

P R E F A C E

Everlasting significance of agriculture in Indian Economy, increasing attention of the Govt. towards agricultural sector, very little work done on agricultural wages in Rajasthan and rising concern of researchers, social reformers and administrative authorities towards labourer's relative share in the enhanced agricultural productivity tempted me to take up this area for investigation.

The study is based on the wage data of 48 villages spread over all the districts in Rajasthan. It covers a period of 12 years from 1967-68 to 1978-79. Data utilised in the study are subject to limitations, may be statistical, conceptual or other-wise.

The study is aimed at the examination of the movements of the wage rates paid to the adult male casual labour in agriculture at village and district levels. Size and nature of spatial temporal and operation-wise wage differentials are also examined. The study is based on the hypothesis that there exists an upward sloping rather than horizontal labour supply curve in agricultural labour market. It accepts the hypothesis as R.A. Lester opined, that wage differentials are expected to be high and unsystematic in agricultural sector.

The study is a modest beginning covering various important aspects of agricultural wages in Rajasthan. The findings may be taken as an indicative to get into the area intensively, specially for Rajasthan where a vast field remains yet to be explored.

I express my profound sense of gratitude to my guide, Prof.S.R. Hashim, a man with vision and foresight, without whose immense guidance and constantly painstaking efforts, the present work would not have ever come to light at all. I feel privileged to have worked under him and deem obliged for the intellectual guidance showered upon me.

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For all the errors and omissions that remained, I alone take responsibility.

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(Shan Shyam Garg)