

Female Work Participation in Uttar Pradesh: Trends and Determinants

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Abstract

Labour is an essential factor of production that contributes to development and variation in its quality as well as quantity affects specialization and division of labour and markets for goods and services. The utilization of labour force mainly depends on the supply and demand for labour. The total number of workers in labour supply is highly affected by the behaviour of the better half group particularly women with their dual responsibilities of home maker and worker. Using employment data from quinquennial rounds of the National Sample Survey (NSS), a number of papers/reports have examined the employment situation in India in the post-reform period in comparison with that in the pre-reform period (Sundaram, 2001a, 2001b; Chadha and Sahu, 2002; Government of India, 2002; Sundaram and Tendulkar, 2002; Dev, 2002; Chadha, 2003; Sundaram and Tendulkar, 2004; Sundaram, 2004; and Bhattacharya and Sakthivel, 2005a, 2005b). A major conclusion that one may draw from these studies is that there has been a marked slowdown in employment growth in India in the post-reform period compared to the pre-reform period, and that this slowdown has been relatively more marked in the case of female employment and that too in rural areas.