

# **Invisible Hands, Invisible Rights: A Socio-Economic Study of Women Agricultural Labourers in Rural Rajasthan**

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## **Abstract**

This paper examines the socio-economic and psychological conditions of agricultural women labourers in rural Jodhpur district of Rajasthan. Women play a vital role in agricultural production through sowing, harvesting, weeding, threshing, and livestock management; however, their contribution remains undervalued in the rural economy. The study is theoretical and conceptual in nature and is based on feminist political economy, labour-market segmentation theory, and Amartya Sen's capabilities approach. The paper highlights that women agricultural labourers continue to face low wages, seasonal unemployment, poor healthcare access, lack of education, social discrimination, and limited participation in

decision-making. Patriarchal social structures, landlessness, and economic dependency further increase their vulnerability. The study also discusses the social and psychological consequences of insecure employment, poverty, and gender inequality among rural women labourers. The paper concludes with policy implications, recommendations, and future research directions aimed at improving the living standards, empowerment, and human development of women agricultural labourers in Rajasthan.

**Keywords:** Women Agricultural Labourers, Gender Inequality, Agricultural Employment, Women's Empowerment

## 1. Introduction

Agriculture is one of the most important sectors of the Indian economy and continues to provide livelihood opportunities to millions of rural households. In Rajasthan, particularly in arid districts such as Jodhpur, agriculture is mainly dependent on seasonal rainfall, traditional farming practices, and manual labour. Rural women contribute significantly to agricultural production by participating in activities such as sowing, weeding, irrigation support, harvesting, post-harvest processing, and livestock care. Despite their major contribution, women agricultural labourers often remain economically vulnerable and socially marginalized. *"Invisible Hands, Invisible Rights?"* symbolically represents the neglected realities of women agricultural labourers in rural Jodhpur and wider Rajasthan. Although women actively participate in almost every stage of agricultural production—including sowing, weeding, harvesting, threshing, animal husbandry, and household-based farm activities—their contribution remains largely unrecognized within economic, social, and policy frameworks. The research highlights that rural women labourers continue to face low wages, irregular employment opportunities, poor working conditions, and lack of land ownership, limited access to education and healthcare, and exclusion from decision-making processes. Along with economic hardship, the study also emphasizes the psychological

burden experienced by women due to work insecurity, social inequality, dual domestic responsibilities, and persistent gender discrimination. Thus, the phrase “*Invisible Hands, Invisible Rights?*” not only reflects the hidden labour contribution of rural women in agriculture but also questions the absence of equal rights, dignity, social protection, and recognition that they deserve in the rural economy and development process.

In rural Rajasthan, women labourers usually belong to economically weaker and socially disadvantaged groups. Many of them are landless or possess very small landholdings, which compels them to work as wage labourers on others’ farms. Their employment is generally seasonal and insecure, resulting in irregular income and financial instability. In addition to agricultural work, women also perform unpaid domestic responsibilities. This creates a double burden of productive and reproductive labour.

The socio-economic condition of women agricultural labourers reflects broader issues of gender inequality, poverty, caste hierarchy, and social exclusion. Limited access to education, healthcare, institutional credit, and productive resources further restrict their social mobility and economic independence. Women often face wage discrimination and have little participation in household and community decision-making despite contributing significantly to family income.

The present study focuses on the socio-economic and psychological conditions of agricultural women labourers in rural Jodhpur district. The paper attempts to analyse their economic challenges, social marginalization, human-development issues, and psychological stress through relevant theoretical frameworks. The study also proposes policy recommendations to improve women’s welfare and empowerment in rural Rajasthan.

## **2. Literature Review**

## 2.1 Gender and Agricultural Labour

The role of women in Indian agriculture has expanded considerably over the past several decades; however, their contribution continues to be undervalued and inadequately recognized. Research consistently demonstrates that women perform a substantial share of agricultural operations while simultaneously carrying primary responsibility for household and caregiving activities. Despite their contribution, women remain disadvantaged in terms of access to productive resources, ownership rights, and decision-making authority.

Agarwal (1994) argued that ownership of land is central to women's economic security and social empowerment. Her analysis demonstrated that women's limited access to land and property rights reduces their bargaining power within households and restricts access to institutional credit, agricultural extension services, and welfare programmes. Consequently, women often remain dependent on male family members for economic and social security.

