the model give the Chi-Square = 196.645 df =10, p < .000, indicating that the independent variables significantly predicted the outcome variable. The results of Cox and Snell and Negelkerke R Squared estimates indicate that between 38.7% to 53.2% variance can be predicted from the independent variables. The overall classification of the model was 81.5%. The Hosmer and Lemeshow test of the model was not statistically significant (0.362) and signified that the model is fitted well.

The estimate of table 4 shows the impact of the socio-demographic variables on the probability of getting adequate days to do work. The finding of the model shows that zone, caste, family size, occupation, educational level and health status have a significant impact on the response variable. The zone variable shows that if the respondent is from the SAZ, the probability of getting the adequate days to work is more

than the WAZ by 2.240 times. The caste of the respondent shows that if the respondent is from the general caste the probability to get the adequate days to work is 3.169 times more than the scheduled caste respondent, holding the other explanatory variables constant. The family size is negatively related to getting adequate days to work. It means that, if the respondent's family size increases by one more members, the probability to get the adequate days decreases by .781 times. The occupation variable shows that if the respondent is casual labourer the chances to get the adequate days to work decreases by .005 times than the attached agricultural labourers. The educational level of the respondents shows that if the respondent is highly educated, the probability of getting the adequate days to do work increases by 1.114 times, holding the other variables of the model constant. The health status of the household members also shows the negative relationship with getting adequate days to do work. It means that if the respondent is from the poor health status household, the probability to get the adequate days to do work decreases by .581 times than the excellent health status household respondent. The other variables (religion, gender, marital status, and age) of the model were insignificantly influencing the response variables.

Model 3, Impact of socio-demographic features on satisfaction with the workplace environment

$$SWWE = \alpha + \beta_1 Zone + \beta_2 Religion + \beta_3 Caste + \beta_4 Gender + \beta_5 Marital\ Status + \beta_6 Age + \beta_7 Family\ Size + \beta_8 Occupation + \beta_9 Education\ Level + \beta_{10} Health\ Status + \mu_i$$

Table 5. *Impact of socio-demographic features on satisfaction with the workplace environment*

Variables in the Equation

		B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1[a]	Zone	.394	.127	9.681	1	.002*	1.483
	Religion	-.010	.386	.001	1	.979	.990
	Caste	1.572	.412	14.533	1	.000*	4.814
	Gender	.423	.329	1.655	1	.198	1.527
	Marital Status	-.037	.164	.051	1	.822	.964
	Age	-.006	.015	.155	1	.694	.994
	Family Size	-.156	.074	4.525	1	.033*	.855
	Occupation	.517	.282	3.344	1	.067**	1.676
	EduLevel	.056	.038	2.170	1	.141	1.057
	Health Status	-.399	.170	5.514	1	.019*	.671
	Constant	-.689	1.168	.348	1	.555	.502

*at 5% Level of Significance
**at 10% Level of Significance

Third model's results show Chi-Square = 99.982 df =10, p < .000, indicates that the independent variables significantly influenced the dependent variable. The overall classification of the model was 73.8%. The Cox and Snell and Negelkerke R Squared estimates indicate that between 22.1% to 30.6% variance can be predicted from the explanatory variables. The Hosmer and Lemeshow test of the model was not statistically significant (0.303) indicate that the fitted model was acceptable.

The table 5 shows that zone, caste, family size, occupation and health status has a significant impact on the response variable and have expected signs. The zone variable of the model shows that if the respondent is from the SAZ the probability to satisfy with the workplace environment increases by 1.483

times than the other zones, holding the other variables of the model constant. The caste variable of the model shows that, if the respondent is from the general caste the probability to satisfy with the workplace environment increases by 4.814 times than the scheduled caste respondent. The family size variable shows the negative relationship with the satisfaction from the workplace environment. This variable shows that if the respondent's family size increases by one more member, the probability of satisfying from the workplace environment are decreased by .855 times, holding the other variables constant. The occupation of the respondent shows that if the respondent is casual labourer the probability of satisfying with the workplace environment is increased by 1.676 times than the attached agriculture labourer, holding the other variables constant. The health status of the household members shows that if the respondent has a lower status, the probability of satisfying with the workplace environment decreases by .671 times than the healthy household respondent. The other explanatory variables (religion, gender, marital status, age and, education level) have an insignificant influence on the outcome variable.

