

TRENDS AND STRUCTURE OF THE WAGE RATES IN RURAL INDIA

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ABSTRACT

This paper makes an attempt to compile data from various sources to arrive at such an estimate and an analysis is done in terms of the behavior of the wage rates over the period of last one decade both at state and all India levels. The study is based on secondary data collected from the reports ‘wage rates in rural India’ published by ministry of labour bureau, government of India, and director of economics and statistics. The agriculture and non-agricultural occupations were estimated by sex wise during 1999-2000 to 2013-14. The daily wage rates are relating to 11 variables in agricultural occupations and 7 variables in non-agricultural occupations in India. The state level collected agricultural and non agricultural wages. The statistical tools used in this paper are trends, averages, tabulation and charts. Trend in daily non-agricultural average wage rates from last eleven years has increased for both the genders men, women and children. In the year 2003-03 the average wage rates paid to Men was Rs. 78.93 which rose up to Rs.224.51 in 2013-14. The average wage rates for men showed an increasing trend. Similar trend has been found in the females. The increasing trend of average wage rates is a sign of healthy labor system in the country. The average non-agricultural wage rates in females have increased from Rs.19.29 in 2002-03 to Rs. 38.51 in 2013-14. Average wage rates of children have also increased from Rs.4.17 in 2002-03 to 16.23 in 2013-14. This makes one curious to know what is happening to farm wages when around half of the Indian work force is engaged in agriculture and also where much of the landless labour is working. There is no readily available estimate of an all India real farm wage. Agricultural occupational change in wage rates in rural India has multiple pictures. The record of wage rates for rural labour during these ten years is rather mixed. The highest agricultural occupational change from 2002-03 to 2013-14 occurred for well digging in males with Rs.211.33 followed by Rs. 139.66 in harvesting, Rs. 135.97 for threshing and Rs. 131.53. The least change in male category has been found in Herdsman followed by picking. As far as female category is concerned the highest change has been found in harvesting with Rs. 115.54 followed by transplanting, threshing, picking, weeding, sowing as Rs. 112.3, Rs. 110.31, Rs. 110.54, 107.84, Rs. 106.95 respectively. Change in wage rates for children has also seen the mixed response with highest in sowing (Rs.92.53) followed by harvesting (Rs.85.25). So, from 2002-03 to 2013-14 there has been a lot of changes in wage rates in rural India for both the genders. Non-agricultural occupational change in wage rates in rural India has multiple pictures. The record of wage rates for rural labour during these ten years is rather mixed. The highest agricultural occupational change from 2002-03 to 2013-14 occurred for mason in males with Rs.209.49 followed by Rs. 187.23 for carpenter and Rs. 159.77 for tractor driver the lowest change in wage rates happened with sweeper as Rs. 90.51. But on females the highest change occurred with this profession as Rs. 74.66 for sweeper. The study clearly shows that non agricultural occupation is male dominated as there is very less intervention of females and children. Further international experience in developing world does suggest that when economies grow fast, labour moves out from agriculture to non agriculture sectors, particularly construction in urban areas. This often acts as a strong ‘pull’ factor raising farm wages for those who are left behind on the farms.

KEY WORDS: Wage rates, occupation, structure, rural India

1. INTRODUCTION

Rural wages are the important factors which influences the livelihood status of rural households. (Venkatesh, 20

There are no sources in the current document.13) Rural area is largely depended on agriculture sector in India, and agriculture is the only source of income for more than 50 percent of the population residing in rural areas. Since independence India has witnessed a decline in the share of agriculture sector in total GDP as well as a decline in dependency on agriculture but the decline in share is more in comparison with dependency.

