

An Analysis about Agricultural Labourers in India as well as in State of Haryana

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Abstract

India is an agriculture based country, this sector has played its main role in the growth and development of the country since independence till now. An attempt has also been made to find out how many people out of the total working population are engaged in agriculture and how many of them are employed as agricultural labourers. In this study, the author analysis about the agricultural labourers how they can play their role in boosting the economy of a country. This study is based on secondary data taken from - Agriculture Annual Report (2020-21), Agricultural Statistics 2020, Labour in Indian Agriculture-FICCI and Pocket Book of Agriculture Statistics 2020 reports.

Keywords: - Working Population, Agricultural Labourers, Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Households and Sectors

Introduction

An agricultural labourers is one of the most important segments of rural population in India. According to census report 2011, the number of farmers decrease and number of agricultural labourers increase. In census 2001, the total number of farmers in India is 127.3 millions and its decrease 7.1% (118.7 millions) in 2011. In census 2001, the total number of agriculture labourers in India is 106.7 millions and its increase 3.5% (144.3 millions) in 2011. It rings the alarm on an agrarian crisis the numbers of farmers have dipped by over 8.6 million in the past decade. It also disproves critics who have been crying hoarse about deficiency in agricultural labourers the data shows more than 37 million public have taken to farm labourers in the past ten years. In 2011, the statistics show that only 54.6 per cent of total workers in India are now part of the agriculture sector with a decline of 3.6 per cent as compared to 2001. As compared to 2001 census, there has been increase of 44 per cent in the male population of agricultural labourers, while for females the number has increased by 24.5 per cent. As per the census of 2011, in India 263 million people are engaged in the agriculture sector and over half of them are now agricultural labourers. The main causes of growth in the number of agricultural labourers is increase in population, decline of cottage industries and village handicrafts, uneconomic holdings, increase in indebtedness and extend of the utilize of money and exchange system.

In beginning of 1960, the Green Revolution started with the first introduction of High Yielding Variety (HYV) seeds in Indian agriculture. This was coupled with better and efficient irrigation and the correct use of fertilizers to boost the crop. In result, the Green Revolution was to make India self-sufficient when it came to food grains. The Green Revolution created abundance of jobs not only for agricultural labourers but also industrial labourers by the created of correlated facilities such as factories and agricultural based industries. According to 2011 Agricultural Census of India, an estimated 61.5% of Indian population in rural area is dependent on agriculture and it contributes to 16–17% of the GDP. Agricultural labourers are the majority of unorganized and exploited group of the rural population of the country. Their standard of living, level of income and the rate of wages have remained abnormally low. Their agricultural wages are very low due to use of automatic machines in agriculture at the present time. A large section of laborers are unemployed due to automation, drought, low rainfall etc. In India agricultural laborers are usually highly indebted and the agricultural labourers are still forced to work as bonded labourers due to inability to pay to the landlords or money lenders.

The Government of India has put a goal of doubling of farmers' income by the year 2022. Doubling real income of farmers till 2022-23 over the base year of 2015-16 requires annual growth of 10.41% in farmers'

income. This implies that the on-going and previously achieved rate of growth in farm income has to be sharply accelerated. Therefore well-built measures will be required to harness all possible sources of growth in farmer's income within as well as outside agriculture sector. . To protected future of agriculture and to improve livelihood of half of India's population, an adequate attention needs to be given to improve the welfare of farmers and raise agricultural income. Agriculture farmers and labourers categories are closely related to each other's if status of one categories increase by the result of govt. policies then second categories improved automatically at some level of society. High status holds farmers providing more employment for labourers and wages for their works.

Target to become \$ 5 lakh crore economy in 2025

Prime Minister of India has set a target of making India a \$ 5 lakh crore economy by 2025. According to rating agency 'EYE' to achieve this target, India will have to achieve at least 9% growth every year for the next five years. EYE has estimated in the latest issue of Economy Watch that India will achieve a growth rate of 7% in the current financial year. With this, India will grow from \$ 2.7 lakh to become a \$ 3 lakh crore economy by next year. Since then, if India moves at a rate of 9% every year, it will be \$ 3.3 lakh crore in FY 2021, \$ 3.6 lakh crore in 2022, \$ 4.1 lakh crore in 2023, \$ 4.5 lakh crore in 2024 and \$ 5 lakh crore in 2025. Economy will be able to happen. Apart from the 9% growth rate, the total investment rate will also have to be increased to 38%. It stood at 31.3% in FY 2018-19. This led to a growth rate of 6.8%. Total investment consists of public investment, family investment and private corporate investment.

