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# TRENDS IN LABOUR FORCE IN RAYALASEEMA REGION OF ANDHRA PRADESH

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## Abstract

*The Labour Force is positively related to economic growth. It comprises all persons of working age who furnish the supply of labour for the production of goods and services during a specified time-reference period. It refers to the sum of all persons of working age who are employed and those who are unemployed. The paper is aimed at studying the trends in labour force in Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh. It is based on the descriptive type of research and data collected from census of India for three census periods (i.e. 1991, 2001 and 2011). The findings reveal that the increase in the labour force was very marginal, main workers had declined, marginal workers were more than doubled and the percent cultivators had been significantly declined during 1991-2011. However, percent of agricultural labour was same in 1991 and 2001, while it is significantly increased in 2011 census in the region.*

**Keywords:** Population; Labour Force; Main and marginal workers; Cultivators and Agriculture Labour

## Introduction

The working population and work participation rate highlights the occupational distribution of a region. The information is essential for calculating state domestic product at factor cost, popularly known as "State Income" for important tertiary sectors by adopting statistical methods of interpolation/extrapolation. The work force distribution also presents data regarding number of main and marginal workers. 'Work' was defined as participation in any economically productive activity. Such participation was physical or mental in nature. The work involved not only actual work, but also effective supervision and direction of work. According to this definition, the

entire population has been classified into three main categories, i.e., Main workers, Marginal workers and Non-workers (Census of India, 2011). The labour force participation rates are calculated as the labour force divided by the total working-age population (aged 15 to 64 years).

The major objective of economic reforms is accelerating growth and expanding the employment opportunities. India in its vision programme the government has stressed more on employment generation at least two per cent per annum to be compatible with the nine per cent growth in the economy. Further, it emphasized in promoting labour intensive and high employment elasticity sectors to achieve the quantitative employment growth target

(Government of India, 2011). Again, one of the objectives of the 12th Five-Year Plans is 'more inclusive growth' (Planning Commission, 2011), which is possible through the growth of productive employment. Despite of having a grand plan design and vision, the overall employment growth rate is decelerating during the post reform period, in particular, during the last decade. Realising the vision and plan objective seems to be doubtful in the context of decelerating employment growth in the recent past.

## Study Area

Rayalaseema is a geographic region in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. It comprises four southern districts of the state, namely, Anantapur, Chittoor, Kadapa and Kurnool. As of the 2011 census of India, the region with four districts had a population of 15,184,908 and covers an area of 67,526 km (26,072 sq. mi). Rayalaseema region is located in the southern region of the state of Andhra Pradesh. The region borders the state of Tamil Nadu to the south, Karnataka to the west and Telangana to the north. Rayalaseema as the most deprived regions of Andhra Pradesh. Its per capita income, however, is lower than the all-India average. "The monthly per capita consumption expenditure is far too low in Rayalaseema and most of the population depend on agriculture for live hood

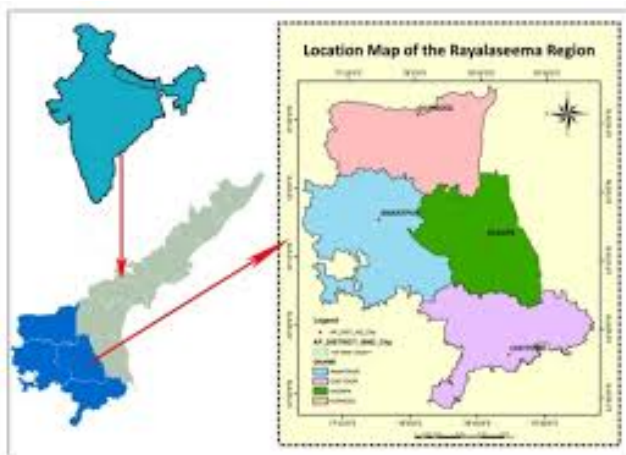


Fig. 1. 1 Study area map

## Review of Literature

Sandip Sarkar (2008) examined trends and patterns of labour supply and unemployment in India. Parthasarathy, G and Jayshree Anand (1995) studied employment and unemployment in Andhra Pradesh: trends and dimensions. Regional disparities in Andhra Pradesh, India were studied by A Amarender Reddy (2013). Growth and Structure of

Workforce in India: An Analysis of Census 2011 Data studied by Venkatanarayana.M and Suresh Naik.V (2013). Amtul Waris, et al (2016) examined the gender gap and female workforce participation in agriculture in Andhra Pradesh, India and Gaurang Rami (2018) was studied trends and factors affecting to female labour force participation rate in India.