Experience in the developed countries has shown that during structural transformation, the contribution of agricultural sector to total GDP falls down, and the secondary sector (industry sector) leads for some period and finally the tertiary sector (service sector) constitutes the largest part of GDP (Eswaran *et al.*, 2009; Cited in Venkatesh, 2013). There is a positive relationship between rural wages and agriculture sector, if agriculture sector is prosperous then it will have a positive impact on wage rates and vice versa. Rural wages being important source of income in rural areas play a major role in securing the rural livelihoods. Rural areas of the country are witnessing an increase in the wage rates in recent, it is due to reduced participation rates in recent period both on account of increased participation in education and shift of labour away from agriculture and higher wage rates under MGNREGA. A change in agricultural wages is an indicator of changes in rural standard of living. Increased agricultural wage directly helps in reduction of income poverty, especially in raising income of ultra-poor households, who are usually agricultural labors and marginal farmers. Agricultural labor is often the bottom section of income quintile in Indian society (Bhattaraj *et al.*, 2014).

2. OBJECTIVES

- To examine the trends and structure of the wage rates in rural India.
- To analyses the state level agricultural and non-agricultural wage rates in rural India.
- To suggest measure for improvement of wages in rural.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study is based on secondary data collected from the reports 'wage rates in rural India' published by ministry of labour bureau, government of India, and director of economics and statistics. The agriculture and non-agricultural occupations were estimated by sex wise during 1999-2000 to 2013-14. The daily wage rates are relating to 11 variables in agricultural occupations and 7 variables in non-agricultural occupations in India. The state level collected agricultural and non agricultural wages. The statistical tools used in this paper like average, tabulation and charts.

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Trends and structure of the wage rates in rural India

A recent report released by International Labour Organization (ILO), indicates that real wages in India declined in a majority of recent years, shrinking the purchasing power of wage earners. As per the Report, India's real wages fell 1 percent between 2008 and 2011, while labour productivity grew 7.6 percent in the same period. The trend, however, is surprising in the light of the country's rapid economic growth over the last decade. It also contrasts with the Employment–Unemployment Survey from the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), conducted every five years along with the Consumer Expenditure Survey, in which salaried and casual workers report a 150 per cent increase in their earnings – much higher than the 52 per cent increase in the consumer price index – in the five years between 2004 05 and 2009 10. This makes one curious to know what is happening to farm wages when around half of the Indian work force is engaged in agriculture and also where much of the landless labour is working. There is no readily available estimate of an all India real farm wage. This paper makes an attempt to compile data from various sources to arrive at such an estimate and an analysis is done in terms of the behavior of the wage rates over the period of last one decades both at state and all India levels

Table: 1 Agricultural occupational change in wage rates in rural India (2002-03 to 2013-14)
(In Rupees)

Occupation	2002-03			2013-14			Change in wage rates in rural India 2002-03 to 2013-14		
	Men	Women	Children	Men	Women	Children	Men	Women	Children
Ploughing	71.53	40.46	28.49	225.03	139.92	0	153.5	99.46	-28.49
Sowing	62.62	44.2	34.47	194.15	151.15	127	131.53	106.95	92.53
Weeding	53.9	44.9	35.69	175.96	152.74	113.84	122.06	107.84	78.15
Transplanting	57.33	48.24	34.55	181.29	160.54	114.63	123.96	112.3	80.08
Harvesting	58.03	47.86	31.84	197.69	163.72	117.09	139.66	115.86	85.25
Winnowing	52.88	44.11	33.54	179.45	148.78	86	126.57	104.67	52.46
Threshing	57.22	46.84	29.83	193.19	157.15	82.5	135.97	110.31	52.67
Picking	54.76	43.63	27.67	175.09	154.17	100	120.33	110.54	72.33
Herdsmen	40.36	31.6	25.33	120.38	88.13	74.9	80.02	56.53	49.57
Well-digging	83.38	43.74	0	294.71	144.59	0	211.33	100.85	0
Cane crushing	57.83	42.95	35.88	186.67	130.09	0	128.84	87.14	-35.88

