

CHAPTER – V

INCOME, EXPENDITURE AND INDEBTEDNESS

This chapter brings to focus the Wealth Composition, Income, Expenditure and Indebtedness of the surveyed households of the different agro-climatic zonal villages. The individual and community oriented programmes introduced by the Government of India would have generated their income and asset.

Composition of Household Assets

Household Asset is one of the important indicators, which depicts their economic and social status among the community. Using this status, the households improve their fortunes still better as the present political system is conducive to this tendency.

Table 5.1 describes the composition of the Assets of the surveyed households among the different agro climatic zone villages of the State. These assets were categorized into seven groups, broadly brought under the financial and non-financial types. Average value of the total assets stood at Rs. 1,45,481.

Of the total assets, the composition of living house was 41 per cent. This proportion was high among the various household assets. In all the zones, the people gave preference to construct living houses. Then they moved over to land (38%) and consumer durables (8%) respectively.

The average financial assets composition stood at only 3 per cent. It shows that the people were not habituated to save in the banks or invest in the capital markets. It is also observed that their income is not enough to make savings.

Of the seven agro-climatic zone villages, living house composition was high in four zones viz. Cauvery Delta Zone (69%), High Altitude zone (56%), Southern zone (47%) and High Rainfall Zone (58%). In the rest of the zones, the land composition was high. They are: North East (60%), Western (46%) and in North West Zone (51%). There is no uniformity in acquiring the Wealth of the households. It depends on the people's preference. The preference would be determined by various factors like location, their employment, productivity of the soil, etc. The average living house value was Rs. 60,184. Only in two zones, the value was more than the average value i.e. in Cauvery Delta Zone Rs. 86,229 and in North East Zone Rs. 64,335. The average housing values did not vary much among the zonal villages.

The average land value of the households was Rs. 55,131. Of the seven zones, only in four zones villages, the average value was lower as compared to the grand average. These lower values were registered in Cauvery Delta Zone, Southern Zone, High Rainfall Zone and High Altitude Zone villages. These zone village populations owned minimum extent of land and in some cases they had no land, hence the values were lower.

Of the seven categories of assets, the consumer durables occupied the third place. In the rural areas, apart from the living house and land, people preferred to possess some durable consumer goods in their houses. In the State, the average value of the consumer durables was Rs. 11,099. The relative share of the consumer durables varied among the zones. It ranged in between 5 per cent and 18 per cent. In the category of consumer durables, people owned a variety of goods like Television, furniture, Grinder, Utensils, etc.

Of the asset composition, agricultural implements occupied the fourth place. Even though, the agricultural implements are essential for their activities, the population had possessed less worth of agricultural implements, i.e. Rs 5598. It is observed that the cultivators possessed tractor, electric motor, tube well, sprayers and other agricultural

implements. Agricultural labour category possessed only some minimum instruments like spade, chisel, etc. The possession of agricultural implements varied significantly among the zones. In some zone villages, the relative share reached close to zero. The average value is very low (Rs. 1.11) in the High Altitude Zone village. In this zone, most of them are plantation workers. They did not possess any agricultural implements for their cultivation

A unique practice could be observed in the rural areas of the country that they had owned livestock and trees. These two categories may give regular / seasonal income to the households. The Government of India encouraged developing milch animal activities through earlier programme of IRDP. These schemes failed to deliver the goods as expected by the government. Hence the government restructured the programme and introduced the group activity to make the programme viable. As per the rural households, the feeding cost of the livestock is very high and they have to take care of them throughout the year. The substitute mechanical energy replaced the livestock of the households. Hence, the relative share as well as the value is low among the population in different zones.

To promote afforestation, the government introduced social forestry programmes. Besides, the government issued tree pattas to the poverty stricken groups. These rights helped the beneficiaries to own trees and thereby get periodical yield. In assessing the impact of the programmes, trees have been reckoned as an asset base generating income. On an average, the value of trees was Rs. 3,455. The relative share is very low in the High Altitude Zone. In this Zone village, most of them were repatriates, who had migrated from Sri Lanka. They had occupied some amount of lands in the risky areas of steep hills. Hence the performance is very poor. In the rest of the zone villages, people possessed some trees and the value of the trees depended upon the yield and wood.

It could be concluded that the household asset composition varied among the zones. This occupational status and participation in the government programmes, would have paved way to enhance their assets. The average household asset value was Rs.

1,45,481. Among the zones, it varied in between Rs. 89,840 and Rs. 2,41,858. It could be said that the wealth inequality prevails among the households as well as in the zone villages. To probe further, the Gini ratio was worked out. It stood at 0.3906. It reveals that a moderate degree of inequality prevails among the zone villages in regard to assets.

Sources of Household Income

Table 5.2 reveals the sources of household income of the surveyed households. Household income is one of the proxy indicators to assess the level of development. The sources of income would depict the opportunity enjoyed by the people to generate income. Even in the rural areas, people tried to diversify the risk and thereby avoid the loss if any. The agricultural activities are season oriented and their income was based on the vagaries of the monsoon. There are eight major sources of income of the rural households surveyed in different agro-climatic zone villages.