Model 4, Impact of socio-demographic features on cash leftover towards the month's end.

$$CLEM = \alpha + \beta_1 Zone + \beta_2 Religion + \beta_3 Caste + \beta_4 Gender + \beta_5 Marital\ Status + \beta_6 Age + \beta_7 Family\ Size + \beta_8 Occupation + \beta_9 Education\ Level + \beta_{10} Health\ Status + \mu_i$$

Table 6. *Impact of socio-demographic features on cash left over toward the month's end.*

Variables in the Equation

		B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1[a]	Zone	.360	.139	6.729	1	.009*	1.433
	Religion	-.251	.290	.752	1	.386	.778
	Caste	1.069	.288	13.789	1	.000*	2.913
	Gender	.458	.371	1.525	1	.217	1.581
	Marital Status	-.096	.181	.280	1	.596	.909
	Age	-.008	.016	.222	1	.638	.992
	Family Size	-.574	.100	32.996	1	.000*	.563
	Occupation	.981	.426	5.295	1	.021*	2.666
	EduLevel	.047	.041	1.302	1	.254	1.048
	Health Status	-.493	.194	6.417	1	.011*	.611
	Constant	.417	1.243	.112	1	.737	1.517

*at 5% Level of Significance

The Chi-Square = 145.840 df =10, p < .000 of model 4 specifies that the dependent variables are significant influenced by independent variables. The overall classification of the model was 80.5%. The Cox and Snell and Negelkerke R Squared estimates indicated that the independent variables can indicate between 29.4% to 41.9% variance. The Hosmer and Lemeshow test of the model was not statistically significant (0.971) means that the model was fitted well.

The finding shows that zone, caste, family size, occupation and health status of the household have a significant influence on the response variable. The zone, show that if the respondent is from the SAZ the probability of cash leftover towards the month's end is increases by 1.433 times than the other zones, holding the other variables of the model constant. The caste variable shows that if the respondent is from the general caste, the respondent probability of cash leftover towards the month's end increases by 2.913

times than the scheduled caste respondent. The family size shows that if the respondent is from the large family size, the probability of cash leftover towards the month-end is decreases by .563 times less than the small family size respondent. The occupation shows that if the respondent is casual labour, the probability of cash leftover towards the month's end is increased by 2.666, than attached agricultural labourers. The health status of the household shows that if the respondent has a low household health status, the probability of cash leftover towards the month's end decreases by .611 times than the excellent health status household. The other independent variables; religion, gender, marital status, age and education level were representing the insignificant influence.

Model 5, Impact of socio-demographic features on the capacity to handle the unexpected expense.

$$CHUE = \alpha + \beta_1 Zone + \beta_2 Religion + \beta_3 Caste + \beta_4 Gender + \beta_5 Marital\ Status + \beta_6 Age + \beta_7 Family\ Size + \beta_8 Occupation + \beta_9 Education\ Level + \beta_{10} Health\ Status + \mu_i$$

Table 7. *Impact of socio-demographic features on can handle the unexpected expenses*

Variables in the Equation

		B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1ª	Zone	.096	.202	.224	1	.636	1.100
	Religion	-.272	.343	.629	1	.428	.762
	Caste	1.797	.377	22.726	1	.000*	6.031
	Gender	.059	.606	.010	1	.922	1.061
	Marital Status	-.611	.478	1.634	1	.201	.543
	Age	.013	.024	.309	1	.579	1.013
	Family Size	-.042	.136	.095	1	.758	.959
	Occupation	.259	.676	.147	1	.702	1.296
	EduLevel	.218	.059	13.846	1	.000*	1.244
	Health Status	-.219	.272	.648	1	.421	.804
	Constant	-5.181	1.897	7.455	1	.006	.006

*at 5% Level of Significance

The model-5 shows, Chi-Square = 89.765 df =10, p < .000 signifies that the explanatory variables has significant impact on the dependent variable. The Cox and Snell and Negelkerke R Squared estimates indicate that between 20.1% to 39.8% variance can be predicted from the independent variables. The overall classification of the model was 89.3%. The Hosmer and Lemeshow test of the model was not statistically significant (0.424), which shows the model was fitted well.

The result shows that only caste and educational level of the respondent has a strong influence on the response variable. The caste variable of the model shows that if the respondent is from the general caste, the probability in handling the unexpected expense is more by 6.031 times than the scheduled castes respondent, holding the other variable of the model constant. The education level shows that the more educated respondent has the more probability of handling the unexpected expense by 1.244 times more than the illiterate, holding the other variables constant. The other explanatory variables of the model were insignificantly influencing the response variable.