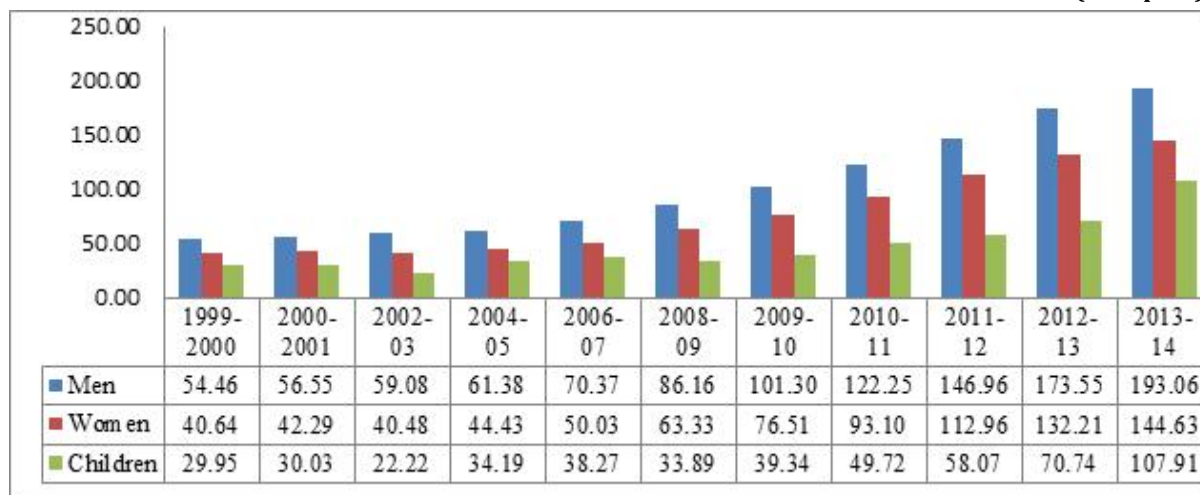
Sources: Ministry of labour bureau, Government of India

Agricultural occupational change in wage rates in rural India has multiple pictures. The record of wage rates for rural labour during these ten years is rather mixed. The highest agricultural occupational change from 2002-03 to 2013-14 occurred for well digging in males with Rs.211.33 followed by Rs. 139.66 in harvesting, Rs. 135.97 for threshing and Rs. 131.53. The least change in male category has been found in Herdsman followed by picking. As far as female category is

concerned the highest change has been found in harvesting with Rs. 115.54 followed by transplanting, threshing, picking, weeding, sowing as Rs. 112.3, Rs. 110.31, Rs. 110.54, 107.84, Rs. 106.95 respectively. Change in wage rates for children has also seen the mixed response with highest in sowing (Rs.92.53) followed by harvesting (Rs.85.25). So, from 2002-03 to 2013-14 there has been a lot of changes in wage rates in rural India for both the genders.

Figure: 1 Trends in daily average wage rates of agricultural occupations in rural India

(In Rupees)



Sources: Ministry of labour bureau, Government of India

Trend in daily agricultural average wage rates from last fourteen years has increased for both the genders men, women and children. In the year 1999-00 the average wage rates paid to Men was Rs. 54.46 which rose up to Rs.70.37 in 2006-07. The average wage rates for men showed an increasing trend; finally by the end of 2013 the average wage rates went to Rs.

193. Similar trend has been found in the females. The increasing trend of average wage rates is a sign of healthy labor system in the country. The average wage rates have increased from Rs.40.64 in 1999-00 to Rs. 144.6 in 2013-14. Average wage rates of children have also increased from Rs.29.95 in 1999-00 to 107.9 in 2013-14.

