PREFACE

Agricultural workers account for over three-fifths of the total work-force of the country. They constitute the poorest segment of the rural population (Anantapur District). Even after four decades of Indian Independence their conditions have shown little improvement. They continue to receive wages far below the subsistence level. The anti-poverty schemes have shown a very little impact on their lives. Wage discrimination is rampant. Exploitation is widely prevalent. Because of these reasons a modest attempt has been made to probe into the wage differentials of Casual Agricultural Labour.

The present dissertation is organised into nine chapters. Chapter I is devoted to an introduction, a stress on the need for studying the problem, mentioning the objectives; the study proceeds on the basis of hypothesis, a discussion of methodology and tools and techniques used in the analysis. Chapter II reviews the already existing literature in the area of the study. Chapter III defines some of the important concepts like 'Agricultural Labour', 'Wages' and 'Wage differentials'. In chapter IV a brief idea about the number of agricultural labourers in India and in the State is given. The available historical data relating to agricultural wages are mentioned in Chapter V. Chapter VI gives a profile of the district, mandal and the sample villages. It forms backdrop for understanding the data.
Chapter VIZ discusses the wage differentials between different operations; Crop-wise and Sex-wise wage differentials are explained in Chapter VIII. Chapter IX consists of conclusions and suggestions.

The present work being what it is, has been due to the co-operation and co-ordination of several scholars and officials to whom I am gratefully indebted.

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J. MADDULETI.