

**OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE OF RURAL FEMALES IN INDIA AFTER GLOBALIZATION****Simta Rani**

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Department of Economics, School for Ambedkar Studies, Babashaeb Bhimrao Ambedkar University,  
Lucknow**Abstract**

After liberalization and globalization we have forgotten the important task of building livelihood of marginalized sections. Liberalization was taken to improve the condition of women by improving the participation of women in gainful employment opportunities. This is especially important for women in rural India. Employment security is major issue in improving the livelihood security for women after economic reforms. With this background, the present paper examines the occupational structure of women in major states in India. The study is based on secondary data. The analysis will use recent available data from NSSO reports and Planning Commission Reports. This paper finds that women workers are still concentrated in the primary sector especially in agriculture and allied activities. Therefore, a concerted effort is required to shift them towards non-farm gainful employment avenue so as to improve their livelihood security and socio-economic status in the country.

**Key Words:** Globalizations, Employment, Livelihood, Rural Females, Agricultural Sector**Introduction**

The growth in various occupations has its own significance for economic development. Occupations are the activities by which people secure their livelihood (Desai 1971). Furthermore the different type of activities adopt by the people keeping in view the role expectations and positions. The different type of activities involved different type of skills and also depends on the specialization. The social change can be seen in terms of occupational change<sup>1</sup> (Desai 1971). In earlier time the best occupation was agriculture and business was second best occupation where anybody

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<sup>1</sup> Occupational Change refers to Increase and decrease in the distribution of activities in socio economic structure of society (Desai 1971).

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irrespective of caste, religion could take into it.. Agriculture is no longer subsistence occupation for people now it has become industry. Therefore it is necessary to see the shift of one occupation to other occupations. The pattern of occupations represents the social position (Horan, 1985). The social distance between occupations is found to be very less if the probability of movement between the occupations is more (Horan, 1985). Therefore for enhancing the level of living in rural areas it is necessary to promote non agricultural employment to reduce burden on agricultural sector (Dev 1990). The growth in number of persons engaged in different activities shows that occupations are spreading and social order is also improving. Indian economy is divided in three sector Agricultural Sector, Industrial Sector and Service sector. Furthermore it is necessary to know whether the shift to other occupation is from agricultural sector or other sectors of economy. The analysis is important for understanding the workforce participation in different occupations in industry for major states at all India level.

The degree of progress which women achieved in any country shows the progress of community. For the better future of India his bottomless efforts lies in overall development of women in every aspect. But why has non agricultural occupation been little accessible to women in India. There is clearly a lack of adequate and sensitive efforts to mobilize occupations to women, involve them in the process of economic development and help them reflect critically on their lives. Therefore, a concerted effort is required to shift them towards non-farm gainful employment avenue so as to improve their livelihood security and socio-economic status in the country. With this background present paper is an attempt to draw attention towards occupational structure of rural females in India after Economic Reforms. This paper discusses percentage distribution of rural females in various industrial sectors in India. The study is based on secondary data using recent available data from NSSO reports. This paper divides into four sections to analyze the changes in distribution of workforce for women in all industrial sectors in major states. First section deals with Introduction; Second Section deals with the Occupational structure of rural females in different Industrial sectors. The final section presents concluding remarks.

### **Occupational Structure of Rural Females in different industrial sector**

Table (1) provides the percentage distribution of rural females usually working in the principal and subsidiary status taken together by industry for major states. The agriculture sector share was varied from 58.9 percent in West Bengal to 95.5 percent in Himachal Pradesh in 1993-1994 for rural females at the state level (Table 1). In the year 2004-2005 it varied from 43.5 percent in

