



An Analysis Of Agricultural Workforce Participation In Agricultural Activities Of Mysore District

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Introduction: Agriculture is the of science or practice of farming, including cultivation of the soil for the growing of crop and the rearing of animals to provide food, and other products to people and to provide raw materials for industries. Agriculture is included in the primary sector of the Indian economy and creates 50% to 60% employment for most of the Indian population especially in rural India and mainly they are either cultivators or labourers. Cultivators those who work in their own land and agricultural labourers those who work on the land of others for wages. An agricultural labourer has no right of lease or contract on land on which she or he works. These agricultural forces are mainly involved in the activities like ploughing, leveling, manuring, sowing. selection of seeds of good quality, Irrigation, weeding, harvesting, storage, transportation and marketing.

S Subramanian (2015) studied the change in workforce pattern of the agrarian sector noticed that study of change in the agrarian workforce can indicate the direction of change and trace the process of structural change in Indian agriculture. The study locates four important phenomena namely marginalization of rural workers, feminization of the agriculture, increasing importance of various subsidiary activities and finally the ongoing structural changes in the rural economy. The emergence of these phenomena has various linkages regarding the future trends of Indian agriculture. Huyer, S. (2016) study found that male and female farmers in developing countries have different abilities to climate change. But addressing gender inequalities in agriculture to address climate change involves more than erasing inequalities in access to resources. Finally, he suggested that for bring gender equality need to implement a framework for mutually reinforce resources, women's ownership of assets, equal participation in decision making and strengthened capacity. Kiramei B. (2017)

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observed that German agriculture has undergone major changes and number of farms and employees has decreased significantly. Patil, B., et al. (2018) reveals that women have been contributing to growth and development in the form of crop production, animal husbandry, fisheries, and natural resource management. Gender, Sexuality, and Sustainability in U.S. Farming by Verge, T, et al (2019) suggested “relation agriculture” as a tool for reorienting gender and sexual relations on farms. Relational agriculture brings gender equality into food justice and demonstrates the significance of gender and sexuality in sustainable agriculture. Ar. Uma. et.al (2021) studied the agricultural scenario of Mysore district in their article on Agriculture in Mysore District; Proposal of an Agriculture Hub in Mysore City in their study they have analyzed the types of agricultural workers.

Purpose of the Study: - The main purpose of the study is identifying the trend and Gender participation, pattern in agricultural activities. A study of change in the agrarian workforce can indicate the direction of change and trace the process of structural change in Indian agriculture in general and study area in particular. Agriculture provides employment opportunities to rural agricultural and non-agricultural labourers. This sector is one the most important sector caters to the demands of the increasing employment opportunity and support the economy. India will have to focus more on measures such as optimum usage of land and manpower in agriculture apart from this its allied sectors it is undoubtedly a significant contributor to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country and supports 54.6% of the workforce.

Significance of the study: Agriculture is the main occupation of the people in this district. Agriculture provides many job opportunities and livelihood around the region. Agricultural activity in India is labour intensive. Labor is an indispensable factor of agricultural production. No farm operation can imagine without labour at the same time the demographic character, gender, socioeconomic condition of the workforce and the problem faced by them reflect in their performance in agricultural activity. Agricultural laborer is basically unskilled and unorganized and has little for its livelihood other than personal labor. The labor problem encompasses the difficulties faced by wage-earners and employers who began to cut wages for various reasons including increased technology, desire for lower costs or to stay in business. The study of Agricultural labour is more significant from two points of view, one side agriculture labour is most important factor of production and another side he is a consumer also. The present study signifies the demographic character of the workforce based

