The district of Anantapur is in the grip of the worst drought, it has ever faced and with the continuous failure of the monsoon and the drying of drinking water and irrigation wells cultivation of rain fed crops is impossible. The district is essentially agriculture oriented. Industrialisation remains neglected in the district. Due to poor yield from agriculture, practically 80 per cent of the population lives in abject poverty. World Bank too has identified the district as the poorest drought prone district and efforts are being made under different schemes for the improvement of agriculture - dry farming, afforestation and creation of additional employment. But inspite of all these efforts, unemployment and consequent poverty continue to prevail.

Agricultural labour constitutes the poorest segment of the rural population of the Anantapur district. Their economic and social conditions are deplorable. The present study has been undertaken to bring to light the standard of life and work patterns.
It is a tale of endless economic privations and pathetic social conditions. The findings have been presented in seven chapters.

In the first chapter the scope, objectives and the methodology of the study are delineated. The origin and growth of agricultural labour, comparative study of the occupational stratification of labourers in Andhra Pradesh, Anantapur and Satya Sai Taluk; pattern of land utilisation, features of land holdings and the pattern of agriculture are examined in the second chapter. The third chapter is devoted to the study of economic and social status of agricultural workers. The fourth chapter deals with the employment statistics and unemployed position of agricultural workers. The wage structure of agricultural workers is enumerated in the fifth chapter. The sixth chapter basically deals with the agricultural workers and their economic conditions in Satya Sai Taluk. Finally the conclusions and suggestions of this study are presented in the seventh chapter.
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