Kerala to 93.0 percent in Chhattisgarh in 2004-2005 for rural females (Table 1). The major decline was experienced in share of rural female workers in agricultural sector from 92.7 percent in 1993-94 to 48.4 percent in 2004-05 in Punjab. Furthermore, during the same time period Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala and Orissa also show more than 10 percentage point decline in rural Females workers in agricultural sector. In all the states the share of rural females in agricultural sector declines from 1993-94 to 2004-05 except for Karnataka which shows increase from 84.6 percent to 87.0 percent during the same period (Table 1). In rural area during 2004-2005 to 2011-2012 the percentage share of female workers in agricultural sector declines in all the states except Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. The share of rural females in agricultural sector is more than the rural males in all states as well as on India level in 1993-1994, 2004-2005 and 2011-2012 (Table 1). At all India level the percentage share of female workers declines from 81.4% in 2004-2005 to 74.9 % in 2011-2012. The share of this sector in year 2011-2012 varies from 38.7 % in Kerala to 90.3 % in Uttaranchal. After economic reforms it has been found that from 1993-1994 to 2011-2012 the percentage share of females in agricultural sector declines from 86.2 % to 74.9%. The percentage share of female workers in all the states declines during from 1993-1994 to 2011-2012. The share of rural females in agriculture sector is still higher as compared to other sectors (Table 1).

After six decades of independence the percent share of females in agricultural sector is higher as compared to other sector. It has been noticed due to lack of off farm employment opportunities and sluggish growth of industrialization females failed to get employment to secure their livelihood. It is necessary to put emphasis on agricultural development with labour intensive growth in industrial sectors.

The employment share of (1) Mining and quarrying, (2) Electricity gas and water is found very less as compared with other occupations for rural females (table 1). The percentage share of females in mining and quarrying is very lesser amount and equivalent to zero percent. At all India level the share of employment in this occupation is 0.4 % in 1993-1994 and 0.4 % in 2004 -2005. The percentage share of female in mining and quarrying shows zero percent in Assam, Bihar, Haryana, Himachal, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Uttaranchal in 2004-2005. After economic reforms during the whole period 1993-1994 to 2011-2012 the percentage share of workers in this sector declines from 0.4 % to 0.3% (table 1).

**Table 1: Percentage Distribution of rural females usually working in the principal and subsidiary status taken together by industry for major states**

State/ Uts	Agriculture	Mining & Quarrying	Manufacturing	Electricity	Construction	Wholesale, Retail, Trade etc	Transport, storage etc	Other Services (Financial + Community)	all
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>									
1993-1994	83.7	0.5	7.4		0.6	3.4		4.3	100
2004-2005	78.6	0.9	9.4		1.1	4.9	0	5.1	100
2011-2012	76.66	0.67	8.81	0.01	5.2	4.54	0.18	3.94	100
<b>Assam</b>									
1993-1994	83.2		8.7		0.1	1.9	0.1	5.9	100
2004-2005	<b>82.7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100</b>
2011-2012	79.04	0.25	3.4	0	3.13	3.8	0.35	10.02	100
<b>Bihar</b>									
1993-1994	91.9	0.3	3.9		0.2	1.9		1.6	100
2004-2005	82.8	0	9.8	0	0	3.4	0	4	100
2011-2012	76.84	0	8.23	0	2.87	4.09	0.04	7.94	100
<b>Chhattisgarh</b>									
1993-1994									
2004-2005	93	0.3	2.9	0	1.5	0.9	0	1.4	100
2011-2012	90.19	0.32	2.48	0	3.02	1.33	0.08	2.57	100
<b>Goa</b>									
1993-1994	59.1		12.2			10.2	1.4	17	100
2004-2005	32.7	0	15.2	0	3.5	16.7	0	31.9	100
2011-2012	7.07	0.38	27.06	0	6.04	14.61	1.55	43.27	100
<b>Gujarat</b>									
1993-1994	90.6	0.1	4.1	0.1	1.4	1		2.6	100
2004-2005	87	0.5	4.8	0	2.3	1.7	0	3.6	100
2011-2012	85.55	0.78	5.08	0	2.84	1.68	0	4.06	100

Table 1 (Continued)

