

## EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT OF LABOURERS FAMILIES IN AGRA DISTRICT

VANDANA SINGH<sup>1</sup>, PUSHPENDRA SINGH<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Economics, R.B.S. College, Agra, U.P. INDIA

<sup>2</sup>Associate Professor, Department of Economics, RBS College Agra, U.P., INDIA

### ABSTRACT

*Employment the study indicate that the employment per worker in days was more in case of cultivating labourers as compared landless labourers which resulted in incase the unemployment problems more as compared to cultivating labourers which need to create more employment trough other sources in the area.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Employment, Unemployment. Agra, Labours*

It is well known that agriculture is a seasonal industry, the employment for workers in agriculture occur in spurt during the agriculture season. Full employment is now universally accepted as one of the most important economic objectives. This is the hardship which millions of workers and action to prevent the recurrence of such unemployment has become a first principal of public policy.

Therefore, various programmes and policies are formulated for increasing employment. The need is to provide gainful employment to the weaker section of our rural community i.e. poor cultivating labourers and landless labourers living below the poverty line.

### Extent of employment in terms of days

The extent of employment in case of male, female and child workers has been estimated in terms of days as shown by Table 1.

It may be noted from the figures given in Table that the overall average employment per male, female and child worker per year came to about 234, 178 and 135 days respectively. Category wise analysis indicates that the number of days of employment per male, female and child worker respectively came to about 250, 182 and 167 days in case of cultivating labourers and about 219, 176 and 129 days in case of landless labourers.

It is further observed that overall employment in agricultural jobs per worker in case of male, female and child worker respectively came to about 208 days (89 percent), 160 days (90 percent) and 112 days (83 percent) and in non-agricultural jobs it came to about 26 days (12 percent), 18 days (10 percent) and 23 days (17 percent). Category-wise analysis revealed that in case of cultivating

labourers the employment in agricultural jobs per worker in case of male, female and child worker respectively came to about 227 days (91 percent), 164 days (90 percent) and 131 days (78 percent) and in non-agricultural jobs it came to about 23 days (9 percent), 19 days (10 percent) and 36 days (22 percent). in case of male, female and child worker respectively came to about 190 days (87 percent), 159 days (90 percent) and 103 days (79 percent) and in non-agricultural jobs it came to about 29 days (13 percent), 17 days (10 percent) and 27 days (21 percent) in an year.

The table also indicates that over all wages employment in agriculture jobs per male, female and child worker respectively came to about 166 days (71 percent), 118 days (about 67 percent) and 74 days (about 54 percent) respectively. In case of self-employment\* jobs it came to about in case of male, female and child worker respectively came to about 42 days (18 percent), 42 days (23 percent) and 38 days (23 percent) respectively. In case of cultivating labourers wage employment in agriculture jobs per male, female and child worker respectively came to about 163 days (65 percent), 111 days (61 percent) and 90 days (54 percent) respectively and In self-employment jobs it came to 64 days (26 percent), 52 days (29 percent) and 41 days (25 percent). In case of landless labourers the wages employment in agriculture jobs per workers for male, female and child workers respectively came to about 168 days (77 percent), 121 days (69 percent) and 66 days (51 percent) and in self-employment jobs it came to about 22 days (10 percent), 38 days (22 percent) and 37 days (31 percent).

The same table further reveals that the agriculture wage employment form a major source of employment of

agriculture labourers in both categories i.e. male, female and child workers.

**\*It Case Self Employment at least four hour work done in a day has been counted one day work.**

**Extent of employment in terms of standard man – days:**

**Table 1**  
**Extent of employment per worker in the case of male, female and child labourers in a year in different categories of labourers**

Categories of Labourers	No. of		Agricultural					Non-agricultural				Grand Total
	Families	Workers	Self-employment					Out sided employment				
			Wages employment	Crop Production	Dairying	Others	Total	Total Agriculture employ	Wages	Customary payment	Total	
<b>Cultivating</b>	<b>75</b>											
<b>Male</b>		92	163	37	23	3	64	227	18	5	23	250
			<b>65</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Female</b>		2	111	14	38		52	164	19		19	182
			<b>61</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>21</b>		<b>29</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Child</b>		2	90	16	23	3	41	131	36		36	167
			<b>54</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>22</b>		<b>22</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Landless</b>	<b>75</b>											
<b>Male</b>		96	168		20	1	22	190	16	12	29	219
			<b>77</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Female</b>		6	121		37	1	38	159	17		17	176
			<b>69</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Child</b>		4	66		31	6	37	103	27		27	129
			<b>51</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>21</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Overall</b>	<b>150</b>											
<b>Male</b>		188	166	18	22	2	42	208	16	10	26	234
			<b>71</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Female</b>		8	119	4	37	1	42	160	18		18	178
			<b>67</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Child</b>		6	74	5	28	5	38	112	23		23	135
			<b>54</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>18</b>		<b>17</b>	<b>100</b>

