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## AGRICULTURAL LABOURS SCENARIO IN INDIA: WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO PUNE DISTRICT, (MS.)

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### ABSTRACT:

India is an agriculture country. Farmers are the backbone of Indian economy. 6 lakh villages and 75% population in rural part of India is an important aspect with context to Indian society. Maharashtra with a geographical area of 9.4% of India constitutes of about 10.2% of the total workers of the country. Employment in the state has changed remarkably from 1961 to 2011 with greater employment being generated by the non-agricultural activities than the agricultural and allied activities. This paper studies the Agricultural labour scenario of India with special reference to Pune District with the classification of workforce according to working (Major and minor) and nonworking population. The Category of Workers (Main and Marginal) in four groups: Cultivators, Agricultural labour, working in household Industry and other workers. The Agricultural labour (Main and Marginal) also study with sexually. The agricultural labours are increase 28% to 54.8% in years 1951 to 2011. In the Pune District the highest agricultural labours are found in Indapur Tehsil and lowest in Velhe Tehsil in 2011 census. The highest percentage of males agricultural labours are found in Indapur Tehsil and lowest in Velhe Tehsil in 2011 census. The highest percentage of female agricultural labours are found in Bhore Tehsil and lowest in Indapur Tehsil in 2011 census.

**Keywords:** Main Worker, Marginal Workers, Cultivators, Agricultural Labour.

### INTRODUCTION:

Agriculture is cultivation of the soil, including the allied pursuits of gathering crops and rearing livestock (Finniston 1992). "A person in the service of another under any contract of hire, express or implied, oral or written, where the employer has the power or right to control and direct the employee in the material details of how the work is to be performed" (Henry 1979). Agricultural labour means any person employed in agricultural crop production as a wage earner, whether in cash or kind, for his livelihood and includes a person engaged through a contractor or engaged as a self-employed person (Sing, 2007). Agricultural workers constitute the most neglected class in Indian rural structure. Often they are not in a position to earn just enough to keep their body and soul together and are frequently exposed to the hazards of unemployment and irregular employment and have neither private nor social security. Being unorganized, they do not have the most needed muscle to seek better living and working condition. Their income is low and employment irregular. Since, they possess no skill or training, they have no alternative employment opportunities either (Padhi 2007). In the initial stages, the sense of community ownership was in existence which gave way to family ownership of the property, perhaps the community ownership continued till the medieval period. Shortly after the establishment of the Moghul rule in India, it was changed to the family ownership (Narayana and Sarma 1988). Agricultural labourers had increased dramatically under British rule from a mere one-seventh of the agricultural population at the end of the nineteenth century to over one-third by 1931 (Patel 1952). Socially a large number of agricultural workers, it is alleged, belong to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes (Krishnan 1996). The agricultural can be Agricultural labour can be generally classified into



three group, Labourers working on monthly or annual salaries, with virtual freedom to change employers, Labourers engaged on daily basis, particularly for seasonal operations, generally called casual workers. Field labourers consist of ploughmen, reapers, sowers, labour involved in inter-culture operations and trans-planters. Ordinary labourer consists of embankment labourers, well diggers and canal cleaners (Nanavathi and Ajarja 1954). Serf labourers with nominal wages, and bound to the employer for life, in some cases for generations, on account of debts and more on account of custom. The National Commission on Labour has divided Agricultural labourers in the two group on following manner, Landless agricultural labourers and Very small cultivators whose main source of earnings due to their small and sub-marginal holdings is wage employment (Rao 2003). Further, Landless labourers are classified into two broad categories, Permanent Labourers attached to cultivating households and Casual Labourers. The above mentioned Casual Labourers can again classified into three subgroups that is Cultivators, Share croppers and Lease holders.

### **OBJECTIVE**

1. To study of Agricultural labour scenario in India in 2011 census.
2. To study the dimensions of change in Agricultural labours in tehsil of Pune District.

### **DATA BASE AND INFORMATION**

1. **Primary Data:** - In field survey, the primary data are collected.
2. **Secondary:** - This study is based on the reliable and accurate census data. The required secondary data will be collected from the following sources. Census of India, Maharashtra and District census handbook (1951, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011). Published records of the Government like. 1) Socio-economic Review. 2) Census of Maharashtra. 3) Records of Zilla Parishad. 4) District Statistical Abstract. 5) District Gazetteers. SOI map for creation of shape file of study area.

