

Nature and Extent of Unemployment among the Fruit Growers in Himachal Pradesh

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Abstract— It is well known that acuteness of unemployment varies from country to country, from region to region and from one section of society to others. But this problem is more serious in the developing countries as compared to the developed countries. The nature of unemployment prevailing in developing countries sharply differs from that of the developed countries of the world. Creating meaningful jobs is a global problem and it is not different for Himachal Pradesh. The linchpins of the State Economy are agriculture and Horticulture, contributing 22.5 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product and Employing 71 per cent of the working population. In the present study an attempt has been made to examine the nature and extent of unemployment among the fruit growers in Himachal Pradesh. In order to achieve the objectives, the extent of unemployment has been worked out with the help of 'Time and Willingness Criterion'. The results show that according to Time and Willingness Criterion the extent of unemployment among the pome fruit growers has been worked out to be 13.44 and 26.66 per cent and whereas among the stone fruit growers it is 20.16 and 33.93 per cent. The results further shows that the extent of unemployment is more among the stone fruit growers than of pome fruit growers.

I. INTRODUCTION

Unemployment is a widespread problem faced by almost all the countries of the world irrespective of their economic system and the level of development achieved. The term unemployment has a recent origin and found its usage only in 1895. But at that time unemployment problem was not as serious as it turned out to be since the beginning of the present century (Krishan, Gopal., 1986). Unemployment is a socio-economic problem which indicates a situation where the total number of job vacancies is much less than the total number of job seekers (Prasad, K.N., 1980). In India unemployment problem is not only complicated but also becoming very explosive. It has become one of the enduring and undesirable inheritances for the country (Aleem, M.A. and T. Padama., 1986). Unemployment in India is attributed to the low growth rate in agriculture, industries, commerce, transport, communication, education and high growth rate in population. The present unemployment problem is mostly structural in nature and there exist wide differences between rural and urban unemployment in its incidence (Oreibi, E.S., 1977).

II. RATIONALE AND JUSTIFICATION

In Himachal Pradesh one of the serious problems is its rising level of unemployment. Disguised unemployment in horticulture sector and the large number of low-quality employment are causes of concern. In the present study an attempt has been made to examine the nature and extent of unemployment among the fruit growers in Himachal

Pradesh. The results of this study will be useful to the policy makers to implement the employment related policies and strategies in the rural areas. The results of this study will also be useful to the research scholar's academician to understand the causes of unemployment and its extent among fruit growers.

III. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Raj Krishna (1976) and Mishra (1978) examined the rural employment and its different aspects. They pointed out that the unemployment rates were 6.4 per cent and 7.4 per cent for labour force belonging to cultivators and agricultural labour. Naidu and Bhamik (2003) observed that in rural areas unemployment with usual status increased from 1.99 per cent in 1983 to 3.07 per cent in 1988-89. Jain (1973) examined the problems of Indian agriculture. Gosh and Basu (2002) studied globalization and unemployment and concluded that the unemployment situation has not changed much after the reform and targeted policies towards reduction of unemployment in India. They have recommended change in education system towards vocational education, growth of agricultural and allied activities, labour augmenting technical progress and training of labour.

IV. OBJECTIVES

- i. To study the nature and magnitude of unemployment among the fruit growers.
- ii. To give a set of suggestions to enhance the employment among the fruit growers.

V. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In the present study a multi-stage purposive-cum-random sampling technique has been used for the selection of districts, blocks, and fruit growers. At first stage, two districts having highest area under pome and stone fruits viz., Shimla and Sirmour have been selected for the purpose of the study. At second stage, Jubbal-Kotkhai and Rajgarh development blocks from the selected districts have been chosen on the basis of having highest area under pome and stone fruits. Further, from these development blocks a sample of 100 growers out of which 50 for pome fruit growers and 50 for stone fruit growers have been selected randomly on the basis of land holdings. The extent of unemployment has been worked out with the help of Time Criterion and Willingness Criterion. According to 'Time Criterion' a person has been termed as unemployed or underemployed if he worked for less than 8 hours a day or 25 days in a month or 300 days in a year. According to

‘Willingness Criterion’, workers are unemployed and/or underemployed if they are willing to do more work than they are doing at present. They may either be actively searching for more work, or for some desirable minimum. The women children and old person’s working days have been converted into standard mandays by attaching co-efficient of efficiency such as; 1CD = 1OD = 0.50 MD and 1WD = 0.75 MD. Both family and hired labourers are taken into account in this study.

