This work is primarily devoted to the study of wages and employment of Unskilled Workers with a view to assess their existing conditions, although, inter alia, it is also a systematic study of the main economic problems of the unskilled population. The investigation covers four premier industries of the state, two perennial and two seasonal. Textile and Transport (human carriage of loads) are the perennial ones, while Sugar and Building and Construction the seasonal ones.

Data was collected in 1952 by personal, on the spot, investigations in the sampled units. Data regarding, migration and its causes, castes and communities, age, marital conditions, employment and working conditions, wages, unemployment, housing accommodation and family budgets has all been collected through personal interviews with the workers. For this purpose a sample of 1000 families was taken of which 400 were engaged in Textiles, 200 in Sugar, 200 in Transport and 200 in Building and Construction Industries.

With a view to bringing out regional differences in labour conditions and making the data more representative, the entire State has been stratified into three regions - Eastern, Central and Western. In the Eastern U.P. have been selected Khadda, Ghughli and Pipraich centres for Sugar Industry, Churk and Robertaganj for Building and Construction industries and Gorakhpur centre for Transport industry. Central U.P. includes, Kanpur and Lucknow centres for Textiles, Transport and Building and Construction industries and Rama for
Sugar. In Western U.P., Modinagar was selected for Sugar and Textile industries, Meerut for Building and Construction and Dhampur for Sugar Industry.

The sampling of towns followed in the investigation has been subjective as the representative character of the towns could not otherwise be maintained. For example it was almost essential to select Kanpur, Lucknow and Gorakhpur for their obvious outstanding importance as labour employing or labour supplying centres. In the Western region selection of Modinagar was made to have a comparison of Textile and Sugar industries in that region. In the Sugar industry, addition of Dhampur in the Western region was made to represent the trans-Ganges. Selection of centres for Sugar Industry in the Central and Eastern regions was made to correspond to their respective importance. So far as the selection of labour families is concerned, no fixed frame being available, random selection was not technically possible. The number of the families to be selected under various industries was decided on considerations of respective importance. Selection of actual families was more or less fortuitous but every effort was made to make the selection representative by spreading out the selection over all possible localities, Ahatas and labour colonies in a particular town.

Well-being of workers occupied in any industry depends upon the scientific progress made therein. In order to achieve this end a thorough and scientific analysis of the different aspects of the industries is essential. This study is an attempt to present such an analysis from the labour side of the industries.
It may be stated, perhaps without much fear of dispute, that very little research work or literature exists on the subject in our country, except for some ad hoc enquiries. Hence this piece of research and its method of approach are more or less wholly original. Technologically, the modern standards of Economic Judgement have generally been followed, but the work, o-n the whole, is based entirely on primary data collected by the author and on the personal compilation, computation and collation of the bulk of data. Although every effort has been made to work out the whole thing on scientific lines, yet it is for the judgement of the readers to see if some shortcomings have crept in.

The nature of treatment of the subject is largely analytical and objective. It analyses the main problems of labour; deduces positive facts and figures with a view to economic development. Chapter I discusses the fundamental weaknesses of the economy of the State and the main factors responsible for the growth of unskilled labour, while in Chapter XI we have indicated the desired changes for a balanced economic development in the different sectors. The rest of the Chapters analyse the data on various aspects of the problem and indicate the remedial measures that suggest themselves.

On considerations of the nature of data, the whole dissertation can be divided in two parts: Chapters from II to IX are based mainly on primary data collected by the author. Sources of secondary data, if utilised, have been indicated. The second part consists of Chapters I, X and XI, and is based generally on secondary data.
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