

Role of Agro-Industries in Rural Employment – A Geographical Study of Block Joya

Abstract

The problem of unemployment is increasing rapidly in the rural area and the resources of employments are decreasing very fastly. So the gap of employment and unemployment is very rich but the agro-based industries play a vital role to provide the employment in the rural area and helpful to control the migration. Unemployment, under employment, poverty, low production, illiteracy and youth migrant workers are main problems in rural area. These problems are controlled to develop the agricultural sector.

Keywords: Agro-Industries, Employment, Unemployment, Development and Migration.

Introduction

Agro-industries play a vital role in economic development. They serve as a means by which there can be an equitable distribution of national income. They lead to an efficient decentralization of the economy. They generate the employment opportunities on large scale and contribute significantly to the process of self-sustained economic growth. According to an estimate by the Food and Agricultural Organization (F.A.O.) 'these industries account for about half the total value added and almost two-third of the employment in the developing country.'¹

It is believed that the concept of agro-industries is not new but the term is of recent origin. Earlier agro-industries referred to industries which survived in rural areas and which had either a direct or an indirect link with the population in the rural areas called as 'village or rural industries.'²

The place of the agro-industries in the development of the rural areas is widely recognized and need no emphasis. They can provide vast employment opportunity at a comparatively low investment. The techniques of production adopted by the agro-industries are simple and the machinery and equipment required by them by easily available.

The national council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has defined agro-industries as those which use either agricultural raw materials or make things that farmers need for agricultural purpose.³

Unemployment, under employment, poverty, low production, illiteracy and youth migrant workers are main problems in rural area. There are engaged 70% population in the primary sector in rural area. Agro based industries provide a vast opportunities of employment in rural area. These industries are not only provide employment but also help to control the rural-urban migration in rural area.

Aim of the Study

Two objectives are selected to complete the study. These are as

1. To examine the rate of unemployment in the study area.
2. To find out the rate of employment in agro-industries in the study area.

Hypothesis

1. Agro-based industries controlled rural-urban migration and provide employment of the people in rural area.
2. The rate of socio-economic development of the rural area depends on the agricultural production.

Data Base and Methodology

Both type of data (primary and secondary) are used to complete the study. Primary data are collected from the study area by sample survey and secondary data are collected from the related officers. Journals, magazine, books and gazettes. Cartographic and statistical methods has been used to find out the result. 12 villages are selected in sample to

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complete the study. These 12 villages are selected by simple randomly techniques. This formula has been used to find the rate of unemployment. Unemployment Rate = $\frac{\text{No. of Unemployed}}{\text{Total labour force}} \times 100$

Study Area

Block Joya is selected to complete the study. It is the part of district Amroha and situated between block Amroha and district Sambhal. It has covered 415.80km² geographical area and have 116 villages and 11 Nyaypanchayats. NH24 passage through in the study area and connect the national capital Delhi

and provide the opportunities of trade. It has 3.27 lac population and 55.47% literacy.

The study area is formatted by the alluvial soils and have fertile soil. So, the agricultural production is high in the study area. Sugarcane, Mentha and Potato are main commercial crops in the study area. Plain area and underground water are helpful in agricultural development.

Agro-Industries in the Study Area

Agro-industries are generally small in size. As such the size of employment provided by these industries may be expected to be small. These industries depend on the agricultural products and rural labour.

Table-1
Agro-industries in Block Joya (2014)

Sr.No.	Agro-industry	No. of Units	No. of units on per 1000 population	No. of workers	No. of total working population (in%)	% nmainworking population
1.	Sugar industry	02	0.006	120	0.08	0.15
2.	Mentha oil	105	0.320	1575	1.06	2.00
3.	Kalesar (Gur udhyog)	12	0.36	144	0.09	0.18
4.	Oil speller	70	0.213	140	0.09	0.17
5.	Dal	8	0.024	160	0.10	0.20
6.	Flour	642	1.959	1284	0.87	1.63
7.	Rice speller	428	1.306	856	0.57	1.09
Total Block Joya		1267	3.867	4279	2.88	5.45

Source- Computed by the author on the basis of sample survey, 2014

On the primary investigation we found that the total no. of units of Agro-industries are 1267 in the study area which provide the employment of 4279 workers. It is 2.88% of total working population and 5.45% of main workers. No. of agro-industries units on per thousand population is 3.86. It is very low. The rate of employment in agro-industries is 5.45% in the study area.

