

## ASPIRATIONS OF WOMEN AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS

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### ABSTRACT

*In order to know the aspirations of women agricultural labourers and the association between the characteristics of women agricultural labourers and their aspirations, the study was conducted with 60 women agricultural labourers of all the 15 research stations of Sardar Krushinagar Dantiwada Agricultural University, Sardar Krushinagar falling under three districts viz., Banaskantha, Mehsana and Sabarkantha. It was found that majority of the (80%) women agricultural labourers had medium to high level aspirations owing to young age group. The independent variables viz., age and marital status were negatively and significantly associated with aspiration at 0.01 level of significance, while education and mass media exposure were found positively and significantly associated with aspirations at 0.05 level of significance. Remaining variables failed to establish any significant association with the aspirations of the women agricultural labourers.*

### INTRODUCTION

Indian rural woman have been always an important and prominent partner in agriculture sector. Nearly 78 per cent of women are actively engaged in agriculture as compared to 68 per cent of men. According to recent studies 50-90 per cent of all the agricultural activities are carried out by women and women produce 44 per cent of the world food today (Sarvanan and Rasmy, 2001).

Aspiration can be defined as a level of possible goals set by an individual. Aspirations are goal statement concerning future level of achievement. The level of inspiration of an individual is a decisive determinant of raising the standard of living of an individual. A higher aspiration level certainly compels an individual to achieve his/her goal. Similarly a higher level of aspirations among the women agricultural labourers would certainly lead to a greater

level of development among them and gives an impression of their living standard.

Aspiration of the women agricultural labourers would certainly help to indicate their mental disposition and would definitely help to indicate their standard of living, their level of adoption and ways and means to be adopted by the government and other agencies to bring about an all-round development in this underprivileged but indispensable group of the Indian population.

### METHODOLOGY

The present study was confined to "Ex-post facto" research design. The multistage sampling technique was used for selection of area, districts and research stations/schemes. The study was undertaken in jurisdiction of Sardarkrushinagar Dantiwada Agricultural University. Three districts of north Gujarat viz., Banaskantha, Sabarkantha, and Mehsana, which cover 15 main and lead research stations, were purposively

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selected. Using proportionate random sampling technique, a sample of 30.00 per cent respondents was drawn from the list obtained from the head of the selected research stations. Accordingly, respondents were included in the sample, however, 60 respondents were available at the time of data collection and they were interviewed.

An objective type teacher made test was developed for measuring the aspirations of the respondents. The score on each item was assigned by the conference method and then added to arrive at total aspiration score. The respondents were grouped in to three categories viz., low, medium and high level of aspirations on the basis of  $\pm$  S.D. from mean.

The coefficient of correlation was computed to find out the association between personal, socio-

economic and psychological characteristics of women agricultural labourers and their aspirations.

**FINDINGS**

**1 Aspirations Of Women Agricultural Labourers**

The women agricultural labourers who mostly belonged to the lower social strata are expected to have aspirations in life like any other individual.

The scores obtained by an individual respondent for each of the aspects were added up to give her total aspiration score. The total score that the respondent obtained varied from 9 to 74. The women agricultural labourers were then categorized on the basis of mean  $\pm$  standard deviation in three groups as depicted in Table1:

**Table 1: Distribution of the respondents according to their aspirations**

n = 60

Sr. No.	Level of Aspirations	Number	Per cent
1	Low level (Up to 37 score)	12	20.00
2	Medium level (38 to 49 score)	40	66.67
3	High level (Above 49 score)	08	13.33

Mean = 43.133

S.D. = 6.1049

The data depicted in the Table 1 indicate that two-third (66.67 %) of the respondents had medium level of aspiration; while 20.00 per cent of the respondents had low level and only 13.33 per cent of the respondents had high level of aspirations. From the finding, it can be concluded that majority of the (80.00%) women agricultural labourers had medium to high level aspiration.

The probable reason for this finding might be that majority of the respondents belonged to young age group. The finding is similar to the findings of Tawade and Nirban (1995).

**2 Association between selected personal, socio-economic and psychological characteristics of the women agricultural labourers and their aspirations**

Association of selected attributes of the women agricultural labourers with their level of aspirations was worked out by calculating coefficient of correlation, 'r'. The data in this regard are presented in Table: 2

**Table 2 : Association between selected independent variables of the respondents and their level of aspirations** n=60

Sr. No.	Variables	Correlation coefficient ('r' value)
1	Age	-0.41245**
2	Education	0.26513*
3	Habit	-0.09928
4	Type of family	-0.03371
5	Size of family	0.11296
6	Marital status	-0.34804**
7	Caste	0.01260
8	Social participation	0.22828
9	Social mobility	-0.20134
10	Annual income	-0.02696
11	Indebtedness	0.03561
12	Mass media exposure	0.29711*
13	Awareness about Government aid schemes for landless	-0.10527

Table value at 0.01 level = 0.325

Table value of 0.05 level = 0.250

\*, \*\* Significant at 0.05 and 0.01 level of significance, respectively.

The independent variables viz., age and marital status were negatively and significantly associated with aspirations at 0.01 level of significance, while education and mass media exposure were found to have positive and significant association with the level of aspirations at 0.05 level of significance. Remaining variables viz., habit, type of family, size of family, caste, social participation, social mobility, annual income, indebtedness and awareness about Government aid schemes could not establish any significant association with the aspirations of the respondents.

### CONCLUSION

Majority of the women agricultural labourers had medium to high level of aspirations. The age and

material status had negative, while education and mass media exposure had positive and significant association with aspiration at 0.01 and 0.05 level of significance, respectively. Remaining variables failed to establish any significant association with the aspirations of the women agricultural labourers.

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