Table: 2 Non-agricultural occupational Change in wage rates in rural India (2002-03 to 2013-14)
(In Rupees)

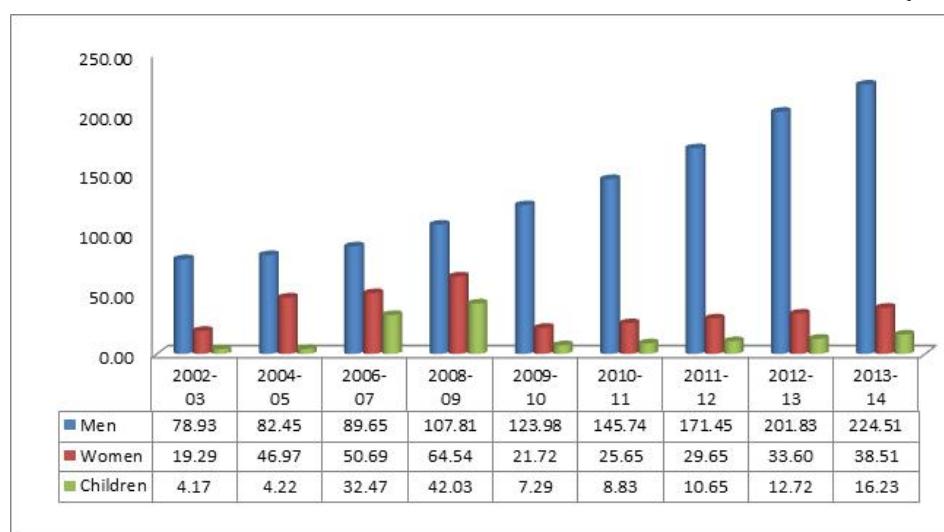
Occupation	2002-03			2013-14			change in wage rates in rural India 2002-03 to 2013-14		
	Men	Women	Children	Men	Women	Children	Men	Women	Children
Carpenter	105.81	0	0	293.04	0	0	187.23	0	0
Blacksmith	83.31	0	0	223.49	0	0	140.18	0	0
Cobbler	60.9	0	0	161.18	0	0	100.28	0	0
Mason	116.34	41.86	0	325.83	0	0	209.49	-41.86	0
Tractor Driver	78.33	0	0	238.1	0	0	159.77	0	0
Sweeper	50.08	49.74	0	140.59	124.4		90.51	74.66	0
Unskilled labours	57.75	43.42	29.19	189.32	145.15	97.37	131.57	101.73	68.18

Sources: Ministry of labour bureau, Government of India

Non-agricultural occupational change in wage rates in rural India has multiple pictures. The record of wage rates for rural labour during these ten years is rather mixed. The highest agricultural occupational change from 2002-03 to 2013-14 occurred for mason in males with Rs.209.49 followed by Rs. 187.23 for carpenter and Rs. 159.77 for tractor driver the

lowest change in wage rates happened with sweeper as Rs. 90.51. But on females the highest change occurred with this profession as Rs. 74.66 for sweeper. This table clearly shows that non agricultural occupation is male dominated as there is very less intervention of females and children.

**Figure: 2 Trends in daily average wage rates of non- agricultural occupations in rural India
(In Rupees)**



Sources: Ministry of labour bureau, Government of India

Trend in daily non-agricultural average wage rates from last eleven years has increased for both the genders men, women and children. In the year 2003-03 the average wage rates paid to Men was Rs. 78.93 which rose up to Rs.224.51 in 2013-14. The average wage rates for men showed an increasing trend. Similar trend has been found in the females.

The increasing trend of average wage rates is a sign of healthy labor system in the country. The average non-agricultural wage rates in females have increased from Rs.19.29 in 2002-03 to Rs. 38.51 in 2013-14. Average wage rates of children have also increased from Rs.4.17 in 2002-03 to 16.23 in 2013-14.

