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PATTERN OF EMPLOYMENT OF FEMALE WORKERS IN INDIA

D. SUMAN RESEARCH SCHOLAR DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS PACHIYAPPA'S COLLEGE FOR MEN KANCHIPURAM

ABSTRACT

The levels of education, employment and also the earnings of the people differ a lot when they are considered on the basis of gender, area and social groups at the national level and also among the major states of the country. This chapter examined the nature of employment of the female workers at the all-India level on the basis of secondary data. This shows that the nature of employment indicates that the proportion of workers who are engaged as SE and RE has declined especially among the urban males, while that of casual labour has gone up, among both the rural and urban males. In the case of females also, the proportion of SE has come down, as in the case of males, while proportion of RE has increased among the females in both areas and that of casual labour has gone up among the rural females, but has declined among their urban counterparts. Thus, the degree of casualisation of workforce is especially felt among the rural workers. Moreover, the share of primary sector in total employment has declined even in the rural areas, which has not been adequately compensated by the secondary sector. Also, the share of secondary sector in the rural area and especially in the case of females is quite less and thus, three-fourths of this segment is compelled to depend on agriculture even now.

KEYWORDS

employment, nature, female, sector, casual labour.

INTRODUCTION

he levels of education, employment and also the earnings of the people differ a lot when they are considered on the basis of gender, area and social groups at the national level and also among the major states of the country. This paper examines the nature of employment and sectoral employment of the female workers with the help of secondary data, which are taken from the reports of National Sample Survey Organisation, pertaining to various periods. In the case of data regarding education, 71st Round of the NSSO (2014) published in 2015 is the latest report, while in the case of employment and wage data, the 68th Round of the NSSO (2011-12) published in 2013 is the latest available report.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Within India, the ratio of female to male agricultural wages varies widely across regions ranging from 90% in Gujarat to 54% in Tamil Nadu in 2004/05. There is, however, a systematic regional pattern. At a first glance this seems to be against the finding that women have greater autonomy in the southern states (Joshi, 1976). Basu (1992) and Jejeebhoy (2001) also find similar patterns in woman's agency across India's north and south. The sex ratio in the population, the percentage of women with a body mass index below the threshold of 18.5, the percentage of women who have experienced physical or sexual violence, the percentage of women who can make decisions regarding social visits, major household purchases and the percentage of women who can travel unaccompanied to the market, health facility and destinations outside the village.

An explanation of this apparent paradox is provided by Bardhan (1979). The author posits that the variation in gender wage differential across states is because of variation in female labor supply. Female labor force participation is much higher in the southern states than in the north. This characteristic of the labor market has been well studied (e.g. Rosenzweig (1978), Chen (1995), Krishnamurthy (1988), Bardhan (1984) and Das (2006)). The variation in female labor force participation is in some studies is attributed to varying agro-ecological conditions in India. For instance, wet-rice farming, which traditionally employs female labor, is more prevalent in southern India than in the north (Agarwal, 1986 and Rosenzweig, 1980).

NATURE AND PATTERN OF EMPLOYMENT IN INDIA

The nature of employment in which the workers are engaged differs as it includes self employed (SE), regular employed (RE) and casual labour (CL). It is important to understand the changes that have taken place in the different nature of employment in the rural and urban areas and also between males and females. Table – 1 presents the area-wise and gender-wise nature of employment in India since 1993-94.

TABLE 1: AREA-WISE AND GENDER-WISE NATURE OF EMPLOYMENT IN INDIA, 1993-94 TO 2011-12

Year	Gender		Ru	ural		Urban				
Teal	Genuel	SE	RE	CL	Total	SE	RE	CL	Total	
1993-94	Male	57.7	8.5	33.8	100.0	41.7	42.0	16.3	100.0	
1995-94	Female	58.6	2.7	38.7	100.0	45.8	28.4	25.8	100.0	
1999-2000	Male	55.0	8.8	36.2	100.0	41.5	41.7	16.8	100.0	
1999-2000	Female	57.3	3.1	39.6	100.0	45.3	33.3	21.4	100.0	
2004-05	Male	58.1	9.0	32.9	100.0	44.8	40.6	14.6	100.0	
2004-05	Female	63.7	3.7	32.6	100.0	47.7	35.6	16.7	100.0	
2009-10	Male	53.5	8.5	38.0	100.0	41.1	41.9	17.0	100.0	
	Female	55.7	4.4	39.9	100.0	41.1	39.3	19.6	100.0	
2011-12	Male	54.5	10.0	35.5	100.0	41.7	43.4	14.9	100.0	
2011-12	Female	59.3	5.6	35.1	100.0	42.8	42.8	14.4	100.0	

Source: Employment and Unemployment reports of NSSO, Govt. of India, various years.

