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STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

OBJECTIVES

HYPOTHESES

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

FINDINGS

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TRENDS IN AGRICULTURAL WAGES: AN INTER-DIVISIONAL ANALYSIS IN CHITTOOR DISTRICT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

DR. E. LOKANADHA REDDY PROFESSOR DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS SRI VENKATESWARA COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY CHITTOOR

ABSTRACT

There are number of studies on the agricultural sector in Chittoor district. Among these studies, the research on agricultural labour is very limited. The empirical investigations are needed to study the agricultural labour problems. Hence the empirical and scientific investigational study of trends in agricultural wages in the rural economy of Chittoor district is an important phenomena. Hence the attempt is made to study trends in agricultural wages of agricultural workers in three revenue divisions of Chittoor district, Andhra Pradesh. This paper aims to study trends in agricultural wages in three revenue divisions of Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh. In the present study, the trend is calculated for the period 1980-81 to 1998-99. The linear function is used to determine the trend. The relevant secondary data for explanatory and explained variables is collected from the handbook of statistics and unpublished official records of the Chief Planning Officer, Chittoor. The primary data required is collected through field survey: 1998-99. Trends in agricultural wages (money and real wages) are estimated by employing the simple regression equation — wages as the function of time. Wage trends are calculated for both male and female agricultural labour separately with time. It is observed that there is significant positive trend in the both money and real wages with time (for male and female agricultural labour). The estimated percentage growth rates of real wages for both male and female are less than the percentage growth rates of money wages. This is due to the increasing trend in consumer price indices. The growth rates of female real wages are less than the growth rates of male real wages in Chittoor and Madanapalle divisions. But the growth rates of male real wages are less than the growth rates of female real wages in Chittoor district as a whole.

JEL CODE

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KEYWORDS

Trend in Female Money Wagerate, Trend in Female Real Wagerate, Trend in Male Money Wagerate, Trend in Male Real Wagerate, Regression Co-efficients.

INTRODUCTION

he poverty of the landless labourers, as a part of the poverty of the people of India, is all too known. The trends in agricultural wage rates during the post-Independence period, and analysis of the factors influencing the trend have generated considerable discussion among economists since the late 1960s. Agricultural labour get unusually low wages for the work done under the worst conditions put in excessively burdens on hard work. The opportunity to work is extremely irregular; hence their income is also low. Since, they possess no skill or training, they have no alternative employment opportunities either. Socially, a large number of agricultural labourers belong to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Hence, they are an oppressed class. They are not organized and cannot fight for their rights. Because of all these reasons, their economic lot has failed to improve even after four decades of developmental efforts. Low agricultural wage is a key determinant of the rural poverty in Indian masses.

Wages are defined as "sum of money paid under contract by an employer to a worker for services rendered". Wages are affected by sociological factors, customs and traditions, demographic factors also. Wages are divided into two types, viz., money wages and real wages. Money wages refers to monetary payment to workers by employers for services rendered. Real wages means money wages which are measured in terms of purchasing power. Real wages are what money wages will buy. They are as such figured by dividing money wages by an index of cost of living. If prices drop and wages stay up, then real wages rise. If both prices and wages rise, but prices rise more rapidly then real wages fall. Apart from purchasing power of money, a number of other variables like provisions of concessional food, housing and other amenities, possibilities of additional sources of income to members of the family, conditions of work like hours of work and physical environment and security of employment have to be taken into consideration to have an estimate of real wages and standard of living of workers. The trend and its significance of money wages are different from real wages.

There are number of studies on the agricultural sector in Chittoor district. Among these studies, the research on agricultural labour is very limited. The empirical investigations are needed to study the agricultural labour problems. Hence the empirical and scientific investigational study of trends in agricultural wages in the rural economy of Chittoor district is an important phenomena. Hence the attempt is made to study trends in agricultural wages of agricultural workers in three revenue divisions of Chittoor district, Andhra Pradesh.

