

CHAPTER IX ECONOMIC TRENDS

Kurukshetra district is rich in land and water resources. Agriculture is the mainstay of the district's economy engaging 56.91 percent of the working force in 2001. Wheat and rice are the main crops of the district. Among the commercial crops, sugarcane is an important crop of this district. In a broader perspective, reasonable infrastructural facilities are available in the district for promoting economic growth at a rapid rate. After witnessing the green revolution, the district is penetrating into industrial sector. Industrialisation, in fact, has started late in the district. Therefore, a fraction of the total population of the district is engaged in the secondary and primary sectors of the economy.

Livelihood Pattern

According to 1991 census, the working population in the district was 1,79,695 -slightly higher to the total district population of 6,41,943 as compared to the State average (3.80%). This is due to higher participation of women in economic activities i.e. 2.47 percent in the district as compared to 1.79 percent of the State. The working population of the district as per 2001 census is given below:-

Classification	Male	Female	Total
1. Cultivators	64,659	8,959	73,618
2. Agricultural labour	46,354	23,941	70,295
3. Household industry	3,678	2,482	6,160
4. Other workers	1,13,437	46,504	1,59,941
TOTAL	2,28,128	81,886	3,10,014

Urbanisation

According to 2001 census, there were only 4 towns in the district where only 26.06 percent of the district population lived. During 1991-2001, the urban population in the district grew by 40.02 percent. Thanesar, Shahabad, Pehowa and Ladwa are the market

centres of the district and these centres cater to the needs of the people. The price index of the commodities is also evaluated on the basis of business transactions in these markets. The price index of various commodities for the different years is given below:-

Commodities	2000-01 (Rs.)	2003-04 (Rs.)
Wheat (per qtl.)	578	628
Rice (per qtl.)	682	782
Jowar -do-	623	562
Bajra -do-	440	665
Barley -do-	480	--
Maize -do-	527	539
Gram -do-	1,658	1,683
Groundnut -do-	1,304	1,655
Washing soap (per K.g.)	19	20
Bathing soap (Lux)	10.50	11.50
Kerosene oil (control rate per litre)	7.89	9.39
Vanaspati ghee	26	40
Sugar (std.brand)	15.50	14.50
Tooth paste (50gm.)	14.50	15.50
Match box	0.50	0.50
DCM Dhoti (per pair)	180	180
Conventional footwear (<i>desi juti</i>)	150	150
Tea (250gm.)	42.50	43.50

Immigration

The district has phenomenally developed in agriculture. Consequently, there is great demand for agricultural operations. The District has witnessed large scale immigration between the last two decades which is evident from the following table:-

Immigration in the district

1981-91	1991-2001	%age increase over the decade
(-) 1921	(+) 35,485	In 1981, there were 1,47,571 cultivators in the district. The agricultural labour was 77,408. Total workers in agr. sector were 2,24,979. In 1991, there were 58,684 cultivators and 49,744 agr. labour. The total workers were 1,08,428. The difference between the year 1981 and 1991 is thus 1921. In 2001, the cultivators were 73,618 and 70,295 agricultural labour. The total agricultural workers were 1,43,913. The difference between the year 1991 and 2001 is therefore, + 35,484.

Rural Development

The strategy for rural development was formulated in the form of Community Development Programme while finalizing the country's First Five Year Plan. It was linked with the growth of agriculture and allied sectors, infrastructural development in rural areas and social welfare activities. These integrated efforts were taken up in the district by dividing the rural district into Community Development Blocks. The first Block in the district was Thanesar which was established in 1952, followed by Shahabad in 1957. After formation of Haryana, Pehowa and Ladwa Blocks were established in 1980 and 1981 respectively. These Community Development Programmes have made great impact on the community life in the villages. It has helped in bringing significant changes in living pattern and thinking of the people.