State/ Uts	Agricultur e	Mining & Quarrying	Manufacturing	Electricity	Construction	Wholesale, Retail, Trade etc	Transport, storage etc	Other Services ( Financial + Community )	all
<b>Haryana</b>									
1993-1994	93.2		1.4		0.4	1.3	0.4	3.4	100
2004-2005	80.9	0	6.7	0.2	1.5	1.9	0.3	8.4	100
2011-2012	86.02	0	3.98	0.04	4.4	0.25	0.37	4.95	100
<b>Himachal Pradesh</b>									
1993-1994	95.5		1.6	0.2	0.4	0.6		1.5	100
2004-2005	89.5	0	2.2	0.2	0.9	0.9	0.6	5.6	100
2011-2012	86.98	0	0.94	0.29	5.36	0.88	0.21	5.36	100
<b>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</b>									
1993-1994	95.4	0.1	0.9		0.7	0.2		2.5	100
2004-2005	56.3	0	30.2	0	0.5	0.9	0	12.1	100
2011-2012	85.05	0	5.79	0	3.51	0.31	0.01	5.32	100
<b>Jharkhand</b>									
1993-1994									
2004-2005	81.6	0.3	10.2	0	3.5	1.7	0.2	2.6	100
2011-2012	84.44	0.99	7	0	2.55	2.7	0.01	2.32	100
<b>Karnataka</b>									
1993-1994	84.6	0.4	8.4		0.7	2.2		3.6	100
2004-2005	87	0.3	5.9	0	0.7	2.4	0.3	3.4	100
2011-2012	79.37	0.22	10	0.04	1.14	4.52	0.18	4.54	100
<b>Kerala</b>									
1993-1994	63	0.4	19.2	0.1	2.1	3.6	0.4	11.1	100
2004-2005	43.5	0.3	23.6	0.3	1.8	5.7	1.8	23	100
2011-2012	38.69	0.09	18.01	0.11	13.04	6.06	0.93	23.05	100

Table 1 (Continued)

State/ Uts	Agriculture	Mining & Quarrying	Manufacturing	Electricity	Construction	Wholesale, Retail, Trade etc	Transport, storage etc	Other Services ( Financial + Community )	all
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>									
1993-1994	93.9	0.8	3.2	0.1	0.4	0.7	0.1	0.9	100
2004-2005	87.6	0.9	5.7	0	2.4	1.8	0	1.6	100
2011-2012	80.02	0.02	5.1	0	10.36	2.04	0.01	2.45	100
<b>Maharashtra</b>									
1993-1994	91.2	0.2	3		1.2	1.8	0.1	2.5	100
2004-2005	90.9	0.1	2.9	0	1.2	2.2	0.1	2.4	100
2011-2012	89.12	0.01	3.1	0	2.26	2.44	0.07	3	100
<b>Orissa</b>									
1993-1994	85	1	7.5		1.1	2.9		2.6	100
2004-2005	71.8	0.7	16.5	0	4.7	2.5	0.2	3.5	100
2011-2012	69.31	0.69	14.5	0	7.77	2.33	0.57	4.83	100
<b>Punjab</b>									
1993-1994	92.7		1.3	0.2		1		4.7	100
2004-2005	48.4	0	7.8	0	0.7	4.3	2.4	36.3	100
2011-2012	75.4	0	10.7	0.18	0.88	1.71	0.03	11.09	100
<b>Rajasthan</b>									
1993-1994	93	1	1.4		2.5	0.7		1.5	100
2004-2005	87.3	0.3	4.4	0	4.2	0.9	0.1	2.8	100
2011-2012	77.39	0.03	2.29	0.1	14.98	1.46	0.22	3.53	100
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>									
1993-1994	78.5	0.2	12.9		0.7	2.8	0.1	4.7	100
2004-2005	73.2	0	15.1	0	2.1	4.4	0.4	4.8	100
2011-2012	50.59	0.36	16.77	0.33	22.01	5.04	0.04	4.87	100

Table 1(Continued)

State/ Uts	Agricultur e	Mining & Quarryin g	Manufacturin g	Electricit y	Constructio n	Wholesal e, Retail, Trade etc	Transpor t, storage etc	Other Services ( Financial + Community )	all
Uttaranchal									
1993-1994									
2004-2005	95.2	0	1.3	0	0.7	0	0.1	2.5	100
2011-2012	90.25	0	4.77	0.03	1.03	1.27	0	2.66	100
Uttar Pradesh									
1993-1994	90		4.7		0.2	2.1		2.8	100
2004-2005	81	0.4	9.5	0	1	2.5	0.1	5.2	100
2011-2012	82.61	0.4	8.48	0.13	2.17	1.93	0	4.28	100
West Bengal									
1993-1994	58.9	0.2	30		1.6	2.7	0.3	6.4	100
2004-2005	54	0.1	29.1	0	0.6	4.3	0.2	11.8	100
2011-2012	41.69	0	42.24	0.01	2.89	2.82	0.15	10.18	100
All-India									
1993-1994	86.2	0.4	7	0.1	0.9	2.1	0.1	3.4	100
2004-2005	81.4	0.4	8.7	0	1.7	2.8	0.2	4.6	100
2011-2012	74.94	0.29	9.79	0.07	6.59	2.95	0.16	5.21	100

