

RESOURCE POTENTIALS AND PLANNING IN BANKA DISTRICT

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Introduction

Resources are those aspects of man's environment which facilitate the satisfaction of human wants and the attainment of social activities. Based on origin, natural resources are divided into two types: Biotic and Abiotic Resources. The biotic resources are obtained from the biospheres. It includes forests and minerals like petroleum and coal. Non-living things are the basic elements of abiotic resources. Land, air, water and minerals are the examples of abiotic resources. On the basis of renewability, it can be classified as renewable resources and Non-renewable resources. Resources which can be refilled or reproduced with the help of natural processes are known as renewable resources like sunlight, air, wind, *etc.* Long geological periods are required for the formation of non-renewable resources like coal and petroleum products.

Objectives

The main objective of the present paper is to make an analysis of resource potential & Planning in Banka District. It tries to locate the resources, its availability and potentialities and also to suggest planning measures for sustainable development.

Study Area :

The present study area of Banka District extends in between $24^{\circ} 32' N$ to $25^{\circ} 07' N$ Latitudes and $86^{\circ} 30' E$ to $87^{\circ} 11' E$ Longitudes. It covers an area of about 3020 Sq. Kms. Before becoming a district in 1991 it was an Old sub division of Bhagalpur district of Bihar. It is situated in the south-eastern part of south Bihar Plain. The study region has eleven CD blocks namely Banka Amarpur, Shambhuganj, Rajoun, Dhoraiya, Barahat, Baunsi, Belhar, Katoria, Chanan and Phullidumar. As per 2011 census, the district has a total population of 20,14,800 in which S.C. population is 2,40,233 (Male 129663 and Female 118195) and S.T.

Population is 90,392 male is 45,901 and female 44,491. It is bounded by Godda district in the east, Jamui and Munger district in the west, Bhagalpur district in the north and Deoghar district in the south.

Methodology

Related data of the study area have been gathered by personal field work and census Hand Book of Bihar. Primary data have been obtained by field work and the secondary data by the district Census Hand book of Banka and Bhagalpur. After compilation of the table, analysis of has been made.

Resource Potentials

Banka district is spread over an area of 3020 Sq. kms. which accounts for about 32 percent area of Bihar. The main resources in Banka district are land, water, forest and human resources.

Land Resource

Land is an invaluable gift of nature and the primary resource of man. It has central importance as a basic resource and the chief means of agriculture. Human population is interfering with nature for satisfaction of their needs. Natural resources expand rapidly while their per capita availability is decreasing progressively and damaging the natural traits. Agriculturally, land as a whole is ideal for crop production. It supports and sustains human population as well as livestock also. Therefore, agriculture is, perhaps, the most responsible basis for developmental planning and sustained economic progress in the region.

The soil is an important determinant for the assessment of the quality of land. It is vital for successful agriculture. Land use planning is necessary. The land has been classified according to its inherent fertility and productivity. The proposed land capability classification is based on an efficient management. The land of the study area has been grouped under four major categories *i.e.* very good, medium and poor for different quality and types of land. The texture of the soil have also been classified. The crop yield have also been taken into consideration for measuring the average fertility.

The population of mankind and livestock in the district is rising at an alarming rate and their basic requirements impose overpressure on the existing natural resources. Agricultural development is a key element of rural development in the study area. It is a requisite for economic growth and mainstay of all the eleven blocks in the district. Agro-

industrial development may prove effective but some steps should be taken to reap the fruits for such a coordinated development :

(i) All sick khandsari and gur mills must be provided adequate relief to cut off sickness (ii) Basic infrastructure like road rail line bank, electricity, airway, etc. should equally be developed in rural areas. (iii) Adequate loan facility at subsidized rate should be granted for agricultural development as well as for agro-based industrial development, If these measures are undertaken effectively, we can think for the growth of agriculture industry and then the economy will change to take off stage of development in Banka district.

Water Resources :

Water is a basic human right. It is not only essential for human health, but it is also needed for productive reasons to grow food and also to generate income. In Banka district, there is availability of ample water bodies like rivers, lakes, reservoirs, dams, canals, ponds, *etc.* The district lies in south of the river Ganga. It constitutes a part of the Ganga river basin and under Badua-Chandan Sub-basin. It has three watershed. Badua Nala chandan sub basin and orni forms the north western boundary, Chandan river flows through the central part of the district and the Burigeria Nala drains in the eastern part. The streams namely Kudar, Orni, Panch-katia are the main tributaries of Chandan river, while Lohagarh, Karinior, Belharna are the main tributaries of Badua. All the rivers are ephemeral in nature.