The concept of INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT embraced wider spectrum after 1977 and it was considered that economic betterment alone could not lead to total content of development and an integrated development strategy was caught to fulfill the total welfare of the people living below the poverty line in rural areas. The enrichment of quality and content of life of rural masses as the real meaning of rural development was thus taken up in 1979 through the Scheme, namely, Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP). District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), Kurukshetra came into existence w.e.f. 28th March, 1979. Initially, IRDP was started in Raduar* and Shahabad Blocks but, later in the year 1980-81, the programme was extended to all the five Blocks of the district, namely, Thanesar, Shahabad, Ladwa, Babain and Pehowa. Rural Development Programmes aim at improving the ratio- economic status of rural population. The beneficiary-oriented, area development and employment generation specially designed to raise the income levels of the poor people were initiated to enable them to cross the poverty line. During the Sixth Five Year Plan period, families whose annual income was upto Rs. 3500 were considered as “below poverty line”. The definition was changed during the subsequent Plan period and families with an annual income of Rs.6,400 were considered poor but cutoff annual family income for giving assistance under Integrated Rural Development Programme was Rs. 4,800.

Swaranjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojna (SGSY).

This scheme was introduced from April, 1999 when Government of India restructured all the previous self-employment programmes like IRDP, TRYSEM, DWCRA, SITRA etc. with the object of uplifting the assisted poor families above the poverty line in three years by providing them income-generating assets through a blend of Bank credit and Government subsidy. It would mean ensuring that the family has monthly net income of atleast Rupee 2,000/- (subject to availability of funds). The efforts will be to cover 30 percent of the poor families in each Block during the next five years. SGSY will particularly focus on the vulnerable groups among the rural poor. Accordingly, the Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes will account for atleast 50 percent of the Swarozgaris.

* Radaur Block falls in Yamunanagar district. Before 1979, it was the part of Kurukshetra district.

To find out poor families for the implementation of the programme, a household survey was undertaken during 1997-98 in all the 419 villages of the district. Resultantly, 28,021 families were found living below poverty line out of which 48.73 percent were Scheduled Castes. Their Blockwise detail is as under:-

	No. of identified families	Scheduled Castes
Ladwa	4,549	1,993
Babain	3,270	1,541
Thanesar	10,209	4,559
Shahabad	4,430	2,238
Pehowa	5,563	2,482
Total	28,021	12,813 (45.73%)

Creation of employment opportunities with food security has been an important object of development planning in India. The Central Government aims at bringing employment through wage and self-employment into a larger focus with the object of reducing under-employment to a negligible level and for providing food security against hunger. To provide a greater thrust to additional wage employment infrastructural development and food security in the rural areas, Prime Minister of India announced on 15th August, 2001 launching of an ambitious new scheme of SAMPOORNA GRAMIN ROZGAR YOJNA (SGRY) after reviewing and merging the previously ongoing schemes. This new scheme of SGRY, therefore, was launched on 25th September, 2001. The cost of this programme is shared by the Central and the State Governments on 75:25 basis. The object of this scheme is to provide additional wage employment in all rural areas and thereby providing food security to improve nutritional level. The other objects of this scheme are to create durable community, social and economic assets and infrastructure development in the rural areas.

Indira Awaas Yojna

The genesis of the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) can be traced to the programmes of rural employment, which began in early 1980s. Construction of houses was one of the major activities under the National Rural Employment Programme ((NREP) and the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP), which began in 1983. As per announcement made by the Government of India in June 1985, a part of the RLEGP fund was earmarked for the construction of houses for SCs/ STs and freed bounded labourers. As a result, Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) was launched during 1985-86 as a sub-scheme of RLEGP. IAY thereafter continued as a sub-scheme of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) since its launching in April, 1989. 6 percent of the total JRY funds were allocated for implementation of IAY. From the year 1993-94, the scope of IAY was extended to cover below the poverty line Non-scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes families in the rural areas. Simultaneously, the allocation of funds for implementing the scheme was raised from 6 percent to 10 percent of the total resources available under JRY at the national level, subject to the condition that the benefits to Non-scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes poor should not exceed 4 percent of the total JRY allocation. IAY was delinked from JRY and made an independent scheme with effect from 1st January 1996. Since 1999-2000, a number of initiatives have been taken to improve the Rural Housing Programme by making provision for upgradation of unserviceable *Kacha* houses and by providing credit with subsidy for certain sections of the society /poor. Emphasis has also been laid on the use of cost- effective, disaster- resistant and environment friendly technologies in rural housing. The primary object of this scheme is to help members of SC/ST, freed bounded labourers and others living below the poverty line in the rural areas. The cost of this scheme is shared by the Central and the State Governments on 75:25 basis.