## Research gap

Earlier research studies on trends and other issues related to labour force were mainly focussed on national and state level and not at regional, which is vital for micro planning at a regional for policy matters.

## Objective

The main objective of the paper is to study the trends in labour force in Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh during 1991-2011.

## Method and material

The present paper is centred on the descriptive type of research and based on secondary data collected from census of India for three periods (i.e. 1991, 2001 and 2011).

## Total Workers

The working population comprises four categories: cultivators (C.L.), agricultural labourers (A.L.), household industry workers (H.H.) and other workers (O.W.). The Work Participation Rate (WPR), which is defined as the percentage of total workers to the total population. In India, only 35.7 percent of the total population was economically active in 1981 which has increased to 39.8 percent in 2011.

Table 1 reveals that nearly half of the population (45.8 percent) in rayalaseema region was participating in the labour force. The rate of increase in labour force was very marginal during 1991-2011. This marginal rise in the overall work participation rate is, in fact, entirely due to increase in marginal workers' work participation rate. Among the districts of the region, lower work force participation rate recorded in Chittoor and Kadapa districts than the regional average. The growth in total workers can be attributed to raise in literacy level, thereby, increase in the more number of persons in the labour force.

Growth of labour was marginal because, labour force or workforce cannot grow more than the rate at which population grow. Also the rate of growth in labour force depends on the change in the participation rate. On the other hand, in the context of increasing demand for education, a considerable proportion of the younger age population is either withdrawing from labourforce or postpone their entry into laborious in order to attend an educational institution

**Table 1. District wise distribution of total workers in Rayalaseema region-1991- 2011**

Sl. No.	Name of the district	1991 Census			2001 Census			2011 Census		
		Total Population	Total workers	Per-cent	Total Population	Total workers	Per-cent	Total Population	Total workers	Per-cent
1.	Anantapur	3183814	1470956	46.2	3639304	1780642	48.9	4081148	2036166	49.9
2.	Chittoor	3261118	1497814	45.9	3737437	1752085	46.9	4174064	1933357	46.3
3.	Kadapa	2267769	996640	43.9	2592048	163696	44.9	2882469	1320404	45.8
4.	Kurnool	2973024	1382837	46.5	3524073	1742677	49.5	4053463	2029425	50.1
	Rayalaseema region	11685725	5348247	45.8	13517644	6439094	47.6	15191144	7319352	48.2

Source: Census of India-2011, Registrar General and Census commissioner, Ministry of Home affairs, Govt. of India, New Delhi

and pursuing higher studies. Research studies based on National Sample Survey Organisation data, have already expounded on this fact (Chaudhary, 2011; Kannan and Ravidran, 2012). Such an increase in demand for education increases the human capital base of the country and hence it is considered as a welcome feature (Planning Commission, 2011).

### Main workers

Main workers were those who had worked for the major part of the year preceding the date of enumeration i.e., those who were engaged in any economically productive activity for 183 days (or six months) or more during the year. In India, the main workers had been declined 32.5 percent in 1981 to 29.9 in 2011 census.

Table 2 shows that in the region, main workers had declined from 43.1 percent in 1991 to 39.7 percent in 2001 and recorded as 40.7 percent in 2011. Among the districts, percent of main workers were below in Chittoor and Kadapa districts than the regional average during 1991-2001. Moreover, main works in Anantapur district had almost to that of regional average, while highest main workers were recorded in Kurnool district. The main workers had declined significantly in 2011 as compared to 1991 census.

### Marginal workers

Those who worked any time at all in the year preceding the enumeration, but did not work for a major part of the year, i.e., those who worked for less than 183 days (or six months) in a year) were termed as marginal workers. It had been increased in India from 3.2 percent in 1981 to 9.9 in 2011.