Note: Figures in percentages. SE – Self Employed; RE – Regular Employed; CL – Casual Labour.

It is observed from the table that in the case of rural males, the proportion of workers who are engaged as SE has increased from 57.7 percent in 1993-94 to 58.1 percent in 2004-05, though it has declined sharply to 54.5 percent in 2011-12; in the case of urban males, the share of SE has remained constant at 41.7 percent in last two decades. In the case of workers those who are engaged as RE, the share among the rural males has remained constant at 8.5 percent between 1993-94 and 2009-10, but the same has gone up to 10 percent in 2011-12, though there have been some fluctuation in the middle; and among the urban males, the proportion of RE has increased from 42 percent to 43.4 percent in the same period; on the other hand, the share of CL has gone up among rural males, while it has declined among urban males. This indicates that the proportion of workers who are engaged as SE has declined among rural males, but remained constant among their urban counterparts, while the share of RE has moved up among the males both areas, but the proportion of CL has gone up among rural males, but has come down in the case of urban males. Hence, the latter portray a better nature of employment in the last two decades.

In the case of rural females, the share of SE has increased from 58.6 percent in 1993-94 to 59.3 percent in 2011-12 and as far as urban females are concerned, it has fallen from 45.8 percent to 42.8 percent, though there have been inter-temporal variations. The share of CL has gone down among the rural females from 38.7 percent to 35.1 percent, while in the case of urban females it has declined from 25.8 percent in 1993-94 to 14.4 percent in 2009-10. This suggests that in the case of rural females also, the proportion of SE has gone up, as in the case of males, while proportion of RE has increased among the females in both areas and that of CL has declined among the females in both areas. However, the percentage of self employment is higher in the case of females than that of males in both areas.

TABLE 2: AREA-WISE AND GENDER-WISE SECTORAL EMPLOYMENT IN INDIA, 1993-94 TO 2011-12

Conton	Year	R	ural	Urban		
Sector	Year	Male	Female	Male	Female	
	1993-94	74.8	86.6	10.3	25.3	
	1999-00	72.0	85.7	7.5	18.1	
Primary	2004-05	67.1	83.6	7.0	18.3	
	2009-10	63.6	79.7	6.7	14.2	
	2011-12	59.4	74.9	5.6	10.9	
	1993-94	10.5	7.9	31.6	28.5	
	1999-00	12.0	8.7	31.9	29.0	
Secondary	2004-05	14.9	9.9	33.5	32.2	
	2009-10	18.5	12.7	33.9	33.0	
	2011-12	22.0	16.7	35.3	34.0	
	1993-94	14.7	5.6	58.0	46.3	
	1999-00	16.1	5.8	60.8	52.9	
Tertiary	2004-05	18.0	6.6	59.5	49.5	
	2009-10	17.8	7.6	59.3	52.8	
	2011-12	18.7	8.3	59.1	55.1	

Source: Employment and Unemployment reports of NSSO, Govt. of India, various years.

Note: Figures in percentages.

It is noted that the share of primary sector employment among the rural males has declined from 74.8 percent in 1993-94 to 59.4 percent in 2011-12; in the case of rural females, it has come down from 86.6 percent and then to 74.9 percent in that period. Thus, the dependence on the primary sector is quite considerable particularly in the rural areas, where even now more than 59 percent of the males and around 75 percent of the females are engaged in this sector.

