



AGRICULTURAL AND EMPLOYMENT

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Introduction:-

About a quarter of the world's labor force works in agriculture. In many low- and middle-income countries, the majority work in agriculture and depend on agriculture as their primary source of income. A few centuries ago this was the reality even in rich countries. As countries become richer, the share of the population working in agriculture declines as people shift to employment in industry and services. Even among farmers, there is a wide variation in income and productivity levels. Value added per worker can vary by a factor of ten between countries. In agricultural sector population is used for food supply, crop production, land use.

Himanshu, associate professor of economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University, told Hindustan Times, "Although the lack of fresh census data makes the rural-urban classification more difficult, the growth of the rural population and labor force suggests that there are some reversals. The migration is not corrected." According to the PLFS survey, the share of rural population and the share of unpaid self-employment in rural areas increased in the 2021-22 round as well, the newspaper reported. Five years ago the manufacturing sector was the second largest employment sector after agriculture, but now it has been replaced by the construction sector and ranks fourth. After 2018, share of agriculture in employment is seen increasing. It says that structural transformation has stalled as employment in the agricultural sector has not declined rapidly. This means that people are not moving from agriculture to manufacturing jobs. Since 2018 has fallen to a five-year low, there are some statistics that are still cause for concern. The PLFS survey showed that the unemployment rate was recorded at 4.1% in 2021-22, down from 5.8% in 2018-19.

Keywords:- Population, Agricultural, Employment.

Research Methods:-

For the completion of the present research paper the facts have been collected by resorting to secondary sources. As secondary sources, Agricultural and Employment Magazines, websites, newspapers, articles on various research books and reference books etc. have been used in the context of Agricultural and Employment.



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- Objectives:-**
1. To study the relationship between agriculture and employment.
 2. To study the dependence of employment on agriculture.
 3. To study changes in employment rate.

- Assumption:-**
1. Agricultural sector provides employment to rural population.
 2. The employment rate in agriculture sector is decreasing.

Correlation between Agricultural and Employment:-

One of the primary objectives of the Five Year Plan is to provide more opportunities for a better life to all sections of the rural society and to help the agricultural laborers and the backward classes in particular to raise the standard of living of the people. The most distinguishing feature of India's rural economy is the increase in the number of agricultural workers, farmers and farm laborers engaged in crop production. The phenomena of underemployment, underdevelopment and overpopulation are simultaneously manifested in the daily lives and lives of agricultural workers. Agricultural laborers are the most neglected class in the Indian rural structure. Their income is low and employment is irregular. As they have no skills or training, they also have no alternative employment opportunities.

As the world's population and demand for food and agricultural products continue to grow, increasing agricultural productivity has become fundamental to guaranteeing an adequate and sustainable global food supply. The latest technological developments are used to increase agricultural productivity and make agriculture more connected and intelligent. Smart farming and agro-robotic solutions have become the most influential agricultural trends. They help farmers improve operational efficiency with more sustainable use of resources. In addition, demand for methods such as vertical farming is expected to increase to reduce the need for agricultural land.

Home farming is another popular farming option that reduces dependence on climate, skilled labour, high soil fertility and water usage. This allows for more consistent and reliable production throughout the year and reduces the chance of negative impacts from disease or pests. The ability to utilize vertical space and reduce the need for additional land and construction activities contributes to the appeal of vertical farming in large cities. The market is most prominent in North America, Europe and Asia Pacific region.

The share of self-employed persons has increased to 55.8% in 2021-22 compared to 52.1% in 2018-19. The share of regular wage or salary earners fell from 23.8% to 21.5% over the same period. The dependency ratio (percentage of the working-age population) has increased slightly, indicating more pressure on employed persons in the recent economic turmoil.



Agricultural Wages and Income:

In India, the agricultural wages are very low. The First Agricultural Labour Enquiry Committee in its report mentioned that the per capita annual income of agricultural labour families was as poor as Rs 104 in 1950-51 and the annual average income of the household was Rs 447. After the introduction of improved farming methods and mechanization of the level of income of middle and rich farmers increased but at the same time due to fall in the demand for labour real wages declined. Agricultural labourers are facing severe unemployment and underemployment problem as there is no alternative sources of employment. Although the system of bonded labour is abolished but according to about 3.5 lakh bonded labourers still exist in India.

Role of Agricultural in Employment:

India becomes the region with the highest number of employees in the country. Compared to developed nations, in India about 54.6% of the total population is engaged in agriculture, while in the developed nations of UK, USA, France and Australia, only 2%-6% of the total population is engaged. In agriculture sector. About a quarter of the world's labor force works in agriculture. In many low- and middle-income countries, the majority work in agriculture and depend on it as their primary source of income.

As countries become wealthier, the share of the population working in agriculture declines as people shift to employment in industry and services. Even among farmers, there is a wide variation in income and productivity levels. Value added per worker can vary by a factor of ten between countries. Agriculture is one of the oldest industries which includes agriculture, forestry and fisheries and aquaculture as primary sectors. Agriculture involves the cultivation of crops and livestock for use as biofuel. The forestry sector involves the management of forests to produce raw materials and use wood in a sustainable way. The population gets employment through this industry. It means that employment is also provided through agriculture supplementary business.