Model 6, Impact of socio-demographic features on feeling of the necessary things of life

FNTL= α + β₁ Zone+ β₂Religion + β₃Caste + β₄Gender + β₅Marital Status + β₆Age + β₇Family Size + β₈Occupation + β₉Education Level + β₁₀Health Status + μᵢ

$$FNTL = \alpha + \beta_1 \text{Zone} + \beta_2 \text{Religion} + \beta_3 \text{Caste} + \beta_4 \text{Gender} + \beta_5 \text{Marital Status} + \beta_6 \text{Age} + \beta_7 \text{Family Size} + \beta_8 \text{Occupation} + \beta_9 \text{Education Level} + \beta_{10} \text{Health Status} + \mu_i$$

Table 8. *Impact of socio-demographic features on have feeling of the necessary things of life*

Variables in the Equation

		B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1ᵃ	Zone	-.093	.165	.319	1	.572	.911
	Religion	.432	.276	2.457	1	.117	1.541
	Caste	1.177	.301	15.288	1	.000*	3.244
	Gender	.026	.470	.003	1	.956	1.026
	Marital Status	-.330	.278	1.414	1	.234	.719
	Age	.015	.019	.609	1	.435	1.015
	Family Size	-.196	.109	3.270	1	.071**	.822
	Occupation	.256	.498	.265	1	.607	1.292
	EduLevel	.129	.046	7.795	1	.005*	1.138
	Health Status	-.516	.225	5.256	1	.022*	.597
	Constant	-2.252	1.465	2.364	1	.124	.105

*at 5% Level of Significance
**at 10% Level of Significance

The Chi-Square = 90.107 df =10, p < .000 value of the model shows that the explanatory variables have a significant impact on the dependent variables. The Cox and Snell and Negelkerke R Squared estimates indicate that the explanatory variables can predict between 20.2% to 33.9% variance. The overall classification of the model was 84.3%. The Hosmer and Lemeshow test of the model was not statistically significant (0.595) signifies that the model fitted good.

The result shows that caste, family size, education level and health status has a significant influence on the feeling about the necessary things of life. The caste variable shows that if the respondent is from the general caste the probability of feeling about the necessary things of life increases by 3.244 times than the scheduled caste respondent, holding the other variables constant. The family size shows that if the respondent has a large family size, the probability of having the feeling about the necessary things of life is decreased by .822 times than the small family size respondent. The education level of the respondent has a positive relationship with have the feeling of the necessary things of life. It means that if the respondent is more educated, the probability of having the necessary things of life increases by 1.138 times than the illiterate respondent. The health stats of the household shows that if the respondent has the low health status, the probability of having the feeling about the necessary thing of life is decreased by .597 times than the healthy household respondent, holding the other variables of the model constant. The other independent variables of the model had an insignificant influence.

So, after analysing the data, the inferences of the study, states that agricultural labourers have low socio-economic status in society. Among the agricultural labourers mostly belong to the scheduled castes and other backwards castes. They have a low educational level. Their household health status is also lacking. Most of them live under the below the poverty line. They live their lives in helpless and exploiting and, their working days remain an unpredictable situation. They do not have income to save for the

unforeseen happenings. They have a low feeling about their household's necessary things. The findings direct towards the poor economic wellbeing. Having an APL Ration card was influenced by the zone, caste, marital status, occupation and health status. Getting the adequate days in a month was influenced by zone, caste, family size, occupation, educational level and health status. The satisfaction with the workplace environment was influenced by zone, caste, family size, occupation and health status. Cash left over towards the month's end was influenced by the zone, caste, family size, occupation and health status. The caste and educational level influenced the capacity to handle the unexpected expense. The feeling of the necessary thing of life was influenced by the caste, family size, educational level and health status of the respondents' household members. We identified that the respondent of the Southern agro-climatic zone gets much benefitted the other agro-climatic zone rather. The general caste had the more benefit of caste to increase their economic wellbeing than the scheduled castes labourers. The family size and the low health status of the household respondent negatively affect the economic wellbeing. The overall results of the hypotheses indicate that socio-demographic features have a significant role in the economic wellbeing of the agricultural labourers.

Discussion of findings

This study intended to answer the role of the socio-demographic features in determining the economic wellbeing of the agricultural labourers. The primary consequences of this study indicated that agricultural labourers have poor socio-demographic and economic wellbeing status. The socio-demographic features significantly influenced economic wellbeing.