Ahars and pynes in the village become dry after rainy season. Some of these ahars have been encroached by farmers. If these ahars are developed as reservoir by digging the soil and constructing bandh, It can help farmers to irrigate standing main crop paddy during Hathia rain fall. This will help in pisciculture. The tank of the region are also uncared. Due to siltation these have lost their depth and water storing capacity. As such, they dry up in summer. This problem can be solved by removing the soil from tanks, so that stored water can be used for irrigation at the time of failure of rain.

The district has considerable number of state tube-wells also but unfortunately, most of these tube-wells are either mismanaged or out of order. The government authorities should see the proper functioning of the state tube-wells and proper distribution of water, so that the gift of nature can be made available to human use when these hazards are overcome.

Forest Resource :

Forest is a renewable natural resource and is one of the most shrinking feature of landscape. Its usability and conservation have been admitted through all the stages. Its existence and expansion contribute to one of the basic determinants of healthy ecology for

human beings. It is renewable in an area in case the same environmental condition prevails for several years.

In the district of Banka deciduous type of forest is found with abundance of Sal, Mahua, Semal, Amaltas, Popular, gold mohar, *etc.* The southern part of the district having sparse forest leading to the congregation of floral and faunal resources is the healthy sign of resource development and the main finance of the ecological balance. In spite of forest and wild life conservation schemes, the burning down of forest and the prey of wild beasts are continuing in the southern hilly tract of Banka.

In the nursery of Banka forest Department, the plants available for forestry are Shisham, Teak, Siris, Amaltas, Popular and gold mohar. The plants available for fruits are Mango, Guava, Jack-fruit, Bel, Jamun, Amala Lemon, Banana, Coconut, Pomegranate, Chikoo *etc.* Unfortunately, the survival rate of new trees planted under social forestry is very low. Besides, there are only 13.35 percent forested area in the region which is very low in terms of national percentage of 33% forest area for healthy environment of the region.

Forest management needs a forestation through planting new trees because it is a means of getting barren land back into production. Besides, the idea of social forestry should be adopted to fulfil the people's need. Social forestry is a new concept of forest creation, management and judicious utilization of goods and services. It aims to improve the land, labour and water resources to optimum production of farm manure firewood, food production and timber and to stabilise by checking erosion. The main constitution of social forestry are : farm, rural and urban forestry. Hence, Social forestry programmes should be launched for forest development in the study area.

Human Resource

Human resource is an important factor in the study of geography. Man is not only the main utiliser of physical earth but a chief agent of cultural environment upon the earth surface. Man is not only the great resources but also a producer and consumer of natural resources. In human eco-system, man assigns utility to various elements of environment and thus, confers upon them the role of resources.

