

Abstract

West Bengal witnessed the highest growth in non-agricultural employment between 2004-05 and 2009-10 amongst all states in India. The paper looks into this increase in growth rate of employment more closely. Certain broad characteristics are apparent such as massive informalization of labour, stagnant real wages and minimal social security. Non-agricultural growth in employment is mainly concentrated in the real estate, construction and retail sector. These sectors are in general associated with informalization and low productive employment and the state scenario is not an exception in this regard. In a nutshell, even though there has been an increase in employment in West Bengal, it is not a model which can be replicated in other states in India.