Source: 6th Aug. 2019, Hindi newspaper, Dainik Bhaskar

But before this, on august 3, there was news in the Hindi newspaper Dainik Bhaskar that India's condition had become worse and the economy of India which was at 5th position in the world has now come back to 7th position.

India is no longer the fifth largest in the world. In 2018, this place slipped to 7th place. This information has come from the latest data of World Bank. In 2017, according to the World Bank, India was ranked 6th with a GDP of 2.597trillion dollars. But according to the latest data, that year India was successful in coming 5th place surpassing Britain and France. Now these two countries again overtook India. According to experts, India slipped to 7th position due to the depreciation of the rupee against dollar. The rupee had gained 3% in 2017. India overtook Britain and France on its own. But in 2018, the rupee fell by 5% and India again slipped to 7th position in term of GDP. In 2019, India's economy position also depends on the value of rupee against dollar.

Table 1 (GDP of Different countries in trillion dollars)

Country	2018		2017	
	Rank	GDP	Rank	GDP
America	1	20.49	1	19.48
China	2	13.60	2	12.06
Japan	3	4.97	3	4.85
Germany	4	3.99	4	3.70
Britain	5	2.82	6	2.63
France	6	2.77	7	2.58
India	7	2.72	5	2.65

GDP in trillion dollars

Source: 3rd aug. 2019, Hindi newspaper, Dainik Bhaskar

The union budget of India for 2019-20 was presented by finance minister, Nirmala Sitharaman on 5 July 2019. Finance minister presented the first union budget of the new government in parliament. The entire union budget 2019 has been based on the vision of making India a \$5 trillion economy in the next five years. Finance minister said that the Indian economy will grow to reach \$3 trillion in the current year. In order to take it further, the finance minister emphasized on structured reforms. And if we want to achieve this goal then we have to focus on complete development. We will have to develop every region of the economy whether it is primary, secondary or tertiary sector. And we all know that India is an agricultural based country, so we have

to focus on agriculture to become a \$5 trillion economy. Therefore, we have to make all those reforms related to agriculture and agricultural labourers that can give impetus to the primary sector and consequently to India's economy.

Significance of this study

The socio-economic status and per capita income of agricultural labourers would mainly depend upon the income earned by them. In present, labour persons participation in social as well as economics activities will increase. But there is no change in society rules to improve the socio economic status of labourers. Rural labourers are the major contributors in agriculture and its allied fields. Despite such a huge involvement, her role and dignity has yet not been recognized. Labourers' class status is low by all social, economic, and political indicators. They face discrimination in all social, economic and political stages. So govt. try to solve these problems will be related to the agricultural labourers to make some policies and develop some welfare programmed to improve the social as well as economic status of agricultural labourers.

This research study has tried to find out what exactly is the status of agricultural labourers. So that with the right information about that situation, those problems can also be solved, which hinders their status from arising? With this we can also achieve the goal that the Indian government has decided to make India an economy of \$5 trillion. At the same time, India will have to develop every sector to make it a developed country from a developing country, even if that area or people are related to agricultural sector.

Objective of this Research Study

The most important objective of the present research study is to assess the level of status of agricultural laborers in India. Also; to study the sources and patterns of income, consumption and indebtedness of agricultural labourers. So that knowing the condition of agricultural labourers it can be found out that how they can contribute in the progress of the country's economy and also in making India a five trillion dollar economy.

Research Methodology

The present study is based on secondary data. The secondary data will be collected from various sources include Annual reports of center and state Government, various Magazines, Websites, Journals, census report, and Newspapers.

Agricultural Labourers in India as well as in the State of Haryana

In 1950, the first Agricultural Labour Enquiry Committee regarded those people as agricultural labourers "who were engaged in raising crops production on payment of wages". Accordingly, the first Committee laid down that those people should be regarded as agricultural labourers who worked for 50% or more days on payment of wages. The First Agricultural Labour Enquiry Committee is classified that agricultural labourers into two categories first permanent labourers and second casual labourers. In 1956-57, Second Agricultural Labour Enquiry Committee took an extensive view of agricultural activities to include those labourers also who were engage in allied activities similar to animal husbandry, dairy, poultry, piggery, etc. Second Committee submitted that to know whether a household is an agricultural labour household we must observe its main source of income. If 50% or more of its income is received as wages for work provided in agriculture, it can be classified as an agricultural labour household.