Caste is a significant indicator in determining the occupation in Indian society (Gautam & Anderen, 2016; Mosse, 2018; Munshi, 2019). Socio-demographic profile of the respondents shows that scheduled castes were more engaged as agricultural labourers. Mohankumar (2008); Rajni (2007) and; Singh & Singh (2015) also found that SCs and OBCs are more engaged as agricultural labourers compared with the other castes. As earlier examined by Singh & Singh (2015) that agricultural labourers are mostly illiterate and have a low educational level. The poor health status of the agricultural labourers is corroborated with the findings of Hora et al. (2011); Rajuldevi (2001); Singh & Singh (2015) and; Vakulabharanam (2005). The economic wellbeing result of this study depicts the lower status of economic wellbeing. The range of agricultural labourers' specifying the economic wellbeing in ranged from 11.3% to 65.8% (See Table 2). The minimum economic wellness reported by the agricultural labourers was in handling the unexpected expense, only 11.3% of respondents chronicled that they can handle an unexpected expense. The maximum level of economic wellbeing narrated by the agricultural labourers was in satisfaction with the workplace environment, which was 65.8%. Half of the respondents were BPL (Below Poverty Line). Hence, the findings constitute the point that agricultural labourers are still destitute and utmost exploited category in the rural hierarchy. The findings establish a datum that employment and financial security-related issues are the biggest challenges in the formation of the secure livelihood of the agricultural labourers'.

Many socio-demographic variables were influencing the economic wellbeing of the agricultural labourers. In the first logistic regression model, the findings indicated that being the respondent of the SAZ in comparison of other zones is more beneficial. The probability of having an APL ration card increases if the respondent belongs to SAZ. This may be due to the weak social sector and industrialisation development in the other zones of the state in comparison of SAZ and CAZ. This model also indicated that caste has substantial nexus with having the type of the ration card. If a person belongs to the general caste, the probability of having an APL ration card increases. Many studies like Ajit, Donakar and Saxena (2012); Borooh (2010); Dreze, (2017); Munshi, (2017) and; Thorat, Mahamalick and Sadana (2010) indicates that scheduled and other backwards castes are more unfortunate on the socio-economic front than the general caste. The occupation also has a significant relationship with the type of ration card. In this model, casual labour has a lower probability of having an APL ration card because the attached agricultural labourers have a lower economic status in society than the casual agricultural labourers. This also confirms the datum that attached agricultural labourers have poor economic status. The health status also shows a significant influence on the APL ration card, if the respondent has poor household health status, the probability of

having an APL ration card decreases. This depicts the poor health status among the attached agricultural labourers. In the second logistic regression model, the findings indicated that being the respondent of SAZ zones in comparison to the other is more beneficial. The probability of getting adequate days to do work increases if the respondent belongs to SAZ than other this can be due to the unbalanced industrialisation. SAZ and CAZ have more employment opportunities due to the national capital region (NCR) region in comparison with WAZ and NAZ. The findings of the study are supported by Haley-Lock (2013) Sandhu et al. (2016) and Shearmur & Polèse (2007) that days to do work are affected by the agro-climatic features. This model also indicated that caste matters in getting the days for work. The general castes labourer has the more probability of getting the adequate days to do work than the scheduled caste respondent. This is also confirmed from the many studies (Ajit, Donakar, & Saxena, 2012; Borooh, 2010; Das and Dutta, 2008; Deshpande & Newmen, 2007; Madheswaran & Attwell, 2010; Thorat, Mahamalick & Sadana, 2010) that caste matters in getting the days to do work in the local labour market. Family size plays a crucial role in getting adequate days to do work in a month. A large family size reduces the number of days of work while the small family size opens the ways for the work. The results are congruence with Arthur (2005) and, Feeny S, & Mac-Donald (2016). The results also state that the more educated have the more probability of getting the working days than the illiterate person. Results are supported by Teichler (2001) that education helps in getting the work. To do work, our health status matters a lot the ill healthy household have a lower probability of getting the adequate days to do work. This finding is supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (2008). Third logistic regression model's findings indicate that the probability of getting satisfaction with the workplace environment increases if the respondent belongs to the SAZ. This can be due to the various structural, technical and social factors. This model also indicated that caste matters in getting satisfaction with the workplace environment. If a person belongs to the general caste, the probability of satisfaction with the workplace environment increases. This is also confirmed from the studies by Das & Dutta (2008); Deshpande & Newmen (2007) and; Thorat, Mahamalick & Sadana (2010) that caste matters in getting satisfaction with the workplace environment. Family size plays a vital role in getting satisfaction with the workplace environment. Large family size labourer gets the lower satisfaction with the workplace environment while the small family size labourer gets the more. The occupational type of the labourer matters a lot in getting the satisfaction from the workplace environment, and the result states that if the respondent is casual labourer he/she has the more chance to satisfy with the workplace environment. This shows the poor and exploitative situation of the attached agricultural labourers. To do work and getting satisfaction with the workplace environment, the health status matters a lot, and ill healthy household has a lower probability of satisfaction with the workplace environment. The finding of the study is also supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (2008) that good health helps in getting satisfaction with the workplace environment. In the fourth logit model, findings indicate that the probability of have cash leftover toward the month's end increases if the respondent belongs to the SAZ. This can be due to the unbalanced development or due to the unbalanced financial inclusion and financial services in the state. This model also indicated that caste matters in have cash leftover toward month's end. If a person belongs to the general castes, the probability of cash leftover toward the month's increases. This is also confirmed from the many studies (Ajit, Donakar & Saxena, 2012; Borooh, 2010; Dreze, 2017) that caste matters in the earnings so consequently in the savings. The family size has a negative relationship with the cash leftover towards the month's end. If the respondent has a small family size, the chances to save is more otherwise not. The occupation of the respondent has a significant influence if the respondent is casual labour the chances to save increases. The health status of household members affects saving. If the health status of the household members is good, the chance to save the cash increases. This finding is also supported by Ademola (2017). The fifth logistic regression model's socio-demographic finding indicated that if the respondent belongs to the general castes, the probability to handle the unexpected expense increases. This shows the caste and economic status linkages. If the respondent is highly educated the probability to handle the unexpected expenses is increases. An educated person can better manage their expenses and have the capacity to handle unexpected expenses. The results are supported by the findings of Klapper et al. (2015) Norman (2010) and UNESCO (2006) that an educated person is more likely to handle the unexpected expenses than an

