

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) 2005-06 provides data on (a) age, sex, marital status, literacy, level of education and migration of the population, (b) dimensions of country's labour force, such as (i) employed labour force classified by industry, formal & informal sectors, occupation, employment status, hours worked and level of education, (ii) occupational safety and health information of the employed persons, and (iii) unemployed labour by level of education and previous experience. Some of the main findings are outlined as under:

1. Literacy and Employment

1(a) **Literacy rate** improves from 52% in 2003-04 to 53% in 2005-06, more for rural and women than urban and men. The comparative surveys find the rural-urban divergence and male-female disparity narrowing down the time lane.

1(b) **Participation rate** ascends significantly from 30.4% of 2003-04 to 32.2% in 2005-06, more for rural and women than urban and men. Comparative figures notch up considerably (39% Vs 40%) with the augmentation of marginal economic activities captured through additional probing questions from the persons conventionally out side the labour force.

1(c) **Employment by Major Industries** exhibits share of agriculture and allied activities (43.4%) in 2005-06 higher than that of 2003-04 (43.1%). Male employment recedes a bit while female's climbs 2% up. As for non agriculture, manufacturing (13.7% Vs 13.8%) and construction (5.8% Vs 6.1%) scale up. Other activities level nigh equivalently. Apparently, employability of secondary and tertiary activities is generally on rise.

1(d) **Employment Status** is denominated as employees, own-account workers, unpaid family workers and employers. The foremost category recedes from 38% in 2003-04 to 37% in 2005-06 due to women (31% Vs 26%) exclusively. The middle one also pares down (37% Vs 35%) both for men (41% Vs 40%) and women (16% Vs 15%). The third one, home to more than one half of women, scales up (24% Vs 27%) significantly, steeper for women (53% Vs 59%) than men (18% Vs 19%). Latter most levels similarly.

1(e) **The Number of Hours Worked** in the week finds more than 80% of employed persons worked beyond the watershed "35 hours a week". Of these, 30% are reported to have worked "56 hours or more a week" in 2005-06 as compared to 31% in 2003-04. This indicates receding recourse to work "less than subsistence wages". However, comparative proportions for the left-to-"35 hours a week" allude to a sort of rising underemployment.

1(f) **Unemployment Rate** decreases from 7.7% in 2003-04 to 6.2% in 2005-06, steeper for women (13% Vs 9%) than men (6.6% Vs 5.4%) evenly across the areas. Age specific rates for teens to early fifties experience decline, again more for women than men. The rates for latter fifties and beyond scale up however, due to men exclusively.

2. **Informal Sector**

2(a) **Size of Informal Sector** accounts for 73% of the employment in main jobs outside agriculture sector, more (75%) in rural than urban areas (71%). Conversely, formal activities are more concentrated in urban (29%) than rural areas (25%). Male workers are more numerous relatively. The profiles of comparative survey are analogous which alludes to structural rigidities. Informal sector's employment ascends from 70% in 2003-04 to 73% in 2005-06, across the gender and area.

2(b) **Employment by Major Industry Divisions** apportions the largest slice (35%) to wholesale and retail trade followed by manufacturing (21%), community, social and personal services (18%), construction (14%) and transport (11%). The other categories account for less than two percent. Comparative Labour Force Surveys indicate a mixed trend though ascents are more numerous than falls. Manufacturing and construction register a relatively male-intensive rise whereas that of whole sale and retail trade is female-driven. Services pare down more for females than males while transport remains nigh unchanged.

2 (c) **The Employment Status** categorizes majority (45%) as employees followed by own account workers (42%). About one in ten workers (12%) are reported as unpaid family workers and one & a half percent are identified as employers. As far change in the comparative periods, unpaid family workers scale up. Employees and employers also indicate a modicum of ascent in the same order while own account workers pare two points down.

3. **Occupational Safety & Health**

3(a) **Percentage of Employed** reporting some sort of occupational injury/disease in the past twelve months that resulted in working time loss or doctor's consultation, fares at about one in thirty three (2.9%). Explicably, male workers (3.4%) are more vulnerable than female (0.8%). Same holds for rural (3%) vis-à-vis urban workers (2.7%). Nevertheless, urban woman (0.6%) is more shielded in comparison with her rural and urban compatriots of both genders. Generally, vulnerability seems to be rising for males and urban.

3(b) **Major Industry Divisions** finds nigh half (40%) of that suffered worked in agricultural sector. Manufacturing accounts for about one-sixth (17%), followed by construction (13%), wholesale & retail trade (10%), transport, storage and communication (10%) and community, social and personal services (9%). Women are more than one and half times as exposed to risk as men in agriculture (65 Vs 39%). Comparative figures (45% Vs 40%) bespeak improvement overtime more for women than men. Contrarily, men's exposure is fourteen times higher than women's (14 Vs 1%) in construction and five times (10 Vs 2%) in wholesale and retail trade. Both categories indicate male-led deterioration over time. Manufacturing's risk profile increases in the comparative period, more for women than men. The generally masculine activity of transport & communication is getting a bit riskier while community, social and personal services display improvement in the comparative periods solely for men with women on flip side.

3(c) **Major occupational grouping** concentrates majority of the suffered (34%) in skilled agriculture and fishery activities. Comparative survey figures (34 Vs 39%) indicate improvement over time. Women's exposure to risk recedes from one and half (76 Vs 36%) of men's in 2003-04 to less the twice (59 Vs 33%) in 2005-06. All other major groups present the spectacle of rising vulnerability over time. Elementary occupations (24%) and craft & related trade activities (22%) are the next major occupational groups followed by legislators, senior officials & managers (8%) and plant and machine operators & assemblers (6%). The foremost two categories are getting riskier, steeply for women than men. The third one's increasing susceptibility to risks owes more to men than women. The same tone is set by the well nigh masculine group of plant and machine operators and assemblers.

3(d) **Employment Status** puts majority (45%) of the suffered in the category of employees. The comparative proportions (41% in 2003-04 Vs 45% of 2005-06) bespeak risk as increasing function of time for both genders. The women paint an acutely rising exposure to risk from 7% in 2003-04 to 34% in 2005-06. It adduces gender selective access to safety regime/assignment of duties at the work place. The second important category is own account workers (42%) followed by unpaid family workers (12%). The former seems to be improving over time gender neutrally. The latter indicates sharp fall in women's vulnerability, more than offset by rise in men's exposure to risk.