VI. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Per household labour days utilization in farm activities among pome and stone fruit growers

The per household labour days utilization in farm activities is presented in Table 1. This table shows that the percentage of mandays spent in field crops production has been worked out 15.50 and 18.50 per cent annually among the pome and stone fruit growers, respectively. At overall level this percentage came out 16.78 per cent. In fruit crops production the percentage of mandays spent at overall level has been worked out 74.74 per cent annually and among pome and stone fruit growers this percentage is 77.52 and 71.00 per cent. The percentage of mandays spent by pome and stone fruit growers in livestock and allied activities has been worked out 6.98 and

10.50 per cent annually. By adjoining all the fruit growers together this percentage came out 8.48 per cent. From the data it is observed that the fruit growers spent their maximum time in fruit crops production than of other farm activities viz; field crop production, livestock tending and allied activities. It is also observed that pome fruit growers spent more time in fruits production in comparison to stone fruit growers. It is evident from the Figure 1.

TABLE 1: Per household labour days utilization in farm activities among pome and stone fruit growers

(Standard Mandays)				
Sr. No.	Activities	Pome Fruit Growers	Stone Fruit Growers	All
1.	Field Crops	200 (15.50)	185 (18.50)	192 (16.78)
2.	Fruit Crops	1000 (77.52)	710 (71.00)	855 (74.74)
3.	Livestock Tending and Allied activities*	90 (6.98)	105 (10.50)	97 (8.48)
4.	Total	1290 (100)	1000 (100)	1144 (100)

Source: Primary Probe

Note: Figures in the parentheses done to the percentage to the column total.

*= Poultry, Forestry etc.

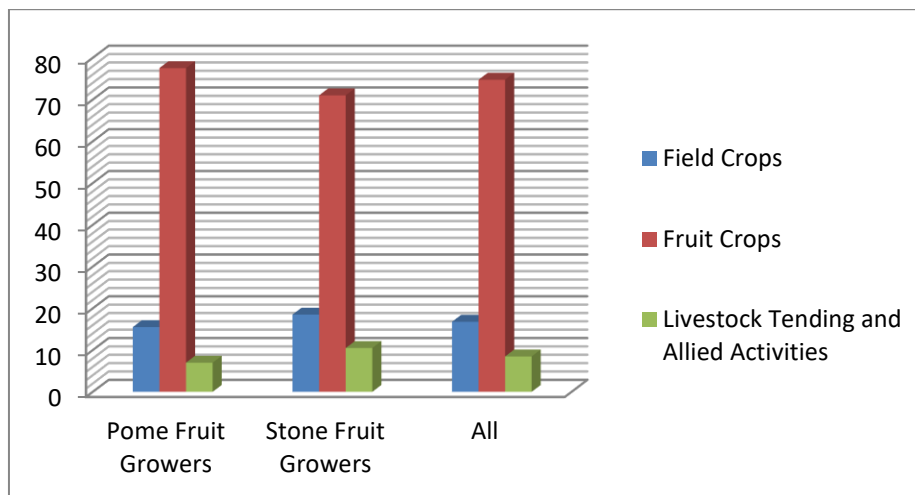


Fig. 1

2. Per household labour days utilization in non-farm activities among pome and stone fruit growers

The per household labour days utilization in non-farm activities is presented in Table 2. Among the pome and stone fruit growers the percentage of mandays spent in services has been worked out 48.65 and 42.50 per cent annually. By adjoining all the fruit growers together this percentage came out 45.55 per cent annually. In business at overall level all fruit growers spent 19.37 per cent mandays annually. Among pome and stone fruit growers per household spent 21.62 and 17.50 per cent mandays annually in business. The percentage of mandays spent in wage work by pome and stone fruit growers has been worked out 10.81 and 15.50 per cent annually. At overall level this percentage came out 13.09 per cent.