In the rain-fed areas of the country, mixed cropping is a common practice. The farmers mix millets, maize and pulses in the kharif season and wheat, gram and barley in the rabi season. In the areas of Jhuming (shifting cultivation), ten to sixteen crops are mixed and sown in the same field.

In India, about 55 per cent of the total reporting area is under cultivation of crops and pastures. This is much higher when compared with about 4 per cent in Canada, 12 per cent in China, 15 percent in Japan.



Ratio of Female and Male Agricultural Employ:-

Table No.:- 1

Ratio of Female and Male Work Force in Agriculture Sector

Sr. No.	Name of the State	Male	Female	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	6453741	7378411	13832152
2	Arunachal Pradesh	10329	8511	18840
3	Assam	832508	431024	1263532
4	Bihar	8730251	4687493	13417744
5	Chhatisgarh	1262559	1828799	3091358
6	Goa	15970	19836	35806
7	Gujarat	2509651	2652007	5161658
8	Haryana	717133	561688	1278821
9	Himachal Pradesh	55658	38513	94171
10	Jammu & Kashmir	190339	56082	246421
11	Jharkhand	1485322	1365975	2851297
12	Karnataka	2620927	3606015	6226942
13	Kerala	1078354	542497	1620851
14	Madhya Pradesh	3518368	3882302	7400670
15	Maharashtra	4924034	5891228	10815262
16	Manipur	499~8	63702	113630
17	Meghalaya	90888	80806	171694
18	Mizoram	12775	14008	26783
19	Nagaland	15985	14922	30907
20	Orissa	2587196	2411908	4999104
21	Punjab	1104140	385721	1489861
22	Rajasthan	1055332	1468387	2523719
23	Sikkim	8762	8238	17000
24	Tamil Nadu	4256360	4381270	8637630
25	Tripura	162640	113492	276132
26	Uttar Pradesh	8245599	5155312	13400911
27	Uttrakhand	190494	69189	259683
28	West Bengal	5080236	2282721	7362957
29	A & N Islands	4043	1126	5169
30	Chandigarh	461	102	563
31	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	5429	9286	14715



32	Daman & Diu	347	976	1323
33	Deihi	11224	4547	15773
34	Lakshadweep	00	00	00
35	Puducherry	42117	30134	72251
	Total	57329100	49446230	106775330

(Source, Census 2001)