Table 3 reveals that, contrary to main workers, the marginal workers were more than doubled in the region during 1991-2001. Among the districts, the marginal workers were lower than the regional average in only Kurnool district in 1991 as compared Chittoor and Kurnool in 2001 and 2011 census. The Marginal works were continually increased in

Anantapur district in three decades (1991-2011). The increase in literacy with skills may causes part-time employment for individuals especially females.

Around 7.5 million farmers of main worker category during 1991-2001 and another 7.4 million during 2001-11, together 14.9 million farmers of main worker category are moved away from farming during the two decades (1991-2011). When there was a decline in main workers involved in self-cultivation during 1991-2001, around 10.4 million workers newly entered into farming as marginal workers during the same period. Therefore, there was a net addition of 2.9 million workers into farming activity during 1991-2001 thereby increase in marginal workers.

### Cultivator

A person was considered working as a cultivator if he or she was engaged either as an employer, single worker or family worker in the cultivation of land owned or held from Government or from private persons or institution for payment in money, or in kind or on the basis of sharing of crops. Cultivation also included supervision or direction of cultivation. In India, the number of cultivators was marginally increased from 102.8 million in 1981 to 118.7 million in 2011 census.

Table 4 reveals that the percent cultivators to total population had been significantly declining in the region during 1991-2011. It was only 13.9 percent in 1991 and come down to 9.0 percent. Among the region of the districts, percent cultivators to total population were lower in Kadapa and Kadapa districts than the regional average. Cultivators are decreasing and such decline in agriculture is replaced by an increase in agricultural labourers. The main worker category (7.4 million) farmers of marginal worker category (1.5 million) also moved away from farming activity. Thus, there is a total decline of 8.9 million farmers during 2001-11 (Venkatanarayana.M and Suresh Naik.V (2013, p.10). There has been a definite marginalization of agrarian interest in the national policy and reforms are certainly needed.

**Table 2. District wise distribution of main workers in Rayalaseema region-1991-2011**

Sl. No.	Name of the district	1991 Census			2001 Census			2011 Census		
		Total Population	Main workers	Per-cent	Total Population	Main workers	Per-cent	Total Population	Main workers	Per-cent
1.	Ananta-pur	3183814	1381548	43.4	3639304	1474678	40.5	4081148	1679655	41.2
2.	Chit-toor	3261118	1401633	43.0	3737437	1460780	39.1	4174064	1669852	40.1
3.	Kadapa	2267769	915974	40.4	2592048	929987	35.9	2882469	1079903	37.5
4.	Kurnool	2973024	1340980	45.1	3524073	1499359	42.5	4053463	1757520	43.4
<b>Rayalaseema region</b>		<b>11685725</b>	<b>5040135</b>	<b>43.1</b>	<b>13517644</b>	<b>5364804</b>	<b>39.7</b>	<b>15191144</b>	<b>6186930</b>	<b>40.7</b>

Source: Census of India-2011, Registrar General and Census commissioner, Ministry of Home affairs, Govt. of India, New Delhi

**Table 3. District wise distribution of marginal workers in Rayalaseema region-1991-2011**

Sl. No.	Name of the district	1991 Census			2001 Census			2011 Census		
		Total Population	Marginal workers	Per-cent	Total Population	Marginal workers	Per-cent	Total Population	Marginal workers	Per-cent
1.	Anan-tapur	3183814	89408	2.8	3639304	305964	8.4	4081148	356511	8.7
2.	Chit-toor	3261118	96181	3.0	3737437	291305	7.8	4174064	263505	6.3
3.	Kadapa	2267769	80666	3.6	2592048	233703	9.0	2882469	240501	8.3
4.	Kurnool	2973024	41857	1.4	3524073	243318	6.9	4053463	271905	6.7
<b>Rayalaseema region</b>		<b>11685725</b>	<b>308112</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>13517644</b>	<b>1074290</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>15191144</b>	<b>1132422</b>	<b>7.5</b>

Source: Census of India-2011, Registrar General and Census commissioner, Ministry of Home affairs, Govt. of India, New Delhi.