TABLE 2: Per household labour days utilization in non-farm activities among pome and stone fruit growers

(Standard Mandays)				
Sr. No.	Activities	Pome Fruit Growers	Stone Fruit Growers	All
1.	Services	90 (48.65)	85 (42.50)	87 (45.55)
2.	Business	40 (21.62)	35 (17.50)	37 (19.37)
3.	Wage work	20 (10.81)	31 (15.50)	25 (13.09)
4.	Household necessary Activities*	35 (18.92)	49 (24.50)	42 (21.99)
5.	Total	185 (100)	200 (100)	191 (100)

Source: Primary Probe

Note: Figures in the parentheses done to the percentage to the column total.

*= Family affairs, social affairs, leisure, rest and sickness.

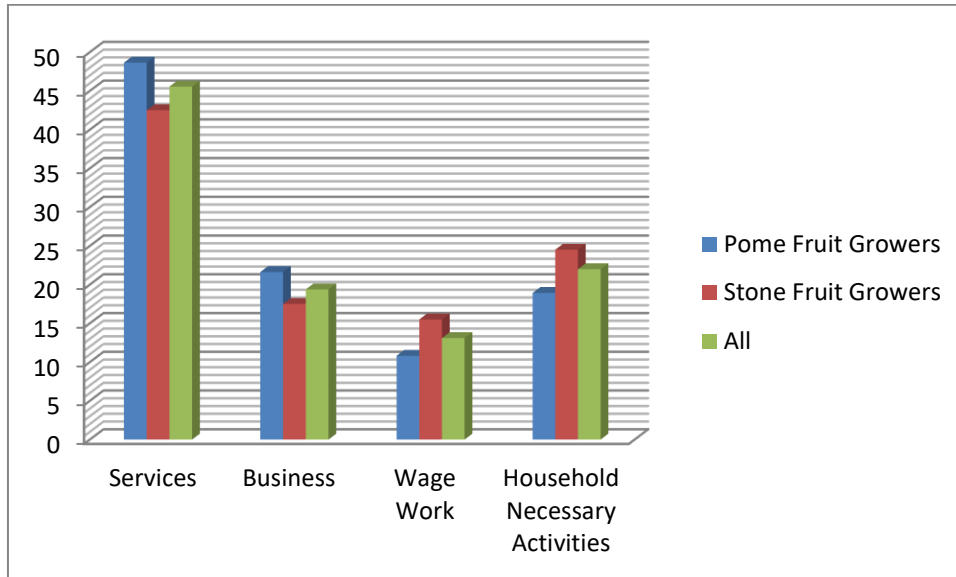


Fig. 2

Further in household necessary activities (family affairs, social affairs, leisure, rest and sickness) the percentage of mandays spent annually has been worked out 21.99 per cent at overall level. Among pome and stone fruit growers per household spent 18.92 and 24.50 per cent mandays annually on such activities. From the data it is observed that in case of non-farm activities, the pome fruit growers spent more time in services than of business, household necessary activities and wage work. Further it is also observed that the stone fruit growers spent their maximum time in services than of household necessary activities, business and wage work. It is evident from the Figure 2.

*= Poultry, Forestry etc.

**= Family affairs, social affairs, leisure, rest and sickness.

3. Per household labour days utilization in farm and non-farm activities among pome and stone fruit growers

The per household labour days utilization in farm and non-farm activities is presented in Table 3. This table shows that among pome and stone fruit growers the percentage of mandays spent in farm and non-farm activities has been worked out 87.46 and 83.33 per cent annually. At overall level this percentage came out 85.69 per cent. On non-farm activities per household spent 14.31 per cent mandays annually at overall level and among pome and stone fruit growers this percentage is 12.54 and 16.67 per cent.

