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ORIGINAL ARTICLE





MICRO LEVEL ANALYSIS OF WORK PARTICIPATION RATE IN SANGLI DISTRICT

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Abstract:

The study of economic composition of population remains incomplete without its reference to the occupational composition of a population. The occupation referred to trade or profession or type of work one is engaged for survival. Participation in any economically productive activity is called as work. A person doing any type of economically productive activity is a worker. The term labour force is equivalent to economically active population, according to the terminology recommended by the United Nations.. Similarly, the term working population is also equivalent to economically active population. A distinction is also made between main workers and marginal workers. Census of India divides the population into two categories of workers and non-workers. The size of working force depends upon a variety of demographic, social and economic factors. The composition of occupational structure in an area varies by sex, residence and age. Both, child and female participation in economic activities in rural areas are relatively high in comparison to that in the urban areas. However, the bulk of working force in most of the countries is supplied by the age group of 15 to 59/64. In the present paper an attempt has made to analyse the Work Participation Rate of not only the total persons but also of males and females of all the 721 villages in Sangli District. Spatio-temporal changes in WPR are studied by using the Census data of 1991 and 2001.

KEYWORDS:

 $Labour \ force, Economically \ Active\ /\ Inactive\ population, \ Main\ /\ Marginal\ workers, Occupational\ structure,$

INTRODUCTION

Among various elements of population composition, economic composition holds a prime place for population geographers. The study of economic composition of population remains incomplete without its reference to the occupational composition of a population. The occupation referred to trade or profession or type of work one is engaged for survival (Chandna and Sidhu)1. However, each kind of occupation means doing a certain type of work. We must understand the term 'work' correctly because this word is used in a special sense in the census. Participation in any economically productive activity is called as 'work'. A person doing any type of economically productive activity is a 'worker'. The size of working population, its distribution into various occupations, sex-wise participation in different economic activities etc. are studied in the 'structure of occupation'. The occupational structure of a society is the product of number of intimately related factors. A distinction has often also been made between total population and manpower. Manpower of a nation consists of those persons who are fit enough to produce goods and services and who have the personality to participate in the economically gainful activities (Chandna)2.

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Different countries classify manpower further into two sub-categories of economically active population and economically non-active population. Several similar terms are used in the study of the economic activity. It is necessary to classify them in greater detail in order to avoid confusion,

The term 'labour force' is equivalent to 'economically active population', according to the terminology recommended by the United Nations3. Similarly, the term 'working population' is also equivalent to 'economically active population' (United Nations)4. The Multilingual Demographic Dictionary5 defined working population as, "Generally speaking, the working population consists of those individuals who take part in the production of economic goods and services, including unpaid family workers in an economic enterprise as well as persons who work for pay and profit". According to the Census of India6, "Work (economic activity) may be defined as participation in any economically productive activity with or without compensation, wages or profit". Such participation may be physical and/or mental in nature. Work involves not only actual work but also includes effective supervision and direction of work. It even includes part-time help or unpaid work on farms, family enterprise or in any other economic activity. Reference period for workers and non-workers is one year preceding the date of enumeration.

It is evident from the above discussions that the term 'labor force', 'economically active population' and 'working population' are all used synonymously in demographic literature.

The definition of a worker in India has been changing from census to census. At the time 1981 census, a distinction was made between main workers and marginal workers. The main workers are those who worked in some economic activity over a period of six months or more in both the agricultural seasons. The marginal workers, on the other hand, were those who have worked any time at all in the year preceding the enumeration but have not worked for the major part of the year. Thus, the 1981 Census of India first attempted to divide the population into two categories of workers and non-workers. The working population is also classified with reference to employment status. Employers are distinguished from employees on the one hand and from workers on own account or independent workers on the other hand.

THE STUDYAREA

The study area is a district, i.e. "Sangli District" in Maharashtra state of India. Its selection identifies and recognizes District as basis of the administrative system in India. A district is defined as territory marked off for a special administrative purpose (Oxford)7 and District Administration defined by Khera (1972)8, is the management of public affairs within a territory marked off such purpose. It is the most important of all the units in area administration.