**Table 4. District wise distribution of cultivators in Rayalaseema region 1991, 2001 and 2011**

Sl. No.	Name of the district	1991 Census			2001 Census			2011 Census		
		Total Population	Cultiva-tors	Per-cent	Total Population	Cultiva-tors	Per-cent	Total Population	Cultiva-tors	Per-cent
1.	Ananta-pur	3183814	490385	15.4	3640478	488056	13.4	4081148	402404	9.9
2.	Chittoor	3261118	528514	16.2	3745875	488090	13.0	4174064	425263	10.2
3.	Kadapa	2267769	272545	12.0	2601797	252029	9.7	2882469	243607	8.5
4.	Kurnool	2973024	331821	11.2	3529494	364030	10.3	4053463	301372	7.4
<b>Rayalaseema region</b>		<b>11685725</b>	<b>1623265</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>13517644</b>	<b>1592205</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>15191144</b>	<b>1372646</b>	<b>9.0</b>

Source: Census of India-2011, Registrar General and Census commissioner, Ministry of Home affairs, Govt. of India, New Delhi.

## Agriculture labour

A cultivator was distinguished from a "cultivating labourer" as a person who took the "responsible decisions which constitute the direction of the processes of cultivation", while a person who worked on another person's land for wages in money, kind or share of the crop was regarded as an 'agricultural labourer'. In India, the number of agriculture labour drastically increased from 64.4 million in 1981 to 144.3 million in 2011 census.

Table 5 reveals that the percent of agriculture labour to total population was same in 1991 and 2001, while it significantly increased in 2011 census. In 1991 census, agricultural labours were above the regional average all the districts. In 2001, Anantapur, Chittoor and Kadapa districts had recorded a lower rate than regional average, while in 2011, Chittoor and Kadapa districts had lower agricultural labours than the regional average. In all the districts of the region, agricultural labours were increased significantly in 2011 than the 1991 census.



**Table 5. District wise distribution of agriculture labour in Rayalaseema region 1991-2011**

Sl. No.	Name of the district	1991 Census			2001 Census			2011 Census		
		Total Population	Agriculture labour	Per-cent	Total Population	Agriculture labour	Per-cent	Total Population	Agriculture labour	Per-cent
1.	Anantapur	3183814	533512	16.8	3640478	462292	12.7	4081148	844061	20.7
2.	Chittoor	3261118	490360	15.0	3745875	447425	11.9	4174064	720381	17.3
3.	Kadapa	2267769	368470	16.2	2601797	299239	11.5	2882469	542455	18.8
4.	Kurnool	2973024	664349	22.3	3529494	625487	17.7	4053463	981683	24.2
<b>Rayalaseema region</b>		<b>11685725</b>	<b>1576691</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>13517644</b>	<b>1834443</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>15191144</b>	<b>3088580</b>	<b>20.3</b>

Source: Census of India-2011, Registrar General and Census commissioner, Ministry of Home affairs, Govt. of India, New Delhi.

The decade of 2001-11 has seen a decline in the number of cultivators and high increase in the number of agricultural labourers. Most of those farmers who are moving away from farming are becoming agricultural labourers. On the other hand, although a part of the net addition to the total workforce is absorbed in agriculture, but the whole of that laborious absorbed in agriculture is in turn entirely absorbed in the agricultural labourer's category. This is disturbing the development for India. For the first time since independence, agricultural labourers have outnumbered cultivators. There are many reasons for this development, such as decreasing average size of operational holdings, farming becoming infeasible, increasing agricultural wages, rampant selling of agricultural land and shift of employment from the agricultural to non-agricultural sector. The decade of 2001-11 also witnessed three drought years may another reason.

## Conclusion

The rate of increase in labour force was very marginal during 1991-2011. The main workers had declined significantly in 2011 as compared to 1991 census. The marginal workers were more than doubled in the region during 1991-2001. The percent cultivators to total population had significantly declined in the region during 1991-2011 and the percent of agriculture labour to total population was same in 1991 and 2001, while it significantly increased in 2011 census. Occupational distribution of workforce shows that labour absorption in self-cultivation is saturated and declining. But the increase in the size of agricultural labourers is more than the size decline in cultivators indicating farmers, those who are leaving farming activity and those who enter newly in

to agriculture are becoming agricultural labourers. Reforms are certainly needed in the national policy to develop the agriculture sector for empowering the farmers apart from encouraging initiatives for non-agriculture sector.

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