Abstract

In Indian context, the household industries are significant component of rural economy after agriculture. It is true that large proportion of rural workforce derived their employment and income from agricultural sector. But, there are different types of non-farm activities in which rural workers also obtain their livelihood. Among them, household industries are the activities which are based on the skill of rural artisans and local available raw materials. It also serves rural local economy. But in contemporary phase of modern machine and technological based industrial development this activity of rural economy is facing crisis. Consequently the proportion of workers in this activity is declining especially in rural areas. This situation is observed in case of rural Haryana. The state witnessed significant changes in its share in working force. A decrease in percentage of rural workers in household industry was common to all tehsils of the state, without any exception. The present paper is an attempt to analyse these changes in a spatial context. The study tries to analyse the changes in rural workers in household industries in the state of Haryana during the period 1971 – 1991.

1. Introduction

The present paper is an attempt to examine the pattern of changes in the rural workforce engaged in household industries. Since time immemorial, villages were able to meet the needs of the rural areas. The items produced in rural areas were consumed at home as well as exported (Rao, 1978). Such a production of the items by household industries was based on local raw materials such as cotton, forest wood, earthen soil, oil seeds etc. So, household industry was the important segment of the rural economy at that time. The cottage industries in which goods are made by artisans and their families in their own houses without the use of mechanical power represented the main industrial enterprise of the people in the past (Gosal and Krishan, 1965).
Being an industry conducted by the head of the household himself/herself and or mainly by the members of the household at home or within the village in rural areas, it includes occupations such as spinning, weaving, processing of leather, shoe making, oil pressing, repair of implements etc. This industry provides excellent base for economic uplift particularly of the weaker sections of the society. It has vital significance in both agricultural and non-agricultural societies.

Immediately after the formation of Haryana in 1966, there was no huge industrial development in the state. Agriculture was the main stray of the people. The industries were mainly confined to village and cottage sector. These included pottery, carpentry, stone dressing, leather tanning, handloom weaving and utensil making. Most of these have been decayed due to one reason or another. Many of the traditional household industrial occupations like pottery, weaving and other crafts are likely to gradually disappear. Increasing competition from industrial products, new materials, rising cost of inputs etc. are bound to make inroads into their market outlets and create a crisis for such traditional occupations. Loss of market owing to a changing pattern of consumption, relative costs, change in perception of the value of the traditional goods and change in life style have all led to loss of the viability of the traditional occupations. Many scholars have studied declining household industry and its causes, after independence in different parts of the country. Such a development is to be understood in the context of an overall decline of traditional household industries and breakdown of the traditional Jajmani (village corporate) system (Krishan, 1979). Some of the scholars have concluded that rural industry declines as development proceed, a decline traceable to the assumed tendency for rural consumers to substitute imported or urban produced goods in rural areas.

2. Objective of the Study
The major objective of the study is to highlight changes in rural workers in household industries in the state of Haryana during 1971-1991.

3. Data and Methodology
The present paper is based on the data available from secondary sources like census of India, especially from Primary Census Abstract and District Census Handbooks. Data regarding household industrial category of the workers were collected from these two sources to analyze the change of rural workers in this category. To understand the workforce in detail in various activities within household industry ‘National Classification of occupations – 1968 as used in 1991 Census’ were taken from Economic Tables, Census of India. After processing the data from different sources were presented cartographically. Since most of the data were in the percentages, the choropleth method was used for the purpose. As the study highlights the change in the household industry along with diversification therefore a map was prepared to display the pattern of change in household industrial category during 1971-91. Besides, to calculate the index of diversification within various household industrial activities for 1971 and 1991, formula given by Gibbs and Martin (1962) was used in the present work:

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\text{Diversification Index} = 1 - \frac{\sum x^2}{(\sum x)^2}
\]
where x is the employees in each industrial category or sub-category or activity. On the basis of this formula if the labour force in a region is concentrated wholly in one category the index is zero; if it is evenly distributed throughout the categories (i.e. maximum diversification) the index approaches one.

4. Study Area

The state of Haryana was carved out of the territories of the composite state of Punjab on the 1st November 1966. Haryana is located on the northwestern side of the Indian Union adjoining the national capital of Delhi. The state extends from 27°39' to 30°55' north latitude and 74°28' to 77°36' east longitude. The entire state spans into 44222 square kilometers which forms 1.35 per cent of the total area of the country. Uttar Pradesh and the Union territory of Delhi lie to its east. The state has Rajasthan in the south and southwest. Geographically, Haryana has its boundaries in river Ghaggar in the southwest, the Shiwalik hills in the northeast, river Yamuna in the east and Aravalli hills in the south and Thar desert in the southwest.

Administratively, Haryana is divided into sixteen districts (As per Census,1991) i.e. Ambala, Yamunanagar, Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Karnal, Panipat, Rohtak, Faridabad, Gurgaon, Rewari, Mahendragarh, Bhiwani, Jind, Hisar, Sirsa and into 53 tehsils. As per 1991 census, it comprises of 108 community blocks and 6988 villages including 6759 inhabited and 229 uninhabited. Besides, Haryana has 84 statutory and 10 census towns. While 90 urban agglomerations of all classes are found in the state.