The share of employment in the secondary sector has gone up among the rural males from 10.5 percent in 1993-94 and then to 22 percent in 2011-12; in the case of rural females, it has gone up from 7.9 percent and then to 16.7 percent in the same period, though not consistently. The share of secondary sector employment among the urban males has increased only negligibly, from 31.6 percent to 35.3 percent and in the case of urban females also, it has gone up from 28.5 percent to 34 percent in the same period. Thus, the share of secondary sector has increased considerably in the rural areas, though it is not so particularly among the urban males. Hence, the contribution of tertiary sector is more than 50 percent among both males and females in the urban area, while it is comparatively lesser in the rural areas. Moreover, the share of primary sector in total employment has declined even in the rural areas, which has not been adequately compensated by the secondary sector. Also, the share of secondary sector in the rural area and especially in the case of females is quite less and thus, three-fourths of this segment is compelled to depend on agriculture even now.

PATTERN OF EMPLOYMENT AMONG MAJOR STATES IN INDIA

The nature of employment of the workers differ considerably especially among the major states, which is examined here for the rural India with the help of the data presented in Table – 3.

TABLE 3: GENDER-WISE EMPLOYMENT STATUS AMONG MAJOR STATES OF RURAL INDIA, 2011-12

States		M	lale		Female			
States	SE	RE	CL	All	SE	RE	CL	All
Andhra Pradesh	48.4	11.8	39.8	100.0	44.7	3.2	52.1	100.0
Assam	71.1	10.4	18.5	100.0	64.3	17.5	18.2	100.0
Bihar	52.9	3.9	43.2	100.0	41.7	6.6	51.7	100.0
Gujarat	56.5	12.4	31.1	100.0	58.3	5.2	36.5	100.0
Haryana	58.2	16.5	25.3	100.0	75.2	4.2	20.6	100.0
Himachal Pradesh	54.7	22.1	23.2	100.0	87.9	6.0	6.1	100.0
Jammu & Kashmir	51.0	19.5	29.5	100.0	90.3	5.7	4.0	100.0
Karnataka	53.0	13.4	33.6	100.0	49.6	8.2	42.2	100.0
Kerala	38.9	15.5	45.6	100.0	36.4	23.0	40.6	100.0
Madhya Pradesh	61.0	5.8	33.2	100.0	57.6	2.7	39.7	100.0
Maharashtra	53.8	12.3	33.9	100.0	53.5	3.1	43.4	100.0
Odisha	60.6	8.2	31.2	100.0	66.1	3.4	30.5	100.0
Punjab	46.0	20.1	33.9	100.0	77.8	8.6	13.6	100.0
Rajasthan	61.7	9.6	28.7	100.0	76.5	2.6	20.9	100.0
Tamil Nadu	31.5	17.0	51.5	100.0	27.8	9.5	62.7	100.0
Uttar Pradesh	62.4	6.7	30.9	100.0	80.7	3.8	15.5	100.0
West Bengal	43.1	8.2	48.7	100.0	57.5	10.3	32.2	100.0
All-India	54.5	10.0	35.5	100.0	59.3	5.6	35.1	100.0

 $Source: Govt.\ of\ India,\ "Employment\ and\ Unemployment\ Situation\ in\ India,\ 2001-12"\ 68^{th}\ Round,\ NSSO,\ 2013.$

Note: Figures in percentages. SE – Self employed; RE – Regular Employed; CL – Casual Labour.

It is inferred from the table that the proportion of self employed workers among the rural males ranged from the low of 31.5 percent in Tamil Nadu to a high of 71.1 percent in Assam against the national average of 54.5 percent during 2011-12. The share of regular employed workers is quite low at 10 percent at the All-India level and it is the lowest at 3.9 percent in Bihar and the highest at 22.1 percent in Himachal Pradesh, while it is 17 percent in Tamil Nadu. In some states, the percentage of casual labour is more than 40 percent, and it is the highest in Tamil Nadu with 51.5 percent and the lowest at 18.5 percent in Assam, while the national average stood at 35.5 percent among the rural males.

The share of SE among the rural females is marginally higher than that of their male counterparts at 59.3 percent at the national level, while it ranges from 27.8 percent in Tamil Nadu to 90.3 percent in Jammu and Kashmir. The proportion RE among rural females is quite low at 5.6 at the national and lower than five percent in many states, while it is 23 percent in Kerala and stands at 9.5 percent in Tamil Nadu. The percentage of casual labour is only marginally less among the rural females than males as the national average stands at 35.1 percent during 2011-12, while it ranges from a low of four percent in Jammu and Kashmir to a high of 62.7 percent in Tamil Nadu. Moreover, it is higher than 40 percent in many states. Thus, the share of SE is the lowest and that of casual labour is the highest in

Tamil Nadu among both genders. This indicates that in the rural areas of the major states, the share of RE workers is quite low, while that of SE workers is more than 50 percent. Around 40 percent of the workforce is found in the CL which is the highest in Tamil Nadu during 2011-12.