OBJECTIVE

The following is the objective of the study:

To study the trends in agricultural wages in three revenue divisions of Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh.

METHODOLOGY

The following methodology is proposed to study the trends in agricultural wages in three revenue divisions of Chittoor district and the entire district as a whole as one unit. The function which is used to determine the trend is,

Y = a+bt

Where,

Y = Real/Money wage rate

t = Time in years

a, b are the constants

In the present study, the trend is calculated for the period 1980-81 to 1998-99. The relevant secondary data for explanatory and explained variables is collected from the handbook of statistics and unpublished official records of the Chief Planning Officer, Chittoor. The primary data required is collected through field survey: 1998-99.

FINDINGS

A rise in money wagerate for agricultural labour is to be realized as increase in real wages, i.e., money wages keep ahead of the trends in the prices of commodities purchased by the agricultural labour. To arrive at the real wages, money wages are deflated by consumer price indeces for agricultural labour compiled with the base year 1980-81. The fluctuations in the real wages, in general, reflect the changes in the consumer price index numbers. Jose points out

that, the single most important variable influencing the movement of real wagerates is the level of agricultural output though it is difficult to establish this relationship statistically. In view of Acharya, the real wages are sensitive to upswings and downswings in the economy such as agricultural production and inflation.

TRENDS IN AGRICULTURAL WAGES

The division-wise female, male money and real wage trends are explained in Chittoor district.

CHITTOOR DIVISION

The estimated linear regression equation of female money wagerate in Chittoor division is

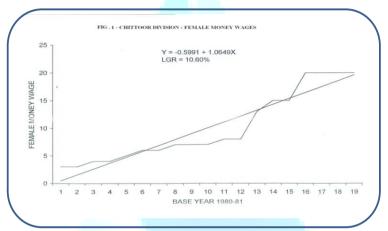
Y = -0.5991 + 1.0649*t

(0.0877)

r = 0.9469, LGR = 10.6%

* Significant at 5 percent probability level.

From the above equation, the co-efficient of 't', i.e., value of 'b' is 1.0649. It reveals that there is an increasing trend in female money wagerate in Chittoor division. In terms of numerical expression, an average of 1.06 rupees of female money wagerate increasing every year during the study period. But this increase is significant. The effect of time (t) on female money wagerate is shown by the value of 'r'. The value of 'r' is 0.9469. It indicates that, 94.69 percent of variation in female money wagerate is observed by the time factor. The linear growth rate is estimated and it is 10.6 percent. This shows that the average annual increase in female money wagerate is 10.6 percent. The value of intercept term is – 0.5991.



The estimated linear regression equation of female real wagerate in Chittoor division is

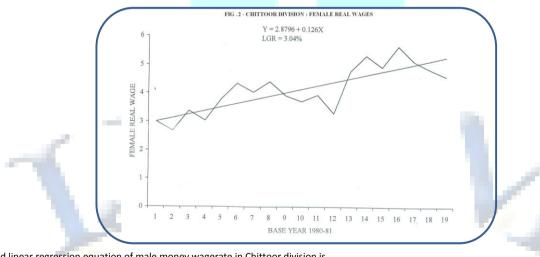
Y = 2.8796 + 0.1260*t

(0.0214)

r = 0.8406, LGR = 3.04%

* Significant at 5 percent probability level.

From the above equation, the co-efficient of 't', i.e., the value of 'b' is 0.1260. It expresses that there is an increasing trend in female real wagerate in Chittoor division. An average of 0.13 rupees of female real wagerate is increasing every year during the study period. But this increase is significant. The effect of time (t) on female real wagerate (y) is shown by the value of 'r'. The value of 'r' is 0.8406. It indicates that, 84.06 percent of variation in female real wagerate is observed by the time element. The linear growth rate is estimated and it is 3.04 percent. This tells that the average annual female real wagerate is increased by 3.04 percent. The value of intercept term 'a' is 2.8796.