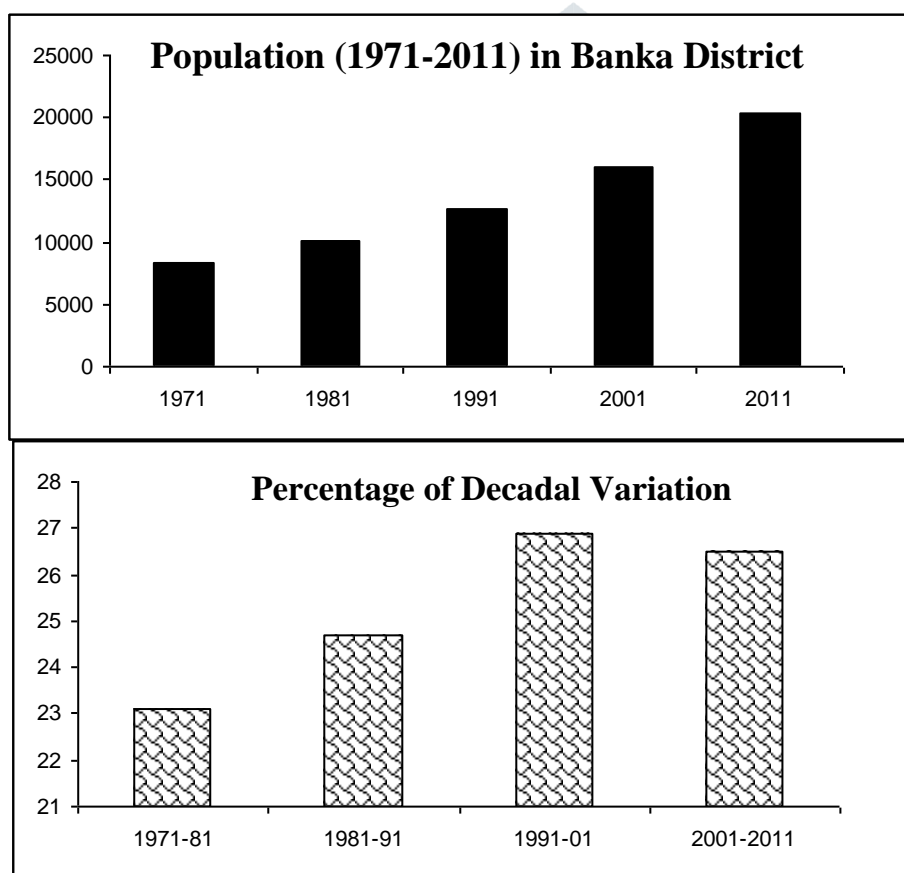
The population in Banka district has seen overall growth of 46.4 percent during 40 years (1971-2011) shown in the Table-1 and Fig. no. 1.1 given below :

Table – 1

Decadal Growth of Population (1971-2011) in Banka District

Population in (00)					Percentage of Decadal variation			
1971	1981	1991	2001	2011	1971-81	1981-91	1991-01	2001-2011
8258	10164	12679	16086	20348	23.1	24.7	26.9	26.5

Source : Census of India, Bihar (Bhagalpur & Banka), 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001 & 2011.

**Fig. : 1.1**

There has been a gradual growth of population *i.e.* 23.1, 24.7, 26.9 and 26.5 percent in 1971-81, 1981-91, 1991-2001 and 2001-11. Slight low growth of 26.5 was recorded in 2001-11 while population growth of Bihar was 25-42 in 2001-11. Male and female population growth in Banka was 26.54 and 62.41 percent respectively in 2001-11, while in Bihar it was 25.52 (male) and 25.32 (female) respectively.

The population growth in the study area should be checked and brought down both in birth and death rate so that the population in the region can be stabilized. It can be achieved with the help of family planning, measures by raising the socio-economic conditions, such as marriage age, consciousness for having small family, one couple one child etc. The

system of early marriage and polygamy is also vogue in the region which affects the birth rate.

Religious superstitions and beliefs also create obstacle in the success of birth control programme. For this, the government, social, religious and political organizations will have to work hand in gloves. Poverty, stands in the way of birth control. The rich gets richer and the poor gets pauper is really true in the present context. It is, therefore, necessary to ameliorate the socio-economic condition of the region.

Planning

A comprehensive planning for development of the region may be grouped as follows : (i) Land-use planning (ii) Planning for socio-economic Infrastructure (iii) Planning for Population control and (iv) Planning for Industrial Development.

Land-use planning is essential for the economy of the region which depends on agriculture, population growth, acute food shortage, unemployment and rural-urban migration. Hence, land use and agricultural planning is necessary. It can enhance food production and develop agro based industry and check rural-urban migration. Inadequate water supply for irrigation is the main cause for low intensity of cultivation. Planning for industrial development : Small and cottage industrial such as rice, flour mill, khandsari and wooden furniture making should be promoted. One big centre of dairy and poultry be set up at block headquarter of the study area with its sub-units of every panchayat level to meet the requirements of milk and eggs of the inhabitants.

Conclusion

Thus, on the basis of above discussion, it may be concluded that Banka district has a vast area not suitable for agriculture. The southern part is mostly hilly and undulating. The water resources are also limited. The lands are barren and unproductive. Therefore, this backward region which possesses plenty of physical endowments like land, water, forest, mineral *etc* as well as a sizeable number of human resources deserves special care and planning for its all-round development. This region may carve out a place for tourism, agro-industrial development and other potential resources. Forestry can play a vital role in shaping the economy. Hence, the main concern is to check-out suitable planning measures- long- term and short-term for its development.

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