

## EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT OF ADULT RURAL POPULATION

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### *Introduction*

This paper deals with the pattern of employment and unemployment of the adult rural population. It also studies the variations in employment as between the big and small cultivators. The paper is based on data on employment gathered in the course of a programme of comprehensive socio-economic inquiry of the region of the old Bombay Deccan, which is usually most liable to famine and drought. The survey-programme was carried out by the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Poona during 1947-51. The investigation into the employment of the population covered a sample of 2,379 households selected from 34 villages of the Ahmednagar, Satara, Sholapur, Poona and Bijpur districts. The investigation was done in 1949-50. Every household in the sample was visited once in every four weeks during the year of inquiry and information was elicited regarding the employment of every member of the family over six years of age for the seven days preceding the date of visit.

A few points regarding the data set out below may be noted to start with. In the first place, it should be remembered that in the following tables, the classification given is that of the 'person-days' and not of the persons. The information on employment was collected, as said earlier, for seven days preceding the interview; hence every person has been classified seven times in the various employment categories. The classification, therefore, shows the disposition of the entire labour force on a day during the different months of the year. Secondly, about eleven categories of employment have been distinguished, on the basis of such considerations as to whether the adult male was employed (a) gainfully or in non-earning occupations, (b) in the village or outside, (c) on the farm or in non-farm occupations, (d) on his own or as a hired labourer, etc. The various categories of employment thus framed throw light on the extent of employment and the various forms in which voluntary, involuntary or disguised types of unemployment prevail in the rural economy.

### *Employment of adult males*

Table 1 presents a percentage distribution of the total adult male days according to various employment categories. The figures in the table give a dimensional picture of the employment and unemployment pattern of the adult male population. About six per cent of the adult male labour force was engaged outside the village of residence. This might be roughly taken