The district of Sangli like Satara and Kolhapur is a Southern district of Maharashtra state. It lies between $16^{\circ}40'$ and $17^{\circ}33'$ North Latitude and $73^{\circ}42'$ and 75040' East longitude (Rammurthy)9 , and has an area of 8572 sq. km. and Population of 25, 83,524 spread over in 9 tahsils,721 inhabited villages , 3 uninhabited villages and 8 urban centers (Census, 2001)10. Of the 35 districts in Maharashtra state, Sangli district occupies 21st rank in area and 15th rank in population. Hence, it is smaller in area and medium sized in population.

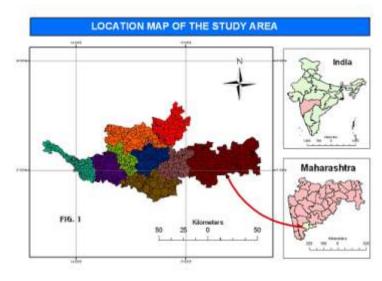


Fig. 1

OBJECTIVES:

- 1. To analyse the Work Participation Rates of all the 721 villages in Sangli district.
- 2. To study the Spatio-temporal changes of WPR of these villages.
- 3. To find the causes and effects of these changes.

DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY:

The present paper is entirely based on secondary data. The secondary data on WPR have been gathered from Directorate of Census Operations, Maharashtra, Mumbai (1991 & 2001). 'The work participation rate (WPR) is defined as percentage of total workers (main and marginal) to total population' (2001 Census).

The formula adopted for the same is as follows;-

Work Participation Rate (WPR) =
$$\frac{\text{Total Workers (Main + Marginal)}}{\text{X 100}}$$

The present work is entirely descriptive and analytical. All the villages are depicted on maps by using Choropleth Method.

Total Population

GENERAL TREND IN WORK PARTICIPATION RATE (WPR) [1991-2001]

As has been pointed out earlier, despite the fact that the data on economic activity have been collected in each census right from 1881, the concept regarding economic data have differed from census to census. The labour force participation rates for different years are, therefore, not strictly comparable, and no firm statement can be made about the time trend in the labour force participation rates in India. Some of the difficulties in studying and interpreting these rates over a period of time stem mainly from the different definitions and concepts used during different census operations.

In 2001, the work participation rate (WPR) for Maharashtra (43.46) is higher than that for India (39.28) by 4.2 per cent. The WPR in Maharashtra in1991 was 42.96. Male WPR in Maharashtra (53.59) for 2001 is higher than the national male WPR (51.59) by 1.56 per cent. WPR for female in Maharashtra (32.59) for 2001 is higher than the national female WPR (25.68) by 6.9 per cent.

Table 1
Maharashtra State and Sangli District: Work Participation Rates (1991-2001)

Area	T/R/U	1991			2001		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
Maharashtra	Total	42.96	52.16	33.11	43.46	53.49	32.59
State	Rural	49.66	53.17	46.04	50.43	54.18	46.52
	Urban	32.32	50.63	11.44	34.00	52.60	12.72
Sangli District	Total	44.12	53.17	34.67	48.24	56.25	39.88
	Rural	47.43	54.10	40.52	52.86	57.82	47.70
	Urban	32.88	50.06	14.44	34.03	51.46	15.55

 $Source: Census \ of \ India, \ 1991 \ and \ 2001, \ Maharashtra \ Series.$

In 1991 the total labour force in the study area was 814,726 (44.12%.) and 1,218,655 (47.2%) in 2001. Thus there is an increase of 403,929 (3.8%) persons in the labour force in a decade. 591,536 (53.17%) males and 223,190 (34.67%) females were engaged in work during 1991. It is increased up to 56.25% (740,429) in males and 39.88% (478,226) in females in 2001. As far as Maharashtra is concerned these figures are 42.96%, 52.16% and 33.11% respectively in 1991 and 43.46%, 53.49% and 32.59% respectively in 2001. Thus it is evident from the figuers that the work participation rate of Sangli district is higher than the state average in all categories. Sangli district holds 4th rank among 35 districts in Maharashtra as for as WPR in concerned. It revealed high dependency ratio in the state over the study region. At times those who are willing to participate in economic activities may not get the work. Under

these circumstances either underemployment or unemployment may occur resulting into relatively low proportion of working force. The activity rate of study area is higher in rural areas (52.86%) as compared to the urban areas (34.03%) in 2001. There is a striking difference (32.15%) in the activity rates of females in the urban (15.55%) and rural (47.70%) areas.