Haryana is a landlocked state in northern India. The total geographical area of the state is 4.42 million hectare and which is 1.4% of the geographical area of the country. Haryana's head count poverty ratio, which was always one of the lowest in India, also appears to be steadily declining over time. Haryana now enjoys the second lowest incidence of poverty in the country. This is a considerable improvement over the 1970-71 ranking of fourth place and a poverty incidence of roughly 40 per cent in both rural and urban areas. Most of the improvement in Haryana's rank can be attributed to the decline in rural poverty. The urban poverty reduction performance of the state is less impressive and as well as less important in terms of the weight of the urban population in the total rural plus urban population. As the green revolution matured the train of events which left some agricultural labour households below the poverty line and despite rising wages and employment, began to take on an identifiable shape. In the prime green revolution regions more than half of all hired labour days demanded permanent labour days. The changes on the demand and on the sources of labour supply side combined and tended to eat into the share of the employment cake, which would otherwise have gone to agricultural labour households. For landless households with no working permanent labour member, the number of casual Labour Day's work available in some technologically advanced regions actually went down.

Haryana as 17th state was constituted in 1966 and it is one of the two newly created states carved out of the greater Punjab province. Agriculture is the principal occupation of the residents of the state. And it is now a leading contributor to the country's production of food grains. Haryana's contribution to the green revolution made India self-sufficient in food production in the 1960s and onwards.

Table 2 Haryana has 6 administrative divisions constituted of 22 districts –

Ser. No.	Administrative Divisions	Integrated Districts
1	Ambala	Ambala, Panchkula, Yamuna Nagar, Kurukshetra
2	Karnal	Karnal, Kaithal, Panipat
3	Hisar	Hisar, Jind, Sirsa, Fatehabad
4	Rohtak	Rohtak, Sonapat, Bhiwani, Jhajjar, Charkhi Dadri,
5	Gurugram	Gurugram, Rewari, Mahendragarh
6	Faridabad	Faridabad, Palwal, Nuh

Table 3 Distribution of workers by category of workers in Haryana (Census 2011)

Gender	Total workers (Main +marginal)	Cultivators		Agricultural Labourers		Households Industry Workers		Others Workers	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Male	68,06,636	17,89,122	26.3	10,41,241	15.3	1,86,533	2.7	37,89,740	55.7
Female	21,09,872	6,91,679	32.8	4,86,892	23.1	75,747	3.6	8,55,554	40.5
Total Person	89,16,508	24,80,801	27.8	15,28,133	17.2	2,62,280	2.9	46,45,294	52.1

Source: Statistical Abstract of Haryana 2018-19

The given table 3 tells us that out of total workers, the number of agricultural labourers is 15,28,133. Out of this; there are 10,41,241 male and 4,86,892 female agricultural labourers. This data shown us that male constitute 68.1 % and female 31.9% of the total agricultural labourers.

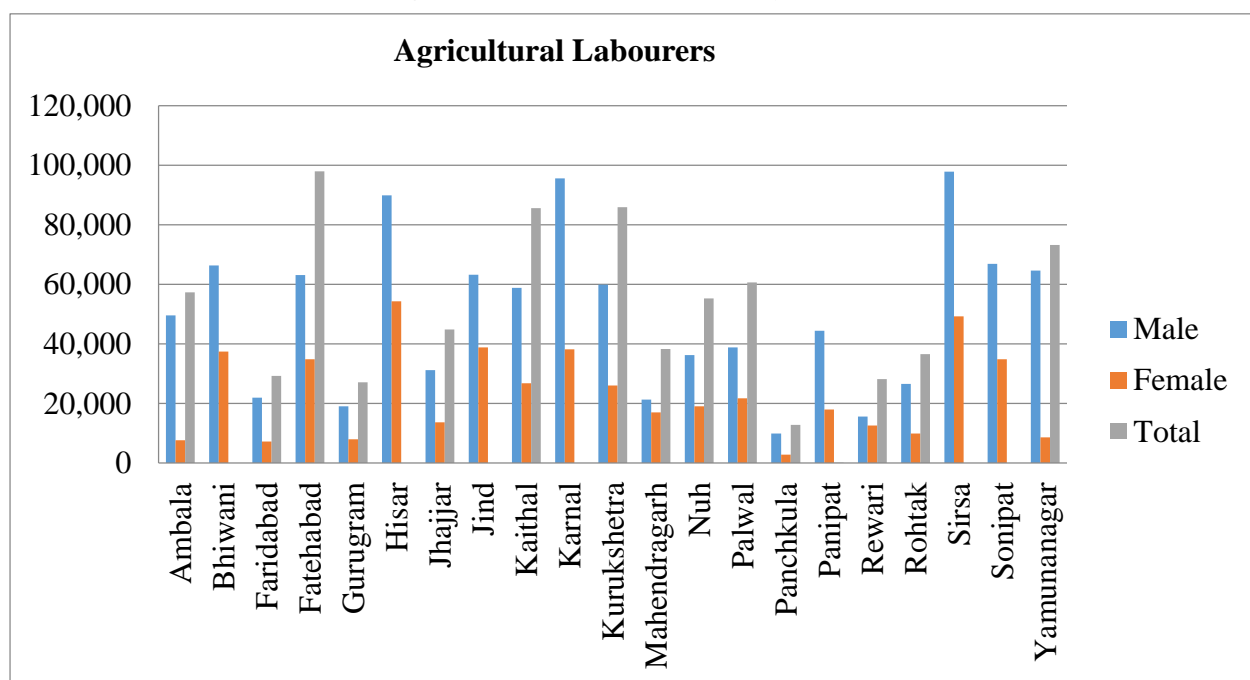
Table 4 Districts-wise Agricultural Labourers in Haryana (census 2011)