**Note:- Figures in BOLD & Italic indicate the percentage to total in each category.**

It is thus observed from the table that the employment per worker came highest in case of male worker and lowest in case of child worker. The women labourer employment per worker also came to nearly six months. Thus, it is evident from the above discussion that male, female and child all workers of the family to earn their living.

The employment in case of male, female and child worker has also been estimated in terms of standard man – days\* and it is shown in Table – 2

**Table – 2 :** indicates that the overall average employment per worker when estimated in terms of standard man – days is worked out to about 234 man – days, 119 man-days and 71 man – days for male , female and children respectively. The employment for male, female and child workers respectively came to about 250,121 and 84 standard man –

Table 2

	No. of		Agricultural					Non-agricultural				
	Families	Workers	Wages employment	Self-employment			Total	Agriculture employ	Out sided employment Wages	Customary payment	Total	Grand Total
				Crop Production	Dairying	Others	Total					
Cultivating	<b>75</b>											
<b>Male</b>		92	163	37	23	3	64	227	18	5	23	249
			<b>65</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Female</b>		2	74	10	25		35	109	12		12	121
			<b>61</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>21</b>		<b>29</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Child</b>		2	44	8	11	1	21	66	18		18	84
			<b>54</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>22</b>		<b>22</b>	<b>100</b>
Landless	<b>75</b>											
<b>Male</b>		96	168		20	1		190	16	12	29	219
			<b>765</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Female</b>		6	81		25	1	25	106	12		12	118
			<b>69</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Child</b>		4	33		15	3	18	51	13		13	65
			<b>51</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>21</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>100</b>
Overall	<b>150</b>											
<b>Male</b>		188	166	18	22	2	42	208	16	10	26	234
			<b>71</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Female</b>		8	79	2	25	1	28	107	12		11	119
			<b>67</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Child</b>		6	37	3	14	24	19	56	15		15	71
			<b>52</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>21</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>100</b>

days in case of cultivating labourers while, 219,118 and 64 standard man-days in case of landless labourers. Thus, employment per male, female and child worker is slightly more in case of cultivating labourers as compared to landless labourers. The employment calculated on the basis of standard man-day is quite low then that of the employment calculated on the basis of days in case of female and child workers.

It can be concluded from the table that the women worker got an employment for about four months in a year while child worker got employment for slightly more than two months only, while male worker got employment for about seven and half months. Thus, efforts need to be made to create more job opportunities for male and female workers through wage employment as well as self-

employment in dairying and other allied activities and some other non-agricultural jobs based on local needs and availability of raw material and market and facilities in the studies area.

\*The Standard man-days have been worked out on the basis of 2 men = 3 women and 1 man = 2 children. That is 16 hours work of male workers is equal 24 hours work of women workers i.e. 12 hours work of a women work has been counted as one standard man-days and in case of child worker 16 hours work is taken as one standard man-days science there is variation I the wages paid to

**Table 3**  
**Month wise employment per male worker in different categories of labourers**

Categories of Labourers	No. of families	No. of Workers	No. of utilized days per worker	No. of available days per worker	No. of unutilized days per worker	Rate of unemployment (in%)
Cultivating	75					
Male		92	250	325	75	2.
Female		2	182	300	118	39
Children		2	167	300	133	44
Landless	75					
Male		96	218	325	107	33
Female		6	176	300	124	41
Children		4	129	300	171	57
Overall	150					
Male		188	234	325	91	28
Female		8	178	300	121	41
Children		6	135	300	164	55

male, female and child workers.