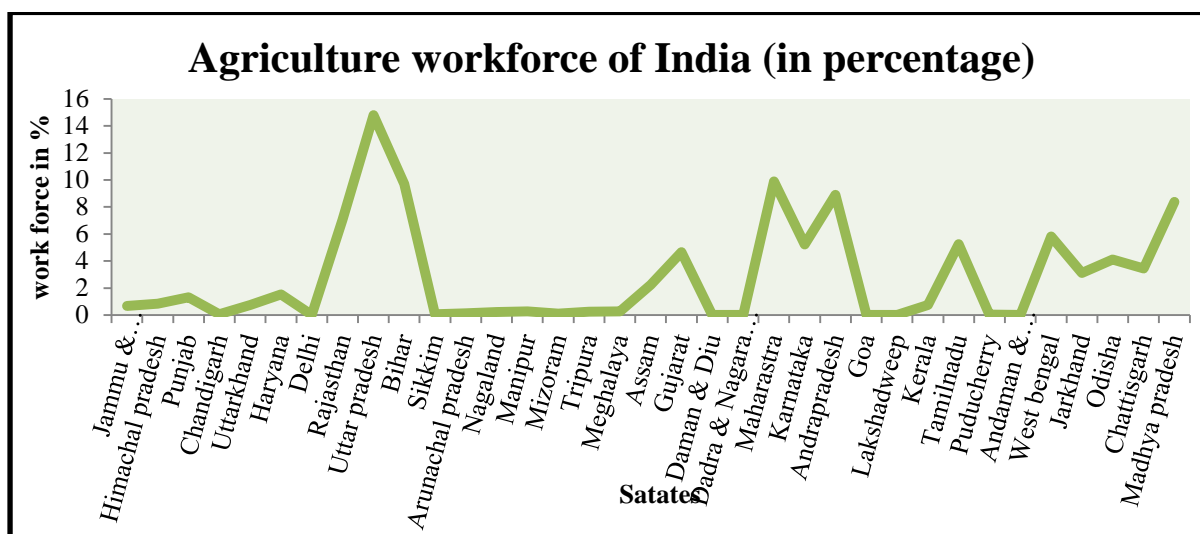
on gender engaged in agricultural activity, and the problem faced by them keeping in mind the socioeconomic condition.

Agricultural Work Force in India: According to the 2011 census, 56.7 percent of the main workers labour force was employed in the agriculture and allied activities out of which 30.58% are female work force which reflect the predominance of Agriculture in the matter of employment opportunity and its significant place in the economy the following chart reflects the agricultural workforce of the nation shared by all the states and union territories. Out of which more than 70% is shared by four northern and four southern states namely UP has highest of 14.81% of representation followed by Maharastra 9.9 %, Bhihar 9.7%, AP8.91%, MP8.39%, Rajasthan 7.05% and Karnataka and TN shares 5.26% and 5.22% respectively rest of the states and union territories are not worth mentioning.

Table: 1. Agricultural work force in India 2011

States	Agricultural Work Force in %	States	Agricultural Work Force in %	States	Agricultural Work Force in %
J & K	5.22	Nagaland	0.03	Daman & Diu	0.75
Himachal pradesh	0.02	Manipur	0.008	Dadra & Nagara Haveli	5.26
Punjab	0	Mizoram	5.22	Maharastra	0.03
Chandigarh	0.75	Tripura	0.02	Andrapradesh	0.008
Uttarkhand	5.26	Meghalaya	0	Karnataka	5.22
Haryana	0.03	Assam	0.75	Goa	0.02
Delhi	0.008	West bengal	5.26	Lakshadweep	0
Rajasthan	5.22	Jarkhand	0.03	Kerala	0.75
Uttar pradesh	0.02	Odisha	0.008	Tamilnadu	5.26
Bihar	0	Chattisgarh	5.22	Puducherry	0.03
Sikkim	0.75	Madhya pradesh	0.02	Andaman & Nichobar Islands	0.008
Arunachal pradesh	5.26	Gujarat	0		

