Chapter XI

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The present enquiry entitled "An Economic of Employment, Income and Standard of Living of Agricultural Labourers in District Kanpur (Nagar) U.P." was under during the agricultural year 1964-95. It aimed at examine the pattern and level of employment of agricultural labourer in the study area in district Kanpur Nagar. The wage and income structure of the sample agricultural labourer (with land and without land) were also studied. The problems of agricultural labourers were analysed suitable measure to ameliorate there condition were suggested.

The sampling technique of the present enquiry consisted of selection of 150 agricultural labourers- 59 with land 91 without land on the basis of probability proportion to their number falling under different categories.

The agricultural labourers selected randomly from 12 villages of Kalyanpur block, district Kanpur Nagar. A multi-stage stratified random sample technique was used to select the block, villages and the agricultural labourers. The enquiry was conducted by survey method. The primary data were collected by direct personnel interview with the respondents.

The total geographical area of Kalyanpur block district, Kanpur was 21747 hectare. Out of this 12515 hectare was under net area sown. The cropped area with cropping intensity was 156.34 per...
cent. The agriculture is the main source of livelihood of the block. The total population of block was male 61098 and female 40916. According to Census 1991 the literacy percentage was 49.60 of the block.

The mode of wages payment of agricultural labour was in cash, kind or both. The prevailing wages for agricultural labourers in the block is 35 per labour per day.

The average size of holding of agricultural labour 'With land' was 0.32 hectares only which was found uneconomical due to its small size. The unassured means of irrigation and higher pressure of family members to small land base are the chief characteristics of agricultural labourers in the country. The number of agricultural labourers without land was higher being 61 per cent in comparison to 'with land' labourers which was 39 per cent to total number. With regards to average size of family, it came to 5.62 adults. The average number of workers per household were around 1.94 in both the categories of households. The average number of male and female workers were 1.68 and 0.26 respectively. In case of milch and draft animals, the average number came to 1.12 and 0.44 per households, respectively. The number of milch animal was noted higher being 1.18 in case of without land as compared to 1.02 on 'with land' labour households.

So far as fixed assets is concerned, it consisted of draft and milch animals and traditional farm implements on both the categories of households. The total investment in fixed assets
excluding land came to Rs. 39576.40 on 'without land', as compared to Rs.31659.50 on 'with land' households due to more number of milch animals maintained by the this category of household.

The analysis of cropping pattern on 'with land' labour households revealed that wheat, paddy, arhar, gram were the main crops in order of priority grown by the sample agricultural labourers. The percentage area of the respective crops came to 38.31 per cent, 21.12 per cent, 15.12 per cent and 10.42 per cent to total cropped area. No superior crops or cash crops were grown by these labourers. It was due to inadequacy of the funds for investment on these crops. The average intensity of cropping came to 164.64 per cent.

The total borrowing per agricultural labour household was worked out to Rs. 1440.24 on 'with land' and Rs. 2315.11 on 'without land' households. It indicated that 'without land' households were more in debt as compared to 'with land' agricultural labour households.

As regards the pattern and level of employment, performely employment of agricultural labourer came to 496.62 days per annum. Of this total, 93.49 per cent was from agricultural sources. Per worker employment was higher being 291.22 days for agricultural labourers 'with land' as compared to 240 days for agricultural labourers 'without land'. This difference was due to having some land base which provided additional employment to 'with land' labourers. In case of agricultural labourers 'without land', the employment from agricultural sources was higher (93.95 per cent) as compared to with
land labourers where it came to 92.71 per cent to their respective total employment days.

The employment of agricultural labourers according to self employment, wage employment and others including services, trade/business etc.) revealed that an agricultural labosurers, on an average, got 76.02 per cent employment through wages. He was self employed for 16.96 per cent and in other jobs for 7.02 per cent to a total of 256.54 days. In case of agricultural labourers 'without land' the employment through wages was higher as 77.28 per cent as compared to with land labourers where it came to 73.83 per cent to their total employment days. However, agricultural labourers 'with land' were self employed for more number of days as compared to 'without land' labourers.

The average employment from agricultural sources per labourer per annum, came to 239.85 days. Of this employment, agricultural wages accounted for the highest share being 81.31 per cent followed by employment in milk production enterprises (15.46%). In case of agricultural labourers 'without land' employment from agricultural wages was higher in comparison to 'with land' labourers. However, the total employment from agricultural sources was higher for 'with land' labourers as compared to 'without land' labourers due to the fact that agricultural labourers 'with land' had some land base which provided some additional employment to them.

Regarding employment per agricultural labourers from non-agricultural sources, it was found that non-agriculture wages accounted for the highest employment of 34.33 per cent followed by
service and other sources to total employment days. The agricultural labourers 'without land' got higher employment from services, business, and trade in comparison to 'with land' labourers who got more employment from non-agricultural wages.

