CHAPTER - V

WAGE RATES IN KURNOOL DISTRICT - AN ANALYSIS
WAGE RATES IN KURNOOL DISTRICT - AN ANALYSIS

This chapter deals with behavioural pattern of wage rates in Kurnool district over a period of time. To study the pattern of wage rates, an attempt is made to bring out comparison between Kurnool district and Andhra Pradesh. Two levels of aggregations are computed. They are one for Kurnool district and the other for Andhra Pradesh.

The figures depicted belong to the wage rates of skilled labour, Field labour, Herdsman and other agricultural labour. The selected categories do not exhaust the list of different categories of labour. Nevertheless, the chosen categories represent broadly the different kinds of labour. The figures for adult males and adult females are indicated separately. The earnings of child labour are also shown in certain categories.

A few general observations may be made. The tables presented, reveal district trends. Wages have been on the increase over a period of time. Again wage differences between Men and Women continue to widen.

Table 5.1 shows the estimated average wages in Kurnool district. We get an idea from the table about the structure
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Skilled labour</th>
<th>Field labour</th>
<th>Herdsman</th>
<th>Other Agricultural labour</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Carpenter</td>
<td>Black Cobbler</td>
<td>Man</td>
<td>Woman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970-71</td>
<td>4.18</td>
<td>3.92</td>
<td>3.15</td>
<td>1.90</td>
<td>1.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971-72</td>
<td>4.32</td>
<td>3.92</td>
<td>3.30</td>
<td>1.91</td>
<td>1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972-73</td>
<td>4.84</td>
<td>4.27</td>
<td>3.51</td>
<td>2.44</td>
<td>1.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973-74</td>
<td>5.40</td>
<td>4.64</td>
<td>3.82</td>
<td>2.82</td>
<td>2.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974-75</td>
<td>6.67</td>
<td>5.41</td>
<td>4.48</td>
<td>3.78</td>
<td>2.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975-76</td>
<td>6.83</td>
<td>5.54</td>
<td>4.89</td>
<td>3.18</td>
<td>2.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976-77</td>
<td>6.62</td>
<td>5.68</td>
<td>3.98</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>2.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977-78</td>
<td>6.52</td>
<td>6.07</td>
<td>3.66</td>
<td>3.47</td>
<td>2.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978-79</td>
<td>6.77</td>
<td>6.22</td>
<td>4.13</td>
<td>3.75</td>
<td>3.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979-80</td>
<td>7.10</td>
<td>6.63</td>
<td>4.36</td>
<td>4.63</td>
<td>3.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980-81</td>
<td>7.74</td>
<td>7.87</td>
<td>4.43</td>
<td>5.09</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981-82</td>
<td>7.74</td>
<td>8.66</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>5.25</td>
<td>4.30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL AVERAGE AGRICULTURAL WAGES

KURNOOL DISTRICT

(DAILY)

FROM 1970-71 TO 1981-82

SCALE 1 cm = 50 Rs

Years

Ruppes

SKILLED LABOUR
FIELD LABOUR
HERBSMAN
OTHER AGRICULTURAL LABOUR
of agricultural labour. Skilled labour represents mainly those occupations, which have direct bearing on farming operations. In these occupations men alone are employed. They represent occupations like Carpenters, Blacksmiths, and Cobblers. Women are not employed in these occupations. The Field labour is classified under three sub-heads namely, Man, Woman and Non-adult labour. Herdsman and other agricultural labour categories are also classified under 3 sub-heads namely man, woman and Non-adult labour.

The mentioned wage rates refer to a 12 year period commencing from 1970-71 and 1981-82. We get a feeling that there exists a close linkage between different classes and sub groups. An upward movement in the wages of every group is observable. Again an upward movement in the wages of one group leads to a similar movement in the wages of other groups. We may categorically conclude that, the wage structure under the period of reference did not get disturbed. It remained intact.

