



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RESEARCH IN COMMERCE AND MANAGEMENT

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LABOR FORCE VERSUS POPULATION GROWTH RATE - A STUDY OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN J&K STATE**GAURAV SEHGAL****ASST. PROFESSOR****BABA GHULAM SHAH BADSHAH UNIVERSITY****RAJOURI, JAMMU & KASHMIR****DR. ASHOK AIMA****DEAN****THE BUSINESS SCHOOL****UNIVERSITY OF JAMMU****JAMMU, JAMMU & KASHMIR****ABSTRACT**

The present study observes that there are some diversifying trends in the occupational pattern of J&K State. Occupational patterns of the State have shifted from Agricultural Sector (Primary) to Services Sector (Tertiary), without undergoing the development of the Manufacturing Sector (Secondary) – which provides the opportunities for creation of jobs on a larger scale. This shows that there exists lopsided path of economic development on one hand and agricultural backwardness on the other. This agricultural backwardness has created an alarming situation of unemployment in the State, as this sector does not have the capacity to absorb the ever increasing unemployed labor force of the State. This is due to the fact that there is limited technological advancements in this sector in the State, thus leading to limited employment opportunities for the unemployed youths of the State.

KEYWORDS

Labour, Unemployment, Population, Jammu & Kashmir.

INTRODUCTION

Unemployment is a major concern of both developed and under-developed countries. Much has been debated on this burning issue not only in India but world-wide. Also much has been written on this issue in India but widely varying estimates of unemployment have emerged. This is mainly because of the uses of several distinct concepts which have diverse meaning and interpretations. Since each concept has its relevance for employment policy; they have to be distinguished precisely for the understanding of the issue as a whole.

The aggregate estimates of employment and unemployment are highly inadequate to understand the nature and dimensions of the problem or to appreciate the argument for or against one or the other approaches to the problem. Unemployment is indicated by involuntary idleness, that is, the time for which individuals are available for work, but not able to find work. Measures of employment and unemployment used in India attempts to capture the varied complexities by adopting more than one concept, while the population census once in a decade has been generating available information about working population and labor force. It is however recognized that an operation as large as the population census in a country like India is not the most appropriate source of data to generate and predict estimates of detailed aspects of employment and unemployment, which otherwise requires a more intensive enquiry at each level of initial respondents.

The National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) therefore has been conducting such surveys on employment and unemployment situation at both national as well as at state level. NSSOs survey is the most comprehensive measure for estimating employment and unemployment scenarios in India. This survey covers whole of India except Ladakh and Kargil districts of J&K State, 768 villages of Nagaland situated beyond 5 kms of the bus route, 172 villages of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Also some other areas of J&K State are excluded from the survey due to unfavorable field conditions.

Yet another government agency dealing with the problem of employment and unemployment scenario is the Employment Exchanges. But the figures and database provided by this agency suffers from a lot of limitations. The Employment Exchanges do not get the accurate estimates of employment and unemployment rates because registration with Employment Exchanges in India is not mandatory either at State or even at the national level.

For the present research paper, the data from population census has been the main source. Though the source from which the data has been compiled suffers from the major limitation that generally such a census is conducted during 'slack season', that is, Feb – Mar which grossly effect the size and characteristic of labor force. Besides the use of this brief reference period in the census can be appropriate only for those activities whose status remains unchanged throughout the year (Sinha J.N., "Some Methodological Aspects of Employment, Unemployment and Under-Employment", Population Statistics in India, Vikas Publishing House, New Delhi. 1978).

Unemployment is, admittedly the most prominent and perplexing of all labor problems. The concept of unemployment varies according to approaches. It has been defined by different economists in different ways and gained importance in the Great Depression of the Thirties, when the Classical Economists had no solution to define the problem of unemployment. The neo-classical concept came into being with the conception of the labor market, where wages clear the market and the failure to get work is voluntary, and a deviation to this idea are measured by the definitions of involuntary unemployment.

It is worthwhile to mention that, unemployment is directional and selective, it strikes from underneath and effects particularly those who are at the bottom sections of the society. The real sufferer of unemployment are the labor force migrating from far-flung areas. Furthermore, unemployment is not due to any single factor, but it is a cumulative result of many causes.