Source: Source: register General of India

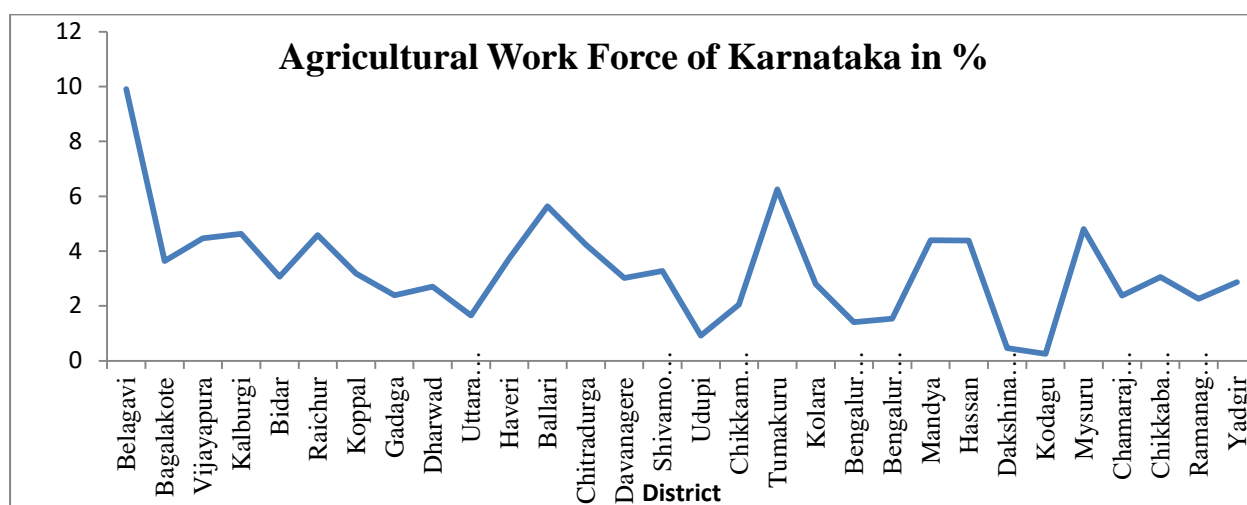
Graph: Agriculture workforce of India (in percentage)

Agricultural Work Force in Karnataka: In Karnataka as per the population Census 2011, agriculture supports 13.74 million workers which account nearly 48.6% of which 23.61 per cent are cultivators and 25.67 per cent agricultural workers. Significantly, an analysis by the Government shows that Karnataka's workforce-to-sector dependence shows a greater skew. In 2019-2020, the workforce dependent on the service sector declined to 33.7% from 37.6% in 2018-2019 while the agriculture workforce grew from 41% to 46.6%. According 2011 census Belgavi district records highest of 9.91% of agricultural workforce of the state followed by Tumkur 6.25%, Kodagu recorded least of 0.26%, rest of the districts records less than 5.0%.

Table.2: Agriculture work force in Karnataka 2011

Districts	Agriculture work force in %	Districts	Agriculture work force in %	Districts	Agriculture work force in %
Belagavi	9.91	Haveri	3.74	Mandya	4.4
Bagalakote	3.64	Ballari	5.64	Hassan	4.39
Vijayapura	4.47	Chitradurga	4.23	Dakshina Kannada	0.46
Kalburgi	4.63	Davanagere	3.02	Kodagu	0.26
Bidar	3.07	Shivamogga	3.28	Mysuru	4.81
Raichur	4.58	Udupi	0.92	Chamarajanagara	2.38
Koppal	3.18	Chikkamagluru	2.05	Chikkaballapura	3.05
Gadaga	2.39	Tumakuru	6.25	Ramanagara	2.26
Dharwad	2.71	Kolara	2.8	Yadgir	2.87
Uttara Kannada	1.66	Bengaluru-Urban	1.41		

Source: As per population census 2011

Graph: Agriculture work force of Karnataka (in percentage)

Factors affecting the Agricultural Workforce: Broadly there are three factors which affect the agricultural workforce.

- Access to suitable workforce pool: Have got enough people and from where?
- Education and Skills of workforce: Do they have right skill and training?
- Workplace conditions for workforce: Is it a good industry to work invariability or sustainability?

Those three factors can be summarized as follows

Unorganized: Agricultural labourers in India are totally unorganized as they are ignorant, illiterate and widely scattered. Thus, the farm workers have no capacity to bargain for securing a fair wage level.

Low Social Status: Farm workers mostly belong to depressed classes and thus they are lacking the courage to assert their basic rights.

Seasonal Unemployment: As the agricultural operations are seasonal thus the farm workers are often facing the problem of seasonal unemployment and under-employment. Farm workers on an average get employment for about 200 days in a year.

