

ECONOMIC STATUS OF RURAL-URBAN POPULATION IN SARAN DISTRICT

Dr. Suman Kumar Jha
Assistant Professor
Banwari Shanker College
Simaraha, Saharsa

ABSTRACT:

Disparity in the levels of development is the primary concern for all those who see a balanced socio-economic development of not only of Saran district but for the state of Bihar as a whole. Inter-regional and intra-regional comparisons become necessary so that the exercise in planning may be directed towards the improvement of economic status of rural-urban people.

INTRODUCTION

Economic status is not an appropriate term. Economic condition of rural and urban population may be perused. In it, social condition is also included. This district is predominantly an agrarian. More than 94% population live in rural area and are dependent upon agriculture and its allied activities. Ups and down of economic status swings like pendulum. When agriculture becomes successful, both cultivators and labour class feel happiness. Really fate and fortune; progress and development, ups and down, happiness and sorrow -all these twins are wedded to agricultural success. Here nothing can move until and unless agriculture moves and agriculture can not move until and unless water is used. It means that economic prosperity of people of rural area in the district is interlocked with growth and development of agriculture & allied activities.

Economic condition is also related to secondary and tertiary occupation. In rural areas with some exemptions, there is almost dearth of industrial development. However, majority of urban people earn income mainly from services and very few persons are engaged in industrial activities. To study the economic status or condition of people of rural or urban areas, per capita availability of income may be perused to come to conclusion. In 2001 per capita income was Rs. 8323.00 which went up to Rs. 13,860.00 in 2018, almost 70% jump in per capita income. But this figure for Saran district is not the same. In 2001 per capita income was Rs. 7984.00 which went up to Rs. 13200.00 in 2018. But share of per capita income of rural people was Rs. 6403.00 which went up to Rs. 9780.00 in 2018. As 94% population belong to rural area it can be imagined that how pitiable is economic condition of rural people! Almost similar case is of urban counterpart per capita income of urban people in 2001 was about Rs. 14810.00 which went up to Rs. 26850.00 in 2018. This is generalized income picture of the total rural-urban population

In rural areas more than 84% population belongs to very low income group and only about 16% population have higher income. Rich farmers earn more per capita income than the poor labourers. Hence economic status of rural population with few exception is insignificant. Much has to be done in rural areas to raise their economic conditions MNREGA, a village oriented job-providing central govt. scheme managed at Panchayati Level, has done a lot to improve economic conditions of the poor rural people. But such type of job-providing scheme is not operational in urban areas. The cumulative effect is that more than 53% population of the study area have to live below poverty level.

PRESENT STATUS OF ECONOMY IN SARAN DISTRICT

Firstly, nothing has done to reduce pressure on agriculture. Agricultural dominance is seen at every level. Even in urban area more than 60% people are engaged in tertiary sector activities, 15% population engaged in primary activities like cultivation of vegetables and fruits and fishing work and remaining are service holders either in govt. department or in private companies. In short, it can be said that agriculture holds the key to Saran's development. However, it may be a challenge as well as an opportunity. In Saran district land and water are the dominant natural resource thrust upon by nature, notwithstanding the fact that these are basic resources for agriculture. Further as a consequence, the rate of transformation of the district's economy in terms of growing importance on non-farm and non-agriculture sector is much slow. Lack of opportunities in industries and poor rural-urban growth linkages retained agriculture's importance. This, of course is national trend but Bihar including the study areas stands out as an extreme case. It is also notable that primary output dominates the agricultural economy of the region. There is very little agro-processing and even primary processing industries. Above all, population pressure on natural resources has threatened the eco-system. The rural industries for which growth, the district has vast raw-materials, by and large, collapsed in recent years. All these basic features of economy reveal the dominance of low-income agricultural sector and consequently as also earlier observed, low per capita income and high poverty, particularly 94% population dominate rural areas. Thus, the basic strength of district's economy in its present status, revolves around the primary sector-agriculture, livestock and fisheries.

Table No.1.1

Basic Economic Features of Saran District/Bihar/India

Sl.No.	Categories	District	Bihar	India
1	Agriculture as % of GDP (TE 2004-05)	44.86	42.08	24.26
2	Rural Population as % of total population (2011)	89.26	86.20	65.8
3	workforce in agriculture in % (2004-05)	80.20	75.96	59.13
4	Human population density (2011)	1495	1106	383
5	Livestock density per hectare (2011)	2.96	2.85	1.90

Source: Computed from census report 1990-91, 2001-02, 2010-11

ANALYSIS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

To understand economic status of rural -urban population in more scientific way, 16 socio-economic indicators have been chosen. These indicators have been placed in Table No. 1.2 as below