The estimated linear regression equation of male money wagerate in Chittoor division is

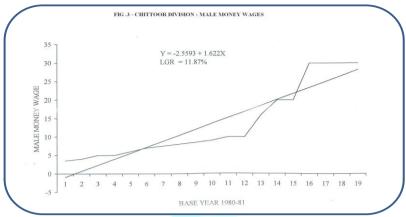
 $Y = -2.5593 + 1.622^*t$

(0.1603) r = 0.9260.

LGR = 11.87%

* Significant at 5 percent probability level.

From the above equation, the co-efficient of 't', i.e., the value of 'b' is 1.622. It tells that there is an increasing trend in male money wagerate (Y) in Chittoor division. An average of 1.62 rupees of male money wagerate is increasing every year during the study period. But this increase is significant. The effect of time on male money wagerate is shown by the value of 'r'. The value of 'r' is 0.9260. It indicates that, 92.6 percent of variation in male money wagerate is observed by the time factor. The linear growth rate is estimated and it is 11.87 percent. This shows that the average annual percentage of male money wagerate is increased by 11.87 percent. The value of constant term 'a' is – 2.5593.



The estimated linear regression equation of male real wagerate in Chittoor division is

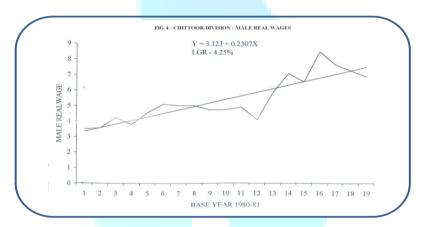
Y = 3.123 + 0.2307^{*}t

(0.031)

r = 0.8735, LGR = 4.25%

* Significant at 5 percent probability level.

From the above equation, the co-efficient of 't', i.e., the value of 'b' is 0.2307. It indicates that there is an increasing trend in male real wagerate in Chittoor division. An average of 0.23 rupees of male real wagerate (Y) is increasing every year during the study period. But this increase is significant. The effect of time on male real wagerate is shown by the value of 'r'. The value of 'r' is 0.8735. It indicates that, 87.35 percent of variation in in male real wagerate is observed by the time factor. The linear growth rate is estimated and it is 4.25 percent. This expresses that the average annual percentage of male real wagerate in Chittoor division is increased by 4.25 percent. The value of intercept term 'a' is 3.123.



TIRUPATI DIVISION:

The estimated linear regression equation of female money wagerate in Tirupati division is

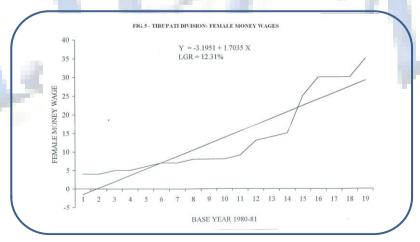
Y = -3.1951 + 1.7035*t

(0.1858)

r = 0.9120, LGR = 12.31%

* Significant at 5 percent probability level.

From the above equation, the co-efficient of 't' is 1.7035. It reveals that there is an increasing trend in female money wagerate in Tirupati division. It means that average annual increase in female money wagerate is 1.70 rupees. But this increase is significant. The effect of time on female money wagerate (Y) is shown by the value of 'r'. The value of 'r' is 0.9120. It indicates that, 91.20 percent of variation in female money wagerate is observed by the time element. The linear growth rate is estimated and it is 12.31 percent. It reveals that the average annual increase in female money wagerate is 12.31 percent. The value of intercept term is – 3.1951.