Unemployment In The Study Area

'Unemployment is a lack of work which affects a person who is normally engaged as a wage earner or salaried employment and which is due to some cause independent of his own will other than physical incapacity.'⁴

'Unemployment is admittedly the most significant and preplanning of all labour problems. This concept has been defined in different fashions by economist and others from time to time. According to one, 'any person who fails to work can be thought of as being unoccupied and therefore, in a sense unemployed for the duration of his occupancy.'⁵

On the basis of the sample villages we found that the rate of unemployment is very high in the study area. This is the result of the declined of the cottage industries in the rural area. Rate of unemployment in the study area is given below

Table-2
Unemployment in Block Joya (2014)

Sr.No.	Nyaypanchayat	Total Population	Total working population	Total working population (in%)	Total unemployed	Total unemployed (in%)
1	Papsara	41621	13726	32.98	1153	8.40
2	Chandnagar	16514	6787	41.10	457	6.73
3	Deorhi/Hadipur	31953	9049	28.32	884	9.77
4	Kakrali	25953	9198	35.44	719	7.82
5	Patai Khalsa	35475	9991	28.16	982	9.83
6	Sivora	40345	11993	29.73	1117	9.31
7	Jalalpur Ghana	23367	6980	29.87	647	9.27
8	Salamatpur	18086	6317	34.93	501	7.93
9	Rajabpur	24552	8521	34.71	680	7.98
10	Shahpur	32902	9725	29.56	911	9.37
11	Deppur	36873	10318	27.98	1021	9.90
Total Block Joya		327641	102605	31.32	9072	8.84

Source- Computed by the author on the basis of census of 2011 and sample survey, 2014

According to the sample survey we found that the 18 people are unemployed out of the 650 population (100 families). So, the rate of unemployment is 8.84% in the study area. The

variation of the unemployment is 3.17% in the study area. On the basis of the variation of the unemployment the study area is divided into three categories. These are given below.

Sr. No.	Category	Rate of unemployment	Nyaypanchayat
1.	High	8.84 – 9.90	Deeppur,Deorhi/ Hadipur,PataiKhalsa, Sivora,Jalalpur Ghana,Shahpur
2.	Medium	7.78 – 8.84	Kakrali, Salamatpur, Rajabpur, Papsara
3.	Low	6.72 – 7.78	Chandnagar

According to the above table we can say that the rate of unemployment is not equal in the study area. The rate of unemployment depends on the resources of the employment. The rate of unemployment is very high (8.84 – 9.90%) in 6 Nyaypanchayat and medium rate (7.78 – 8.84%) is in 4 Nyaypanchayat and the low unemployment rate (6.72 – 7.78%) is in only one Nyaypanchayat.

Distribution of Units

On the basis of employment we can distribute the agro-industries into three categories.

Large Scale Industries

They cover those agro-industries units which employ 50 or more workers with the aid of power. Sugar industry is in this category. There are two sugar industries in the study area.

Medium Scale Industries

Under the provision of this section all units employing 20 or more persons and working with the aid of power or employing 30 or more persons and working without the aid of power and required to be registered.

Cottage Industries

This section cover those agro-industries units which employ less than 10 or mostly workers are own families and no required to be registered the unit.

Distribution of the units by size of employment is given below

Table-3
Distribution of the Agro-Industries by the Size of Employment in Block Joya (2014)

Sr.No.	Industry	No. of workers					
		0-10	10-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	>50
1.	Khandsari (Sugar)	–	–	–	–	–	2
2.	Mentha Oil	–	105	–	–	–	–
3.	Gur udhyog	–	12	–	–	–	–
4.	Oil speller	70	–	–	–	–	–
5.	Dal	–	–	8	–	–	–
6.	Flour	642	–	–	–	–	–
7.	Rice speller	428	–	–	–	–	–

Source– Prepared by the author on the basis of sample survey, 2014

On the primary investigation we found that 2 units are in large scale industries category, 125 units are in medium scale industries and 1070 units are in cottage industries in the study area. On the basis of this data we can say that the rate of cottage industries in employment in rural area is higher than the large scale industries because the no. of large scale industries are very few.

Conclusion

Agro-industries play a vital role in rural employment. They generate employment opportunities on large scale and contribute significantly to the process of self-sustained economic growth. Medium and cottage industries play an important role in rural employment. They provide employment of 97.19% workers. Only 2.81% workers are engaged in large scale industries. 5.45% population out of total working population are engaged in agro-industries in the study area. The ratio of the agro-industries on per thousand people is 3.86. It is very poor for the rural employment and rural economic growth in the study area.

On the investigation we found that the high unemployment rate (8.84 – 9.90%) is in 6 Nyaypanchayat and the rate of unemployment is 8.84%

in the study area. This is the result of closing of the agro-industries in the study area. Government policy is not favourable for the small scale industries so the owners are not interested to setup the industries. Due to lack of agro-industries the problem of migration took place and generate the problem of unemployment.

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