A break up of employment per agricultural labourer in different farm operations, in crop production revealed that an agricultural labourer got the highest employment in harvesting followed by upkeep of animals, preparation of field and inter culture. A category wise comparison showed that agricultural labourers 'with land' were highly engaged in farm operations like preparation of lands, threshing and winnowing in comparison to 'without land' labourers who got more employment as casual labour in harvesting, interculture and sowing etc.

The employment position per agricultural labourer in different months, in agricultural sector, revealed that July, August, September, October, November, March and April provided a better employment to agricultural labourers. The break up of employment according to different seasons showed that an agricultural labourer got highest employment in rabi season followed by kharif and zaid season. The percentage share to total employment came to 58.21 per cent, 34.63 per cent, 7.16 per cent, respectively.

As regard unemployment position, forced idleness was to the extent of 14.49 per cent. Out of 300 days considered as working days, the average employment per agricultural labourer came to 256.54 days per annum which was 85.31 per cent to total employment days
available. The unemployment was higher being 20.00 per cent in case of agricultural labourers 'without land' as compared to 'with land' labourers where it came to 2.93 per cent.

Coming to the income of the agricultural labourers from difference sources, it was noted that per household per annum income received from all sources came to Rs. 11649.18 on an average basis. It was higher being Rs. 13059.48 per household on 'with land' and Rs. 10734.82 per household on 'without land' labour household. Of this total, the income received from agricultural sources ranged between 91.00 to 94.00 per cent and that from non-agricultural sources between 9 to 7 per cent. The income from agricultural sources and non-agricultural sources was found to be Rs. 12010.38 and Rs. 1049.10 for 'with land' and Rs. 10050.41 and Rs. 676.41 for 'without land'. This was mainly due to owning of land with the farmer and more employment in non-agricultural sector with the latter. As regards income earned from agricultural wages, it came to 63.72 percent of the total income. The income from agricultural wages was noted higher on 'without land' labour households (64.54 per cent) as compared to with land households where its share was 62.65 per cent of the total income. This difference was due to more employment of the 'without land' labourers from agricultural wages.

A breakup of income received from agricultural sources revealed that of the total agricultural income from agricultural wages was the highest followed by milk production on both the categories of labour households. However, 'with land' labourers received additional
income from crop production to the extent of 17.28 per cent of the total agricultural income, due to having some land with them. Regarding non-agricultural sources, the income from business and trade sources shared for the highest income to the extent of 50.89 per cent, followed by non-agricultural wages to total income. The income received from non-agricultural wages was higher on 'with land' households while it was higher from business and trade on 'without land' labourer households.

The sample agricultural labourer household of both the categories were further grouped into four categories i.e., below 10000, 10001-15000, 15001-20000 and 20001 and above. It was observed that to higher income groups agricultural labour households earned more income from agricultural and non-agricultural wages and other sources.

Unexamination of concentration of income of agricultural labour households showed that 'with land' and 'without land' labour households' income was mainly concentrated in the first two income groups. To measure the extent of inequalities in income of both categories of labour households, Gini ratio was used. The Gini concentration ratio for 'with land and without land' agricultural labour households came to 0.2666 and 0.3860 respectively.

So far as method of wage payment in concerned, the agricultural labourers were paid in cash or kind or both for different farm operations like ploughing, manuring, sowing, irrigation and weedicings, the wages were generally paid in cash while in operations
like harvesting and winnowing the wages were paid in kind. It was found interesting to note that the amount of wages paid to agricultural labourers, in kind were higher than those paid in cash. The percentage share of kind and cash wages came to 73.07 per cent and 26.93 per cent, respectively to total amount of agricultural wages.

As regards family consumption expenditure, per households per annum, it amounted to Rs. 14499.72 on 'with land' and Rs. 13049.93 on 'without land' labour households. The average expenditure for both categories was worked out to Rs. 13620.17 per house holds per annum. Amongst different items of consumption expenditure, fooding accounted for the highest share of 64.95 per cent followed by clothing 10.89 per cent, social ceremonies 8.95 per cent and health and education 5.83 per cent to total annual expenditure. The percentage share on fooding, housing and health was slightly higher on 'without land' households as compared to 'with land' households, where it was slightly higher on social ceremonies. The distribution of family consumption expenditure according to income groups showed that the percentage expenditure on fooding showed a decreasing trend with the increase in income on both categories of households. As regards clothing, health and education, and social ceremonies, the percentage share expended on the respective items showed an increasing trend with the increase in income, while percentage share on fuel and light did not show any variation with the changes in income. It agrees with Engles law that as the income of family increases the percentage of income expended on fooding decreases, on
social ceremonies and education increases, while on fuel and light it remains constant. An examination of concentration of consumption expenditure in different income groups showed that it was concentrated in the first two lower income groups in both categories of labour households.