Table No. 1.2
Socio-Economic Indicators

Block	% of N.S.A. to total Area	% of area sown more than once to N.S.A	% of net irrigated area to N.S.A.	Gross working force engaged in Primary activities	% of working force engaged in Primary activities	% of working force engaged in secondary activities	% of working force engaged in tertiary activities	Density of population per Km2	% of Urban population to total population	Literacy %	% of elect-rified villages to total villages	Length of schools roads per 100 Km2	No. of High Schools per 10000 population	No. of colleges per 10000 population	No. of hospitals dispensaries and health centers per 10000 population
Masrakh	75.9	25.3	47.3	5650	80.6	4.1	15.3	620	12.6	60.3	63.2	6.9	0.32	0.08	0.80
Panapur	75.0	24.9	44.8	5615	85.9	2.9	11.2	485	-	60.1	63.6	6.8	0.32	0.08	0.80
Taraiya	80.7	23.6	42.6	6025	80.6	2.7	16.5	592	11.8	61.0	65.1	12.8	0.65	0.26	2.08
Baniapur	79.9	26.4	46.6	5875	80.3	3.7	16.0	601	17.0	61.4	64.6	23.5	0.37	0.19	1.13
Ekma	82.1	33.6	22.3	5585	81.1	3.6	15.3	646	-	57.2	81.0	25.6	0.43	-	0.58
Jalalpur	78.1	32.8	39.4	5485	92.0	2.0	6.0	491	-	50.4	18.5	14.9	0.31	-	1.70
Revilganj	28.6	19.5	45.1	5000	87.0	4.3	8.7	316	-	45.3	57.0	76	0.33	-	1.45
Amnour	82.7	25.4	35.4	4854	79.4	2.7	17.9	711	15.9	57.4	73.9	11.9	0.56	0.42	1.25
Manjha	45.4	26.9	26.0	4485	89.1	2.5	8.4	469	-	52.5	61.6	4.2	0.22	0.11	0.44
Maker	466	27.0	26.5	4485	83.4	5.2	11.4	252	-	49.8	61.1	3.8	0.22	0.11	0.44
dIGHWARA	65.40	23.60	0.1	3975	70.2	3.8	26.0	48	-	40.8	3.9	1.1	0.35	-	2.96

Source: Compiled from the data obtained from the Directorate of Statistics and Evaluation, Patna)

From analysis of Table No. 1.2 it is clear that 16 indicators related to primary, secondary, and Tertiary activities, urbanization and infrastructural development have been selected for measuring the levels of socio-economic development in the study with the helps of these indicators, develop indices for each sample selected C.D.B's have been computed. The development indices, thus computed, have been broadly grouped into three socio-economic development levels as shown in Table No. 1.3

Table No. 1.3
Block-wise Indices of Socio-economic Development

Sl.No.	Block	Index of Development
1	Masrak	0.4824
2	Panapur	0.4783
3	Taraiya	0.4892
4	Baniapur	0.5163
5	Ekma	0.63254
6	Jalalpur	0.7985
7	Maker	0.7815
8	Amnour	0.4269
9	Manjhi	0.6874
10	Maker	0.6783
11	Dhighwara	0.9475
12	Revelganj	0.6283

Source: Computation by the writer on selected C.D.B.

On the basis of perusal of Table No. 1.3 we conclude that three different levels of economic-social development in the district have been categorized. that is shown in Table No.1.4

Table No. 1.4
Levels of Socio-Economic Development

Sl.No.,	Level of Development	Development index	Name of C.D.B's
1	Moderate	< 0.60000	Amnour, Chapra, Taraiya, Baniapur, Panapur
2	Low	00.6000-0.80000	Masrak, Ekma, Jallapur Dighwara
3	Very Low	70.80000	Maker

Source: Self-computation Method (Taxonomic Method)

Three variation in the levels of development is due to various factors such as uneven development of infrastructural facilities, agriculture, secondary and Tertiary activities; urbanization and socio-cultural attitudes of the people of different D.C.B's .

Table No.1.4 shows three different levels of socio-economic development in the district. This variation in the levels of development is due to various factors such as uneven development of infrastructural facilities, agriculture, secondary and tertiary activities, urbanization and socio-cultural attitudes of the people of different areas. The moderate level of development is found in Ist category covering 36% of the area and 58% of the population of the district. These blocks are agriculturally better developed , where more than 80% of the total area is put to agriculture and 44% of the net shown area cultivated more than once. About 80% , 4% and 16% of the working population area engaged in primary, secondary and tertiary sectors respectively. . about 75% of the male population are literate. About 66% of the inhabited villages and 75% of the rural population enjoy electricity. Average length of metalled roads in 12 km per 100 km² of the area while number of high schools, colleges and hospitals, dispensaries and health centers per 10,000 of population are 0.44 , 0.20 and 1.21 respectively. It is apparent that these blocks record moderate level of development owing to somewhat better development in agriculture, infrastructures and urbanization.

The low level of development has been recorded in IInd category covering 37% of the area and 39% of the population of the district. This is mainly due to less developed infrastructural facilities (Electrified villages-56% , length of metalled roads per 100 Km²-11 km, number of high schools per 10,000 population -0.3, number hospitals, dispensaries and health centers per 10,000 population -0.92) , low development of secondary (3% of the workers) and tertiary (10% of the workers) sectors, relatively low agricultural development (56% of total area put to agriculture, irrigational facilities- 31% of N.S.A.) and comparatively low level of people awareness (male literacy -66% ,

female literacy -35%). A very low level of development has been recorded in Revelganj anchal, mainly due to diara conditions lack of agricultural development (only 5% of total area put to agriculture), almost non-existent irrigational (less than 1% of N.S.A.) and infrastructural facilities (electrified villages 4%, length of metalled roads per 100k²-1.1 km, number of high schools 1, number of commercial banks 1), high proportion of scheduled caste population (49%) and low level of people awareness (male literacy -58%, female literacy -21%) have gone against progress.

CONCLUSION:

From perusal of above description it has become crystal clear that Saran district is over whelming by rural in character 53% population living below poverty line. Great effort is needed to improve socio-economic status of the people

This is also an issue relating to the interface between population change and economic development. How rising population and commensurate economic development may lead to degradation of environment should also be studied for the sake of future generation.

Reference:

1. Bihar : Facts & figures, Deptt. of Statistics, GOB, Patna (various issues)
2. Chandana, R.c. (1980, 2015) Introduction to population Geography, Kalyani Publication , New Delhi.
3. Mishra, J.N. (2012): A study to population dynamics in North Bihar Mithila Printers , New Delhi.
4. Pathak. K.B. (1991) : Dynaimcs of population changes in Bihar Journal of Family welfare Vol. XXXVI , No, 3, 1991
5. Nath. V. (2011) Population census: some facts & policy Issues, EPW Vol-4, No. 65