In Kurnool district the highest average wage is paid to the Skilled labour. Among the three sub classes shown in the table the carpenters lead over the other two groups namely Blacksmiths and Cobbler till 1979-80. In the last two years,
the Blacksmiths take the first position. However, the wage differences between Blacksmiths and Carpenters is not significant and hence is not worth bothering about. It would not be out of context to say that the Carpenters and Blacksmiths belong to the highest wage earning category in the district. The lowest wages were paid to the category of Herdsman in most of the years.

A comparison is made between Field labour and other Agricultural labour to get a relative idea. We find that the Non-adult labour gets the lowest wage not only in 1970-71 but also in 1981-82. Thus non-adult labour in the categories of Field labour, Herdsman and other agricultural labour is the lowest paid. The next lowest paid is women labour.

The wage increase in each sub group is by and large gradual. However, the Skilled labour could register a significant increase in wages compared to other categories.

Table 5.2 shows the extent of average daily wage change of Herdsman starting from 1970-71.

By and large the Herdsman wages have been on the increase. Herdsman's wages increase during the period from 1970-71 to 1981-82. However the years of exception are
### TABLE 5.2

**AVERAGE DAILY WAGES OF HERDSMAN**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Average wages in R.P.</th>
<th>Percentage change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970-71</td>
<td>1.52</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971-72</td>
<td>1.76 + 0.24</td>
<td>15.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972-73</td>
<td>2.46 + 0.70</td>
<td>39.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973-74</td>
<td>2.83 + 0.37</td>
<td>15.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974-75</td>
<td>2.78 - 0.05</td>
<td>1.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975-76</td>
<td>3.43 + 0.65</td>
<td>23.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976-77</td>
<td>2.78 - 0.65</td>
<td>18.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977-78</td>
<td>3.45 + 0.67</td>
<td>24.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978-79</td>
<td>4.06 + 0.61</td>
<td>17.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979-80</td>
<td>4.43 + 0.37</td>
<td>9.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980-81</td>
<td>4.82 + 0.39</td>
<td>8.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981-82</td>
<td>5.21 + 0.39</td>
<td>8.09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1974-75 and 1976-77. We get a feeling that the wage increases are subject to fluctuations. During the first 3 years wages increased at a very progressive rate. In the subsequent years the percentage increase is not at a uniform rate. Wages fell in 1974-75 by 1.76 per cent. Again steep fall in wage is witnessed in 1976-77 by about 18-95 per cent.

Table 5.3 shows the direction of average daily wage changes of other Agricultural Labourer in Marmool district.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Average daily wages in Rs.</th>
<th>Percentage change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970-71</td>
<td>2.02</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971-72</td>
<td>2.08</td>
<td>+ 0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972-73</td>
<td>2.60</td>
<td>+ 0.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973-74</td>
<td>2.82</td>
<td>+ 0.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974-75</td>
<td>2.88</td>
<td>+ 0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975-76</td>
<td>3.48</td>
<td>+ 0.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976-77</td>
<td>3.97</td>
<td>+ 0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977-78</td>
<td>3.70</td>
<td>+ 0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978-79</td>
<td>3.86</td>
<td>+ 0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979-80</td>
<td>4.43</td>
<td>+ 0.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980-81</td>
<td>4.53</td>
<td>+ 0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981-82</td>
<td>5.15</td>
<td>+ 0.62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To start with in 1971-72 agricultural men labourer's average daily wages rose marginally by 2.97 per cent. In the subsequent year of 1972-73 average daily wages rose by 25 per cent. This wage rise is significant. Significant wage increases occurred in 1975-76, 1979-80, and 1981-82. Otherwise, the wage increases are not only irregular but also not worth mentioning.