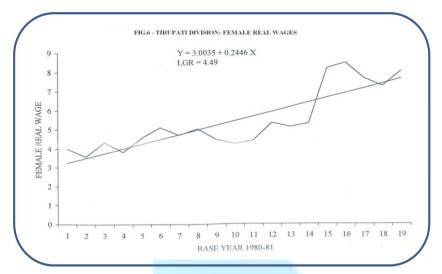


The estimated linear regression equation of female real wagerate in Tirupati divison is

 $Y = 3.0035 + 0.2446^* t$ (0.0365)

r = 0.8517, LGR = 4.49%

From the above equation, the coefficient of 't', i.e., the value of 'b' is 0.2446. It expresses that there is an increasing trend in female real wagerate in Tirupati division. Every one year increase in time will increase 0.24 rupees of female real wagerate during the study period. But this increase is significant. The effect of time on female real wagerate is shown by the value of 'r'. The value of 'r' is 0.8517. It indicates that 85.17 percent of variation in female real wagerate is observed by the time element. The linear growth rate is estimated and it is 4.49 percent. This shows that the average annual growth in female real wagerate is 4.49 percent. The value of constant term 'a' is 3.0035.

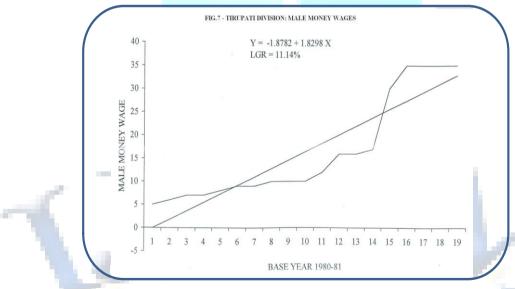


The estimated linear regression equation of male money wagerate in Tirupati division is $Y = -1.8782 + 1.8298^{\circ}t$

(0.2027)

r = 0.9096, LGR = 11.14%

From the above equation, the co-efficient of 't' is 1.8298. It reveals that there is an increasing trend in male money wagerate in Tirupati division. The estimated co-efficient expresses that, an average of 1.83 rupees of male money wagerate is increasing every year. But this increase is significant. The effect of time on male money wagerate is shown by the value of 'r'. The value of 'r' is 0.9096. It indicates that 90.96 percent of variation in male money wagerate is observed by the time factor. The linear growth rate is estimated and it is 11.14 percent. This indicates that average annual growth in male money wagerate is 11.14 percent. The value of intercept term 'a' is – 1.8782.



The estimated linear regression equation of male real wagerate in Tirupati division is

 $Y = 4.6082 + 0.2082^*t$

(0.0441)

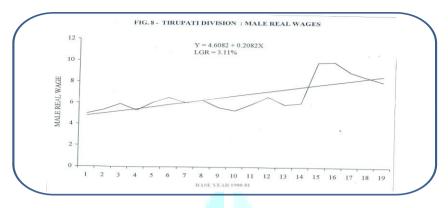
r = 0.7534, LGR = 3.11%

* Significant at 5 percent probability level.

From the above equation, the co-efficient of 't' is 0.2082. It expresses that there is an increasing trend in male real wagerate. An average of 0.21 rupees of male real wagerate is increasing every year during the study period. But this increase is significant. The effect of time on male real wagerate is shown by the value of 'r'. The value of 'r' is 0.7534. It indicates that 75.34 percent of variation in male real wagerate is observed by the time element. The linear growth rate is estimated and it is 3.11 percent. It reveals that the average annual growth rate in male real wagerate is 3.11. The value of constant term 'a' is 4.6082.

^{*} Significant at 5 percent probability level.

^{*} Significant at 5 percent probability level.



MADANAPALLE DIVISION

The estimated linear regression equation of female money wagerate in Madanapalle division is

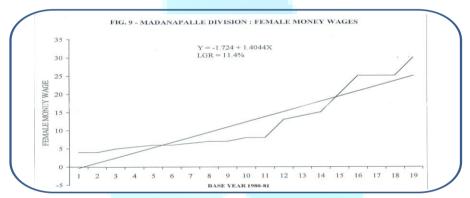
Y = -1.7240 + 1.4044 t

(0.1379)

r = 0.9262, LGR = 11.4%

* Significant at 5 percent probability level.