### **STUDY AREA:**

Pune District is in the western region in Maharashtra in India. It is bounded by Thane District to the northwest, Raigad District to the west, Satara District to the south, Solapur District to the southeast, and Ahmednagar District to the north and northeast. Pune district lies in the Western Ghats or Sahyadri mountain range and it extends on to the Deccan Plateau on the east. Pune stands on the leeward side of the Western Ghats. Pune is at an altitude of 559m. (1863 ft.). Pune district is located between 17.5° to 19.2° North and 73.2° to 75.1° East. In the most recent census on 2011, the total population of the district was 9,426,959, making it the fourth most populous district in India and roughly equal to the nation of Benin or the US state of North Carolina (see Fig.1). The fig 2 and fig 3 shows the Pune District triangulated irregular network (TIN) and slope map of Pune.

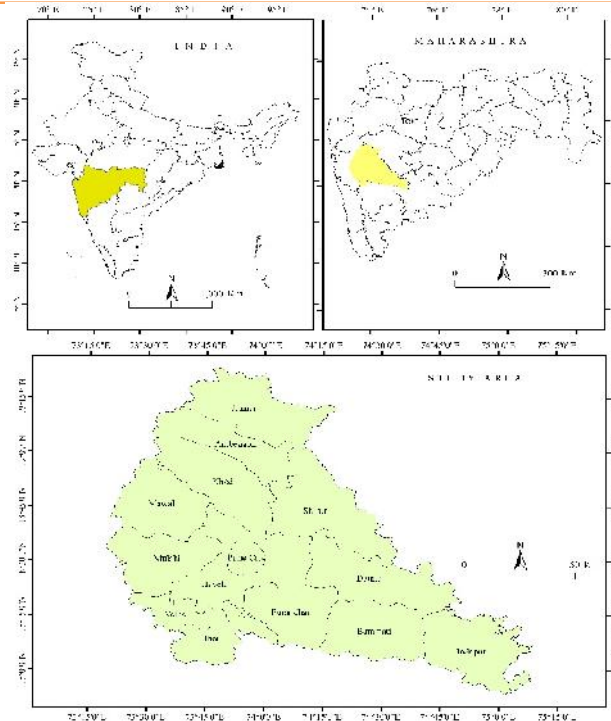


Fig. 1 Location Map Study Area

The district has a population density of 603 inhabitants per square kilometers. Its population growth rate over the decade 2001–2011 was 30.34%. Pune has a sex ratio of 915 females for every 1000 males and a literacy rate of 87.19%. As of the census of 2011, there were 1887 village, 16 Towns, 9,429,408 people and 2,141,346 households. The population density was 603 people per /km<sup>2</sup>. In the district the total workers (Main and Marginal) 4,048,993 in percent 42.94, Main workers 3,751,221 in percent 39.78, Marginal workers 297,772 in percent 3.16 and Non-workers 5,380,415 in percent 57.06. The total workers are divided in four group that is Cultivators, Agricultural laborers, Workers in household industry and other workers.

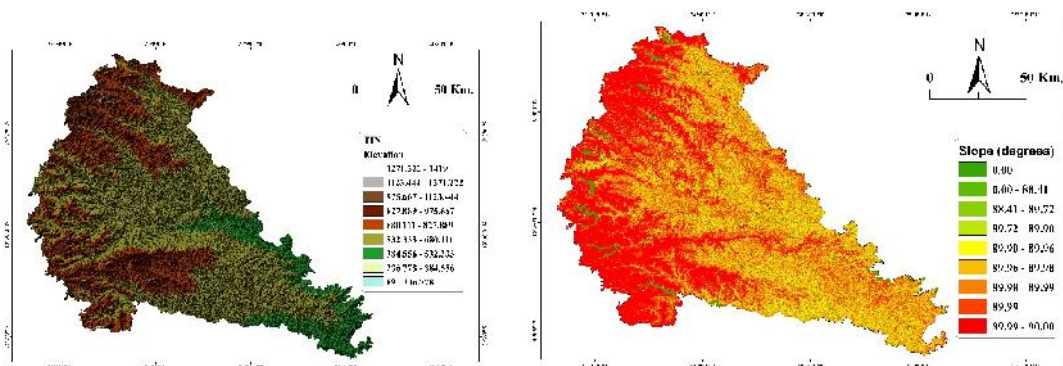
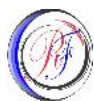