Similarly, Kabeer (1999) conceptualized empowerment as the expansion of individuals' ability to make strategic life choices through access to resources, agency, and achievements. According to her framework, participation in paid employment does not automatically lead to empowerment if women lack control over income, assets, and household decisions. This argument is particularly relevant for women agricultural labourers who contribute significantly to family livelihoods but possess limited decision-making power.

Singh, B., & Srivastava, S. (2018). *Involvement of women in agriculture and livestock activities in arid region of Rajasthan, India*. found that women in the arid region of Rajasthan perform critical roles in agriculture and livestock management, yet their contributions remain largely invisible within household and community structures. Furthermore, Agarwal (2019) emphasized that collective farming and group-based approaches can improve women's access

to productive resources, strengthen their bargaining power, and enhance their participation in decision-making. Recent studies indicate that agriculture in India is increasingly characterized by the feminization of labour.

Likewise, Rao et al. (2020) reported that women's agricultural participation is influenced by factors such as landholding size, social norms, and male migration. The authors concluded that the feminization of agriculture in India is largely distress-driven rather than empowerment-driven.

Pattnaik et al. (2020) observed that male migration and structural changes in rural economies have increased women's participation in agricultural activities. However, this transformation has not necessarily improved women's socio-economic status. Instead, women continue to remain concentrated in low-paid and insecure forms of employment with limited access to land, technology, and institutional support. These findings suggest that although women's involvement in agriculture has increased, structural inequalities continue to restrict their economic and social empowerment.

## **2.2 Employment, Wage Inequality, and Labour Conditions**

Employment-related studies reveal that women agricultural labourers continue to experience multiple forms of economic disadvantage. Gender-based wage differentials, seasonal employment, informal labour arrangements, and inadequate social protection remain persistent features of rural labour markets.

Vaddiraju (2015) highlighted the gender dimension of agricultural labour in India and argued that women workers face lower wages, insecure employment, and limited legal protection compared with their male counterparts. Collectively, these studies indicate that structural inequalities within labour markets continue to restrict economic mobility and livelihood security among women agricultural workers.

Khem Chand et al. (2017) examined the impact of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) on rural women in western Rajasthan and reported positive outcomes in terms of income generation and labour-force participation. Nevertheless, the study noted that irregular work opportunities and prevailing gender norms limited the programme's transformative impact.

Sharma (2018) observed that women agricultural labourers in Rajasthan are predominantly drawn from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and economically weaker households. Dependence on seasonal agricultural employment and lack of ownership of productive assets increased their vulnerability to poverty and economic insecurity.

Rao, N., et al. (2020). Found that women agricultural workers frequently experience insecure working conditions characterized by irregular employment, lack of occupational safety measures, inadequate healthcare facilities, and minimal social security coverage. Similarly, Singh and Anila (2024) reported that women workers in Rajasthan's informal sector remain inadequately protected by labour laws and welfare mechanisms.

### **2.3 Human Development and Capability Issues**

Traditional economic indicators often fail to capture the broader dimensions of well-being experienced by women labourers. Consequently, scholars increasingly employ human development perspectives to understand multidimensional deprivation and empowerment.

Sen (1999) proposed the Capability Approach, which emphasizes that development should be viewed as the expansion of individuals' capabilities and freedoms rather than merely increases in income. According to this perspective, education, health, mobility, and participation are essential dimensions of human development.

Kabeer's (1999) empowerment framework complements this approach by emphasizing women's agency and access to resources. Existing studies suggest that women

agricultural labourers often experience capability deprivation due to low educational attainment, poor healthcare access, and restricted mobility.

Multani and Sanghvi (2016) highlighted that the combined burden of agricultural and domestic work limits women's opportunities for education, skill acquisition, and economic advancement. Similarly, the Food and Agriculture Organization (2023) reported that women play a vital role in agrifood systems worldwide but continue to experience unequal access to land, credit, technology, and productive resources. The report emphasized that reducing gender disparities could substantially improve agricultural productivity and rural development.

Mohanty et al. (2024) also observed that women in Indian agriculture remain disadvantaged in terms of access to technology, extension services, and institutional support. These findings suggest that meaningful empowerment requires improvements not only in income but also in education, health, and access to opportunities.

#### **2.4 Psychological and Social Dimensions**

Compared with economic issues, the psychological and social experiences of women agricultural labourers remain relatively underexplored. Existing evidence nevertheless suggests that women face considerable emotional and social challenges arising from poverty, labour insecurity, and gender discrimination.