A relative comparison can be made between the average daily wages of Herdsmen (table 5.2) and other agricultural men labourers (table 5.3). The increase in the daily wages of Herdsmen is as fluctuating as it is in the case of other agricultural men labourers. Increase in wage rates of Herdsmen is equally irregular. A notable increase in wage rates of both Herdsmen and other agricultural men labourers requires a larger time lag. The wage increase in the two categories is not an annual phenomenon but occurs once in a way. In case of other agricultural men labourers, even these increases are not big in size. The average daily wages of Herdsmen fell in 1976-77. This calls for an adequate explanation especially when viewed in the context of the assumption that wage rates are rigid downward. This cannot be treated as a residual category.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Skilled labour</th>
<th>Field labour</th>
<th>Hardman</th>
<th>Other agricultural labourers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Carpenter</td>
<td>Blacksmith</td>
<td>Cobbler</td>
<td>Man</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>1970-71</td>
<td>4.35</td>
<td>3.82</td>
<td>3.13</td>
<td>2.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>1971-72</td>
<td>4.95</td>
<td>4.14</td>
<td>3.39</td>
<td>2.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>1972-73</td>
<td>4.84</td>
<td>4.48</td>
<td>3.70</td>
<td>2.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>1973-74</td>
<td>5.15</td>
<td>4.75</td>
<td>3.91</td>
<td>3.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>1974-75</td>
<td>5.78</td>
<td>5.39</td>
<td>4.50</td>
<td>3.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>1975-76</td>
<td>6.64</td>
<td>6.08</td>
<td>5.01</td>
<td>4.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>1976-77</td>
<td>7.08</td>
<td>6.57</td>
<td>5.12</td>
<td>4.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>1977-78</td>
<td>7.36</td>
<td>6.86</td>
<td>5.49</td>
<td>4.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>1978-79</td>
<td>7.90</td>
<td>7.37</td>
<td>5.91</td>
<td>4.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>1979-80</td>
<td>8.68</td>
<td>8.08</td>
<td>6.27</td>
<td>5.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>1980-81</td>
<td>9.43</td>
<td>8.50</td>
<td>6.70</td>
<td>5.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>1981-82</td>
<td>10.83</td>
<td>10.14</td>
<td>7.83</td>
<td>6.81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Andhra Pradesh Season and Crop reports, 1970-71 to 1981-82.
Table 5.4 shows the information on the average daily wages for the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Absence of significant differences between Andhra Pradesh and Kurnool district is observable in important respects. A relative comparison for certain categories of labour is made between Andhra Pradesh and Kurnool district in Table 5.5.

**Table 5.5**

**AVERAGE DAILY WAGES IN KURNOOL DISTRICT AND ANDHRA PRADESH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Herdsman</td>
<td>2.10</td>
<td>5.41</td>
<td>1.52</td>
<td>5.21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Agricultural Labour</td>
<td>2.52</td>
<td>6.61</td>
<td>2.02</td>
<td>5.15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field labour</td>
<td>2.62</td>
<td>6.81</td>
<td>1.90</td>
<td>5.25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skilled labour (carpenter)</td>
<td>4.35</td>
<td>10.83</td>
<td>4.18</td>
<td>7.74</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The average daily wages of all categories of labour are lower in Kurnool district compared to the state of Andhra Pradesh in 1970-71. The pattern was the same even in 1981-82. The skilled labour more than doubled its earnings in the state of Andhra Pradesh. The increase in the earnings of skilled labour in Kurnool district were less than the proportionate increase in the wages for the state of Andhra Pradesh. Similar observations may be made even in the context of other categories of labour.

Consistently, lower wage rates in the district may be due to less intensive demand for labour. Given the adequate supply of labour and its uniform distribution over the state, the lower wage rates in Kurnool district may be attributed to the relative inadequate demand for labour. This is not without reason. The percentage of irrigated area to total cultivated area is not even one-fifth. Crop failure and consequent droughts are normal occurrences. Understandably, the demand for labour for agricultural operations is seasonal and not adequate.

The comparative movements in the wage rates in the form of ratios are presented in table 5.6, 5.7, 5.8 and 5.9. The calculated ratios refer to the share of Kurnool district, compared to the average figures of Andhra Pradesh.
### TABLE - 5.6

**RATIOS OF AVERAGE DAILY WAGES OF FIELD LABOUR IN KURNool**

**DISTRICT COMPARED TO ANDHRA PRADESH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Man</th>
<th>Woman</th>
<th>Non-adult</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970-71</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>0.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971-72</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>0.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972-73</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>0.88</td>
<td>0.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973-74</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>1.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974-75</td>
<td>1.06</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>1.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975-76</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>0.89</td>
<td>1.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976-77</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>0.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977-78</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>0.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978-79</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>0.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979-80</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>0.94</td>
<td>0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980-81</td>
<td>0.87</td>
<td>0.91</td>
<td>1.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981-82</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>0.91</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Compiled from Andhra Pradesh Annual Season and Crop Reports, 1970-71 to 1981-82.
## Table 3.7

