FLOOD HAZARD MANAGEMENT: A CASE STUDY OF MUNGER DISTRICT

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Abstract

Munger is one of the ancient and important districts of Bihar. It is situated in south Ganga plain, historically and geographically known as the Anga plain. Munger is located just on the levee of mighty river Ganga which makes it flood-prone each year. Its eastern boundary touches Bhagalpur districts and formerly the district was a part of Bhagalpur. Its western boundary touches Lakhisarai district and prior to its bifurcation, Lakhisarai was also a part of Munger district. Its northern boundary is demarcated by the river Ganga and formerly parts of Khagaria district also were included. The southern boundary touches the district of Jamui which was also its part earlier. The slope of the district is from west to east and south to north. Kharagpur Hills is situated in the middle part.

Keywords :

Introduction

Flood means inundation of extensive land area with water for several days. It is generally associated with rivers and people conceive flood as the outcome of accumulation of huge volume of water coming out of the rivers through overtopping of the river banks. Flood is a natural phenomena in response to rainfall. The erratic nature of rainfall is the main cause of flooding because streams could hardly carry the excess of rainwater. Flood plays, therefore, a vital role in regulation of the level of human occupance. The repeated flooding has disastrous consequence on human lives, livestock, settlement and other property.

Flood is a situation when there is flow of water in a river more than its capacity and the water overflows the levels and spreads in nearby areas. Thus, flood is a part of normal condition of flow of river water. The water spreads on the ground where the normal stream of water does not reach normally. Flood is caused due to different reasons in different areas, but basically the use of the word 'flood' is made in the following situations :

- Excess flow of water in the river more than its capacity within its banks, so that water flows on the nearby land.
- Amalgamation of companion rivers on the mouth of a main river in ultimate flood position.
- Excess rain than the capacity of the river.
- Existence of icebergs, or landslides in flow route of the river which results in flow of water over the banks.
- Coming of high waves from higher planes.
- Heavy rains at local level.
- Storm or cyclone

There are so many historical sites in Munger. Munger is famous for Cigarette factory, Gun factory and Rail coach factory in Jamalpur. It was the capital of Mirkasim, the Muslim Nawab. Chandrikasthan is a famous religious place, International yoga centre is also very well known all over the world. Munge-Jamalpur is almost aligned making it a twin city.