Table: 3 State wise average daily wage rates for agricultural occupations in rural India during 2013-14

(in Rupees)						
States	Ploughing			Sowing		
	Men	Women	Children	Men	Women	Children
Andhra Pradesh	271.26	@	-	205.63	163.81	-
Assam	158.98	-	-	143.89	@	-
Bihar	184.72	-	-	168.89	147.52	@
Gujarat	159.83	-	-	135	117.22	-
Haryana	306	-	-	232	@	-
Himachal Pradesh	318.57	-	-	244.29	@	-
Jammu & Kashmir	252.78	-	-	251.67	-	-
Karnataka	218.75	@	-	173.6	117.6	@
Kerala	561.87	-	-	500	@	-
Madhya Pradesh	125.49	@	-	123.84	108.41	-
Maharashtra	214.66	@	-	175.71	106.47	-
Manipur	212.5	-	-	@	-	-
Meghalaya	@	@	-	@	@	-
Orissa	148	-	-	137.78	@	-
Punjab	@	-	-	@	-	-
Rajasthan	236.67	@	-	215.45	161.67	-
Tamil Nadu	334.12	-	-	221.21	172.84	-
Tripura	140	-	-	140	-	-
Uttar Pradesh	160.64	@	-	160.77	128.62	-
West Bengal	218.74	@	-	167.02	159.55	@
All-India	206.79	128.23	-	178.1	141.06	104

Sources: Ministry of labour bureau, Government of India

Table: 3.1 State wise average daily wage rates for agricultural occupations in rural India during 2013-14**(In Rupees)**

States	Weeding			Transplanting			Harvesting		
	Men	Women	Children	Men	Women	Children	Men	Women	Children
Andhra Pradesh	@	160.56	@	@	174.07	-	195.88	136.53	-
Assam	149.85	@	-	120	@	-	159.39	148.21	-
Bihar	147.43	134.76	@	153.1	135.06	@	155.71	140.18	@
Gujarat	118.93	114.46	-	110	106	-	126.2	116.88	-
Haryana	232	@	-	225.75	223.5	-	232	228.29	-
Himachal Pradesh	@	@	-	-	-	-	255	@	-
Jammu & Kashmir	278	-	-	244.38	-	-	249.44	-	-
Karnataka	169.13	115.33	@	179.47	118.81	-	178.75	122.95	@
Kerala	@	297.59	-	@	284.84	-	332	271.79	@
Madhya Pradesh	121.67	105.83	@	128.64	99.17	-	130.24	116.85	-
Maharashtra	171.67	123.52	@	178.33	116	-	190.91	131.29	-
Manipur	210	@	-	@	@	-	@	@	-
Meghalaya	@	@	@	-	-	-	163.33	105	-
Orissa	118.33	@	-	110	@	-	167.48	134.67	-
Punjab	257	-	-	-	-	-	@	@	-
Rajasthan	207.69	200.91	-	@	@	-	214.56	192.14	-
Tamil Nadu	-	140.83	@	@	136.99	-	204.56	146.02	@
Tripura	140	-	-	140	-	-	140	-	-
Uttar Pradesh	160.64	140.3	@	169.6	139.59	@	161.45	140	115
West Bengal	168.59	160.39	@	169.06	155.98	@	168.87	156.92	@
All-India	161.75	143.05	99.78	168.4	150.96	110	175.42	145.29	113.44

Sources: Ministry of labour bureau, Government of India

Table: 3.2 State wise average daily wage rates for agricultural occupations in rural India during 2013-14**(In Rupees)**

States	Winnowing			Threshing			Cane crushing		
	Men	Women	Children	Men	Women	Children	Men	Women	Children
Andhra Pradesh	223.33	132.86	-	224.29	140	-	@	@	-
Assam	@	-	-	185.83	@	-	-	-	-
Bihar	145	121.39	-	128.18	111.88	-	142.14	-	-
Gujarat	126.56	122.5	-	136.15	142.5	-	@	-	-
Haryana	221.14	@	-	231.83	@	-	267.2	@	-
Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jammu & Kashmir	@	-	-	@	-	-	-	-	-
Karnataka	179.44	127.14	-	170	113.33	-	182.5	@	-
Kerala	-	@	-	@	@	-	-	-	-
Madhya Pradesh	126.47	102.22	-	@	128.42	-	@	@	-