4. Extent of unemployment among pome and stone fruit growers

The extent of unemployment among the pome and stone fruit growers is presented in Table-4. Among the pome and stone fruit growers the annual availability of standard mandays has been worked out 1704 and 1503 mandays at full employment norm. At overall level this value came out 1602 standard mandays. The standard mandays utilized in farm and non-farm activities has been worked out 1335 mandays annually at overall level and among pome and stone fruit growers it is 1500 and 1200 standard mandays.

According to Time Criterion the extent of unemployment among the pome fruit growers has been worked out 13.44 per cent and whereas among the stone fruit growers it is 20.16 per cent. At overall level this value came out 16.67 per cent. Further according to willingness criterion 23.47 and 33.93 per cent population termed as unemployed among pome and stone fruit growers. At overall level this value came out 28.34 per cent. From the data it is observed that the extent of unemployment is more among the stone fruit growers than of pome fruit growers. It is also evident from the Figure-4.

TABLE 3: Per household labour days utilization in farm and non-farm activities among pome and stone fruit growers

(Standard Mandays)

Sr. No.	Activities	Pome Fruit Growers	Stone Fruit Growers	All
1.	Farm Activities			
i	Field Crops	200 (13.56)	185 (15.42)	192 (14.38)
ii	Fruit Crops	1000 (67.80)	710 (59.17)	855 (64.04)
iii	Livestock and Allied Activities*	90 (6.10)	105 (8.75)	97 (7.27)
iv	Sub-total	1290 (87.46)	1000 (83.33)	1144 (85.69)
2.	Non-Farm Activities			
i.	Services	90 (6.10)	85 (7.08)	87 (6.52)
ii.	Business	40 (2.71)	35 (2.92)	37 (2.77)
iii.	Wage works	20 (1.36)	31 (2.58)	25 (1.87)
iv.	Household Necessary Works**	35 (2.37)	49 (4.08)	42 (3.15)
v.	Sub-total	185 (12.54)	200 (16.67)	191 (14.31)
3.	Grand Total	1475 (100)	1200 (100)	1335 (100)

Source: Primary Probe

Note: Figures in the parentheses done to the percentage to the column total.

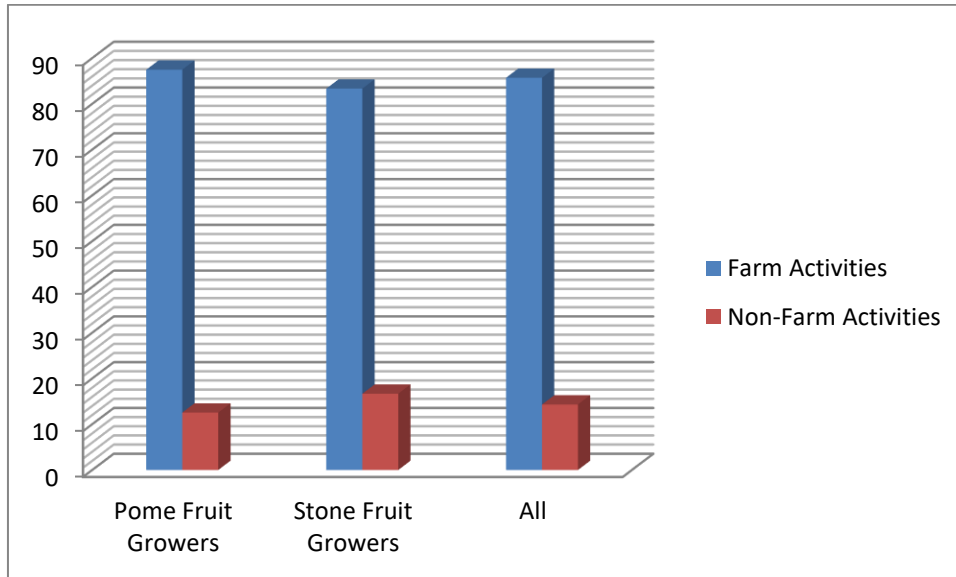


Fig. 3

TABLE 4: Extent of unemployment among pome and stone fruit growers

(Standard Mandays)