Table 2: Extent of employment per worker in the case of male, female and child labourers in a year in term of

October. It is due to the fact that maize and Bajra is the major Kharif crop of the area, which is labour intensive. It is fact that Bajra and Jowar crops are harvested & thrashed and preparation Rabi crops showing in the months of September

**Table 4**  
**Unemployment Days per male, female and children worker in different categories of labourers**

Categories of Labourers	No. of Workers	Name of the months												Total
		Jul	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
Cultivating	92	19	21	24	273	21	18	15	16	22	29	25	12	245
		<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100</b>
Landless	96	19	17	23	26	18	15	12	12	18	27	23	9	219
		<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100</b>
Overall	188	19	19	23	26	19	17	13	14	20	28	24	10	234
		<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100</b>

standard man-days in different categories of labourers

and October. Therefore, more labour is being used during these months and secondly highest labour use came in the

**Note:- Figures in BOLD & Italic indicate the percentage to total in each category**

#### Month-wise employment:

It is also essential to know the employment of the labourers especially in case of male workers who are readily available for any type of worker at any time. The following **Table 3** shows the month-wise employment of male workers.

**Table-3** reveals that overall employment of the male worker came higher in the months of September and

**Table 5**  
**Unutilized days (unemployment) in terms of standard man-days per male, female and children worker in different categories of labourers**

Categories of Labourers	No. of families	No. of Workers	No. of utilized days per worker	No. of available days per worker*	No. of unutilized days per worker	Rate of unemployment (in %)
Cultivating	<b>75</b>					
<b>Male</b>		92	245	325	76	23
<b>Female</b>		2	121	300	179	60
<b>Children</b>		2	84	300	217	72
Landless	<b>75</b>					
<b>Male</b>		96	219	325	106	33
<b>Female</b>		6	118	300	182	61
<b>Children</b>		4	65	300	336	79
Overall	<b>150</b>					
<b>Male</b>		188	234	325	91	28
<b>Female</b>		8	119	300	181	39
<b>Children</b>		6	71	300	229	76

months of April and May. It is because of the fact that Rabi crop are harvested in these months and work and threshing and winnowing is also done in these months. In the months of July and August agricultural labourer are engaged only for inter culture operation of Jowar and Bajra crops.

The months of October and April are the peak months when these labourers got employment for about the whole months while the months of December, January, February and June are the lean months of the employment, when the agriculture labourers got less than 15 days per month employment. It happened due to the seasonal nature of agriculture. The work is available to the labours more during the seasonal of the crops. Thus, there is a need to use this unutilized labor's time by introducing either some non-agricultural activities in the study or through activities allied to agriculture like; dairying, poultry, piggon to utilize surplus labour. There is also need to increase coping intensity.

#### **Extent of unemployment:**

The unutilized (unemployed) days have been calculated by deducting to employed days out of available days. We worked out the extent of unemployment on the basis of work man-days and on the basis of standard man-days.

**Note:-** Figures in *BOLD & Italic* indicate the percentage to total in each category.

Extent of unemployment on the basis of work man-day: The extent of unemployment (unutilized days) per male, female and child workers of the basis of work-days given in table 4.

The table -5.4 shows that the overall average number of unemployed days per male, female and child workers came to about 91, 122 and 165 days, respectively. The table further indicates that unemployed days in case of male, female and child worker came to about 75, 118 and 133 respectively in case of cultivating labour while, in case of landless labour the unemployed days per male, female and child worker came to about 107, 124 and 171 respectively. It also observed in the table that rate of unemployment was highest in case of children worker in also the categories of labourers.

Thus, it can be concluded that the problem of unemployment exist in both categories of agricultural labourers. However, it is slightly more case of landless labourers as compared to cultivating labourers. Therefore, there is a need to create a more employment opportunities in the area under study.

#### **Extent of unemployment in terms of standard man-days:**

The table 5 shows the unemployment days in terms of standard man-days per male, female and child worker.

It is noted from the table 5 the overall number of unemployment days in terms of man-days per male, female and child worker came to about 91,181 and 229 days, respectively.

The table also indicates that unemployed days in terms of standard days in case of male, female and child worker came to about 76,179 and 217 days in the cultivating labour category and in case of landless labour category it were about 106,182 and 236, respectively.

\*The available days per male, female and child workers have been taken as 325, 300 and 300, respectively per year. The rest of the days in the year have been left for festival, fair and meet the relations and emergency purposed in case of female and child workers slightly less days per worker are available as compared to male worker since female and child workers are not available for every type of work.

It can be concluded that the number of unemployed days were more in case landless labourers in comparison to cultivating labourers. The unemployment days and rate unemployment was highest in case of children workers in type of workers.

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