On an average, the household income stood at Rs. 40,065. Of this, wage constituted as the major component i.e. 49 per cent and the income was Rs. 19,819. The government introduced the wage employment programmes to offer employment during the lean season and building infrastructural facilities in the rural areas. These facilities would enhance the value of their assets as well as their resource productivity. It is interesting to note that the target groups benefited from this scheme, apart from the routine agricultural and non-agricultural activities prevailed in the village. At the next level, agricultural income was Rs.7926, which was more than two times below the level of wage income. On the other hand, rent and interest turned out to be a meagre source of income. The amount Rs.384 was very low and the percentage share was close to zero. In the rural areas, the opportunity for renting out their houses to others was limited.

In this sample, some of them are working in the Government and Private and their income were around 18 per cent. These categories used to act as a catalytic agent in delivering the goods in favour of their villages as well as to the eligible families. Most of the workers in these categories are at lower and middle level in their organisations, hence

the average income from these sources are not significant, i.e. Rs 4276 and Rs 3118 in the Government and private services respectively.

Among the zone villages, the total household income varied significantly i.e. from Rs. 29,886 to Rs. 50,303. More than one and half times differences were there. It shows that the location of the village and their economic activities differed among the zone villages. The lowest household income Rs. 29,886 was attributed to the High Rainfall Zone village. On the other hand, the highest income Rs. 50,303 was recorded in the North Eastern Zone. In the North Eastern Zone village, people have cultivated major crops and also the village is situated nearest to the district headquarters of the Villupuram. This situation facilitated the labour communities to fetch good employment opportunities, particularly in the construction works. In the case of High Rainfall Zone village, the opportunities are very low. However, those people who could engage themselves in the government programmes gained much.

The relative shares of the various sources of household income varied significantly among the zone villages. The relative share of the wages was very high in all the zones. These shares differed among the zones and ranged in between 32 per cent and 84 per cent. However, the mean value of the wage income gives different picture. In this context, around two times difference could be seen in wage income i.e. Rs. 14,144 recorded in the North Western Zone. The North Western Zone village is located in the drought prone area of the Dharmapuri district. Of late, the Government introduced various programmes to mitigate the drought impact. It could be concluded that the wage income differed among the zones due to the opportunities prevail in the peripheral regions and also the skills of the people.

Similarly, the relative proportion of the agriculture income varied seventy times. The mean values too varied among the zone villages. It is observed that the topography of the region, ground water and surface water availability, fertility of the soil, availability, of labour determines the agriculture income. In the Southern Zone, the average household agriculture income was Rs. 236, which is the lowest among the zone villages. This

village is situated in the dry belt of the Southern district, and there is no possibility to make intensive cultivation. Besides, the village exists in the coastal area, within two kilometers from the sea. The ground water was salinated due to the erection of tube wells for the use of coconut cultivation. In the Million wells scheme, as per the guidelines, they are not entitled to receive the benefits or concession from the Government programmes. However, individually some of them lifted the ground water over the period, hence the water salinated in the village. The agriculture income was high (Rs. 16,790) in the Western Zone and in this zone, people made use of the Cauvery / Bhavani river water for their cultivation of Paddy, Sugarcane, Banana, Mulberry, etc. In the Cauvery Delta Zone the average agriculture income was Rs. 4,601. One could expect that the delta zone would contribute more amount of agriculture income. However, the cultivator sample represents only six per cent and thereby the mean income was relatively low in this village.

The practice of rearing livestock and getting some additional income from this source were not performed well in all the Zones. The mean values were differed around five times among the zones. The highest value Rs. 2,584 was afflicted to the Western zone village. In this village, the poorer income group people were rearing some livestock, which helped them to manage their families.

Growing of trees is one of the good practices to generate income as well as to safeguard the environment. The practice of keeping fences on the boundaries of their properties either in the dwelling house or in the farm shed and agricultural lands was noticed in all the rural areas of the State. They have made use of locally available materials like Bamboo, Palmyra and for the posts are concerned, they used live stems. It shows that apart from agricultural families, low-income households too grow some trees in the available areas. The source of tree income was nil in High Altitude Zone village. In this zone, the marginalized groups live in the high steep locations and they have no property rights to claim the benefits in the future. Further, the topography and heavy wind flows of the region do not permit to grow more number of trees. Hence, source tree income is nil in this zone. In the rest of the six zonal villages, the highest income

recorded in the Southern Zone village and the income was Rs.1890. The lowest income registered in High Rainfall Zone village of Rs.505. Around four times differences could be seen among the zonal villages. In the dry belt zone, the possibilities of cultivating crops are difficult. Of late, the ground water too polluted due to the extraction of ground water for the use of coconut trees. Relatively, the Southern Zone village households are getting high amount of income from trees. However the proportion of income (5%) is low

It could be concluded that the sources of household income varied significantly among the zone villages. Of this, wage income and agriculture income constituted around 70 per cent. In all the zones, the poorer income group people benefited from the wage.

Pattern of Consumption Expenditure

Consumption expenditure could be treated as one of the indicators to assess the standard of living of the people. Table 5.3 portrays the pattern of consumption expenditure of the households of different agro –climatic zones. The consumption expenditure has been broadly classified into two groups viz. food and non-food. The non-food expenditure comprised of five categories viz. clothing, education, medicine, transport and other expenses inclusive of social. In this context, each expenditure head reflects the level of development.