Maharashtra	192.86	125	-	201.39	122.73	-	200	@	@
Manipur	200	@	-	@	@	-	@	-	-
Meghalaya	151.67	100	@	162	112	@	-	-	-
Orissa	152.8	101.43	-	171.08	123	-	@	-	-
Punjab	-	-	-	274	@	-	-	-	-
Rajasthan	-	-	-	205.83	@	-	@	-	-
Tamil Nadu	171.47	128.15	-	148.1	118.89	-	@	@	-
Tripura	140	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uttar Pradesh	149.41	131.43	@	128.33	113	@	155.29	151.67	-
West Bengal	170.72	154.02	@	165.99	144.87	@	-	-	-
All-India	160.62	129.41	@	174.35	136.85	@	175.77	144.88	@

Sources: Ministry of labour bureau, Government of India

Table: 3.3 State wise average daily wage rates for agricultural occupations in rural India during 2013-14 (In Rupees)

States	Picking*			Herdsmen			Well digging		
	Men	Women	Child ren	Men	Wom en	Childr en	Men	Women	Child ren
Andhra Pradesh	190.36	128.82	@	146.26	-	@	@	-	-
Assam	-	-	-	@	-	100.67	@	-	-
Bihar	@	@	-	107.3	@	70.07	178.89	@	-
Gujarat	144.09	140.45	-	126.67	@	-	184	@	-
Haryana	239	236.8	-	@	-	-	@	-	-
Himachal Pradesh	@	@	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Karnataka	@	104	-	168	@	-	208	@	-
Kerala	-	-	-	-	-	-	569.58	@	-
Madhya Pradesh	92.5	94.29	@	80.66	68.75	57.49	128.26	110	-
Maharashtra	152.11	124.17	@	132.78	125	118.75	255	166.43	-
Manipur	-	-	-	181.25	-	-	@	-	-
Meghalaya	@	@	-	@	-	-	@	-	-
Orissa	126.67	98.33	-	89.87	@	@	242.44	-	-
Punjab	@	@	-	-	-	-	@	-	-
Rajasthan	@	@	-	160	@	-	325	-	-
Tamil Nadu	@	@	-	-	-	-	314.4	@	-
Tripura	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uttar Pradesh	@	@	-	@	-	-	@	-	-
West Bengal	-	-	-	@	-	71.24	297.14	-	-
All-India	159.09	130.68	113.33	113.86	85.78	69.76	256.73	140.86	-

Sources: Ministry of labour bureau, Government of India

- = Indicates that the particular category of workers, i.e. men/ women /children were not engaged in that operation either because of their non-availability; or the activity connected with the occupation was not undertaken in the State; or the activity was out of season in the State, etc.

* =Picking includes picking of cotton bolls/ seed pods, jute stalks and tea leaves etc @ =Number of quotations are less than five.

The above table shows all India average daily wage rates for agriculture occupation during the year 2013-14. The averages are categorized into genders that is male, female, and children. The average daily wage rates from agriculture for men in Ploughing is largest in the state of Kerala having Rs. 561.87 followed by Tamil Nadu Rs. 334.12, number third has occupied by Himachal Pradesh having an average of Rs. 318 followed by Haryana(306), Andhra Pradesh(271),

Rajasthan(236). Least position lies in the state of Punjab, Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh, and Tripura. Female average daily wage rates are very least in ploughing having total of 128 for all India. The data for average daily wage rates for children is not available; the table further speaks of the male dominance of wage rates for agriculture occupation of ploughing in rural India. The total all India average of ploughing is Rs. 206.79, for men Rs.128.23 for women in the year of 2013-14.