uneducated person. The sixth logistic regression model's finding indicates that if the respondent belongs to the general castes, the probability of good feeling about all the necessary things of life increases. The results are congruence with the studies conducted by Fontaine & Yamada (2014) and, Spears (2016) that lower castes have a lower feeling about all the necessary things of life. The family size has a negative relationship with the feeling of the necessary thing of life. If the respondent has large families size the probability to have the good feeling of the necessary things of life decreases. If the respondent has a higher education level, the probability of feeling about all the necessary things of life is increased. The result is supported by the findings of Cárdenas M., Mejía C & Maro V. D. (2008), Ilies et al. (2018) and, Zanin, L. (2017) that the educated person is more likely to have the good feeling about all the necessary things than the illiterate person. The health status of the household also has a significant influence on the feeling of the necessary things of life. If the respondent has a healthy household status, the chance to have the good feeling of the necessary things of life increases. Hence the results of the study are congruence with the previous findings, and some of the findings have the unique meaning because as already mentioned, in context of the rural agriculture labourers, the nexus of the socio-demographic features and economic wellbeing dimensions is seldom observed.

Conclusions

The current article examined the socio-demographic features, economic wellbeing status and evaluated the nexus of the socio-demographic features with the various attributes of the economic wellbeing of agricultural labourers. In this study, we identified that the scheduled castes are mostly engaged as agricultural labourers. The agricultural labourers have a lower educational level, and their household member's health status was low. The agricultural labourers mostly preferred casual labour occupation. Most of the sampled respondents were from the 36 to 45 age year groups, and the large numbers of the respondents were from the up to the 6 member of the family size. On the economic wellbeing aspect of the agricultural labourers, they were underprivileged. They were financially poor, and the employment-related questions like the working days and the satisfaction from the workplace environment were not significantly sound. The economic standing of the agriculture labourer in the form of the type of the ration card and the feeling about the necessary things of life were showing the grim situation. The nexus of the socio-demographic features with the economic wellbeing shows that plentiful explanatory variables had a significant influence on the economic wellbeing of the agricultural labourers. The agro-climatic zone, caste, health status of the household members, educational level, occupation and family size were significantly influencing the economic wellbeing. In this study, we identify that the caste has a strong influence on economic wellbeing. Through the caste general caste had higher benefits in the empowerment of their economic wellbeing than the scheduled and other backwards castes. So it can be said that the caste is a crucial player in the acceleration of economic inequality at the local level. This result also indicates that social inequality drives economic inequality. So the government policies should be like that which can create and boost economic justice through targeting the caste-based discrimination and enhancing the affirmative actions for the affected groups. The family size is negatively related to the economic wellbeing, so among the agricultural labourers, special awareness camps for the family planning should be encouraged. To straighten the education and health among the agricultural labourers' special provision should be initiated. We identified that in the context of the agricultural labourers' development perspective, the western and northern agro-climatic zone were comparatively backward to the southern and central agro-climactic zone. So the government should emphasise the special schemes for the comprehensive and balanced development of the state. To empower the employment and financial wellbeing of the agricultural labourers' inclusive and guaranteed based schemes at the local level should be started and promoted. On the limitation front, this study was focused only on the rural aspect, not the urban and rural both and methodologically this study was quantitative, not the qualitative or mixed.

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