Districts	Agricultural Labourers		
	Male	Female	Total
Ambala	49,592	7,701	57,293
Bhiwani	66,337	37,451	1,03,788
Faridabad	22,007	7,281	29,288
Fatehabad	63,094	34,903	97,997
Gurugram	19,113	7,984	27,097
Hisar	89,883	54,330	1,44,213
Jhajjar	31,176	13,669	44,845
Jind	63,265	38,806	1,02,071
Kaithal	58,862	26,789	85,651

Karnal	95,557	38,166	1,33,723
Kurukshetra	59,888	26,002	85,890
Mahendragarh	21,343	16,977	38,320
Nuh	36,260	19,018	55,278
Palwal	38,891	21,794	60,685
Panchkula	9,975	2,852	12,827
Panipat	44,406	17,952	62,358
Rewari	15,596	12,619	28,215
Rohtak	26,605	9,963	36,568
Sirsa	97,815	49,227	1,47,042
Sonipat	66,919	34,814	1,01,733
Yamunanagar	64,657	8,594	73,251
Total	10,41,241	4,86,892	15,28,133

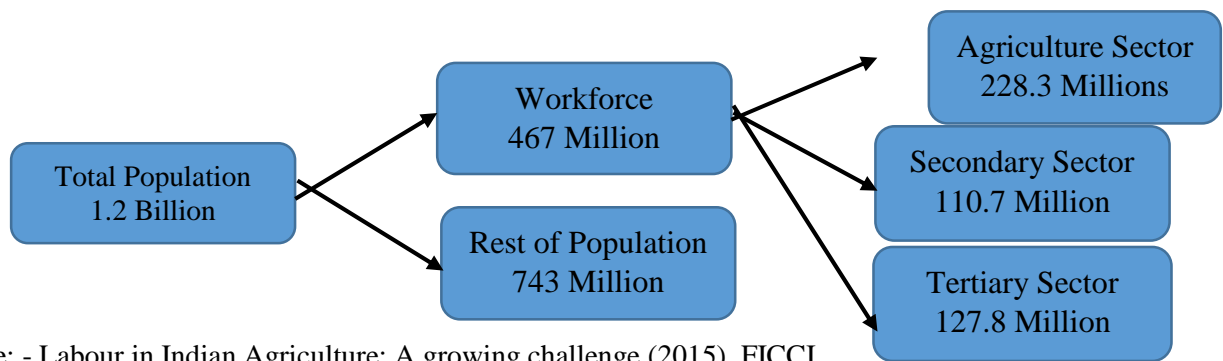
Source: Statistical Abstract of Haryana 2018-19

Chart 1 Districts-wise Agricultural Labourers in Haryana (Census 2011)



Above table 4 show - that the number of men agricultural labourers is maximum in Sirsa district and minimum in Panchkula district. If we talk about the number of women agricultural labourers is maximum and minimum in Hisar and Panchkula district according to above table. And total number of agricultural labourers is maximum in Sirsa and minimum in Panchkula district.