From the above equation, the estimated regression co-efficient of 't' is 1.4044. It reveals that there is an increasing trend in female money wagerate in Madanapalle division. From this estimated co-efficient, it is observed that the female money wagerate is increasing, 1.40 rupees every year. But this increase is significant. The effect of time on female money wagerate is shown by the value of 'r'. The value of 'r' is 0.9262. It indicates that 92.62 percent of variation in female money wagerate is observed by the time element. The linear growth rate is estimated and it is 11.4 percent. It tells us that, the average annual growth in female money wagerate is 11.4 percent. The value of intercept term 'a' is -1.7240.



The estimated linear regression equation of female real wagerate in Madanapalle division is

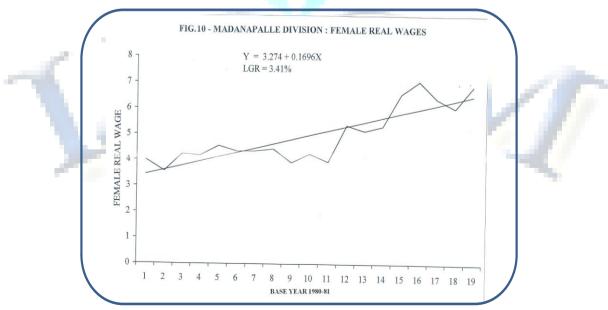
Y = 3.2740 + 0.1696*t

(0.0246)

r = 0.8584, LGR = 3.41%

* Significant at 5 percent probability level.

From the above equation, the value of 'b' is 0.1696. It expresses that, there is an increasing trend in female real wagerate in Madanapalle division. The annual increase in female real wagerate is 0.17 rupees. But this increase is significant. The effect of time on female real wagerate is 0.8584. It is indicated by the correlation value. About 85.84 per cent of variation in female real wagerate is observed by the time factor. The linear growth rate is estimated and it is 3.41 percent. It indicates that the average annual growth in female real wagerate is 3.41 percent. The value of constant term 'a' is 3.2740.



The estimated linear regression equation of male money wagerate in Madanapalle division is

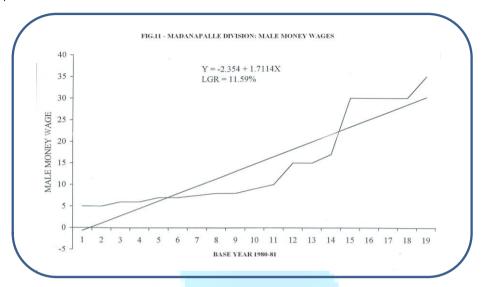
Y = -2.3540 + 1.7114^{*}t

(0.1870)

r = 0.9118, LGR = 11.59%

* Significant at 5 percent probability level.

From the above equation, the regression co-efficient of 't' i.e., the value of 'b' is 1.7114. An increasing trend in male money wagerate is observed in Madanapalle division. An average of 1.71 rupees male money wagerate is increasing every year during the study period. But this increase is significant. The effect of time variable on male money wagerate is expressed by the correlation co-efficient 'r'. The value of 'r' is 0.9118. Therefore, 91.18 percent of variation in male money wagerate is observed by the time element. The linear growth rate is estimated and it is 11.59 percent. This shows that the average annual increase in male money wagerate is 11.59 percent. The value of constant term 'a' is – 2.3540.



The estimated linear regression equation of male real wagerate in Madanapalle division is

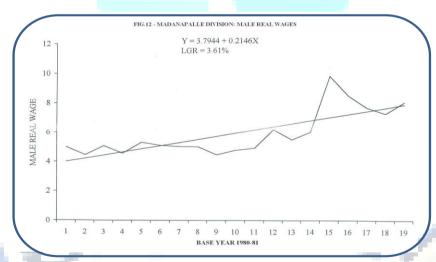
 $Y = 3.7944 + 0.2146^*t$

(0.0447)

r = 0.7690, LGR = 3.61%

* Significant at 5 percent probability level.