Fig. 2 Triangulated Irregular Network (TIN) of Study Area Fig. 3 Slope map of Study Area

## METHODOLOGY

The study has been accomplished mainly through secondary data which have been collected from census records published by the Government of India. Apart from these a number of articles published in various National and International journals have also been



consulted for the purpose. Necessary primary data have been generated through questionnaire based survey meant for different target groups following stratified random method of sampling with a sample size of 240 households in Rural Pune District. The data thus collected will be processed, analyzed by using different quantitative, statistical techniques. The tables are used to analyse the data. Computation of data is followed by cartographic representation and analytical notes.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

The analysis of recent census data 2011 reveals that overall rate of growth in workforce is 1.8% between 2001 and 2011 and it is observed to be marginally higher than that of the population (see Table 1). Further, the rate of growth in work force during the 2001-2011 is lower than that of previous two decades (1980s and 1990s) – a deceleration. The rate of growth in the workforce as well as population has decelerated between 2001 and 2011. However, the rate of growth in workforce has always been higher than that of population growth during the last three decades. It means that there must be increase in work participation rate (WPR).

**Table 1 Decadal variation in workforce in the India**

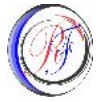
Year	1951@	1961@	1971	1981*	1991@	2001	2011
Total Population	356.86	439.24	548.16	665.29	838.58	1028.25	1210.57
Total Main Workers (All Occupations )	139.42	188.68	180.48	222.52	285.93	313.17	362.45
Cultivators	69.74	99.62	78.27	92.52	110.70	127.63	118.69
Cultivators as % of total agricultural workers	71.9	75.9	62.6	62.5	59.7	54.3	45.1
Agricultural Labours	27.50	31.52	47.49	55.50	74.60	106.45	144.33
Agricultural Labours as % of Total Agriculture workers	28	24	37.7	37.5	40.2	45.6	54.8
Total Agricultural Workers	97.24	131.14	125.76	148.02	185.30	234.08	263.02
Total agricultural workers as % of Total Population	27.3	29.9	22.9	22.2	22.1	22.9	21.7

@ Exclusive of figures for Jammu & Kashmir as no Census was conducted in that State , \* Exclusive of figures for Assam.

Source: Website of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Office of the Registrar General of India.

The above table shows that: Agricultural workers as fraction of India's total population have decreased only marginally since in 1951. While 27% of the people were agricultural workers in 1951; their fraction stands 21.7% as per Census 2011 data. Out of the total agricultural workers; the fraction of cultivators has gradually gone down from 72% in 1951 to 45.1% in 2011. On the other hand, the fraction of Agricultural Labourers has gradually gone up from 28% in 1951 to

54.8% in 2011. This hints towards a disturbing trend that more and more people of India are losing their land and they are either becoming farm labours or moving to other sectors. Since most of these people are either low skilled or unskilled, they have not many options but to become labourers either under private/unorganized sector or under government schemes such as MGNREGA. That is where; skill development gets importance as one of the biggest challenges in our country. The above data also demystifies the false notion that half of India's population is involved in agriculture. Agricultural Workers as part of Labour Force



In our country, 55 per cent of total workers and 42% of rural workers is still part of the agriculture sector but they are not all farmers or cultivators. They include those who are

Sr. No.	Name	Total Population	Total Workers	Total Workers			Category of Workers (Main and Marginal)			
				Main Workers	Marginal workers	Non-Workers	Cultivators	Agricultural Laborers	Working in Household Industry	Others Workers
1	Pune District	9429408	4048993	3751221	297772	5380415	886530	414461	105711	2642291
2	Junnar	373987	201256	187909	13347	172731	106245	58652	3375	32984
3	Ambegaon	235972	127798	118600	9198	108174	76657	26129	1896	23116
4	Shirur	348303	187191	178696	8495	161112	108479	29467	3004	46241
5	Khed	421471	212372	193935	18437	209099	96868	30404	4963	80137
6	Mawal	263426	114018	99144	14874	149408	35031	14642	3953	60392
7	Mulshi	171006	81225	70728	10497	89781	29198	8450	2783	41794
8	Haveli	688893	286711	263773	22938	402182	57037	31355	10258	188061
9	Daund	331046	165704	153283	12421	165342	78526	44478	3157	39543
10	Purandhar	189323	105967	96798	9169	83356	66066	17407	2033	20461
11	Velhe	54516	27625	23829	3796	26891	16939	4363	632	5691
12	Bhor	167663	82445	70826	11619	85218	43945	13964	1823	22713
13	Baramati	375185	179820	164480	15340	195365	72260	54781	5179	47600
14	Indapur	357668	173235	162279	10956	184433	79955	63407	2771	27102

Source: Census of India 2011

either wage labours in others' field or those engaged in related activities such as fisheries etc.