The gender-wise employment status in urban India among the major states is shown in Table – 4.

The table indicates that during 2011-12 the share of SE workers among urban males stands at 41.7 percent at the national level and it ranges from a low of 28.4 percent in Himachal Pradesh to a high of 61 percent in Bihar, while it is 32.4 percent in Tamil Nadu. The share of RE workers among the urban males is higher than that of SE at 43.9 percent at the All-India level, and it is 21.8 percent in Bihar at the lowest level and at the highest level it is 61.1 percent in Himachal Pradesh. In Tamil Nadu, the share of RE is higher than that of the national average at 43.7 percent. Among the urban male workers, the share of CL is only 14.9 percent at the national level, while it ranges from 7.7 percent in Gujarat to 32.1 percent in Kerala and as far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, it is 23.9 percent.

TABLE 4: GENDER-WISE EMPLOYMENT STATUS AMONG MAJOR STATES OF URBAN INDIA, 2011-12

States		M	ale		Female			
States	SE	RE	CL	All	SE	RE	CL	All
Andhra Pradesh	35.4	49.4	15.2	100.0	44.4	37.4	18.2	100.0
Assam	54.9	35.3	9.8	100.0	46.9	44.9	8.2	100.0
Bihar	61.0	21.8	17.2	100.0	53.6	27.7	18.7	100.0
Gujarat	40.3	52.0	7.7	100.0	48.3	37.0	14.7	100.0
Haryana	42.7	46.3	11.0	100.0	27.8	67.5	4.7	100.0
Himachal Pradesh	28.4	61.1	10.5	100.0	36.0	59.0	5.0	100.0
Jammu & Kashmir	49.9	39.1	11.0	100.0	43.0	50.8	6.2	100.0
Karnataka	41.6	42.7	15.7	100.0	30.1	53.3	16.6	100.0
Kerala	36.3	31.6	32.1	100.0	36.3	46.6	17.1	100.0
Madhya Pradesh	48.1	34.6	17.3	100.0	48.6	35.6	15.8	100.0
Maharashtra	36.8	54.7	8.5	100.0	33.4	54.2	12.4	100.0
Odisha	49.6	36.4	14.0	100.0	58.0	27.1	14.9	100.0
Punjab	45.2	46.5	8.3	100.0	41.1	54.3	4.6	100.0
Rajasthan	41.8	41.7	16.5	100.0	60.2	26.9	12.9	100.0
Tamil Nadu	32.4	43.7	23.9	100.0	39.8	41.8	18.4	100.0
Uttar Pradesh	52.1	29.9	18.0	100.0	67.5	21.7	10.8	100.0
West Bengal	44.8	37.5	17.7	100.0	46.2	40.4	13.4	100.0
All-India	41.7	43.4	14.9	100.0	42.8	42.8	14.4	100.0

Source: Govt. of India, "Employment and Unemployment Situation in India, 2001-12" 68th Round, NSSO, 2013.

Note: Figures in percentages. SE – Self employed; RE – Regular Employed; CL – Casual Labour.

In the case of urban females, the proportion of RE and CL differs only marginally from that of urban males, while SE is marginally higher among the former. In most of the states, the share of SE is more than 40 percent, with a low of 27.8 percent in Haryana and a high of 67.5 percent in Uttar Pradesh, while in Tamil Nadu, it stands at 39.8 percent. The share of RE at the national level is 42.8 percent with a minimum of 21.7 percent in Uttar Pradesh and a maximum of 67.5 percent in Haryana, while it is 41.8 percent in Tamil Nadu. As far as CL is concerned, it ranges from 4.6 percent in Punjab to 18.7 percent in Bihar and it is 18.4 percent in Tamil Nadu. This clearly suggests that the nature of employment differs considerably between the rural and urban workers, in which the latter have better employment, since the share of RE is quite higher, while it is the least among the former. Moreover, the urban females are better positioned compared to their rural counterparts, wherein the latter depend more on self employment.