With the above objects of rural housing, another scheme in the name of “PARDHAN MANTRI GRAM AWAAS YOJNA” is also under implementation.

National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005.

In order to ameliorate the lots of rural household workers, job for atleast 100 days in an year has been guaranteed under the

provisions of this Act. It will help in reducing the number of families living below the poverty line. This scheme has been implemented in 2006 and its results are awaited.

For providing employment to the rural Scheduled Castes (*Balmikis*), "SCHEME FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE GRAM PANCHAYATS FOR IMPROVED SANITATION" has been announced during September, 2007. Under this scheme, Gram Panchayats will employ *Safai Karamcharis* on the basis of density of population in each village as under:-

Village population	No. of persons to be employed
Upto 2000	1
2001-5000	2
5001-10,000	4
Above 10,000	6

Besides providing employment to the eligible *Balmikis*, sanitary conditions in the villages will improve with the implementation of this scheme.

Employment Situation

According to 2001 census, the population of the district was comprising 4,43,328 males and 3,83,126 females. The density of population increased from 437 persons per sq.km. in 1991 to 541 in 2001. This has resulted in additional burden on land and other resources of the district. The traditional agricultural sector with 46.42 percent of the district population has got limited opportunities for employment. The district is experiencing under-employment particularly in the villages constituting about 74 percent of the total district population. It is difficult to gauge the magnitude of unemployment in the district. However, the figures of Employment Exchanges show the trend as under:-

(a) No. of candidates on the live register. (Male 22,346, Female 5,944)	28,290
(b) No. of persons registered during 2004. (Male 3637 Female 685)	4,322

(c) Vacancies notified during 2004.	85
(d) No. of persons employed during 2004.	40
(e) No. of institutions from whom requisitions received during 2004.	16
(f) No. of applicants whose cases were recommended for sanction of loan to DIC, Kurukshetra under the "Self-employment Scheme) during the year 2004.	812
(g) No. of applicants to whom loan disbursed under (f) above	312
(h) Amount disbursed.	Rs. 114.00 lacs
(i) No. of persons employed by private sectors during 2004.	20
(j) No. of candidates to whom unemployment allowance given.	165
(k) Amount of unemployment allowance paid.	Rs. 39, 875/-

Employment Exchanges

In making assessment of manpower requirement of professional and technical workers and to know more correctly, the type of personnel in short supply and new employment opportunities, the Directorate of Employment maintains district wise record of persons seeking employment. The District Employment Exchanges register the names and qualifications of the unemployed persons seeking job.

The sub-Employment Exchange of Kurukshetra was upgraded to District Employment Exchange in May, 1972. Another Employment Exchange was established at Pehowa.

With the enforcement of the Employment Exchanges (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Act, 1959, Establishments in the public sector and also those normally employing 10 or more persons in the private sector were to notify their vacancies to the concerned Employment Exchange before recruitment. The table

reproduced below would show that unemployment situation in the district is complex. The number of persons seeking employment on the live register was only 19,617 in 1991 which has increased to 27,113 by March, 2004 as below:-

(a) Matriculates	17,486
(b) Undergraduates	4,618
(c) Graduates	4,786
(d) Postgraduates	193
Total	27,113

During the year 2004, only 39 persons in different categories have got employment.

The following table shows the working of Employment Exchanges in Kurukshetra district:-

**Working of Employment Exchange in Kurukshetra District
During 1981-2004**

Sr. No.	Category	1981	1991	2001	2004
1.	No. of Employment Exchanges at the end of the year	8*	5	2	2
2.	No. of registrations during the year	16,395	10,965	10,121	4,276
3.	No. of vacancies notified	4,800	747	130	80
4.	No. of applicants employed during the year	3,017	384	82	39
5.	No. of applicants on the live register	24,661	28,591	28,647	28,624
6.	No. of employers using Exchanges	168	79	26	4

* Includes the number of Exchanges of the composit Distt. of Kaithal which was created in Jan. 1989.