Table 2 Total workforce in the Study Area

Census classifies workers into two categories that is main and marginal workers. The main workers are those who worked for more than six months in a year and the marginal workers are those who worked for less than six months. The analysis of Census data shows (2011) in table 2. The 43% working (Main and Marginal) and 57% nonworking population live in Pune District. The highest population live in Haveli and lowest in Velhe tehsil. The working (Main and Marginal) population congregated highest in Haveli and lowest in Velhe tehsil. The agricultural labours are highest in Indapur tehsil and lowest in Velhe tehsil. Cultivators are highest in Shirur tehsil and lowest in Velhe tehsil. The fig. 4 present working and non-working population in study area. The total population in study area is 9,429,408 and non-working population is 4,048,993. The tehsil wise representation of population in shown in fig.4. The fig. 5 present the Main and Marginal working population in study area. The main workers highest in Haveli and lowest in Velhe tehsil. The fig. 6 represent the category of workers (Main and Marginal workers), the following category of workers are Cultivators, Agricultural Laborers, Working in Household Industry and Other Workers.

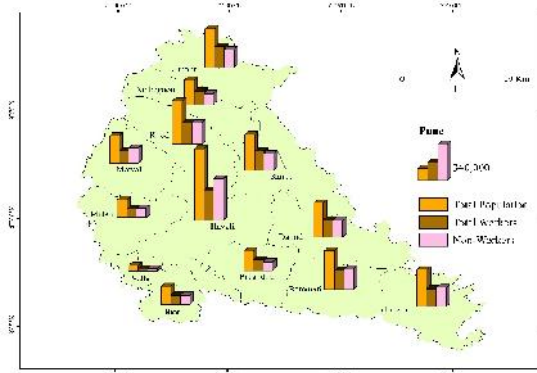


Fig. 4 Working and Non-Working Population in Study Area.

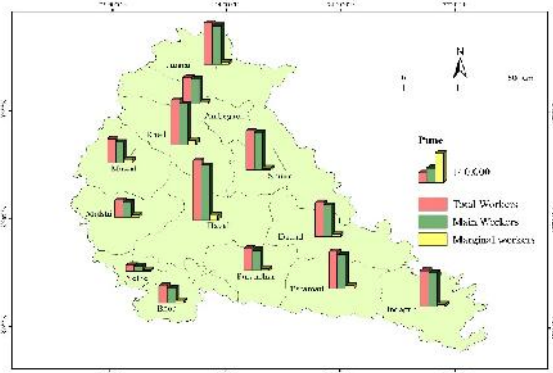


Fig.5 Main Working and Marginal Working Population in Study Area.

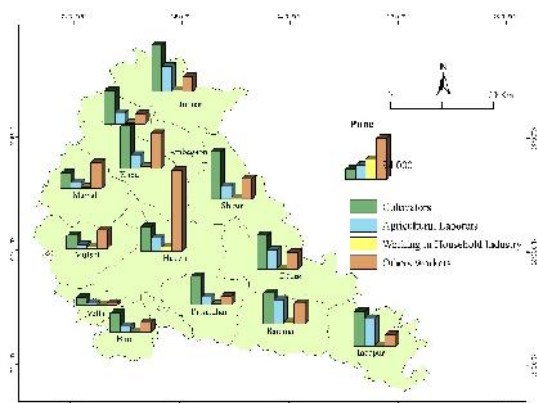


Fig. 6 Category of Workers (Main and Marginal) Labours Population in Study Area.