The data pertaining to the sector-wise employment among the major states in the rural areas during 2011-12 is presented in Table -5.

TABLE 5: GENDER-WISE AND SECTOR-WISE SECTORAL EMPLOYMENT IN MAJOR STATES OF RURAL INDIA, 2011-12

States	Male				Female			
States	Р	S	T	Total	Р	S	T	Total
Andhra Pradesh	64.0	16.6	19.4	100.0	76.7	14.3	9.0	100.0
Assam	58.6	10.8	30.6	100.0	79.0	7.2	13.8	100.0
Bihar	66.6	15.8	17.6	100.0	76.8	11.4	11.8	100.0
Gujarat	69.9	13.8	16.3	100.0	85.6	7.5	6.9	100.0
Haryana	50.5	26.0	23.5	100.0	86.0	5.4	8.6	100.0
Himachal Pradesh	39.8	33.9	26.3	100.0	87.0	5.5	7.5	100.0
Jammu & Kashmir	35.9	27.8	36.3	100.0	85.0	7.9	7.1	100.0
Karnataka	65.9	15.7	18.4	100.0	79.4	9.3	11.3	100.0
Kerala	28.2	31.2	40.6	100.0	38.7	27.9	33.4	100.0
Madhya Pradesh	69.0	16.7	14.3	100.0	80.0	14.6	5.4	100.0
Maharashtra	69.7	12.6	17.7	100.0	89.1	4.7	6.2	100.0
Odisha	59.3	19.6	21.1	100.0	69.3	20.8	9.9	100.0
Punjab	43.5	33.4	23.1	100.0	82.3	5.2	12.5	100.0
Rajasthan	49.9	29.7	20.4	100.0	77.4	20.3	2.3	100.0
Tamil Nadu	51.6	25.7	22.7	100.0	50.6	26.7	22.7	100.0
Uttar Pradesh	57.2	24.6	18.2	100.0	82.6	8.5	8.9	100.0
West Bengal	56.9	21.1	22.0	100.0	41.7	39.6	18.7	100.0
All-India	59.4	22.0	18.7	100.0	74.9	16.7	8.3	100.0

Source: Govt. of India, "Employment and Unemployment Situation in India, 2001-12" 68th Round, NSSO, 2013.

Note: P – Primary; S – Secondary; T- Tertiary. Figures are in percentages.

It is noted that the share of primary sector employment among rural males during 2011-12 at the national level stands at 59.4 percent which ranges from a low of 28.2 percent in Kerala to a high of 69.9 percent in Gujarat, while in Tamil Nadu it stands at 51.6 percent. The share of secondary sector at the national level stands at 21.4 percent, which ranges from a minimum of 10.8 percent in Assam to a maximum of 33.9 percent in Himachal Pradesh and in the case of Tamil Nadu, its share among rural males is 25.7 percent. The dependence on tertiary sector among the rural males is the least, since at the All-India level, it contributes 19.2 percent of the total workforce, which is the least in Madhya Pradesh with 14.3 percent and the highest in 40.6 percent in Kerala and in the case of Tamil Nadu, it is 22.7 percent. Thus, the dependence on primary sector is still quite high among rural males, as it is more than 60 percent in 6 out of 17 states.

The share of primary sector employment among rural females is even higher obviously, as it is 75 percent at the national level, with a low of 38.7 percent in Kerala and a high of 89.1 percent in Maharashtra, while in Tamil Nadu, it is 50.6 percent. The national average of tertiary sector employment is the least with 11.3 percent among the rural females during 2011-12 and it is as high as 33.4 percent in Kerala and as low as 2.3 percent in Rajasthan, while it is 22.7 percent in Tamil Nadu.

Thus, the dependence on primary sector is much higher in the case of rural females, since in 8 out of 17 states, it is more than 80 percent and hence, the contribution of secondary and tertiary sectors is quite limited.

The sector-wise employment among the urban workers in the major states during 2011-12 is presented in Table – 6.