Unemployment Allowance to Educated Unemployed Youths

The Government has been concerned to arrest the perennial flow of unemployed labour force in the State. In spite of phenomenal advancement on the economic and development fronts, unemployment, particularly amongst the educated youths, has remained unabated which is adversely affecting the economic and social level of the people.

The scheme for providing unemployment allowance to the educated unemployed youths registered with the Employment Exchanges in Haryana was introduced w.e.f. Nov.1,1988 which is being disbursed at the following rates:

- | | | |
|-------|--------------------------|---------------|
| (i) | Matriculates | Rs. 50/- P.M. |
| (ii) | Hr. Sec./ Intermediates | Rs. 75/- P.M. |
| (iii) | Graduates/ postgraduates | Rs.100/- P.M. |

As on March 31, 2004, a sum of Rs. 39,875/- was disbursed to 165 educated unemployed youths in the district.

Free bus travel facilities have also been provided to the educated unemployed youths for attending the interviews conducted by Haryana Public Service Commission and Haryana Staff Selection Commission on production of call letters from these Recruiting Agencies.

One Family One Job Scheme

In order to provide economic relief and equitable justice to those families which had been deprived of the employment opportunities, the Haryana Government constituted One One Family Committee in Sept. 1990 and later on One Family One Job Commission was set up on February 1, 1991.

As on 15th February, 1991, there were 987 registered candidates in the district under this scheme. Since the State Government has achieved the desired target under this scheme, none of the members registered thereunder could get employment in Kurukshetra district.

Self Employment Programmes

According to 2001 census, total rural labour force in the district was 5,994 and the incidence of unemployment was high. This was confined to agricultural labourers and class of small and marginal

farmers whose economic status was low. As a corollary of rural poverty and unemployment, various schemes were in operation in the district to provide gainful employment to the rural unemployed e.g.:-

- (i) Training of Rural Youths for Self-employment.
- (ii) National Rural Employment Programme.
- (iii) Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme.
- (iv) Jawahar Rojgar Yojna.

As a result of introduction of Integrated Rural Development Programme and enforcement of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, these schemes have been restructured as discussed above.

For providing vocational guidance, during the year 2004, following efforts have been made by the Employment Exchanges in the district:-

- (i) Employment guidance was provided to 2,942 students of 12 High Schools and 18 Higher Secondary Schools.
- (ii) 68 Group Talks were organized in which 1,216 candidates participated.
- (iii) Self-employment Awareness Camps were organized in 14 villages in which 836 candidates were educated about self-employment programmes and job opportunities thereunder.
- (iv) 423 candidates attended 7 Self-employment Camps organized in the Employment Exchanges.
- (v) Personal guidance was given to the candidates who visited the Employment Exchanges for this purpose.
- (vi) Information about vacancies being advertised in the Daily Newspapers/ Employment News is being supplied to the candidates from time to time.

Prices of Agricultural Produce

The prices of agricultural produce are fixed by the Agricultural Price Commission (APC) Government of India, in the form of support prices. These prices are uniform throughout the country and there is no deviation from these prices in the district.

The following table shows the average annual wholesale price of various agricultural commodities in the district:-

Commodity	2000-01 (Rs./ Qtl.)	2003-04 (Rs./ Qtl.)
Wheat	578	628
Rice	682	782
<i>Jowar</i>	623	562
<i>Bajra</i>	440	665
Maize	527	539
Gram	1658	1683
Groundnut	1304	1655

The above table shows that there has been substantial increase in the wholesale price of wheat, rice, *bajra* and groundnut. There is, however, a time lag between the movement of wholesale and retail prices. The retail prices relatively are higher as compared to the wholesale prices as would be evident from the table below:-