Amongst different demographic aspects, occupational pattern of a country plays an important role in analyzing the population. Occupational distribution of a country's population provides the information regarding the radiance of occupation and main source of livelihood. It also indicates the production of GNP. A higher percentage of population engaged in the agricultural sector shows that the subsistence sector is the main sector of the economy, and henceforth forms the major proportion of GNP. Besides it also throws light on the extent of unemployed labor force and population engaged in different sectors of the economy. In developing countries like India where economic policies have been adopted to achieve the objectives of optimum utilization of resources, occupational pattern is an integral part of the policy or economic planning. A country's population is both a means-to and an-end of economic development. For the success of the comprehensive economic planning, scrutiny of different facts of occupational distribution of population becomes a pre-requisite.

In a broader sense, the various occupations can be divided into three categories, viz, primary, secondary and tertiary. Primary occupations are those which are concerned with land and its use and comprises of: Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Animal Husbandry, Poultry, Farming and Mining. These are referred to as primary occupations because the products of these occupations are vital for the very existence of human race. Whereas the Secondary occupations covers those whose finished products are based on raw materials from primary occupation sectors, and largely include: Large & Small Industries, Manufacturing units, Construction works. The tertiary occupations are also referred to as service sector occupations and generally include: Trade transport, Communication, Banking, Insurance. In general terms, the productivity in tertiary sector is as high as in secondary sector and sometimes even higher than that. Henceforth, migration of

population from primary occupation to secondary and eventually to the tertiary occupation sector is considered a reliable index of economic progress, but this too not with its consequences. Thus, this clearly explains that for the success of the comprehensive economic planning, scrutiny of different facts of occupational distribution of population becomes a pre-requisite.

UNEMPLOYMENT AND J&K STATE

The State of Jammu & Kashmir presents peculiar geographical and socio-economic settings. It occupies an important situation in the Indian subcontinent. The J&K State has a rugged topography and a very hilly and high altitude terrain. On one hand it imports skilled & unskilled labor to the tune of four lakhs and on the other hand claims a sensitive gravity of unemployment, as well. The unemployment problem in the State has acquired alarming dimensions. Every year thousands of educated and uneducated youth add to the list of unemployment largely due to economic distress and mismatch. According to the population census of India the population of J&K State has increased from 59.87 lakhs in 1981 to 101.44 lakhs in 2001. Moreover, as per the census data of 1981 the total workers of the State were 26,50,044 which has grown to 36,88,875 as per census data of 2001, which depicts a clear increase of 39.2% as against the population increase of 68.2%, which is an alarming disproportionate. Henceforth, one may also consider that the unemployment problem in J&K State is mainly responsible for social unrest and political disturbances. Though in order to overcome this situation the State government as well as centre government has introduced many fruitful schemes, such as, MGNREGA, SGRY, KVI, yet a lot needs to be done in this regard.

LABOR FORCE VERSUS POPULATION GROWTH IN J&K STATE

The growth rate of labor force depends on the growth rate of population, hence there is a positive correlation between the two, this means that as and when the population growth rate increases, the growth rate of labor also increases proportionally.

(A)
Table – 1 below depicts the pattern of labor force and population growth rate from 1951 to 2001 in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

TABLE – 1: DECADAL POPULATION GROWTH RATE IN J&K STATE FROM 1951 - 2001

Census of	Total Population	Decennial Variation in Population	Decennial Population Growth Rate (in %age)
1951	32,53,852	--	--
1961	35,60,975	3,07,123	8.62 %
1971	46,16,632	10,55,657	22.86 %
1981	55,37,389	9,20,757	16.63 %
1991	Not Available	--	--
2001	1,00,69,917	45,32,528	45 %

Source: Census of India for respective years

In 1951 census the population of J&K State was 0.92% of the total country's population. Whereas, in 1961 census the population of J&K State was 0.81% of the total country's population, thereby registering an annual growth rate of 0.94%. Similarly, in 1971 census the population of J&K State was 0.84% of the total country's population and hence registering an annual growth rate of 2.96%. Therefore, between 1951-61 there has been approximately three times increase in the growth rate of population in the State of J&K and approximately two times for the period 1971-81.

A marginal decline in the growth rate of population was observed as per 1981 census. But as per 2001 census there was an abrupt increase in the population growth rate registered at 4.92%, therefore, in 2001 the State of J&K stood at a population growth rate of 0.98% of the total population of the country.

Moreover, population growth rate has varied largely in the three regions of J&K State. The districts of Jammu region shows a declining trend in population growth rates from 3.09% in 1971-81 to 2.75% in 1991-2001. Whereas, Kashmir region has registered an increase in the population growth rate registering 2.87% to 3.19% during 1971-81 to 1991-2001. This increase has been still higher for the Ladakh region registering a 2.76% to 3.29% growth during 1971-81 to 1991-2001.