Sr. No.	Particulars	Stone Fruit Growers	Pome Fruit Growers	All
1.	Per Household Per day Standard Mandays	5.68	5.01	5.34
2.	Per Household Annual Mandays Available (at full employment norm)	1704 (100)	1503 (100)	1602 (100)
3.	Mandays utilized in farm and non-farm activities	1475 (86.56)	1200 (79.84)	1335 (83.33)
4.	Extent of unemployment According to Time Criterion	229 (13.44)	303 (20.16)	267 (16.67)
5.	Mandays Available for Additional Work (at full employment norm)	629 (36.91)	813 (54.09)	721 (45.01)
6.	Extent of unemployment According to Willingness Criterion (4±5)	400 (26.66)	510 (33.93)	454 (28.34)

Source: Primary Probe

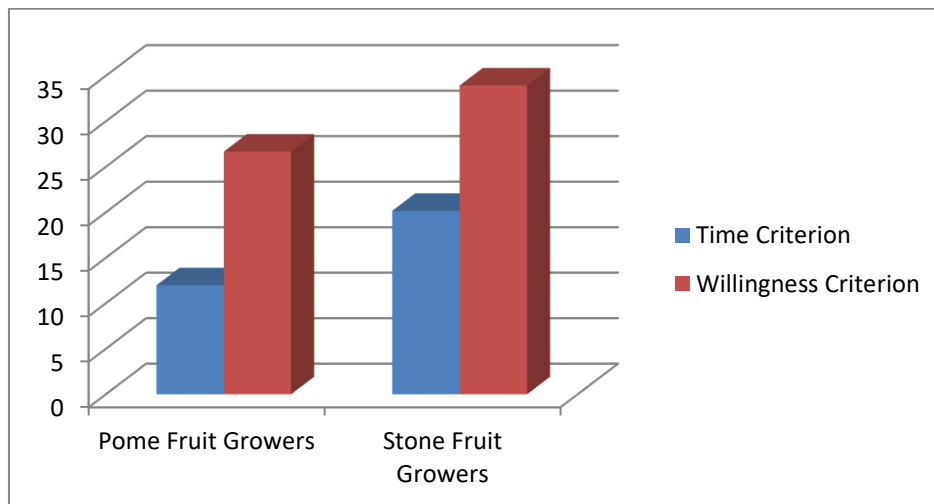


Fig. 4

VII. CONCLUSIONS AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

From the results and discussion, it can be concluded that the extent of unemployment is more among the stone fruit growers than of pome fruit growers. According to Time and Willingness Criterion the extent of unemployment among the pome fruit

growers has been worked out 13.44 and 26.66 per cent and whereas among the stone fruit growers 20.16 and 33.93 per cent population termed as unemployed. Keeping in view the above results and discussion the following policy recommendations can be given to enhance employability among pome and stone fruit growers in the study areas;

- Govt must provide employment opportunities to unemployed growers during off-season, such as dairy farming, poultry farming and bee-keeping etc.
- Govt should set up small scale industries, labour intensive industries to absorb surplus labour during off season.
- Govt must undertake minimum needs programmes by covering the provision of rural housing, adequate water supply, primary health care, primary education etc. Besides providing such programme will improve the socio-economic health of the society.
- Govt must provide adequate transport facility so that labour can move easily one place to another.
- Govt must provide good variety of fruits, proper machinery and equipments, adequate manure, fertilizer and insecticide and pesticide to growers to boost their fruit production

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