Multani and Sanghvi (2016) observed that women commonly experience a "double burden" resulting from the simultaneous performance of productive and reproductive responsibilities. Agricultural work, household management, childcare, and caregiving responsibilities collectively increase physical exhaustion and emotional stress.

Reddy et al. (2022) noted that insecure employment and inadequate social protection contribute to anxiety regarding income stability and family welfare. Likewise, Sudarshini

(2025) argued that wage discrimination, insecure employment, and lack of legal recognition reinforce feelings of dependency and marginalization among women agricultural workers.

Emerging studies further indicate that caste-based discrimination, patriarchal norms, and restricted decision-making power adversely affect women's self-confidence and social participation. Despite growing recognition of these issues, empirical studies on mental health and psychological well-being among women agricultural labourers remain limited, particularly in Rajasthan.

### **2.5 Overall Assessment of Literature**

The reviewed literature demonstrates that women agricultural labourers make substantial contributions to agricultural production and rural livelihoods. However, gender inequality, wage discrimination, labour insecurity, inadequate social protection, limited access to resources, and capability deprivation continue to affect their socio-economic well-being. Although previous studies have examined these issues separately, relatively few studies have adopted an integrated approach combining economic, social, psychological, and human-development dimensions, particularly in the context of rural Jodhpur district of Rajasthan..

### **3. Research Gap**

The existing literature on women agricultural labourers in India has predominantly focused on issues such as wage disparities, employment patterns, labour-force participation, poverty, and working conditions. While these studies have contributed significantly to understanding the economic challenges faced by women workers, relatively limited attention has been paid to the broader social, psychological, and human development dimensions of their lives.

In particular, there is a lack of empirical research examining how patriarchal norms, caste-based inequalities, economic dependency, and labour-market segmentation collectively

influence the well-being, agency, and lived experiences of women agricultural labourers. Critical issues such as emotional stress, mental insecurity, health vulnerabilities, social exclusion, and restricted decision-making power remain insufficiently explored. Moreover, the psychological consequences of seasonal unemployment, income instability, and the dual burden of productive and reproductive labour have received limited scholarly attention.

Furthermore, empirical evidence from the arid regions of Rajasthan, particularly Jodhpur district, remains scarce despite the region's distinctive socio-economic, environmental, and cultural characteristics. Given the persistence of gender inequality, caste hierarchies, and livelihood insecurity in this region, there is a need for context-specific research that captures the multidimensional realities of women agricultural labourers.

To address these gaps, the present study adopts a comprehensive approach by integrating insights from Feminist Political Economy, Labour Market Segmentation Theory, and the Capability Approach. Through this multidimensional perspective, the study seeks to examine the interconnections between socio-economic status, psychological well-being, and human development outcomes among women agricultural labourers in rural Jodhpur district.

#### **4. Objectives of the Study**

1. To examine the socio-economic conditions of women agricultural labourers in rural Jodhpur.
2. To analyse gender inequality and labour-market vulnerabilities.
3. To assess human development and psychological challenges.
4. To suggest policy measures for improving women's welfare.

#### **5. Theoretical Framework**

The present study is based on three interrelated theoretical perspectives: **Feminist Political Economy, Labour Market Segmentation Theory, and Amartya Sen's Capability Approach**. These frameworks provide a comprehensive understanding of the

socio-economic, institutional, and human-development challenges faced by women agricultural labourers in rural Jodhpur district. Together, these approaches help explain how gender inequality, labour-market structures, and limited access to capabilities contribute to the marginalization of women workers in agriculture.

### **5.1 Feminist Political Economy**

Feminist Political Economy explains how gender relations and patriarchal social structures influence the distribution of resources, opportunities, and power within society. This perspective argues that women's labour is often undervalued in both the household and the labour market despite its significant contribution to economic production.

In rural Jodhpur district, women agricultural labourers perform a wide range of activities, including sowing, weeding, harvesting, livestock management, and post-harvest operations. However, their work is frequently perceived as an extension of household responsibilities rather than as productive economic activity. Consequently, women often receive lower wages, limited recognition, and fewer opportunities compared with male workers.

This approach helps explain several realities observed in Jodhpur district:

- Women frequently receive lower wages than men for similar agricultural tasks.
- Their employment remains seasonal and insecure, making them economically dependent.
- Domestic responsibilities such as cooking, childcare, collecting water, and livestock care create a double burden of productive and reproductive work.
- Patriarchal norms restrict women's mobility, access to resources, and participation in decision-making.