From the above equation, the estimated co-efficient of time variable is 0.2146. The positive and significant co-efficient says that there is significant increase in male real wagerate in this division. About 0.22 rupees of male real wagerate is increasing every year. But this increase is significant. The relation between time and male real wagerate is shown by the value of 'r'. The value of 'r' is 0.7690. Therefore 76.90 percent of variation in male real wagerate is observed by the time factor. The linear growth rate is estimated and it is 3.61 percent. This reveals that the average annual increase in male real wagerate is 3.61 percent. The value of intercept term 'a' is 3.7944.



CHITTOOR DISTRICT

The estimated linear regression equation of female money wagerate in Chittoor district as a whole is

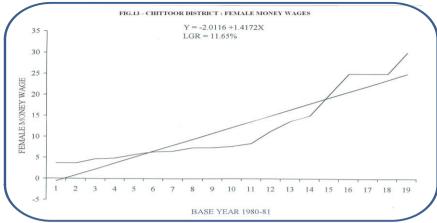
Y = -2.0116 + 1.4172*t

(0.1379)

r = 0.9281, LGR = 11.65%

* Significant at 5 percent probability level.

From the above equation, the estimating value of 'b' is 1.4172. There is an increasing trend in female money wagerate. An average of 1.42 rupees of female money wagerate is increasing every year during the study period. But this increase is significant. The effect of time on female money wagerate (Y) is shown by the value of 'r'. The value of 'r' is 0.9281. It indicates that, 92.81 percent of variation in female money wagerate is observed by the time element. The linear growth rate is estimated and it is 11.65 percent. This tells that the average annual female money wagerate is increased by 11.65 percent in the district. The value of intercept term 'a' is -2.0116.



The estimated linear regression equation of female real wagerate in Chittoor district is $Y = 3.073 + 0.1787^{*}t$

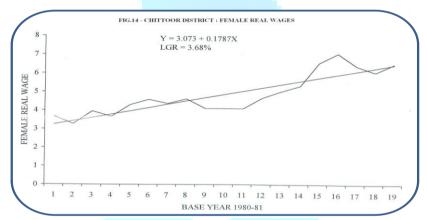
(0.0229)

r = 0.8842, LGR =

LGR = 3.68%

* Significant at 5 percent probability level.

The estimated regression co-efficient of 't' is positive and significant. It indicates that there is an increasing trend in female real wagerate. About 0.18 rupees of female real wagerate (Y) is increasing every year during the study period. But this increase is significant. The effect of time on female real wagerate is shown by the value of 'r'. The value of 'r' is 0.8842. It indicates that 88.42 percent of variation in female real wagerate is observed by the time element. The estimated linear growth rate is 3.68 percent. This shows that the average annual increase in female real wagerate in the district is 3.68 percent. The value of constant term 'a' is 3.073.



The estimated linear regression equation of male money wagerate in Chittoor district is

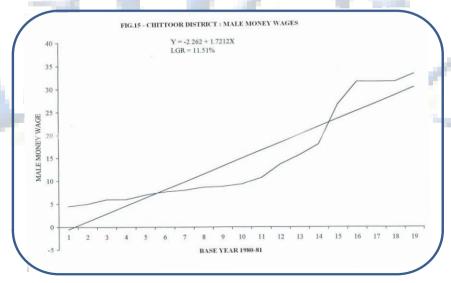
 $Y = -2.2620 + 1.7212^*t$

(0.1749)

r = 0.9223, LGR = 11.51%

* Significant at 5 percent probability level.

From the fitted equation, the co-efficient of the variable 't' is 1.7212. It reveals an increasing trend in male money wagerate in entire district. Nearly 1.72 rupees of male money wagerate is increasing every year during the study period. But this increase is significant. The effect of time on male money wagerate (Y) is shown by the value of 'r'. The value of 'r' is 0.9223. It reveals that there is 92.23 percent of variation in male money wagerate. The linear growth rate is estimated and it is 11.51 percent. The average annual increase in male money wagerate is 11.51 percent. The value of intercept term 'a' is -2.2620.