Source: Estimated from National Sample Survey, 50th Round: July 1993 - June 1994,

NSS Report No. 515: Employment and Unemployment Situation in India, 2004-05,

NSS

Report No. 554, 68th Round: Employment and Unemployment Situation in India, July 2011-June 2012

At the all India level manufacturing was major sector in rural non agricultural sector which absorbs greater share of working rural females as compared to other occupations in rural areas. The manufacturing sector share was varied from 1.3 % in Punjab to 30.0 % in West Bengal in 1993-1994 for rural females (table 1). The situation is different for 2004-2005 in which the share of this sector varied from 1.3% in Uttaranchal to 30.2% in Jammu and Kashmir. At all India level the percentage share of manufacturing sector increased from 7.0 % in 1993-1994 to 8.7% in 2004-2005. In the year 2004-2005 to 2011-2012 the percent share of this sector decreased in all states except Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttaranchal and West Bengal. In 2011-2012 the percent share in manufacturing share varied from 2.3 % in Rajasthan to 42.2 % in West Bengal for females in rural areas (table 1). Furthermore it has been found that during 1993-1994 to 2011-2012 the percent share of female workers increased from 7.0 % to 9.8 % in rural areas.

In rural areas the construction sector also plays major role in providing employment to females in rural areas. During off farm activities females earn livelihood by engage themselves in construction work which does not require any skills. In construction sector at all India level the percentage share of rural female workers increased from 0.9% in 1993-1994 to 1.7% in 2004-2005(Table 1). The situation is different in the year 2004-2005 to 2011-2012 where the percent share of female workers increased from 1.7% to 6.6% at all India level(Table 1). Table shows that the percent share of female workers in construction sector increased during 2004-2005 in all the states except Jharkhand. The significant increase has seen in percent share of female workers from 0.9% in 1993-1994 to 6.6 % in 2011-2012(Table 1).

The share of rural females in wholesale retail and trade increased from 2.1 % in 1993-94 to 2.8 % in 2004-05 in rural females (Table 1). In manufacturing sector during 1993-1994 to 2004-2005 the percent share of females increased in all states except in Assam and Orissa. Furthermore at all India level the percent share of women increased from 2.1 % in 1993-1994 to 3.0 % in 2011-2012(Table 1).



2004-2005. There is no change in share of working females in construction sector during 2004-2005 to 2011-2012 (Table 1). It has been found that transport sector is less employment providing sector during this time period for rural females. During 1993-1994 to 2011-2012 the percent share of female shows very minor increase by 0.1 percentage point. Therefore it is clearly depicts from the table that transport sector is very less employment providing sector to females in rural areas (Table 1).

The share of rural females in other services whose share increased from 3.4 percent in 1993-94 to 4.6 percent in 2004-05 in rural areas at all India level. The share of rural females in all the states increased from 1993-1994 to 2004-2005 except Karnataka and Maharashtra (Table 1). The situation is totally different during the period 2004-2005 to 2011-2012 where the share of female workers declines in Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. After economic reforms during 1993-1994 to 2011-2012 the share of female workers in other services increased in all the states except Andhra Pradesh. At all India level the share of female workers increased from 3.4 % in 1993-1994 to 5.2 % in 2011-2012 (Table no 1).

## Conclusion

There is need to create awareness among poor, illiterate women and inspiration for them to fight against injustice, social practices. The women should be considered as important part of society so that they will play a significant role in the social reforms. Therefore the women will get courage to deny the live of slaves. The study finds that after globalization women workers are still concentrated in the primary sector especially in agriculture and allied activities. In India female participation in other industrial sector in general is very low and in rural areas women participation other than agricultural sector relatively low. Rural employment has become major issue in recent decades. There is need to concern about the deteriorating status of females in rural areas. The large number of females is still dependent on agricultural sector for employment in rural areas. It is found that the share of agricultural sector for employment in rural females is highest as compared to males. Industrial category wise rural females proportion indicates that females are more concentrated in agricultural sector followed by manufacturing sector and construction sector.

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