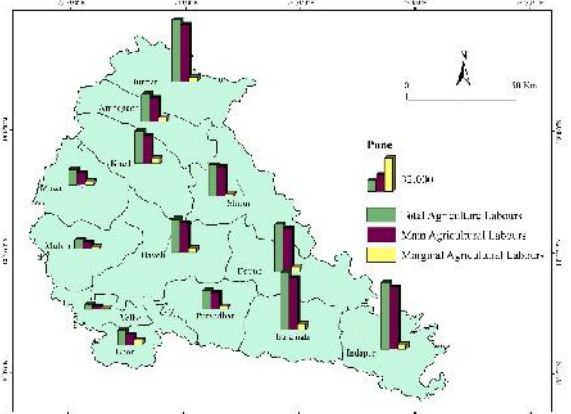


Fig.7 Main and Marginal Agricultural Labours Population in Study Area.

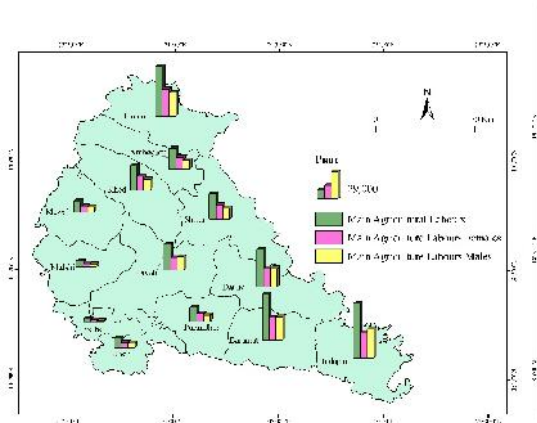


Fig. 8 Gender-wise Main Agricultural Labours Population in Study Area.

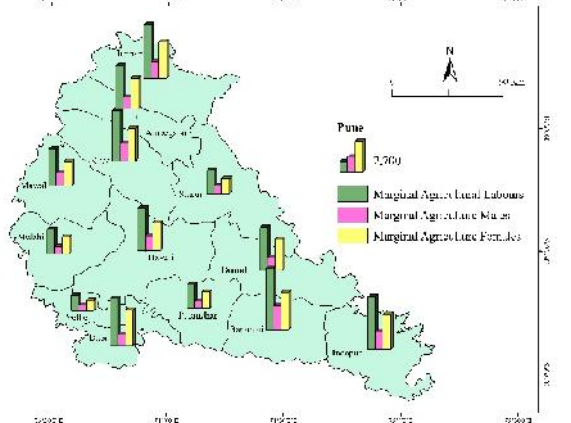


Fig.9 Gender-wise Marginal Agricultural Labours Population in Study Area. The Working in Household Industry highest in Haveli and lowest in Velhe tehsil and same in the other workers. The fig. 7 represent the Main and Marginal Agricultural Labours in study area and fig. 9 signify by Gender-wise Marginal Agricultural Labours Population in Study Area.

**Table 3 Gender-wise analysis of the Study Area**

The gender-wise analysis of main and marginal agricultural workers has shown in table 3. The entire tehsil of Pune District except Haveli, Baramati and Indapur all over the

Sr. No.	Name	Total Agriculture Laborers	Main Agriculture Laborers		Marginal Agriculture Laborers		Total Males Agriculture Laborers	Total females Agriculture Laborers	Males %	Females %
			Males	Females	Males	Females				
1	Junnar	58652	24873	29068	1477	3234	26350	32302	44.93	55.07
2	Ambegaon	26129	9504	12819	1068	2738	10572	15557	40.46	59.54
3	Shirur	29467	12011	15371	726	1359	12737	16730	43.22	56.78
4	Khed	30404	11612	14315	1567	2910	13179	17225	43.35	56.65
5	Mawal	14642	5585	5809	1119	2129	6704	7938	45.79	54.21
6	Mulshi	8450	2849	3451	637	1513	3486	4964	41.25	58.75
7	Haveli	31355	14381	13142	1354	2478	15735	15620	50.18	49.82
8	Daund	44478	20622	20029	1120	2707	21742	22736	48.88	51.12
9	Purandhar	17407	6694	8603	621	1489	7315	10092	42.02	57.98
10	Velhe	4363	1233	1777	456	897	1689	2674	38.71	61.29
11	Bhor	13964	4283	5504	996	3181	5279	8685	37.80	62.20
12	Baramati	54781	25405	23954	2127	3295	27532	27249	50.26	49.74
13	Indapur	63407	31385	27336	1578	3108	32963	30444	51.99	48.01

Source: Census of India 2011

percentage of female agricultural labours is high as compare to male agricultural labours.

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