The estimated linear regression equation of male real wagerate in Chittoor district is

Y = 3.8410 + 0.2179^{*}t

(0.0344)

r = 0.8383, LGR = 3.62%

* Significant at 5 percent probability level.

In the above equation, the estimated co-efficient of 't' is 0.2179. It is observed that there is an increasing trend in male real wagerate in Chittoor district. About 0.22 rupees of male real wagerate (Y) is increasing every year during the study period. This increase is significant. The effect of time on male real wagerate is shown by correlation co-efficient 'r'. The value of 'r' is 0.8383. Therefore 83.83 percent of variation in male real wagerate is observed by the time element. The linear growth rate is estimated and it is 3.62 percent. This shows that the average annual increase in male real wagerate is 3.62 percent. The value of constant term 'a' is 3.8410.

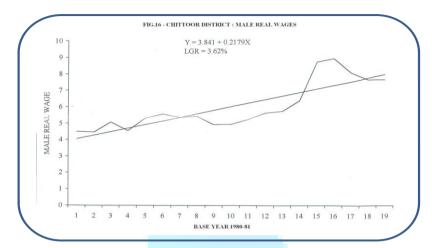


TABLE - 1: DIVISION - WISE GROWTH RATES OF FEMALE AND MALE WAGES

Particulars	Female Labour		Male Labour	
	Money Wages	Real Wages	Money Wages	Real Wages
Chittoor Division	10.60	3.04	11.87	4.25
Tirupati Division	12.31	4.49	11.14	3.11
Madanapalle Division	11.4	3.41	11.59	3.61
Chittoor District	11.65	3.68	11.51	3.62

Percentage growth rate of money wages for both male and female is more than the percentage growth rate of real wages in all divisions of Chittoor district and the district as a whole. This is due to the increase in the consumer price indices. The growth rate of female real wages is less than the growth rate of male real wages in Chittoor and Madanapalle divisions. Owing to the high demand for the male labour than the female labour, this variation in real wages may be arised.

But the growth rate of male real wages is less than the growth rate of female real wages in Tirupati division and in Chittoor district as a whole. Owing to the high demand for the female labour, this variation in real wages may be arised.

The growth rate of female real wages is high in Tirupati division (4.46) followed by Madanapalle division (3.41) and Chittoor division (3.04). In the case of money wages the growth rate is high in Tirupati division (12.31) followed by Madanapalle division (11.4) and Chittoor division (10.6).

The growth rates of male real wages is high in Chittoor division (4.25) followed by Madanapalle division (3.61) and Tirupati division (3.11). The same trend is also observed in the case of male money wages.

Comparing the growth rates of male and female real wages, it is observed that the growth rates of male real wages are more in Chittoor and Madanapalle divisions. This is due to more demand for male labour in these two divisions. Observing the growth rates in Tirupati division, a different trend is identified. In Tirupati division the growth rate of female real wages (4.49) is more than the growth rate of male real wages (3.11). It indicates that the higher demand for female labour than male labour in Tirupati division.

Comparing the growth rates of female real wages of Chittoor and Tirupati divisions, it is observed that the growth rate is more in Tirupati division than in Chittoor division. This is due to the reason that the rate of increase in female real wages to the rate of increase in consumer price index in Tirupati division is more than the rate of increase in female real wages to the rate of increase in Chittoor division.

Comparing the growth rates of female real wages of Chittoor and Madanapalle divisions, it is observed that the growth rate is more in Madanapalle division than in Chittoor division. This is due to the reason that the rate of increase in female real wages to the rate of increase in consumer price index in Madanapalle division is more than the rate of increase in female real wages to the rate of increase in consumer price index in Chittoor division.