Therefore, the Feminist Political Economy perspective suggests that improving the socio-economic condition of women agricultural labourers requires not only economic

interventions but also changes in gender relations, social attitudes, and institutional arrangements within rural society.

## **5.2 Labour Market Segmentation Theory**

Labour Market Segmentation Theory explains that labour markets are divided into two segments: the primary labour market and the secondary labour market. The primary sector is characterized by stable employment, better wages, and social security benefits, whereas the secondary sector consists of low-paid, irregular, and insecure jobs with limited protection.

In the context of Jodhpur district, most women agricultural labourers are concentrated in the secondary segment of the labour market. Their employment is largely casual and seasonal, depending on agricultural activities such as sowing and harvesting. During the off-season, many women experience unemployment, underemployment, or are compelled to engage in low-paid non-farm activities.

The theory helps explain the labour conditions of women agricultural workers in Jodhpur in the following ways:

- Employment opportunities are irregular and highly dependent on agricultural seasons.
- Most women work without formal contracts or employment security.
- Access to social security benefits, health insurance, and pension schemes remains limited.
- Women from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and economically weaker households are more vulnerable to labour-market exploitation.

Thus, Labour Market Segmentation Theory highlights how structural inequalities within rural labour markets contribute to the persistent economic vulnerability of women agricultural labourers in Jodhpur district.

### 5.3 Capability Approach (Amartya Sen)

The Capability Approach, developed by Amartya Sen, emphasizes that development should be understood not merely in terms of income but in terms of expanding people's capabilities and freedoms. According to this approach, individuals should have the opportunity to achieve valuable functioning such as education, good health, social participation, and economic independence.

For women agricultural labourers in Jodhpur district, several capability constraints limit their overall well-being and development. Poverty, illiteracy, poor healthcare facilities, gender discrimination, and limited access to productive resources reduce their ability to improve their quality of life.

Important capability dimensions relevant to women agricultural labourers in Jodhpur include:

- **Health and Nutrition:** Long working hours, poor dietary conditions, and inadequate healthcare facilities adversely affect women's physical well-being.
- **Education and Skill Development:** Low literacy levels and limited access to training programmes restrict opportunities for occupational mobility and income enhancement.
- **Agency and Decision-Making:** Despite contributing significantly to household income, women often have limited control over assets and household decisions.
- **Social Participation:** Patriarchal traditions and social norms restrict women's participation in community institutions and local governance.

From the capability perspective, the development of women agricultural labourers should be assessed not only through income and employment indicators but also through access to education, healthcare, social security, empowerment, and participation in decision-making processes.

#### **5.4 Relevance of the Integrated Framework to Jodhpur District**

The integration of Feminist Political Economy, Labour Market Segmentation Theory, and the Capability Approach provides a multidimensional framework for analysing the condition of women agricultural labourers in Jodhpur district. While Feminist Political Economy explains gender-based inequalities, Labour Market Segmentation Theory highlights employment-related vulnerabilities, and the Capability Approach focuses on broader human-development outcomes.

Together, these perspectives help explain how economic insecurity, patriarchal norms, social exclusion, and capability deprivation interact to shape the lives of women agricultural labourers in rural Jodhpur. The integrated framework therefore provides a comprehensive basis for understanding their socio-economic challenges and for formulating policies aimed at improving women's welfare, empowerment, and sustainable rural development.

### **6. Research Methodology**

The present study is descriptive, analytical, and conceptual in nature. The study is based entirely on secondary sources of information. Secondary data have been collected from books, research articles, government reports, Census publications, NSSO reports, PLFS reports, policy documents, and reports published by national and international organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The study employs narrative review, descriptive analysis, and theoretical interpretation within the frameworks of Feminist Political Economy, Labour Market Segmentation Theory, and Amartya Sen's Capability Approach to examine the socio-economic and human-development challenges faced by women agricultural labourers in rural Jodhpur district.

## **7. Discussion**

### **7.1 Socio-Economic Conditions of Women Agricultural Labourers**

Existing literature indicates that women agricultural labourers in rural Jodhpur district experience multiple socio-economic disadvantages that adversely affect their livelihoods and overall well-being. Agriculture continues to serve as an important source of employment for rural women; however, most women are engaged as casual labourers because they possess little or no agricultural land of their own. Their dependence on wage labour makes them economically vulnerable and highly sensitive to fluctuations in agricultural activities.