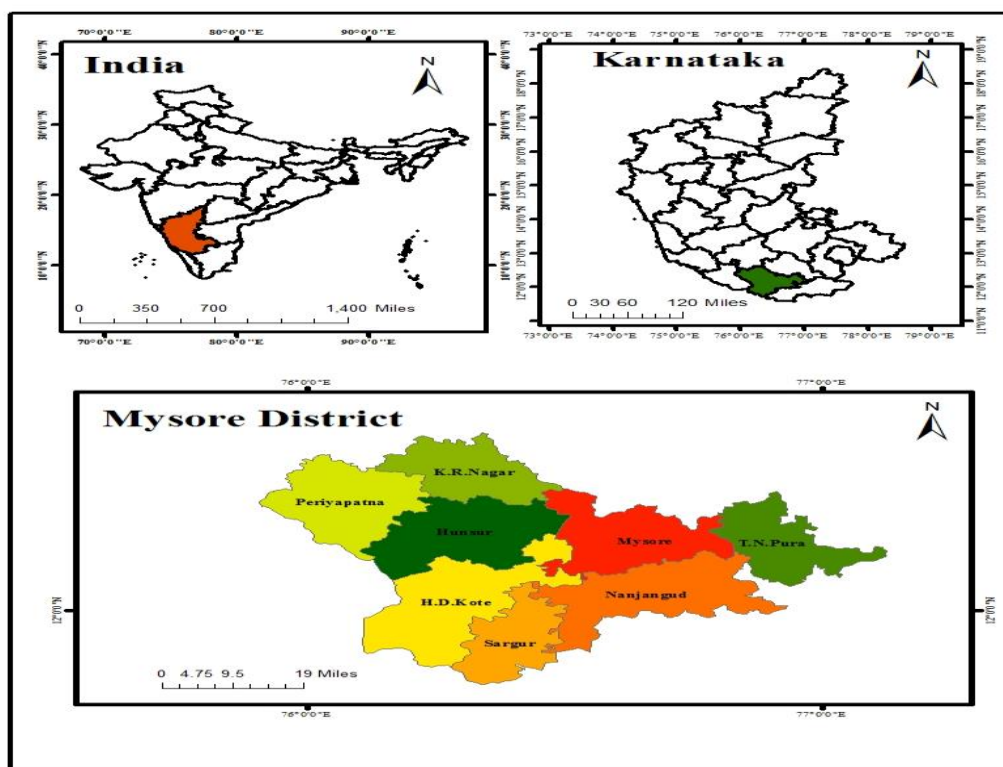
Absence of Alternative Occupations: In the absence of alternative occupation in the rural areas the farm workers are not getting alternative jobs when they suffer from seasonal unemployment.

Growing Indebtedness:- Agricultural labourers in India are highly indebted. As the level of wages is very poor thus the farm workers have been borrowing from landlords and become bonded labourers ultimately.

Thus, considering these above factors it can be said that the agricultural labourers in India are living in inhuman conditions and in the absence of organized status they are deprived of all the basic amenities of life.

Study Area: Mysore district is situated in the south of Karnataka state between $11^{\circ} 60''$ to $21^{\circ} 17''$ North latitude and $75^{\circ} 19''$ to $77^{\circ} 77''$ East longitude. The district covers a total geographical area of 6307 sq. km, which 3.57 percent of the state's total geographic area. The district comprises of 1336 inhabited stretching in 8 taluks namely, H.D Kote, K.R. Nagara, Mysore, Nanjangud, Periyapatna, T.Narasipura and newly formed Saragur. Agriculture is the backbone of the economy of Mysore district even though the agriculture is highly dependent on the rainfall, the rivers Kaveri and Kabini provide the irrigation needs required for agriculture in this district. Some of the important crops grown here are cotton, grams, groundnut, jowar, maize, ragi, rice, sugarcane, sunflower and tur. Horticulture is another area contributing significantly to the economy; especially the palm oil production in H D Kote Taluk.

Map.1: Study area



Methodology: The study primarily depends on secondary data like agricultural cultivators and labourers- male and female for a period of 2011. Data collected has been computed to prepare charts and tables and maps are prepared using Arc GIS.