In sowing average men wage rate for the year 2013-14 is Rs. 178.1 for women it's Rs. 141.06 for children it's Rs. 104. In the occupation of weeding men average wage rate for the year 2013-14 is Rs.161.75 and for females it's Rs. 143.05 and for children it's Rs. 99.78. Similarly, transplanting average man wage rate for the year 2013-14 Rs. 168.4 for females the

average wage rate in India is Rs. 150.96 and for children the average wage rate is Rs. 110. The average wage rates of all India agricultural occupation during the year 2013-14 for harvesting in men is Rs 175.42, followed by women Rs 145.29 and then followed by children of Rs 113.44.

Similarly the average all India wage rates for winnowing in men is Rs 160.62 followed by women 129.41 and followed by children which is negligible. The table further speaks of the average all India wage rates for the occupations of Threshing and has shown that Rs. 175.35 for men, Rs 136.85 for women, cane crushing is also male dominated having Rs 175.77 for men and Rs 144.88 for women. The average Picking wage rates of all India for men are Rs 159 followed by women Rs 130.68 and followed by children Rs 133.33. Similarly Herdsman and Well-digging is also the male dominated occupations in India.

Table: 4 State wise average daily wage rates for non-agricultural occupations in rural India during 2013-14 (In Rupees)

States	Carpenter			Blacksmith			Cobbler		
	Men	Women	Children	Men	Women	Children	Men	Women	Children
Andhra Pradesh	231.87	-	-	179.49	-	@	125.71	-	-
Assam	233.52	-	-	190.36	-	-	148	-	-
Bihar	235.38	-	-	199.17	-	-	138.33	-	@
Gujarat	247.37	-	-	197	-	-	@	-	-
Haryana	351.17	-	-	245.78	-	-	218.29	-	-
Himachal Pradesh	356.67	-	-	324.29	-	-	@	-	-
Jammu & Kashmir	366.67	-	-	350.91	-	-	-	-	-
Karnataka	229.55	-	-	175	-	-	146.14	-	-
Kerala	556.9	-	-	492.06	-	-	@	-	-
Madhya Pradesh	162.06	-	-	147.76	-	-	112.54	-	-
Maharashtra	237.45	-	-	215.71	-	-	159.1	-	-
Manipur	266.67	-	-	221.67	-	-	216.25	-	-
Meghalaya	194.44	-	-	177.5	-	-	144.29	-	-
Orissa	248.48	-	-	147.27	-	-	120	-	-
Punjab	381.93	-	-	@	-	-	-	-	-
Rajasthan	341.94	-	-	237.27	-	-	199.17	-	-
Tamil Nadu	404.61	-	-	332.01	-	-	@	-	-
Tripura	185	-	-	130	-	-	130	-	-
Uttar Pradesh	275.51	-	@	231.43	-	@	163.89	-	-
West Bengal	203.8	-	-	156.8	-	-	136.11	-	-
All-India	265.95	-	@	206.64	-	@	145.9	-	@

Sources: Ministry of labour bureau, Government of India

Table: 4.1 Average Daily Wage Rates for Non-agricultural Occupations in Rural India during 2013-14

States	Mason			Tractor driver		
	Men	Women	Children	Men	Women	Children
Andhra Pradesh	279.23	-	-	225.08	-	-
Assam	253.89	-	-	258	-	-
Bihar	273.42	-	-	176.83	-	-
Gujarat	307.08	-	-	155.63	-	-
Haryana	382	-	-	312.5	-	-
Himachal Pradesh	353.33	-	-	@	-	-
Jammu & Kashmir	364.05	-	-	-	-	-
Karnataka	238.82	-	-	187.98	-	-
Kerala	543	-	-	454	-	-
Madhya Pradesh	204.49	-	-	161.21	-	-
Maharashtra	293.73	-	-	224.67	-	-
Manipur	303.75	-	-	308.89	-	-
Meghalaya	206.67	-	-	-	-	-
Orissa	267.47	-	-	195	-	-
Punjab	378.6	-	-	309.17	-	-
Rajasthan	397.62	-	-	255.59	-	-
Tamil Nadu	430.94	-	-	344.64	-	-
Tripura	185	-	-	185	-	-
Uttar Pradesh	322.67	-	-	192.44	-	-
West Bengal	232.3	-	-	227.69	-	-
All-India	295.85	-	-	213.58	-	-