On an average, the total household expenditure stood at Rs. 19,555. Of this, 67 per cent of their expenditure was on food. It is obvious that the people had to spend major proportions on food. In the other expenses category, they spent 9 per cent. Under this component, there are various social expenses like marriage, ear boring, funeral, puberty, etc. Hence this proportion of expenditure recorded next to food. At the next level, they spent 9 per cent of their income on clothing.

Transport expenditure was Rs. 1,147 and the proportion was 6 per cent. It shows that the rural population had utilised the transport services provided by the government as well as the private. Besides, it also shows that they had traveled to the neighboring areas

to attend their social calls, and to have some services of education, banks and Government. Further, it reveals that their social relationship was extended to the neighboring areas.

In the context of education expenditure, it was recorded Rs. 721 and the proportion was only 3.69 per cent. The education expenditure is low among the zones, since these facilities provided by the government at free of cost. In addition to that, they had extended free noon meal, scholarships, free uniforms, and free distribution of books by the government as well as NGOs. These results confirm the rate of drop out of 6.58 per cent, discussed in the previous chapter..

On an average, the medicinal expenditure was Rs. 995 per household. Apart from the Government hospitals, the rural population utilise the services of private hospitals / dispensaries. It shows that the performance of Government hospitals / primary health centers was not satisfactory. Still there is a rich scope to improve the quality of the service provided by the Governmental hospitals / PHCs.

Of the seven agro-climatic zones, the expenditure on food emerged as a major expenditure of the households. Per household food expenditure varied significantly among the zones, i.e. it lies in between Rs. 8801 of High Rainfall zone and Rs. 17818 of North Eastern Zone. Around two times differences were observed in the food expenditure. It is inferred that there is a positive relationship in between income and expenditure. The relative proportion of food expenditure ranged in between 58 and 78.

In the context of non-food expenditure, the relative proportion varied more than two times among the zones. The lowest non-food expenditure recorded in the High Altitude Zone (22%) and the highest proportion went to North Western Zone (42%). The non-food expenditure of the households varied two times among the zones.

It could be concluded that the rural households of different agro-climatic zones preferred to spend more on food than on other items of consumption. Since their income is limited, they could not enhance their consumption on other items.

Distribution of Per capita Assets

Table 5.4 describes the distribution of percapita assets. This analysis would help examine the prevalence of inequality in different agro climatic zones. The government programmes introduced in the country with the objective of alleviating poverty and removing inequality among the households of various communal and religious groups. It is expected that the programmes would have achieved its goal over the period.

Distribution of Assets

In this context, an attempt has been made to probe the distribution of percapita assets, income and expenditure. These parameters may reveal individually about their position in the society and the level of inequality. On an average, the percapita asset value was recorded at Rs.39,955. The percapita asset distribution grouped into five, on the basis of existing distribution in the sample population. Of these five groups, the highest proportion (31%) constitutes in the lowest asset group of less than Rs.10, 000. Juxtaposing the asset class and the proportion of households; it is observed that there is a negative relationship in between the variables upto the first four-income class. There are 22 per cent of the households belonged to the highest asset group of above Rs.40,000. It reveals that the spectrum of asset distribution is wider. In examining the inequality of the asset distribution, the Gini Ratio was worked out and it stood at 0.468

There is a significant variation of the percapita assets among the zone villages. The lowest percapita value Rs.22,283 was attributed to the High Altitude Zone village and the highest value Rs. 73,147 was attributed to the North Eastern Zone village. In the High Altitude village, majority of the population were repatriates of Srilanka and occupied the government wastelands. Hence, the average value is lower and reflected in the zone village. However, some of them acquired assets over the period. In the High Rainfall Zone village, percapita asset value is very close to i.e. Rs. 22,306. In this zone, the poverty stricken groups could not acquire the assets, since their income is enough only to meet their basic needs. There is a significant variation prevailed in the percapita

assets in different agro climatic zones. It could be concluded that the employment opportunities pave way to acquire the assets.

There is no uniform trend exhibited in asset distribution among the zone villages. The relative proportion was varied among the zones. In the lowest asset category (<10000), the relative proportion of households was very high in the North East Zone (47%) and in the Southern Zone (45%). At the next level (10001-20000), the highest proportion afflicted to the High Altitude Zone. Since the climate of the zone is very chill more or less throughout the year, hence they were acquired some assets to manage the climatic conditions.

In each category, the relative share of the percapita assets varied among the agro climatic zone villages. It is observed that some of the households possessed the ancestral properties of land, house, etc. Hence their wealth status is high compared to that of other categories of population.

Distribution of income

Per capita income is one of the important proxy indicators to assess the level of development. There are many criticisms against the use of the proxy indicator percapita income. Due to the non-availability of micro data, the government could access easily the percapita income and make decisions. In realizing the importance of the indicator percapita income, it is attempted here to compute and workout the distribution to measure the inequality.

Table 5.5 portrays the distribution of percapita income. On an average, the percapita income of the seven agro-climatic zones stood at Rs. 9635. The percapita income varies significantly among the zone villages. The lowest income Rs. 6891 recorded in the High Rainfall Zone village and the highest income Rs.13763 recorded in the Western Zone village. It shows the zonal characteristics and the nature of economic activities in the villages. The household income of the different agro-climatic zones was

grouped into seven classes to trace the distribution of income. In order to reduce the income inequality, the government extended various concessions and incentives in favour of the lower income groups. The question boils down to, -whether the government policies have reduced income inequality or not. In the lower income strata, people may not have two square meals per day for some months of a year. They could be treated that they were living under hunger.

