

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) 2006-07 provides data on (a) age, sex, marital status, literacy, level of education and migration of the population, (b) dimensions of country's labour force, viz (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 of LFS 2006-07 in comparison with the previous LFS 2005-06 are outlined as under:**

1. Literacy and Employment

1(a) **Literacy rate** improves from 53% in 2005-06 to 55% in 2006-07. This improvement is relatively more for males (i.e. from 65% in 2005-06 to 76% in 2006-07) compared to females (i.e. from 40.6% in 2005-06 to 42.4% in 2006-07). It is also noted that gender and area differentials are narrowing down the comparative period.

1(b) **Participation rates** (31.8%) of 2006-07 are almost at par with that of 2005-06 (32%). Similar trend is also noted for both areas and genders. Augmentation of rates for marginal economic activities, captured through additional probing questions from the persons conventionally out of labour force, presents the same scenario.

1(c) **Employment by Major Industries** indicates share of *agriculture and allied activities* (43.6%) in 2006-07 slightly higher than that of 2005-06 (43.4%). Male employment decreases a bit from 37% in 2005-06 to 36% in 2006-07 while that of females increases by 3% from 69% in 2005-06 to 72% in 2006-07. Comparative figures for non agriculture are close to each other.

1(d) **Employment Status** shows the *employees* on the same level (37.3% in 2005-06 to 37.4% in 2006-07). *Unpaid family workers* increase by some fractions from 26.9% in 2005-06 to 27.3% in 2006-07 due to increase in the share of females. However, respective shares of *employers* and *own account workers* appear to be decreasing marginally from 0.9% & 34.9% in 2005-06 to 0.8% & 34.5% in 2006-07.

1(e) **The Number of Hours Worked** in a week shows over 80% of employed persons have worked more than "35 hours a week"-the duration representing (time related) full employment. 29% of these are reported to have worked "56 hours or more a week" in 2006-07 compared to 30% in 2005-06. The proportions for less than "35 hours a week" are at par in the comparative surveys.

1(f) **Unemployment Rate** decreases from 6.2% in 2005-06 to 5.3% in 2006-07. This declining trend has been noted for both genders and areas.

2. Informal Sector

2(a) **Size of Informal Sector** accounts for 72% of the employment in main jobs outside agriculture sector, more in rural (73%) than urban areas (71%). Contrarily, formal activities are more concentrated in urban (29%) than rural areas (27%). The comparative surveys show marginal decrease from 73% in 2005-06 to 72% in 2006-07.

2(b) **Employment by Major Industry Divisions** assigns largest part (35%) to *wholesale and retail trade* followed by *manufacturing* (20%), *community, social and personal services* (18%), *construction* (15%) and *transport* (11%). The other categories account for less than two percent. Comparative figures indicate a mixed trend, though increases are more frequent than decreases. *Construction* rises for both genders while *wholesale and retail trade* and *services* increase mainly for females. *Manufacturing* and *transport* shows marginal decrease for both genders.

2 (c) **The Employment Status** categorizes majority (45%) as *employees* followed by *own account workers* (42%). About one in ten workers (11%) are reported as *unpaid family workers* and one & a half percent as *employers*. As far changes in the comparative periods, *unpaid family workers* fall by some fractions, *employees* indicate some increase while *own account workers* and *employers* remain on the same level.

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, are about one in fifty (2%). Male workers (2.4%) are more vulnerable than female (0.4%). Same is the case for rural (2.2%) in comparison with urban workers (1.6%). Nevertheless, urban females (99.7%) seem to be less vulnerable than rural and urban workers of both genders.

3(b) **Major Industry Divisions** put almost half (41%) of those suffered in *agricultural* sector. *Manufacturing* accounts for about one-sixth (15%), followed by *construction* (14.5%), *community, social and personal services* (11%), *wholesale & retail trade* (9%) and *transport, storage and communication* (8%). The risk profile of *agriculture, construction* and *community, social & personal services* deteriorates whereas that of *manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade* and *transport* improves a bit.

3 (c) **Major occupational grouping** finds majority of suffered in *skilled agriculture and fishery activities*(37%) which, in comparison with the figure of previous survey (34%), indicates deterioration over time. Three-fifth of suffered females belongs to this group. Female's vulnerability decreases from 59% in 2005-06 to 57% in 2006-07 whereas that of males increases from 33% in 2005-06 to 36% in 2006-07. *Elementary occupations* (19%) and *craft & related trade activities* (24%) are the next major occupational groups. The former category is getting less, while the latter more, risky for males generally.

3(d) **Employment Status** finds majority (43%) of the suffered in the category of *own account workers* which is a bit higher in comparison with LFS 2005-06 (42%). The second important category is *employees* (42%) followed by *unpaid family workers* (15%). The first one shows improvement for both genders while the second one deteriorates more for females than males.