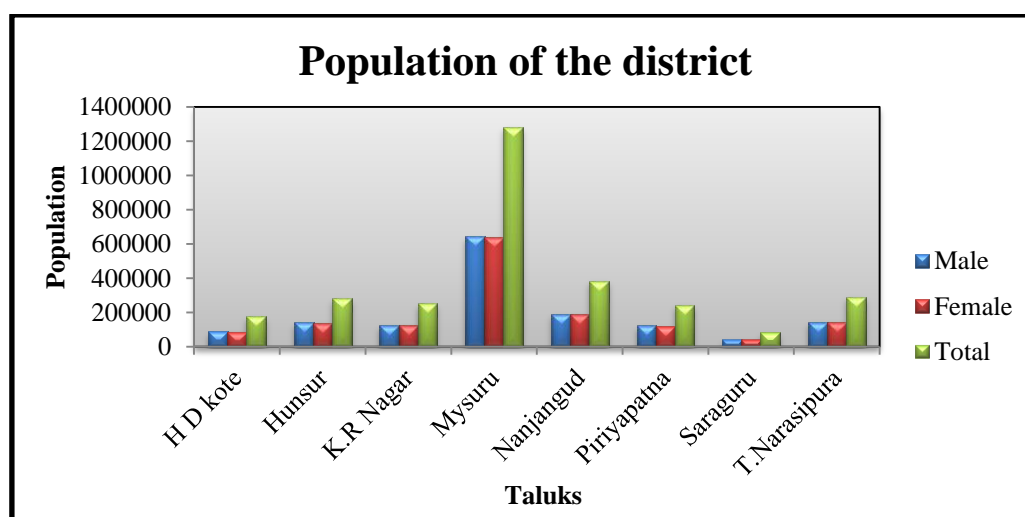
Demographic Profile: The demographic character of the district is also one of the important indicators to understand the agricultural work force. According to the 2021 information from the statistical office, Mysore district has a population of 3,001,133 with 1,511,600 (50.91%) and 1,489,527 (49.09%) constituting male and female population. The district population comprises 41.50 percent urban and 58 percent rural. People living in Mysore district depend on multiple skills, total workers are depended on agriculture farming out of 250,832 are cultivated by men and 70,055 are women. 208,164 people works in agricultural land as labour, men are 124,566 and 83,598 are women. Mysore district sex ratio is 985 females per 1000 of males.

Table.3: Population of the district (2011)

Sl.NO	Taluks	Male	Female	Total	Share of Population in
1	Heggadadevanakote	90651	88665	179316	5.97
2	Hunsur	142946	140017	282963	9.43
3	K.R Nagar	126539	126118	252663	8.42
4	Mysuru	645316	636452	1281768	42.71
5	Nanjangud	193038	191884	384922	12.83
6	Piriyapatna	124755	118321	243076	8.1
7	Saraguru	42097	42293	84390	2.81
8	T.Narasipura	146258	145777	292035	9.73
Total		1511600	1489527	3001133	100

Source: As per population census 2011

Graph.2: Population of the district (2011)



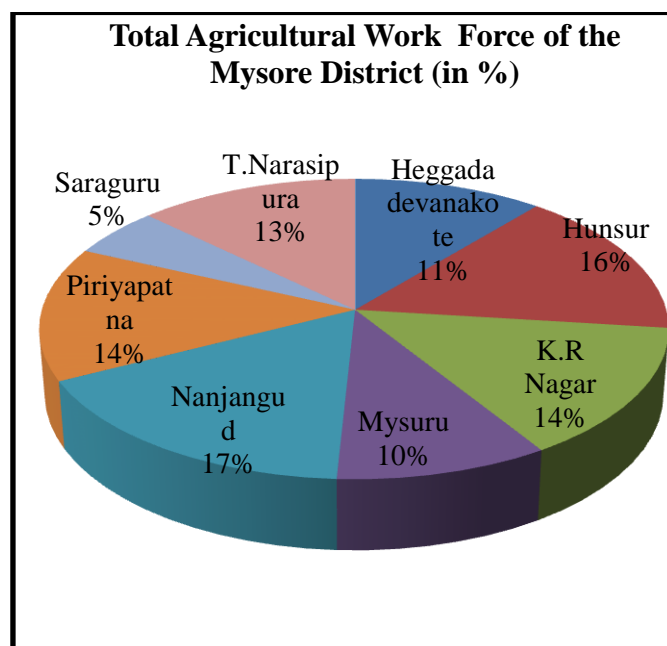
Mysore taluk has highest of 42.71% of the total population of the district followed by Nanjungud and T.N.Pura, as the newly formed taluk records least of 2.81%. No much difference between the population of male and female in all the taluks male surpass the female except in the Saurgur where there is a excess of 193 female population.

Agricultural Workforce of the District: According to the 2011 census, the total agricultural workforce of the district is 660339 out of which 53.00% is cultivators accounting 349337 and 47.00% are agricultural labourers amounting to 311002. Nanjungud has the highest number of 109851 agricultural workforce followed by Hunsur 10 5257 where as new taluk records the least of 35144. Periyapatna had the highest 68.22% of agricultural cultivators and T.Narasipura records least of 38.37% at the same time whereas T. Narasipura had the highest of 61.22% of agricultural labourers and least in Periyapatna of 31.77%.