There is a positive relationship in between the income class and the proportion of households up to the level of Rs. 7500. In this range, the proportion of household increased from 0.85 per cent to 31 per cent. On an average, 0.85 per cent of the surveyed total household belonged to the income class of the lowest category of less than Rs. 2500. At the next level, 28 per cent of the households came under the income class of Rs. 2500-5000. 31 per cent of the households hailed in the income class of Rs 5000-7500. From this category onwards, there is an inverse relationship between the income class and the proportion of households upto the income class of Rs. 20000. Beyond that 7 per cent of the households belonged to the highest income class, of above Rs. 20,000. It is observed that there is no uniform relationship in all the income classes. It could be said that that income distribution is wider.

The zone wise analysis gives a detailed picture. Less than one per cent of the population came under the lowest income category of less than Rs. 2500. In this category, no registration in the Western Zone and High altitude Zone villages. It reveals that a very meager percentage people came under the category and most of them are old aged people, hence their income is very low. In the second income category of Rs. 2500-5000, the North West Zone village recorded the highest percentage of households in this bracket. This zone also a dry belt in the Northern Area of the State. At the next level, 39 per cent and 38 per cent of the households belonged to the zones of High Rainfall Zone and Southern Zone respectively. In the High Altitude Zone, twenty per cent of the households belonged to the lower income class. In this zone, most of them depend on tea plantation. During the last two years the tea price has come down drastically both in the domestic market as well as in the international market. Hence this population was pushed

back to lower income class. There are two extreme features could be seen in between these zones. Southern zone is a dry belt zone and there is no cultivation. The High Rainfall zone area forms with a lot of ups and downs and it fits to grow horticultural crops and trees. The employment opportunities in these zone villages are very meagre. Hence their income level is very low.

Of the seven agro-climatic zone villages, around 31 per cent of the households belonged to the income class of Rs.5000-7500. In the third income class, a little variation could be seen among the proportion of households of seven zone villages. It ranged in between 26 per cent and 34 per cent. Similarly in the rest of the high-income classes, the proportion of households varied among the zone villages.

Distribution of Expenditure

The distribution of per capita Expenditure is given in the Table 5.6. Per capita Expenditure comprises of food and non-food expenditure. The seven classes of expenditure were made on the basis of the existing distribution by way of identifying the minimum and maximum values. On an average, the per capita Expenditure of the surveyed households stood at Rs. 4759. Among the zone villages a minimum amount of expenditure Rs. 3199 is registered in High Rainfall Zone village and the highest expenditure Rs. 6386 is registered in the Western Zone village. Juxtaposing the figures of Per capita income and per capita Expenditure, a relationship could be seen in between these two variables.

Of the seven expenditure class categories, the proportion of households increased up to the first three-expenditure class of Rs. 4500. After that, the proportion of households decreased continuously and reached to the final category of above Rs. 100000. The highest proportion (33%) of the households belonged to the category of Rs.3000-4500. Around 78 per cent of the households are in the expenditure brackets of three categories ranged Rs.1500 to Rs.6000. It reveals that the expenditure distribution is not much wider and nearing to the normal distribution. Among the zonal categories, there

is no uniform relationship in between the proportion of households and the categories of expenditure. Food expenditure is common to all the households. However, it depends upon the size of income, people have consumed different items of food. In the context of non-food expenditure, the people met the expenditure on the basis of need and urgency. It varied from household to household.

Indebtedness

In the literature on indebtedness, it is generally was construed as a negative factor in their household economic activities. According to them, indebtedness is an interesting phenomenon, which drains them off all resource potential and converts them into paupers. The banking and co-operative institutions provide loans at concessional rate for their productive activities. To meet the non-productive expenses, some time people have been forced to borrow from the moneylenders, if their income was not sufficient. The recent literatures show that there is close association between the level of development and indebtedness. It is expected that the borrowed loans used for productive purposes. Due to the development of banking and co-operative institutions, the role of moneylenders was relegated to the third place.

Since independence, the Government of India introduced various Rural Development programmes to promote the standard of living of the rural people. They assisted the target groups in various forms and the pattern of subsidy too changed over the period. Recently the government introduced the policy of back end subsidy. This policy would help the institutional authorities to recover the loans. Earlier approaches of the Rural Development Programmes were failed to recover the loans and the political policies too created the willful defaulters.

An attempt has been made to explore the pattern of loan outstanding among the institutional and non-institutional categories. Of the institutional categories there are three important sources identified viz. commercial banks, cooperative banks and SGSY. Under SGSY, the group members can borrow loan from the fund provided by the government,

bank and the contribution of the members. In the non-institutional category, there are two important sources viz. I) Private Money Lenders, ii) Friends and Relatives.

It is interesting to note that 62 per cent of the households had no outstanding loans. It is observed that those who borrowed the loan, they repaid the same. This is one of the achievements recorded in all the zone villages. The proportion varied among these zones, it ranged in between 36 per cent and 92 per cent of the households. The lowest percentage 36 per cent was attributed to the High Rainfall Zone of Kanniyakumari village. It means that the rest of the households availed themselves of some loans from the institution (33%) and non-institutional (20%).