WORK PARTICIPATION RATE IN VILLAGES (1991-2001)

Generally rural areas offer more opportunities for men and women to work in primary activities like agriculture, animal husbandry, mining, etc. and hence the work participation rate in the rural areas is relatively larger in comparison to the urban population. Sangli district too conforms to this general tendency. In Sangli district the total labour force in rural areas are 47.43% in 1991 and 51.40% in 2001 as against 32.88% and 34.% in urban areas respectively. Such rural-urban disparity is mainly due to:

- i) The activities like agriculture and household industries in the rural areas allow a generous participation by family members as an associate worker. In the urban areas the dominating non-agricultural activities do not permit such participation at family level;
- ii) The proportion of persons going to school and higher educational institutions in the rural areas is strikingly low in comparison to that in the urban centres. The employing youth people in urban areas enter late into the working force in comparison to the rural areas;
- iii) Child participation in economic activities in rural areas is relatively high as compared to the urban areas; and

In view of the labour intensive nature of agricultural economy a large number of women are required to participate in work specially during the peak seasons of agricultural operations, like sowing and harvesting which are to be carried out in a short span of time covering large areas in each village. Another reason behind is that, females besides attending their household duties also perform one or more economic activities to support the family income. Such activities are not performed in urban areas.

For convenient understanding of patterns, villages have been grouped under five different WPR categories (Table 2 & 3 and Fig. 2 & 3).

Table 2
Sangli District: Villagewise Work Participation Rate (1991)

Sr.	Tahsil	Number and Percentage of Villages						
No.		Very Low <	Low	Mod.	High	V. High	Total	
		40	41-50	51-60	61-70	> 71		
1.	Shirala	23	32	40	6	2	103	
		22.33	31.07	38.83	5.83	1.94	100%	
2.	Walwa	9	42	37	6	-	94	
		9.57	44.68	39.37	6.38	-	100%	
3.	Miraj	19	31	11	3	-	64	
		29.69	48.44	17.19	4.68	-	100%	
4.	Tasgaon	12	22	40	20	10	104	
		11.54	21.15	38.46	19.23	9.62	100%	
5.	Khanapur	7	13	35	44	21	120	
		5.83	10.83	29.17	36.67	17.50	100%	
6.	Kawathe	7	18	25	8	2	60	
	Mahankal	11.67	30.00	41.67	13.33	3.33	100%	
7.	Jat	10	35	57	14	2	118	
		8.47	29.67	48.31	11.86	1.69	100%	
8.	Atpadi	11	22	19	5	3	60	
	_	18.33	36.67	31.67	8.33	5.00	100%	
Dist	rict Average	98	215	264	106	40	723	
		13.55	29.74	36.51	14.67	5.33	100%	

Source: Computed by author with the help of 1991 Census of Sangli District.

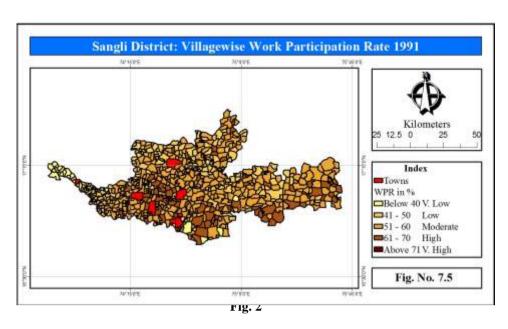


Table 3
Sangli District: Villagewise Work Participation Rate (2001)