The employment pattern of women agricultural labourers is largely seasonal and depends on agricultural operations such as sowing, weeding, and harvesting. During lean agricultural periods, many women experience underemployment or are compelled to engage in low-paid non-farm activities to supplement household income. Such irregular employment patterns create instability in earnings and increase economic insecurity among rural households.

Previous studies have consistently reported the existence of wage disparities between male and female workers in agriculture. Despite performing similar tasks and contributing significantly to agricultural production, women often receive lower wages than men. These disparities are influenced by traditional gender norms, patriarchal attitudes, and the perception that women's earnings constitute only supplementary income for the household. Consequently, women continue to occupy a disadvantaged position within rural labour markets.

Limited ownership of productive resources further intensifies women's vulnerability. Most women agricultural labourers have restricted access to land, irrigation facilities, agricultural equipment, livestock assets, and institutional credit. As a result, they remain

dependent on wage employment and possess limited capacity to withstand economic shocks or invest in productive activities.

The literature also suggests that poverty and inadequate living conditions are common among agricultural labour households. Financial insecurity often results in indebtedness, food insecurity, and inadequate access to essential services. Limited access to formal financial institutions forces many households to depend on informal credit sources, which may further aggravate economic vulnerability. Such financial constraints restrict investments in education, healthcare, nutrition, and other aspects of human development.

Social inequalities also play an important role in shaping the conditions of women agricultural labourers. Studies indicate that a substantial proportion of women workers belong to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and economically disadvantaged communities. The interaction between caste hierarchy and gender inequality contributes to social exclusion and restricts access to opportunities and resources.

Patriarchal social structures continue to influence women's position within households and communities. Although women contribute substantially to household income, major economic and social decisions are often controlled by male family members. Women's mobility, property rights, and participation in community affairs remain limited due to traditional social norms.

Another significant challenge identified in the literature is the burden of unpaid domestic work. In addition to agricultural activities, women are responsible for household management, childcare, collection of water and fuel, and livestock care. This dual responsibility creates physical exhaustion and limits opportunities for education, skill development, and participation in social and economic activities. Therefore, the socio-economic condition of women agricultural labourers in Jodhpur reflects a combination of economic deprivation, gender inequality, and structural disadvantages.

**Table 1: Major Socio-Economic Challenges Faced by Women Agricultural Labourers**

| Socio-Economic Challenge | Consequence                          | Dimension         |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Low wages                | Poverty and income inequality        | Economic          |
| Seasonal employment      | Income instability                   | Economic          |
| Landlessness             | Dependence on wage labour            | Economic          |
| Illiteracy               | Limited occupational opportunities   | Human Development |
| Poor healthcare          | Reduced productivity                 | Health            |
| Gender discrimination    | Social exclusion and marginalization | Social            |

### 7.2 Human Development Dimension

The available literature suggests that the condition of women agricultural labourers cannot be understood solely through income and employment indicators. Human development dimensions such as education, health, nutrition, and social participation are equally important in assessing their overall well-being.

Educational deprivation remains one of the major challenges confronting rural women. Poverty, early marriage, gender discrimination, and limited educational opportunities have contributed to low literacy levels among women agricultural labourers. Inadequate education restricts access to better employment opportunities and reduces awareness regarding legal rights, government programmes, and health-related issues.

Health and nutrition constitute another important area of concern. Previous studies indicate that women agricultural workers frequently suffer from anaemia, malnutrition, fatigue, and work-related illnesses. Long working hours, poor dietary intake, and physically demanding labour adversely affect their health status. Pregnant women and elderly workers are particularly vulnerable because of inadequate maternal healthcare facilities and limited social protection mechanisms.

Poor sanitation facilities, unsafe drinking water, and inadequate healthcare infrastructure further reduce the quality of life of rural women. Financial constraints often prevent women from seeking timely medical treatment, resulting in untreated illnesses and declining productivity. The absence of adequate healthcare services not only affects physical well-being but also influences mental health and emotional stability.

The literature also highlights the issue of limited agency and participation. Despite their contribution to household income and agricultural production, women frequently have limited influence over household decisions and community affairs. Their participation in local institutions and political processes remains constrained by patriarchal norms and social expectations.

From the perspective of human development, deprivation among women agricultural labourers extends beyond income poverty. It encompasses limited educational opportunities, poor health outcomes, inadequate access to public services, restricted mobility, and lack of social recognition. Therefore, improving women's well-being requires multidimensional interventions aimed at expanding their capabilities and enhancing their access to opportunities and resources.