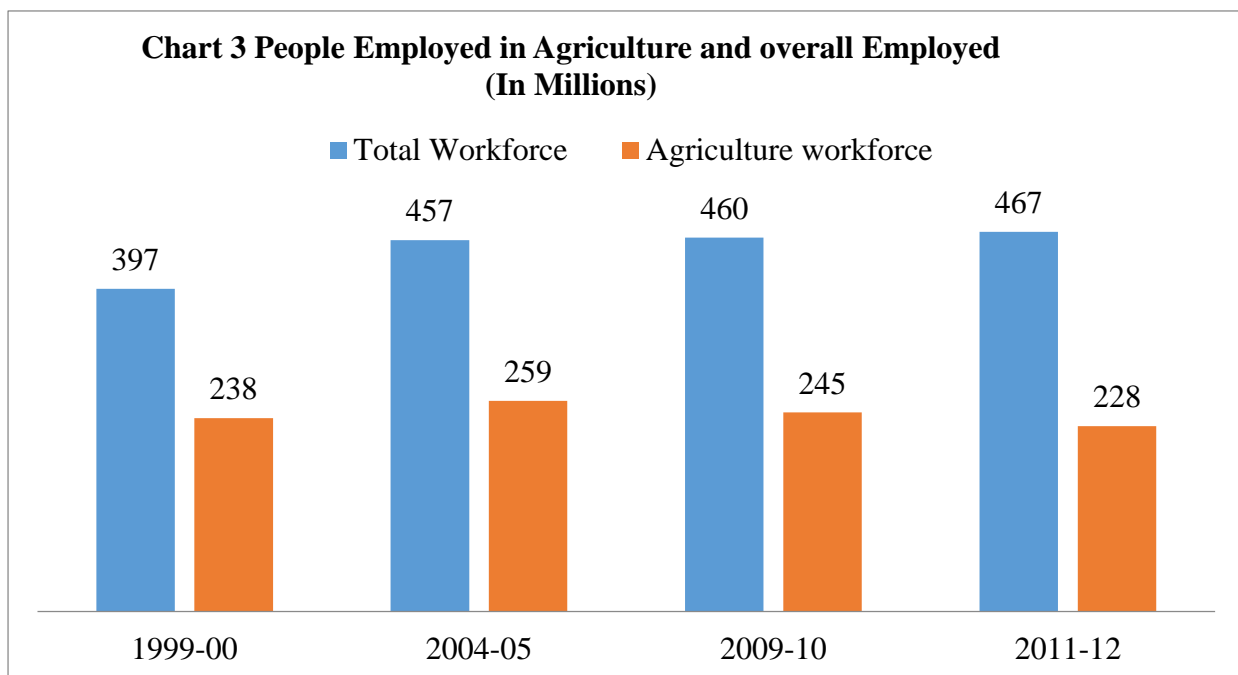
Chart 2 Total Workforce vs Agricultural Workforce in India (2011-2012)



Source: - Labour in Indian Agriculture: A growing challenge (2015), FICCI.

Agriculture offers jobs not only to adult men in a family, but also to women in the home. Women work extensively in the production of the main cereals and millet, in the preparation of the soil, in the selection of seeds and in the production of seedlings, sowing, manure application, weeding, transplanting, threshing and harvesting.

Agriculture plays an important role in overall socio-economic development. Therefore, promoting rapid, sustained and far-reaching growth in agriculture remains a key priority for the country. With the decline in the agricultural workforce, increased yield or productivity is the key to growth, which must accelerate. Labour shortages and the search for solutions should be the focus. Indian crop yields are only 30% to 60% of the best yields obtainable on farms in developed and other developing countries. Improved seed varieties, widespread expansion services, and agricultural mechanization remain three critical areas of intervention and attention.



Source: - Labour in Indian Agriculture: A growing challenge (2015), FICCI.

When an economy matures, there is a movement of excess agricultural workers from low productivity agriculture to higher productivity sectors like manufacturing and services sector. Thus from rural to urban areas and from lower wages to higher wages movement will be shown in particular economy. The pace of this movement accelerates with higher economic growth which gives rise to greater job opportunities in the non-agricultural sectors. Higher productivity usually implies higher wages.

India has also been experiencing a similar trend in its workforce movement. But the trend has not been limited to just declining share of agriculture in total employment but also has led to a significant decline in absolute number of people employed in the agricultural sector. A comparison across two time periods 2004-05

and 2011-12 indicates that while the size of the total workforce in the country increased by roughly around 10 million but the size of the agricultural workforce reduced by near 30.57 million people. In the process the share of agricultural workforce in total workforce declined from 56.7% to 48.8% in the same period. It not only indicates that fewer people are being added to the workforce in agriculture but also highlights the net migration to other sectors.

Conclusion

India is an agricultural country and majority of the population living in rural areas is engaged in agricultural activities. Therefore, if the government takes concrete measures to raise the standard of living of agriculture and its people. It will have a direct impact on the economy of the country as well. The Government of India has set a target of doubling the income of farmers by 2022 or making the country a \$5 trillion economy by 2025. If govt. to achieve this goal then we have to focus on full development. Govt. has to develop every sector of the economy whether it is primary, secondary or tertiary sector. Most of the attention should be given to the agriculture sector, which is the backbone of this country. If there is improvement in the agricultural sector, then it will definitely have a direct impact on the status of the agricultural labourers.

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