Sources: Ministry of labour bureau, Government of India

Table: 4.2 average daily wage rates for non-agricultural occupations in rural India during 2013-14 (in Rupees)

States	Sweeper			Unskilled labourers		
	Men	Women	Children	Men	Women	Children
Andhra Pradesh	@	@	-	171.52	124.07	95.74
Assam	-	-	-	151.73	121.15	97.14
Bihar	122	@	@	158.16	132.33	124
Gujarat	@	@	-	117.6	109.41	-
Haryana	210.75	195.6	-	248.25	228.78	-
Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	215.56	244	-
Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-	280.5	-	-
Karnataka	120	77.38	-	136.04	101.73	@
Kerala	-	@	-	446.58	283	-
Madhya Pradesh	101.19	90.94	@	99.49	88.88	62.69
Maharashtra	170	-	-	144.34	95.91	92
Manipur	-	@	-	171.11	160	-
Meghalaya	-	-	-	147.5	91.67	@
Orissa	@	@	-	150.36	135.95	@
Punjab	@	@	-	254.33	-	-
Rajasthan	@	@	-	225.48	201.25	-
Tamil Nadu	@	@	-	234.15	168.31	@
Tripura	-	-	-	165	-	-
Uttar Pradesh	153.29	114.64	@	172.18	141.39	113.06
West Bengal	-	-	-	155.38	134.9	97.67
All-India	123.93	102.35	@	173.9	131.09	90.03

Sources: Ministry of labour bureau, Government of India

- = Indicates that the particular category of workers, i.e. men/ women /children were not engaged in that operation either because of their non-availability; or the activity connected with the occupation was not undertaken in the State; or the activity was out of season in the State, etc.

* =Picking includes picking of cotton bolls/ seed pods, jute stalks and tea leaves etc @ =Number of quotations are less than five.

The above tables show the state wise average daily wage rates for nonagricultural occupations in rural India for the

year 2013-14. The occupation includes carpenter, blacksmith, cobbler, mason, tractor driver, sweeper and some unskilled labors. The all India average daily wage rates and of carpenter for men is Rs. 265.95 where as females children do not fall in any wage category. The male daily wage rates for blacksmith are Rs.206.64 whereas, average male cobblers wage rate is Rs. 145.9. The male wage rate of Mason is Rs. 295.85 similarly male average wage rate of tractor driver is Rs. 213.58. Sweepers contribute Rs. 123.93 for men and Rs.102.35 for female. Unskilled labors average male wage rate for the year 2013-14 is Rs. 173.9 for female it is 131.09 and the average daily wage rates for children is 90.03

The table speaks a lot about the gender inequality in India. Non agricultural laborers daily wage rate is also male dominated, s such there is no, occupation where children and women contributes except sweepers. It has been seen that sweepers are from both the genders whereas, carpenter, mason, blacksmith, cobbler, tractor driver are all the male dominant occupations in India. The highest daily wage rates are earned by Mason as Rs. 295.85 per day followed by carpenter Rs. 265.95 per day whereas, sweeper earn very less Rs. 123.93 per day.

5. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Farming being labour intensive, this rapid increase in farm wages has raised cost of production of agri commodities across the board. No wonder, farmers' organizations have been demanding higher and higher minimum support prices (MSPs) to cover increased costs of production. Rising farm wages should be good news for poverty watchers, as it must have led to faster reduction of poverty than in any other Plan since 1991. International experience in developing world does suggest that when economies grow fast, labour moves out from agriculture to non agriculture sectors, particularly construction in urban areas. This often acts as a strong 'pull' factor raising farm wages for those who are left behind on the farms.

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