Of the total number of cases reported, 33 per cent of them availed loan from the institutions. The rest 12 percent availed loan from the non-institution viz. Private Money Lenders, Relatives and Friends. It could be seen that the role of moneylenders were relegated to the third place.

Institutional loans were recorded in all the zonal villages except the High Altitude Zone. In the High Altitude Zone only seven members availed loan from SHGs. The performance of SHG is good in the five zonal villages, except in two zones viz. Cauvery Delta Zone and Southern Zone. In these zones, the groups were formed recently and hence the performance is very poor.

It could be concluded that the majority of the surveyed households did not avail the loans. Of these not avail loan categories, some of them had repaid the loan, and hence the proportion was very high in the list. Among the availed loan categories of institutions and non-institutions, the role of institutions is very high. It shows that the people borrowed loan for their productive activities hence they could repay the loan. However, political policies of the Government may create willful defaulters.

Sources of Indebtedness

Table 5.7 shows the various sources of indebtedness of the surveyed households. The sources were broadly classified into institutional and non-institutional. In the institutional category, again it has been classified into three groups viz. commercial Banks, Co-operative Banks and SGSY-SHG. On the other hand, the non-institutional category also classified into two i.e. private moneylenders, Relatives and Friends. However, there are some beneficiaries availed the credit from more than one source. In this context, to avoid the complication in the analysis, the major proportion of their credit has been construed as their source of credit.

Of the total sample, 847 cases were recorded that they have some amount of outstanding loans. In between the two categories of institutional and non-institutional, 628 cases belonged to the category of institutional i.e. 74 per cent. It shows that they have availed the loan for their productive purposes from the institutions. The objective of promoting credit institutions in the State, has achieved its goal. However, some of them still depend upon the non-institutional category to meet their social, religious, education and medical expenditure. In some other cases, they could not produce collateral security against the credit in the banking institutions.

Among the institutional categories, 49 per cent of the people availed the loan from the Self Help Groups mobilised under the programme SGSY. However, the quantum of loan was low compared to the rest of the institutional loan. It reveals that the programme SGSY has reached its goal in assisting to the poverty stricken groups. The SGSY performance varied among the zonal villages. The group activities are very low in the zonal villages of Cauvery Delta and High Altitude.

The outstanding loan cases were very low in two zonal villages of Cauvery Delta Zone and High Altitude Zone. Even though their income is low in High Altitude Zone due to the deceleration of tea prices in the market. Although, they could manage their

family from their past savings. Similarly, the same practice has been noticed in Cauvery Delta Zone village.

In the context of non-institutions, 20 per cent of the cases were registered in the category of private moneylenders. The proportion of the cases of private moneylender is very high in between the two sources of non-institution. Among the zones, there is no uniform trend in between the categories. In order to identify the magnitude of debt, another table has been formulated.

Magnitude of Average Household debt

Table 5.8 portrays the magnitude of average household debt of the indebted households. To assess the real magnitude, the average outstanding loans were computed of the indebted households, instead of taking into account of all the households. The average outstanding loan stood at Rs. 51,744 of the total 847-recorded cases. In between the two major sources of credit, the institutional sector contributed 59 per cent of the credit to the beneficiaries. Among the three institutional sources, co-operative banks contributed 33 per cent, shared the maximum amount of loan. Juxtaposing the figures of the 'numbers of households availed loan' and the 'quantum of loan', gives a different picture. In the context of SGSY, the numbers are very high, but the loan amount is very low. It is assessed that the SHG would give minimum amount of loan to the members to meet their urgent domestic expenses. This approach may help further to reduce the role of moneylenders. On an average, the quantum of loan received from the SHG is Rs. 4419. A significant variation could be seen among the zonal villages. The quantum of SGSY loan is very high in the High Altitude zone (Rs. 22,500) and it is low in the Cauvery Delta Zone (Rs. 467). In the High Altitude Zone, their asset status is relatively poor among the zonal villages. They could not produce their assets as collateral security to avail the loan from the commercial banks and co-operative institutions. In this context, the role of SHGs may be realized as important among the BPL categories. In the North Western Zone, the beneficiaries have no outstanding loans in respect of commercial banks. It is

observed that the beneficiaries repaid the availed loans from the local co-operative bank within the stipulated period. Hence there is no outstanding.

In the non-institutional category, the households borrowed the loans from both the sources. However, there is a significant variation among the zonal villages. It shows their access to the credit. Depending upon their accessibility, they availed the loan either from the institution or non-institutions.

In all, the sources of household income, expenditure and indebtedness varied significantly among the zonal villages. On an average household income stood at Rs. 40,065. Of this wage and agriculture income constituted around 70 percent. The sample populations spent more on food than on other items of consumption.

Table 5.1 Composition of Household Assets of the Surveyed Households (Value in Rs.)