Sr.	Tahsil	Number and Percentage of Villages						
No.		Very Low <	Low	Mod.	High	V. High	Total	
		40	41-50	51-60	61-70	> 71		
1.	Shirala	14	23	45	8	4	94	
		14.89	24.47	47.86	8.52	4.26	100%	
2.	Walwa	6	38	42	10	-	96	
		6.25	39.58	43.76	10.51	-	100%	
3.	Palus	7	7	16	14	8	52	
		13.46	13.46	30.77	26.93	15.38	100%	
4.	Miraj	15	28	16	4	-	63	
		23.80	44.44	25.40	6.36	-	100%	
5.	Tasgaon	1	7	35	16	5	64	
		1.57	10.94	54.69	25.00	7.80	100%	
6.	Khanapur	1	5	30	46	25	107	
		0.93	4.67	28.04	42.99	23.37	100%	
7.	Kawathe	3	14	30	10	3	60	
	Mahankal	5.00	23.33	50.00	16.67	5.00	100%	
8.	Jat	7	32	63	19	4	125	
		5.60	25.60	50.40	15.20	3.20	100%	
9.	Atpadi	4	20	24	7	5	60	
		6.67	33.33	40.00	11.67	8.33	100%	
District Average		58	174	301	134	54	721	
		8.04	24.13	41.75	18.59	7.49	100%	

Source: Computed by author with the help of 2001 Census of Sangli District.

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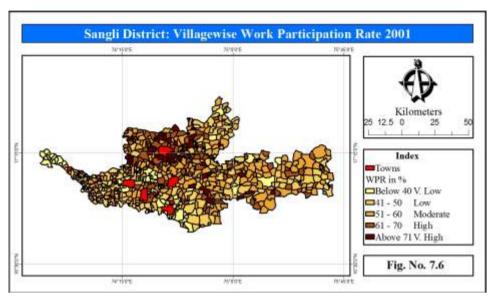


Fig. 3

I) Villages with Very Low WPR (<40%)

In Sangli district as many as 98 (13.55%) villages were having very low WPR in 1991. This number is reduced to only 58 (8.04%) in 2001. This is so because the population of working age group has been increased in 2001 and hence many villages have been promoted to upper class of WPR. The highest percentage of villages in this category are confined to Miraj tahsil (29.69% & 23.80%), followed by Shirala (22.33% &14.89%) in both the decades, as against Khanapur tahsil (5.83%) at the lowest, followed by Jat (8.47%) in 1991 and Khanapur (0.93%) tahsil at the lowest, followed by Tasgaon tahsil (1.57%) in 2001. Remaining tahsils are having very few number of villages of very low WPR. The higher percentage of villages having very low WPR in Miraj tahsil is due to the overall socio-development of rural areas. The case of Shirala tahsil is associated with the construction of Chandoli dam.

$Tabsilwise\ list\ of\ the\ villages\ of\ very\ low\ WPR\ is\ as\ follows:$

- i) Shirala:- Yesalewadi, Nathawade, Ranjanwadi, Meni, Morewadi, Kokrud, Malewadi, Bilashi, Belewadi, Girajyade, Shirala, Chikhalwadi, Chikhali and Phakirwadi. (14 villages).
- ii) Walwa:- Banewadi, Waghwadi, Kameri, Dhagewadi, Kakachiwadi and Peth. (6 villages).
- iii) Palus :- Kundal, Sandagewadi, Palus, Sawantpur, Pundiwadi, Nagrale and Burli. (7 villages).
- iv) Miraj :- Mouje Digraj, Kasabe Digraj, Ankali, Inam Dhamni, Padmale, Bamnoli, Kakadwadi, Karoli, Savali, Siddhewadi, Malewadi, Takali, Nilaji, Vaddi and Mhaisal(S). (15 villages).
- v) Tasgaon:-Waghapur(1).
- vi) Khanapur:-Banurgad(1).
- vii) Kawathe Mahankal :- Basappawadi, Kawathe Mahankal and Kokale (3 villages).
- viii) Atpadi:- Dighanchi, Deshmukhwadi, Banpuri, Dhavadwadi (4).
- ix) Jat:-Walekhindi, Yelavi, Lamantanda, Lamantanda (N.V.), Lavanga, Jat and Salmalgewadi. (7).

II) Villages with Low WPR (41% to 50%)

About one-third (215) villages in 1991 and about one-fourth (174) villages in 2001 are having low WPRs. The reason for declining the number of villages is same as stated above. In 1991, about half of the villages (highest) from Miraj tahsil and about tow-fifth villages from Walwa tahsil are endowed with this category, as against only one-tenth villages (lowest) from Khanapur tahsil. In 2001, Miraj and Walwa, both the tahsils maintained their higher position but their percentages are reduced, as against Khanapur is at its lowest position.