Munger District : Location Map

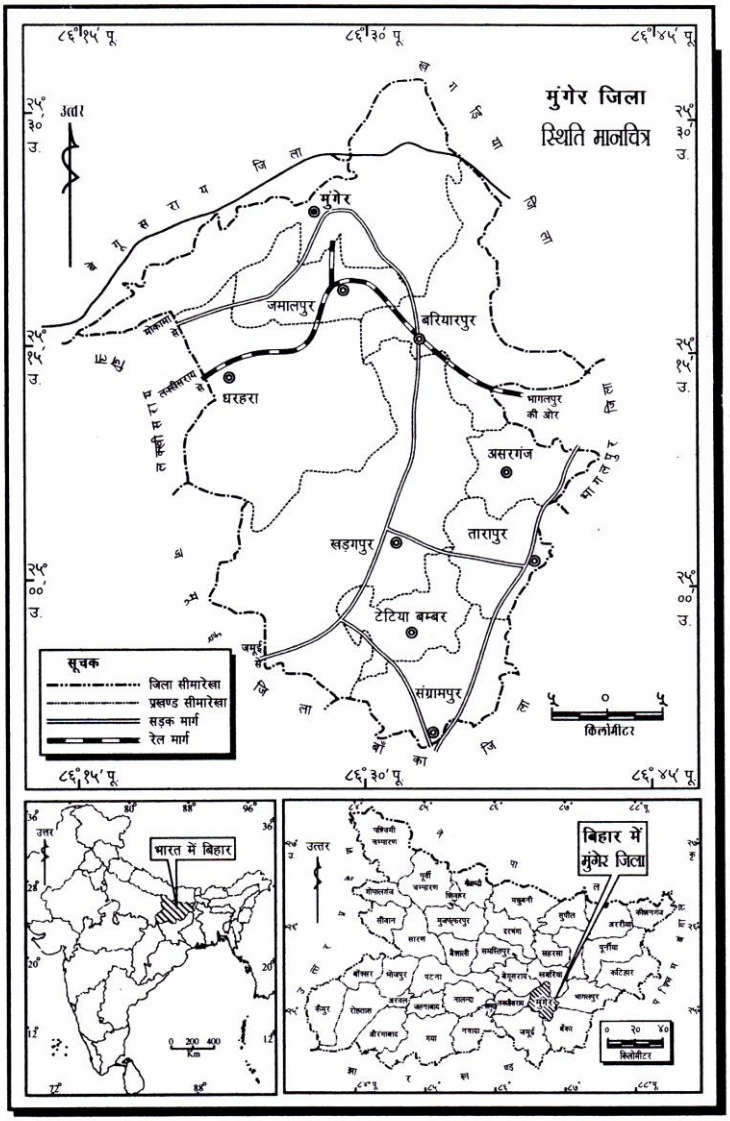

Fig. : 1.1

Study Area

The district of Munger has roughly a shape akin to the shape of India. It is such a geographical region where the plain, plateau and mountainous area are found. It expands over an area of 1397.60 sq kms (139,759 hec) with a total population of 1367765 (2011). It is flanked between 24^0 56′ N to 25^0 30′ N Latitudes and 86^0 16′ E 86^0 44′ E Longitudes. There are 9 C.D. blocks in the district, namely Munger Sadar, Jamalpur, Bariyarpur, Dharhara, Kharagpur, Tarapur, Sansrampur, Tetia Bambar and Asarganj. The largest anchal is Munger and the smallest anchal in Asarganj. The average population density in Munger is 964/sq km. The literacy rate in Munger is 70.46%.

FLOOD HAZARD MANAGEMENT

Flood hazard management is a diversified way to be taken by the Government primarily to protect the hazard, mitigation, aware the people and maintain the co-relation between various organizations. To save the people of any society and any nation with the help of news agencies for sustainable development and stabilised progress plan in the flood prone area is the main motto of flood hazard management.

The main target of flood management is reducing the reasons behind flood for any natural or human related reasons. For the reason of huge population and other various kind of pressure the target is quite tough to fulfil. Although it is always being try to solve this problem but naturally the society never ready to handle this loss like the shifting of people from flood prone area or land accuzation for any kind of project due to the reason of flood protection as an example construction of dams.- So the way of achieve the target is very tough.

Continuous organization of awareness programme, sending the message of warning towards people is necessary by the technological supports essential in a flood prone area. Rapid developments in science and technology gradually help to move the way of stabilised economy which is the first priority to control the hazardslike flood.

To protect the public from floods Government, Various foreign and national organizations and NGOs done lots of work. To fix those various units on different kind of geographical area and diversified population for reduce the vulnerability level is the major work. To build up the capacity of prevention and mitigation. in daily life against the flood hazard is the ultimate target of flood hazard management programme.

Flood : A Natural Disaster

Floods have been recurrent phenomena in India from time immemorial. Almost every year floods of varying magnitude affect some parts of the country or the other. The monsoon regime is a regular phenomena. Year to year variations occur with regard to the onset of monsoon, its progress over the Indian landmass, and the amount of rainfall distribution. In some years, the variation is quite significant. Nevertheless, there is a fundamental regularity and dependability

about the monsoon that sets the seasonal rhythms of life, although it also causes unfortunate losses across much of the part of the world.

Conclusion

Hazard is a complex phenomena of several factors, which are the product of the forces and processes of nature inherent all over the earth. Geography and ecology are complementary to each other. The spatial aspect is associated with geographical studies of hazard. Every ecosystem has its own geographical conditions, which needs complete and complex analysis and the result so arrived forms the base for Geography of environment. The environment is a complex form of variable factors or causes, which includes natural phenomena, climate or aerial and topographical or physiographic factors. The natural hazards occur due to phenomenal increase in population and allied pressure associated with action and activities of mankind for their survival on the earth. The natural hazards are responsible for such causalities to the extent of 29.7% by floods. In Bihar, floods and droughts are the main natural hazards. Large scale devastation due to floods and droughts in Bihar is a matter of great concern for the people as well as the Govt., the policy makers. Out of the affected area, 45 lakh hectares is under north Bihar and 23 lakh hectares under central Bihar.

Bihar is rich in natural resources, especially land, soil, water, but the productivity in the agriculture sector is constrained by the uneven distribution and exciting ecological conditions. Rainfall is uncertain. It is under hydraulic disaster areas, so flood and droughts are frequent visitors. The state is overpopulated and the density is high. Low yield per hectare is the chief characteristics of agricultural productivity in Bihar. Some districts of Bihar always suffer from floods, floods cause non compensable loss each and every year. NGO's, Govt. agencies, planners and administrators have been conducting studies in Bihar and preparing suitable blueprints to combat the flood situation, to mitigate the disastrous hazards.

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