Comparing the growth rates of female real wages of Tirupati and Madanapalle divisions, it is observed that the growth rate is more in Tirupati division than in Madanapalle division. This is due to the reason that the rate of increase in female real wages to the rate of increase in consumer price index in Tirupati division is more than the rate of increase in female real wages to the rate of increase in Madanapalle division.

Comparing the growth rates of male real wages of Chittoor and Tirupati divisions, it is observed that the growth rate is more in Chittoor division than in Tirupati division. This is due to the reason that the rate of increase in male real wages to the rate of increase in consumer price index in Chittoor division is more than the rate of increase in male real wages to the rate of increase in Chittoor division is more than the rate of increase in male real wages to the rate of increase in Chittoor division.

Comparing the growth rates of male real wages of Chittoor and Madanapalle divisions, it is observed that the growth rate is more in Chittoor division than in Madanapalle division. This is due to the reason that the rate of increase in male real wages to the rate of increase in consumer price index in Chittoor division is more than the rate of increase in male real wages to the rate of increase in male real wages to the rate of increase in male real wages to the rate of increase in consumer price index in Madanapalle division.

Comparing the growth rates of male real wages of Tirupati and Madanapalle divisions, it is observed that the growth rate is More in Madanapalle division than in Tirupati division. This is due to the reason that the rate of increase in male real wages to the rate of increase in Consumer price index in Madanapalle division is more than the rate of increase in male real wages to the rate of increase in Consumer price index in Tirupati division.

Comparing the growth rates of female real wages of Chittoor district and Chittoor division, it is observed that the growth rate is more in district than in Chittoor division. This is due to the reason that the rate of increase in female real wages to the rate of increase in consumer price index in Chittoor district is more than the rate of increase in female real wages to the rate of increase in female real wages to the rate of increase in Chittoor division.

Comparing the growth rates of female real wages of Chittoor district and Tirupati division, it is observed that the growth rate is more in Tirupati division than in the district as a whole. This is due to the reason that the rate of increase in female real wages to the rate of increase in consumer price index in Tirupati division is more than the rate of increase in female real wages to the rate of increase in Chittoor district.

Comparing the growth rates of female real wages of Chittoor district and Madanapalle division, it is observed that the growth rate is more in Chittoor district than in Madanapalle division. This is due to the reason that the rate of increase in female real wages to the rate of increase in consumer price index in Chittoor district is more than the rate of increase in female real wages to the rate of increase in Madanapalle division.

Comparing the growth rates of male real wages of Chittoor district and Chittoor division, it is observed that the growth rate is more in Chittoor division than in Chittoor district. This is due to the reason that the rate of increase in male real wages to the rate of increase in consumer price index in Chittoor division is more than the rate of increase in male real wages to the rate of increase in consumer price index in Chittoor district.

Comparing the growth rates of male real wages of Chittoor district and Tirupati division, it is observed that the growth rate is more in Chittoor district than in Tirupati division. This is due to the reason that the rate of increase in male real wages to the rate of increase in consumer price index in Chittoor district is more than the rate of increase in male real wages to the rate of increase in consumer price index in Tirupati division.

Comparing the growth rates of male real wages of Chittoor district and Madanapalle division, it is observed that the growth rate is more in Chittoor district than in Madanapalle division. This is due to the reason that the rate of increase in male real wages to the rate of increase in consumer price index in Chittoor district is more than the rate of increase in male real wages to the rate of increase in Madanapalle division.

CONCLUSION

Trends in agricultural wages (money and real wages) are estimated by employing the simple regression equation – wages as the function of time. Wage trends are calculated for both male and female agricultural labour separately with time. It is observed that there is significant positive trend in the both money and real wages with time (for male and female agricultural labour).

The estimated percentage growth rates of real wages for both male and female are less than the percentage growth rates of money wages. This is due to the increasing trend in consumer price indices. The growth rates of female real wages are less than the growth rates of male real wages in Chittoor and Madanapalle divisions. But the growth rates of male real wages are less than the growth rates of female real wages in Tirupati division as well as in Chittoor district as a whole.

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