

# Socio-Economic Conditions of Daily Wage Earners

A real case study of Mussoorie Hill

Author



Dr. P. N. singhal

The author is a Reader at Department of Commerce, D.N. (PG) College, Meerut (U.P.)

## ABSTRACT

Daily wage earners refers to such Persons who contract wages on daily basis or daily from different person for any work done or service rendered.

No classification is possible for daily wages earners. On the basis of economic activities as it is difficult to identify them in any manner. They occupy different types of employment in the town.

Daily wage earners suffers from social prejudice on account of backward Socio-Economic conditions. The author in present study surveyed four major localities of Mussoorie Hill Station comprising 359 Garhwalis and 126 Nepalesse as coolie-porter, rickshaw-puller, dandi-coolie and tourist guide etc.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The term 'daily wage earners' refers to such persons who contract wages on daily basis or daily from different persons for any work done or service rendered. Thus, they sell their labour to different persons in return of monetary payments. As such all those persons who undertake or perform the work of a coolie or porter or of a rickshaw-puller or of a tourist guide etc. are known as daily wage earners. Mussoorie being a tourist town, work and earnings are contracted in short period because of its seasonal importance. Most of the daily wage earners use to go back to their home places as soon as the season is over.

## 2. CLASSIFICATION OF DAILY WAGE EARNERS

No classification of daily wage earners is possible on the basis of economic activities as it is difficult to

identify them in any manner. The difficulty in their classification is that these workers obtain different types of employments at different times. For example, the same worker earns his livelihood from various activities like coolie work, tourist guide work, rickshaw-pulling, perambulator-pushing, ponny driving, etc. Thus, it does not appear to classify the daily wage earners according to economic activities.

Daily wage earners cannot be distributed also in different employments due to their peculiar position. They occupy different types of employment in the town. They do not stick to a particular job as they engage themselves in different occupations throughout a year. As evident from foregoing discussion they earn their livelihood from different economic activities and they accept jobs whatever are made available to them. Therefore, their

distribution in not possible on the basis of different employments. Hence, the only possible way to draw distinction among daily wage earners is to classify them into racial groups namely Garhwalies and the Nepalesse. As per census collected, the total number of workers in different localities is 485. The following table gives their distribution locality wise :

They suffer from social prejudices on account of backward socio-economic conditions. Moreover, they belong to an illiterate class and do not enjoy stable means of living. They take up different jobs, such as, coolie-porter, rickshaw-puller, dandi-coolie, etc.

In the early times of human settlement in Mussoorie, the population of these workers was much larger than

<b>LOCALITY WISE DISTRIBUTION OF WORKERS</b>			
<b>Name of the Locality</b>	<b>No. of Garhwalis Workers</b>	<b>No. of Nepalesse Workers</b>	<b>Total</b>
1. Landour (including Cantonment area)	94 (26.18)	39 (30.95)	133 (27.43)
2. Masonic Lodge & Kulari	148 (41.23)	16 (12.70)	164 (33.81)
3. Kinraig	13 (3.62)	54 (42.86)	67 (13.81)
4. Library Market (including Charell Valley & Happy Valley)	104 (28.97)	17 (13.49)	121 (24.95)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>359</b> (100.00)	<b>126</b> (100.00)	<b>485</b> (100.00)

The above table reveals that out of total 485 daily wage earners at Mussoorie Hill Station, 359 are Garhwalies and the rest 126 are Nepalesse. It has also been observed that out of these workers 133 (27.43%) are residing in Landour area, 164 (33.81%) are living in Mussoorie Lodge and Kulhari, 67 (13.81%) are passing their nights in the area of Kinraig and the rest 121 (24.95%) are living nearby Library market.

### **3. THE PLACE OF DAILY WAGE EARNERS IN THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC LIFE OF MUSSOORIE HILL STATION**

Daily wage earning workers of Mussoore Hill Station occupy a very low status in the social life of the town. These workers form a large and handicapped section of our community.

their present population. At that time, means of transportation were not very much and they were used carrying load and luggage. The construction of Mussoorie-Dehradun road and consequently the introduction of vehicals reduced town's as well as tourists' dependence on them. This caused a heavy dimunition in their number. However, inside the town, the job opportunities for them remained intact. The town's economy is still dependent on their services. They continue to play an important role and influence the economy of Mussoorie hill station.

### **4. CONCLUSION**

These workers render valuable services to the tourists and as well as to local people of the town. Their importance can be gauged by this fact that they contribute

a lot in promoting the tourism, trade and commerce in the town. They provide different services to the incoming and outgoing visitors. Rickshawpullers help the visitors to reach their destination in the town as well as the laces of amusement; coolies carry luggage and provide door to door services to passengers; perambulator-pushers provide a relief the visiting persons by carrying their babies; porter carry loads

on their back and render services to the business community. Hence the movement of man & material in the town is almost inconceivable in the absence of these workers. Actually no tourist would dream of a hill resort without them. These workers are the backbone of the town's economy. Thus, the importance of these workers as a separate class, though socially and economically handicapped, cannot be under-rated.