Table.: Agriculture work force of the District (2011)

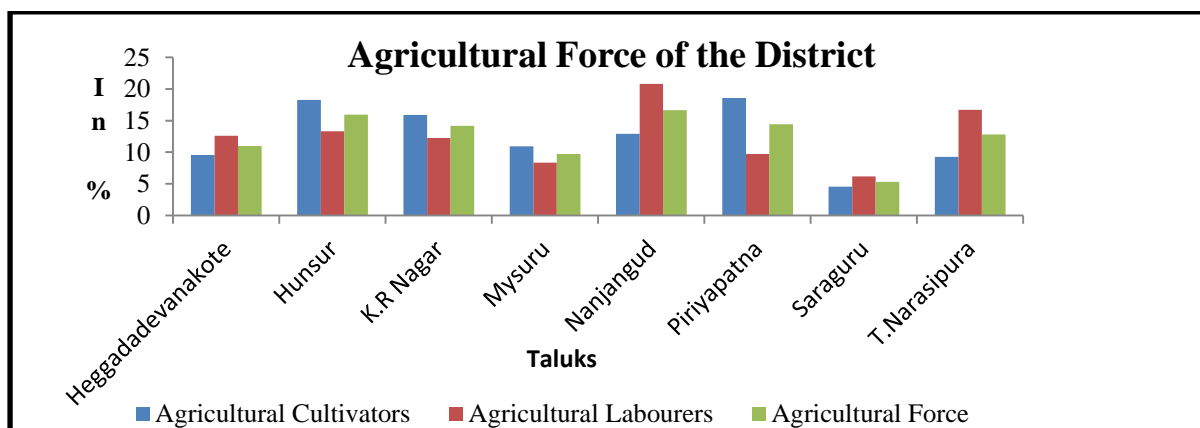
SL.NO	Taluks	Agricultural Cultivators						Total	% of Agricultural workforce
		Agricultural Cultivators			Agricultural Labourers				
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total		
1	Heggadadevanakote	24027	9387	33414	19597	19598	39195	72609	11
2	Hunsur	43835	19963	63798	18913	22546	41459	105257	15.94
3	K.R Nagar	39851	15605	55456	17496	20617	38113	93569	14.17
4	Mysuru	30887	7281	38168	14262	11762	26024	64192	9.72
5	Nanjangud	38723	6461	45184	38632	26035	64667	109851	16.64
6	Piriyapatna	44131	20861	64992	14126	16141	30267	95259	14.42
7	Saraguru	11427	4487	15914	9757	9473	19230	35144	5.32
8	T.Narasipura	29491	2920	32411	33595	18452	52047	84458	12.79
Total		262372	86965	349337	166378	144624	311002	660339	100

Source: district statistical office.

Graph.4: Total agricultural work force of the Mysore District (in percentage)**Table.5. Types of Agriculture work force in Mysore district (2011)**

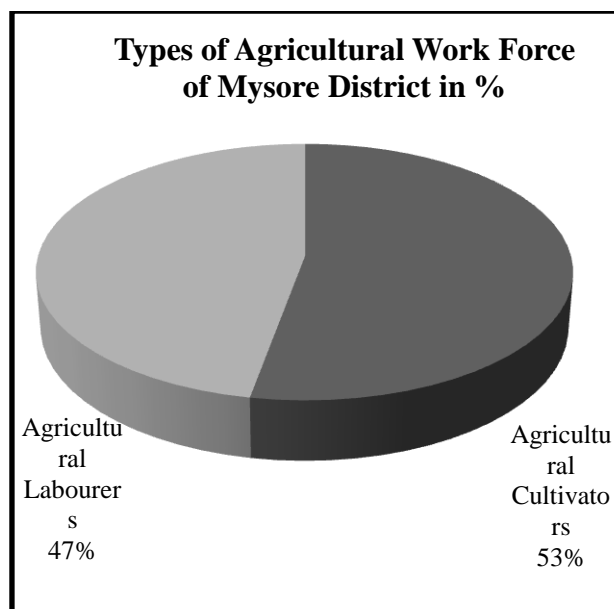
Taluks	Agricultural Cultivators	Agricultural Labourers	Agricultural Force	Cultivators	Labourers
Heggadadevanakote	9.56	12.60	10.99	46.01	53.98
Hunsur	18.26	13.33	15.93	60.61	39.38
K.R Nagar	15.87	12.25	14.16	59.26	40.73
Mysuru	10.92	8.36	9.721	59.45	40.54
Nanjangud	12.93	20.79	16.63	41.13	58.86
Piriapatna	18.60	9.732	14.42	68.22	31.77
Saraguru	4.55	6.18	5.322	45.28	54.71
T.Narasipura	9.27	16.73	12.79	38.37	61.62
Total	100 (53.00%)	100 (47.10%)	100	53.00	47.00