Sl.No.	Assets	Agro Climatic Zone							
		Cauvery Delta	North East	Western	North West	High Altitude	Southern	High Rainfall	Total
		n = 270	n = 270	n = 270	n = 270	n = 270	n = 270	n = 270	N = 1890
1	Land	18796.30 (15.46)	144481.48 (61.00)	67881.48 (43.28)	99222.22 (46.47)	18518.52 (20.60)	24229.63 (19.82)	12792.59 (15.69)	55131.75 (69.22)
2	Livestock	2334.78 (1.92)	2072.04 (0.87)	3464.59 (2.21)	3346.61 (1.57)	569.26 (0.63)	3251.81 (2.66)	1241.11 (1.52)	2325.74 (2.92)
3	Agricultural Implements	255.74 (0.21)	11324.07 (4.78)	6364.81 (4.06)	17571.30 (8.23)	1.11 (0.00)	3534.63 (2.89)	133.70 (0.16)	5597.91 (7.03)
4	Trees	2475.83 (2.04)	1590.56 (0.67)	2408.52 (1.54)	3378.89 (1.58)	6.11 (0.01)	11515.56 (9.42)	2806.49 (3.44)	3454.56 (4.35)
5	House	86229.81 (70.91)	64335.19 (27.16)	53455.83 (34.09)	52265.56 (24.48)	52651.85 (58.57)	60135.19 49.19	52217.04 (64.04)	60184.35 (75.71)
6	Consumer Durables	10435.50 (8.58)	11092.13 (4.68)	9092.75 (5.80)	10556.64 (4.94)	16638.46 (18.51)	10492.04 (8.58)	9390.30 (11.52)	11099.69 (13.94)
7	Savings and Investments	1082.59 (0.89)	1944.44 (0.82)	14159.81 (9.03)	27193.33 (12.73)	1506.67 (1.68)	9081.2963 (7.43)	2958.8148 (3.63)	8275.28 (10.39)
	Total Assets	97665.50 (100)	77338.42 (100)	76657.95 (100)	89971.79 (100)	70718.21 (100)	79732.28 (100)	64483.52 (100)	79454.93 (100)

Source: Computed

Note: Figures in parentheses are percentages to the total Assets

Table 5.2 Sources of Household Income of the Surveyed Households (Value in Rs.)

Sl.No.	Sources	Agro Climatic Zone							
		Cauvery Delta	North East	Western	North West	High Altitude	Southern	High Rainfall	Total
		n = 270	n = 270	n = 270	n = 270	n = 270	n = 270	n = 270	N = 1890
1	Agriculture	4600.74 (11.91)	16204.81 (32.21)	16790.37 (33.65)	9999.26 (22.71)	5981.48 (17.85)	236.30 (0.69)	1666.67 (5.58)	7925.66 (19.78)
2	Livestock	553.52 (1.43)	1270.93 (2.53)	2584.07 (5.18)	880.37 (2.00)	816.67 (2.44)	1502.59 (4.39)	505.19 (1.69)	1159.05 (2.89)
3	Trees	753.80 (1.95)	196.30 (0.39)	458.33 (0.92)	971.48 (2.21)	0.00 0.00	1890.37 (5.53)	707.41 (2.37)	711.10 (1.77)
4	Private Service	3814.81 (9.87)	2696.30 (5.36)	2026.30 (4.06)	4168.15 (9.47)	2870.37 (8.56)	5429.63 (15.88)	822.96 (2.75)	3118.36 (7.78)
5	Government Service	5166.67 (13.37)	6601.48 (13.12)	3304.44 (6.62)	10425.19 (23.68)	1777.78 (5.30)	1851.85 (5.42)	807.41 (2.70)	4276.40 (10.67)
6	Wages	22368.00 (57.89)	22030.00 (43.79)	19002.41 (38.08)	14144.44 (32.12)	20207.41 (60.30)	15951.11 (46.65)	25032.04 (83.76)	19819.34 (49.47)
7	Rent and Interest	29.26 (0.08)	192.59 (0.38)	2116.67 (4.24)	41.48 (0.09)	0.00 0.00	296.30 (0.87)	8.89 (0.03)	383.60 (0.96)
8	Other Sources	1353.70 (3.50)	1111.11 (2.21)	3651.11 (7.32)	3399.26 (7.72)	1859.26 (5.55)	7033.33 (20.57)	335.19 (1.12)	2677.57 (6.68)
	Total Income	38640.50 (100.00)	50303.52 (100.00)	49894.81 (100.00)	44029.63 (100.00)	33512.96 (100.00)	34191.48 (100.00)	29885.74 (100.00)	40065.52 (100.00)

Source: Computed

Note: Figures in parentheses are percentages to the total

Table 5.3 Pattern of Consumption Expenditure of Surveyed Households (Value in Rs.)

Sl.No	Expenditure	Agro Climatic Zone							
		Cauvery Delta	North East	Western	North West	High Altitude	Southern	High Rainfall	Total
		n = 270	N = 270	n = 270	n = 270	n = 270	n = 270	n = 270	N = 1890
I	Food	13179.26 (64.94)	17818.19 (68.67)	16591.11 (69.47)	11018.22 (58.49)	14906.67 (78.21)	9132.59 (60.92)	8801.11 (63.44)	13063.88 (66.81)
II	Non-Food	7114.85 (35.06)	8129.11 (31.33)	7293.02 (30.53)	7821.06 (41.51)	4152.11 (21.79)	5857.78 (39.08)	4821.48 (34.76)	6455.63 (33.01)
1	Clothing	1532.59 (7.55)	2896.59 (11.16)	1375.56 (5.76)	1851.67 (9.83)	1805.56 (9.47)	1425.00 (9.51)	1557.04 (11.22)	1777.71 (9.09)
2	Education	361.11 (1.78)	431.85 (1.66)	827.83 (3.47)	1760.37 (9.34)	464.63 (2.44)	525.56 (3.51)	674.44 (4.86)	720.83 (3.69)
3	Medicine	1069.26 (5.27)	1055.56 (4.07)	1188.15 (4.97)	1477.04 (7.84)	260.56 (1.37)	956.11 (6.38)	955.93 (6.89)	994.66 (5.09)
4	Transport	894.48 (4.41)	1844.44 (7.11)	1097.78 (4.60)	1399.83 (7.43)	848.41 (4.45)	1147.78 (7.66)	797.41 (5.75)	1147.16 (5.87)
5	Other Expenses	3257.41 (16.05)	1900.67 (7.33)	2803.70 (11.74)	1332.15 (7.07)	772.96 (4.06)	1803.33 (12.03)	821.48 (5.92)	1813.10 (9.27)
	Total Expenditure	20294.11 (100)	25947.30 (100)	23884.13 (100)	18839.28 (100)	19058.78 (100)	14990.37 (100)	13872.22 (100)	19555.17 (100)