RATIOS OF AVERAGE DAILY WAGES OF HERDSMEN IN KURNOOL DISTRICT COMPARED TO ANDHRA PRADESH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Man</th>
<th>Woman</th>
<th>Non-adult</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970-71</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>0.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971-72</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>0.81</td>
<td>0.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972-73</td>
<td>1.11</td>
<td>1.08</td>
<td>1.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973-74</td>
<td>1.09</td>
<td>1.16</td>
<td>1.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974-75</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>1.54</td>
<td>1.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975-76</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>1.10</td>
<td>1.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976-77</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>0.87</td>
<td>0.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977-78</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>0.89</td>
<td>1.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978-79</td>
<td>0.89</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>1.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979-80</td>
<td>0.91</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980-81</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>0.93</td>
<td>1.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981-82</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>0.87</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Table 3.9

### Ratios of Average Daily Wages of Other Agricultural Labourers in Kurnool District Compared to Andhra Pradesh

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Man</th>
<th>Woman</th>
<th>Non-adult</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970-71</td>
<td>0.80</td>
<td>0.82</td>
<td>0.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971-72</td>
<td>0.80</td>
<td>0.80</td>
<td>0.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972-73</td>
<td>0.93</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>1.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973-74</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>1.91</td>
<td>1.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974-75</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>0.93</td>
<td>1.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975-76</td>
<td>0.91</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>1.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976-77</td>
<td>0.79</td>
<td>0.88</td>
<td>0.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977-78</td>
<td>0.79</td>
<td>0.91</td>
<td>0.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978-79</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>0.91</td>
<td>0.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979-80</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>1.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980-81</td>
<td>0.81</td>
<td>0.86</td>
<td>0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981-82</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>0.89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### RATIO OF AVERAGE DAILY WAGES OF SKILLED LABOUR IN KURNOOL DISTRICT COMPARED TO ANDHRA PRADESH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Carpenter</th>
<th>Blacksmith</th>
<th>Cobbler</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970-71</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971-72</td>
<td>0.87</td>
<td>0.94</td>
<td>0.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972-73</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>0.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973-74</td>
<td>1.04</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>0.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974-75</td>
<td>1.15</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>0.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975-76</td>
<td>1.03</td>
<td>0.91</td>
<td>0.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976-77</td>
<td>0.93</td>
<td>0.86</td>
<td>0.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977-78</td>
<td>1.12</td>
<td>0.88</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978-79</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>0.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979-80</td>
<td>0.81</td>
<td>0.82</td>
<td>0.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980-81</td>
<td>0.82</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981-82</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>0.64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The relative wage rates of men and women sub groups of field labour by and large in Kurnool district are lower than in Andhra Pradesh. Of men and women, women seem to be relatively less worse off. However, in case of non-adult workers, in the first three years (Table 5.6) we find the wage ratios being less than 1. In the subsequent three years the relevant
wage ratios are higher than 1. Again from 1976-77 to 1979-80 the ratios are less than 1. The average of ratios for non-adult workers for all the years is less than 1. It means the non-adult workers in Kurnool district are also under paid, compared to the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Again regarding Herdsman and other Agricultural Labou­rers the relative wage rates of men and women are by and large are lower than in Andhra Pradesh. In the case of non-adult workers of Herdsman category the wage ratios are higher than 1 for most of the years. In the case of Skilled labour, the wage rates of Blacksmiths and Cobbler are lower in Kurnool district compared to Andhra Pradesh for all the years except in 1970-71. The carpenter gets higher wage rates in four years and lower wage rates in 8 years during the period under reference. The average of ratios for carpenter is less than 1. It means Carpenter’s wages throughout the period under reference are less in Kurnool district. However the wage differentials for the whole period are less for carpenters than Blacksmiths and Cobblers.