Commodity	2000-01 (Rs./ Qtl.)	2003-04 (Rs./ Qtl.)
Wheat	625	775
Rice	1000	1200
Maize	650	800
Wheat flour (<i>atta</i>)	725	875
Grams	2200	2200

The price of daily use items other than agricultural commodities increased faster than the prices of agricultural commodities. The prices of such daily use non-agricultural commodities have been shown in the following table:-

Commodity	Unit	2000-01	2003-04
1. Washing soap	Kg.	19.00	20.00
2. Bathing Soap (Lux)	PP	10.50	11.50
3. K.Oil (controlled)	Ltr.	7.89	9.39
4. Vanaspati Ghee	Kg.	26.00	40.00
5. Sugar (standard brand)	Kg.	15.50	14.50
6. Tooth paste	50 grams	14.50	15.50
7. Match Box	Per piece	0.50	0.50
8. DCM Dhoti	Pair	180.00	180.00
9. Ordinary footwear	Per pair	150.00	150.00
10. Petrol	Ltr.	-	-
11. Tea	Kg.	42.50	43.50

Wages

Wages generally signify all remunerations capable of being expressed in terms of money paid to a person for his services rendered. The level of wages is generally related to prevailing conditions in the region. Price fluctuations generally influence the wage level.

Broadly, the workers in the district can be divided into three categories i.e. (i) Whole time workers (ii) Part time workers & (iii) Daily wage earners. The comparative wages rates of selected occupations, which have been fixed by the Government of Haryana under the Minimum Wages Act, are given hereunder:-

Year 2003-04

Category	Whole time (Rs. P.M.)	Part time (Rs. P.M.)	Daily Wages
1. Skilled labour	2836/-	--	112/-
2. Unskilled Labour	2770/-	--	108/-
3. Gardner (<i>Mali</i>)	2651/-	1 hour Rs. 618/-	105/-
4. Sweeper	2650/-	2 “ Rs. 1134/-	
		3 “ Rs.1326/-	
		4 “ Rs.1595/-	
		5 “ Rs.1707/-	
5. Computer Operator		5-6 hrs. Rs.2039/-	
6. Watchman (<i>Chowkidar</i>)	2651/-		105/-
7. Motor/Road Roller Driver	2884/-		112/-
8. Cart Driver	2836/-		112/-
9. Electrician	2884/-		112/-
10. Auto Mechanic	2884/-		112/-
11. Turner	2884/-		112/-

With the advancement and improvement in the communication, transport and IT sectors, private skilled and unskilled workers have been charging different wage rates depending upon the type and magnitude of labour involved in the following categories:-

- (i) TV Mechanics (including VCDs, DVDs, Stereos etc.)
- (ii) Motor cycle/scooter/ Car Mechanics.
- (iii) Refrigeration & Air conditioners Mechanics.
- (iv) Mobile Phone Mechanics
- (v) Welders.

The consumers in the above categories generally switch over to private repair facilities when Annual/Fixed Time Repair & Maintenance Contract with the manufacturers/suppliers comes to an end and thereafter repair from these agencies becomes a costly affair due to addition of high visiting charges and branded company spares with overhead charges and consumers prefer to resort to private sources.

Level of Economic Development

Haryana has developed phenomenally on the economic front during the last 25 years. The level of economic development attained by the State is very much above the national average but there are wide variations from district to district both in the structure of economy and extent of its development. A few important selected indicators for measuring the level of economy in Kurukshetra district are given hereunder:-

Indicators	1975-76	1980-81	1990-91	1995-96	2000-01	2001-02 (provisional)
Based on gross value from Agriculture per hectare at current prices	3,966	7,620	20,917	38,482	56,248	58,446
Based on gross value of agriculture output per capital (rural) at current prices.	1,588	2,543	5,960	10,450	13,923	14,023

Agriculturally, Kurukshetra is considered to be one of the most developed districts of the State. It is known as the 'Rice Bowl' of the State. But in the field of industry, it is still at its infancy. However, taking all the factors into consideration, it is all set for 'take off' position due to commissioning of more Rice Sellers, Food Processing Industries, Kalpana Chawla Planetarium, rapid urbanization etc.