Source: District statistical office and personal computation

Graph.5: Agricultural workforce of the district.

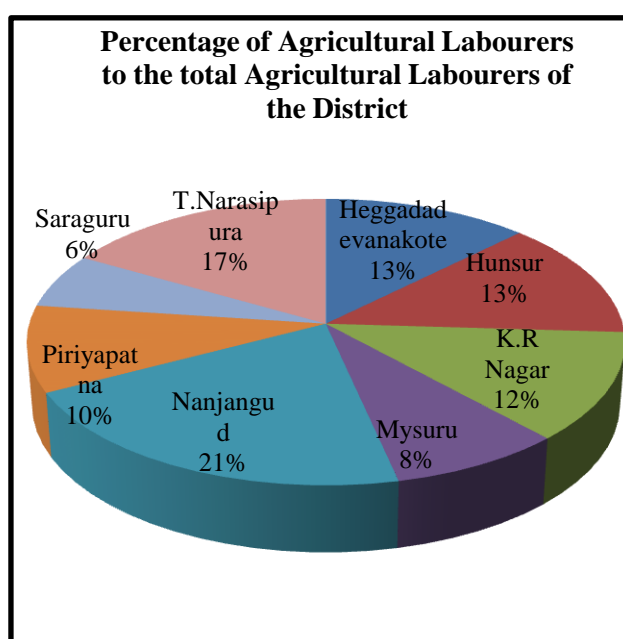
Out of the total agricultural work force of the district Nanjungud 16.63%, Hunsur 15.93% and Periyapatna 14.42% stand in first three place and least contributor is from newly formed taluk Saragur 5.32%.

Graph.5: Types of Agricultural work force of Mysore District (in percentage)

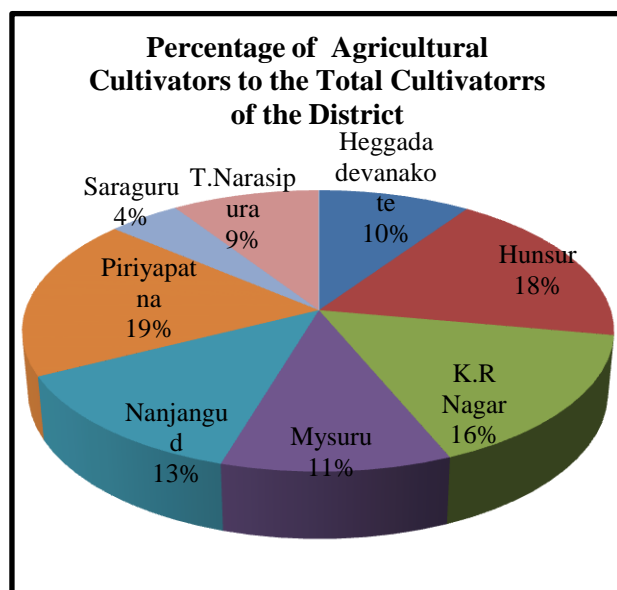


In the district of Mysore the total cultivators recorded is 349337 accounting 53.00% of the total agricultural work force out of which the highest of 18.60% is recorded in Periyapatna followed by Hunsur 18.26% and KR. Nagra 15.87% as usual Sarugur records least of 4.55%.

Graph.6: Percentage of agricultural labourers to the total agricultural labourers of the district.



Graph.6: Percentage of agricultural cultivators to the total agricultural cultivators of the district.