### **7.3 Social and Psychological Consequences**

The literature further suggests that the difficult socio-economic circumstances faced by women agricultural labourers have important social and psychological implications. Persistent poverty, insecure employment, and gender-based discrimination contribute to social marginalization and emotional stress.

Patriarchal traditions and caste-based inequalities continue to restrict women's freedom, mobility, and participation in social life. Although women make substantial contributions to household income, they are often not recognized as primary earners or

decision-makers. Such lack of recognition reduces their social status and reinforces dependency on male family members.

Women frequently encounter unequal treatment in wages, education, healthcare, and ownership of assets. Workplace exploitation, absence of social protection, and limited legal awareness further increase their vulnerability. These conditions often undermine self-confidence and reduce opportunities for social participation and leadership.

The combination of agricultural labour and domestic responsibilities creates considerable physical and emotional pressure. Long working hours, financial uncertainty, debt burdens, and family obligations contribute to anxiety and emotional insecurity. Existing studies indicate that women often experience stress arising from income instability and concerns regarding household welfare.

Limited control over personal decisions and restricted access to resources may also generate feelings of helplessness and social isolation. Continuous exposure to poverty, discrimination, and insecurity can negatively affect self-esteem and psychological well-being. In severe situations, prolonged economic hardship may contribute to depression and emotional distress.

Despite the importance of these issues, psychological dimensions of women agricultural labour remain relatively underexplored in existing literature, particularly in arid regions such as Rajasthan. Therefore, future studies should pay greater attention to mental health, emotional resilience, and social well-being among rural women workers.

## **8. Conclusion**

The study concludes that women agricultural labourers in rural Jodhpur district play a vital role in agricultural production and household livelihoods, yet they remain socio-economically vulnerable. Low wages, seasonal employment, limited access to resources, inadequate healthcare, and restricted participation in decision-making continue to affect their

well-being. Gender inequality, landlessness, and unpaid domestic responsibilities further aggravate their problems. The study emphasizes that the welfare of women agricultural labourers should be viewed through a multidimensional perspective encompassing education, health, empowerment, and social security. Therefore, gender-sensitive policies promoting equal opportunities, employment security, access to resources, and social protection are essential for achieving inclusive and sustainable rural development in Rajasthan.

### **9. Policy Implications**

Women agricultural labourers require comprehensive social and economic policies to improve their living standards and reduce gender inequality. Government programmes should focus on equal wages, healthcare facilities, education, social security, and employment opportunities for women labourers. Policies should also promote women's access to land rights, institutional credit, and self-employment opportunities. Skill-development and vocational-training programmes can improve women's economic independence and bargaining power. Mental-health awareness and counseling support should also be included in rural development programmes to reduce emotional stress and insecurity among women labourers. Community participation and women's representation in local decision-making institutions should be strengthened to ensure inclusive rural development.

### **10. Recommendations**

- Ensure equal wages for equal work in agricultural activities.
- Expand MGNREGA and other rural employment programmes for women.
- Improve healthcare, nutrition, sanitation, and maternal-care facilities in rural areas.
- Promote women's education, digital literacy, and vocational training.  
Increase women's access to land ownership, institutional credit, and self-help groups.
- Develop awareness programmes related to legal rights, health, and financial inclusion.

- Strengthen mental-health counseling and social-support systems for rural women labourers.
- Encourage women's participation in Panchayati Raj institutions and community decision-making processes.

### **11. Limitations of the Study**

The present study is conceptual and relies exclusively on secondary sources of data. Since no primary survey was conducted, the analysis is based on findings available in existing literature and government reports. Therefore, the conclusions may not fully capture variations in socio-economic conditions across different villages of Jodhpur district. Future empirical studies may provide more detailed insights into the lived experiences of women agricultural labourers.

### **12. Scope of Future Research**

Future research can focus on empirical field-based studies examining the long-term impact of rural employment schemes, self-help groups, and women empowerment programmes on agricultural women labourers. Comparative studies between different districts of Rajasthan can help identify regional variations in socio-economic conditions.

Further research may also analyse issues such as migration, climate change, digital literacy, mental health, and women's participation in rural governance. Studies focusing on women's entrepreneurship, financial inclusion, and access to social-protection schemes can provide useful insights for policy formulation and rural development planning.

**Conflict of Interest:** The corresponding author, on behalf of second author, confirms that there are no conflicts of interest to disclose.

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