III) Villages with Moderates WPR (51% to 60%)

Maximum number of villages (264 in 1991 and 301 in 2001) in the study area recorded moderate WPR. The increase in the number of villages in 2001 is due to the up-gradation of villages of previous categories. In 1991, highest number (48.31%) of villages are recorded in Jat tahsil as against lowest (17.19%) in Miraj tahsil. All the remaining tashils recorded more than one-third villages with moderate WPR. In 2001, Tasgaon ranks first (54.69%) while Miraj ranks last (25.40%). More than 50% villagers from Jat and Kawathe Mahankal tahsils, more than 40% villages from Shirala, Walwa and Atpadi tahsils and about 30% villages from Palus and Khanapur tahsils show moderate WPR.

IV) Villages with High WPR (61 to 70 %)

The number of villages pertaining to this category are increased from 106 in 1991 to 134 in 2001 in the study area, due to increase in the working population. As far as high WPR is concerned the number of villages from Khanapur tahsil (44 in 1991 and 46 in 2001) are highest as against with only 3 (1991) and 4 (2001) villages from Miraj tahsil at the lowest.

V) Villages with Very High WPR (>71%)

Only 40 villages (5.33%) in 1991 and 54 villages (7.49%) in 2001 are having very high WPR. Not a single village from Miraj and Walwa tahsils was reported as very high WPR. The maximum number of villages are reported from Khanapur tahsil (17.50% & 23.37%) during both the censuses. Other tahsils are having less than 10 villages endowed with this category.

Following is the list of villages having very high WPR:

- i) Shirala:- Manewadi, Ghagarewadi, Mankarwadi and Jambhalwadi(4).
- ii) Palus :- Sonsal, Shirasgaon, Sonkire, Padali, Asad, Julewadi, Radewadi and Sukhwadi.(8).
- iii) Tasgaon :- Narsewadi, Dahiwadi, Lonarwadi, Wadgaon and Yogewadi. (5).
- iv) Khanapur: Tupewadi, Vihapur, Chikhalhol, Nagewadi, Pare, Himgangade, Ambegaon, Karve, Kurli, Chinchani, Mangrul, Bamani, Bhikwadi Bk., Bhakuchiwadi, Salsinge, Jondhalkhindi, Vadiye Raybag, Shelakbav, Kalambi, Khambale, Kamalapur, Tandulwadi, Jadhavwadi, Ghoti Kh. And Kusbavade. (25).
- v) Kawathe Mahankal :- Kundlapur, Morgaon and Kutkoli.(3).
- vi) Atpadi: Gulewadi, Kurundwadi, Padalkarwadi, Walwan and Malewadi. (5).
- vii) Jat :- Hivare, Singnapur, Mirwad and Untwadi. (4).

SUMMARY

Among various elements of population composition, economic composition holds a prime place for population geographers. Economic condition, social and political status, availability of economic activities and employment standards are the parameters to be considered for the work participation rates of the region. In 1991 the total labour force in the study area is 44.12% and 47.20% in 2001. Thus, there is an increase of 3.08% persons in a decade. The work participation rates for both the censuses in the study area are higher than the state and national averages and it is due to high rate of female participation and child workers in rural areas of the study area. It also shows low dependency ratio in the study area. The agrarian nature of study area indicates high percentage of population is engaged in agricultural activities. This activity rate of study area is higher in rural areas as compared to urban areas. There is a striking difference (31.65%) in the activity rates of females in the urban (15.55%) and rural (47.20%) areas.

The rural-urban differentials of work participation rates of the area under study were also studied. It is found that, rural work participation rate (57.7%) is higher than that of urban work participation rate (51.3%), which differs from tahsil to tahsil. The study area has an agrarian base in rural areas, so majority of females are working as agricultural labourers with their children working in cottage industry and as marginal workers. The study of overall male-female differential in work participation rate reveals that male work participation rate is higher (56.1%) than that of females (37.9%), many causes like prejudices against female mobility, education, low social status of females in family or in society are the responsible factors. One-third villages from the area under study are reported low to very low, one-fourth villages with high to very high, while remaining two-fifth villages show moderate work participation rates.

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