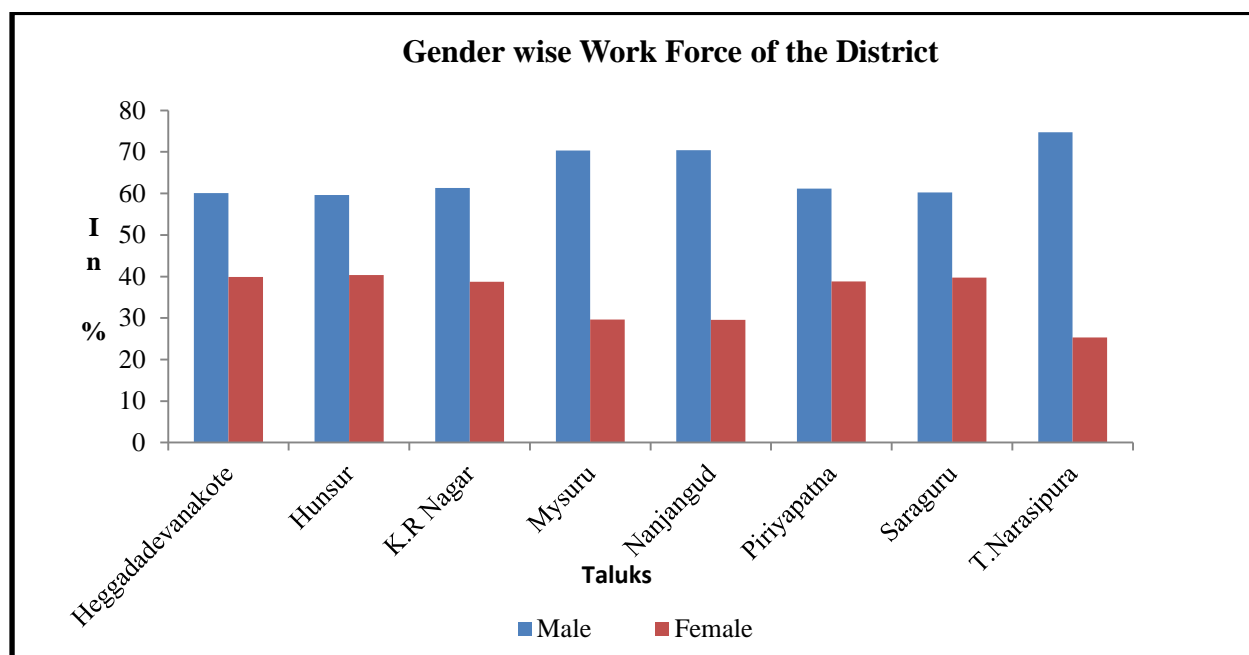
The total agricultural labourer in the district is 311022 amounting to 43% of the total agricultural force of the district. Nanjangud is the main contributor of about 20.79% followed by T. Narasipura 16.73% and Hunsur 13.33% and least in Sargur.

The agricultural workforce of the study area comprises the total of 660399 workers out of which 262372 are male cultivators and 86965 are female cultivators amounting to total 349337 cultivators. The total labourers are 311002 out of which 166378 are male and 114624 are female. The average male workers of the district is 65% and female workers are 35%. T. Narasipura records highest of 74.69% of male compared to 25.30% of female, followed by Nanjangud and Mysore.

Table.5: Gender wise work force of the district (2011)

Taluk	% to total work force		% to the taluk	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Heggadadevanakote	10.17	12.51	60.08	39.91
Hunsur	14.63	18.35	59.61	40.38
K.R Nagar	13.37	15.64	61.28	38.71
Mysuru	10.53	8.22	70.33	29.66
Nanjangud	18.04	14.03	70.41	29.58
Piriapatna	13.58	15.97	61.15	38.84
Saraguru	4.94	6.02	60.27	39.72
T.Narasipura	14.71	9.22	74.69	25.30
Total	65.00	35.00	65.00	35.00

Source: personal computation.

Graph.6: Gender wise work force of the district (2011)

Out of the total male cultivators of the district the highest of 18.04% from Nanjangud followed by T.Narasipura 14.71% and Hunsur 14.63%. Saraguru witnessed least of 4.54%. Highest female workers of 18.35% is witnessed in Hunsur, Periyapatna and K.R. Nagar records second and third place respectively with 15.9% and 15.64%.

Conclusion: The study reveals the males are dominating in owning an agricultural property and are highest in all the taluks as agricultural cultivators, whereas still today the females are the major work force as labourers.

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