

OPEN ACCESS

Volume: 8

Issue: 1

Month: December

Year: 2019

P-ISSN: 2319-961X

E-ISSN: 2582-0192

Received: 25.09.2019

Accepted: 10.11.2019

Published: 01.12.2019

Citation:

Ramanatha, T and R. Sathiyaseelan. "A Study on Working Conditions of Workers Inpoultry Farms at Selected Areas of Namakkal District, Tamilnadu." *Shanlax International Journal of Economics*, vol. 8, no. 1, 2019, pp. 75–78.

DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.34293/economics.v8i1.1466>



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A Study on Working Conditions of Workers Inpoultry Farms at Selected Areas of Namakkal District, Tamilnadu

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Abstract

The study is topical as it carried out research in the area of contract farming which is gaining importance in the entire agricultural sector. The poultry industry in India is a pioneer in the field of contract farming and many of the procedures have been standardized and serving as a barometer for other crops as well. However, many pitfalls and constraints still exist and the model is constantly evolving and black boxes and bugs still exist. This study will help in identifying these constraints so that corrective action and interventions can be collected and the experience could be shared to areas of agriculture and livestock production. Market Risk is the bane of Poultry farming in the country which has not been clearly understood by the stake holders fully. This study will address the issue of price risk in poultry farming. The sole limitation of the study is that it is location specific, i.e., in Namakkal district

Introduction

Poultry farming, which was traditionally a backyard activity in India and a subsidiary enterprise, has witnessed significant technological breakthrough in recent times not only in terms of production through the introduction of exotic breeds with high growth potential but also in its marketing arrangements. It was heralded as a success story as it removed the market risk and brought about a significant improvement in the economic well being of the farmers who constituted its backbone. In 1971, the total layer population was approximately 64 million, out of which 63 million were local country birds. At this time, broilers raised specifically for meat were not found in India. The total egg production in the early 60's was approximately 2,900 million eggs mostly coming from the local birds capable of laying only 60 eggs per annum. In the 2000s, which is known as the golden period of Indian poultry industry, significant annual growth rate of 10 per cent in egg production and 20 per cent in broiler production were achieved. During the past decade, egg production increased to over 45,200 million in 2005, and the per capita availability of eggs has increased to 41. Broiler production increased to 1,650,000 tons of meat and the per capita availability of chicken meat increased to 1.73 kg in 2015. Over the years, poultry meat has found broad consumer acceptance, in part due to its low relative price, and the sector is growing at 14 per cent per year. With these growth rates, India ranked fourth in egg production and fifth in broiler meat production worldwide in 2019.

Research Problems and Issues

The investment on working capital in poultry farming is risky and difficult due to the high mortality of birds at the outbreak of diseases. Due to high price fluctuations, farmers have become defaulters to the Banks for the availed loans. Hence, commercial Banks are reluctant to finance for poultry farming. In the contract farming system when there is a low price for poultry meat in the market the product is not lifted from the farm. This may leads to a burden for the farmer to keep the birds for a long period and incurring loss.

The following Research issues are taken for the present study:

- Need for contract farming in broiler production and its merits and demerits.
- Types of contractual arrangements that prevail in broiler production and the features of each and sustainability in Tamilnadu.
- Risks relating in contract farming on income, efficiency, resource use, employment etc., in Tamilnadu.
- Recent trends in contract farming in broiler production.

Review of Literature

Shizue Tomoda (2019) viewed that there are many accidents are met by the poultry workers. The accidents include cuts, strains, bruises, fracture sand, and the disorders, and as well as zoonosis. A majority of the accidents take place in production areas, and machines, hand tools and the work environment are frequent causes of the accidents.

Anand et al. (2019) stated that nearly 40 per cent to 59 per cent of the farm workers suffer from one or many respiratory problems. A higher rate of these diseases is reported among the workers having longer experiences. Older workers suffer more than the young ones.

Linaker et al. (2019) studied that the most common respiratory symptoms reported by farm workers (wheeze, dyspoea and cough) are relatively non-specific and can be associated with several occupational respiratory disorders. The most important diseases are rhinitis and asthma, which, although common, are not usually fatal. Some non-allergic conditions, e.g. asthma-like syndrome

and organic toxic dust syndrome, are not yet fully understood but appear to be common among farm workers.