(B)
Table – 2 below depicts the working population growth rate from 1961 to 2001 in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

TABLE – 2: WORKING POPULATION GROWTH RATE IN J&K STATE FROM 1961 - 2001

Census of	Total Population	Total Workers	Working Population (in %age)
1961	35,60,975	15,23,621	42.7 %
1971	46,16,632	13,73,901	29.75 %
1981	55,37,389	26,50,044	47.85 %
1991	Not Available	Not Available	--
2001	1,00,69,917	29,51,274	29.31 %

Source: Census of India for respective years

The number of working persons constitutes the working population of the country. It depends upon many factors, such as, age composition, sex composition, life expectancy, definition of workers attitude towards work, availability of work, willingness to work, and other such factors. Furthermore, such factors differ also in terms of demographic patterns and also upon time. Moreover, one should also note that - the proportion of population engaged in economic activity is called work participation rate.

The active labor force showed an increase of 41.30 % as per 2001 census. The growth rate of active labor force population is slower than the growth rate of population. In 1971 census the total labor force was 0.79% of the country's total labor force. Also as per 1981 census the total labor force showed an alarming disproportionate increase of 39.2% as against the population increase of 68.2%.

Table-2 clearly depicts that the work participation rate had declined from 1961 to 1971 and then showed an increase in 1981; also in 2001 there was a decline in the same. As per 1961 census the total work force growth rate was 42.7% which declined to 29.75% as per 1971 census.

(C)

Table-3 depicts the Sex wise Working Population in Jammu and Kashmir State from 1961 to 2001.

TABLE – 3: SEX WISE WORKING POPULATION IN J&K STATE FROM 1961 - 2001

Census of	Total Population		Total Working Population	
1971	Male	24,58,315	12,90,570	52.49 %
	Female	21,58,317	83,331	3.86 %
	Total	46,16,132	13,73,901	29.76 %
1981	Male	31,64,660	17,66,215	55.81 %
	Female	23,72,729	8,83,829	37.25 %
	Total	55,37,389	26,50,044	47.86 %
1991	Male	Not Available	Not Available	--
	Female	Not Available	Not Available	--
	Total	--	--	--
2001	Male	53,00,574	26,41,348	49.83 %
	Female	47,69,434	10,47,527	21.96 %
	Total	1,00,69,917	29,51,274	29.31 %

Source: Census of India for respective years

As per the census data of 1971 and 1981, male participation rate was 52.49% and 55.81%, which clearly represents an increasing trend, whereas for the period of 2001 there has been a decline of about 6%. The number of female working population shows a significant increase from 3.86% to 37.25% for the census period 1971 and 1981, thereby registering an abrupt increase of about 33.39%. Though as per 2001 census this trend showed a decline of about 15.29%, but when compared on an average for the period 1971 to 2001 this shows a positive trend with an average increase of about 21%.

(D)

Table-4 depicts the areas wise (Rural and Urban) Working Population in Jammu and Kashmir State from 1961 to 2001.

TABLE – 4: AREA WISE (RURAL AND URBAN) WORKING POPULATION IN J&K STATE FROM 1961 - 2001

Census of	Rural Workers		Urban Workers		
1971	Total Population	37,58,411	30.5 %	8,58,221	26.47 %
	Total Workers	11,46,681		2,27,220	
1981	Total Population	42,76,986	52.75 %	12,60,403	31.26 %
	Total Workers	22,55,967		3,94,077	
1991	Total Population	Not Available	--	Not Available	--
	Total Workers	Not Available		Not Available	
2001	Total Population	75,64,608	37.93 %	25,05,309	3.27 %
	Total Workers	28,69,319		81,955	

Source: Census of India for respective years

As per the census data of from 1971 to 2001 we observe that the participation of Rural workers have always exceeded the Urban workers participation. For the census 1971 to 1981 there has been a marginal change, where as 2001 census shows a drastic change in figures wherein the urban worker participation has shown a abrupt decline of 34.66%.

(E)

In order to understand the phenomenon of rapid increase in India's labor force as well as that of J&K State in recent decades, it is necessary to make disaggregate analysis of the growing labor force

Table-5 below depicts the composition of work force of J&K State for 2001.