5. Rural Workers in Household Industries in Haryana

In the rural areas some of the rural artisans have been absorbed by the agricultural sector, so there has been some shift from household industry to agricultural labour, particularly from those household industries which are losing ground because of factory industries (Chakrabarti, 1973). In the state of Haryana there were 3.44 per cent rural workers in household industry in 1971 as compared to 3.20 per cent in the country as a whole. Their share has declined up to 1.28 per cent in 1991. This figure was much below the national figure of 2.16 per cent in 1991. So decline of rural workers engaged in household industry due to one reason or another within a group, however, the family based enterprise of household industry experienced a decline. The decline is mainly attributed to the failure of household industry to compete with factory industry and consequent diversion of artisans to other activities (Gill, 1981). So without any exception in the case of rural Haryana, workers in household industry declined during 1971-91. Also, workforce could not diversify within various household occupations, as indicated by the change in value of diversification index from 0.86 in 1971 to 0.82 in 1991.

Table -1:Haryana: Major Occupational Groups of Rural Workers in Household Industries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major groups as listed in NIC</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>1971</th>
<th>1991</th>
<th>Change (per cent points)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20-21</td>
<td>Manufacturing of food products</td>
<td>6.49</td>
<td>6.26</td>
<td>-0.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Manufacturing of beverages, tobacco and tobacco products</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Manufacturing of cotton textiles</td>
<td>6.08</td>
<td>3.11</td>
<td>-2.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Manufacturing of wood, silk and synthetic fiber textiles</td>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>0.11</td>
<td>-0.05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table -1 reveals that there has been no major change of workers engaged in different occupations in household industries during 1971-91, except the notable decrease of workers in manufacturing of leather and leather goods and manufacturing of textile products. There were some occupations such as other manufacturing industries and manufacturing of machinery which recorded increase in proportion of workers during 1971-91 (machine tools and parts, electrical machinery, apparatus, appliances and supplies and parts). This is attributed to increased demand for tools and machinery due to mechanization of agriculture in rural areas. The manufacturing of paper and paper products (publishing and allied industries) too witnessed increase in workers during 1971-91 in response to increased demand for paper.

6. Spatial Patterns

The spatial patterns of change in rural workers engaged in household industries during 1971-91 shows decrease in workers in the household industry in each and every tehsil of the state with
variations in magnitude of change. For comparative regional study, various parts of the state were grouped into following categories (Map-1):

A. Areas with high decline (more than 3 per cent)
B. Areas with moderate decline (between 2 and 3 per cent)
C. Areas with low decline (between 1 and 2 per cent)
D. Areas with very low decline (below 1 per cent)

6.1 Areas With High Decline In Proportion Of Rural Workers In Household Industries
Out of 53 tehsils, 12 tehsils comprise this type of areas. These constitute nearly a contiguous tract around the national capital in southeastern parts of the state. Rohtak tehsil of Rohtak district experienced highest decline (4.08 per cent) of rural workers in household industries in the entire Haryana. It was followed by Bahadurgarh (4.03 per cent), Ganaur (3.91 per cent), Jhajjar (3.64 per cent), Bawal (3.64 per cent), and Rewari (3.52 per cent). Other tehsils falling in this category are Hathin, Ferozepur Jhirka, Kosli, Gohana and Gurgaon.

Thus, this type of decline is prevalent in the Haryana’s territory in the national capital region. During the last two decades of study maximum concentration of manufacturing (Non-household) industrial development in diversified manner have taken place in this area. Such an industrial development on large scale is the result of nearness of national capital and its expansion as National Capital Region (NCR) towards Haryana’s territory and as well as developed communication and transport network. This industrial development is the main reason for the high decline of rural workers in household industries, because the household industries of this area had to compete with manufacturing industries. Secondly, many important industrial centres of the state were established in this territory. For example Sonipat, Rohtak, Bahadurgarh, Rewari and Gurgaon which had attracted the rural industrial workers as industrial labour in these industrial centres. Thirdly, there are some workers who live in villages but work in the nearby towns and commute daily to the place of work. This situation of shift of workers from household industries to urban based manufacturing industries indicated the diversification of industrial activities in favour of non-household manufacturing industries. So, all areas of this category exhibited a highest decline because of development of manufacturing industrial activities and nearness to national capital.

6.2 Areas With Moderate Decline In Proportion Of Rural Workers In Household Industries
As many as 14 tehsils of the state make these areas. Disparities in regional pattern ranges between 2.98 per cent in Narnaund tehsil and 2.01 per cent in Kaithal tehsil. Other tehsil covered in this range are Narnaul, Faridabad, Panipat, Jind, Hansi, Palwal Pataudi, Maham, Assandh, Safidon, Nuh and Mahendragarh. All these tehsils constitute following three separate regions.