Sources of Data

The data required for the study have been gathered from both the secondary and primary sources. The secondary data were gathered from the various published sources like books, journals, periodicals, reports and other relevant library sources relating to the topic. Further, secondary data have also been gathered through visiting the district statistical office in Namakkal, veterinary health department, poultry companies in Namakkal district and so forth. Latest information about poultry farming have been elicited by visiting the websites of Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairy, Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India and Tamilnadu.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are:

- To study the socio- economic conditions of the development in Namakkal district of Tamilnadu,
- To examine the respondents satisfied with the economic status with respect to income, saving, expenditure and debt.

Sources of Data

The data required for the study have been gathered from both the secondary and primary sources. The secondary data were gathered from the various published sources like books, journals, periodicals, reports and other relevant library sources relating to the topic. Further, secondary data have also been gathered through visiting the district statistical office in Namakkal, veterinary health department, poultry companies in Namakkal district and so forth. Latest information about poultry farming have been elicited by visiting the websites of Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairy, Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India and Tamilnadu.

Table 1 Age-Wise Composition of the Respondents

Age	No. of Respondents	%
Below 30 Years	95	43

31 years to 45 years	55	25
46 Years to 55 Years	45	20
Above 55 Years	25	12
Total	220	100

Source: Primary Data

The table 1 explains the age information of the respondents. A total of 220 poultry workers were selected as respondents for this study. Out of 220 sample poultry workers, 95 (43 per cent) of the poultry workers are below 30 years old and 55 poultry workers fall under the age category of 31 years to 45 years. They comprise 25 per cent of the total respondents. The numbers of poultry workers who decrease under the age group between 46 years to 55 years are 45 in numbers and they constitute 20 per cent of the total poultry workers. It was found that only 25 poultry workers are above 55 years old and they contribute only twelve per cent of the total poultry workers.

It was found that a majority of the poultry workers are having the age groups of below 30 years and between 31 years to 45 years. Majority of them are agricultural labourers.

Table 2 Gender -Wise Classifications of the Respondents

Gender	No. of Respondents	%
Male	150	68
Female	70	32
Total	220	100

Source: Primary Data

The table 2 tells the gender details of the poultry workers. Out of 220 overall sample poultry workers, the male workers are 150 and they found 68 per cent of the total poultry workers and the remaining 70 poultry workers are female workers. The female workers constitute 32 per cent of the total poultry workers.

The male workers carry out all kinds of poultry works right from the mental work to disposal of waste materials and the female workers carry out assured poultry works.

Table 3 Total Number of Respondents Satisfied with the Economic Status with Respect to Income, Saving, Expenditure and Debt

Taluk	Saving	Income	Expenditure	Debt
Namakkal	37	33	47	46
Tiruchengode	41	34	46	51
Pramathy Velur	33	37	43	47
Rasipuram	44	34	41	41

Source: Primary Data

The table 3 presents the satisfaction of the sample poultry workers with the economic status with respect to income, saving, expenditure and debt. Their satisfaction with the expenditure is concerned with the expenditure are managed within the family income of the workers and satisfaction with the debt is concerned with the minimization of their debt or regular repayment of their old debts. Taluk wise poultry workers' satisfaction was registered in the table. There are 55 poultry workers were chosen for the analysis from each taluk. It was found that a vast majority of the workers satisfied with the economic status with respect to income, expenditure, saving and debt.

Conclusion

Based on results, workers in Namakkal poultry processing plants face a number of challenges, which can result in unsafe and unfair working conditions. These conditions put workers at risk, in addition to compromising consumer safety. Contamination of the poultry meat during processing is a serious problem, others. However, the risks and challenges faced by plant workers — and the extent to which some of these factors may contribute to meat contamination — has received far less attention. Discrimination based on race and nationality was a serious problem for survey respondents, along with widespread wage violations and lack of basic benefits such as earned sick leave. Workers' own opinions about their industry reflect this range of concerns. The findings of our surveys and interviews suggest a need for comprehensive reform of standards in the poultry processing industry. This must involve higher standards for health and safety, including slower line speeds, in addition to improved wages and benefits for workers.

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