TABLE 6: GENDER-WISE AND SECTOR-WISE SECTORAL EMPLOYMENT IN MAJOR STATES OF URBAN INDIA, 2011-12

States		M	lale		Female			
States	Р	S	T	Total	Р	S	T	Total
Andhra Pradesh	3.9	34.9	61.2	100.0	8.3	41.7	50.0	100.0
Assam	4.0	20.8	75.2	100.0	7.4	23.4	69.2	100.0
Bihar	8.3	26.7	65.0	100.0	22.1	23.8	54.1	100.0
Gujarat	3.3	38.6	58.1	100.0	8.8	30.3	60.9	100.0
Haryana	5.2	44.6	50.2	100.0	12.7	30.8	56.5	100.0
Himachal Pradesh	4.9	24.2	70.9	100.0	19.3	24.4	56.3	100.0
Jammu & Kashmir	5.2	34.8	60.0	100.0	26.5	32.4	41.1	100.0
Karnataka	7.7	34.4	57.9	100.0	8.1	42.4	49.5	100.0
Kerala	8.2	35.6	56.2	100.0	10.1	25.9	64.0	100.0
Madhya Pradesh	9.9	31.9	58.2	100.0	17.2	39.8	43.0	100.0
Maharashtra	3.3	33.8	62.9	100.0	8.9	21.9	69.2	100.0
Odisha	12.1	31.1	56.8	100.0	22.7	44.2	33.1	100.0
Punjab	4.4	38.8	56.8	100.0	11.8	33.5	54.7	100.0
Rajasthan	3.8	34.0	62.2	100.0	18.7	36.7	44.6	100.0
Tamil Nadu	9.2	37.4	53.4	100.0	14.3	45.0	40.7	100.0
Uttar Pradesh	8.0	34.7	57.3	100.0	14.0	44.1	41.9	100.0
West Bengal	2.6	33.6	63.8	100.0	1.6	37.8	60.6	100.0
All-India	5.6	35.3	59.1	100.0	10.9	34.0	55.1	100.0

Source: Govt. of India, "Employment and Unemployment Situation in India, 2001-12" 68th Round, NSSO, 2013.

Note: P – Primary; S – Secondary; T- Tertiary. Figures are in percentages.

The table indicates that in the case of urban males, the contribution of the primary sector in total employment is quite less, since the national average stands at 5.6 percent, which ranges from 2.6 percent in West Bengal to 12.1 percent in Odisha, and it is 9.2 percent in the case of Tamil Nadu. The secondary sector contributes more than 35 percent of total employment among the urban males, which ranges from 20.8 percent in Assam to 44.6 percent in Haryana and in Tamil Nadu it stands at 37.4 percent. Hence, the dependence on the tertiary sector employment is the highest among the urban males, since the national average stands at 59.1 percent during 2011-12, with a minimum of 50.2 percent in Haryana to a maximum of 75.2 percent in Assam, which is 53.4 percent in Tamil Nadu.

As far as urban females are concerned, the contribution of primary sector is higher than that their male counterparts, which is 10.9 percent at the All-India level and it is 1.6 percent in West Bengal and 26.5 percent in Jammu and Kashmir, while in Tamil Nadu, it stands at 14.3 percent. The share of secondary sector employment in the case of urban females is only marginally less when compared to that of urban males, as the national average stands at 34 percent, though its range suggests that the lowest level is 21.9 percent in Maharashtra and the highest level is 44.2 percent in Odisha, while in Tamil Nadu, it is 45 percent. The contribution of tertiary sector to the total employment among the urban females is also more than 55 percent, as the national average is 55.1 percent, while it is the lowest in Odisha at 33.1 percent and the highest in Assam and Maharashtra at 69.2 percent, and in the case of Tamil Nadu, it is 40.7 percent. Hence, among urban females, the share of tertiary sector's employment is the highest, as in 5 out of 17 states it is more than 60 percent.

CONCLUSION

This chapter examined the nature of employment of the female workers at the all-India level on the basis of secondary data. This shows that the nature of employment indicates that the proportion of workers who are engaged as SE and RE has declined especially among the urban males, while that of CL has gone up, among both the rural and urban males. In the case of females also, the proportion of SE has come down, as in the case of males, while proportion of RE has increased among the females in both areas and that of CL has gone up among the rural females, but has declined among their urban counterparts. Thus, the degree of casualisation of workforce is especially felt among the rural workers.

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