TABLE – 5: CATEGORIES OF WORKERS IN J&K STATE AS PER 2001 CENSUS

		Male (M)		Female (F)		Total (M+F)	
Cultivators Work force	Rural (R)	9,94,104 (51.50%)	63.60%	5,67,694 (60.40%)	36.40%	15,61,798 (54.40%)	100%
	Urban (U)	29,045 (4.10%)	76.70%	8,813 (8.20%)	23.30%	37,858 (4.60%)	100%
	Rural + Urban (RU)	10,23,149 (38.70%)	64.10%	5,76,507 (55.00%)	36.00%	15,99,656 (43.36%)	100%
Agricultural Work force	Rural (R)	1,78,980 (3.90%)	77.90%	50,760 (5.40%)	22.10%	2,29,740 (8.00%)	100%
	Urban (U)	15,907 (2.20%)	84.40%	2,930 (2.70%)	15.60%	18,837 (2.30%)	100%
	Rural + Urban (RU)	1,94,887 (7.40%)	78.40%	53,690 (5.10%)	21.60%	2,48,577 (6.72%)	100%
House Hold Industry Work force	Rural (R)	86,454 (4.50%)	49.50%	88,221 (4.50%)	50.50%	1,74,675 (6.00%)	100%
	Urban (U)	32,541 (4.60%)	59.20%	22,394 (2.10%)	40.80%	54,935 (6.70%)	100%
	Rural + Urban (RU)	1,13,995 (4.50%)	51.80%	1,10,615 (10.50%)	48.20%	2,29,610 (6.22%)	100%
Other Work force	Rural (R)	6,69,700 (34.70%)	74.10%	2,33,406 (24.80%)	25.90%	9,03,106 (31.60%)	100%
	Urban (U)	6,34,617 (89.17%)	89.60%	73,309 (68.3%)	10.40%	7,07,926 (86.40%)	100%
	Rural + Urban (RU)	13,04,317 (49.40%)	81.00%	3,06,715 (29.40%)	19.00%	16,11,032 (43.67%)	100%
Total	R	19,29,238 (100%)	67.20%	9,40,081 (100%)	32.80%	28,69,319 (100%)	100%
	U	7,12,110 (100%)	86.90%	1,07,446 (100%)	13.10%	8,19,556 (100%)	100%
	RU	2,64,13,348 (100%)	71.00%	10,47,527 (100%)	29.00%	36,88,875 (100%)	100%

Source: Census of India for respective year

Figures in Brackets represent the percentage of total population

As per the census data of 2001 we observe that the category has gone down to four while it was eleven during 1981 census. Clearly from the table the share of rural and urban workers was 77.78% and 22.22% of the total workers respectively in the State. The total Cultivators Work force stood at 43.36% of the total workers of the State, out of which 97.63% belonged to rural are and the remaining 2.37% belonged to urban areas. The total Agricultural Workforce was 92.42% for rural and 7.58% for urban areas. The House Hold Industry Work force for the State stood at 6.22% of the total workforce, out of which 76% belonged to rural areas and 23.93% belonged to urban areas. Likewise, Other Work force stood at 43.67 of total workers of the State, out of which 56.06% belonged to rural areas and 43.94 belonged to urban areas.

The table also presents a picture on the sex wise distribution in the State for the four categories. The total number as regards to total male worker population for Male Cultivators Work force was 51.5% and 4.1% from rural and urban areas respectively, while that of female stood at 60.4% and 8.2% for rural and urban areas respectively. From the table figures it is apparent that in urban areas both male and female population is largely employed in the tertiary, that is, service sector.

CONCLUSION

From the above analysis we observe that there are some diversifying trends in the occupational pattern of J&K State. Occupational patterns of the State have shifted from Agricultural Sector (Primary) to Services Sector (Tertiary), without undergoing the development of the Manufacturing Sector (Secondary) – which provides the opportunities for creation of jobs on a larger scale. This shows that there exists lopsided path of economic development on one hand and agricultural backwardness on the other. This agricultural backwardness has created an alarming situation of unemployment in the State, as this sector does not have the capacity to absorb the ever increasing unemployed labor force of the State. This is due to the fact that there is limited technological advancements in this sector in the State, thus leading to limited employment opportunities for the unemployed youths of the State.

Thus for the sustainable development of the State it is necessary that the Agricultural Sector (Primary) of the economy should be promoted and developed, thereby providing suitable support to the manufacturing units (Secondary sector). Such an accelerated approach would help generate more employment opportunities for the unemployed youth of the State.

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