Source: Computed

Note: Figures in parentheses are percentages to the total

Table 5.4 Distribution of Per household Assets (Value in Rs)

Sl.No.	Particulars	Agro Climatic Zone							
		Cauvery Delta	North East	Western	North West	High Altitude	Southern	High Rainfall	Total
		n = 270	n = 270	n = 270	n = 270	n = 270	n = 270	n = 270	N = 1890
1	Per capita Assets	33456.95	73146.71	43509.53	53194.46	22283.77	31788.79	22306.54	39955.25
1	Below 10000	59 (21.85)	127 (47.04)	88 (32.59)	68 (25.19)	46 (17.04)	121 (44.81)	86 (31.85)	595.00 (31.48)
2	10000- 20000	78 (28.89)	43 (15.93)	70 (25.93)	68 (25.19)	139 (51.48)	67 (24.81)	81 (30.00)	546.00 (28.89)
3	20000 - 30000	43 (15.93)	14 (5.19)	26 (9.63)	27 (10.00)	39 (14.44)	21 (7.78)	52 (19.26)	222.00 (11.75)
4	30000 - 40000	26 (9.63)	8 (2.96)	15 (5.56)	15 (5.56)	19 (7.04)	10 (3.70)	21 (7.78)	114.00 (6.03)
5	Above 40000	64 (23.70)	78 (28.89)	71 (26.30)	92 (34.07)	27 (10.00)	51 (18.89)	30 (11.11)	413.00 (21.85)

Source: Computed

Note: Figures in parentheses are percentages to the total Sample

Table 5.5 Per capita Income of the Surveyed Households

Sl.No	Particulars	Agro Climatic Zone							Total N = 1890
		Cauvery Delta	North East	Western	North West	High Altitude	Southern	High Rainfall	
		n = 270	n = 270	n = 270	n = 270	n = 270	n = 270	n = 270	
1	Below 2500	3 (1.11)	1 (0.37)	0 (0.00)	4 (1.48)	0 (0.00)	7 (2.59)	1 (0.37)	16 (0.85)
2	2500 - 5000	69 (25.56)	59 (21.85)	37 (13.70)	109 (40.37)	55 (20.37)	102 (37.78)	105 (38.89)	536 (28.36)
3	5000 - 7500	83 (30.74)	93 (34.44)	79 (29.26)	69 (25.56)	86 (31.85)	87 (32.22)	87 (32.22)	584 (30.90)
4	7500 -10000	46 (17.04)	34 (12.59)	62 (22.96)	28 (10.37)	71 (26.30)	37 (13.70)	35 (12.96)	313 (16.56)
5	10000 - 15000	42 (15.56)	46 (17.04)	46 (17.04)	26 (9.63)	33 (12.22)	20 (7.41)	30 (11.11)	243 (12.86)
6	15000 - 20000	11 (4.07)	12 (4.44)	19 (7.04)	5 (1.85)	12 (4.44)	6 (2.22)	9 (3.33)	74 (3.92)
7	Above 20000	16 (5.93)	25 (9.26)	27 (10.00)	29 (10.74)	13 (4.81)	11 (4.07)	3 (1.11)	124 (6.56)
	Total	270 (100)	270 (100)	270 (100)	270 (100)	270 (100)	270 (100)	270 (100)	1890 (100)
	Average Per capita Income	8780.34	11241.83	13763.13	9923.61	9582.37	7259.52	6890.99	9634.54