(a) Central region.
(b) South-west region.
(c) South-east region.

In the central region, major factors responsible for the moderate decline of workers in household industries are (i) This area covers the part of agriculturally developed region of the state where agricultural production has increased tremendously. Consequently agro-based industrial units such as rice based units in Kaithal tehsil, sugar mills in Maham tehsil, spinning mills in Hansi tehsil have developed during study period. These industrial units have provided employment to the rural workers as industrial labour (ii) Panipat, which has been an important industrial and weaving centre...
is located in this region. It has absorbed many workers of nearby rural areas in different weaving and related jobs.

These factors have worked towards the diversification of rural non-farm employment in favour of manufacturing industries, rather than household industries. Besides these, the shift of scheduled caste artisans working in agricultural sector to other more paying jobs have also led to decline in proportion of workers in household industries in these areas.

The areas falling in the south western and south eastern Haryana experienced moderate decline of rural workers in household industries because availability of minerals in south western and industrial centres of south eastern are responsible for this situation. In south eastern part Faridabad is the important industrial centre which has played the major role in this regard. So, rural workers of these areas shifted from household industries to other non-farm occupations.

6.3 Areas With Low Decline In Proportion Of Rural Workers In Household Industries

This category is comprised of large tract of western Haryana including Mandi Dabwali, Ellenabad, Ratia, Tohana, Narwana, Fatehabad, Hisar, Siwani, Bawani Khera, Bhiwani, Loharu and Charkhi Dadri tehsils and northeastern region including Panchkula, Naraingarh, Ambala, Brara,
Chhachhruli, Guhla, Thenesar in the north-east and Ballabgarh tehsil of the south-eastern Haryana also fall in this category.

In the western region, after the commencement of irrigation by Bhakra Nangal project and western Yamuna canal and the application of sprinkler irrigation, area registered most spectacular transformation in agricultural economy. Due to the expansion of cotton cultivation, agro based industrial units have developed specially the cotton textile, cotton ginning and spinning. So rural workers shifted towards these industrial units. Some of the artisans have switched over to agricultural labour. Thus household industries continued to provide jobs to rural workers in these areas and hence they recorded low decline in their proportion.

In the northern areas, low decline is attributed to the emergence of Panchkula, Ambala and Kurukshetra as urban and industrial centres. These have been source of employment for the workers of household industries in surrounding rural areas. Nearby industrial centers of Himachal Pradesh in the north such as Parwanoo, Baddi and Kala Amb also have provided employment to the rural household industrial workers of Panchkula and Chhachhrauli tehsils. The commercialization of agriculture in the Ambala, Thanesar, Guhla area had also reduced the rural workers in household industries. All these areas have two common factors. Firstly, agricultural development and emergence of agro based industries which are responsible for low decline of workers in household industries. Secondly, relatively higher concentration of scheduled caste population who are still associated with their traditional occupations for livelihood.

6.4 Areas with very low decline in proportion of rural workers in household industries

Very low decline of rural workers in household industries is mostly confined to the tehsils of Rania, Sirsa and Tosham which are located in the western part of the state adjoining the Rajasthan border. Due to the subsistence nature of agriculture on relatively large size of landholdings and low level of urbanization, the participation of workers in household industries declined marginally.

In the north and north-east Haryana, Kalka, Pehowa, Jagadhri and Karnal tehsils also experienced very low decline of workers in household industries. Among these tehsils, Kalka is located in the Shiwalik foothill area where abundant raw material (stone) was available for manufacturing household industrial products specially “Kundi” (mortar), chapatti roller pins and grinding stones/slabs etc. However, due to the decline in availability of raw material, decline in market for such items along with the development of manufacturing units at Panchkula, some rural workers have shifted to other activities from these traditional household industries.

As far as Pehowa, Jagadhri and Karnal tehsils are concerned, these are located in the predominantly agricultural region. Agricultural development with less emphasis on manufacturing industries has been responsible for very low decline of rural workers in household industries. This implies that some rural workers are still associated with their traditional occupations while decline of workers in these household enterprises is continuing at the slow pace.

7. Conclusion

In sum, the household industries which were an important segment of non-farm employment in the rural economy in the past have declined in the whole of rural Haryana during last two decades under study. The nature and magnitude of decline is different in different parts of the state. There is negative correlation between the proportion of workers in household industries and degree of urbanization and literacy rate. The decrease in proportion was more in the areas where they had to
changes in rural workers in household industries was recorded in those areas where agriculture experienced commercialization and production had increased manifold. Consequently agro-based industrial development has reduced the proportion of household industrial workers in rural areas. The low proportion of decline is recorded in those areas where concentration of scheduled caste population is more. Despite some decline, however they reflect that still the scheduled caste workers are associated with their traditional occupations. However, this needs rigorous testing which has been done in the present work by conducting micro level case studies.

Thus the future of household industrial workforce in overall rural economy and particularly in the rural secondary sector is not very bright owing to the decline in demand for goods produced by this sector and the change in consumption pattern of rural society.

References