Bar Chart No.:- 1

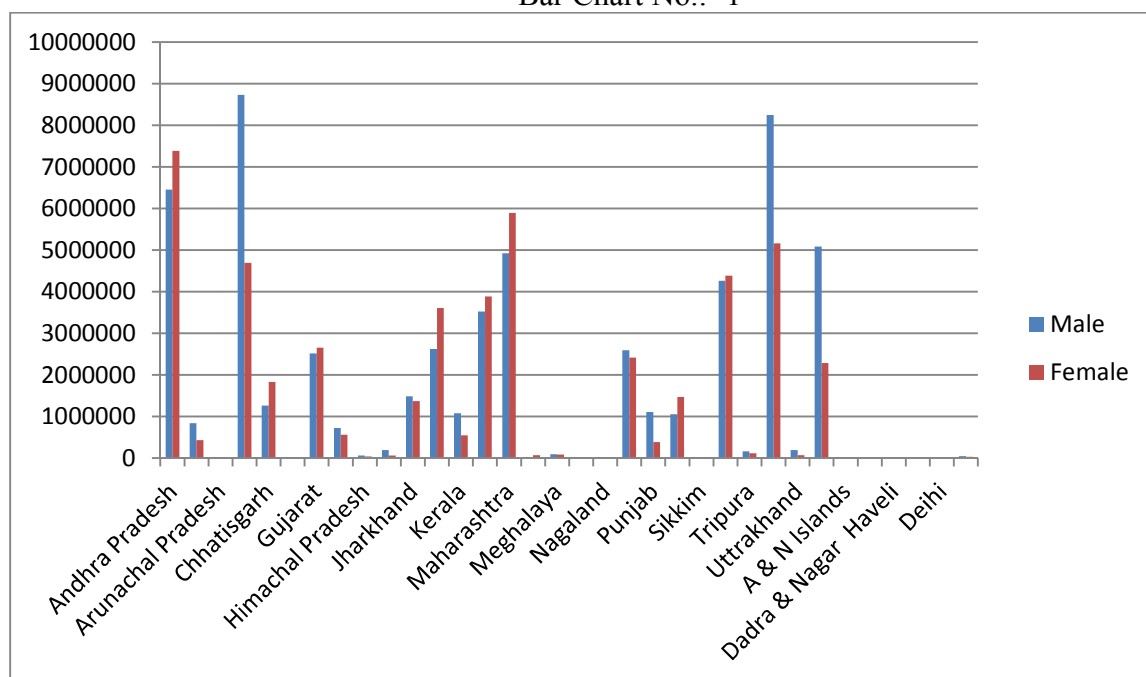


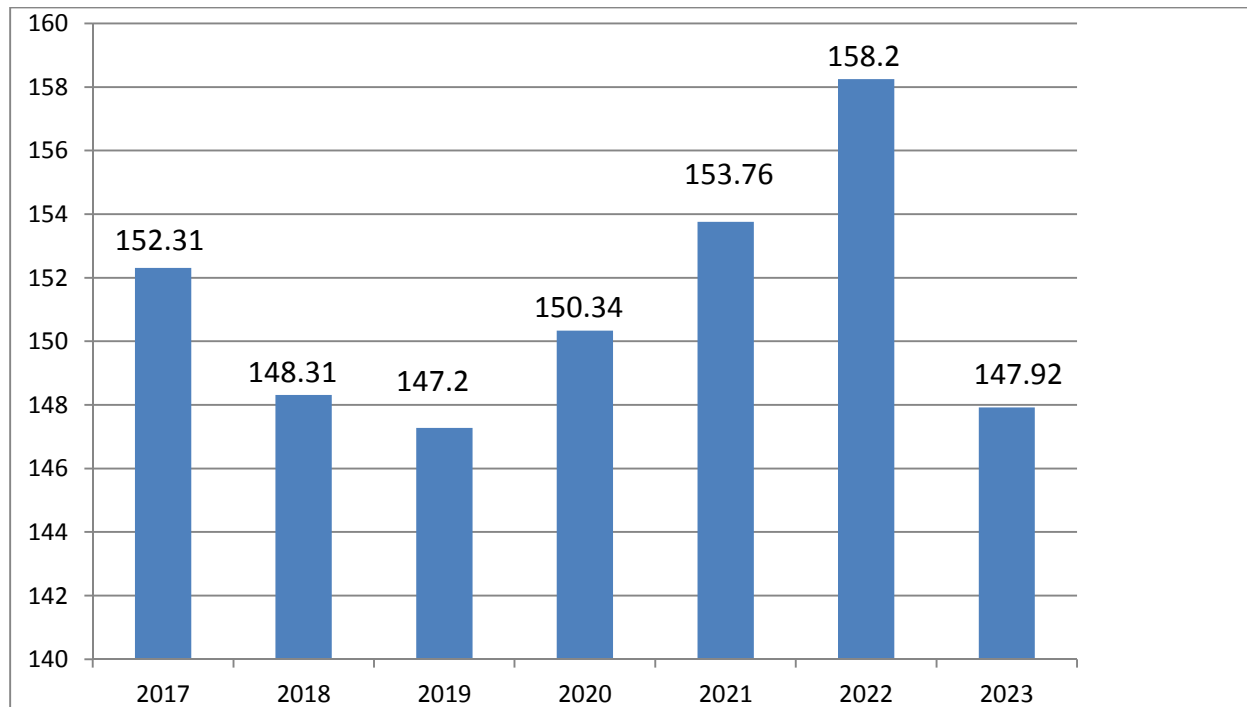
Table No.:- 1

Based on the above table number one, by taking a column chart, it shows the proportion of male and female agricultural workers in 28 constituent states and 7 Union Territories of India. This shows that in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Chandigarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Punjab, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Goa, Manipur and Tamil Nadu, as well as in the constituent states of Diu and Daman, Dadra Nagar Haveli, Padducherry, the proportion of women workers in agriculture is greater than that of men. Turns out to be more, because agriculture is the major occupation in these states. Industry and service sector has not developed much. Due to the comparatively low literacy rate of women, employment in service sectors in rural areas is not given importance.



Number of people employed across the agriculture sector in India from financial year 2017 to 2023 (in millions)

Bar Chart No.:- 2



Sources: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1284035/india-employment-in-agriculture-secto>
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From the above graph, (Bar Chart No.:- 2) it can be seen that if we study the information about the population working in agriculture sector for the five years from 2017 to 2023, it can be seen that the lowest population is working in 2019 which is 147.2 million. In 2022, the highest number of working population is 158.2 million. Because in the years 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2023, a large amount of employment was available from the industrial and service sector. However, in March 2020, due to the outbreak of Covid-19 in the country of India, due to the imposition of lockdown (communication ban), employment in the industrial and service sectors was completely stopped, only employment in the agricultural sector started.



Conclusion:-

The share of agriculture in overall employment has increased. It was 42.5% in 2018-19, which increased to 45.5% in 2021-22. When jobs are not available in the market, people turn to agriculture. The numbers also show that the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic continues to hurt a section of the country's population. The share of manufacturing in employment was 11.6% in 2021-22, down from 12.1% in 2018-19. The Indian Express elaborated on this point that most of the jobs outside agriculture are available in the construction sector. Some of them are very low paid services. Both have overtaken manufacturing. Interestingly, the Indian Express reported that between 2004-05 and 2011-12, the largest decline was in the workforce engaged in agriculture, from 58.5% to 48.9%. Meanwhile, the share of workers employed in manufacturing rose to 12.6% in 2011-12.

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