Source: Computed

Note: Figures in parentheses are Percentages to the total

Table 5.6 Per Household Expenditure of the Surveyed Households

Sl.No	Particulars	Agro Climatic Zone							Total N = 1890
		Cauvery Delta	North East	Western	North West	High Altitude	Southern	High Rainfall	
		n = 270	n = 270	n = 270	n = 270	n = 270	n = 270	n = 270	
1	Below 1500	1 (0.37)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	1 (0.37)	0 (0.00)	7 (2.59)	0 (0.00)	9 (0.48)
2	1500 - 3000	13 (4.81)	3 (1.11)	1 (0.37)	94 (34.81)	5 (1.85)	130 (48.15)	143 (52.96)	389 (20.58)
3	3000 - 4500	156 (57.78)	50 (18.52)	28 (10.37)	106 (39.26)	82 (30.37)	91 (33.70)	106 (39.26)	619 (32.75)
4	4500 - 6000	81 (30.00)	100 (37.04)	115 (42.59)	33 (12.22)	95 (35.19)	33 (12.22)	14 (5.19)	471 (24.92)
5	6000 - 7500	15 (5.56)	55 (20.37)	73 (27.04)	11 (4.07)	56 (20.74)	4 (1.48)	5 (1.85)	219 (11.59)
6	7500 - 10000	3 (1.11)	54 (20.00)	46 (17.04)	13 (4.81)	28 (10.37)	4 (1.48)	1 (0.37)	149 (7.88)
7	Above 10000	1 (0.37)	8 (2.96)	7 (2.59)	12 (4.44)	4 (1.48)	1 (0.37)	1 (0.37)	34 (1.80)
	Total	270 (100)	270 (100)	270 (100)	270 (100)	270 (100)	270 (100)	270 (100)	1890 (100)
	Average Per capita Expenditure	4488.06	6101.92	6385.69	4316.45	5514.66	3307.34	3199.21	4759.05

Source: Computed

Note: Figures in parentheses are percentages to the total Sample

Table 5.7 Sources of Indebtedness of the Surveyed Households

Sl.No.	Source of Debt	Agro Climatic Zone							
		Cauvery Delta	North East	Western	North West	High Altitude	Southern	High Rainfall	Total
		n = 270	n = 270	n = 270	n = 270	n = 270	n = 270	n = 270	N = 1890
I	No Debt	231 (85.56)	190 (70.37)	121 (44.81)	140 (51.85)	249 (92.22)	154 (57.04)	96 (35.56)	1181 (62.49)
II	Institutional	33 (82.50)	75 (86.21)	134 (79.76)	103 (65.61)	7 (33.33)	88 (67.18)	188 (69.12)	628 (74.14)
1	Commercial Banks	21 (52.50)	15 (17.24)	21 (12.50)	25 (15.92)	0 (0.00)	5 (3.82)	36 (13.24)	123 (14.52)
2	Co-operative Banks	6 (15.00)	3 (3.45)	26 (15.48)	15 (9.55)	0 (0.00)	5 (3.82)	31 (11.40)	86 (10.15)
3	SGSY	6 (15.00)	57 (65.52)	87 (51.79)	63 (40.13)	7 (33.33)	78 (59.54)	121 (44.49)	419 (49.47)
III	Non institutional	7 (17.50)	12 (13.79)	34 (20.24)	54 (34.39)	14 (66.67)	43 (32.82)	84 (30.88)	219 (25.86)
1	Private Money Lenders	1 (2.50)	11 (12.64)	28 (16.67)	45 (28.66)	14 (66.67)	41 (31.30)	36 (13.24)	171 (20.19)
2	Relatives and Friends	6 (15.00)	1 (1.15)	6 (3.57)	9 (5.73)	0 (0.00)	2 (1.53)	48 (17.65)	48 (5.67)
	Total	40 (100)	87 (100)	168 (100)	157 (100)	21 (100)	131 (100)	272 (100)	847 (100)

Source: Computed

Note: Figures in Parentheses are Percentages to the total

Table 5.8 Magnitude of Average Household Debt of the Indebted Households (Value in Rs.)

Sl.No.	Source	Agro Climatic Zone							
		Cauvery Delta	North East	Western	North West	High Altitude	Southern	High Rainfall	Total
		n = 270	n = 270	n = 270	n = 270	n = 270	n = 270	n = 270	N = 1890
I	Institutional (1+2+3)	67133.33 (69.50)	33264.12 (40.45)	129927.63 (77.67)	12495 (87.06)	69100 (76.14)	31910.81 (29.53)	63372.37 (54.36)	30743.12 (59.41)
1	Commercial Banks	35333.33 (52.63)	12930.00 (38.87)	50340.00 (38.74)	0.00 (0.00)	36800.00 (53.26)	16636.11 (52.13)	26265.28 (41.45)	12283.82 (23.74)
2	Cooperative Banks	31333.33 (46.67)	14807.81 (44.52)	74866.67 (57.62)	0.00 (0.00)	9800.00 (14.18)	10096.77 (31.64)	23668.76 (37.35)	17227.74 (33.29)
3	SGSY	466.67 (0.70)	5526.32 (16.61)	4720.97 (3.63)	12495.00 (100.00)	22500.00 (32.56)	5177.92 (16.23)	13438.33 (21.21)	4419.00 (8.54)
II	Non-Institutional (4+5)	29727.27 (30.50)	48975.00 (59.55)	37353.10 (22.33)	1857.14 (12.94)	21656.10 (23.86)	76134.82 (70.47)	53207.10 (45.64)	21868.23 (42.26)
4	Private Money Lenders	21727.27 (73.09)	15075.00 (30.78)	17369.77 (46.50)	1857.14 (100.00)	8156.10 (37.66)	27491.67 (36.11)	14989.87 (28.17)	7315.44 (14.14)
5	Friends and Relatives	8000.00 (26.91)	9650.00 (19.70)	5833.33 (15.62)	0.00 (0.00)	13500 (62.34)	23214.58 (30.49)	14886.46 (27.98)	7113.58 (13.75)
	Total (I+II)	96860.61 (100)	82239.12 (100)	167280.73 (100)	14352.14 (100)	90756.10 (100)	108045.63 (100)	116579.47 (100)	51744.14 (100)

Source: Computed

Note: Figures in Parentheses are Percentages to the total